

**The Report of The 3rd Asian Women's Solidarity Forum on
Military Sexual Slavery by Japan**

**Why The Issue Of Military
Sexual Slavery By Japan
Has Remained Unresolved For 50 Years?**

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted
for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

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: Hee Soon Kwon{Korea(South)}

Concluding the Third Asian Solidarity Forum for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

Yun, Chung-Ok
(Co-Representative, The Korean Council)

The Third Asian Solidarity Forum for women drafted for military Sexual Slavery by Japan was held with delegates from the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, with former comfort women. The conference got under way on Feb 27 and ended with a Wednesday demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy on March 1st in Seoul, South Korea.

The absence of North Korean delegates who were supposed to attend the meeting reminded us of the painful division of the Korean peninsula, however, the presentation sent by them hardened our determination to hope for reunification in the near future.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Korea's independence from the Japanese colonial rule, the 76th anniversary of the Independence Movement of March 1st and also the 30th anniversary of the Korean-Japanese treaty. The year 1995 is also the 5th anniversary of the birth of the Korean Council.

The Japanese Imperial Army's comfort women issue has become an international topic for the past five years. The Japanese government, contradicting its previous positions, recognized its involvement in the issue and partly admitted forceable detention of women and consequent demand of sexual service against their will in the comfort stations.

What matters now is that the Japanese government, despite its legal responsibility for the perpetration of war crimes and violation of human rights, is still trying to avoid its responsibility.

Japanese Prime Minister Murayama acknowledged on Aug 30, 1994

that Japan invaded Asia and its colonial rule has brought grief and sufferings to many Asian countries. However, the Japanese government is attempting to pass the buck to the general public by raising private funds for compensation to its victims rather than taking its due responsibility as a guilty party. In the meantime, a handful of lawmakers, ministers and ultrarightists raised their voice against a resolution calling for Japanese Diet's formal apology to its victims and an opposition to war.

Against this backdrop, the Third Asian Solidarity Forum was held. We held the first Asian Forum in Seoul, South Korea in 1992 to solve the issue with solidarity among Asian victims and held the third Asian Solidarity Forum this year, three years later, in the same venue. The Third Asian Forum became the arena calling for the withdrawal of the Japanese government's plan to raise private fund and seeking solutions under international law.

In addition, the Third Asian Solidarity Forum laid the groundwork for raising the comfort women issue as a big agenda in the Third U.N. World Conference on Women scheduled to be held in Beijing from August 30 to September 15. Our preparation for tackling the matter in this Asian Forum, therefore, would provide us with a key as to how to raise the issue in the upcoming Beijing Conference.

In light of the significance of the meeting, each representative presented her prepared statement and discussed the matter sincerely with other participants.

In retrospect, I wish we had had more discussions on how to wage our campaign in the future and how to coordinate our efforts with one another.

Though I admit such a shortcoming, I can proudly say that we have taken a step forward in our movement through this forum. At the end of our solidarity forum, representatives from Asian countries including Japan adopted a resolution in harmony while vowing to pursue our ongoing campaigns. Furthermore, cooperation from former comfort

women present at the meeting to settle the matter in a rational way can be regarded as a big achievement for us.

As we have made Asian women's position clear on this matter, if not concrete, it will provide us with an opportunity to tie the issue in with the world women's movement by raising the issue with one voice when we attend the Beijing World Conference on Women.

Thinking back, this conference was held in a meaningful year of 1995 in several ways, and I hope our efforts will produce some results. Accordingly, I'd like to see the matter settled in part before the next Asian Solidarity Forum is held, by the Japanese government's announcement that it will restore comfort women's dignity and offer individual compensations to them. At the same time, true revelation of the past will shed light on the history and will pave the way for creating peace both in Asia and in the world and protecting women's human rights from now on.

Finally, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to all delegates, Philippine and Korean comfort women, and executive committee members of the Korean Council for their cooperation and efforts to make this forum a successful one in spite of the poor conditions.

Thank you.

The 3rd Asian Women's Solidarity Forum on
Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

**Topic : Why the issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan
has remained unresolved for 50 years ?**

Seoul, Korea
Feb. 27 - March 1, 1995

Program

2/27 (Monday)

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:30 Registration
10:00 Opening Ceremony & Welcoming Events
Moderator : Kim, Hee Won
Opening Remarks : Lee, Hyo Chai
Words of Encouragement :
• Lee, Oo Chung(Congressperson)
• Lee, Sae Jung(Chair, Korea Bar Association)
• Park, Yong Kil(Chair, Korean National Congress for Reunification)
• Lee, Yeon Ok(Chief Director of Women's Mission Center)
• Park, Joong Kun(The Federation of Korean Trade Unions,FKTU)
11:00 Country Report I(Moderator : Kwon, Hee Soon)

"Why oppose sympathy-money?"

- Ishikawa Itsuko(Japan)
- Yang, Young Ji(Korean resident in Japan)

12:00 Lunch

14:00 Resume Country Report I

"Why oppose sympathy-money?"

- Hong, Sun Ok(Korea(North))
- Julia Porras(a Philipino Victim of "Comfort Women")
- Nelia Sancho(Philippines)

15:30 Tea Time

16:00 Pi-Mei Chang, Yu-Fang Chiau(Taiwan)

- Kim, Sun Duk(A S.Korean Victim of "Comfort Women")
- Kim, Kyung Hee(Korea(South))

17:30 Questions and Answers

18:00 Break Time

18:30 Dinner

20:00 Halmonis(survivors) Solidarity party

Moderators : Kim, Hye Won/ Chung, Sook Ja

2/28(Tuesday)

8:00 Breakfast

10:00 Country Report II(Moderator:Carter, Aiko)

"What are the Strategies for Resolving the Problem?"

- Chai Kum Chun(Korea(North))
- Nelia Sancho(Philippines)
- Chen Yi-Chen(Taiwan)
- Kim, Young Hee(Korean resident in Japan)

12:00 Lunch

14:00 Korean Folk Dance & 'Salpuri' Dance

(Handure & Kim, Kyung Ran)

16:00 Resume Country Report II

"What are the Strategies for Resolving the Problem?"

• Tsuburaya Kyoko(Japan)

• Chi, Eun Hee(Korea(South))

15:40 Questions and Answers

16:00 Adoption of the Conference Statement(Moderator:Lee, Mi Kyung)

17:30 Press Conference

18:00 Dinner

19:00 Free Time

• Visitation to "Sharing House"

3/1(Wednesday)

8:00 Breakfast

10:00 Visitation to Park "Pagoda"(optional)

11:30 Leaving for Japanese Embassy for Demonstration

12:00 155th Wednesday Demonstration at Japanese Embassy

Closing the Conference

poem

Pay It Back Now

Lee, Ok-Nyo

Unsearchable wherever
Forgotten names
The plain of faded people
was desolate

Buried in the midst of horrible storm
The shrieks of maidens
Soared up in the sky
And the night became darker little by little

With the sharp voices heard from beneath the ground
The Asian daughters dragged away like dogs
The sorrowful nocturne of black uneasy clouds
Was the world of feral beats

No more human beings were the Army comfort girls
The female symbol was the ditch of the son of a bitch
Every night the fully flowed-out discharge
Was a vomit

Anguish, disgrace, grievance, woe
And Saliva mixed with bloody pus
Let me spit on your faces
Dirty bastards, sons of bitches

To recollect the dreadful past
The pitiful bygone nightmare
Giving pain
To the women of the world

The hair drooping over the pretty lips
Pay it back now
For the souls in the future far away
Let me light a candle

Until the vocal chords get torn
I will grow angry to every nation of the World
By all means I will hunt out
The two lost wings.

Yoon, Chong-Hiek
(English Translation)

■ Clipped form Newspaper

박재동



◀〈March 2, 1995〉

▼〈Hankyure March 2, 1995〉



일 정부에 위안부배상 촉구

제3차 일본군 위안부문제 아시아연대회의 폐막일인 1일 낮 12시 서울 종로구 중화동 일본대사관 앞에서 한국·일본·필리핀·대만 대표 60여명과 참석자 등 2백여명이 '수요집회'를 열어 일본의 민간위로금안 철회와 피해자 배상특별법 제정 등을 요구하고 있다. ▶관련기사 3·23면

임완호 기자

Country Report I
Why we oppose “sympathy money” ?

**Testimony of the former “comfort
woman” in Malaysia**

AWARD COMPENSATION FOR COMFORT WOMEN'S SUFFERING

Julia Porras
(A Filipino victim)

Solidarity greetings from Lila-Pilipina, an organization of Filipino survivors of military sexual slavery by Japan.

I am Julia Partosa-Porras, 66 years old. I am a native of Davao, one of the cities in the Southern part of the Philippines. My family resettled in Manila in 1982.

I am glad to attend the Third Asian Conference for Comfort Women and to share with you my story as one of the survivors of World War II, specifically of forcible abduction by the Japanese Army to provide sex service for its soldiers.

I was in the southern province of Davao when the war came. I was 13 years old when the troops of the Japanese Imperial Army (JIA) occupied Davao. As a young girl, I was a witness of the cruelties of war, of how women were raped and children killed by the soldiers. But I also witnessed how the Davaoans defended their people and our native land.

In 1944, when I was 13 years old, a truckload of soldiers came to our house. I was then cooking food for lunch, while my sister was washing clothes by the river beside our house.

I was brought to a tunnel in Ising, about 43 kilometers away from our hometown. Tunnels were used as a hide-out for the soldiers. Two women were there when I arrive. I learned later that all women, including myself, were being used as toys by the soldiers to assuage

their lust.

I never forget how I trembled in pain and fear as I sat in a corner, thinking about how the soldiers raped me. I would also feel numbed and lifeless sometimes, shouting aloud as I thought of ways how I could end my ordeal. Then I would think of ending my life. But I continued to bear the pain after the war ended. As time wore on, there was only numbness.

An officer whom I knew as Muri Sang was the one who first raped me. He would come regularly, sometimes three or four times a week.

For eight long months, I was imprisoned inside the tunnel, without adequate food, rest and water. There was no toilet or even a place where I could clean myself. Once I was given only a pail of water to wash my face and private parts.

The war ended in 1945, leaving behind a broken life for me. I lived in silence for more than 50 years, keeping to myself my horrible experience. My dignity was lost, but I lived on and survived.

When the first survivor, Rosa Luna Henson spoke openly in September 1992 about her experience of sexual slavery during the war at the hands of the soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army (JIA), I trembled and felt nervous as I started to recall my painful past. Then I summoned my strength to talk about my experience.

My husband encouraged me to reveal my past. He suggested that I contact the Task Force on Filipino Victims of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan which is now known as Lila-Pilipina.

For the first time, I have experienced being cared for at Lila-Pilipina. Other people, my relatives and neighbors, ridiculed me upon knowing that I was a comfort women.

Since I joined the movement to restore the human rights and dignity of former comfort women, I have learned more about myself and on

how I can attain justice. I joined rallies and spoke unashamedly about my past. I attended meetings and became friendly with other comfort women like me. And yes, I cried and cried, casting out the pain until I completely outgrew the past

I want justice. Justice for myself and for other comfort women like me.

We call on the Japanese government to grant direct compensation to us. The plan of collecting charity money form the private sector will never resolve the issue of the comfort women.

We are not asking for hand-outs. What we are demanding is the direct compensation to us for actual and real damages done to our personal integrity and dignity, and the subsequent personal suffering after the war which we continue to endure.

Where is justice if the Japanese government do not face up to their political and legal responsibility to the Asian war victims, particularly the women? Only through granting direct compensation to us, the Victims, can justice be done.

We Oppose "Charity money"

Kim, Soon Duk
(A South Korean victim)

I'd like to welcome all of you who have come to Korea to attend the Third Asian Forum. The Japanese government committed a lot of wrongdoings during World War Two. However, nothing has been settled to right these wrongs. Japan has failed to resolve the issue of former comfort women as well as other victims. Instead of acknowledging its past atrocities, the Japanese government is trying to hand over its responsibilities to its citizens by creating a private fund for compensation to former comfort women in order to hand out charity money.

We, former comfort women, find no reason to accept such money from the Japanese citizens. We have received support money from our own government and we are being supported by several women's groups in physical and mental ways. The Japanese government must reconsider its position before attempting to solve the issue by doling out money to us and by doing so, trying to cover up for its past atrocities. The Japanese government should also try to understand why we refuse to accept such "sympathy money" in order to recover our dignity and honor.

We feel only anger at the Japanese government who insists it has done nothing wrong, though the Japanese Army was involved in such inhumane activities as forcing the women who were merely children aged between 14 and 15 into serving its soldiers sexually. Even though we are not as powerful as Japan, it is against the law that a strong

country distorts the past history in order to serve its own purpose. That's why we refuse to accept the money. Even though we have failed to receive apologies and compensation from the Japanese authorities in our time, I believe that future generations will not let the Japanese government's crime go untold. As a result, we do not see any reason to accept such charity money and forget our past.

Some people claim that we are making a fuss over a thing of the past. Let me remind you that it is not a thing of the past. We still spend sleepless nights with our bodies shaking with unrelenting anger whenever we think of what we've been through against our will. How can it be a thing of the past when we, the victims, are still breathing the same air as you? Who can understand our feelings and position? We've lived for the past half century keeping all the pain and suffering to ourselves. We couldn't even open our hearts to our own parents and siblings because of humiliation and self-loathing. Several years have passed since we broke our silence and let the world know what the Japanese government did to us. I feel quite frustrated that the issue is yet to be solved. Even with the support of several groups, we still lack power and I think it's time for all people to join us in our battle against injustice.

We had to suffer under the Japanese colonization in the past, and although things are not the same any longer, Japan still regard us as gullible.

Japan committed unspeakable crimes against the Korean people. Japan set us apart by conscripting Korean men and sending them to Sahalin and Yonbyun as Japanese soldiers, military orderlies, and draftees.

Right now, the Japanese government seems to be glossing over the

past by giving out charity money to us. They are mistaken if they think we can be bought. We will never accept a private fund. We'd rather die in honor by refusing the money than die in dishonor by accepting such money.

When the latest earthquake happened, we felt anger at the careless remarks made by some reckless men in Japan that we, the Korean, started fires in the area. It is quite preposterous. However the trend will continue unless Japan's past crimes are brought to light.. Japan should offer a sincere apology and compensation to us once and for all. That is the only way we, both Koreans and Japanese, can live in peace.

Why We Oppose Civil Fund Raising ?

Itsuko Ishikawa(a Japanese)

Although we are opposed to the Japanese government's proposal to provide civil based non-governmental funding as a means of compensating the victims of World War II who were exploited by a militarism induced system of sexual slavery, the Japanese government has not yet taken any legal steps in relation to its culpability in this regard. I feel this reality is my responsibility, having been unable to change the government's decision relative to the idea of civil or private based funding. As a matter of fact, before the survivors of war and their supporters had spoken out about the serious problems caused by Japan, we Japanese women should have known about these problems and should have made all efforts to reveal the facts to our citizenry. We continue to petition the Japanese government to provide a public apology for the brutality inflicted and to provide compensation for each individual victim.

1. Japanese Governmental Attitude

On December 22, 1994, Prime Minister Murayama replied as follows to questions related to compensation on an individual basis for the brutality inflicted through sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army :

- (a) The government has not given any consideration to the question of individual compensation to the victims of war, for Japan has followed faithfully the terms of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and other bilateral agreements.
- (b) The government believes that the policies that were in place

relative to the "comfort women" system were not violations of international law.

(c) Although investigations were carried out faithfully, there were no relevant materials found in the National Police Agency files.¹

The International Commission of Jurists(ICJ) published their final report entitled, "Report of a Mission" on November 22, 1994. The report states that the Japanese Imperial Army retains responsibility for the problem of militarism instituted sexual enslavement and that the Japanese government bears the legal obligation to provide individual compensation to the victims of war.² However, Prime Minister Murayama has completely ignored the report.

On September 2, 1994, the ICJ requested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan examine the draft of the ICJ report, but the ministry hid the report from government administrators and the sub-committee on the "comfort women" issue in the governing party. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs first insisted that they had not received the report, and later altered their stance by indicating that the statement had been received, but that it had been written without Ministry of Foreign Affairs consultation.

Immediately, the ICJ sent two delegates to Japan to prove to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Ministry had indeed been consulted with respect to the proceedings leading up to the final report. Later, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to apologize to the ICJ delegates for ministry fabrications.³ However, one month later, what the Prime Minister was saying about this issue had not in any manner been altered in relation to earlier Ministry of Foreign Affairs fabrications. Mr. Murayama has no real self-hood as Prime Minister because he only follows Ministry of Foreign Affairs resolutions.

On December 27, 1994, several delegates from fifty-two women's organizations for the United Nations International Women's Year, went to see Prime Minister Murayama in relation to the "comfort women"

issue. At that meeting State Secretary Mr. Igarashi, who was with Mr. Murayama, made the following statements:

- (a) Diplomatic understandings are, that compensation for war victims has already been completed through bilateral treaties. Because the Republic of Korea did not agree to receive individual compensation from the Japanese government, the Japanese government has created the idea of civil or private based fund raising.
- (b) In the 1995 National Budget, 500 million yen has been requested for office expenses and publicity for the establishment of a Citizens' Foundation for the "comfort women".
- (c) The Japanese Red Cross will cooperate in distributing the funds. The government has requested federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and Labor Union(Rengo) cooperation in this project.
- (d) With the inclusion of Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Holland, we wish to hand out a letter written by the Prime Minister to individual former "comfort women".

The Republic of Korea has indicated that it will cooperate in meeting individual victim demands⁵. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated that although rights of national protection against further war reparations have been mutually affirmed, rights to individual claims are not erased by national laws.⁶ Yet, the Japanese government insists that the reason why individual compensation has not been paid to the victims of war, is that States have not requested such, thereby the responsibility has been removed from the Japanese government.

It is planned that war victim funds will be channeled through the Japanese Red Cross, an institution in which Imperial family members assume the positions of honorary president and vice-president but within a historical situation in which the Showa emperor retained

supreme authority to wage the wars of invasion which constituted World War II.

On January 24, 1995, Japanese defense counsel for former Republic of Korea "comfort women", took a request for compromise to the Japanese Government in order to present said compromise to the Permanent Court of Arbitration(PCA). International jurisprudence is one avenue of approach in solving the issue of sexual slavery establish by the Imperial Army and Government of Japan. The Japanese government has rejected this compromise by suggesting that Japan has completed its reparations obligations under the San Francisco Peace Treaty and other related treaties.

On January 25, 1995 the Women's Action Network on Militarism and Sexual Slavery Issues met with five delegates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to protest the government's conclusion relative to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, but the response was the same as the government's conclusion of the previous day. During the meeting a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented that there was "nothing new in terms of content" in the report by Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Regarding the ICJ Report, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs response was; "These are not orders nor instructions. We have no legal obligation to follow these recommendations." The final report (July 2, 1993) by Mr. Theo van Boven, Special Rapporteur, UN Human Rights Commission, has been ignored by the Japanese government. Japanese governmental officials are not aware that Japan was the oppressor and invaded other Asians and their countries.

2. How the Civil or Private Fund Raising Idea Came About

On August 12, 1994 the Murayama Administration had established

a policy of dealing with the problem of Japan's military "comfort women" and related issues through civil or non-governmental fund raising measures.⁷ On the same day, former Environmental Agency Chief Mr. Sakurai said, [It was not Japan's intention to invade other countries. However, other Asian countries became independent from their European colonial rulers because of it.⁸] This incident explains quite symbolically, where actual Japanese understandings are.

In 1994, there were other politicians making reckless remarks. The former Minister of Justice said, [The rape of Nanking was a frame-up. The "comfort women" system was legalized prostitution, and the Americans and the British were doing the same thing.⁹] Mr. Hashimoto, the Minister of International Trade and Industry said, [It is a delicate matter as to whether or not the war in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region was aggression or invasion.¹⁰] Sakurai and Nagano lost their positions in the government and were replaced by others, but the Murayama Cabinet treated the remark by Mr. hashimoto, the president of the Japan War Bereaved Families, as a "non problem."¹¹

Intent upon affirming and praising the war of invasion against other Asian nations, nineteen Prefectural Councils, including Ehime and Shiga, adopted resolutions expressing commemoration and appreciation for the war dead.¹² On January 31, 1995, 143 Diet members of the Japan Liberal Democratic Party established an Association to Oppose any Resolutions for Public Apology within the confines of the National Diet.¹³ It should be noted that there have been many incidents in which the national dress worn by Korean high school students living in Japan has been slashed by Japanese persons while these students were on their way to and from school.

