

VOW FOR THE RENUNCIATION OF WAR
AND
IMPRESSIONS AFTER HEARING THE TESTIMONIES

<COLLECTED OPINIONS>

FORCED ARMY "COMFORT WOMEN"

5TH MIE MEETING
FORUM TO PONDER ON THE WAR VICTIMS IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC
REGION AND ENGRAVE IT IN OUR MIND

AUGUST 22, 1992, YOKKAICHI
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EDITED BY THE MIE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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[Witnesses]

1. H a k u d o u N a g a t o m i (Born in 1916)

Just after the 1937 Nanjing Incident, he visited Nanjing as a student. Then he both saw and took part in the massacre. Next year he took charge of setting up "Comfort Place" as a civilian employee in the army, buying Chinese women for one hundred yen each and sending them to the Comfort Place.

When he continued his activities because he could not understand that Japan had been defeated, he was arrested by the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Then he lived in a concentration camp for 13 years as a war criminal. During this period he considered his killing of many Chinese people, and admitted. "Though our crime is unpardonable, I will talk about it so as to make amends." Last year he broke his silence and has testified regarding to activities of the former Japanese Army.

2. K a n g T e o k K e u n g (Born in 1929)

In 1942 when she was a thirteen years old student at the National school in Keisyuu Nandou, she obeyed a command from a Japanese teacher, "You must go to Japan to join the Women's Patriot Service Brigade to serve the Emperor and the Nation". Then she took a ship from Pusang to Fukuoka Prefecture and then went to Toyama Prefecture. There she suffered from hunger and long hours of work in an airplane parts factory. After running away three times she was arrested and taken to a comfort place in Japan.

She now lives in a warehouse in Souel. She was angry at "the Japanese government's statement that women had not been taken against their will". This aroused her to testify.

3. Y i Y o u n g S u (Born in 1928)

One day in the summer of 1944, she heard from her friend's mother "If you become an adopted daughter, you could get enough food and live well." Then she went to the place she was told and found a Japanese man waiting for her. She was taken by him from Dalian(China) to Taiwan in early 1945 by ship. In this comfort place she was forced to serve members of the special attack corps, and was tortured with electric shocks when she tried to refuse.

She hasn't revealed to her neighbour the fact that she was a comfort women. However, She has resolved to tell the truth so that the public may be aware of the existence of "comfort women" and so that the Japanese government may be forced to take suitable steps.

5TH MIE MEETING

FORUM TO PONDER ON THE WAR VICTIMS IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION AND ENGRAVE IT IN OUR MIND

<Comments of those in their teens>

1. Natsumitsu Senda, in "Women's Lamentation" writes that human beings become temporarily psychopathic when they are put in an extreme situation. The Japanese are now blamed by other countries for all the cruel deeds of the Japanese imperial soldiers, but I think only those who fought on the front line can tell why they did such terrible things. If they had not killed their enemies, they would themselves have been killed. I have never experienced war myself, but I understand that women have always been oppressed throughout history. I think that there are many women victims, and that Japan must make up for its past crimes against them. (Female)

2. I imagined if my sister or girlfriend being suddenly taken away from me, and I understood the terrible situation of Ms Yi and Ms Kang. Since I am still young, I can look at this problem only in this way, but even older and more mature Japanese politicians cannot imagine such a thing. I am very much ashamed of them. (Male)

3. I do not know how to put this into words. Anyway I thought we must not

repeat war which hurts people's feelings so much. Of course I have no war experience myself but I will carefully keep the recording of today's testimonies and pass it on to other people. I want to thank the three people who testified today. Thank you very much for today's testimonies. (M)

4. I was ashamed of being Japanese attending this meeting for the first time. This is because I knew that Japanese had killed innocent local people during the war, but I had not heard such testimonies. I think all Japanese people should be aware of this issue. However, very few people are at present. The Japanese government should act to honor the memory of the war victims. (F)

5. I realized fully that we have to think over this vital issue not only in the terms of the problems of history, but also in terms of women's problems. As one of the Japanese I can't forgive these cruel deeds. As long as such questions remains unresolved, Japanese internationalization is an illusion. I'm anxious about Japanese education. I will remember their courage and tears. I am very grateful to them. (F)

6. I didn't know the war was so terrible. When one thinks of the oppression of the Chinese people, it is natural they have hard feelings toward the Japanese. It is important that Japan should compensate for the crimes. (M)

7. I oppose both the current proposal, "Overseas dispatch of the PKO bill" and also the present government. I have never experienced war myself. All I know comes from the film and books. Although some young people agree with that bill, we must learn more and more about the war itself. As for me I knew about the

forced army "comfort women". But there are many people who don't know even that word. (M)

<Comments of those in their 20s>

1. As a Japanese it is painful to listen to these testimonies. The two women's testimonies are beyond our imagination. Why did the Japanese soldiers do such terrible things to other human beings? I feel strong compassion for these women because they have lived with such painful memories. (F)

2. I have felt that Japan is a country that I cannot be proud of and today I feel this more strongly. However, since I am Japanese, I strongly feel that we have to cope with the anger and demands of other countries. We should immediately apologize and compensate for the mistakes that Japan has committed. (F)

3. I was impressed by Mr. Nagatomi's words, when he said, "when I felt thankful that I was alive. I thought of the sufferings and resentment of those I killed". Those words reminded me that only when man is put in extreme situations, does he understand the importance of life. These words clearly express the meaning of life. When Ms Yi said, "it is a great sin to cut off a bud which should blossom in the future" in her tearful voice, these words sounded so pitiful to me. It is so frightening to imagine being in her place. But only in that way we can understand their pain and sufferings. I felt the same way when I listened to Ms Kang's story. When I imagined that what happened to them might have happened to some of my relatives, their stories sounded so real to me. I will try to understand today's three testimonies better and have them down to the younger generation. With a prayer and a resolve not to repeat such tragedies. (F)

