

What is VAWW-NET Japan?

Our mission is to eliminate violence against women during war and armed conflicts and to build a non-militarized world by bearing the responsibility of creating a peace that is based on the perspective of women's/human rights (Tokyo Declaration, 1997). To this end, we have established the following goals:

1. To demand the restoration of justice and dignity to the victims of the Japanese military's sexual slavery actions, which took place during the Asia Pacific War and see to it that Japan's responsibility for the past war and its on-going harmful actions is fully recognized and met.
2. To demand removal of US military bases from Okinawa and other areas of Japan in order to prevent sexual violence by US military personnel and to repeal the US-Japan New Defense Guideline which forces Japan to cooperate with US military policies and operations.
3. To investigate the current situation and background of violence against women in war and armed conflicts throughout the world, share the experiences of these victims, and work in solidarity to eliminate violence against women.

◆For More Information...◆

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International Public Hearing

on Violence Against Women
in Current Armed Conflict

Date ● December 11, 2000
Venue ● Tokyo, Japan

The 20th Century has been called a "century of progress," but it has also been a century of violence. No previous century has witnessed such a scale of systematic destruction of lives through war and genocide, nor has such an overwhelming number of women been victimized by sexual violence as in this century. In the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and in other areas of armed conflict, thousands of women have suffered from mass-rape and other forms of sexual violence. Owing to the global campaign for women's/human rights, sexual violence was prosecuted for the first time, although inadequately, at the International War Crimes Tribunals in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. In addition to this, in 1998, the Statute of the International Criminal Court clearly defined rape, sexual slavery and enforced prostitution as war crimes and crimes against humanity. At the International Public Hearing, we will focus on current conflicts and the continuing violations of women's rights and emphasize the importance of justice to women affected by armed conflicts.

Why do we hold the International Public Hearing?

- To have a clear understanding of the situations of violence against women in war and armed conflict situations through testimonies of survivors and their supporters
- To build and strengthen a consensus that violence against women in war and armed conflict situations is a crime committed against women
- To respond to the need of women participating in the solution and prevention processes
- To respond to a need that NGOs should work collaboratively with governments to combat violence in the family and society and by the state

How do we hold the International Public Hearing?

We will select 12 cases of violence against women under armed conflict situations which have occurred throughout the world. We will invite survivors from each of the 12 regions and representatives of Japanese support groups. Through these individuals, we will discover the reality of what is occurring in these regions. We will also invite experts in international law, women's human rights, and individuals trained in psychological trauma to develop recommendations and strategies such as declarations. The selected areas are East Timor, Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Algeria, Chiapas, Guatemala, Chile, and the Philippines.

What are the impacts of the International Public Hearing?

- A Step Toward Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts
- Developing Support Networks for Survivors of Sexual Violence
- Increasing Female Scholars and Professionals in Law
- Making Difference in International and National Policy-Making