Fifty years ago on August 14, 1945, Japan accepted the Potsdam

Declaration. At noon on August 15 of that year, the Showa Emperor announced Japan's surrender through a radio address stating that [this war was inaugurated to defend Japan and obtain Asian stability, but Japan did not seek to nullify Asian national sovereignty or to invade Asian territory.¹⁴]

Under Allied occupation the first Japanese National Diet session opened with the establishment of a post-surrender Prince Higashikuni cabinet. The Prime Minister, who was chosen from the imperial family, underscored the Showa Emperor's contribution to bringing an end to World War II, and asked for repentance on the part of all Japanese people because Japan had been defeated in the war.¹⁵ Newspapers reported on the necessity of repentance on the part of 100 million Japanese people, but never gave any thought to the ten million Taiwanese and twenty million Koreans who suffered under Japan's colonial rule.

Only three days after the end of the war the Ministry of Home Affairs ordered local governments to establish "comfort stations" for the occupation army. On August 26, 1945 a Special Comfort Association was organized and located in front of the plaza of Imperial Place in Tokyo with legalized brothel operators being provided with 100 million yen in government funds. This measure was created by the ruling elites who were fearful that the emperor system could be compromised by unarmed Japanese soldiers coming back from war and reacting to the open sexual transgressions committed by the occupation army against Japanese women. In order to sustain the emperor system, Japanese women were offered to the occupation army as human sacrifices. The Japanese government was pimping for the occupation army and women were once again victimized by the state.¹⁶

Japanese politics has been continued by the same old men who do not believe that Japan invaded other Asian countries and who have no

sense of remorse regarding the many crimes committed against other Asian peoples. Instead of paying compensation to the victims of war in Asian countries, the pensions system for Japanese soldiers was created and war bereaved families continue to receive pensions which increase every year.¹⁷ The 1995 pension budget provides 5,514,000 Yen per veteran with injuries and 1,878,900 Yen per family which had experienced a soldier's death. 1,510,000 war bereaved families will receive an added 400,000 Yen as special condolence money provided this year from the 1995 national budget.¹⁸

Japan concluded its obligations for reparations with respect to other Asian countries through economic cooperation projects which were designed to bolster Japan's economic progress. This is contrary to the situation with Germany where said government paid individual compensation to individual victims of Nazi war atrocities.¹⁹

The Japanese people do not understand that it was the resistance of the people of Asia which defeated Japanese militarism. On the contrary, the Japanese, with their superiority complex, altered their behavior only slightly so as to become money-makers. Loyalty to the state was converted to loyalty to money-making enterprises and an economic society was created where money is the first priority over life and people.

The Japanese remain on a course which is characterized by prejudice against other Asian peoples, discrimination against women and the worship of money. Ms. Fuyuko Uesaka says that the ["comfort women" system was originated as a part of the business of war²⁰] and that [the system was a necessary evil for sustaining a minimum of security and order in military life.²¹] The Japanese mass media has treated Ms. Uesaka as a well accepted and popular writer in Japan.²²

In spite of the Japanese government's unwillingness to assume responsibility for the "comfort women" and related issues, scholars who

were once recognized as conscientious in their understandings, have moved to the government position and have begun to cooperate in the civil fund raising plan because it is said by them that the war was the responsibility of both the citizenry of Japan as well as the Japanese government.²³

We have come to the conclusion that our movement in opposition to the government idea of civil fund raising has not been understood by many people nor has it had the power yet to change Japanese government policy.

3. Why We Oppose Civil Fund Raising

The Japanese government does not retain any adequate understanding of the "comfort woman" system as an obviously gross violation of human rights and as a monstrous crime against women which was perpetrated on a massive scale. The Murayama cabinet, an alliance of three political parties, was established after many problematic compromises with the Liberal Democratic Party which still retains a majority of seats in the Diet and supports Japan's war of invasion.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that the issue of postwar compensation is a hurdle which Japan must jump over in order to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that paying individual compensation to "comfort women" will open up the issue of paying individual compensation to other victims of war, and that such does not serve the national interests of Japan. The government orientation is that gross violations of human rights should remain uncompensated and that war crimes are not to be considered. This results in more evil and more profit for Japan.

Let us imagine a scenario in which men had imprisoned girls and raped them ceaselessly and then had not been questioned in relation to their crimes. If civil funds collected from the citizenry were to be provided to the women who had been raped as a substitute for the prosecution of the crimes committed, how would these women feel who had to live with the pain of these wounds remaining deep in their hearts?

This is the Japanese government, that is, Japanese governmental authority planned the "comfort station" system and conducted the massive crimes against women, but the Japanese government is trying to conclude these war crimes on the basis of funds collected from the Japanese people. This is the ultimate in governmental irresponsibility. The oppressor without any recognition of its responsibility for the war could say, [those women are poor and should be silenced with whatever money is given.] The Japanese government is looking down on the victims of war.

For Japanese companies which used the slave labor of other Asians in wartime, civil based goodwill fund raising is preferred to apologies and compensation by the government, for corporate donations may be exempted from taxation.

From 1946 to 1947 the Japanese mining, construction and ship-building industries imported elicited labor from China and Korea. These industries took their cases to the Japanese government for compensation, for the industries were saying that the quality of the elicited labor was not up to specifications and the labor had to be returned. These very industries received huge amounts of compensation from the government.²⁴

The oppressive industrial forces which used elicited labor, received compensation from government funds. If we establish the example of presenting very nominal monetary gifts as a civil coverup for Japanese

government initiated war crimes blatancy, we will be testifying to the validity of this fearful historical fact, and such could lead to a repetition of the same injustices over and over again.

What Japan needs to do now is to investigate and reveal the facts of history while always making careful and deeply abiding evaluations relative to the question of why did Japan act in such terribly mistaken and destructive ways. This is necessary so that the same mistakes are not repeated again. It is necessary for us Japanese to realize that in the present situation the oppressors are economically prosperous and living without any evaluation of the past while the victims of war have continuously suffered from physical pain in the midst of poverty.

The establishment of a civil fund only serves to hide the real issues of historical reality and to prevent the establishment of true friendship with other Asian persons and peoples, based on an admission of culpability in perpetrating government organized sexual violence against Asian women and children. With the cooperation of our Asian sisters we continue to struggle for a true and meaningful solution to this deep and abiding problem by not allowing a government escape route but by seeking rather to instill in all of us, the reality of Japanese governmental culpability and responsibility in this matter.

Notes

1. Naikaku Sanshitsu, 131 #13, Prime Minister Murayama, December 22, 1994
2. "comfort women" An Unfinished Ordeal, Report of a Mission, International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, Switzerland, November, 1994

3. Asahi Shinbun, December 10, 1994 and Zenkoku fujin Shinbun December 12, 1994
4. "I" Onnano Shinbun, January 31, 1995
5. Korean Government's Answers to Questionnaire by The Korean Council for the Women Drafter for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Answer at the House of Councilors on August 27, 1991
7. Asahi Shinbun August 13, 1994
8. Ibid
9. Asahi Shinbun May 5, 1994 and May 7, 1994
10. Answer by Mr. Hashimonoto, The Minister of International Trade and Industry at the Tax Reformed Committee, The House of Representatives, October 24, 1994
11. Asahi Shinbun October 26, 1994
12. Shiga Prefecture Resolution #3
13. National Land Agency Chief's Speech
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20. Shukan Post, March 6, 1992
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23. Group Sei To Tennosei O Kangaeru, Ima #2, October, 1994
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Why we oppose sympathy money by a private fund ?

Yang, YoungJi

(a Korean resident in Japan)

I. Introduction

The issue of military sexual slavery by Japan is a national crime of the Japanese, a crime of sexual violence in the situation of war and a violation against humanity. Working from this basic premise it is obvious that the Japanese government should pay reparations to victims in accordance with International Law. However, in spite of supporting organizations' and victims' strong demands, the Japanese Government has ignored all activities and

demands which have been made so far, and proposes "sympathy money" by a private fund as a resolution. In this report, I would like to consider the Japanese Government's proposal of "sympathy money" by a private fund and to clarify the reason why it can not be one in the perspective of a Korean resident in Japan.

II. The Background of the decision for " Sympathy Money"

On August 31, 1994, Murayama expressed that a private fund would be a means through which Japanese people could share the blame for their responsibility for actions in the war. The plan for this fund was decided at the interim report of the small committee for the issue of " comfort women " on December 7, 1994. The small committee decided that they would not compensate any individual or person. This means that there is no way for survivors to receive reparations.

At present, the Japanese Government is planning to form an "Asia

Peace Friendship Fund for Women" (supposedly collected through civil fund raising). The Japanese government is planning to raise the fund between April and October, 1995 along with business organizations such as Mikimusego, Guroyanakydeasego and Yosinagayoure. The arrangement being that organizations give their collective money to victims through any cooperative organization at a specific place (Korean Red Cross in Korea) and with headquarters in Japanese Red Cross. The main axis of this "Asia Peace Friendship Fund for Women" which is based on O.D.A., is to protect women's human dignity and they attach only a small part of this project to giving money to victims. Furthermore, the title of "military sexual slavery" is avoided, thus acting as a great counterplan to avoid acknowledging the historical truth of military sexual slavery by Japan.

III. The factors which make possible the idea of a private fund.

(1) The Japanese Government's principle of not compensating any War victim and the heavy wall of bureaucracy surrounding the Japanese Government.

In the interim report, the small committee explains the reasons why there is a need for Japanese people's broad participation in raising "sympathy money". In regards to the demand of reparations for Asian Pacific war victims, including former "comfort women", the Japanese Government has tried earnestly to cope with the issue through international law and in accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty and other related treaties. Therefore, since they believe they no longer have any legal obligations all that remains is a moral responsibility. Thus the Japanese Government encourages Japanese people to participate as much as possible with this plan which relies on public conscience.

The main principle with which the Japanese Government persists is that they can not compensate individual war victims. The underlying

assumption of this is that if Japan does compensate individual war victims it would most likely result in other victimized countries making demands in the near future. Understandably then the Japanese Government wants to solve this issue as quickly as possible while countries such as China remain silent.

(2.) Withdrawal attitude of the Korean Government

On August 4, 1993, the Korean Government announced its second report on this issue and requested that the Japanese Government recognize their involvement in military sexual slavery and reflect what had previously been expressed by Prime Minister Gono as a will to apologise. Following this the Korean Government would not make further demands for redress.

The Korean government may be presuming it can keep national faith by withdrawing from making further demands, but on the otherhand it means that the Korean government is unable to demand any legal responsibility of the Japanese Government over this issue. For example, the Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry distorted the words of Kim, YoungSam, President of Korea. President Kim said, "we do not need compensation, rather we demand thorough fact finding".

The Japanese Government distorted this statement in such a way that they claim they can not give any compensation because the Korean government does not want to receive any reparations. Therefore the Japanese Government attributes the irresponsibility for individual reparations to the Korean Government.

The Korean Foreign Affairs Ministry responded to an inquiry by the Korean Council about this matter as such; "Even if the Korean Government does not ask for reparations at a national level, we have a deep concern and support for the demand of reparations at a civil level and support this movement". With serious differences between the Japanese Government's and Korean Government's opinion in regards to the terms of individual reparations, The Korean Residents in Japan

Women's Network wishes to express its support for the Korean Government. The real meaning of President Kim's statement was to urge the Japanese Government to resolve this issue as a matter of moral conscience. Therefore, it is not seen as necessary for the Korean Government to order Japanese Government to do this and to do that.

Regardless of the fact that the Korean Government has appealed to the Japanese Government on a matter of upholding moral principles, the Japanese Governments claims it is because of the Korean government's attitude that they can not compensate individual victims.

Further to this, the Japanese Government has ignored the movement which is demanding that the issue go to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, as well as demanding the punishment of responsible persons and reparations, which are all recommendations of the I.C.J(International Commission of Jurists), the United Nations and other international human rights organizations. The Japanese government has concluded that the only solution to this issue is to be sympathy money raised by a private fund.

IV. Why do we oppose "sympathy money" ?

We believe that the plan for sympathy money by a private fund is a deceptive solution and is a distortion of the truth. Victims and supporting organizations fiercely disagree with it because ;

(1) It makes the Japanese Government's responsibility unclear.

(2) It is not any solution. The money means nothing to victims without the apology and individual reparations. The restoration of victims' honor is impossible with "sympathy money".

(3) It will become a Japanese national charitable work. It will therefore not be clear that the responsibility is of individuals as well as a nation. If we ignore this fact and accept the "sympathy money" then we will never reach our goals of fact-finding and correcting history. We remember how only recently Japanese cabinet ministers have distorted

history by attempting to rationalise and justify Japan's criminal war activities. Moreover, on Jan 31, 1995, when 143 members of the National Assembly met to establish the "National Council for Protecting Japanese", they were able to express their total opposition to the anti-war movement. This method of history distortion and the admiration of war merely encourages the discrimination of Korean people in Japan as well as former Korean "comfort woman".

Song, SinDo, who resides in Japan, said that she would not accept "sympathy money", if she were to do so then she would only be further despised by Japanese people. By accepting sympathy money through a private fund, the restoration of Song's honor will never be possible and the reality of history will remain distorted. Therefore, it is the right of victims to receive reparations that are not part of a charity fund.

Why we oppose the private fund

Hong, Sun Ok

Each delegate from Asian countries,

On behalf of the North Korean delegation to the Third Asian Forum, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the Korean council for their invitation, and to extend my greetings to our South Korean compatriots. I would also like to welcome women delegates from several Asian countries who have come to Korea to take part in this forum with hope and common goal of solving the issue of a just compensation for the Japanese crimes against comfort women.

I think it is quite meaningful and auspicious that the Third Asian Forum is to be held on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and of Korea's independence from Japan's colonial rule.

August 15, 1945 evokes mixed feelings for all Koreans : it was a day for celebrating our independence from our 41-year colonization by Japan and a day for mourning the division of the Korean peninsula by outside forces.

We, Koreans, are faced this year with the historic task of reuniting the Korean peninsula, ending the tragedy of long division. Along with this, we still have major tasks before us : to seek solutions to such matters as 6 million Korean-draftees, the massacre of 1 million Koreans by the Japanese Imperial Army, and compensation for 360,000 Korean soldiers and civilians, not to mention the unspeakable atrocities against Korean women.

As we all know the Japanese military collaborated with its

government's national policy to establish and maintain the comfort system. The magnitude of such a crime runs deep. It disregards international law, morality and justice by violating women's purity and lives; it tarnished the dignity and honor of powerless with its combination of medieval brutality and modern slyness.

Despite that, the Japanese government has so far failed to take responsibility for its past wrongdoings and to grant national compensation to its victims. Such an attitude is an insult to victims and a clear defiance of history.

What's more, the Japanese government is trying to cover up the incident and to avoid responsibility by coming up with the so-called private fund. Not only former comfort women but also people who respect justice will never let the Japanese government off the hook no matter how hard it tries to rationalize the private fund with sweet talk.

The first reason for our negative response to the private fund is that the Japanese government produced it by a way of evading responsibility. The Japanese government seems to rely on two factors for refusing to pay national compensation to victims.

One excuse is the lack of physical evidence which implicates the Japanese government in the comfort women system. The other excuse is that all reparations have been settled by bilateral treaties with individual countries after the end of World War Two. Both are preposterous excuses.

The Japanese government's impertinence is clearly shown in the way that they it has concealed all the evidence and documents regarding the Japanese army's comfort women system and insisted on its innocence.

From the start, the Japanese government showed no willingness to clear its score with Asian countries. Japanese authorities, taking advantage of the reluctance of former comfort women to reveal their experiences as victims and the fact that most comfort women were

killed, made efforts to sweep the whole incident under the carpet. Only after the discovery of documents relative to the establishment and management of comfort stations in the archives of the Ministry of Defense, did the Japanese government reluctantly admit the Japanese Imperial Army's involvement. Our common sense dictates that a large-scale, systematic crime of compulsive detention and management of up to 200,000 comfort women during the war could not have been committed without the support of Japanese authorities. In fact, former Japanese officials who took part in the comfort women system directly testified that the crime was committed in compliance with the order of Japanese authorities.

The Japanese government will never be able to shake off its responsibility for its crime whatever method it uses. The denial of further national reparation by the Japanese government doesn't hold water in international society.

The ICJ, an authority in the international law, declared in its latest report that no treaty can restrict individuals' compensation claims against the Japanese government, thus clearly stating its position that to refuse individual compensation is against the law.

Given this fact, the immoral and inhuman crimes against comfort women can only be settled if the current Japanese government accepts its crime and deals with its guilt honorably.

However, the government is now shirking from its responsibility and leaving it to the Japanese citizens by approving the private fund idea. If we let the private fund pass, we are actually acquitting the Japanese government of its past actions. Innocent Japanese citizens who have done nothing wrong in regard to wartime crimes will be left holding the bag. We should never allow the Japanese government to achieve its goal of collecting private donations aimed at evading its due responsibility. We must stop the move.

Secondly, if we accept the private donations, it will be seen by the Japanese government as a tacit consent to the crimes, which will

encourage Japan to repeat such perpetrations in the future.

Avoidance of taking official responsibility for its past atrocities shows us that the Japanese government is rationalizing its war crimes, which will lead it to repeat such unspeakable crimes in the future.

Evidence can be easily found that in contemporary Japan supporters of Japanese militarism are reemerging, embellishing and justifying Japanese World War Two aggressions. Recently, a few prefectural legislatures adopted resolutions stating that Japan's war of aggression was not an "aggression", and that the war dead were national heroes who sacrificed their lives to protect the well-being of their mother country and the safety of their hometowns. The reemergence of militarism and the rationalization of incriminating aggression cannot be seen as having any other reason than that of intending to repeat such crimes down the road.

In other words, the Japanese government and the reemerging forces of Japanese militarism are beginning to reveal their true colors, following the steps of their ancestors by way of invasion and crime.

At this juncture, we believe without doubt that if we accept the idea of private donations, we are contributing to Japan's ambitions of militarism and invasion. We must see through the rhetoric to the true purpose behind the civil fund and stop the plan from taking place.

Thirdly, we are against the private donation plan because it is an insult and a humiliation to the former comfort women.

The comfort women issue can not be settled in a matter-of-fact way by doling out small compensations. Nothing can make up for the lost youth, self-respect and heart-breaking sufferings for these women. That's why former comfort women are asking the Japanese government for not only physical but also mental compensations. Their demands require the Japanese government's official recognition of its past wrongdoings and due compensation.

The government, is committing the double crime of burying its head in the sand while appeasing public opinion with the charity money:

unforgiveable actions in the eyes of comfort women. The government, as a perpetrator of war crimes, should take a more prudent attitude toward assuming its historic responsibility. As the year 1995 coincides with the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat in the Second World War, Japan must take this occasion as a chance to verify its integrity and consciousness of its position in international society.

For Japan to bid for permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council without taking responsibility for its past demonstrates that it fails to know its place. Japan must behave itself and the first step is to investigate its past war crimes comprehensively, make public its findings and offer sincere apology to its victims.

Along with this, it should make reasonable compensations to individual victims instead of pitching for private donation. Japan must demonstrate to the world its serious commitment to never repeating the same atrocities by prosecuting those responsible for war crimes.

Furthermore, it must take steps to ensure that the younger generation receives a complete education by recording what actually took place in the history textbooks.

By these acts, we can confirm that the Japanese government has repented its past crimes, has cleared up its debts and is willing to join the historic journey toward true goodwill and peace with its neighboring countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we are determined to settle the issue by the end of this year, I must stress that we must keep our guards up until we achieve our goal. I hope the Third Asian Forum will play an important role in strengthening our national solidarity and uniting us in order to deal with Japan's past war crimes.

Why oppose Sympathy Money?

Kim Kyung Hee

(The Korean Council for the Women Drafted
for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan)

The year of 1995 is a meaningful year for Koreans as well as all of Asia. It should be the year of "Jubilee" to heal the wounds of all the war victims in Asia. It should be the year all of us rejoice in celebration that it is 50 years since the second World War ended. But why are we still struggling to awaken the conscience of the Japanese Government to their legal responsibilities for war victims?

It is now the right time for Asian women activists and victims together to share what we have done so far and what we are going to do at this point since we have fought for four years together.

First of all, we must explain why we are opposed to the plan for "Sympathy Money". The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Murayama, announced a plan to resolve the problem of Asian war victims through a so called "Peace Friendship Exchange Fund for Asian Women". It will be one thousand million Yen(Y 1000,000,000) raised by private fund and the Japanese Government will provide five hundred million Yen for administration costs. Each victim is supposed to get one million Yen if it is carried out. However we strongly oppose this plan for "Sympathy Money". The Japanese Government should withdraw it immediately for the following reasons;

1. In order to restore friendly relationships with neighboring Asian countries the Japanese Government should pay individual reparations to war victims.

The reparations should not only be reasonable for victims according

to International Law, but also be on the basis of the Japanese Government's conscience and repentance for past wrong doing. Otherwise, it is not possible for Japan to restore relationships of trust with other Asian countries. By providing only money, no matter how much it is, it will not be helping at all. It is no wonder that the Japanese Government has not gotten any support for their becoming a member of the U.N. Security Council from neighboring Asian countries. It is the revelation of the whole truth and a formal apology for the crime of military sexual slavery that will be the starting point for restoring a friendly, trusting relationship with other Asian countries. The plan for sympathy money is an insult to victims unless it includes such an apology and revelation of the whole truth.