4. I thought I had learned something about the problems of North and South Koreans living in Japan, but I was surprised and ashamed to hear so many facts that I did not know or had not been told. My parents were born between 1925 and 1934 and they have often told me about their hard lives and about the frightening air raids during the war. So I had long regarded Japan as a war victim (due to what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki). After more than 40 years, "Japan's wrong deeds" have begun to receive attention and we have begun to learn facts which we had never been told before. Why were those facts kept from us for such a long time? The Japanese often say "let bygones be bygones" but can we say that of World War II? Japan has prospered due to rapid economic growth after the war. However, if we look at "the advance of Japanese companies" or "the export of pollution by Japanese companies" to other Asian countries, they could be seen as the economic version of what Japan did to them during the war (invasion). The other day I read in the newspaper of people's opinions that the soldiers of World War II plead their innocence by saying they only obeyed the Japanese army's orders, and that the present Japanese company workers say they only do what their companies tell them to do. Does that mean the Japanese are as ugly as before and that they have been pursuing only their own profits? Japan is often compared with Germany in terms of war compensation but the Japanese constitution only recently guaranteed the rights of "its citizens" and does not yet pay any attention to fundamental human rights, does it? I feel sad about Japanese' narrow-mindedness. I think today's testimonies should be heard by all the Japanese and that we must make efforts to build a better society. (F)

5. Japan is now a prosperous country in many ways. But someday Japan will decline. If Japan continues its present attitude towards foreign countries, who

will try to help Japan when it decline? No country will turn to Japan when it has no money any more. Especially there will be no Asian countries if Japan continues to look down on them. Then the Japanese who are ignorant of or indifferent to the war will regret their attitude. But then it will be too late. I hope Japan changes its attitude towards other countries. (M)

6. As Ms Kang has said lastly, listening to the speech alone is not enough. We have to put pressure on the government to compensate the former "comfort women" immediately. We also should tell our children of this problem. (F)

7. I was very shocked. Their live voices carry more weight than a recording. I felt keenly that my ideas were wrong. I really thank them for coming to Japan to tell of their painful experiences. And I'm sorry for the way the Japanese government ignored them. It's hard to testify. But it is worse not to admit the facts, and I am ashamed of such a situation. (F)

8. I have many mixed feelings. I'm very sorry for the people caught up in the battlefield, the occupation and for the forced army "comfort women". When I think of the war, all that comes to mind is the atomic bomb. I believe that we must not go to war again. Today's meeting reinforced this belief. (F)

9. I feel indignant that the former "comfort women" themselves had to give testimonies to make the government apologize and compensate for their crime. Why doesn't the government act? I feel the same way as Ms Kang. "Without apology and compensation, there can be no real friendship between the young people of Korea and Japan." Also I can't forgive Japanese soldiers who assaulted Chinese

women. I've heard that it couldn't be helped because of situation. But still I can't understand it. It was pure perversion. (F)

10. This is the first time to hear these testimonies, and I am glad to attend this meeting. I was moved by the power of their testimonies. It is terrible that soldiers like Mr. Nagatomi were "produced" by the policy of Japanese government. It is vital that we take action, based on our own opinions. The precious testimonies of former army "comfort women" should be used in the future, and I must tell other people. We should all be spokesmen of this meeting. We must accept their appeals and force the government to apologize and compensate by telling the facts of the past to other people. We should also protect our human rights. (F)

11. This is the first time I heard the former "comfort women" relating their experiences. I was very shocked. It is painful to hear how many Asians including Koreans suffered from the war in which they were victims of the Japanese government. (F)

12. I was lucky to hear these vivid testimonies. Although we are too young to have seen the war, we have to think over the problems of compensation and spread the word about the injustices. (F)

13. This kind of issue should be handed down to young people. As a Japanese I was angry and am ashamed of the government's attitude. Many young people are quite uninterested even in the PKO bill. Almost fifty years have passed since the war. This time gap makes us forget the aggression, doesn't it? Looking

forward to the 21st century we have to reconsider the renunciation of war. Because we need to accept this "negative heritage". (M)

14. During this annual meeting, I felt that we must reconsider the history of the war. The former army "comfort women" are still alive, so the problem is not just in the past. It is vital that we handle this issue. However, it is difficult to see the connection between the lives of former "comfort women" and that of present-day Japanese who have been lulled by the years of peace. Did we hear their demanding an apology? Is the apology only the government's business, not own? I hope this meeting has a lasting influence. (M)

<Comments of those in their 30s>

1. I am ashamed to have come here to listen to their testimonies without being prepared for such tragic stories. Weak people are always oppressed and a country, a strong power, which is unknown to us ordinary citizens, is always an oppressor. Such a fact makes me angry but I do not know what to do. Anyway, I think the first thing I should do is to tell today's testimonies to my friends and acquaintances. (F)

2. It seems to me too late to hear those testimonies over forty years after the war. Many Japanese who took those Korean woman away from their homes and humiliated them must still be alive. How do they feel now? Are they living bearing a cross of their own sins? Or have they forgotten everything? And did those who are no longer alive die keeping such a sinful act hidden in their own minds? Or are they making an excuse, saying it could not be helped in the war? When a person tramples on other people's happiness, does he lose his own human feelings and does he feel no compassion for other people's pain any more? The victimized women had to live without security even after the war. The Japanese forgot what they had done to other Asian people during the war, and they go on tours to buy Asian women! It is natural that Japan is despised by other Asian countries. It is too late, but there still may be something we can do to compensate for the crimes committed by the Japanese. (F)

3. I am 36-year old housewife. To tell the truth I was ignorant of Japanese soldiers' cruelty until about 10 years ago. When I read Mr.Seiichi Morimura's book, "the Gluttony of the Devil", which describes the 731 Corps in detail, I

was shocked both by the great crimes committed by the Japanese army and also I was angry because no one had told me the truth. What made the Japanese soldier do such terrible things? I tried to find the answer as a Japanese and as a fellow human being. I am still looking for the answer. I strongly believe that human beings can be devils in certain circumstances. It is important to know the truth. No matter how ugly the truth is, we must never cover it up. Every Japanese must know the truth. Unless you know the truth, you cannot give a correct judgment. After finding the truth, we can think what we should do, what is the best thing for us to do. I thank you very much for those who gave their precious testimonies and I admire their courage. (F)

4. Since I am also a woman, I feel as if it had been my own affair. The basis of it all is discrimination -- discrimination against women, and discrimination against Koreans. Their testimonies made me sad and pessimistic but I listened to them very carefully, taking notes. Thank you very much. (F)

5. Thank you very much, Mr. Nagatomi, Ms Kang and Ms Yi. I will remember today's testimonies and tell the truth to younger people so that the Japanese may continue to consider them. Today's testimonies reminded me of the 90 years old Haraboji's words whom I met at Utoro District in Kyoto last year. (F)

