

Dear Yayori, Dear Yun, Dear Friends,

First of all I would like to thank Yun Chung Ok, Milkang and others for taking good care of me when I was in Seoul last February, most especially for Chung Ok who took time to come to my hotel at 5 o'clock in the morning in the cold of winter to bring me to the airport and to make sure that I get to the plane. Her presence gave me the emotional support I needed for my daughter's crisis as I also try to cope with it. She is now settled with me and we are working together to understand teenage problems and mothers' intervention.

I know that we have been trying to arrive at a decision on where to hold the judgement, the debate between the Hague and New York has taken its toll on us, an unnecessary exercise if we had been more decisive and collective in our thinking and actions. We have lost a lot of momentum due to that indecisiveness. As the process leading to it made us tired instead of inspiring us to move in unity to ensure that the historical judgment be made once and for all for the victims and survivors that have been awaiting for it. I also admit that I was disillusioned by the process of our decision making in Seoul. Your letter after I came back from Seoul demoralized me further as you gave me the sole responsibility of organizing it in the Hague.

The decision done in my absence, was altered from the decision that we agreed when I was present. It lacked the collective wisdom and cooperation necessary from the IOC who made the Tokyo Tribunal possible. I do not agree with the idea that organizing it in the Hague, the entire burden will just be my responsibility - simply because we may be able to get some funding >from the donors of whom I haven't written yet. I would be inspired if we work together and take on the collective responsibility the way we have envisioned it all the way. This is the last leg of the historical work that we have worked so hard for, let us do it together again.

I was informed by Eleanor in the last meeting in NY that the choice is finally the Hague. After giving it much thought despite the pressure that it would put on me, I now agree to organize it in the Hague. But I also want corresponding responsibilities from the convenor countries:

1. ASCENT through my lead will spearhead the organizing of the judgment in the Hague. This would mean: staying in the Hague for three weeks; setting up the conference secretariat; coordinate with supporting organizations who

will lend us their name to send visa invitations to victimized countries and other participants needing visa; coordinate with local NGOs, human rights groups, law groups, humanitarian societies, peace groups etc to attend the judgement; prepare the venue; work out itinerary from airport to hotel and conference site; block off hotel bookings; and other related secretariat matters.

2. Finance for the Hague judgement: I will try my best to raise funds considering the limited time possible which would mean raising funds for the travel fare of the four judges, chief prosecutor Tina; two legal advisors Rhonda, Barbara; participants from East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines, Dutch comfort woman Jan O Hearn and her prosecutor Grant Niemann; cost of the venue;

Japan will take care of China participants, travel and hotel accommodations plus one legal advisor Kelly Dawn Askin and South Korea will take care of North Korea travel and hotel accommodations plus one legal advisor Betty Murungi. The three countries will also send invitations worldwide to encourage participants to attend the judgment in the Hague at their own expense.

3. Media: Japan has the masterlist of the media that attended the Tokyo Tribunal, therefore it is logical for Japan to send out again the invitation to these media people. Other countries would likewise do their share of inviting media people from their countries.

4. Program: The program will be collectively decided by the IOC in cooperation with the legal advisors through the email and we will reproduce it in the Hague.

5. Enforcement of the Judgement: should be collectively done by IOC and all countries: Bringing it to UN Secretary General Kofi Anan and other UN mechanisms; submitting it to the Foreign Ministry of Japan and other foreign Ministries of our countries and other like minded countries; Submitting it to the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands; European Union; UN High Commissioner Mary Robinson; UNHCR; UN Commission on the Status of Women; CEDAW; to the presiding judge of the existing War Crimes Tribunals; ILO; UN Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commissions; to Humanitarian Societies and international law societies etc;

6. Schedule of the judgment: tentatively towards the third week of May.

7. Celebration: For the comfort women survivors and celebration can be planned on the evening of the judgment. Cultural groups should be contacted based in the Netherlands.

The judges and legal advisors are working very hard to put their judgment together. They are conscious that this is a most awaited judgment and would be written in the annals of history of international law and humanitarian law. It is an addendum to the Far East Tribunal and these judgment will forever be different in its legal pronouncements because of the nature of the crimes against humanity committed through sexual slavery and the gender perspective in its analysis. As they put their legal mind into it, we await >from a distance, giving them their space and integrity as they craft the awaited judgement.

We could never thank them enough for the personal commitment and sacrifices they have given to the struggle of the former comfort women, who in their advanced age, got their sense of justice from these honorable judges and the people of the world.

With this I close, with a promise that I will do my best together with you all to make the judgment a real success in the Hague.

With much love and respect,

Indai Sajor
Co-convenor