

delivered on
15 February, 1994

Mr. Chairman,

Last year the Sub-Commission proposed basic principles, guidelines and recommendations which would be a help as Mr. Theo Van Boven, the Special Rapporteur, has correctly pointed out in recovering the damages of the victims caused by the gross violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Those victims who have saved their lives narrowly from the sex slavery of the Japanese army and the forced labor during the Pacific War are appealing to the consciences of the humanity with their burning voices of indignation caused by the incurable wound of the past.

According to the information, numerous survivors of the forced sex slavery of the Japanese army are making ardent appeal to wreak the grudge of hundres of thousands victims who lost their lives after their bodies and soul of the youth were totally violated and to bring the criminals to justice.

To our surprise, however, it is reported that the Japanese government is not in a position to decide the methord of settling the issue of "comfort women for the army" and that the important reason for this is the difficulty of identifying whether the declared "comfort women" are real or not.

The present Japanese authorities who are reluctant to recognize even those small number of survivors, are little different from their predicessors who had encouraged the crime of introducing the system of "comfort women for the army". This cannot be interpreted otherwise than an attempt to cover up the crimes by prolonging this issue untill the death of all survivors.

Mr. Chairman,

After the Second World War, the Nurenberg Tribunal punished the Nazi war criminals and the tracing and punishment continue even today, and also the victims were compensated.

One may ask if the crime committed by Japan in Asia are less serious than the ones committed by the Nazi War criminals and the sexual slavery suffered by the Asian women are different from the misfortune suffered by the women in other regions.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions stipulate that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration and conventions without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, national or other status.

The crime committed by Japan to force sexual slavery to the Korean and other Asian women estimated 200,000 is the crime against humanity to which no statutory limitation can apply and Japan can not be able to extricate itself from the responsibility in the light of the Slavery Convention, Forced Labour Convention and other international laws and also in the light of international morality.

For the purpose to restore the impaired international morality and prevent recurrence of the inhumane crimes such as "comfort women for the army", we would like to make following demands:

First, Japan should thoroughly investigate and make public all the relevant facts on the "comfort women for the army" and other victims including their exact number and nationalities.

Second, Japan should make due reparations to the victims and their family members as an utmost expression of the will to thoroughly settle its past and not to repeat the crimes.

Third, those responsible for the crime should be brought to justice.

Thank you.