6. Those women were robbed of the most sensitive and innocent age of their teens by the inhuman policy of the Japanese army. They are still suffering from those experiences, both mentally and physically, without speaking of their pain for all those years after the war. It was so pitiful to hear Ms Kang say, "Half of my resentment disappeared after speaking out the truth today". We have not

done anything to help them yet. This issue is the issue that all of us Japanese must consider seriously. (F)

7. If I had joined the army as a soldier, I might have been one of those oppressors. So we have to make daily efforts to prevent war in order not to create such an inhuman situation again. But when I look at present-day Japan, I feel disgusted. No one can truly understand the sufferings or pain of those who testified today except themselves. I wish I had an imagination strong enough to understand and share their sufferings and pain. (M)

8. The testimonies made my heart ache. It was outrageous. As a teacher, I have told my students that peace is important, and that war is wrong but I think that I had failed to understand how ugly war can be. I will remember what I have heard today and pass it on to my students. I will tell them never to go to war again! (M)

9. I believe that teachers can do many things and have a great influence on their students. I will tell my students the truth about Japan's war of aggression. I believe that like Germany we must take the responsibility for our past. (M)

10. The Japanese Liberal Democratic Party government and the Japanese monopolistic capitalists who back the government are now trying to make Japan the leader of Asia again and are trying to trample on the Asian continent and its peoples. We must not send the Self-Defense Forces of Japan overseas. What can I do to prevent it? As a teacher, I have kept talking about a war of

aggression, the divine right and the Emperor system of Japan and Japanese militarism in my class. Now that I have listened to the testimonies of the Korean comfort women myself, I am lost for words. I would like to make the most of their precious testimonies by sharing what I have heard with my students.(F)

11. I was overcome with emotion when I heard the testimonies as a Japanese. I'm very sorry for them. Their fear of the PKO bill is important. We must not repeat war again and we Japanese have to stop the PKO however we can. What shall we do? This meeting made me think again about the importance of peace.(F)

12. I didn't know about the Japanese invasion at all. The Japanese government should deal with this problem as a member of the international community. I hope the government will act with common sense. (F)

13. I am touched with their courage. According to the testimonies of the Japanese, I think Mr. Nagatomi is also a "victim". What can I do for them? (F)

14. "The war is never over" I have learned this the hard way. The appeal of Ms. Kang "Apologize from your heart." sticks in my mind. I'm very sorry to hear her experiences of cruelty as a result of the thoughtlessness of the Japanese government. This makes me very angry as one of the Japanese people who collectively condone the government's attitude. Although the war was fought by another generation, it is we of this generation who should apologize to the victims. Individuals have no power but I'm sure by uniting we may influence the government. So I want to help them. (F)

15. I'm an elementary school teacher. I have learned about KYOUSEIRENKOU (taking by force) and SOUSHIKAIMEI (forcing foreigners to change their names to Japanese names). I keenly felt their resentment, hearing their live testimonies. I'm very sorry for it. (F)

16. It's in the first time I have been to one of these meetings. It is hard enough to understand their pain. But I resolve to honor their memory by joining in various activities. (F)

17. Their testimonies were more vivid than I expected. We should spread the message of this meeting so that victims still be compensated for our nation's crimes. Though I want to apologize to them personally today, I couldn't summon the courage to do it. So I did it in my heart. I hope the two women can have a good life from now on. I will remember Ms.Kang's saying that our mother or grandmother could have been in their place, and Ms.Yi's demand for an apology. (F)

18. When I heard my father nearly went to the front during the war. I came to realized that the war is my concern too. If the war had not finished on Aug. 15, I would not have been born. I am glad that I attended this meeting. (N)

19. I am relieved that people like Mr.Nagatomi want to atone for past crimes with courage. At the same time I feel angry with that there are only four people who have come forward. The Japanese should react to the passionate appeal of the former "comfort women", who are ready to give their energy by testifying. As a teacher I feel responsible for teaching about our crime and about the

brutalization of these women in the invasion. I want to join the movement demanding a government apology. The facts should be investigated and the victims should be compensated. (M)

20. I felt as if my heart had broken when I heard Ms Yi speak excitedly. I do not know what to say. It is clear that Japan must atone for its crime, but I am afraid the Japanese do not have much sense of guilt. While listening to the testimonies of the two women, I wondered why the present old and middle-aged Japanese had often been told to regard war experiences as a great honor by their elders. I strongly believe that the first step for us Japanese to atone for our past crime is to listen carefully to the testimonies of those people who were victimized by us. (M)

21. My heart ached to hear of the tragedies by war. I sincerely hope that their humiliated bodies and souls will recover. (M)

22. I would like to thank those who testified their painful experiences in the very country which oppressed them. They would never have normally related such experiences. This issue should not be treated as a temporary fashion. With this occasion as a start, we must campaign to demand the admission of our war responsibility and compensation to the former army "comfort women" and other Asian war victims. This is a historical mission linking Japan's past, present and future. (M)

"I am a Christian and yet I tortured and killed Chinese people".

A former Japanese soldier declared his remorse in the meeting in Tsu.



* [A member of the audience listening to the testimonies of a former comfort women at the prefectural social welfare building in Sakurabashi, Tsu]

The 5th Mie Meeting, "Forum to Ponder on the War Victims in the Asian-Pacific Region and Engrave It in Our Mind." (sponsored by the Executive Committee) was held at the Prefectural Social and Educational Center at

Sakurabashi, Tsu on 23rd August. Two Korean women related their tragic experiences a former forced army comfort women during the war. It was the second meeting, after the one held in Yokkaichi the day before.

Testimonies were given by Mr. Hakudou Nagatomi (76), who took part in the massacre of Chinese people as a former Japanese soldier and spent 13 years in a concentration camp as a war criminal, Ms Yi Young Su (63) and Ms Kang Teok Keung (63), both of whom were former forced army comfort women.

Mr. Nagatomi confessed, "I was a Buddhist when I was a child and became a Christian when I was a student, so I never killed even a tiny insect. But I tortured and killed Chinese people for the sake of the emperor".

He also testified that the Japanese army raped many women and emphasized, "my sins will never go away but I will do my best to prevent young people from repeating the same thing".

Ms Yi testified, "when I was forced to satisfy Japanese soldiers' sexual appetite, I tried to resist them. They put electric wire around my wrists and gave me electric shocks", showing the scars on her wrists. Ms Kang also spoke of her hard life as a comfort woman, sometimes in a shrill nervous voice.