2. The plan for "Sympathy Money" by a private fund will remit the Japanese Government of the crime of military sexual slavery.

The military sexual slavery by Japan is a "crime against humanity" and a "war crime". These crimes are still punishable under international customary norms and domestic laws. In addition, Japan is also punishable for these crimes under many other international instruments such as the International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic (1925) and The Forced Labor Convention (1930).

The I.L.O.(International Labor Office) stipulates forced military sexual slavery as forced labor according to the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Applications of Conventions, International Labor Conference, 81st Session, 1994. Furthermore, the Japanese Government is responsible for "impunity" since they have chosen not to punish those who were involved in the crime. On November 22, 1994 the I.C.J.(International Commission of Jurists) sent their recommendation to the Japanese Government that they pay individual reparations to the victims of Japanese military sexual slavery.

Not only has the Japanese Government neglected to do this but it has not made any effort to release information materials related to the war period. This neglect to do so only further reflects the belief that the Japanese Government has something to hide. They have not conceded to any demands to release materials related to the issue which are currently closed to the public. They are trying to avoid clarifying where the responsibility lies by establishing this plan for "Sympathy Money.". If the money is raised by Japanese civilians in a fundraising program, it will be remitting the Japanese Government of their legal responsibility for war victims.

3. The survivors of military sexual slavery by Japan are women who should not be objects of sympathy or pity, rather they should be offered apologies and reparations under International Law in order to restore their human dignity and honor.

These survivors are living history of military sexual slavery by Japan. They are still struggling with what they have gone through and their deep wounds. So called "Sympathy Money" or any other measure has nothing to do with their healing if it is not the expression of a sincere apology and reparation. Besides this, nothing can restore their human dignity. When the Japanese Government tries to deal with this issue as a money matter, it steps on the survivors' human dignity again because it distracts the focus from the issue of the Military Sexual Slavery, and instead belittles the reparations to donations to poor women in poor Asian countries.

Therefore, survivors, activists and other militants have been demonstrating in front of the Japanese Embassy. The 155th demonstration will be held on March 1, 1995. Survivors are still screaming: "We don't need sympathy money." "Give it to your Japanese beggars!" "Give me back my youth!" "I don't need such money, even all the money in Japan is no compensation without an official apology."

When one victim testified her experience in Canada, a Japanese journalist stood up and said in tears that those comfort girls were drafted at the age of her own daughter.

It is true that there is a lot of raping of women by occupying soldiers. But is there any other case which was as deliberate, long term, and systematic as that which was planned, designed, and enforced by the Supreme Commander of the Japanese army?

I strongly believe that this kind of Military Sexual Slavery should not have happened in our history. If the Japanese Government truly wants to have peaceful friendly relationships with other neighbouring Asian countries, they first have to show that they respect International Law. The Japanese Government must withdraw the plan for "Sympathy Money" immediately and must pay reparations to individual survivors with an official apology. Furthermore, they must record and teach this to younger generations. I have conviction that we will achieve the goals through our Asian sisterhood solidarity work. Let's work together!

STATEMENT OF LILA-PILIPINA
(Task Force on Filipino Comfort Women)

On the Japanese Government's plan to Collect "Charity Money"

Nelia Sancho
(Chairperson, LILA-PILIPINA)

Women Survivors of rape and military sexual slavery who have filed a claim for individual compensation and apology from the Japanese government are not beggars! They are women who fight to recover their humanity and to reclaim their human rights. They are entitled to a sincere and dignified apology and compensation from the Japanese government as well as reparation of all the sufferings, and damages inflicted.

LILA-PILIPINA opposes the Japanese government plan to set up a "fund" sponsored by private sectors. This idea allows the Japanese government to evade its responsibility to the women survivors for direct compensation.

It was the Japanese government which started the war. It was the Japanese Imperial Army, before and during World War II, which had set up a vast network of comfort stations for the exclusive use of its forces. The Japanese military provided brothels to its troops wherever they were located. Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Malaysian, Indonesian and Dutch women and girls were put in these military brothels and sexual services were extracted from them under duress. The Japanese which had strict control of its forces and all passages and transportation, bears the responsibility for trafficking in women. This responsibility should be accepted by the present government of Japan. The vast scale

in which these atrocities were perpetrated is truly appalling. Equally appalling is the kind of life in the military brothels that the women had to endure a living hell! The women were beaten and tortured, in addition to being raped by 15, 20 or 30 soldiers a day, and by the officers at night, day after day, for periods ranging from three weeks to eight years. Living conditions were cramped and shabby. Although medical check-ups by army doctors took place occasionally, many women were afflicted with sexual transmitted diseases. Women and girls, who were healthy in body and spirit before they were abducted, left the brothels diseased in body, crippled in spirit.

The Japanese government, in order to sincerely resolve the issue, has to restore the honor and dignity of the women it did violence to. The women's honor and dignity could not be restored if the Japanese government simply promotes "charity money" or "condolence money" from private citizens of Japan. Where is its own political and moral responsibility? The Japanese government should confront its own guilt, and not transfer this to ordinary citizens and make the latter responsible for a war crime against women which the government had committed.

The issue of official individual compensation to the war victims by the Japanese government has been left unsettled for nearly half a century. All wartime documents and records in the possession of Japan and the former Allied countries are still not made public. A thorough investigation, including interviews with the victims, is still to be conducted by the Japanese government.

Japan has granted compensation only to Japanese nationals. Japan should offer reparation for damages inflicted through direct compensation. Japan must acknowledge these crimes to ensure that wars and militarism and the degradation and violation of women will never happen again. And in order that such a crime may never be repeated, atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial forces must be remembered. Proper education must be conducted in homes and schools,

both in Japan and in the Philippines.

The Filipino, Korea and all comfort women who have publicly spoken out, have dared to call rape and military slavery by Japan a war crime. They seek reparation and renewal from the Japanese government. They seek redress for the crimes against women, for the human rights violations committed against their persons.

We, the supporters, advocates of women's rights and for peace with justice can do nothing less but to continue the campaign and the social movement for all the victims and survivors of violence on women in war and armed conflict situations.

Why oppose "Sympathy Money"? Taiwanese Comfort Women Want Justice

Yu-Fang Shiau
(Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation)

We oppose "sympathy money"

We object to the plan of "private fund" and "sympathy money", because it is not a proper reparation for the Comfort Women. It also reveals that the Japanese government is not sincere and regretful at all, though it has expressed its "sorrow and sympathy" for the Comfort Women several times before.

We oppose this plan because the Japanese government is attempting to avoid taking responsibility and accepting the stigma of a "criminal nation." By using a "private fund", the Japanese government denies admit that Japan has ever been involved in or committed the crime, but the truth is that the Japanese government established, owned and managed a large-scale sex slave system over all Asian-Pacific areas during World War II. This guilty country does not want to give proper reparations and extend formal apology to the victims. Ironically, it offers a small amount of "sympathy money" to the surviving victims as mercy or welfare assistance. This plan is both an insult and a humiliation to the victims.

What the victims demand is that the Japanese government return justice and dignity to them. They are not poor beggars demanding money from the Japanese government. The Taiwanese Comfort Women do not and will not accept the "sympathy money."

Why we oppose "sympathy money?"

The drafting of the Comfort Women is a systematic crime committed by the Japanese government . The nature of the crime is forced sex slavery and systematic rape. It is a gross violation of human rights, violation of the War Law and the Law of trafficking of Children and Women. These women were physically and psychologically assaulted, or even killed in the War. Their lives have been totally changed since these assaults.

Therefore, the Japanese government should compensate these women for the crime it has committed, according to the law. The Japanese government should provide proper reparations to these women according to the severity and nature of the crime. Otherwise, this issue remains unjust.

The proper reparation should be individually paid to these women and the resource of money should come from the government, instead of being provided by a private fund. The reparation is the responsibility of the Japanese Government, not any other people nor any organization. The proper reparations for these women should include both material and spiritual reparations. Therefore, the amount of the reparation money should be substantial enough to be equal to the nature and damages of the crime. Taiwanese Comfort Women have requested that the amount of the reparation should be at least twenty million Japanese Yen.

The plan of "sympathy money" and "private fund" is not a proper reparation at all. These women, for all their lives, in their old age and in their death beds, have been waiting for justice. Justice at least should include the return of their dignity, the formal apology from the Diet of the Japanese government, the full investigation of the issue, and the proper reparations for these women. For a long time and on many different occasions, these women from different victimized countries have made their requests very clearly.

In the plan of "private fund," the Japanese government announced it individually repaid the former Taiwanese soldiers drafted by Japan in War World II. Though the paid amount still is regarded as improper. The Japanese government also passed a law to repay each person about two hundred thousand Japanese Yen for the former Taiwanese soldiers who were either killed or handicapped in the War. Then, where are the human rights of the Comfort Women? The Japanese government should be shamed of its discrimination and injustice on the Comfort Women issue.

"We Want Justice", demanded by Taiwanese Comfort Women.

Testimony of the former comfort woman in Malaysia

Mazui Yaori

(NGO coordinator of East-Asian Women in Japan)

I'm Mazui Yaori and I'm going to read a report made by Nakahara Michico of the Asian Women's Research Center. Nakahara Michico has interviewed former comfort women in Southeast Asia, concentrating on Malaysia. Of those, she interviewed a handful of the former Malaysian comfort women talked about their past experiences. She interviewed one old women who gave her permission to run her story in the organ of the Asian Women's Research Center, which I'm going to read. The topic is "Rosalyn who is raising her voice."

I received a phone-call last November and was told that one former comfort woman had made up her mind to reveal her experience. I have met three former comfort women in Malaysia and paid attention to their stories while being asked to conceal their names and not to tell their families.

Last December, I went to Penang Island to meet a woman named Rosalyn. The Japanese forces began invading Malaysia in 1941 and put Malaysia under its military rule the following year. At that time, Rosalyn was a divorcee with two children. She did various work to raise her children by herself.

When she was living in a small room with her two children in Juruton, Japanese soldiers came to the area at 3 A.M. one night. They visited door-to-door and young women were taken to the street by force. They didn't care whether the woman were married or had children. Rosalyn was pulled away from her children, and was forced into a

truck. The women were brought to a large house where about 30 women were already in custody. Three or four of them were Malaysians while the rest consisted of the Chinese. A 70 or so year old Japanese woman called Obasang who could speak a little English was in that house looking after the women. The house was a comfort station for the Japanese army and Rosalyn was called Hanako there. She was sick with worry about her two young children who she had been forced to leave behind by themselves at home. She found out much later that her children were being taken care of by a certain family.

Japanese soldiers came to the comfort station from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., followed by officers at night. The women were given two meals a day and never received money for their forced sexual service. Sometimes, soldiers came in droves and had to line up waiting for their turn starting in the early morning. The women were assigned 30 or 40 men a day and had to take the men lying in bed and had little time to wear clothes.

Japanese soldiers were dirty, always drunk and rough. They hit women on the head or face when they were displeased. Even though they were issued condoms, they refused to use them. "When I once asked a soldier to wear a condom, he beat me so severely that I had trouble hearing. I still have a hearing problem in one ear. Somewhere along the line, I became pregnant." Women who got sick or pregnant were taken to someplace and no one knew what happened to them. Nobody knew where they were sent. Rosalyn begged Obasang to send her to a hospital and she was given a permit to go to a hospital.

Rosalyn, for the first time since her custody, left the house. The big comfort station is still in existence at the same place. It is now called Tonrok Hotel. Rosalyn went into a hospital to give birth. It was a girl. There was a line to fill in the name of the baby's father in the birth certificate of the new baby. She had no idea who her daughter's father was. She could only say that one of the Japanese soldiers who visited the comfort station was the father. A Japanese assistant in the hospital

took pity on her and let her write down his name in that blank.

The 50-year-old birth certificate which Rosalyn still cherishes like a jewel shows that Sake Moto is the father of Frira Rose. After Rosalyn gave birth, raids from Penang began. Rosalyn asked a Japanese doctor in the hospital to let her stay there for a month since she had nowhere to go. Japan surrendered in August that year.

After the war, Rosalyn had to take care of her three children. There were few jobs available for her to make money and leave her children to a babysitter. She worked at a cabaret called Parkle Theater in City Riter. At that time, a lot of boats stayed at Penang Island with many sailors. She was paid \$1.20 for one dance, of which she could take home only 90cents. Anyway, she worked very hard to raise her four children including the last child who was born later.

She never got married again. She did her best to bring up her children who left home one by one when they were old enough to take care of themselves. One of her children went to Brunei, Rose went to Britain and the remaining two went to Kuala Lumpur. As for Rosalyn, she lived selling lotteries until the age of 70 after she could no longer work at the cabaret. She now lives alone.

I was curious why a 78-year-old woman who is small and becomes sick frequently made up her mind to tell her story. When asked, she showed me a clipping from a English tabloid among many other collected newspaper clippings, saying that she decided to speak out after she read the article. The article was about the Asian Court of Women's human rights held at the International Conference Room of Tokyo University last May. A reporter, Baradan, of the Malaysia Stars covered the story. I blurted out, "We did it." at that moment. She always saved a newspaper whenever she saw an article dealing with the former comfort women by the Japanese army. This article was quite different from the previous ones. In it, former comfort women shared their experiences with hundreds of people in the audience.

Rosalyn said, "I know how hard it must be for them to speak out before the audience. They were courageous enough to tell their stories and I thought I had to do the same. Until now, I couldn't bring myself to come forward with my suffering, not even to my own children. However, I found confidence after reading this article. I'm not alone any more."

She now lives a lonely life. But she gave me courage. I'm planning to hold a meeting of the sisterhood to support her. I believe that we can join hands beyond national boundary since we are women. In fact, the Asian Court of Women's Human Rights was cosponsored by the Asian Association of Women's Human Rights with Nelia Sancho a chairwoman and our group. During our session, former Korean comfort women came to the court for testimony and Korean-Japanese Song, Shin Do made a statement.

Whether the former comfort women can speak out about their experiences depends on other women's support. To our disappointment, there are no women in Malaysia who could stand up for them.

As the former comfort woman in India who attended the Asian Court and took a stand said, we will exert every effort to turn suffering and pain into power.

question & response

question

What I'd like to ask Mazui Yayori is that shouldn't we make our position clear on this issue if some groups which are engaged in such a campaign like the lawyer, Dakagi, travel to Asian countries persuading victims to accept the private donation and disturbing them? I'd like to

know what the Japanese delegates feel about the way some groups representing the Japanese government visit individual countries and tell the former comfort women, including Korean comfort women, that they can be offered \$40,000 and ask individually whether they would accept it, as Julia Poras said(Shin, Hei Soo)

response

I'm afraid I don't grasp the whole situation in detail. But what I've learned so far is that I first confirmed the issue of private fund in Japan last June. It was two months after the Socialist coalition party led by Murayama was formed. The exact date, in my opinion, is either June 6 or June 7. Before the Socialist Party took power, it presented a personal compensation as a party policy. In early June, I knew that eight women led by Simiz Suzucho brought up the issue of raising charity money for former comfort women. At that time, we, women's groups, couldn't even imagine such a plan was in the making. We were surprised at the news.

Since then, the government proposed an alternative plan such as a Youth Exchange Fund as a way to replace a series of compensation policies last July and August. Then the government changed the term to Asian Exchange Center Fund, and finally to private donation. And the plan was hinted at in a public speech given by Prime Minister Murayama. I must remind you that the plan was carried out without our knowledge.

I hear that participants of such a plan were lawyer Dakagi from the private sector and congressman Shimiz Sumicho from the political circle. For that reason, the plan takes on the appearance that the government accepted the private sector's initiative.

The government strongly stated then that all post-war reparations have been completed by bilateral treaties with Asian countries and they see no reason to offer compensation to the victims, but they took pity on former comfort women and wanted to do something for them. Defense Minister,

in his statement, expressed those words in July, 1994 when the first official report on the investigation of the issue was made public. As a result, we can see that the government has planned for a long time to design alternative plans in place of official compensation.

That's how the idea of private donation took shape. Since the Foreign Ministry publicly declared that Japan would not offer personal compensation, we have been kept in the dark about this plan and that's what happened. However, they felt that the plan should be made known to the general public, so they announced some information last June for the first time and we came to realize the government's move.

We have demanded that members of private organizations who favor the civil fund withdraw their support. Most of us are against the civil fund and we will continue our efforts to appeal to the public not to join in the government's move. Though we lack power individually, this solidary forum will give us strength to fight against the government's plan to raise civil fund.(Suzuki Yucho)

I'd like to express our position from the point of a Korean resident in Japan.

I get the feeling that the general opinion among our groups are divided over the government's plan of a private fund. One opinion is to refuse the plan, while the other opinion is to persuade the Japanese government to appropriate more money while collecting the public fund since the ongoing plan is wrong.

When the idea of private fund was disclosed, several organizations supporting the trial of former Korean-Japanese comfort women indicated that we mustn't accept money offered in the form of private fund. They argue that the Japanese government should pay direct individual compensation. We even refused the idea of letting the Japanese government provide more than half of the compensation money in the private donation.

We recently came to know about the idea of private fund through the

lawyer, Mr. Dakagi and even he is talking about making the government provide more money for compensation since civil fund alone can't make proper compensation.

The bulk of Japanese civil rights activists wants the government to offer proper compensation instead of trying to force the public to take a major part in it.

When we ran an opinion advertisement opposing the private fund in the newspaper, more than 160 civil organizations sent a letter telling us that they agree with us on the issue. I hope you understand that no one in Japan is wholly in favor of the government's plan and only a few like the private fund idea provided that the government shares some of the burden.(Whang, Po Kang Ja)

Country Report II
**What are the Strategies for Resolving
the Problem?**

**Report on our Activities at the UN
Human Rights Sub-Commission**

What are the strategies for solving the former comfort women issue

Choi, Keum Chun

Ladies and gentlemen and Delegates!

It's been a long time since the Japanese Imperial Army's atrocities against Asian women drew public attention in Asia, including Korea, and four years have passed since the time when women delegates from both South and North Korea first held a discussion with our Japanese counterparts to deal with the problem.

As a participant of several conferences and discussions aimed at solving the former comfort women matter, I find it fortunate to see that the Third Asian Forum was convened on the 50th anniversary of Korea's independence from Japan and of Japan's defeat in the World War Two. While I feel chagrined that this issue was not settled a long time ago and we continue to hold meetings for this purpose, I can't suppress my anger at the Japanese government and its supporters who are obstructing settlement of the matter at the same time.

Even though every turn of human history has been filled with many wars, small and big, leaving inhuman atrocities committed by aggressors recorded along the way, the Japanese Imperial Army's violation of human rights against more than 200,000 Asian women including Korean women, was unprecedented.

In one word, the comfort women system conducted by the Japanese

Army was truly a horrendous and unimaginable crime in terms of its details, brutality, duration, scale and effect.

Considering the fact that war crimes by aggressors of World War Two have been almost settled, I can't understand why the comfort women issue hasn't been unraveled until now.

Against this backdrop, I think it's quite meaningful and timely that the Third Asian Forum is to be convened in order to oppose Japanese government's plan for raising private fund and to discuss ways to solve the issue and what to do in the future.

The former comfort women issue can no longer be delayed and should be settled by the end of this year no matter what. By doing so, we could restore the dignity and honor of former comfort women in and around Asia and put their grievances to rest for good.

1995 is the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat in the World War Two. The international community, accordingly, is attempting to make this year a year for closing another chapter of human history and for beginning a new chapter. The issue of the Japanese military's comfort women system which was conducted in the 30s and 40s, therefore, must be settled in a proper way before 1996.

It is our responsibility to let the matter be solved fairly and soundly in order not to put our future generation into the same tragic position as the victims. We find it necessary to wipe the slate clean, which will prevent our descendents from suffering the same humiliation and will also enable us to protect justice.

At the moment, a small force within the Japanese government is trying to avoid responsibility for its past war crimes by rationalizing them. If we don't set the record straight at this juncture, it means assisting the Japanese in committing other horrible crimes.

Considering that, we can't let our minds rest until the issue is solved. We shouldn't make concessions or show reluctance in settling the matter of the comfort women survivors.

As we all know, the survivors are in the twilight of life, aging between 70 and 80. They are in poor health, mentally and physically, and are frail, managing to go back and forth in and around their houses - all these conditions resulting from their sexual exploitation in their youth by Japanese soldiers. It is crystal-clear that death is a heartbeat away from them. This issue should be settled while the victims and witnesses of the past history are still alive. That is our common goal and determination. However, we can not expect to have it solved by itself. Nor can we expect that the Japanese government who is denying the past history and evading responsibility as well as obligation for its crimes will wipe the slate clean. As a result, we acknowledge that it all depends on how we, Koreans and Asian people alike, deal with the issue.

If that is the case, how are we going to move toward solving the issue?

