



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES
TRIBUNAL ON JAPAN'S MILITARY
SEXUAL SLAVERY

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**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES
TRIBUNAL ON JAPAN'S MILITARY
SEXUAL SLAVERY**

日軍性奴隸戰爭犯罪被害女性國際法庭

PANDAIGDIGANG TRIBUNAL NG
KABABATHAN SA DIGMANG-KRIMEN
NG PANG-AALIPING SEKSWAL NG
HAPON-MILITAR

2000년 일본군 성노예전범 국제법정

日本軍性奴隸制を裁く「女性国際戦犯法廷」



**Women's International War
Crimes Tribunal on Japan's
Military Sexual Slavery
December 7-12, 2000
Tokyo, Japan**



The 20th Century has been called a century of progress, but it has also been called a century of violence and wars. No previous century has witnessed such a scale of systematic destruction of lives through war and genocide, nor such an overwhelming number of women victimized by sexual violence as in this century.

Among the global violations of women's human rights, Japan's military sexual slavery, which is believed to have victimized 200,000 young women as comfort women during the Asia Pacific war (1931-1945), represents one of the most horrendous war crimes in this century.

After the Second World War however, sexual violence by the Japanese Imperial Army was hardly prosecuted by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (The Tokyo Tribunal). The impunity against the comfort women continues to this day.

In the last decade of this century, a new page of history has been turned, as comfort women from Asia have broken their 50 years of silence to demand justice and legal recognition of rape/sexual slavery as a war crime and crimes against humanity.



The Comfort Women



At the very time the Asian comfort women came forward, thousands of women were suffering from mass-rape and other forms of sexual violence in former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Indonesia, Columbia and other situations of war and armed conflict.

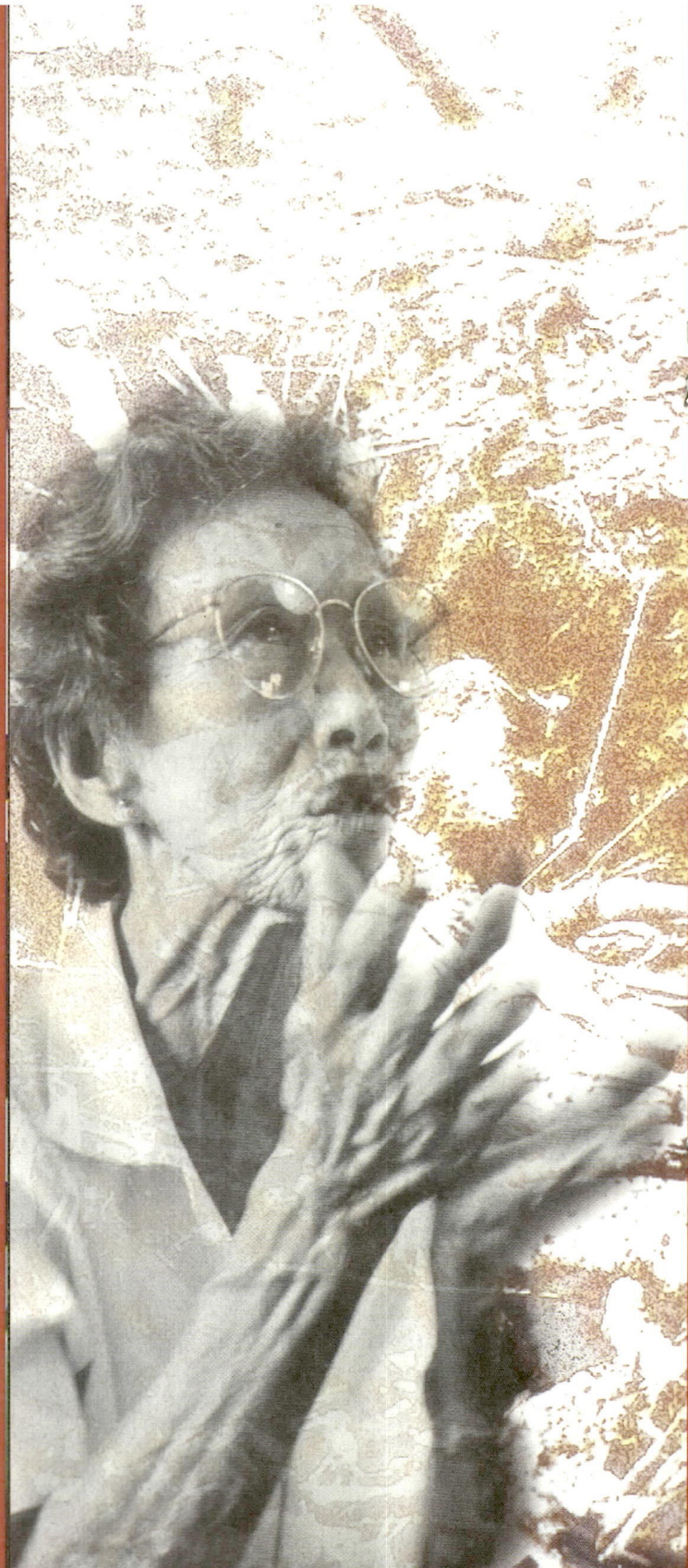
Owing to the global campaign for women's human rights, rape and sexual violence was prosecuted for the first time, although inadequately, at the International War Crimes Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The Statute of the International Criminal Court adopted in 1998 clearly defined rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and gender based persecution, as a war crime and a crime against humanity.