***** (Mainichi Newspaper, on August 24, 1992)

<Comments of those in their 40s>

1. I never saw my father because he was killed in the war and the word, war, always makes me sad. While I was listening to Ms Yi's testimony, I kept saying to myself, "Was my father one of them? No, he wasn't because I was told he was a second class soldier in the navy and that he was sent to Siberia and died of illness in the state of Chita..." Such a disgraceful fact was hidden from the Japanese for a long time, but now after 47 years it has come into the open and is now causing much controversy throughout Japan. All Japanese must know the truth, which is that Japan invaded other countries. How should Japan compensate for its great crimes? How can Japan heal the oppressed people's humiliated minds? All of us must ask these questions. I believe the fact should be put in elementary school textbook so that even small children may know them. I sincerely hope this will be done soon. (F)

2. We must praise Mr. Nagatomi's courage. The war for which Japan was responsible was fought not in Japan but in foreign countries. Japan victimized and oppressed many people of other countries, but such facts were hidden from the Japanese after the war. In this way Japan committed one crime after another. The emperor's responsibility, the responsibility of the ordinary Japanese must be admitted, and compensations for our crimes must be paid.

After listening to the testimonies of Ms Yi and Ms Kang, I imagine their resentment and pain, and feel terribly sorry for them. I was born after the war but I think the Japanese society which kept those facts from us for a long time is a strange society. I believe the purpose of education is to teach students

how to live, "how to love others as we love ourselves" based on the facts of history. I am afraid Ms Yi, Ms Kang and the Mugunfa Sisters will have a hard life in Korea. I believe Japan has to take concrete measures to help them immediately. Thank you very much. Shall we, ordinary people, start to do something to support them? (F)

3. Thank you very much for your very precious testimonies today, Mr. Nagatomi, Ms Kang and Ms Yi. I participate in the peace march in Yokkaichi every year as a member of the Coop and am determined to prevent Japan from moving towards war again. However, the PKO bill was passed and the units of Self-Defense Force of Japan will be sent Cambodia soon. I heard they are going to be supplied with contraceptives. The thought that they are going to repeat the same mistake again makes me angry. (F)

4. I heard the truth for the first time at this meeting. What kind of human beings can treat others so brutally? I will join the campaign to demand that the Japanese government take responsibility for the crimes. (F)

5. I believe Japan (the Japanese army) must apologize to those women and compensate them for its crimes. (F)

6. I read in the Asahi Newspaper that condoms will be supplied to those who will be sent overseas in the PKO force. Are they going to repeat the same shameful act? How should we educate the Japanese so that they may never repeat such disgraceful acts? (F)

7. Ms Yi and Ms Kang suffered much more than ordinary Koreans. Everything they said was a great shock to me because I have no war experience. I do not know how much I can respond to their calls but I am determined to cooperate with them, who have come all the way to Japan from Korea. I will try to support them in their efforts to bring peace and a decent life. Today's testimonies taught me how important it is to build a peaceful world. (F)

8. They could not get married. They must carry their sufferings and pain all through their lives. How sad and pitiful! I feel really sorry for them. (F)

9. It wrings my heart to listen to their tragic testimonies. Since I was born during the war, I lived for many years without knowing anything about those facts. But I believe the Japanese must apologize to them for all the sins of our predecessors after hearing today's testimonies. If the present Japanese government officials feel guilty and if they are willing to apologize, the PKO bill should not have been passed. War should never be repeated. (F)

10. I would like to thank Ms Yi and Ms Kang from the bottom of my heart for sharing their experience with us. I will never forget today's testimonies. I will tell them to my children. Their words pierced through my heart, transcending countries and ages, even though I have no war experience. I want to learn more about the crimes committed in the Japanese invasion. I want to consider what we can do now and what we will be able to do in the future to compensate for our crimes. I sincerely hope that both compensation and apologies will be given to those who suffered. I intend to join in the campaign to demand compensation and apologies. I hope they will live long enough to see their goal achieved. (F)

11. The Japanese have committed an irreparable mistakes. What shall we do? I believe the Japanese government must do something promptly to compensate for it. At the same time as Japanese we must admit, for the sake of our children, the crimes our predecessors have committed. What shall we do? (F)

12. It was a very impressive meeting. How can we cope with the Asian invasion by the Japanese imperialists? Just to say, "it was a mistake" or "we are sorry" is not enough. How should we respond to the testimonies of the former comfort women who testified their experiences as it were with tears of blood? Of course we must compensate for what Japan did during the war, but that is not enough. The Japanese government is now trying to gloss over its aggression. At the same time, Japan is moving towards another act of aggression. Sending the Self-Defense Force to Cambodia with PKO must not be allowed. I believe that it is our mission to prevent it by being distributed making sacrifices in order to respond to today's appeals. Why are condoms to the members of the Self-Defense Force? It means that they are going to trample on Asian women in the same way as the Japanese imperialist soldiers did by their sexual exploitation. We will never allow that to happen again. I hope all those who attended this meeting will do their best to fight against the PKO bill and campaign to prevent the Self-Defense Force from sending its members overseas. (M)

13. I was shocked to learn from my high school teacher history that Japan was the aggressor and not a victim of the war. How terrible it must have been for 12 to 13 year old girls when they were forced to become comfort women. The Japanese massacred other Asian people, young and old, men and women. They burned houses with people inside. All these facts were a great shock to me and made me angry.

I heard of some of these incidents on TV or in the newspaper before August 15, the anniversary of the Japanese defeat in the war. I think these facts should be made known to more people. I will tell as many people as possible. (M)

14. I cannot describe my feelings towards these former forced comfort women. I cannot even stand other people's violent words... Their cries of blood and tears..Today's testimonies have affected me so much that I barely have the strength to stand. (M)

15. I had learned about the war only through books before. Today I have heard the stories of those who were victimized and hurt by the war told in their own voice. I will reconsider war myself and tell other Japanese the truth so that war may not happen again. (M)

16. What cruel things the Japanese men have done! Didn't they even think of their own wives or daughters during the air raids? I am angry with the Japanese army and the Japanese government, but I also feel angry and sad to be Japanese. I really feel sorry for those women. (M)

17. I was very surprised to hear the former comfort women story from a friend the other day. I am ashamed to say that it was the first time for I had heard such a story. I listened to their testimonies with a tense heart. A war makes human beings inhuman. We are now in a normal state of mind and can think calmly and reasonably. But we destroys the normal order of things. If we see the first signs of war, we must nip the evil in the bud. We must build a really peaceful country. It was a memorable meeting. (M)