First of all, Asian women and citizens victimized by Japan's colonial rule must resolve to fight for our struggle by revealing Japan's past war crimes to the world and condemning such crimes. The issue is not just a personal matter for a handful of former comfort women, their bereaved families or certain countries. It is our own problem concerning national interests and the integrity of each country in Asia.

We still have former comfort women around us who conceal their shameful past because of humiliation and self-loathing about their experiences.

We must get to the bottom of the comfort women issue and present our case to the international community in accordance with each country's circumstances and conditions. We must encourage former comfort women to come forward with their stories in order that the world will realize Japan's heinous crimes. We must appeal to the public for participation in our struggle for justice in settling the issue.

Secondly, we, Asian women and people, must launch an Asia-wide campaign to stop the current Japanese government's move to evade responsibility by rationalizing its wartime actions.

It was none other than the Japanese aggressors who initiated the comfort women system as a national policy and executed such inhumane crimes of ethnic cleansing. Rather than admitting its wrongdoings before the world and waiting for the fair condemnation, Japan it is still attempting to wash its hands of responsibility. Every part of society in Asia must coordinate efforts to put pressure on the Japanese government to recognize its responsibility, offer a sincere apology and guarantee reparations.

Asian countries respectively, according to their circumstances, should continue their long struggle against the Japanese government through public protests, and signature campaigns while organizing and carrying out plans to hold picture exhibitions, to show war movies, and to distribute booklets with regard to Japan's war crimes. In particular, face-to-face showdowns with the Japanese authorities and public protests by sending former comfort women and people concerned to Japan will surely drive them to the wall.

Furthermore, international activities such as filing claims for Japan's war atrocities to the United Nations Sub-committee and other international bodies must be continued. We must focus our combined efforts on our struggle toward disclosing the true purpose of Japanese government's move to collect civil funds, thus forcing them to withdraw such a deceptive plan.

Thirdly, for the just and thorough settlement of the issue, we should make Japan change its attitude toward solving this matter. At present, the Japanese government persistently insists that post-war reparations to Asian countries were concluded at the time that it established bilateral treaties with individual countries. We should never allow such an announcement to go unchallenged since it is a stumbling block to

the settlement of the issue. I urge all Koreans to join hands together to deal with Japan.

Finally, the solidarity movement of comfort women-related organizations and Asian women and every group must be strengthened. The success of our struggle can be determined by solidarity. Every woman, organization and citizen in Asia must work together to achieve the common goal of promoting our struggle for burying the past. Our movement will eventually force the Japanese government to acknowledge and apologize for its past war crimes, thus providing proper compensation to its victims.

The establishment of a solidarity organization consisting of Asian women and the general public will be a major step toward achieving our goal. We can call it the Asian Solidarity Council to solve the issue with our combined efforts. The council can be made up of other related organizations in Asia.

I sincerely believe that all delegates from Asian countries will favor our suggestions.

As we have discussed during this session, settling the issue in a proper way can't be as easy as we had hoped. We still have to overcome many obstacles and stumbling blocks in the way. However, our struggle is just and fair. It will definitely bear fruit and the issue will be resolved in the foreseeable future.

I'd like to conclude my presentation by urging all of you, through the Third Asian Forum for Japanese Military's sexual slavery issue, to contribute to solving the issue by the end of this year, the 50th anniversary of Korea's independence from Japanese colonial rule.

Thank you.

Comfort Women Organize for Their Rights

Nelia Sancho
(Lila-Philippina)

Brief Background ;

LILA-PILIPINA stands for "Lign ng mga Lolang Pilipina". It is an organization of Filipino comfort women and rape survivors as well as individual advocates of redress for human rights and justice to the Filipino comfort women survivors. It coordinates the efforts of various Philippine-based organizations and networks which support the struggle of the comfort women for justice.

On July 13, 1992, the Task Force on Filipino Comfort Women was founded to provide a national support mechanism to the comfort women's campaign for justice. The TFFCW functioned with a General Assembly composed of the members which met regularly for planning the programmes and activities and conducting evaluation. The membership increased from 7 to 15 organizations. A national committee served the day to day coordination needs of the campaign. For two years, AWHRC provided the venue for reception needs for the Filipino comfort women as well as a volunteer secretariat force.

On May 16, 1994, a national assembly and consultation of TFFCW members and FCW survivors resulted in the decision to form LILA-PILIPINA. The organization will stimulate the development of a broad and multifaceted national movement of advocates for women's human rights in times of war and armed conflict situations.

The Filipino comfort women filed their lawsuit against the Japanese Government, which serves as the first case to be filed by the victims themselves. It was made on the basis of the following legal basis; the

Hague Convention of 1907 on War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity.

REPORT OF LILA-PILIPINA and TFFCW'S ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS ;

On October 29, 1992, TFFCW and AWHRC paid tribute to the first Filipino comfort women survivors during a moving Solidarity Gathering for the lolas.

In 1992 and 1993, Fact-Finding Missions were held by Japanese Lawyers in the Philippines, consisting of interviews with survivors.

In April, 1993, LILA-PILIPINA held a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo.

On July 31, 1994, LILA-PILIPINA held a protest meeting and General Assembly hosted by the 7th Fact Finding Mission of Japanese lawyers. There was a Solidarity Dance and distribution of Department of Health Memo and Medical Cards.

On June 15, 1994, a Peace Keeping Operation Bill anniversary rally was held in front of the Japanese embassy in coordination with progressive organizations like BAYAN, KMU(Trade Union movement), League of Filipino Students, Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition, SCMP and Gabriela.

On May 13-16, 1994, LILA-PILIPINA held its national planning and consultation meeting.

On June 3, 1994, LILA members attended the fourth court trial for the lawsuit of the Filipino comfort women, conducted at the Tokyo District Court. A march which mobilized 700 people was held on June 6 together with representatives of the Korean comfort women and Japanese solidarity groups and individuals.

On June 25, 1994, LILA-PILIPINA held its Quarterly General Assembly and Lola's birthday celebration. There was a presentation of quilts during the multiple celebrations.

On July 8, 1994, LILA-PILIPINA held a Relief Rummage Sale,

which was to be followed later by subsequent rummage sales.

LILA-PILIPINA was also an active participant in the drafting of declarations and statements addressing international bodies such as the United Nations. LILA participated in an appeal to the UN last September 13, 1994 protesting Japan's bid for a permanent member of the Security Council. On July 18, 1994, LILA wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Japan, the Honorable Mr. Tomiichi Murayama, entreating his government to 1) withdraw its plan for an "Asian Center", and 2) express a sincere apology to all individual victims of war and provide due compensation to each and every war victim as soon as possible.

LILA-PILIPINA is currently working on its participation in the Quilt Making Project for the Beijing World Conference on Women. Workshops were conducted among the different group formations of the lolas in Navotas, Antipole and from the different parts of Metro Manila to conceptualize the design and size of the quilt they would make. The quilts told the lolas' stories of sexual violence during the war.

LILA-PILIPINA was an active participant in the Asia Tribunal on Women's Human Rights held in Tokyo held last march 12, 1994. During the tribunal, a Declaration was produced which condemned the horrendous crimes of organized and systematic rape, torture, detention, forced displacement and abduction. The Declaration named Japan's "Operation Comfort Women" as a war crime, and condemned this and all acts of military sexual slavery. It expressed deep concern over the unprecedented proportions of trafficking in women, including the Devadasi system in India, the sex workers in Japan, and profiteering in the sex industry which perpetuates the massive export of female labor for entertainment and prostitution.

The Tokyo Tribunal also produced a plan of Action which included ; data collection, education / information, Lobbying, and victim support and assistance. Specific to the Issue of Comfort Women, the recommendations included; full investigation and data gathering, trial

and punishment of criminals, guaranteed compensation for survivors, public education, and strengthening of international solidarity.

In the month of February, 1995, LILA-PILIPINA is coming out with a paid ad in Filipino national newspapers dramatizing the lolas' demand for justice and compensation. Entitled "We are Not Beggars; No to Charity Money, Yes to Compensation", the ad expresses the lolas' protest over Japan's intent to give charity money, for they would settle for no less than compensation and apology from the Japanese government for every individual comfort women survivor. The ad aims to popularize the issue and garner strong support for the lolas' demands.

REASONS TO HOPE ;

Since the start of our movement, we at LILA-PILIPINA have received the support of many Asian women's groups and international human rights organizations, including the International Commission of Jurists and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The comfort women system has brought shame, disrepute, and unspeakable trauma to the women who were victimized by this heinous crime. We know by now that comfort women were raped through a torture and human degradation. For almost 50 years, the Japanese government sought to hide this reality. For almost 50 years, we the survivors bravely lived in silence, bearing the stigma of their ordeal despite the absence of any support system. We continue to live with the violence of its memory to this day, our grievance still without redress. It is a violence made invisible by governments and the societies to which we belong.

Our hope lies in our resolve to pursue our campaigns on the national and international levels, using the Japanese court as one avenue, and the United Nations system as another channel, to seek redress for grievances of the comfort women. We must increase the

pressure on Japan to recognize and admit its involvement in drafting the women victims and maintaining the atrocious system, and to issue a public apology for its crime.

The aim of our lawsuit against Japan is not only to secure financial compensation but also to seek a recognition from the world community of sex slavery as a war crime. By so doing, it seeks the restoration of the honor and dignity of the victims of this crime.

In 1995, there will be an intensification of our activities as they lead to the historic Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing, China in September. We invite women's organizations to join the workshops and projects we have lined up.

Throughout Asia, we will continue to raise our voices high, across distances of our vast continent. Ours are voices of hope and struggle. Ours are the eyes of those who believe that there are other ways of knowing the world, different from the existing condition of domination based on objectification and subjugation. By so doing, we are transforming a world that has known suffering for so long, wherein we hope there will be war no more.

What are the strategies to resolve the problem

Chen Yi-Chen

(Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation)

This year is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and Japan's defeat. As such, Japan wants to resolve all outstanding responsibilities relating to war time compensation claims by the end of this year.

As far as Taiwan is concerned, these compensation claims include war time compensation for Taiwanese citizens who were drafted to serve as Japanese soldiers, and for the postal savings and insurance funds of ordinary citizen's during the colonial period. However, the fact that differences remain between the Japanese and Chinese sides with regards to the amount of compensation to be granted means that no agreement has yet been reached.

However, the issue of compensation for comfort women is not included in the Japanese government's compensation policy described above. Japan's Coalition government has already decided to use a private fund program as a way of making symbolic payments for damage received by individuals and households in terms of living costs and medical expenses, but not official compensation. Naturally we acknowledged the desire to avoid an official apology. However, women in both Japan and South Korea have been working vigorously for the interests of comfort women victims. As such, the issue has been internationalized, with a petition being made to the United Nations Human Rights Council, and further steps are being made to take out a law suit at the international Court in the Hague.

Taiwan finds itself in a more difficult situation, not being a member of the United Nations, and having no international position or outlet to speak of. Nevertheless, private groups have still been working exceptionally hard, using their participation at various international forums and conferences, as a way of breaking through the restrictions faced.

In terms of strategy in the pursuit of compensation for former comfort women, I propose using both the process and experience of application for compensation from the Japanese government for Taiwanese citizens drafted into the Japanese army, as a way of dealing with this problem.

During the Second World War over 207,000 Taiwanese men served in the Japanese army, either as soldiers or in secretarial functions. Of these, around 53,000 either died or were unaccounted for as a direct result of the war. That is approximately 25%.

Since the end of the war, compensation laws drafted by the Japanese government have been restricted to those of Japanese nationality, thereby excluding colonial soldiers who served as Japan was defeated. As such, compensation claims from such individuals were denied by the Japanese government.

In August, 1977, a seven-man group, made up of Taiwan human rights activists, Japanese scholars, members of government circles and the Japanese liberal human rights association, assisted 14 Taiwanese nationals who had served as soldiers in the Imperial Japanese Army, to take up litigation in the Tokyo District Court, asking for 5 million Yen compensation for each person. The fifteen years up to 1992 saw their three cases defeated three times in the Japanese legal system.

Nevertheless, after the defeat of the first case, related people in

Taiwan and Japan established a "Compensation research Committee for Taiwanese Who Served as Japanese Soldiers". This organization began immediate promotion of lobbying activities within Japanese political circles. Advisors to this advisory committee included members of the Japanese Diet, and other political figures. The need for a dual policy of political lobbying hand in hand with legal moves. Thus, a further legal appeal was launched, whilst wider political lobbying was also undertaken. Thus, after the litigation was defeated for a second time in 1985 and a Diet "Compensation Committee" was established. After three years of hard work, the Japanese Diet passed laws in September 1989 relating to "financial Assistance for the Relatives of Taiwanese Who died in the War."

In the middle of December, a bill was also passed granting those who died or were seriously injured in battle, assistance of 2 million Yen. Moreover, the release of such compensation funds began at the following September, in cooperation with the Taiwan red cross association.

After assesment of the legislative background of these compensation measures, it was generally found that long term lobbying methods proved most effective, and that legal process had a definite effect on political institutions.

The "Private Funds" program proposed by the Japanese government is intended to ensure that private institutions replace the government in paying for the abovementioned assistance. However, these private organizations can not represent the government as such. Therefore, it may be possible to use Japan's domestic and international opinion and the influence of other groups to form lobbying groups in the Diet, encouraging the discussion of compensation for comfort women and the passing of an official compensation bill.

Furthermore, it is possible to use the desire of the Japanese to complete war time compensation payments by the end of this year, and the networking of women's groups across Asia, to maintain a standpoint where national compensation to individuals represents Japanese that the constant pressure of time will make the Japanese government to accept it.

Solidarity with the Women Victims of Military Sexual Slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army

Kim Yong Hee
(Korean resident in Japan)

When the Japanese government proposed a civil fund raising plan in order to pay "sympathy money" to the former comfort women who were forced to be sexual slaves of the Japanese military, it was our urgent task not to build up such a fund, because the government needs to first apologize to the women who have continued to suffer from the causes created by sexual slavery and the state should take responsibility to pay individual compensation. Therefore, our concrete proposals for action are as follow:

To Stop the Civil Fund Raising Project :

Although the Japanese government has decided to set up a civil fund raising plan, the government may still have a question whether such the project will settle the problems related to "comfort women" issues. Because there are many uncertain factors such as collecting enough money from citizens, the comfort women themselves accepting the money, or the Korean government possible objections to the plan. Knowing the weakness of the Japanese government is effective in fighting back. Including Ms. Song Sin-Doo, a Korean in Japan, other comfort women from Korea and the Philippines are opposing the "sympathy money" collected by the civil fund raising plan as well. Ms. Song Sin-Doo says, "It is meaningless if the money does come as the government's responsibility." Ms. Lee Sun Tok says, "I do not need the sympathy money collected from people. I Want the Japanese

government's apology and compensation." These voices of war survivors should be heard, and we need to support them. It is expected that the civil fund raising project will begin in April of this year and begin to deliver money to victims by fall, according to the government's plan. This means that the comfort women will be divided as to whether they should receive money or not.

For this reason civil fund raising has begun. Our task is to share the fraud of this project with the candidate leaders appointed by the Government and pressure them not to take the leading role in civil fund raising. (We have written appeal letters and petitions.) We can also pressure firms and unions, not to send their money to the fund raising project at this time. And it is necessary to appeal to the Korean government, which has kept silent on the issue.

To Obtain a Japanese Government apology and Individual Compensation for "comfort women" :

The idea of "sympathy money by civil fund raising" was decided at the enclosed governmental level. Although Germany, the USA and Canada have paid individual compensation to war victims, the Japanese government is still trying to solve problems by paying sympathy money to war victims without recognizing the State responsibility for war crimes. It is necessary for the State to realize this "comfort women issue" will not be resolved in a domestic manner. In order to do this, it is necessary to create powerful pressure from international and diplomatic channels. Therefore, we took our concerns to "the UN Conference of Women's Status" meeting in N.Y., where was a preparation meeting for the World Women's conference in Beijing. We must remain aware how the issue has been taken up by the UN Human Rights Commission. We must continuously make an effort to see that issue proceeds in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. We must also support the recommendations by the International

Commission of Jurists on the 'comfort women' issue. It is necessary for us to create international pressure on the Japanese government in order to seek redress for 'comfort women'.

Prime Minister Murayama has retracted his statement on the issue related to the individual compensation from the time when he was the Chair of Japan Social Democratic Party. He then stated the necessity of compensation to war victims, but we can hope for no more from the present political administration. It is difficult to break through the bureaucratic wall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. How can we transform the powerful relations of the government and bureaucracies in order for them to come to the point that the State should create the power within its administration, restitution and rehabilitation to each war victim? They can not be realized by paying sympathy money from a private sector fund. It is necessary to break through many bureaucratic excuses, such as "the bilateral treaties have concluded reparations," or "there is no domestic law to handle the issue," and many other excuses. There is a movement to create a legislation for war compensation for non-Japanese nationals.

Although many groups have taken important actions, I would like to mention action by Korean residents in Japan involving the Korean government in our struggle.

The Important Role of the Government of the Republic of Korea :

The Japanese government repeatedly answered that the 1965 Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea, has solved the claims and established the normalization of relations. However, both the governments of Japan and of Korea have different views in relations to war victims who are Korean residents in Japan. In the cases of the late Mr. Chin Sok-il and Mr. Sok Song-Ki, both war wounded veterans who are Korean residents in Japan, the Korean government stated that the compensation claims of both wounded

veterans were not included in the 1965 Agreement on then Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims Between Japan and the Republic of Korea. The government of the Republic of Korea states the wounded veterans can claim compensation. (The Foreign Affairs Department of the Korean Government comment on January 26, 1994). Both governments interpreted the 1965 Agreement differently. Article 3 of the 1965 Agreement makes it possible for the Korean government to take the case to the arbitration when both parties can not agree on the interpretation.

When the 1965 Japan-Korea claim agreements were settled no one was concerned about the "comfort women" issue. The Korean Lawyers Associations stated in its proposals that the "Korea-Japan Treaty" did not include individual reparation of human right violations nor criminal responsibility for war crimes. It is difficult to state as the Japanese government argues, that the comfort women's issues were resolved by the settlement of the bilateral treaty.

Moreover, when the Japanese government negotiates diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of Korea, North Koreans will demand a change in the Japan-Korea Treaty which states the Republic of Korea is the only legal government of the Korean Peninsula. The Korea-Japan Treaty and the 1956 Agreement for the Settlement of Claims contain various problems related to the present and the future of the Peninsula. If the root of the Treaty is questioned, the argument by the Japanese government could be shaken.

The Japanese government is trying to realize a plan of "civil fund raising in order to conclude the comfort women's issue, but the government would be forced to change if diplomatic problems arise. For the Japanese government, the South Korean Government, which has kept silence on the issue, is a bomb which may explode any time. However, the Japanese government repeats the same rhetoric as if it has an agreement with the South Korean government. When we went to meet with representatives of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, the officials said Japan has dealt with reparation sincerely according to the Treaty and there is no conflict with the Korean government. This answer implies that the Korean government has given approval for the "sympathy money" to be raised from the private sector. Unless the silence of the Korean government is broken there will once again be regrets in the future.

The Korean government has stressed the necessity of finding out the facts related to the "comfort women" issue, and has said that they are very much interested in the court struggles of "comfort women" claiming compensation. The Korean government has shown interest in supporting individuals in their the court struggle if necessary. But., the Korean government has not taken any action in researching the fact findings of the issue. The Japanese government has many times repeated the words of President Kim of the South Korean government, which states it does not require compensation from Japan for "comfort women". Along with explaining the conditions of Korean residents in Japan, these issues should be utilize in pressuring the Japanese government within the diplomatic negotiation of the Korean government.

We wish to place an advertisement of our opinion in the Han Gyorye Newspaper in South Korea to challenge President Kim, asking him "why do you keep silence?" In order to bring justice to the "comfort women" we want the cooperation of the Korean people and politicians who could pressure the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Japanese government.

Activities and messages by Korean residents in Japan :

◆ Supporters of Suh Jin-Doo Court Struggle

Ms. Song Sin-Doo as a former "comfort woman" presented her case

to the Tokyo District Court on April 5, 1993, requesting an apology by the state for its crimes and her right to compensation, but did not indicate the restitution amount in her claim. On the 6th hearings on January 27, 1995 she was ordered by the court to indicate the claim amount, thus 120 million yen was indicated. The amount is 10 million yen more than the pension amount given to a war criminal belonging to the top "A" class, such as Hideki Tojo, the Minister of the Army. Ms. Soh's damages which include sexual slavery, violation of basic freedom, and her life being threatened on the battle field, are so great that it is difficult to convert them to a monetary figure. Yet she presented 120 million yen in order to show her determination in the court struggle.

◆ Uri Yosong Network

The group to support the "comfort women" in South Korea meets once a month and a quarterly news letter is published. The group promoted a drama, "Eulogy of the Voiceless" performed by Korean players in Japan, and participated in a movement to file the Korean comfort women cases with the Permanent Court for Arbitration in Hague, Holland. The group wrote and published books. Five members of the group published a booklet entitled "To know more about "comfort women" issues" which can be used as a secondary text book in high schools.

