

Report of

The Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families (APWVBF)

Co-Representative Yang Soon Im.

My name is Yang Soon Im. I am Co-Representative of the Association of Pacific War Victims and Bereaved Families, or K.A.F for short.

I am glad to be here today.

The K.A.F was established in early 1973 by Korean victims of the Pacific War including forced draftees, forced laborers and comfort women. and their bereaved families. More than 20,000 members have been making an effort since then in order for their human right which should be fairly restored.

The Japanese Government, however, has ignored our demand for post-war reparation, which made me decide to come all the way to Vienna.

After making war on December 8, 1941, Japan exploited more than 7.5 million people from Korea which was a colony of Japan at that time. The number 7.5 million is quoted from a report by the Ministry of Finance of Japan. Those people were forcibly conscripted and sent to various parts of Southeast Asia and Japan as slaves.

Korea, or the Korean Empire at that time, restored independence when Japan's defeat put an end to the war. But 141 Koreans were classified as BC war criminals and 23 of them were executed although it is Japan, not Korea, that caused the Pacific War. And we Koreans have not ever had a chance to speak out for defence.

While Hirohito, the real war criminal, enjoyed glory until age 87, those Korean victims had to get medical treatment. The comfort women suffered from sex diseases which they got during the war. And those who lost their fathers, brothers and husbands missing are still eager to know at least if they are alive or dead.

These people have been completely out of care and forcibly and treatment by the Japanese Government who after "San Francisco Treaty" in 1952, to every reparation act so it would be free from responsibility for people of foreign nationality.

In the Korean-Japanese Treaty concluded in 1965, Japan did not accept claims laid by Korea to the gold and silver taken out of the Bank of Korea by Japan. Japan just paid a non obligatory capital of \$ 300 million by the name of congratulatory capital of independence and an obligatory fund of \$ 200 million as economic cooperation, which was paid back with 3.5 % interest over time.

Japan deceived the Korean Government saying they had no records and documents necessary for reparation before concluding the treaty. Still they insist that all issues of victims were solved in the treaty. But, as a matter of fact, they have not even given notice of death of those killed or missing whose number is over one million in the past 47 years to this day.

We the K.A.F finally decided to file a law suit against Japan in 1990. On December 6th, 1991, 35 conscripted Koreans, their families and comfort women brought suit against the Government of Japan in the Tokyo District Court. On

April 13 next year, another 6 comfort women joined. Now the prosecution with 41 plaintiffs including 9 comfort women have finished the 5th court on June 7th 1993 and are waiting for the next to be held in September 20 th.

Also the K.A.F demanded that Japan provide information about 91 missing people in June, 1992. But answers were given only about 13 of them. 645 more families demanded for information in September 1992, but their demand was rejected on the ground that they did not send letters of individual commission.

One of the petitionese ,Kim Hee Sook, got an answer from Japan saying "no record left" about her husband who drafted for military force. She then went to the hospital where he was hospitalized, but was told that the related records were burnt. Now,there is no way for her to know about her husband.

Does Japan really deserve the name "advanced country" when they escape from responsibility for the loss of lives of neighboring countries people by making "nationality clause " that excludes foreigners from reparation policy ?

Japan had been denying its commitment in recruitment of comfort women until January 1991 when documents to prove its involvement were unearthed. But Japan still insists that those women were voluntary because there is no evidence that they were forcibly gathered.

Since the suit was filed. Japan had not accepted the demand for direct interview with sufferers until they changed their policy and proposed interview with only 10 people. Disaffected Koreans opposed to the proposal,which resulted in good excuse for them to delay the investigation.

Japan's attitude like this makes us believe that they are waiting for the survivors in the 70's, sick and old, to die by putting off the solution little by little.

* The APWBF of Korea's demands to the Japanese Government.

1. Admit its past criminal actions and formally apologize to the victims and families.
2. Examine the status of victim, release its lists of forced conscriptees, and make facts of the missing public.
3. Facilitate the return of Korean remains and organize memorial services on site.
4. Make immediate restitution to the victims and their families of unpaid wages,trust and forced individual savings (about \$ 10 billions) according to internationally accepted human rights standards.
5. Revise the history of the Pacific War in textbooks in Japanese schools to reflect the actuality of suffering endured by millions of Koreans, Chinese and Southeast Asians.

* The APWBF of Korea's requests to the United Nations.

1. to pressure the Japanese Government to accept our demands.
2. to request the UN Human Rights Commission to deal with this issue.
3. to send a commission to research status of Korean victims of World War Two, including forced draftees, forced laborers and comfort women.
4. to request Japan to provide related documents to the United Nations.
5. to investigate discriminatory treatment of Korean victims and violations of human rights.
6. to re-investigate Korean war criminals who are victims rather than criminals, and restore their honor.
7. to request that Japan propose ways of reparation to victims.
8. to mediate retribution between the victims and Japan in accordance with United Nations guidelines.
9. to request a prompt solution considering the advanced age of many of the victims.
10. to widely publicize this issue.

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