18. "It was as if flowers were plucked and trampled on", said Ms Yi in tears. Ms Kang said, "none of the former comfort women are now well off" and demanded an apology and compensation. Their resentment will never go away. As one of the Japanese who caused their sufferings, I will not only demand that the Japanese government give an apology and pay compensation, but also continue to raise the question of Japan's responsibility for the war and for the postwar situation. (M)

19. I now understand very well that war changes people. Books and movies tell us how dreadful war is to a certain extent, but to listen to the cries of those who have actually experienced war shows us the ugliness of war most vividly. I was also moved by their courage and felt I should do something for them. First I will tell the truth to people around me. I think all of us Japanese must join in demanding that the Japanese government compensate for its past mistakes, and that Japan must take responsibility as the representative of the Japanese people. I also think that the imperial system must be abolished. We say all human beings are equal but to recognize a higher level in our society means to recognize a lower level too, which might eventually lead to war. (M)

20. It seems to me that the recent passage of the PKO bill creates a dangerous situation for Japan. It is a lie to say Japan is going to contribute to the international world. The fact that Japan is against many peace treaties proves that. We must oppose the PKO bill. Also when the Japanese go on a trips abroad, they should stop hiring "girls" for pleasure. (M)

21. We cannot make an excuse by saying we did not know that Japan committed so many crimes during the war. The issue of the forced army "comfort women" has only just started. What can I do to help? First we must know the concrete facts, put ourselves in the victims's place and learn how they suffered. The vivid description of their experiences, Japan's having trampled on others' lives -- these facts are real history which we cannot forget even though it happened 50 years ago. We cannot excuse ourselves by saying we have nothing to do with those crimes because they were committed by our fathers' and grandfathers' generations. Unless compensation is paid to these victims, we will pass on the problem to the next generation. Emperor Showa died without accepting his duty, but the current emperor must inherit that responsibility. It is painful to listen to the testimonies of the women of my mother's generation. I want to tell what has been imposed on those women by war to people who are carried away in present "peaceful" condition of Japan. The threat of war is now returning because the PKO bill has been passed. I hope there will be a mounting public opposition to it. That can be part of our response to the appeal of these victimized people's. We must think how to make sincere and true apology and compensation. Every time altheas bloom in my garden, I will remember today's two women and other women who have the same experience. In reality we cannot trust our nation. Each one of us must struggle to build a fortress of peace. (M)

22. I had known of the Japanese invasion during the 15-year war through books, but hearing true stories firsthand was a moving experience. In particular, the testimonies of former "comfort women", their cries from the bottom of their hearts, reminded me that my own father's generation has done these terrible things. I am very much ashamed of that and feel responsible for ensuring. Japan

will never invade other countries and other people's lives again. The passing of the PKO bill and the government's admission that condoms are included in the supplies of PKO troops to be sent overseas make me angry with the current government's policy. I cannot do much by myself, but still I will seek a way to compensate for Japan's past crimes, and I will try to do something to help former "comfort women". (M)

23. The sad stories of Ms Kang and Ms Yi reminded me of the responsibility that Japan and the Japanese people must take for what they did in the war. (M)

24. My daughter, a junior high school student, is the same age the "comfort women" who were taken forcibly, so I can fully understand their anger. I always tell my children that war is a crime. However, the present situation is that textbooks teach Japanese "invasion" in terms of "trespassing". It is important that we adults should change the government's attitude. I wish former comfort women a peaceful life. (M)

25. I listened to these accounts of what happened during the war 47 years ago and was deeply moved. The victim's sufferings live on in their voices. They said, "why do I have to say such a thing here?" and demanded "a sincere apology and compensation from Japan and the Japanese people". Despite their desperate appeals Japan has passed the PKO bill. My reaction is that I must admit I am one of the Japanese and must respond to their appeal.(To admit I am Japanese means to admit that I am also an oppressor). (F)

26. Japan is now a rich and prosperous country, but it is invading Southeast Asian countries in a different way. The problem of "comfort women" relates to today's problems. War is decided by the government, but we cannot talk seriously about peace unless each one of us makes a personal decision not to repeat war. I am now an elementary school teacher and so I cannot directly broach the topic of "comfort women" in my class. However, I will teach my students to think of Japan as a member of the Asian community of nations. (F)

27. When I first learned of "comfort women" through the media, I couldn't believe it. Today I listened to the experiences of former "comfort women" directly and realized how terrible were things Japan did to them. In spite of Japan's present prosperity, are hidden many people who were victimized by Japan. I feel so ashamed of that. We cannot undo what has been done, but as long as there are victims, we should endeavour to help them live a more comfortable life. I sincerely hope they will be able to live a better life. (F)

28. Not only soldiers' lives but also many others' lives were sacrificed in order to continue fighting as long as possible. I believe that only when full compensation has been paid to war victims will a true postwar age begin. With the 21st century approaching, there is a threat of another war because of PKO bill. Why has Japan passed such a bill? Don't the Japanese want to end war? I do not understand Japan's intention. Japan must fully compensate war victims for its past crimes without fail. We can say that in our affluence the Japanese are now working hard to achieve this. (F)

29. The facts are that the PKO bill has been passed and that the Self-Defense Force units are being sent to Cambodia issued with condoms. Are they going to repeat the same mistake? We must not let it happen. I have to find a way to prevent it.(F)

30. I felt so sorry to hear Ms Yi's story. I was never been told such a story in school. It is easy to say that it all happened in the midst of a war, but I will continue to think of this problem as my own problem. (F)

31. The stories that I heard before from Koreans and former Japanese soldiers had deeply impressed me. Today I listened to the women's stories for the first time. I had known about these women for quite a long time, but after hearing their stories first hand, I felt so sorry for them. As Mr. Nagatomi said, my father might have done the same things in China and as Ms Yi said, the Japanese women of my mother's generation could well have suffered in the same way. Isn't there anything that even I, who was born after the war can do to help them? Even if I oppose the PKO bill, vote conscientiously and distribute handouts, will this really help to heal their wounds in the days that remain to them? Of course it is necessary to change Japanese policies but also I will try to find what I can do in my daily life. I also learned for the first time from Mr. Nagatomi's testimony that some Japanese continued to fight even after the war and were taken to concentration camp by the Chinese Communist Party. I was impressed by his hard and courageous work. I wish all of them good health. (F)