◆ Opinion Advertisement - an international campaign for compensation to war victims

The redress for justice campaign for comfort women started in October, 1994 to publicize opinion advertisements in various newspaper around the world, while the government continues to confirm compensation through the proposed private-sector fund. Such the

advertisement was printed in the Mainichi Japanese newspaper, Tong-a-ilbo Korean newspaper, and the New York Times. Fifty-eight letters from Koreans were received in support of the campaign. Within three months 170 citizen groups and organizations in Japan responded in support of the campaign in addition to 1,370 people. On March 1, 1995 Daily Inquirer of the Philippines printed the opinions with 46 names and addresses of women who have filed their cases at Tokyo District Court.

◆ Democratic Women Organization of Korean in Japan

The group was organized in Tokyo, Osaka and Tokai with the aim for building a humane and just society without discrimination. The group meets once a month and publishes newspapers and resource material. In 1990 the group published a resource book, "North Korea Comfort Women" and continues to hold seminars and lectures in local communities. The Korean Poem, "You Are the Cross in Korea" was translated into Japanese and dramatic readings of the poem have been used widely.

Issues related to compensation for war crimes have been considered part of the issue which divides the Korean Peninsula. Because Korea was divided into North and South, and because women are not able to communicate, finding solutions to the problems is a slow process.

◆ The Supporters of Korean Comfort Women in Osaka

Members of this group are second generation Koreans in Japan. In 1993 we protested to the Self-Defense Forces which distributed condoms under the same name as the defunct Imperial Army of Japan, "totugeki ichiban". The Korean Drama, Sori Up-nun Man-ka, (Eulogy of the Voiceless) was sponsored and performed at 13 locations in Japan. In

order for the young people to understand the "comfort women" issue we are producing a video program consisting of two parts: Part I is resources taken from a historical perspective and Part II includes problems related to compensation for war victims, conditions of Korean residents in Japan and women's issues. The present prostitution problem on military bases, trafficking of women from other Asian countries to Japan, and limitless sexual violence of women are the recurrence of comfort women experiences in the present social situation.

Through the international network of women an apology to war survivors and individual compensation must be realized. Remembering the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, ending we commit ourselves to work for a solution to these issues.

For The Solution of Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" Issue

Tsuburaya Kyouko
(Japan)

I. As citizens of Japan, a past aggressor of Asia

We are at this meeting feeling tense as Japanese women. We are painfully conscious of the fact that our country was an aggressor in Asia.

Through our activities trying to solve Japanese military's "comfort women" issue. We have learned more about the wrong history education Japanese people are getting and the wrong direction Japan has been taking. In our activity to correct these we should always be aware that Japan's wrong stance will distort the personality of individuals and at the same time the sound development of the society as a whole. To bring the change it is essential to make the Japanese government take official responsibility.

And, as women as well as human beings, we have listened the crie of victims with pain in heart. We have shuddered at the atrocities, fe anger at the human right abuses toward women by state power. W think Japanese government's public apology, the individual compensati to the victims and prosecution of the persons responsible are essential restore the human rights and dignity of the victims. We regret that w could not come to realize this until the victims themselves started to give the cries of accusation forty years after the war.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our solidarity with you all. Now we would like to make a report about the measures we are going to take.

Calling for the withdrawal of "the alternative measure" aimed to evade responsibility

Yesterday a Japanese speaker reported about the plan of "private donation" which the present Murayama Cabinet is trying to push forward. So far the Japanese government has never tried to take legal responsibility even after former prime minister Miyazawa reluctantly made a gesture of apology. The government has been trying to put an end to the issue by offering alternative measures that will never lead to the real solution. Making a gesture of "apology and repentance", the government has been offering plans such as "Youth Exchange Programs" "Asian Exchange Center", and "Center for Asian Women's Independence". We are determined to scrap these plans and make the government take official responsibility. We will make steady efforts to show the public what is really behind the government proposal and keep pressuring the government and other related organs.

When a plan for "Asian Exchange Center" was proposed as "an alternative measure for compensation", in July last year, "Japanese Military's 'Comfort Women' Issue Network" immediately started to lead the activities and collected about 20,000 signatures to demand the government to withdraw the plan. Regrettably the objection to "private donation" is still not so strong in Japan, so we found the signature encouraging, though the 20,000 may not sound such a large number. They gave us an incentive to take actions such as appealing to the Diet members and the related organs.

In many districts various people organizations are working on this issue through their own networks. Their cooperations in making appeals and protests are acquiring understanding and support of the general public.

The government is still pushing hard to carry out the plan of "private donation" and the power supporting and sticking to the plan is very strong. We are now preparing for the activity to arouse the public

opinion in Japan with the help of the advice of ICJ and the international cries opposing Japan's attempt to win a permanent seat in the United Nations. The surge of the public opinion will surely give the strength to the activity to scrap the government's plan of "private foundation".

For the success of the International Court of Arbitration

Korean victims made a decision to have the issue settled by the international law at the Hague based permanent Court of Arbitration(PCA) because the Japanese government was persistently trying to evade public responsibility. In response to their move we newly organized "The Liaison Conference for gaining success of international arbitration and for bringing realization of individual compensation" in September 1994. At the rally held in Tokyo attended by 200 people, the victims made their decision clear and the representatives of "The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan" entrusted the Japanese lawyers to make the Japanese government agree to the arbitration. Since then we have been engaged in such activities as collecting and analyzing information, researching, issuing news letters and invitatory leaflets holding meetings on one hand, we also have been appealing to the government administration on the other hand.

"The Liaison Conference" now has 47 private organizations and 349 individual members. The Japanese lawyer body organized for the international arbitration is composed of 70 lawyers. Keeping in close contact with the Korean lawyer body(38 members) as well as with "The Liaison Conference", the body offered "the statement of mutual agreement by arbitration" to the Japanese government in November 1994. However, on January 24, 1995 the Japanese government officially expressed its intention of not accepting the agreement. Against this reply, immediately we issued a statement asking for withdrawal of the reply and advising reconsideration. We feel quite confident that the

success of the international court of arbitration in the near future will not only affect favorably the cases still pending in the domestic courts, but also pave the way for state's compensation to all peoples in Asia victimized by war crimes. No doubt, the Japanese military sexual slavery system is nothing but one of punishable war crimes committed by the state. In order not to commit the same crimes over again, we cannot shrink back before the difficulties of the problem.

Correcting the biased history education

The Japanese government should extend fact-finding researches farther, and make public the truth of this issue. We are convinced that this is one of the ways which would put history education in Japan to rights. We must be responsible for changing the educational situation in which among Asian countries only Japanese people have not known accurately the history of their own aggression in Asia. However, in the process of reforming the situation, we will lay particular stress on the question as to who will shoulder the responsibility for reforming. We ought to reject positively any forms of authoritative control. The genuine subject who opens up the history is the people. While urging the government to reveal the truth of the issue, we would like to communicate, share and confirm each other the facts obtained through people-oriented sources. Such activities, we believe, will certainly contribute to correct biased history education in Japan. We can raise great waves of changing history education, continuing our movement step by step.

Grounded in revolutionizing the consciousness of citizens

The backing of public opinion is one of powers to push pressure on the government. At the same time, we should not lose the sight of the fact that building-up of public opinion is deeply concerned with full development of our character as an individual.

The victims have appealed that they were not "deprived of their

innocence" but "had their womanhood and human rights violated". Their appeal urged us to reconsider our preconceived sex-consciousness. Through facing this issue, we have come to see the structure which has hindered the resolution of the issue through many entangled problems. Within Japanese society where the idea which tolerates prostitution is still commonly accepted and the Emperor system has been ingeniously kept, man-centric structure solidly still remains. We have a question whether Japanese women have gained independence as an individual. Within our society where racial discrimination and discrimination by sex are not severely charged, we have a question whether we have developed our character enabling ourselves to respect human rights. By way of addressing these questions to ourselves, grounded in daily life of citizens who are struggling for self-reformation we will aim to transform Japanese society.

These movements, we believe, will help to furnish a soil on which we can change Japanese society-a society which is still doing harm to Asia and practicing sexual abuse on women as prostitution including trading in Asian women. We must change this situation.

II. Our Future Activities

We are determined never to compromise with Japan's political situations and we must now stress that we must never allow the government to carry out its plan because recently some politicians have started to say threateningly that there is no any other solution better than this and that they will withdraw everything if the "private donation" is not accepted. The idea of the "private donation" is becoming more tangible. The fund is to be established under the Japanese Red Cross Society. And the government appropriated five hundred million yen for public relations and personnel costs in the budget for 1995 fiscal year.

In Japan one hundred and forty-three conservative legislators of the

Liberal Democratic Party have formed a council to oppose the proposed Diet resolution to apologize to Asian countries for Japan's action during the World War II. And resolutions to mourn and thank the war dead were adopted in many prefectural meetings. No words to express the repentance for Japan's aggression and colonization of Asia were offered in these. And it is feared that the war museum planned by the Health and Welfare Ministry will simply become a receptacle for war relics rather than a practical research facility for gathering information on the war. We need to block this move and appeal to the public that Japan's military "comfort women" issue is yet to be solved. And we must show how this issue is being taken overseas and appeal to the diet members and related organs to make the government listen to the international cries. We want recognition of war responsibility and resolution of war apology in the Japanese Diet, the highest organ of state power.

As for fact-finding activities, there must be things we can do ourselves apart from what government should do. While continuing to demand the government to present the documents that are not disclosed yet, we will surely be able to strengthen our movement by positively conducting research, study and interviews in collaboration and by sharing the achievements of these activities.

As actions against Japan's "alternative measure," sit-ins have been held in front of the Diet House in Japan by the victims who are the members of "the Association of Pacific War Victims and bereaved Families." And the protest demonstrations were held by the halmonis of the "association of the victims." These movements are getting the support of grass roots. "Opinion advertisement campaigns" were organized to run opinion advertisements in newspapers in many countries. Already the opinion advertisements were run in Japan, South Korea and the United States introducing the cries of the victims. And plans to run the advertisements in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Holland are in progress.

At present "the Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families," the Philippine women, and Dutch women who were detained in Indonesia by the Japanese Army, are filing suits at the Tokyo District Court. And in Simonoseki the kanpu Law Suit filed by two former "comfort women" and two women who were "drafted for Laborers" is in progress. And also in Shimonoseki a lawsuit to demand the payment of Ms. Mun Ok Ju's military postal deposit is in progress. And as was already reported at this meeting, the court struggle of 'M Soh Jin-Doo, a Korean woman living in Japan is also in progress. All these court struggles in Japan are playing a very important role raising the issue in Japan.

As you all know, in July last year the possibility of settling the issue through the arbitration court was shown at the United Nations Human Right Sub-commission, Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. And the UN Sub-Commission decided to recommend that the Special Rapporteurs on the question of the impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights take into consideration the information on the sexual exploitation of women. And in October at the East Asian Women's Forum held in Japan, the action plan to demand the government the truth-finding research, the public apology, the individual compensation and the prosecution of the perpetrators was adopted. And it has been decided that Ms. Coomaraswamy, the Special Rapporteur, will examine this matter from the angles of both individual compensation and prosecution of perpetrators. We have received the information that the UN is going to send a research team after the approval of her report. We do hope this will come true and that we will be able to intensify our campaign making the best use of this opportunity.

Japan's Foreign Ministry outrageously concealed the report sent by the International Commission of Jurists(ICJ) sent last November from the eyes of the Diet members who are now working on the "comfort women" issue. Those Diet members had no choice but to make the

plans for "private donation" without having the detailed information. Seminars and symposiums are to be held in Tokyo on this report of ICJ. We must always appeal to the public awareness and keep pressuring the government.

We will finish the report from Japan hoping that this Asian Solidarity Forum will become another long step toward the solution of Japan's "comfort women" issue. We are sure today's conference will strengthen the movement internationally and bring success to the U World Conference on Women in Beijing in August, 1995.

What are the Strategies for Resolving the Problem?

Chi, Eun Hee

(The Korean Council for Women Drafted
for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan)

I. The Goals and Activities of the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

1. The Goals of The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan.

The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (hereafter The Korean Council) has had three goals for the movement since the Korean Council formed on Nov. 16, 1990.

First, a crime against humanity like military sexual slavery by Japan should not happen again in the history of the world. Therefore, we must set a precedence for any future violations so that perpetrators will always be punished and victims restored of their human dignity and honor.

Military sexual slavery by Japan was not simply the individual raping of women which has often occurred during many wars. It was a planned, long-term, and systematic institution which was planned, designed, and implemented by the Supreme Commander of the Japanese government. Asian girls between the ages of 13 to 18 were drafted for military sexual slavery to serve the Japanese occupied areas. About ten- to twenty-thousand girls were taken from all over several Asian countries, 80% of whom were Korean. These girls were forced to commit suicide or

were killed after the ceasefire. The Japanese Army destroyed most of the records concerning this sexual exploitation when they were defeated.

We demand that those involved in this crime should be punished to prevent the possible recurrence of such a war crime as the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. It is urgent that while some of these victims are still alive they may rightly be restored of their honor and dignity.

Secondly, it is our goal to right the relationship between Korea and Japan. As long as Japan ignores its violations and crimes with the Military Sexual Slavery issue, and, refuses any official apology and reparations, the relationship between Korea and Japan will not be on equal ground.

Thirdly, we demand an official apology and repentance from the Japanese government for its war crimes to realize peace in all of Asia. Otherwise, Japan's economic affluence and presence can translate into the threat of possible remilitarization.

Therefore, we of the Korean Council feel it is essential to uphold this mission to examine and keep alive the issue of Military Sexual Slavery shrouded for so long, and to demand just resolution to the problem. It is in this way that we may contribute to maintaining women's human rights in Asia and to balance the relationship between the Korean and Japanese governments.

Upon the fulfillment of our demands, we hope to be one step closer to achieving peace in Asia.

2. Activities of the Korean Council

The Korean Council has made seven demands to the Japanese government: to acknowledge the crime of the Korean women drafted for sexual slavery by Japan; to reveal the atrocities of the crime; to apologize formally and officially about the crime; to erect a memorial tablet to honor the victims of the crime; to record the crime and teach younger generations; and finally to punish the criminals.

1) Activities against the Japanese Government

We of the Korean Council have attempted to convey our demands to the Japanese government through lobbying Congress members, testimonial meetings, peaceful rallies and demonstrations, seminars, etc... The Korea Council has held demonstrations every Wednesday in front of the Japanese Embassy since Jan. 8th, 1992, and March 1st, 1995 will mark the 155th demonstration.

We of the Korean Council have attempted to file a lawsuit in Japan against the perpetrators, but the case was prohibited from even registering.

We of the Korean Council have proposed to the Japanese government that the issue goes to the International Court of Arbitration to resolve the dispute, but this proposal was officially rejected by the Japanese government on Jan. 24, 1995.

2) Activities of the United Nations

We of the Korean Council have sent delegates to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to call their attention to the issue of the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan since Aug., 1992.

As a result, the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan has been proven to be and declared a crime against International Law, and reports surrounding this issue have been submitted to the UN Sub-Commission, the UN Human Rights Commission, and the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery stating that the Japanese Government still owes legal obligations(including apology, reparations, and punishment of criminals) for this issue.

The UN Sub-Commission adopted a resolution to include this issue in the investigation by Mr. Theo van Boven, the UN Special Rapporteur, on the right to restitution, compensation, and rehabilitation for the victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Aug., 1993. The report was adopted by the UN Human Rights Committee in

Feb., 1994.

In Aug., 1994, the UN Sub-Commission invited Ms. Linda Chavez to submit a working paper on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery, and slavery-like practices during war, including internal armed conflict. Ms. Chavez is scheduled to visit Korea from May 21-25, 1995 for a formal investigation.

In Feb., 1994, the UN Human Rights Committee appointed Ms. Kumaraswamy as a Special Rapporteur on Violence against women. She included this issue in her first report submitted in Feb., 1995. When her report about the violence against women during wartime is revealed at the end of 1995, it will include in detail the issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan.

The UN Sub-Commission decided to recommend that the Special Rapporteurs on the Question of the Impunity of Perpetrators of Violations of Human Rights take into consideration the information on the sexual exploitation of women and other forms of forced labor during wartimes.

On September 23, 1994, Mr. P.N. Vagwaty, who is a member of I.L.O. (International Labor Office), Committee of Experts, insisted that the military sexual slavery by Japan is in fact forced labor since the Japanese Government admitted their involvement in their second formal report on Aug., 1993.

In June, 1994 at the Asian Pacific Ministerial Meeting, the Jakarta Declaration included the issue of punishment for the perpetrators in situations of war and armed conflict.

In Nov. 23, 1994, the International Commission of Jurists announced its report that the Japanese govern has legal and moral responsibility for their involvement in Military Sexual Slavery. The ICJ recommends that the Japanese government has an obligations to the reparation and the rehabilitation for each woman who came forward. The report states that the Korean and Japan Treaty of 1965 did not include the specific problems concerning "comfort women" and individual human rights.

3) Asian Women's Solidarity Work

Solidarity with North Korean Women: We of the Korean Council have worked toward the solidarity with North Korean women through the forum which targeted the roles of South and North Korean women with Japanese women for Asian peace, as well as through UN activities.

Solidarity with Japanese Women: We of the Korean Council have attempted to promote the awareness of this issue among Japanese people and to awaken the conscience of the Japanese government through the solidarity work with Japanese women's organizations, scholars, lawyers, and civil groups.

When the Korean Council decided to take this case to the International Permanent Court of Arbitration a group for achieving the proposal of the PCA was formed in Japan, mostly by activists and lawyers. The Korean Council has had solidarity with this group in holding meetings and demonstrations to send our messages to the Japanese Government.

Solidarity with Asian Women: We held the first Asian Solidarity Forum in Seoul on August 10 - 11, 1992 and decided to hold the forum regularly from that time. Participants have come from North Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, China, Japan and the Netherlands.

4) Services and Support for the Survivors.

The Korean Council established the "National Fund-Raising Headquarters for the former 'comfort women'" in December 1992. As a result, each of sixty two surviving former "comfort women" received 2.5 million won.

The Korean Government established a "Relief Policy" to support the surviving "comfort women" financially. New legislation proposed by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs was passed on May 19th, 1993 in the National Assembly entitled "The Social Security Law for the 'comfort women' of the Japanese Army during the period of Japanese Colonial Rule". The law guarantees each survivor a monthly allowance of 200,000

won, as well as other security measures, free medical insurance, and renting priority of government housing. A communal "sharing house" for six of the survivors of the Military Sexual Slavery was established with the help of the Buddhist Committee for Human Rights, a member organization of the Korean Council.

3. The Seven Demands of The Korean Council and the Progress of Resolving the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan.

SEVEN DEMANDS	PROGRESS
<p>1. Reveal the whole contents of the crime of military sexual slavery by Japan</p>	<p>* Changes in the Japanese Government's Attitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total denial of the system of military sexual slavery by Japan. - Acknowledged the existence of military sexual slavery by Japan. - Admitted partial involvement by the Japanese Government and Army. - Japanese Government 1st Fact-finding Report(July 6,1992) : Denial of the system. - Japanese Government 2nd Fact-finding Report(Aug. 1993): Acknowledged the coercion of victims by civilians but not by the Japanese Government or Army. Only admitted partial involvement. - Japanese Government has not revealed material regarding the number of "comfort women" drafted, those responsible for planning, administration and operation, the system of implementation, the situation of comfort stations, and what was done after ceasefire.
<p>2. Acknowledge the crime of military sexual slavery by Japan.</p>	<p>Japanese Government acknowledged the system of military sexual slavery, but they have not admitted that the system of military sexual slavery is a crime against humanity, against the International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, and the Forced Labor Convention.</p>

3. Apologize formally for the crime of military sexual slavery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 1990. When the Korean President, Roh visited Japan the Japanese Emperor said "it is a lamentable thing". - Jan. 1992. When Japanese Prime Minister Miyajawa visited Korea he expressed "the wish to apologize and reflect". - Nov. 5, 1993. When Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa visited Korea he expressed his regret. - Feb. 1995. A proposal of anti-war by the Japanese United Party was opposed by the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party. - No official apology yet.
4. Payment of reparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Japanese Government's position - No compensation. It was taken care of by the Korea-Japan Treaty in 1965. They will offer "sympathy money" to former "comfort women"(less than 1,000,000 Yen) to create an "Asian Peace Friendship Fund for Women"
5. Erect a memorial tablet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Nothing in process
6. Record and teach younger generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Seven textbooks have been partially revised since 1994, but there is no mention of the system of military sexual slavery as a crime.
7. Punish the perpetrators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * On Feb. 7th, 1994 a lawsuit filed by the Korean Council was refused.

