

KOREAN WOMEN DRAFTED FOR SEXUAL SERVICE
BY JAPAN

" Comfort Women " Issue

Presented to

the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations

February 25, 1992

by

Korean Council
for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan

1-23 Chung dong, Jung ku, Seoul, 100-120, Korea
Tel: (02) 738 5340 Fax: (02) 723 5537

KOREAN COUNCIL FOR THE WOMEN DRAFTED FOR MILITARY SEXUAL SERVICE
BY JAPAN

1-23 Chung-dong, Jung-ku, Seoul 100-120, Korea
Tel: (02) 738 5340 Fax: (02) 723 5537

His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
The United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.

February 25, 1992

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I have the honor today to request your attention to the cases of severe violation of human rights committed by Japan.

As you can see in the enclosed documents, hundreds of thousands of Korean women were forcibly taken to the war front during World War II and used as sexual slaves for the Imperial Japanese Army under the name of "Comfort Women." We, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan, have worked to expose this painful but hidden history and demanded Japan for an apology and compensation for the victims.

On January 17 this year, during his visit to our country, Japanese Prime Minister Kiiohi Miyazawa finally apologized, saying "I cannot help feeling distressed over this (the issue of "Comfort Women"), and I express my sincerest apology." On his return to Japan, however, his government's chief spokesman Koichi Kato said that issues of reparation were settled in 1965, in a treaty normalizing relations with Republic of Korea. In the 1965 treaty, however, the issue of "Comfort Women" was not even mentioned.

We request your deep understanding in this matter and full support in our demands to the Japanese government for compensation for their cruel acts of human rights violation. This kind of shameful incidents should never happen in our human history again.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Yun Chung-Ok
Co-Chairperson

윤정옥
Yun, Chung-Ok

KOREAN COUNCIL FOR THE WOMEN DRAFTED FOR MILITARY SEXUAL SERVICE BY JAPAN
1-23 Chung Dong, Jung Ku, Seoul 100-120, Korea
TEL: 738-5340 FAX: 723-5537

February 11, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

Warm greetings of solidarity!

We, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan, request your concern and assistance with the cases of severe sexual exploitation against women committed by Japan during the World War II. As you can see in the enclosed document, we are demanding that Japan accept our six claims. For this, we are bringing this matter to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

We ask you and your organization, as well as other organizations working for world peace and maintenance of human rights, to help us with the following things:

- 1) to pressure the Japanese government to accept our demands,
- 2) to request the UN Human Rights Commission to deal with this issue, and
- 3) to widely publicize this issue.

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

Yun Chung-Ok
Lee, Hyo-Chae
Park, Soon-Kum
Co-Chairpersons



KOREAN WOMEN DRAFTED FOR SEXUAL SERVICE BY JAPAN

"Comfort Women" Issue

Korea, annexed by Japan as a colony in 1910, suffered under harsh and oppressive Japanese rule until the end of World War II in 1945. During that time there were many acts of repression against and subjugation of the Korean people, no single example of which was more severe, more massive, or more ongoing than the forcible drafting of Korean women for **sexual service** to Japanese troops **located throughout the Asian/Pacific region**. The euphemistic term by which these women were known is translated into English as 'comfort women' (or girls).

It is only through recent efforts of Korean women, joined by women in Japan, that world public attention has been focused on this issue as a gross violation of the human rights of Korean women (and women of some other Asian countries) which was perpetrated indiscriminately upon them by Japanese military and governmental authorities from 1937 - 1945. The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Sexual Service by Japan was created and is continuing to uncover facts from previously hidden or unknown documents and through statements of eyewitnesses of various countries, thus creating a climate in which some elderly women survivors are gradually coming forth to tell their experiences, both privately and in the media. Cases have already been taken to Japanese courts.