32. In July I had a chance to remark the forced army "comfort women", and I have learned a lot. Since then I have been interested in many other incidents

during the war. When the testimonies of the two former "comfort women" were over, I could not applaud because their testimonies converged their deep wounds much more vividly than the books I have read. Their words moved me so much that I felt as if I was one of the Japanese who misused them. I am determined to tell the truth to as many people as possible myself to help them understand the part. In this way the sufferings of Ms Kang and Ms Yi who are mother's age may never be repeated. (F)

33. Finally, 47 years after the war, the fact that war compensation has not yet been made and that Japan was an oppressor during World War II is beginning come to light. Today's testimonies are one of those facts, and they made me very sad. However, I strongly hope that what has been hidden from us will be disclosed in this way. In our junior and senior high schools, we were told only the broad historical facts. I do not know whether our teachers were ignorant of the truth or whether they hid the truth from us intentionally. But since it was 30 years ago, I prefer to believe that our teachers themselves did not know the truth. I hope the Japanese will be more conscious of fact that war compensation has not been made, and that the war is not over yet. This consciousness should move the government and the Japanese people in the right direction. Unless we know the truth and do what we should do, other countries will be suspicious of and this might jeopardize Japan's survival in the future. (F)

34. It was a great shock. I wonder how they have been feeling every day. I often hear people say it could not be helped because we were in the midst of the war. But we cannot make such an excuse, and I truly feel sorry for them. I believe it is necessary to share their wounds and let the fact be known to as

many people as possible. That is now, I will take concrete step to help. (F)

35. I attended in this meeting because I heard that one of the men who abused the women would talk. It was very impressive to hear Mr. Nagatomi say, "they repressed their anger and treated us in an unbelievably human way" with deep feelings of gratitude to the Chinese. However, the testimonies of the two women (Ms Yi and Ms Kang) have changed my mind. Now I think it is impossible to forgive your enemies. What can I do...? If we wait for the Japanese government to act, it may be too late for them... This issue is related to the problem of foreigners coming to Japan to work... (F)

36. I think it is always the weaker ones such as women and children who are victimized whether they are in an oppressor country or a oppressed country. Now that Japan is going to send Self-Defense Force units, I sincerely hope war will be eliminated forever from the world. (F)

37. As a teacher, I think it is important to teach students the truth candidly and let them think for themselves. I will make efforts to spread this campaign to as many people as possible. (F)

38. I am very glad that I came to attend today's meeting. I was very much impressed by the courageous testimonies of Mr. Nagatomi, Ms Kang and Ms Yi. In particular when Ms Yi said, "I demand their sincere apology" with emotion, I could not hold back my tears. Now we are facing the very serious problem of how to respond to their appeal. As the first step I will tell the truth to people around me. First to my son. Also we have to make a petition to the Japanese government. (F)

39. In my daily life I will wonder the war is really over. In my work I will tell my students the truth and try to support those women in my own way, including teaching my students the truth about the prewar and postwar periods. (F)

40. I realized how great a sin the Japanese have committed. I feel we must not start war again. I feel sorry as a Japanese for Koreans, Chinese and other Asian people and I will do my best to compensate for our crimes. (F)

41 I was moved by the courage of Mr. Nagatomi, Ms Kang and Ms Yi. I was glad that I could listen to their stories in their own voice instead of merely reading books about them. I will tell their experiences to my friends and acquaintances as much as possible. I will not be able to do much myself to help them but I will do my best. (F)

42. Because I know a little about the "comfort women", I didn't really want to listen to their testimonies. However, listening to their testimonies in their own voices made a strong impression on me. I felt again guilty and responsible as a Japanese. (F)

43. It was a very precious experience although my heart ached to listen to their testimonies. I will further continue to make efforts to learn the truth. The Japanese men and women at home or around me who have experienced war was now living comfortable and stable old lives (can we say because the Japanese government has not made enough compensation, the Japanese now live a comfortable life?). It looks contradictory to me to see the people of the aggressor country are living a comfortable life while the people of the victimized countries are living in a inhuman life. Moreover, the Japanese do not feel guilty of this, nor think about it. This contradiction cannot be solved at an individual level, nor can it be solved by a simple apology. I want to learn how the war broke out, who profited from the war and what kind of social structure is likely to lead to war. To learn all these things and make efforts to prevent war can be our response to those who testified today. (F)

<Comments of those in their 50s>

1. My father was killed in the war and the next year I will commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death. He was a victim of the war, but at the same time he might have been one of the Japanese soldiers who killed his enemies in China. Such a thought is unbearable to me. Ms Kang applied to the women's patriotic service brigade for the sake of Japan, and yet Japan treated her so cruelly. I really feel sorry for her. Ms Kang told us the story she had never told before even to her neighbors, so today's testimony means a lot to her. I was a impressed by Mr. Nagatomi's testimony because he must feel much worse as an assailant. I admire his courage to speak out his sins in various parts of Japan to atone for them. I wish Ms Kang and Ms Yi a happy life from now on. (F)

2. I feel so ashamed of what the Japanese did during the war. While I was listening to their testimonies, I closed my hands to control my anger. (F)

3. I fully realized how cruel man can be. I thought I must stand with others who try to prevent the coming of a situation in which man loses his human heart. All of us must look back of our own lives. I think it is important for all people in the world to realize that we are the same human beings living on the same earth. (F)

4. Even if I did not understand Ms Yi's words, I strongly felt her resentment and anger. I did not know what to do when I heard her accusations. She must have been very pretty when young. Her gentle face put my mind at ease a little. Where should I direct my anger? Ms Kang looking older than her age,

showed her burning anger. I am sorried about how they are doing now? The Japanese government must disclose what happened during the war to the Japanese people instead of forcing women like them to live with in their sufferings. The government must think of the way to hand down their testimonies to the next generation. Then the government should ask its citizens whether or not to pass the PKO bill. When I thought of Japan's present economic prosperity and its past act of aggression, today's 3-hour meeting raised many serious problems. Anyway, thank you for coming all the way to Japan, I sincerely hope war will never be repeated. (F)

5. There are things to de done in the educational field. I earnestly hope that the revelation of those Korean women, war victims, will be a turning point in our lives. All will take today's testimonies in their own way and will put their decision into practice to get a produce results. I myself will take responsibility for the war as a burden from the last generation and try to hand it down to young people who will be the driving force of future Japan. (M)

6. It is natural but Ms Yi and Ms Kang looked like ordinary women to me. Then I realized the seriousness of this fact. (M)

7. I had been interested in the issue of forced army comfort women and collected newspaper articles about it. Today I felt great anger against what the Japanese army did to them and also against the attitude of the present Japanese government. The Japanese victimized them because they paid little attention to fundamental human rights. I also regret that no university students or young people oppose to the PKO issue. (M)