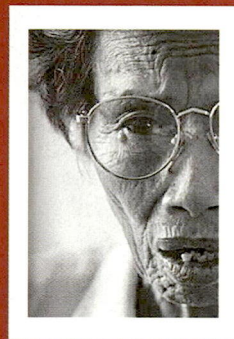
The platform for action adopted by the Beijing UN World Conference in 1995 stated that violence against women in war and armed conflict situations (including rape and military sexual slavery) constituted a war crime.

United Nations Special Rapporteur Rhadhika Coomaraswamy's 1996 Report on the comfort women and Gay McDougall's 1998 Report, both submitted to the Commission and Sub-Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, emphasized the need to end the cycle of impunity for sexual slavery and recommended both state reparation and accountability by the Japanese government.

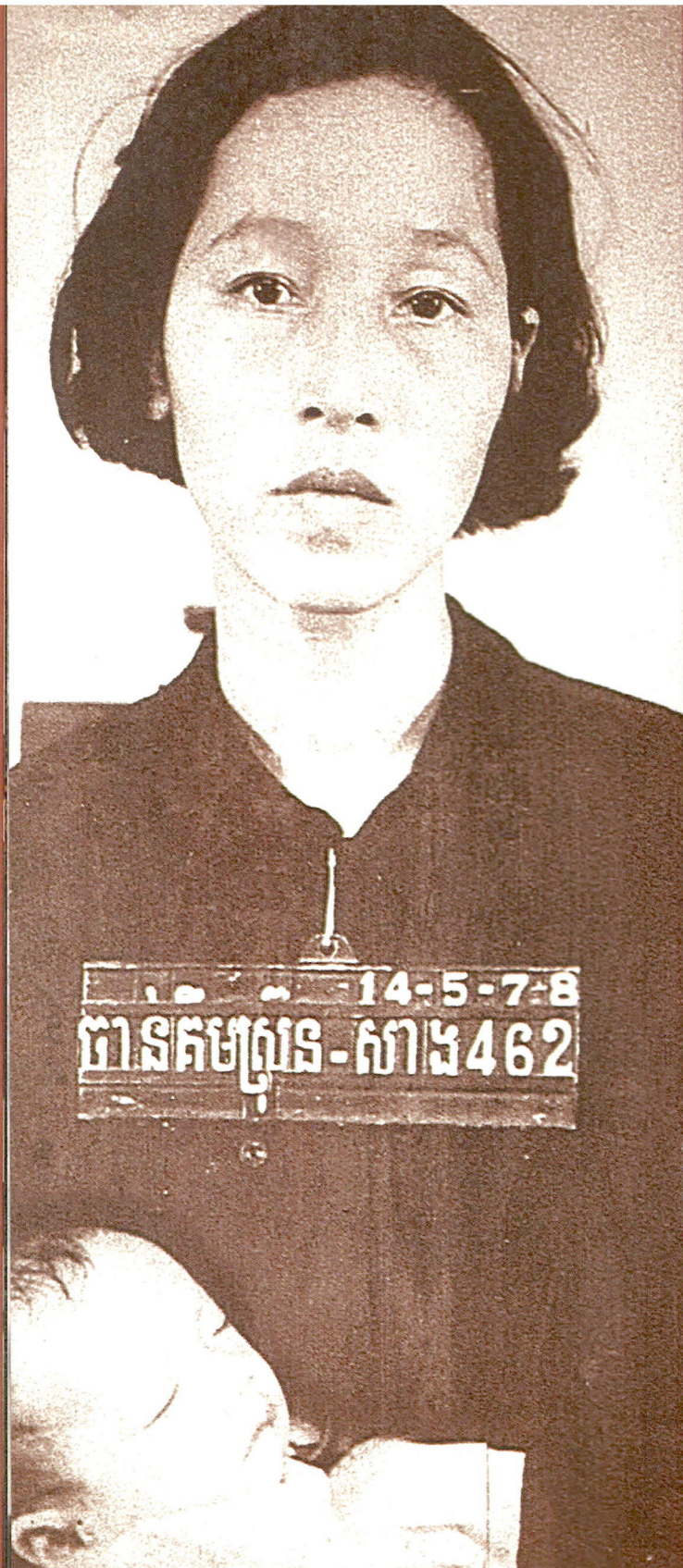
They also stated, in consideration of the advanced age of the survivors, that immediate reparations be made. The Japanese government however continues to deny any legal responsibility for the military sexual slavery committed during the Second World War.



Objectives:



- To receive from each country the evidence highlighting the grave nature of the crimes committed against the Comfort Women and to clarify the consequent responsibility of the Japanese Government and its military;
- To have a clear analysis of the gendered nature of the crimes and to establish a gender-sensitive approach to the issues of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;
- To involve the international community in shedding light about the nature of the crimes committed against the comfort women of Asia and to identify steps to be taken by the Japanese Government.
- To create an international movement supporting women's issues on violence against women under war and armed conflict situations; and
- To end impunity of wartime sexual violence against women and to prevent such crimes from happening in the future.



Current War Crimes