Irrevocably embarrassed and shamed by what they had undergone, these women, many of whom bear scars of almost unimaginable physical and psychological ravaging, are now starting to recount stories which testify to a history of forced rape and degradation against the women of Korea, who had been unwillingly taken from their families and country and forced to perform sexual service for Japanese soldiers. Such an instance of 100,000 to 200,000 women of a colony treated as sexual objects by an imperial ruler may be unmatched in history. The Prime Minister of Japan, on a recent visit to Korea, publicly acknowledged what his government had until recently denied and presented an apology (considered unsatisfactory by many).

Facts and figures are as yet difficult to obtain or verify because of the years of hiddenness and shame surrounding such a human tragedy. At the time many Koreans themselves were unaware of what was happening. Beginning with the Japanese invasion of China in 1937-38, Korean village girls aged 17-20 from poor families were taken by the Japanese, and many were told that they would be given jobs in military restaurants or as maids. Later a more indiscriminate kidnapping of women aged 14-30, including even married women if they had no baby, enlarged the supply of women which were sent throughout the Pacific, wherever the Japanese Army was located.

According to recent eyewitness testimonies (including those by Japanese prostitutes, former soldiers, and former army doctors), one 'comfort woman' was made to serve an average of 30-40 soldiers per day, who would wait in line outside her small room. The extent of the dehumanization in this treatment of women can be seen in the practice in some regions of assigning the women Japanese first names only, and later elsewhere of identifying them by only a number. In the later years of World War II, some Korean women were known to have served as many as 65 men daily, while the testimony of an Okinawan woman is that she knew a Korean woman who was forced to have sexual relations with 100 Japanese soldiers in one day.

The result of this cruel and inhuman large-scale sexual exploitation (considered by many as the rape of an entire nation) was extreme suffering which included beatings and torture of the unwilling, widespread illness, abortions, death, and massive abandonment of the worn-out at the time of Japanese retreat. At the very least, for those who managed to survive, wherever they might be living, their emotional anguish at the loss of chastity, which

in Korean society is considered almost more important than life, was a high price to pay for being women living in a country ruled by another country.

According to the Korean Council (mentioned above) it is difficult to fully assess the scope of this violation against women and nearly impossible to obtain full statistics on them. However, a calculation of the number of Japanese troops and the average number which were 'served' daily, according to witnesses, enables the researchers to arrive at an approximate figure. Unfortunately, many government and military documents were destroyed by Japan, but some of the few that remained have come to light in the United States. It is estimated that in the months ahead more documentation and testimonies will corroborate the information verified thus far. From January 14 to 16 in Tokyo, a hotline installed to receive calls from Japanese people regarding the 'comfort women' issue produced new detailed information which substantiated the claims already made by many. One example is the recent report that at least one former 'comfort woman' is living in a leper colony on the Island of Nagashima.

Appealing to world organizations concerned for the maintenance of human rights of all peoples, the following demands are made on behalf of all Korean women:

1. That the Government of Japan and the Emperor recognize and take full responsibility for their violation of the internationally-recognized standards of human rights in this issue and make a full, strong and complete public apology, to the individual victims, to Korea, and to the women of other Asian nations likewise drafted into sexual service. Japan should make not only charitable gifts of money to the few women who have come forth, but in light of the many who have long-since died, should make country to country financial reparations as an acknowledgement of its crime against Korean women.
2. That the Government of Japan actively cooperate with the Korean Government and concerned international groups to pursue further study, in order to obtain the fullest information possible on all aspects of the issue; and that the results be made public to the world community, with the goal of preventing any future such tragedy.
3. That the Japanese Government encourage and assist its citizens who want to testify about this issue to do so without threat of reprisal.
4. That the Japanese Government pay full and adequate compensation to all 'comfort women' survivors.
5. That an appropriate monument be erected in Japan by the Japanese Government, to honor and memorialize all 'comfort women' and to educate future generations about respect for the human rights of all people, including women and all citizens of another country.
6. That the Japanese Government revise school textbooks to include reference to this issue as a part of colonial oppression against the Korean people.
7. That the United Nations Commission on Human Rights thoroughly investigate this planned and organized sexual subjugation of women toward the end of censuring Japan internationally both for its perpetration of a massive and long-term violation of human rights and for its ongoing cover-up of all relevant facts.