II. The future direction of activities for finding a resolution

1. Demanding the withdrawal of the sympathy money plan of the Japanese government.

In accordance with the demands of representatives yesterday, the sympathy money plan of the Japanese government, which all victims and the victimized countries have opposed to, must be withdrawn. There are four directions to our activity plan that I want to raise, to be proceeded by the withdrawal of the sympathy money plan by the Japanese government.

First, we need to organize regular rallies to demonstrate in solidarity with the victims and the victimized countries, our opposition to the plan. Secondly, we need to inform the public of the contents and meaning of the advice of the International Commission of Jurists. The Korean Council interpreted the important parts of the advice(the detailed explanation of the causes and contents of legal responsibility, reparation and the duty of the Japanese government) and distributed them to lawyers, congress people, important administrative offices, and the press. We also plan to organize various discussion programs. Third, we are going to expand the power of opposition toward sympathy money plan by reinforcing solidarity with those who have supported our movement in Korea and Japan. On the Feb. 9th of this year, the Korean Council held an Open Forum with the Federation of Korean Trade Unions for the purpose of discussing the Forced Labor Convention, and the issue of "comfort women" drafted by Japanese military. The members of the Korean Federation, which is the largest civil group in Korea, were able to express their direct concerns on the issue of "comfort women" through this forum. Representatives from civil groups who attended the meeting commented that the issue of "comfort women" is not only an issue of women's rights and human rights, but also an issue of conscience for all human beings, and thus should be solved through awakening the Japanese conscience. The Korean Council is planning activities to encourage the active participation of Korean and Japanese civil groups. In particular, the issue of "How do we meet the 50th year after Liberation?" is an invitation for Korean civil groups and national groups to join this movement. Fourthly, we are searching for a way to ease the spiritual and economic sufferings of the victims while they wait for a more permanent solution.

2. Demanding an agreement to a lawsuit in the Permanent Court of Arbitration(PCA) and demanding the creation of a special law of reparation

The Korean Council made the decision to take the case of the "comfort women" drafted by Japanese military to the PCA after 25 meetings of the Executive Committee. We had to make this decision, because the Japanese government, as the guilty country, would not recognize their crime of military sexual slavery even though we had advised them of their responsibility to carry out apologies, provide reparation, and penalise responsible persons. It was the opinion of The Korean Council, along with various other human rights organizations, that the Japanese government needed to be tried objectively according to International Law about the following questions. Are the actions of Japan, a crime in the light of international law? Is it true that the Japanese insistence over the spiritual and material reparation had been resolved in the Korea-Japan claim treaty of 1965? Is there any Japanese responsibility for reparation now?

This method was however the second choice for the Korean Council. The system of "comfort women" drafted by Japanese military should be judged in the International Court of Justice. However, the right to a lawsuit in the International Court of Justice belongs only to the government of a nation. Because the Korean government does not have the will to instigate a lawsuit, the PCA is the only way a civil group can approach the international court. In this capacity, the Japanese government will have an important chance to justify their war-time actions.

We commissioned Korean and Japanese lawyers (Korean 38, Japanese 70) to reach an agreement with Japanese government to resolve the issue through the PCA. However the Japanese government vetoed our request to solve the issue through the PCA in January 1995 and thereby proved the falsehood of its assertion that it is willing to solve the issue under international law.

Therefore, at this point, the Korean Council's only option was to demanded the Japanese government agree to a PCA lawsuit, or

alternatively to establish the special law for providing an apology, reparation, and penalizing responsible persons. (If the Japanese government is willing to follow international law, it would not be totally necessary to establish a special law. However, it is important that such a law is created in order that the apologies and reparation be carried out in detail). Compared to the Japanese government's power, our movement is very weak in its ability to make demands. However, we believe a resolution should come from the Japanese' moral conscience and not because of the strength of our movement.

3. Strengthening activity related to the UN

- Since Oct 9th, 1994 we have continued an international movement to gather signatures in opposition to Japan being given permanent membership status to the UN Security Council. We are going to present the result by participating in the UN Committee for Woman's Status which will be held in March 1995, in New York. We are going to continue this movement in solidarity with our Asian activities.

- We are going to hold an open discussion meeting in May by inviting Ms. Linda Chavez, Ms. Radhika Koomaraswamy Mr. Guisse and Mr Joinet in order to support their research on this issue. Linda Chavez is an expert on the UN Human Rights Sub-committee for the issue of Systematic Sexual Violence against Women occurring during War and in relation to the issue of "comfort women" drafted by Japanese military. Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy is the Special Rapporteur on the UN Human Rights Committee for the issue of Violence against women. Mr. Guisse and Mr Joinet are the Special Rapporteurs on the issue of impunity of crimes of human rights violation.

- We plan to hold a forum on the issue of "comfort women" drafted by Japanese military at the World Women's Forum in Beijing. We are planning to effectively raise this issue at the 4th UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China from August 30 to Sept. 8, 1995.

4. Attempting to file a lawsuit through the ILO(International Labor Office)

As was already mentioned, military sexual slavery goes against the Forced Labor Convention of 1930. In this convention forced labor is defined as any labor carried out under threatening or disadvantaging circumstances. In an unavoidable case, some forced labor is acceptable but only in those conditions stipulated by the convention. Specifically, it prohibits women's forced labor at any time by stating that only healthy males who are over 18 and under 45 years can be recruited. Therefore it is clear that no woman can be drafted for forced labor in any circumstance. Thus, the military sexual slavery by Japan is a violation of the Forced Labor Convention.

The Japanese government ratified the Forced Labor Convention on Nov. 21, 1932 and it became effective on Nov. 21, 1933. Once such a convention becomes effective, the repeal of the convention is prohibited for ten years from the time it came into effect. Therefore, Japan ought to have been restricted by this convention during the whole time it enforced the system of military sexual slavery, and the convention should have remained in effect until at least Nov. 21, 1944.

According to legal professionals, Korean labor organizations can file a law suit against the Japanese government for the issue of military sexual slavery because Japan has infect broken an international convention. Therefore The Korean Council is trying to resolve the issue through the ILO law suit, and by applying international pressure through our various activities.

5. Progress of fact-finding work and preparation of resource center

Because Japan has not opened to the public nor the United Nations, important materials needed for fact-finding, it is important that the facts are clarified through the testimonies of victims in Korea. The Korean

Council has organized a Committee for Fact-finding with the central members consisting of historians, sociologists, and women's study specialists. They are preparing a white book by analyzing resources from the colonial era and they are planning to publish the second book of testimonies by survivors in conjunction with the Research for "Comfort Women". In particular, the book of testimonies by the women who were abandoned in China after the Japanese defeat will become another important resource which testifies how the lives of victims were entirely destroyed by the inhumane deeds of the Japanese. We are also preparing a documentary and an exhibition of the resources to present the lives of the victims at the time of the 50th year of liberation.

6. Demanding the active role of the Korean government.

The Korean government promised, in response to questioning by the Korean Council, that they would have deep concern and support in regards to the women drafted for sexual slavery by Japan. On the basis of the Korean government's response, the Korean government should demand Japan's support of the PCA lawsuit and also follow the ICJ's interpretation of the 65 Korea-Japan Treaty(document number 12000-475). From this premise we are going to start a movement to demand the interpretation of 65 Treaty in the International Court of Justice as suggested by the ICJ and also demand the support of the Korean government for the PCA lawsuit. It is important that the Korean government press the Japanese government to follow the recommendations of the ICJ in meeting our demands.

We are have reached a crucial time now. The constant arrogant and shameless attitude of the Japanese government makes us angry and utterly discouraged. However, we continue to struggle to correct history, protect women's rights, and make true peace in Asia. We have confidence that we are able to achieve our goal through the power of solidarity.

Report on our activities
at the U.N. Human Rights Sub-Commission

Shin, Hei Soo
(Chair, International relationship Committee
of The Korean Council)

Report on our activities at the UN Human Rights Committee from
Feb. 19 to Feb. 26 in 1995

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I came back home yesterday,
Feb 26, after attending a meeting held at the UN Human Rights
Sub-Committee from Feb 20 to Feb 24 in Geneva. Let me bring you
up-to-date what we've done and achieved so far.

First of all, our activities at the UN level were divided into three
parts. One is to participate in the meeting and deliver a speech as a
private group, another is to hold a public hearing in the presence of
individual groups or national representatives and the third was to
lobby special rapportures on violations against women appointed by the
UN Human Rights Committee.

In all, eight private groups took the floor. I made a statement as a
member of the WCC and even though North Korean representatives
were absent from the meeting to our chagrin, two members from the
Association of Pacific War Victims and former comfort women, Sung Ok
Pak and Jung Soon Kueon, attended the meeting and delivered a
speech. However, Pak, Sung Ok went back to North Korea in
preparation for the Third Asian Solidarity Forum, so I didn't see her
on my way back home. But Kueon, Jung Soon is still staying in
Geneva.

In addition, Hong, Sang Jin, secretary general of the Fact-finding

committee for forced abduction, and lawyer Etsuro Totsuka who has supported our activities made statements, followed by summarized report by the ICJ. Also Imada, representative of the anti-international racial discrimination movement, IED, and a group called movement for elimination of the third world women abusing delivered speeches.

On behalf of the two governments, South and North Korean delegates delivered statements. The statements contained details for opposing private donation and demanding that Japan recognize its war crimes and take compensation responsibility.

As a result, I think other participants felt the issue hold significance since it was brought up by many organizations.

Secondly, as we have done in the past whenever we visit Geneva, we held a public hearing during lunch hour on Feb 22. 70 people or so attended the hearing despite their hectic schedules. The number was quite staggering. At the hearing, members of some groups waging campaigns for the settlement of this issue and working-level staff of the ICJ presented their reports and exchanged views on why the former comfort women issue hasn't been solved yet. As has also been discussed here.

What's important here is the fact that a Srilanka lawyer, Ladika Kumara Swamy, was appointed as a special rapporteur on violence against women by the UN Human Rights Sub-Committee last year. The statements I mentioned above were made at this hearing where the special rapporteur briefed us on her findings and the agenda on violence against women was discussed. We had reached a tentative agreement with the special rapporteur that she would visit South Korea for four days starting from May 8, followed by her visit to North Korea crossing Panmunjeom, and then to Japan.

We had trouble deciding her visits to these countries. I guess the Japanese government felt unhappy with her reported plan to visit Japan early this year without consulting with Japanese authorities in advance. So we went out of our way to seek Japan's official

announcement of allowing her into Japan.

When I left for Seoul last Saturday, I was on the same flight with the lawyer Swamy, giving me a chance to reconfirm the matter and she gave me permission to reveal her scheduled visits to the public since the Japanese government made a final decision to allow her to visit Japan.

Therefore, it's important for us to deliver all the materials we have gathered to her before she visits South Korea in May. She mentioned that when she met with Japanese government officials three times while staying in Geneva, they persistently insisted that Japan admits its crimes, and thus, has legal responsibility for them. However, its postwar reparations have already been completed under the international law and by bilateral treaties. Consequently, it owes nothing to anybody, but is seeking ways to cope with the problem in a moral way. That is the gist of Japanese government's position right now.

As we understand its stance on this matter, we have to provide her with all the materials that support comfort women's legal rights to compensation and find the best way to get across our position when she visits South and North Korean and Japan

Her opinion is bending toward letting Japan give out compensation money to its victims as a moral gesture since reparations have been concluded under the international law and bilateral treaties. I strongly argued that the matter can not be settled in that way, but only can be settled through the Japanese government's taking legal responsibility. That is what we have to focus our attention on.

She is expected to submit a separate report to the UN Commission after visiting South-North Korea and Japan. But I asked her to hand in the report earlier than scheduled. Though she is supposed to present the report by next February when the UN Human Rights Sub-Commission meeting convenes, I requested that she finish the report before the Beijing World Conference and turn it in during the

meeting. She promised to consider it.

Furthermore, the lawyer, while staying in Geneva for one week, held meetings with members of private organizations and with individuals. During that meeting, she repeatedly mentioned what her priority is. Her priority is violence against women during war. Considering that, for the duration of her remaining two-year-term, she is planning to visit many countries around the world and her first stop will be Japan where she will investigate the former comfort women issue.

Another thing I should explain to you concerns the private donations which the Japanese government is pushing ahead under the auspices of the Japanese Red Cross. Just across from the Human Rights Sub-Commission building stands the International Red Cross Building. So I paid a visit there and met with two gentlemen. One was in charge of international affairs and the other was Mr. Boel who handles UN matters. I gave them all related materials and documents and explained what's behind Japan asking their help to prevent the Japanese Red Cross from doing what it is not supposed to do.

What I'd like to add is that as we are conducting an international campaign for collecting signatures to oppose Japan's bid for permanent membership on the UN Security Council. At present, I learned that such a movement is taking place in China as well. I met a Chinese-American working for a computer company in California and he told me that the Chinese living both in and out of China organized worldwide campaigns collecting signatures in opposition to Japan's admission to the UN Security Council. So far, 10,000 signatures have been collected and we agreed to coordinate our efforts for that purpose.

As for the Chinese, I was told that a host of Chinese organizations involving 19 overseas groups have joined hands and staged demonstrations since 1992 demanding an early solution to Japan's war crimes against the Chinese. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators, on their march toward Beijing, were roadblocked by the Chinese

authorities. After talking to him, I learned that there were also some people in China who are studying the Japanese military's comfort women issue. Now that we know about their existence, we must keep in touch with them, encouraging one another in the future and keeping our guards up until we successfully present our case to the upcoming Women's Status Committee slated for March in New York and to the Beijing World Conference on Women scheduled for 2 weeks from late August to mid September.

In conclusion, I could say that our international efforts at the UN level have been quite encouraging in light of the upcoming Kumara Swamy and Rinda Chavez visits to Japan in May.

So, I'd like you to understand how meaningful and significant our efforts are both internationally and historically. Special rapporteur Kumara Swamy's report on the Japanese Military's comfort women issue was included in a section of violence against women at wars, leaving the matter on record in the UN reports. She wants to set a legal precedence on this matter.

As violence against women at wars including civil wars, draws worldwide attention in Bosnia, Bangladesh and Rwanda, this comfort women issue is receiving warm reception internationally. As a result, we must figure out ways to take a proper stand on this matter in principle and extract legal compensation from the Japanese government in order to prevent the systematic rape and sexual slavery of women during wars from taking place in the future.

In this regard, I urge you not to give up but to stand up against the Japanese government who attempts to weaken our movements through individual governments and to break up solidarity among Philippine and South Korean victims.

(Supplementary Statements, A Japanese participant)

Principles for the Beijing World Conference on Women were adopted.

The Asia-Pacific Preparatory Committee received a draft in early February in which sanitation, violence against women, and women in hot spots were topics. No word was included about violence used during past wars. The word, past, is quite important and we must put it into the draft. If we don't stress the significance of the past in the Beijing Conference, I'm afraid it will be put aside. The Japanese government wants to erase the word. As the final principles will be decided by the Womens' Status Committe in New York, I hope some of you who are attending the conference will pay special attention to that part and keep it included in the principles.

Final Discussions and adoption of the resolution

The Statement of The 3rd Asian Women's Forum

Pictures Taken at the Conference

Final Discussions and Adoption of the Resolution

The following is a summary of the final discussions adjusted by the editor

1. Discussions on living conditions of comfort women in Asian countries and aid plans.

Response :

Even though they are in poor condition due to old ages and complex illness, they are being taken care of by the welfare department of the Korean Council. At present, they are granted 200,000 won monthly by the government. From now on, we are going to ask the government to guarantee them the minimum standard of living costs and medicare.(Response by Kim, Hye Won from South Korea)

Philippine comfort women are living in poverty. Their housing arrangements and livelihood are desperate. Though Lila-Philippina supports them, the situation is quite serious without government's subsidy. Under the circumstances, they may feel like receiving money if the Japanese government offers them money. However, they argue that they will not accept money without reason(Response by Nelia Sancho from the Philippines).

Few Tiwanese comfort women have children and even if they have adopted children, their living conditions are poor. Our organization has kept in touch with them and given advice since 1992. Their ages range from 70 to 78 and the Foreign Ministry has looked into the matter and announced that it would pay \$900 per victim, the minimum

amount of government grant, in the future. We are going to cure their mental illness(Response by Chen Yi-Chen from Tiwan).

2. Selection of discussion topics

- How to solve comfort women's financial problems in order to oppose the private fund
- What to do for better performance at an international level
- How to bring up the issue effectively in the Beijing World Conference on Women slated from Aug. 30 to Sep.15

3. Discussion on the selected topics

- 1) How to solve comfort women's financial problems in order to oppose the private fund : cope with the matter in creative and various ways to support former comfort women and strengthen solidarity in accordance with individual country's circumstances
- 2) What to do for better performance at an international level?
 - Kumara is expected to visit South and North Korea from May 8 to 15, and Japan from May 15 to 22. She will submit a separate report on her findings after such visits. We should send all English materials of the Asian Solidarity Forum and create a strong voice of the general public opposing the private fund upon her scheduled visit.
 - A scheduled Toyko Seminar inviting the ICJ members (a possible visit to South Korea prior to the seminar) on May 21 and 23(changed to July 2-4 in Tocheka's letter):planning to hold an international meeting calling Linda Chavez, Wagvati, ILO executive committe member, Van Boven and Secretary General of the ICJ to the conferencen- discussions, prior to the conference, are required in order to send them materials before their visits to the meeting and to figure out ways how to deliver

our positions on the matter.

- Lobby the Clinton administration. For instance, providing Mrs. Clinton, Jimmy Carter Center and the Kenedy Center for Human Rights wiith our documents and put international pressure on Japan through contacting world leaders.

3) How to tackle the issue effectively in the Beijing World Conference on Women?

- The comfort women issue must be included in the principles of the Beijing Conference. Besides, we must designate a day of action for solving the comfort women issue and urge Asia-Pacific countries of victims to join us in blowing the whistle on the comfort women issue to the world and demanding solutions.

4. Review of the Resolution

Suggested opinions will be put together by each country's delegates to adopt a resolution. The final resolution will be announced at our regular Wednesday rally in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul at noon on March 1. (consult next page of resolution for reference)

The Statement of the 3rd Asian Women's Forum on Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

The Third Asian Women's Solidarity Forum on Military Sexual Slavery by Japan was held from February 27th to March 1st, 1995 in Seoul, in which delegates from the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan participated with the "comfort women" victims. We are very sorry that the delegates from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea could not attend this Forum. However, they were able to send their presentations and their opinions were clearly expressed. We are therefore, happy to acknowledge our solidarity among the five countries.

The year 1995 is a meaningful year as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. And yet the issue of military sexual slavery, clearly a crime of human rights violation, has not been resolved. All the participants of this Forum wish to express our anger and determination that the resolution of this issue should not be delayed any longer. We, the victims and delegates of organizations participating in this Forum, resolve that the recent idea of a "private charity fund" proposed by the Japanese Government is a deceitful and immoral suggestion, which denies the Japanese Government of their crime of military sexual slavery and avoids their legal responsibility. We strongly demand that Japanese Government should stop persuading victims and civil organizations to accept the plan of comfort money by a private fund.

The system of Military Sexual Slavery is one of the cruelist crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial Forces during their invasions and wars in Asia. The resolution of this issue, therefore, can act as a barometer to test whether Japan regrets its past invasions and crimes.

Unless the issue of military sexual slavery is resolved, war will continue to go on in the hearts of the victims and other angry Asians. Moreover, the danger of war remains in the very existence of rightists in Japan, who have not apologized for what they did during the war and continue to support remilitarization. Thus, while the issue of military sexual slavery may have occurred in the past it is an important issue in regards to establishing women's human rights and peace in Asia, now and in the future.

The participants of this Forum wish to express our anger again at the Japanese Government's inability to implement the demands of the participants of the Second Asian Solidarity Forum on Military Sexual Slavery held on October 21-22, 1993 in Japan. Once again, we strongly demand the following:

1. That the Japanese Government acknowledge that the system of military sexual slavery is a war crime committed by the fascist imperialist and militaristic state power.
2. That the Japanese Government conduct investigations in Asia and the Pacific on the total number of women drafted from each country and release the third fact-finding report.
3. That the Japanese Government should withdraw the plan of "Comfort Money by a private fund" and establish a Special Law for Reparations.
4. That the Japanese Government should follow the International Law and sign the International Convention of Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitation for War Crimes and Violation of Human Rights.
5. That the Japanese Government should accept the proposal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
6. That the Japanese Government should educate younger generations about the truth of history, human rights and world peace in order to prevent such a war of invasion again in the future.

We acknowledge the pain of "comfort women" as the pain of all women in the world. Therefore we, as Asian women, will fight to eradicate violence against women and fight against Japanese remilitarization. We will now announce our plan of action for resolving this problem.