On the occasion of the Tokyo Tribunal, there will also be a one-day public hearing on current violence committed against women in war.

Because rape and other forms of sexual violence have been viewed as an inevitable consequence of war, the atrocities women have experienced are nowhere to be found in the pages of history. Systematic violence as a strategy of war reinforces the notion that women are objects to be abused — especially in times of war. Women are raped as part of the aggressive culture of war.

The international community has only recently begun to address the suffering of women in war and conflict situations. But sexual violence against women is still one of the most common and widespread violations of human rights.

Today, recent history echoes the atrocities of the past. Women continue to be targeted because of their role and place in communities, because of their ethnic, cultural or religious background, but above all, because they are women. Women in the Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, East Timor, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Colombia, Guatemala, Sudan and other countries share this terrible heritage.

The time has come to listen to the cries of women violated in war and end the impunity for the perpetrators of this violence.



The International Organizing Committee



The Victimized Countries

Represented by Yun Chung-Ok

- South Korea:** The Korean Council for the Women
Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by
Japan
- North Korea:** Pacific War Compensation Committee
- China:** Shanghai Research Center on Comfort
Women
- Taiwan:** Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation
- Philippines:** The Asian Centre for Women's Human
Rights (ASCENT)
- Indonesia:** Jakarta Legal Aid Foundation (LBH)
- Netherlands
Malaysia**