February 1992

JUNGSHINDAE("MILITARY COMFORT WOMEN")

Under the Japanese Rule, an estimated 200,000 Korean women were drafted to provide Japanese soldiers with sex or to work as 'slave workers' at Japanese war supply plants. Although the history of the mobilization of Korean women by Japan dates back to 1910, our main concern at this time is the cases of the women who were forced into sexual servitude for the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

1. The Conscription of Jungshindae("Military Comfort Women")

Although drafted under the names of the "Women's Patriotic Service Corps", "Women's Patriotic Labour Corps" or "Women's Voluntary Labour Corps (Jungshindae)", many women were actually forced to become prostitutes for the Japanese soldiers. They were euphemistically called "wianbu" meaning "Military Comfort Women".

It is supposed that the Korean "Military Comfort Women" were being drafted in full force around 1937 when the Japanese Kwangtung Army decided to build up its military strength to invade China. It is said that Japanese Imperial Army needed to raise the morale of the soldiers while calming down the discontentment of the soldiers who had to endure strict orders from above. At that time, the Japanese army was already using Japanese "Military Comfort Women" who were mainly professional prostitutes, thereby spreading venereal disease. Moreover, while raping and gang-raping Chinese women in their path, the soldiers not only spread sexually transmitted diseases but also provoked anti-Japanese sentiment among the people. Because of this, the leaders of the Kwangtung Army decided to draft unmarried Korean women aged 17-20 whose strict Confucian backgrounds would likely ensure their virginity and ability to resist sexually transmitted diseases.

To draft Korean women, Japanese colonialists used all ways and means such as luring, threatening and kidnapping. Many of the women were deceived into becoming "Military Comfort Women" under false promises of eating well(white rice at every meal) and earning lots of money. They were told by the Japanese that they would be working as cooks in army restaurants, launderers, and nurses' assistants. At the time, the Korean people had been robbed of their land and money, and could not even eat the rice that they grew. Under such circumstances "eating white rice at every meal" and earning lots of money were tempting offers.

While the war was escalating in China, and as the Pacific War began, the Japanese intensified the conscription of Korean women and the ways of conscription became more atrocious. Frequently, Japanese colonialists threatened families that if their daughters refused to be drafted, they would take their sons. Around 1944, the Japanese began to actually hunt down "Comfort Women" in public areas such as the fields, roads, factories, public wells and even in private homes. At the start of the Sino-Japanese war the Japanese soldiers were served by unmarried women aged 17-20. But after the Pacific War broke out and the front expanded to the Pacific islands, no woman was spared. Yoshida Seichi, who has confessed he played a part in sending Korean girls to the battlefield as sex slaves, said that he captured even a mother, throwing her crying baby away. He emphasized that it was a "slave hunt". One woman now living in Thailand was captured at a well near Pusan. In August 23, 1944, the Women's Voluntary Labour Law was promulgated by the Japanese Government, thereby providing a legal basis for the conscription of women throughout the Korean peninsula.

The captured women were raped in the trains headed toward China or the boats destined for the Pacific Islands. Many women committed suicide during the trip because they were ashamed of losing their virginity. From then on, the captors chained the women when they transported them.

2. Living Conditions of the Military Comfort Women

The "comfort houses" were scattered along the Japanese military outposts. Many of those houses also existed in Japan for the soldiers building underground shelters or airports. Around 1938, the army directly managed the "Military Comfort Women" through its "recreation division" but after it gave rise to public criticism, the army transferred the comfort houses to Japanese private business and continued to supervise them.

According to "Methods of Preventing Venereal Disease," a report written by the Japanese army doctor Aso, the "Military Comfort Women" were given by the Japanese Emperor to the Imperial Army as a royal gift. Because "Comfort Women" were considered as objects, they were classified as ammunition under the army's records. In the "comfort houses", the women were treated as no more than objects.