1. We will concentrate our efforts on the Japanese Government to withdraw the plan of "comfort money" by a private fund.
2. We will continue to support the signature campaign opposing Japan's becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council.
3. We will support the special activities of research and investigation by the UN Human Rights Committee and demand that the Japanese Government accept the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee, the ICJ(International Commission of Jurists), and the WCC (World Council of Churches) in regards to resolving this problem.
4. We will continue to press the Japanese Government to agree to our proposal to go to the Permanent Court of Arbitration and furthermore, to establish a Special Law for Reparations. We will also expand our movement by strengthening our solidarity with conscientious Japanese people in order to obtain an official apology from the Diet and the adoption of a resolution of anti-war.
5. We will explore the issue of military sexual slavery at the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing , which will be an important opportunity to form solidarity with women of the world.
6. We will encourage labor organizations around the world to push the ILO(International Labor Office) to become involved in resolving this issue according to the Forced Labor Convention and the Suppression of White Slave Traffic Convention.
7. We demand that the Governments of victimized Asian countries should demand that the Japanese Government resolve the

problem of military sexual slavery and support victims financially as well as the civil group movement.

8. As an alternative to the plan of "Comfort Money" proposed by the Japanese Government, we will extend our support and solidarity to the victims of the military sexual slavery in various and creative ways.

February 28,1995

Participants of the 3rd Asian Women's Solidarity Forum on
Military Sexual Slavery by Japan



Korean Victims (Kim Un Rye & Park Du Ri)

Pictures Taken at the Conference



◀ Registration



◀ Kim, Soon Duck
{Korean Survivor
(South)} testifying.



◀ Julia Porras
(Filipino Survivor)
testifying.



◀ Survivors Solidarity Party



◀ Kim, Young Hee
(Korean resident in Japan)
reporting activities of
Korean residents in Japan



◀ Conference



◀ The Performance of "HanDure"



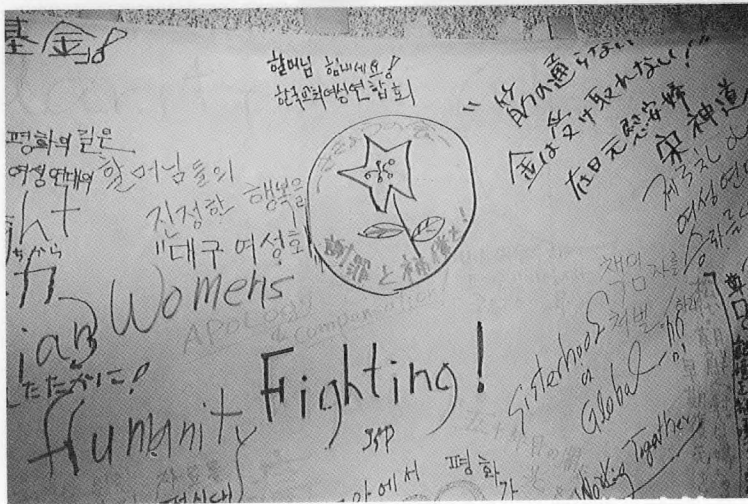
◀ General Discussion



◀ Participants

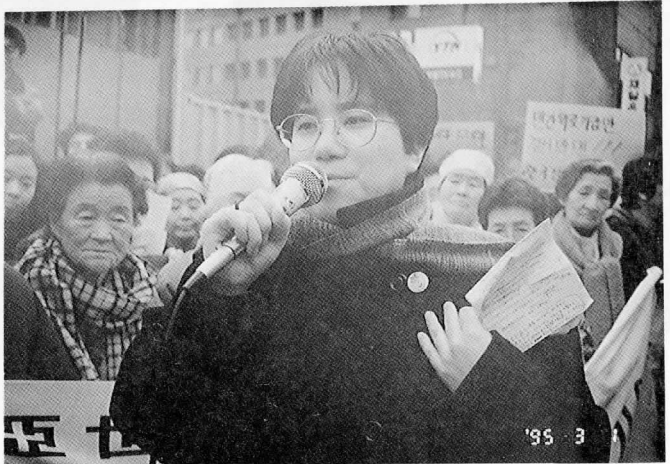


◀ Exhibition of Survivors' Paintings



◀ Prayers & Wishes of Participants.

□ 1st March Demonstration at Japanese Embassy





Appendix

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE JAPAN BECOMING A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

The Japanese Government is not qualified to be a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council until it has fulfilled its legal obligations to the war victims in Asia - especially to the women victims of its Military Sexual Slavery System. The Military Sexual Slavery by Japan is a war crime and crime against humanity.

The Japanese Government officially expressed its interest in being a permanent member of the UN Security Council in September, 1994 in the UN General Assembly. The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan declares to the world that the Japanese Government should not be allowed to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

1. JAPAN IS THE NATION WHICH COMMITTED WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY - MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY.

During World War II the Supreme Commander of the Japanese imperial army planned and operated a military sexual slavery system to prevent venereal disease and to raise the military spirit. In order to meet that purpose, Japanese authorities drafted some two hundred thousand girls between the ages of 13 - 18 mostly from Korea, but with some from other occupied countries in Asia. They were kept confined, watched, and forced to serve from ten soldiers up to fifty soldiers every day. They were beaten, tortured and even killed when they tried to resist or run away. After World War II, most of these "comfort women" were simply abandoned. Some were forced to commit suicide with soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the name of Japan, while

others were killed. A few of the "comfort women" who survived were saved by the Allied Forces. This military sexual slavery is a war crime and crime against humanity according to International Law.

2. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REVEALED THE WHOLE TRUTH REGARDING THE CRIME OF MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY, NOR HAVE THEY APOLOGIZED, PAID REPARATIONS, OR PUNISHED THE CRIMINALS.

The Japanese Government, also, has not acknowledged their crime against the Korean women drafted for military sexual slavery. On the contrary, the Japanese Government plans to raise from non-governmental sources a "charity fund" or "sympathy money" which they can give to the "comfort women" in lieu of the demanded reparations. This is proof that Japan has not recognized its guilt and is not willing to assume its legal responsibility but prefer to treat these women as cases of charity.

3. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS (ICJ) AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

On September 2, 1994, ICJ not only announced in its press release that the Japanese Government should reveal the whole truth, but also recommended that pending action of taking steps to fully rehabilitate the victims, the Japanese Government should pay, as a purely interim measure, without prejudice to its rights and contentions, the sum of US \$40,000.00 for the rehabilitation of each woman who has come forward. Some other international human rights organizations have also drawn attention to the legal obligation of the Japanese Government, but the Japanese Government has not accepted their recommendations.

In August 1994, the UN Sub-commission on the Prevention of Discrimination & Protection of Minorities decided to invite Ms. Linda Chavez, its expert, to submit a working paper on the situation of

systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, including internal armed conflict, to the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session. The UN Sub-Commission decided to recommend that the Special Rapporteurs on the question of the impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights take into consideration the information on the sexual exploitation of women and other forms of forced labor during wartime.

4. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE JAPAN BECOMING A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

Japan should fulfil its moral and legal obligations to redress the gross violations of human rights and military sexual slavery during World War II if it really wishes to become a member of the Security Council as a leading nation politically for international community. Any nation which wishes to be an international political leader should first keep the international law itself. Therefore Japan is not qualified to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council until it has fulfilled its moral and legal obligation to the victims of its military aggression in Asia - especially to those women victims of its military sexual slavery system.

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE JAPAN BECOMING A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

NAME OR NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS

Please return signed forms to The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, Rm.305, CISJD Building, 35 Chungjungro 2ga, Seodemunku, Seoul Korea 120-012,
Tel) 82-2-365-4016 Fax) 82-2-365-4017

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THE MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY ISSUE AND ASIAN PEACE

Hee Soon Kwon

(Chair, Asian women's Solidarity Committee
The Korean Council for the Women Drafted
for the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan)

I. THE REALITY OF THE MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY ISSUE

Military sexual slavery by Japan, which occurred during 1932-1945, was not simply the incidental raping of women by occupying soldiers, as has often accompanied war in the world. It was a deliberate, long-term, and systematic institution which was planned, designed, and enforced by the Supreme Commander of the Japanese army. Women between the ages of 11 to 32, 80 % of whom were Korean women, were taken to the Japanese occupied areas by force, deceit, or kidnapping in order to be used as military sex slaves for the Japanese soldiers. They were forced to serve about 30 soldiers daily on weekdays and 50 soldiers a day on weekends. These women were euphemistically called "comfort women". They were often called "Sen Pees", ("Sen" is a derogatory term for Koreans in Japanese, and "Pees" means "vulva" in Chinese).

When the Japanese were defeated, most of these "comfort women" were simply abandoned. Some were forced to commit suicide with soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the name of Japan, while others were killed. A few of the "comfort women" who survived were saved by Allied forces. Some of these women were taken by Allied military ships

to Korea. Many of them stayed abroad because the humiliation and pain were too deep for them to overcome. Even today, most of them suffer from physical illnesses and/or psychological, mental and emotional wounds.

Who destroyed the hopes of these women?

Who ruined their dreams?

Who stole their souls?

Who can ever give them back their dignity, their pride, and their self-respect?

The former so-called "comfort women" were once little girls who had great dreams for their futures. Their dreams were suddenly destroyed as they were abducted from their schools, homes, fields, and playgrounds. They were deceived into believing that they would be working in labor camps or factories for the Japanese Army. This, unfortunately, was not to be the case. In this way, their dreams became their greatest nightmare. They could never have imagined what was to come. Their future was destroyed with the violent acts of rape, physical abuse, and emotional torture. With the physical and emotional trauma that they encountered they would never enjoy those rites of passage other Korean women would experience. Who was and still is responsible for these women's fate? Who can give them back their hope, their dreams, their youth? How can they ever retrieve their dignity, their pride, and or their self-respect? Military sexual slavery is a war crime and a crime against humanity according to International Law.

II. EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY ISSUE

A. COMBINED EFFORTS

The desire to resolve this issue and to retrieve the due reparations to the former "comfort women" has been a combined effort.

1) Yun Chung-Ok

Ms. Yun Chung-Ok contributed by beginning to disclose information concerning this issue. She herself had lived through the war times in which she had to drop out of school to hide from being caught because she was of the right age the Japanese authorities sought for their "comfort women". After the war, she always wished to explore the issue and carried out a number of personal efforts to collect documents, information, and to take fact-finding trips to "comfort stations".

2) Church Women United

In the late 1980's, the Korean women's movement was eager to denounce "sex tourism". They began to think of the recent system of licenced prostitutes as being similar to military sexual slavery by Japan.

On Feb. 12-21, 1988, members of the Korean Church Women United carried out the first official survey on military sexual slavery by Japan and the "comfort stations". On April 21-23, 1988, Church Women United offered a seminar on "Women & Tourism", specifically concerning "sex tourism", in which they presented their survey about Japanese "comfort stations". Church Women United began to insist that the problem of sex-tourism is closely related to the "comfort women" issue in terms of the use of women's bodies for sex as means of national promotion. The Church Women United formed the Committee on Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, and began to work with Japanese women's groups to pursue the issue. First of all, they sent a public letter to both the Japanese and Korean Governments to request the disclosure of the truth about the issue of military sexual slavery by Japan. At the same time they delivered a public protest letter to the office of Japanese Foreign Affairs. They also participated at a memorial service for the victims of the Pacific War in Okinawa to include the victims of military sexual slavery by Japan.

B. THE ORGANIZATION OF "THE KOREAN COUNCIL FOR THE KOREAN WOMEN DRAFTED FOR MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY BY JAPAN.

On November 16, 1990, the combined efforts of the various individuals and groups culminated with the formation of "The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan." (Hereafter, the Korean Council). This Council concentrates its efforts primarily on resolving this problem by confronting the Japanese and Korean Governments, raising public awareness of this issue within the international community, and caring for the former "comfort women".

1) Activities Against the Japanese Government

a) When the Korean Council first formed and began to protest in 1990, the Japanese Government denied the fact that military sexual slavery even existed. Then, a Japanese scholar brought to light documents clearly proving that the Japanese Government was fully aware of the mobilization of sexual slaves. Thus, they were forced finally to admit to their partial involvement in this issue. The Korean Council has made seven demands to the Japanese Government. These are the goals of the Korean Council's movement:

- * Acknowledge the crime of the Korean women drafted for sexual slavery by Japan!

- * Reveal the whole contents of the crime of military sexual slavery !

- * Apologize formally about the crime of military sexual slavery !

- * Erect memorial tablets for the victims of military sexual slavery !

- * Pay reparations for the survivors and the bereaved families !

- * Record the crime of military sexual slavery by Japan in school textbooks and to educate younger generations about the crime in its entirety !

- * Punish the criminals !

b) Wednesday Demonstrations

The Korean Council has held a demonstration every Wednesday in front of the Japanese Embassy since January 8th, 1992 without missing one occasion. August 10th, 1994 marked the 130th consecutive demonstration.

c) June 1991 - (Tokyo) "The Pacific War victims and Bereaved Families Association" filed suit against the Japanese government in Civil Court. Nine of the forty-nine plaintiffs were former "comfort women." It was the first time that the issue of the "comfort women" was revealed in a court of law against the Japanese Government.

d) February, 1993 - The Korean Council tried to file a law suit in Japan to receive legal reparations, but it was refused on the excuse of a period of prescription.

e) The Japanese Government has never sincerely admitted to their responsibilities in organizing a system of military sexual slavery since the war's end. Rather, they have been trying to hide the truth. Recently the Japanese Prime Minister reported that the Japanese Government is planning to set up a "Sympathy Money" system which would be raised by non-Governmental organizations, in lieu of the legal monetary reparations due to the former "comfort women." The Korean Council rejects this plan, for it does no justice to repair the damages suffered by these women. Rather it is a measure to avoid legal Japanese Government responsibility.

2) Activities against the Korean Government

a) The Korean Council first demanded the Korean Government establish a policy in support of the former "comfort women". The result of this demand was the following: "The Financial Support for the 'comfort women' of the Japanese Army under colonial rule", created in April 1993. This proposal, which gives a monthly subsidy to the former comfort women, was passed in a temporary session of the National Assembly on May 18, 1993.

b) The government made available a hot-line in each district for people to call with information concerning the issue of military sexual slavery. This Financial Support and hot-line have been the only actions taken by the Korean Government. There has been no strong position taken by the Korean Government. This status quo imposing, weak stance of the Korean Government has contributed to the relaxed and reluctant attitude of the Japanese Government's in their efforts to fulfill its legal obligation.

In addition to the goals of the Korean Council, we have developed our own movement to research into this issue. The following is a summary of the Korean Council's activities from November 1990 to August 1994.

C. MOVEMENTS for FACT FINDINGS

1) Hot-line

Before the Korean government established a hot-line in 1992, the Korean Council had already installed a hotline to report any information involving the former "comfort women". On August 14th, 1991, Kim Hak-sun was the first person to report her experience as a "comfort woman". She made her report in anger, when she heard the news that the Japanese Government denied its involvement in the military sexual slavery issue. About 200 survivors have reported thus far through the hot-line.

2) The Organization of the Committee of Survey and Investigation

In August 1993, the Korean Council organized a Committee of Survey and Investigation, to unveil the hidden historical documents proving the testimonies of the former "comfort women". Members of the committee include historians, social scientists, and scholars from Japan, the US, and Korea. In December 1994, the committee will publish a "white paper" concerning this issue.

3) Joint symposium of Korean & Japanese Researchers

The Korean Council and the Japanese Research and Documentation Center on War Responsibilities of Japan have sponsored a symposium for Korean and Japanese scholars in Tokyo on August 1993. These scholars criticized the lack of dedicated research and persistent investigations of both the Korean and the Japanese Governments. They discussed the problem of forced mobilization of people for war by Japan, and they viewed these war crimes with respect to international law.

The Second Korean-Japanese Research Symposium on the problem of military sexual slavery by Japan was held on December 18-19, 1993 in Seoul, sponsored jointly by the Korean Council and Japan's War Responsibilities Documentation Center. The focus of this symposium was placed upon the living conditions of the "comfort stations" of the Japanese military, the identification of the criminals responsible within the Japanese military, the compensation issue etc., i.e. the total outlook of the "comfort women" issue.

A third symposium is to be held in November 1994, in Seoul. The committee will sponsor this event in order to exchange information, and thus to extend the progress already made. Scholars from Japan, China, Indonesia, Phillipines and North Korea will be invited.

4) Fact-Finding Tours

a). Professor Yun Chung-Ok took personal fact finding tours to Japan, the Pacific Islands & New Guinea to trace "comfort stations" in December 1980, February & August 1988 and July 1990.

b). February 1988 - three members of the Korean Church Women United made a fact-finding trip from Hukuoka to Okinawa in Japan.

c). April 1994 - the Korean Council made a trip to Woohan, China. Consequently, nine former "comfort women" were discovered. The Korean Council plans to invite these women to Korea for their first visit to their homeland since they were drafted by Japan. It will be an event to explore the issue "comfort women" abandoned by the Japanese army after the war.

D. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The Korean Council has held public hearings and symposiums, participated in various meetings to address the problem, and held press conferences. The Korean Council also attempts to outreach to schools, social service agencies, churches, and community groups in order to increase their awareness of the problem of the Korean women drafted for military sexual slavery by Japan.

1) Solidarity with Korean NGOs

Besides the work done with the 19 member organizations within the Korean Council, there have been solidarity activities with other international NGOs in Korea, i.e. YWCA and The Korean National Council For Women etc. In February 1995, the Korean Council will hold the third "Asian Women's Forum" in Seoul in cooperation with the Korean women's NGOs. We hope that this kind of combined effort will be of benefit to the military sexual slavery issue by spreading the current news involving the former "comfort women".

2) The Research Association for "comfort women" (RACW)

The RACW provides academic support by publishing information and documents for the Korean Council. In conjunction with RACW, the Korean Council has visited survivors, heard their stories, and published a collection of their testimonies. An English version will soon be published. Also, a collection of the nine testimonies of the former "comfort women" found in Woohan, China, will soon be published.

3) Publications

Besides the publication of these testimonies, the Korean Council publishes newsletters bimonthly in Korea and an international newsletter in English twice a year. The Korean Council has also published four collections of resource materials & documents (essays, articles, pictures, newspaper-clippings and activities). The first was entitled "The Report of Yun Chung Ok's Fact-Finding Trips"; the second, "Why are We Making an Issue of this Problem Now"; the third,

"The Report of the First Asian Women's Forum"; and the fourth, "The Military Sexual Slavery Issue and the Legal Responsibilities of the Japanese Government".

4) Lectures and Speeches

The Korean Council provides speakers or resource people in response to many requests from universities, churches, students and citizen' groups.

E. SERVICES and SUPPORT for THE SURVIVORS

(1) National Campaign for Fund-Raising

The Japanese Government has proposed providing a charity fund for the former "comfort women" instead of the full legal reparations. The Korean Council believes that the Japanese Government should pay the full economic reparations to each victim according to international law. Therefore, we do not accept this charity fund as a satisfactory compensation. The Korean Council established the "National Fund-Raising Headquarters for the Former 'Comfort Women'" in December 1992. People from Korea and abroad have been continuously sending donations in support of the Korean Council's work. As a result, each of the sixty-two surviving "comfort women" received 2.5 million Won (approximately \$3125)

(2) Relief Policy of the Korean Government

The Korean Government has finally made a "Relief Policy" to support the surviving "comfort women" financially. A new legislation proposed by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs was passed on May 19th, 1993 in the National Assembly entitled "The Social Security Law for the "Comfort Women" of the Japanese Army during the Japanese Colonial Rule". It guarantees each survivor a sum of 5 million Won (equivalent to US \$6.250), as well as a monthly allowance of 150.000 Won (approx. US \$187.00). Other security measures include a monthly assistance of 10kg of rice, 2.5kg of barley, 20.000Won(US

\$25.00) for food, 15.000Won(US \$18.75) for fuel, free medical insurance, and renting priority of government housing. The Korean Council considers this new government policy a victory of its campaign efforts and a sign of strong national sympathy towards the survivors.

(3) Establishment of a "Sharing House"

A communal "Sharing House" for six of the survivors of military sexual slavery was established with the help of a Buddhist Committee for Human Rights, a member organization of the Korean Council.

(4) Medical Care

The Korean Council provides regular check-ups by a volunteer visiting nurse. They are also provided with regular visits to a Korean Medicine doctor and free medical care in hospitals.

(5) Counseling and peer support group

The Korean Council provides counselling and peer support groups in order to help the former "comfort women" emotionally and psychologically. We need to respond to the many psychological and emotional problems of these women so that they can at least have as peaceful a life as possible in their old age.

(6) Drawing class and the Korean Alphabet class

Former "comfort women" who were illiterate are learning the Korean Alphabet. They now can feel more self-reliant by reading street signs on their own. Thus, they can begin to rebuild their self-esteem and confidence. There has also been efforts in art therapy for these women. Instead of always stating their experiences, they now can draw to express their feelings in a different form through art.

F. INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

(1) Activities at the UN

a) The Korean Council approached the UN in February 1992 with a letter to the Secretary-General, calling his attention to the problem of

the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. In August 1992, February 1993, May 1993, and February 1994, the Korean Council sent delegates to the UN, urging the "Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities" to start an investigation into the gross violation of human rights during World War II. In May 1993, other NGOs started to voice their requests to investigate the forced labor issue, as well as the military sexual slavery during the Pacific War. These NGOs include the World Council of Churches, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, The Task Force on Filipino Comfort Women, and the Fact-finding Mission on Korean Forced Labor.

In August 1993, the UN "Sub-commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities" adopted a resolution that a Special Rapporteur be appointed to make a special study on the systematic rape, sexual slavery, and similar practices. Through that resolution, Japan's war crimes have become the object of public scrutiny and investigation officially sponsored by the United Nations Human Rights Commission for the first time in its history. Finally, Japan's military sexual slavery and abuse will go on historical record throughout the world. Ms. Linda Chavez, an American Specialist on the Human Rights Sub-commission, was appointed as the Special Rapporteur.

In August 1994, the Sub-commission decided to invite Ms. Chavez, its expert, to submit a working paper on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, including internal armed conflict, to the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session. The UN Sub-Commission decided to recommend that the Special Rapporteurs on the question of the impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights take into consideration the information on the sexual exploitation of women and other forms of forced labor during wartime.

b) At the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on June 17, the Korean Council made a joint oral statement with four other organizations to emphasize and to request that the perpetrators of war crimes by Japan during World War II be punished. For European victims, there was the Batavia Military Court of the Japanese Officers who committed these war crimes, and in February 1993, the UN Security Council decided to set up an international Tribunal to punish war criminals including organized, armed rapists in former Yugoslavia. Thus far though, there has been no such tribunal for the former "comfort women." However, the World Conference on Human Rights proposed to establish an effective means to prosecute the crimes of military sexual slavery, e.g. an international permanent criminal court.

c) CEDAW(Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women) held its 13th Session on January 1994. They reviewed the Japanese Government's report on the issue of military sexual slavery. The following statement is the headline from the official press on 27 January 1994, prepared by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations: "Experts at the CEDAW Urge Japan Not to Ignore the Legacy of 'Comfort Women'."

d) The UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on June 23, 1994 recommended that both the victims of military sexual slavery and the Japanese Government settle the dispute at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague, the Netherlands.

e) Jakarta Declaration at the Asian Pacific Ministerial Meeting

On June 7-14, 1994, the Asian-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on the "Role of Women in Development" was held in Jakarta. In regard to the military sexual slavery issue, Japan strongly opposed the meeting's proposed plan of action because it stressed the condemnation and punishment of the systematic raping and sexual slavery of the former "comfort women". The senior official meeting of the Jakarta Declaration made the following statement regarding its proposal : " We ask all governments to condemn strongly the systematic raping of women in

situations of war and armed conflict and to support calls for the punishment of the guilty parties." Japan wanted to attach the amendment stating, "when such cases (of systematic raping) occurs " but this was rejected by the members participating in the conference.

(2) Solidarity with Asian Women

The Korean council works in conjunction with women's organizations in the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Hogn Kong, Thailand, and Indonesia. These groups understand the military sexual slavery issue in the same light as the recent problems problems of sex tourism, child prostitution, and sexual traffic in southest Asia. Much has been accomplished through solidarity efforts. The Japanese women's movement should be especially credited. Without Japanese women's solidarity, we could not have progressed this far.

a) Solidarity Demonstration

In March 1993, the Korean Council proposed that Asian women participate in a solidarity demonstration in commemoration of the "March First" protest, one of the most famous liberation protests under Japanese colonial in 1919. Delegates from the Philippines and Japan joined us in this event.

b) Joint Symposium - The Korean Council and the Task Force of Filippino Victims of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan attended the World Conference on Human Rights Asian Committee in March of 1993 and the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June, 1993.

c) Joint Asian Statement of protest against Japan's attempt to become a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council in July of 1993. Five Asian countries as well as NGOs in North America and the Netherland issued a formal joint statement.

d) Asian Women Solidarity Forum

In August, 1992, the first Asian Solidarity Forum was held in Seoul, sponsored by the Korean Council. Delegates came from the Philippines,

Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Hong Kong. In October 1993, the Second Asian Solidarity Forum was held in Tokyo. The Forum is to be held in Feb. 1995 in Seoul sponsored by the Korean Council. Through this forum we have further explored the issue and developed strategies to pursue the goals in solidarity.

e) Joint Asian Group's Press Conference

On behalf of forty Asian NGOs from Korea, the Philippines, and Japan, the Japanese NGOs held a press conference on July 18, & August 22, 1994, to protest the Japanese Government's plan to create an "Asian Center" and "Sympathy Gift" in lieu of the individual reparations the former "comfort women" are demanding.

f) The Japanese NGOs Joint Statement

On July 20, 1994, the Japanese NGOs made a joint statement to support the Korean Council's plan to take the case of the military sexual slavery by Japan to the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

3) Solidarity with International Communities

In response to the Korean Council's movement, people from all over the world have responded positively and have expressed their support and solidarity. As the feminist consciousness increases and progresses, women are becoming more aware of their own human rights. When women begin to raise their voices against gender violence, there are results: the UN appointed a special rapporteur to research violence against women; academic research and study have been done in many areas and with various perspectives; and organizations like the Korean Council are being formed internationally.

a) The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) sent two women Jurists to investigate the issue of military sexual slavery by Japan. They interviewed 16 former "Comfort Women". Their interviews went deeply into the women's experiences and they shed tears together. The ICJ published an interim report and presented it to the Working

Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in May of 1993. Its final report will be presented to the UN Sub-commission soon.

b) Catholic Institute for International Relations based in London invited the Korean Council to present the Korean case study on Japanese Sexual Slavery in World War II at their conference. The Catholic Archdiocese of Osaka decided that the Japanese military sexual slavery would be the subject of their peace campaign. They invited a victim and a speaker from the Philippines, issued a statement of "Apology and Oath.", and urged the Japanese Government to admit to their war crime and abuse.

c) Discussions with European Women

The International Symposium on Military Sexual Slavery was held on Sep. 10-13, 1993, In Germany. Under the theme "Human Dignity and Women in War and Rape," women from six different countries discussed the problem of military sexual slavery by Japan and massive military rape in Bosnia, and the direction of the women's movement. In the symposium, they urged the Japanese Government to acknowledge that the "comfort women" were in fact sexual slaves of Japan. The participants decided that the problem of gender and military violence during wartime can best be solved with the solidarity of women worldwide.

d) Amnesty International in the US held its Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Baltimore on Feb. 11-13, 1994. The Korean Council sent a delegate to speak on the military sexual slavery issue.

e) The Pyongyang International Conference on Japan's Post-War Resolutions was held on Nov. 7-9, 1993. The Korean Council participated.

f) Twenty-four US Congressmen urged Japan to pay compensation to surviving Asian "comfort women". They sent a letter to Prime Minister Hosokawa on November 3, 1993.

4) Solidarity activities with other Korean organizations abroad

The Korean Council has strong connections with organizations of

Korean residents in the US, Canada, and Germany, who are working on this problem and also networks with other women's organizations and human rights organizations. Korean-Americans organized Coalitions for the Women drafted for military sexual slavery by Japan in New York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago, and in Canada. They started demonstrations to denounce the crimes that Japan committed against the Korean women and to support survivors. The Washington and New York Coalitions held demonstrations against Emperor Akihito's visit to Washington D.C. & New York in June, 1994. They have been involved in a letter campaign to the United Nations to the Japanese Government as well as other international agencies to press for the solution of the issue. The Korean Women's Association in Germany also organized a Council for this issue. They have already held lectures. The Korean Council sent delegates from Korea to participate in all of these demonstrations and meetings in Washington D.C., New York, and Boston.

III. WHERE ARE WE NOW ?

A. Remaining Problems

1) Fact-finding

We demand the Japanese Government research further into this issue. They have thus far released two reports (The first in July, 1992 and the second in August, 1993). The Japanese Government has done nothing further than this. In the report, they reluctantly admitted to their partial involvement. The report made no mention of how many 'comfort women' were mobilized by force, nor did it relate the entirety of the issue of sexual slavery. Also there was no mention or description of the 'comfort stations' themselves, nor of the places to which the women were drafted. The Japanese Government has made no effort to release the information materials related to the war period. This kind

of neglect reflects a sense that the Japanese Government has something to hide, as it has not made any effort to concede to our demand to release the materials closed to the public relating to 'comfort women'. This neglect means avoiding legal responsibility of war crimes.

Therefore, we demand that the Japanese Government not only establish a fact-finding committee within the government & Diet but also to support and to encourage non-government fact-finding groups or organizations in order to make clear and as objective as possible report.

2) Apology

We are still demanding that the Japanese Government issue an official apology from the Diet to send to each individual victim. Although they expressed their regret and sorrow about what they did to Koreans whenever the Japanese Prime Ministers had diplomatic meetings in Korea, especially with respect to Korean women during the colonization period, this was challenged and denied by Japanese cabinet members. In May 1994, Japan's Justice Minister, Shigeto Nagano, described "comfort women" as "licenced prostitutes" (implying that they volunteered) and stated that the "Rape of Nanking" of 1937, in which 300,000 Chinese were slaughtered in Japan's bloodiest atrocity, never occurred. In August 1994, Japan's Environmental Minister translated Japan's war-time aggression as an act of liberation for Asian countries. These statements give proof that the Japanese Government still believes Japan did no wrong during the Pacific War. How can we attain justice for these "comfort women" when such denial of Japan's war-time violations occur? Therefore, we demand an official apology resolution from the Japanese Diet.

3) Reparation

The Japanese Government should immediately pay economic reparations to the victims of military sexual slavery. Former "comfort women" are growing old and weak. Five women have already passed

away since the Korean Council was formed. Thus the Japanese Government should pay reparation to each individual as quickly as possible. Before their lives end they should be granted some peace, for once in their lives, if not emotionally, then at least financially. On the contrary, the Japanese Government plans a charity fund or "sympathy money" by non-governmental fund raising. This is proof that Japan has not recognized its guilt and is not willing to assume its legal responsibility, but prefers to treat these women as cases of charity. The reason why we should demand reparation is that it is the only clear and visible means for apology and atonement, and to bring justice, according to the report of Prof. Theo van Boven, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for the victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.(E/CN.4 /Sub.2 / 1993/8)

As The Korean Council, neighboring Asian Countries, and international communities have been criticizing the Japanese Government, Japan has finally responded with a plan to create a 'Peace Exchange Fund' to promote the study of Japan's wartime activities, youth exchanges between Japan and other Asian countries, and the establishment of a women's self-support center to provide vocational training for Asian women or a 'Sympathy Fund' to create a fund for "comfort women" in lieu of the requested reparations. If Japan's 'Peace Exchange Fund' is used to propagate Japanese culture, then it can not be used as a means of atonement for Japanese war crimes. If the Japanese Government really wants to uphold its legal responsibility to the victims and to apologize for their violations against human rights, there is no reason to avoid paying the individual reparations, nor to create a 'Peace Exchange Fund' or a 'Sympathy Fund', which has nothing to do with their redress for their crimes.

Recently the ICJ(International Commission of Jurists) recommended that pending action of taking steps to fully rehabilitate the victims, the Japanese Government should pay, as a purely interim measure,

without prejudice to its rights and contentions, the sum of US \$40,000.00 for the rehabilitation of each woman who has come forward.

However, the Japanese Government has insisted that the reparation for all damages during the colonial period was taken care of by the Korean-Japan Treaty in 1965. It is not enough to state that legal responsibility of reparations for the victims was finalized by the Korea-Japan Treaty, since this treaty did not include the specific problem of "comfort women". Moreover, the Japanese Government did not even recognize the existence of military sexual slavery at that time and the treaty dealt only with the claims of the rights between the two states; it did not cover the individual claim of militarysexual slavery.

Therefore, the Korean Council has decided to take the case of military sexual slavery to the PCA(Permanently Court of Arbitration) to clarify whether or not the Japanese Government has any legal obligations to pay individual reparations under international law.

4) Punishment

The Korean Council demands that the Japanese Government should punish the guilty parties who were involved in carrying out the system of the military sexual slavery by Japan. In order to prevent this kind of gross violation in the future, punishment measures are necessary. We feel that if the punishment is carried out, it can only aid Japan's morality and conscience.

The most recurring problem has been Japan's inability to fully admit its past crimes. They have given the excuse that their aggression was carried out for the purpose of liberating all Asian countries under the slogan of "the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere". The Japanese Government has built shrines and memorials to pay honor to those who sacrificed their lives for Japan. Furthermore, in order to commemorate the 50 years since the war, there is a plan to bulid a Memorial Hall" to show the war experience from a Japanese perspective, excluding victims from other Asian countries who were coerced into sacrifice in

the name of Japan. This kind of one-sided representation of the past can only lead to more confusion about Japan's guilt and responsibility of war crimes for future generations. The victims are still suffering from the effect of the war. Yet, the guilty are left unpunished. When can the 'comfort women' attain their due justice ?

B. Tasks

1) Campaigns for the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Korean Council has finally decided to take the case to the PCA to have a fair judgement for both parties according to international law by which all sovereignties must abide. We are now preparing campaigns for the PCA trial at home and abroad to put pressure on the Japanese Government to take this case to court. If they have nothing to hide, and if they have no responsibility, they should have no objections to this decision.

2) Signature Campaign opposing Japan's becoming a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.

The Korean Council will sponsor a signature campaign internationally. We strongly believe that the Japanese Government is not qualified to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council until it has fulfilled its legal obligations to the war victims in Asia -- especially to the women victims of its military sexual slavery system. Japan should fulfil its moral and legal obligations to redress the gross violations of human rights and military sexual slavery during World War II if it really wishes to become a member of the Security Council as a leading nation in the international community. Any nation which wishes to be an international political leader should first abide by international law itself. The Korean Council will lobby and campaign the UN member states not to allow Japan to become a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council. The Korean Council calls upon all women in the

world to join us in our efforts to protest against Japan's becoming a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council as well.

3) The Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing

We believe that the women's conference in Beijing will be a great opportunity to explore the issue of military sexual slavery and to demand a resolution to bring this issue to a conclusion. At the East Asian Women's Forum in October, 1994, the issue will be the topic of focus in one of the workshops entitled "Woman and War/Peace". At this forum we will be able to make a plan for action and strategies before the Beijing conference. The Korean Council is planning to have NGO solidarity forums with other Asian countries on how to best elevate and project solidarity in order to demand justice and how to gather as many advocate groups from Japan, US, and all Asian countries so that we can lobby in order for the "comfort women" issue to be adopted as a formal UN document in the UN world conference on women in Beijing.

4) At the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March, 1995, in New York, the Korean Council will lobby for the adoption of the draft resolution of military sexual slavery in the conference.

5) White Paper on military sexual slavery by Japan

A Committee of Survey and Investigation of the Korean Council is preparing to publish a "White Paper" on the military sexual slavery by Japan. The Committee realized that it might be difficult to attain the records from the Japanese Government. Thus, this committee decided to assemble the records and testimonies of the former "comfort women" themselves and to make a "White Paper". This book will be published at the end of this year. The historians and members of the academic communities and the active participants of the movement are mobilizing to produce this book.

6) Opening of "Women & War Historical Museum"

In Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Korea, we are planning to open the "Women & War Historical Museum" to show to the public the historical materials, documents, books, and pictures related to the 'comfort women' issue which we have collected thus far. It will be used for public education and to spread the knowledge dealing with the issue of military sexual slavery.

7) Exploration of the issue of "comfort women" in China abandoned by the Japanese Army after WW II. The Korean Council and members of RACW recently found nine former 'comfort women' in April, 1994, in Woohan, China. They are a typical case of comfort women deserted by the Japanese soldiers. They were placed where the headquarter for the Japanese Army existed in China. They were forced to be sexual slaves for the Japanese soldiers, and at the time of the ceasefire, they were abandoned. The Korean Council is planning to invite them to visit their homeland for their first time since they left home 50 years ago to draw attention from all over the world, and to explore the issue.

IV. PLAN OF ACTION

1) Japanese Government should be urged to acknowledge and reveal the whole contents of the crime of military sexual slavery in Asia.

2) Japanese Government should be urged to issue an official apology from the Diet to each individual victim and pay economic reparations to all victims of the military sexual slavery in Asia.

3) Japanese Government should be urged to erect memorial tablets for deceased victim and record the crime and educate younger generations.

4) Japanese Government should be urged to bring the perpetrators to justice.

5) Japanese Government should be urged to follow the

recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists(ICJ) and other human rights organizations.

6) Japanese Government should be urged to go to the Permanent Court of Arbitration(PCA) to clarify all the legal issue related to military sexual slavery under International Law.

7) Japanese Government should be urged to fulfill its moral and legal obligations to redress the gross violations of human rights and military sexual slavery during World War II before Japan wishes to become a permanent of the UN Security Council.

8) Victimized Governments should be urged to investigate the fact and give all the necessary support to surviving victims, psychologically, physically and economically.

V. CONCLUSION : IN PROSPECT OF ASIAN PEACE

The Korean Council's efforts are progressing in resolving the military sexual slavery issue. There have been fact-finding missions, demands and demonstrations for reparations, apologies, punishment of criminals, a revision of Japan's history textbooks and a construction of a monument for the deceased victims. Gradually, bits of the truth are being revealed and disclosed for the world to see. Without justice, true reconciliation between nations is not possible. Even today, many still hold a strong bitterness towards Japan for its wrong-doings. In June, 1994, Japanese Emperor Akihito was faced with huge demonstrations during his visit to the United States from Asian Americans. Every Wednesday, Japan is reminded of its past with the demonstration in front of its embassy in Korea. These demonstrations are reinforced by support from not only Korean people but also from students all around the world, especially the United States. Japan must come to face the fact that this pressing issue will not disappear, it will not be forgotten - the former 'comfort women' will not allow it, the Korean people will not allow it and most importantly, students will not allow this issue to

go unresolved. They will carry through to unveil the truth and to bring justice to these women long after these 'comfort women' have passed away. It is evident that the Japanese Government is feeling pressure and even embarrassment for not having yet admitted to its gross human rights violations.

In order to realize peace and justice in Asia, the Japanese government must admit its responsibility during the Pacific War, grant reparations to those who suffered in the past, punish the criminals, and give a full, sincere apology. By doing this, Japan will finally be able to begin establishing a peaceful and friendly relationship with peoples and nations in Asia, as well as the world.

Unlike the postwar German Government which made efforts to disassociate itself from Nazi policies, Japan seems to have been more dedicated to justify or to cover up the past.

In order to change this mentality, and awaken the morality & conscience of the Japanese Government, the Korean Council calls upon all Asian women to join us in our efforts to protest against Japan's becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. To grant such a privilege to Japan is unjustified and incomprehensible in our eyes because Japan has not made any sincere effort to make a redress for its past violations of human right against Asian countries.

The Korean 'comfort women' case is promoting a new claim for human rights, in particular, women's rights, in Asia. Therefore, the Japanese admission of legal responsibility is the first step in producing an environment where human rights can grow in Asia.

"These days I suffer more since I have begun to tell my testimony. It started up my heart. I suffer even today from nightmares. But I will tell my story again and again because Japanese cruelty must not be forgotten. They cannot invade us and do this again to my grandchildren in the future."(Kim Soon Duk, a former 'comfort woman', shared when I visited Sharing House in May, 1994)

When the former 'comfort women' finally broke out of their silence to

tell their stories 50 years after the fact, people were shocked and outraged.

When former 'comfort women' finally began to share their stories with great courage, these stories came out not only because of their great pain, but also to warn the world that it could happen again and that it must never happen again.

When former 'comfort women' share their stories again and again, it breaks their hearts. Still, they continue to share, if it means that the next generation of women in the world need not have to suffer in the future, and if it means the peace Asia and the world.

Who destroyed the hopes of these women?

Who ruined their dreams?

Who stole their souls?

The Japanese Government, with their systematic institution of military sexual slavery, is to blame. They destroyed these women's hopes, their dreams, their souls, and their youths. So only with Japan's recognition of their guilt, shame, and responsibility for their atrocious crime can the former 'comfort women' attain peace and justice. With a sincere apology and compensation, these women can at last begin their lives anew and to try to retrieve their dignity, their pride and their self-respect.

Unfortunately, we do not have much time to listen to their stories, as they are getting old. Therefore, we must act quickly to receive their due reparations. We must act to keep alive these women's life stories. We must act to create solidarity among women not only in Asia, but also around the world to prevent this kind of systematic sexual violence from occurring again in the future. It is our responsibility and our duty as human beings to remember. We must keep this dangerous memory alive.

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted
for Military sexual Slavery by Japan

Rm. 305 CISJD Bldg. #35 Chungjungro 2-ga,
Seodaemungu, Seoul 120-012
Tel:82-2-365-4016 Fax:82-2-365-4017