

We want apology from the Japanese government for “comfort women”

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During the Second World War, we saw 400,000 Asian women severely oppressed by Japanese military force. They were pushed into the system of sexual slavery. After fifty-four years from the end of the war, Japanese government has not yet recognized their acts as war crimes or something they need to redress. We do not understand why such an indifferent attitude can be tolerated in the present international community.

The research and investigation efforts in China on “comfort women” began later than Japan, Taiwan, and Korea. During the last few years, we have an increasing number of Chinese scholars, lawyers, and journalists participating in the research and investigation work. In March 1999, we founded the Research Center for Chinese Comfort Women (?) at Shanghai Teacher's University. Since then, over fifty researchers have been participating in nation-wide investigations on “comfort women” and former “comfort stations.” So far, we have found that eighty-two “comfort stations” were located solely in Shanghai. We have also found that there were comfort stations in Nanking, Wuhan, Hainan, and other places. There are survivors of “comfort women” in Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Hubei, Anhui, Yunnan, and Hainan. It is reported that over 200,000 Chinese women in total were forced into sexual slavery by Japanese military force. Twenty-one provinces formed “comfort stations” (on Japanese military order). China is a country most seriously victimized by the system of sexual slavery by Japanese military force.

In September 1999, Tokyo District Court rejected the first case filed by victims from Chinese 731st division. One of the reasons for the rejection was that individuals did not have rights to receive compensation from the Japanese government, which we believe is wrong. That individuals have rights to get official compensation for their victimization is clearly stated in the international law. It has been also agreed upon in the resolution of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. German government's compensation for the war victims followed this principle. Toward a new century, Japanese government should not maintain a position that could go against humanitarian intentions of international community and create further emotional conflicts with Asian people. We think that the way Japanese government has been responding to the “comfort women” issue is very dangerous. The Japanese government should behave as a responsible member of the international community.

We, researchers in main land China would like to celebrate this important Taiwan (Japan) meeting on the “comfort women” issue. We wish to collaborate with scholars in Taiwan and foreign countries to realize justice for the “comfort women.” Lastly, we will do our best for the success of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal 2000.

慰安婦に対して日本政府は謝罪せよ

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第二次世界大戦には日本軍は、40 万人に及ぶアジア諸国の女性を抑え、性奴隷とした。戦争が終わって 54 年たっても、日本政府は今まで正しい認識がなかった。とても不思議です。

中国大陸の慰安婦調査と研究は、日本、台湾、韓国より遅れまして、近年来、中国大陸の学者、弁護士、記者などが参加しその数も増えて、特に 1999 年 3 月、上海師範大学で中国慰安婦問題研究中心が創立してから、50 名以上の研究員を集め協力して、各地の「慰安婦」と日本軍慰安所跡の調査を進めている。その中に上海だけでも 82 カ所の慰安所が分かれて、南京、武漢、海南、東北など多くの慰安所があり、吉林、黒龍江、山西、湖北、安徽、雲南、海南で「慰安婦」生存者がいる。あわせて、中国は 20 万人以上の女性が日本軍性奴隷にされて、21 省が慰安所を作った。中国は日本軍慰安婦制度の最大の被害国である。

今年の 9 月に中国七三一部隊の被害者による初めての訴訟で東京地裁はこの訴訟を棄却した。理由の一つは、個人は日本政府から賠償を受ける権利がない、ということだったがその理由は間違いだったと思う。国際法、また国連人権小委員会の決議や、ドイツ戦後補償のモデルとか、被害者個人は賠償を受ける権利がある。まもなく、地球は 21 世紀を迎え、日本政府は世界進歩の潮流に反対してアジア諸国人民の感情、国家の立場を無視して、これは危ない道です。

台湾の慰安婦討論会の際、お祝いで中国大陸の研究者達は台湾及び外国の学者と団結して、「慰安婦」という 20 世紀の歴史の暗い一ページを明るく、正義を伸張して 2000 年女性国際戦犯法廷の成功のために努力しよう。