Japan Organizing Committee (VAWW-NET Japan)
Represented by Yayori Matsui

International Advisory Committee
Represented by: Indai Lourdes Sajor

Ariane Brunet (Canada)
Charlotte Bunch (USA)
Florence Butegwa (Uganda)
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Marieme Helie Lucas (Algeria/France)
Lepa Mladjenovic (Yugoslavia)
Vahida Nainar (India)
Edna Aquino (Amnesty International)

Legal Advisors:

Theo van Boven (Maastricht University, the Netherlands)
Rhonda Copelon (City University of New York, USA)

Secretariat for the Current War Crimes Public Hearing:

Women's Caucus for Gender Justice (New York, USA)



the four corners represent the global spectrum of violence against women in war and armed conflict it is far reaching in the north, south, east and west, affecting different nationalities

the **Sun** illuminates and represents triumph

the **Candle** represents vigil and justice

the **Flower** represents hope, peace and nurtures life

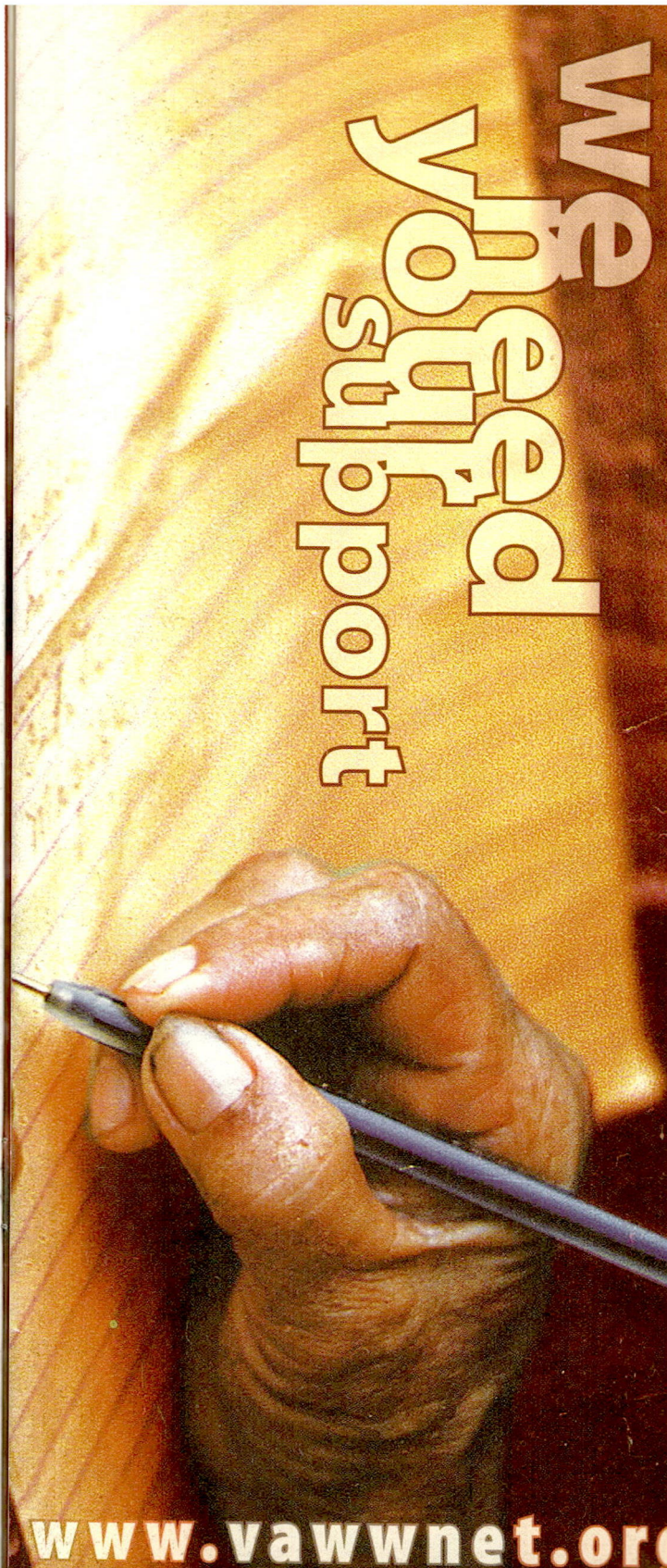
the **Eye** represents all the women survivors of war crimes and the women who are fighting for this cause

