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Inhumane Harms Done to the Women in The Immediate Post-War Period

(1) Abandonment on the Battlefield

Survivors were generally uninformed of the fact of Japan's defeat and the end of the Second World War. The majority of the 'military comfort women' were in a situation of abandonment and neglect. Thus, they were exposed not only to maltreatment and violence in the comfort stations, but also experienced the horror and dangers of the war itself. Considering that they had neither weaponry or defense skills, they were in some ways in a more dangerous situation than the soldiers.

(2) Murder and Mass Killing

In a continuation of the situation above, many testimonies tell us of how the 'comfort women' of Korea could have lost their lives from this direct exposure to the war. There were also testimonial reports in which the women were intentionally murdered at the time of Japan's defeat. However, it is very difficult to find evidence of such acts due to their very deaths and the Japanese classification of the military documents of that time. The casualties of the 'comfort women' from allied bombing or in the midst of battles, confirms the Japanese imperial government and military's 'death as acceptable' form of willful negligence. Japan cannot avoid legal responsibility for the deaths resulting from this type of neglect and killings.

(3) Diaspora and Family Destruction

At the conclusion of the Second World War in 1945, as testified, the majority of women were left abandoned on foreign ground. Without any means of leaving the war zones or of being able to return to Korea, many of those women were left in a permanent state of diaspora. They would never return to their motherland. Some women managed to return to Korea, and this was an extremely difficult process. Without money and protection, and in a state of hunger and danger, it took couple of months to years for women to return sometimes on foot. However, the families of the 'comfort women' in Korea were often scattered during the colonialism and war. Some women could not return to their families due to their shame and the burdens they felt. Thus, the experience of being a comfort woman caused many women to lose their families and thus their most important social relationships. In essence, they were 'uprooted' from their foundation in home and land.

Lasting Trauma in the Postcolonial Period

The Nature of Trauma

- (1) **Complexity:** Physical and Psychological Damage; Social Stigma, 'Ironic' Feelings of Guilt, and Anxiety
- (2) **Continuity:** , Suppression of the Trauma and Displacement of the other Forms such as Psychosomatic Symptom due to the Absence of Compensation or Recognition
- (3) **Contemporaneity:** The Injury of the 'Past' has left an Impact on the Present in Terms of the Physical, Social, Economic, and Psychological Aspects. The Trauma Still Alive

Physical Trauma

Maiming, Heart Disease, Visually and Hearing Impaired
etc: Resulted from Battery, Torture, and other Injury
Destruction of Sex Organs and Sexual Reproductivity:
esulted from Continuous Rapes, Pregnancy, Venereal
Disease, Maltreatment of Venereal Disease and
Pregnancy ('606' Injection)

Trauma Manifested in the Social Relations

Impossibility of having Normal Marital
Relations due to the Destruction of their
Sexual reproductive capacity,
Disgust of the Men, Self-conception, Infertility

Living With a man without Marriage,
Instability of the Relationship

Child Relations

Having Been Pregnant at the Comfort
Station and Giving Birth After Returning to
Korea; Inheritance of the Veneral Disease by
the Child

Impairment of Family Relationships
due to the Dissolution of Families, Exclusion
from the Family, Uneasiness with the Family

Chronic State of Poverty

Isolation from Family members, Friends
and Neighbors. Absence of Close Relationships
and Social Network

Psychological Trauma

(Upon the Test of PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder))

Experiences of the Traumatic Event (Intense Fear, Helplessness, Horror)

Recurrent and Intrusive Distressing Recollections of the Event

Recurrent and Intrusive Dreams of the Event

Feelings of Detachment and Estrangement from Others

Effort to Avoid Thoughts, Feelings, or Conversations Associated with the Trauma

Sleep Difficulty

Concentration Difficulties

Depression and Powerlessness

Loneliness and Isolation

Low Self-Esteem

Psychosomatic Symptoms

Suicide Attempts