8. As a woman, the issue of comfort women upsets me very much. This issue has only recently began to attract people's attention (I read Mr. Natsumitsu Senda's book, he has been writing about this issue for a long time in Japan). Now that the issue has been brought to light, the Japanese must cooperate to force the government to solve the problems while the victims are still alive. Also as Ms Kang said, we must tell this truth to the younger generations. (F)

9. I feel sorry that Japan has not properly apologized, nor compensated for its past sins now that Japan is in a difficult situation in the international community. I would like to thank the former army "comfort women" for their courageous testimonies. As a Japanese I will watch very carefully how Japan handles with this issue. I will also tell the next generation not to repeat past mistakes.(F)

10. Every time I hear their experiences, I find it unbelievable that human beings could do such terrible things to other human beings. However, they were only acting on orders. Unless we have the right government policies, we might repeat the same thing again. We must prevent war no matter what. (F)

11. I want to pursue my study of war and human beings. Like Germany, the Japanese government must compensate for its crimes in a concrete form. I feel my sense of humanity weakening in the present rich and indolent atmosphere of Japan. Their testimonies made me realize that. I am deeply ashamed of Japan's sin of humiliating the Chinese, Koreans and other Asian people. (M)

12. I think Japan should never go to war again. (M)

13. The testimony of a Japanese who was on the side of the aggressors proved to us that Japan has not made compensation and that the truth has not been told in the postwar Japanese school textbook. Now that the former army "comfort women" are getting older, the Japanese must be aware of their own sins and force the government to respond to their demand for an apology and compensation as early as possible. The second speaker's testimony was very vivid and was new to me. Japan must promptly take responsibility as an aggressor of World War II. I was a first grader in elementary school at the end of the war, and I strongly feel Japan should never repeat such a mistake. As a high school teacher, I will take every opportunity pass on what I have heard today to my students who will be the next generation, and will do my best to bring world peace. After listening to the testimonies of the two former army "comfort women", I am determined to campaign and compensation for a prompt apology from Japanese government throughout Japan. (M)

14. The Japanese have not been told what its army did to the Chinese, Koreans and other Asians or how it invaded their countries. First we the Japanese and the Japanese government must apologize for what Japan did and disclose the truth in school textbooks. In that sense the work of the organizing committee is very important. I sincerely hope the Japanese people's sincere apology will lessen the pain of the former army "comfort women" and that they will be able to live a peaceful and comfortable life in the future. Please forgive us the Japanese and tell us how we should compensate for our past crimes. (M)

15. The testimonies of the three people in this meeting of "Forum to Ponder

on the War Victims in Our Mind" were more terrifying, pitiful and shocking than what I have read or heard before. I felt my heart shiver when I imagined that my mother, my sister or I myself might have been victims, instead of Ms Kang or Ms Yi. My father was killed in the war when I was just four years old, and my sister was only one. On his way to the south on business his ship was attacked and sank. Because he was neither a soldier nor an army civilian employee, a survivor's pension was not paid to our family, for a long time, even though we received the official report of his death in war. My mother had a hard time raising her children alone. If it hadn't been for the war... I always thought we were war victims. But hearing today's testimonies, I realized we were much luckier than those women. Poor as we were, five of us -- my mother, two older brothers, me and my sister lived together under the same roof. Some time later my mother started to receive a pension and she had a comfortable old age. On the contrary, former comfort women could not get married and they have been living an insecure lives without any compensation. I am sure they will never forget their past wounds. But the Japanese must help them to have a comfortable old age in order to alleviate their wounds. I will do the best I can. War disrupts the lives of both the oppressors and the oppressed. I will tell as many people as possible of the misery of war so that it may not be repeated. (F)

16. The Mugunfa Sisters demonstrate in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul every Wednesday. With their bodies covered by scars, I am determined to do the same. I won't go to Korea but I'll use my body, mind and time "to join their demonstration" for several hours around noon every Wednesday, when they are demonstrating. I understand the Sisters' pain and anger as a woman and as a human being. I'll pray and look for concrete steps to take. (F)

17. Not young as I am, I cried when I watched the video film, when I read the book and when I attended the same meeting twice in Yokkaichi and Tsu. During the meeting after the testimonies, I wanted to apologize to them as a Japanese and thank them for coming to Japan, but I could not do so because I was preoccupied with controlling my tears. I cried so much that I wrote letters later to these three people who testified. Even now every time I think of them, my eyes are filled with tears. Everyday I wonder how I could help them. (F)

<Comments of those in their 60s>

1. No one told us about the war in detail. I learned the word, "forced army comfort women", only several years after the war. I feel so sorry as one of the Japanese for many people of other countries who were victimized by Japanese companies and by the Japanese army. All the Japanese must demand that the Japanese government pays compensation for their sufferings. (M)

2. Listening to the three people's testimonies, I felt all of us should make efforts not to repeat such tragedies again. It is important to let the victim's appeals be known widely in Japan. War makes people cruel. It is frightening to think that war can turn people into such monsters. I sympathize with the three people who showed their courage and angry frankly. (M)

***** NEWS

Yokkaichi

Former Forced Army Comfort Women Testified

A meeting held to think of war victims



* [Photograph : Korean woman, a former forced army "comfort woman,
talking to the audience in tears, Jibasan Mie at 1-chome,
Yasutori,Yokkaichi]

[Yokkaichi] The 5th Mie Meeting of "Forum to Ponder on the War Victims in the
Asian and Pacific Regions and Evgrave It in Our Mind" was held on 22nd at

Jibasan Mie (1-chome, Yasutori, Yokkaichi) and two former "forced army comfort women" invited from Korea related their experiences.

Ms Yi Young Su (63) was brought to Taiwan in 1944 and mainly served the members of the "special attack" unit. She told how she was deceived by her friend's mother and taken away from home, she later suffered from the V.D. and malaria. In tears She read a Japanese song in Japanese taught by the Japanese, which was the only Japanese that she remembered. Then she declared, "the Japanese government must take responsibility and pay compensation for their crimes". Ms Kang Teok Keung (63) was brought to the airplane parts brought to the airplane parts factory in Toyama Prefecture in 1942 when she was a 13 year-old nation school student and forced to work in she was a 13 year-old national school student and forced to work in a harsh conditions. She tried to escape but failed and was forced to become a "comfort woman". She said that she now demonstrates in front of the Japanese embassy in Korea every Wednesday. "I want you, the Japanese people, to remember what happened in the past, tell that to your children and not to repeat it again. I cannot keep silent over the PKO bill. If there had been no Chinese or Koreans, your mothers or grandmothers might have been forced to become "comfort women".

