

Proposal by the Korean Committee to set up an International War Crimes Tribunal for Japanese Military Sexual Slavery (18 February 1998)

1. Jurisdiction of the Tribunal

As a people's tribunal, the War Crimes Tribunal will have jurisdiction over the responsibility of the Japanese government, the old and the present, as well as the individuals involved in the war crimes of military sexual slavery committed during the Second World War. The Tribunal may work on the model of the Russell Tribunal (1967) as well as other international war crimes tribunals at the government level.

Sub poenas (request to attend the Tribunal) will be issued to the responsible persons for testimony. There was a proposal to adopt an indictment at the close of the sessions of the Tribunal summing up the outcomes of fact-findings and examinations of legal issues. There was also an idea to constitute an international prosecution office to conduct investigations of the crimes and, possibly, to issue indictments of alleged criminals, which may also serve as an important preparatory work for the eventual trial at either national or international level.

2. Composition of the Tribunal

The Tribunal may be composed of at least 15 judges of international eminence, and of (around 30) juries who may be an expert or layman.

The Tribunal shall have a secretariat in charge of administering and recording the sessions. In the preparation stage for the Tribunal, the secretariat may function as a pivot for sharing information and public relations as well as other preparatory works.

3. Proceedings of the Tribunal

The Tribunal may proceed with the following issues:

- what happened in the process of mobilization for wartime sexual slavery
- the conditions of 'comfort women'
- their current conditions after the war
- psychological and physical impacts inflicted upon 'comfort women'
- an assessment of the current situation concerning 'comfort women'
- a summary of various attempts to conceal, deny, and twist, the truth and the restitution problem
- legal issues encountered in the pursuit of international responsibility for the crimes