Those women were confined in temporary houses which were rebuilt from stables or storehouses, which soldiers called "public lavatories". Also, the Japanese army housed 20 - 30 women in each of the rooms of confiscated schools or temples or private houses. Confined in those houses, which, Seichi related, were not fit places for a human being, they were forced to submit to 20 or 30 soldiers daily. Parts of the comfort house regulations, which

appear in a photograph taken by an army doctor, Aso Deso, say that the time allowed to stay in the comfort house was 30 minutes. However, it is said that soldiers could not even wait 10 minutes in line. The state of things was worse when soldiers stationed at the front were temporarily moved backward or "Military Comfort Women" were taken by truck to make the rounds. During the round trip at the war front the women had no time to sleep or eat except while in the truck and had to wear army uniforms in order not to be recognized. One prostitute from Okinawa who refused to be a comfort woman, said that she saw one Korean woman who had been forced to receive 100 men in one day at a comfort house resembling a public lavatory.

The survivors testified that those who were not submissive were brutally beaten, and escape was impossible due to strict surveillance. Those who tried to escape were killed when they failed. Yoshida says that it was not prostitution but a collective rape.

The comfort house regulations also included stipulations that soldiers could not fall in love with the "Military Comfort Women" and that they should not forget that "Military Comfort Women" were common property. The soldiers were also required to use condoms by the regulations. However, the condoms were too rough and frequently there were no time to use them. The military payment certificate which the "Military Comfort Women" gathered under such circumstances became a mere scrap of paper after the defeat of Japan.

While not servicing soldiers, those women had to do all kinds of hard work such as laundering and cooking, and during the battle they had to carry ammunition boxes. Just before the end of the war, some of the women were even forced to go out in battle as bullet shields wearing army uniforms.

The women were not well fed and received so many soldiers that they caught tuberculosis, constipation, and all kinds of women's and venereal diseases. Many women also suffered from mental disorders. In cases where the women were unable to accept their prostitution, the army drugged them with Philopon to make them accept their plight. The "Military Comfort Women" were regarded as goods for consumption, so, if a woman was so sick that she could not receive a soldier she was sent to a hospital not to be cured but to wait for her death.

Many of them were wounded and killed on the battlefields, still others killed themselves while in captivity. Some of them died as a result of inhumane treatment, and many were murdered. Few returned home. The number of army dogs and horses that died when Japan was attacked by the Allied Forces are recorded. However, no one knows how many "Military Comfort Women" died.

3. Japanese Treatment of "Military Comfort Women" after Its Defeat in World War II

The biggest problem among Japan's policies toward "Comfort Women" is the treatment of the women after the war. After Japan's defeat, many Korean "Military Comfort Women" were deserted on the battlefield or massacred by the Japanese army who feared the revelation of their atrocities.

Survivors and former soldiers testified that Japanese soldiers informed Japanese Comfort Women of Japan's defeat and fled with them. However, Korean "Military Comfort Women" were never informed of Japan's defeat and were left behind.

This was the case in Sakhalin. One day in August, the Korean "Comfort Women" felt strange because the area they were in was too silent. There was no one in the streets, and the comfort house guards had disappeared. They raced to the train station because they thought something out of the ordinary had happened. They found a departing train filled with Japanese soldiers, their families and Japanese "Military Comfort Women". Some of the Korean women ran in front of it, but the engineer sped up and the blood of the women splattered on the train.

Some of the "Military Comfort Women" were killed by the Japanese army. Japanese soldiers drove the Korean women into trenches or caves and either bombed or opened fire on the women, creating mass graves on the spot. One Japanese senator from Sakhalin said that some of the comfort women were burned to death, and many of them are still living in Sakhalin. One Japanese who worked as a signal man during the war said he knew of 200 "Comfort Women" forced into a submarine which was subsequently torpedoed.