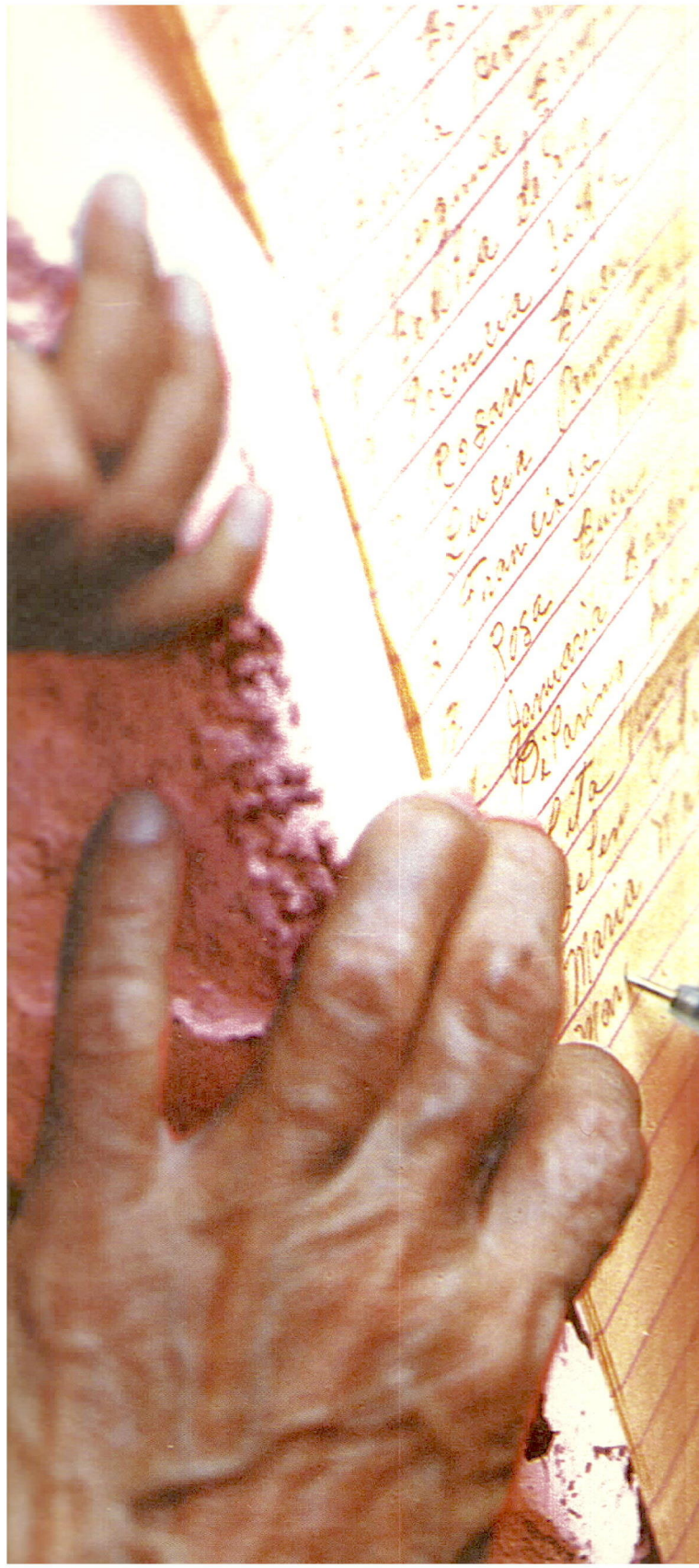
the four images come together to form a unifying element

the four colors speak for the dynamics of the movement and its goals in a positive way

Photos by Itoh Takasi and ASCENT; Logo Design and Art Direction by MindBox Graphic Concepts & Design, Philippines Tel.: (632) 436-3396; E-mail: mind_box@hotmail.com

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