Mr. Hakudou Nagatomi (76), who was involved in both the establishment of a "comfort place" and in the recruitment of comfort women, killed many Chinese and spent 13 years as a war criminal in a concentration camp, testified, too. The audience of about 200 people listened to their testimonies with rapt attention, barely drawing breath.

***** (Ise Newspaper, on August 23, 1992)

<Comments of those in their 70s>

1. Listening to Mr. Nagatomi's testimony as an aggressor, I was so shocked to learn what had really happened. He said he was a right-wing student and committed such a terrible crime out of his wrong patriotic spirit nurtured with contempt for other nations. Now he has to bear a sense of guilt in the rest of his life. I feel sorry for him because it was the Japanese military government who was to blame. Thinking of the wrong direction that Japanese education took since the Meiji Era, I feel so ashamed of being Japanese and I do not know how to express our apology to war victims. I do not know how to console or help those who were forced to be comfort women and whose lives were totally destroyed. However, we must do something. We have to apologize from the bottom of our heart, compensate for our sins against them as a concrete form of apology (even though money is not enough for true compensation) and set up a fund to ensure that they have a secure old age. But that is not the end. As two of them said at the end of their testimonies, we must tell the historical truth and resolve not to repeat such a mistake again. Also this issue must be tackled by women of all countries. While I was listening to Ms Yi's testimony, I felt all the more sad because I suspected that she might have had a special feeling towards Mr. Hasegawa even though he raped her. I felt so sorry for her because of her innocence and purity. (F)

2. Thank you very much, Ms Kang, Ms Yi and an interpreter, Mr. Cho. I wish all of you good health from the bottom of my heart. (F)

3. I have heard of today's problem before. But it is the first time that I

have heard vivid testimonies. I think that it is natural for them to be angry with cruel deeds. What is the cause of this problem? Is it a result of war tragedies? The government should somehow atone them for past crimes. (F)

4. I have never been sent to a battlefield. I was a soldier for only 5 months, from April to August 1938, living in the warship "Ise". We have all avoided telling about specific incidents like Mr. Tominaga's. Taking this opportunity, we must tell the truth to each Japanese and take the right direction from now on. Ms Yi's testimony deeply touched my heart. (M)

<Comment of a 81 year old man>

I could not hear the testimonies of the Koreans well because of my old age and my poor hearing but I understood their sufferings very well. I spent the first half of my life in the prewar era and regret being too timid to fight for peace. The PKO bill has been passed. This is a clear denial of our peace constitution, which is the result of our rejection of war. Self-Defense Force units will soon be sent overseas. The government insists that it is not sending soldiers but "peace keepers", but it seems to me only an excuse. Japan has many interests overseas and many Japanese are now living overseas. The government is sending the Self-Defense Force to protect them - this is the very theory which brought about the past war. We are breaking our oath not to repeat war again.

In the present world the disparity between north and south is widening, the environment is being destroyed and many people are dying of poverty. There are many other ways for Japan to contribute to the international world. Anyway

war is absolutely evil. In particular everybody admits that a nuclear war will lead to the destruction of mankind. Let's unite to demand that the government make sincere compensation for its past crimes and imperialism. (M)

<Age unknown>

1. As a human being I felt ashamed of what the Japanese have did to those women. My father was a repatriate from former Saghalien. I felt as if the same thing had happened to me. I am really impressed by those three people's courage in speaking out. As a member of Yokkaichi Branch of the China-Japan Friendship Association, I took up the Nanjing Massacre last year to make a video film and have been selling that film. Of course I cannot do much by myself but I will not forget today's testimonies and will continue my efforts to support them. Thank you very much. (F)

"Do not repeat this mistake" appealed former comfort women in tears

The Meeting in Yokkaichi

The meeting to hear the experience of Korean women who were forced to become "army comfort women" serving Japanese soldiers was held in the afternoon of the 22nd at "Jibasan Mie" in Yokkaichi. Two Korean women and a former Japanese soldier who was sent to a concentration camp in China as a war criminal testified. The two women demanded an apology and compensation from Japan and appealed "not to repeat such a mistake".

"The Mie Meeting - Forum to Ponder on the War Victims in the Asian-Pacific Region and Engrave It in Our Mind" was organized by the executive committee. The audience of about 200 people listened attentively to the experiences of Mr. Hiromichi Nagatomi (76), a former Japanese soldier, Ms Kang Teok Keung (63) and Ms Yi Young Su (63), both former "comfort women".

First Mr. Nagatomi who worked for the Special Service Agency confessed that he had been involved in the massacre of the Chinese. He said, "my sin will never go away. Japan cannot avoid compensating for its crime".

Ms Yi talked, putting a handkerchief to her eyes and speaking in a choked voice. She was told by an acquaintance of hers, "if you do whatever you are told to do, you will get food and money" and was brought to Taiwan with four other Koreans by a Japanese. She was 16 years old.

Showing her scars on her wrists, she said if she refused to serve a soldier,

she was tortured by the Japanese, with electric shocks or by being beaten. She appealed in tears, "Japan must make an apology and pay compensation according to its conscience".

Ms Kang Teok Keung was brought to the military plant in Toyama Prefecture as a member of the women's volunteer corps at the age of 13. She was poorly fed and tried to escape, but was caught and sent to a "Comfort Place" in Japan. She said she had to serve four to five soldiers every day.

"If we had not been victims, your mothers and grandmothers might have been victims. Please don't repeat that".

The same meeting will be held from 1:30 PM on 23rd at Mie Prefecture Social Welfare Building in Tsu, in Nagano on 25th and in Nagoya on 26th.

***** (Asahi Newspaper, on August 23, 1992)

= P o s t s c r i p t = "Not to forget what we have heard once"

At the end of this summer, in the lingering heat, a lot of people came to Yokkaichi or Tsu to listen to the testimonies. Many of them wrote their vows and comments which are collected in this book. Copies have already been given to the three who testified. Now that it has appeared in book form, we are sending it to you, too.

There is a passage, "Let's not forget what we have seen once" in Noriko Ibaragi's poem. We hope all of us who listened to their testimonies and wrote "vows" and "comments" will not forget what we have heard and continue to consider what each one of us can do for them. Oct. 8, 1992