As in the case of the Hangu comfort house(China), some women were returned to Korea after the war, but their situations were no better than those of the women who were deserted to die. After the defeat of Japan, the Japanese army stopped medical treatment of the "Military Comfort Women". As a result, while waiting to return to Korea, almost all the women suffered from venereal diseases which had been suppressed by the weekly injections. One Korean man who was drafted into the Japanese army testified that he saw up to five Korean women with scabbed and swollen faces in each of 20 bars in Shanghai.

When the ship that would return to Korea arrived, almost all the men jubilantly went aboard. Most of the women refused to take the boat because they believed that their families would never accept them once they returned home. Some women who did take the boat, committed suicide upon arrival in Korea.

4. Conclusion

The conscription of "Military Comfort Women" was an unprecedented war crime systematically conducted by the Japanese government and its Imperial Army. Kim Il Myun, a Korean living in Japan, maintains in his book named "The Imperial Army and Korean Comfort Women" that one reason to draft young Korean women was to obliterate the Korean people. He says that Japan thought the quickest way to destroy Korea was to destroy its women, who were regarded as the foundation of the people. In addition, the sexist ideology underlies the conscription of women as sexual objects of men. The policy of having "Military Comfort Women" resulted not only from militaristic and imperialistic thought but also from male degradation of women.

Until just recently, Japan has denied its involvement in the sex-slave operation. The government has insisted that private businesses or individual brokers were responsible for recruiting, transporting and employing the women.

However, the recent disclosures of documents and the testimonies of the survivors have forced the Japanese government to admit its involvement in the war time atrocity of the "Military Comfort Women". However only an ambiguous apology was made by Prime Minister Miyazawa at the time of his visit to Korea, and Japan still refuses to make compensation for them, maintaining that the issue of reparations was closed in 1965 with the Korea-Japan basic treaty. Japan is also reluctant to make public all the truth about "Military Comfort Women" including the exact figures and lists of Korean "Military Comfort Women" as well as the destinies of those who did not return after the war.

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 12-21, 1988:

Three women from Korea Church Women United, Yune Jung-Ok, Kim Hae-Won and Kim Shin-Sil conduct field investigations, "Following the traces of Military Comfort Women" from Fukuoka to Okinawa.

APRIL 21-23, 1988:

Korea Church Women United publishes the report from the field survey listed above in a publication entitled "Women and Tourism", materials created for a seminar on anti-Kisaeng tours.

JULY 20, 1988:

The Social Activity Committee of Korea Church Women United establishes a research committee on "Comfort Women."

MAY 18, 1990:

Korea Church Women United files a protest against the distorted coverage of Military Comfort Women in a television program, "The World within the War," broadcast on KDED-TV in Los Angeles.

MAY 22, 1990:

As Roh Tae-Woo visits Japan, Korea Church Women United, Korean Women's Associations United, Council of Representatives of University Female Students in Seoul hold a press conference to issue a statement on "Military Comfort Women" from the women's perspective.

JULY 10, 1990:

An independent committee on "Military Comfort Women" is established.

JULY 14, 1990:

The organization 'Alternative Culture' holds a memorial ceremony on behalf of the "Military Comfort Women"

JULY 31, 1990:

The Pusan Economists' Association and regional women's association holds a conference on the 45th anniversary of liberation from Japan on "The Terrible Reality of 'Military Comfort Women', Korean daughters tread upon by imperial Japan and the aftermath."

SEPTEMBER 17, 1990:

Teachers' committee and the committee on "Jungshindae" of Korea Church Women United examine the minutes of the 118th Diet issue 19 and decided to send open protest letters to the Korean and Japanese governments.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1990:

"Jungshindae" committee of Korea Church Women United examines the draft of the open letter to the Korean and Japanese governments, and decides to develop contact with other domestic and overseas organizations.

OCTOBER 11, 1990:

"Council on 'Jungshindae'" (tentative name) is held to examine and decide on the contents of the protest letter issued to the Korean and Japanese governments.

OCTOBER 17, 1990:

Korea women's organizations organize a press conference and personally deliver the open letter to the Japanese embassy.

OCTOBER 27, 1990:

A ceremony to console the victims of the Pacific War is held in Okinawa and three women representatives Kim Hae-Won, Kim Kyong Hae, and Youn Young-Ae participate.

OCTOBER 27, 1990:

A conference on "Military Comfort Women" is held at the Japanese Senate Building and afterwards, Japanese women senators and Korean representatives visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deliver an open letter.

NOVEMBER 16, 1990:

"The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan" is officially established by name.

DECEMBER 20, 1990:

Because the open letter does not receive a response, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan demands a prompt reply.

JANUARY 8, 1991:

While Prime Minister Kaifu visits Korea, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan issues a statement on "Jungshindae" and holds a protest at Tapgol Park from 12 p.m.

MARCH 26, 1991:

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan continues to demand a reply to the open letter.

APRIL 1, 1991:

A list of Koreans drafted under Japanese rule is found in the library of the Japanese National Assembly. The document includes lists of alleged "Military Comfort Women"

APRIL 4, 1991:

A similar list is found in Korea.

APRIL 9, 1991:

The Pusan Economists' Association begins a fund-raising drive for Bae Bong-ki, a former "Military Comfort Woman" and an exhibition of illustrated poems by Kim Young Rim is held.

JULY 18, 1991:

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan presents a petition to the Korean government demanding its active role in meeting six stipulations concerning "Military Comfort Women".

JULY 23, 1991:

A press conference on the petition is held.

AUGUST 14, 1991:

A former Military Comfort Woman, Kim Hak-sun, reveals her story at a press conference.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1991:

A hotline to receive calls from former Military Comfort Women is established.

OCTOBER 29, 1991:

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan sends an official letter demanding that the National Assembly and the Korean government create a committee to research "the actual conditions of Military Comfort Women and those who survived"

OCTOBER 30, 1991:

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan sends an official letter to the National Assembly and the Korean government demanding a space to erect a monument to the memory of the "Comfort Women" in the National Independence Memorial Hall.

DECEMBER 2, 1991:

Moon Ok-Ju becomes the third former Military Comfort Woman to come forth with her story.

DECEMBER 5, 1991:

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan visit Moon Ok-Ju at her home in Taegu.

DECEMBER 6, 1991:

The Association of Families of Pacific War Victims files a lawsuit with Tokyo District Court against the Japanese government demanding compensation on behalf of Kim Hak-Sun.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato states that private businesses, and not the government, were responsible for "Jungshindae."

DECEMBER 11, 1991:

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Service by Japan issues a counter-statement to Kato's reply to the Japanese embassy.

DECEMBER 13, 1991:

Yune Chung-Ok testifies at the Committee for Foreign Affairs and Korean Unification in the National Assembly concerning the petition filed on July 18, 1991.

DECEMBER 31, 1991:

Kim Bok-sun comes forth with her story as a former Military Comfort Woman.

A Committee to prepare a memorial ceremony for "Military Comfort Women" is formed.

JANUARY 8, 1992:

The first of regular weekly demonstrations of behalf of Military Comfort Women is held in front of the Japanese embassy.

JANUARY 15, 1992:

The second regular demonstration is held and afterward, a demonstration against Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit is held with other civic groups at Tapgol Park.

JANUARY 17, 1992:

During Miyazawa's address to the National Assembly, demonstrators demand the truth about Jungshindae be revealed and that its victims be compensated.

JANUARY 22, 1992:

After a follow-up press conference on Miyazawa's visit, the third regular demonstration is held.

The Korea Times *Head of Deceased Overseas Compatriots Ass'n* January 18, 1992

Japan Urged to Render Heart-Felt Apology, Reparations for Victims

By Kim Chang-young
Staff Reporter

Former National Assemblyman Lee Yong-taek, who leads an organization for memorial service for Korean compatriots deceased abroad, calls for Japan's "heart-felt" apology and as much reparations for Korean victims of its 1910-45 colonial rule as it offered to its people.



Lee

He accused Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of glossing over due responsibilities, while blaming the Roh Tae-woo administration for what he thinks is an insufficient reproach of Japanese atrocities and lack of efforts to drive Tokyo to solve the issues.

"Japan, reckoning that the matters have been settled with the normalization of ties with us in 1965, neglects its duty to stamp out its vast legacies of occupation that are still bringing pains to Korean victims and their families," he said in an interview yesterday.

"Miyazawa's simple words of apology are far short of demand. He appears reluctant to understand our

pains and compensate for them," Lee maintained. "In one instance, his government had long denied involvement in the mobilization of Korean women as 'comfort girls' for its soldiers till evidence was found very recently."

Lee, chairman of the nationwide Association for Memorial Service for Deceased Overseas Compatriots, presented a petition to the United Nations secretary general and the UN Human Rights Committee on Dec. 11, 1991, the day of the UN declaration for human rights, for their action on the problems.

"The Japanese government has commandeered numerous Koreans — men as soldiers or forced laborers and innocent girls as prostitutes for its soldiers. Families of the victims have suffered bitter grief for decades, unable to find out whether they are dead or not, and if dead, when and where they died.

"There remains countless problems unsettled as far as they are concerned with Japan's human rights violations of Koreans," the petition noted.

They include 40,000 Koreans deserted in Sakhalin, 80,000 atomic bomb victims, 148 Koreans punished as war criminals and 200,000 forced prostitutes. Korean residents in Japan are severely discriminated against.

"Japan would not be treated as a good neighbor really without heart-felt repentance of the past, due reparation and restoration of morality," Lee stressed. The United States compensated 50,000 Japanese people for its internment of them during World War II as part of its anti-espionage steps.

He warned of a resurrection of militarism in Japan, citing as some of its signs the railroading of a bill in the lower house in November for the dispatch of Self-Defense Corps troops and a plan to import plutonium which could be used for nuclear weapons.

"Japan, a leading economic power, has equipped itself with advanced technology enough to produce nuclear missiles anytime it wants. It may try to fill the emerging vacuum of military strength following the collapse of the Soviet Union," viewed Lee, formerly a top intelligence official.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that Korea, the first target of its expansion in the past, may face another big potential enemy in the future if peace would not take place in the power vacuum," he said.

He is preparing for the parliamentary elections in his hometown of Taesong and Koryong, Kyongsang-pukto, where he was elected twice in 1981 and 1985.

US Document Discloses Japan Recruitment of 'Comfort Girls'

A U.S. Army document implicating the Japanese army in the recruitment of Korean women as sex slaves during World War II has surfaced in South Korea.

The declassified document, entitled "Interrogation Bulletin No. 2" is a report by a U.S. Army psychological warfare team between August and September 1944 from India and Burma based on interviews with Japanese prisoners of war.

It was sent to the Foreign Ministry via the U.S. Embassy earlier last week, the ministry said yesterday.

The report by the Southeast Asia Translation and Interrogation Center says prisoner M. 739, whom it identifies as a civilian brothel owner, was captured in Burma with his wife and 20 Korean "comfort girls."

The brothel owner applied to Japanese army headquarters in Kelo for "Permission" to transport "comfort girls" from Korea to Burma, it says.

"The suggestion originated from army H.Q. and was passed to a number of similar Japanese 'businessmen' in Korea," the report says.

M. 739 purchased 22 Korean girls, paying their families from 300 to 1,000 Japanese yen according to the personality, looks and age of the girls," it says.

The brothel owner took 22 girls from Pusan to Burma with tickets provided by the Japanese army. Aboard a convoy of seven ships were 703 Korean girls and some 90 Japanese men and women, and "all of them of the same base sort as M. 739," the

U.S. report says.

"At Rangoon they were divided into groups of 20-30 girls in each and dispersed to various parts of Burma, each group being attached to various regiments, units or formations, so that each had its brothels," it says.

Tokyo has repeatedly denied any Japanese army involvement in the provision of "comfort girls" to entertain its troops. Korean women were kidnapped to serve as sex slaves on the front lines.

While getting witness's accounts and a tally of victims of forced labor and forced military service is relatively easy, collecting information on comfort girls is difficult as the victims are naturally reluctant to come forward.

Seoul has been gathering documents from abroad on Japanese government activities during the war as civic organizations in South Korea are demanding compensation from Japan for its wartime atrocities.

Japan rejects the demands, insisting that the compensation issue was completely settled when South Korea signed the basic agreement with Japan in 1965.

Seoul asked Japan to make "sincere efforts" to explain the truth about the comfort girls, but Tokyo said it could find no evidence of government involvement.

The issue is certain to be a major topic when Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visits Seoul next month.

(Yonhap)

More US Records Show Japan Army Handled 'Comfort Girls'

TOKYO (AP) — Records of U.S. interrogations show that Japan's World War II army handled transportation, medical treatment and fee-setting for Korean women it forced into prostitution, Kyodo News Service said Sunday.

Until this month, the Japanese government had refused to acknowledge army involvement in the forced prostitution of women from Korea, which Japan ruled as a colony from 1910 to 1945.

As the issue rekindled Korean anger, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on a state visit to South Korea, apologized for the women's sufferings, but stopped short of offering compensation.

Kyodo said Sunday that it had obtained U.S. records showing deep army involvement in the provision and handling of Korean prostitutes. It said they were records, declassified in 1973, of American interrogations of 20 Korean women who served in Burma.

Kyodo said the records showed that the army suggested that brothel owners purchase Korean women and take them to Burma, and promised to provide transportation, rations and medical attention.

The Koreans at first thought their duties as "comfort women" would involve visiting wounded soldiers and such chores as rolling bandages, it said.

In Burma, the women were paid for services based on soldiers' ranks, and brothel owners took 50 to 60 percent of their earnings for debts the women incurred to help their families, it added.

An army doctor visited the brothels weekly to check for and treat venereal disease, Kyodo said.

It said the women had enough money left to buy cloth, shoes, cigarettes and cosmetics, and were allowed to attend sports events, dinner parties and picnics.

The Korea Times
January 28, 1992.

Primary school pupils drafted as 'comfort girls'

Their former Japanese teacher finds school papers in Seoul confirming conscription

Japan drafted at least six Korean primary school girls as "comfort girls" for Japanese soldiers during the Pacific War, it was confirmed by their school registers which were recently located in Seoul.

Six of them were the sixth graders in Seoul's then Pangsan Primary School when they were conscripted by Japan to provide Japanese soldiers with sex as prostitutes, their school registers showed. The other four primary school girls were from Seoul's Kyodong Primary School.

One of the six girls was 14 in age and the rest of them 12 in age, according to their school registers which was located by their primary school teachers, at the time Ikeda.

It has finally been confirmed, the shocking reports that Japan shipped even early teen-aged Korean school girls to Japan for the sexual entertainment of Japanese soldiers.

Ikeda confirmed that the six girls were among a sixth-grade class of 70 students of which she was in charge.

Five of them were deported to Japan July 2, 1944, and the sixth girl Feb. 25, 1945, less than six months before the Pacific War ended.

The former Japanese teacher confirmed that she herself recorded in the Korean girls' school register that the girls were "well-grown, sincere and well-behaved."

The record also said that "the girls joined the comfort girls corps of their own will for Japan" by either persuading their parents or overcoming opposition from their family members.



This photocopy of the primary school register for a Korean girl shows that she was drafted to Japan as a comfort girl for Japanese soldiers in "Showa 19 (in 1944) when she was only 12 years old."

Another school register, located at now Yonhui Primary School in Seoul's southeastern Kaepo-dong, revealed that another 12-year-old girl was shipped to Japan in "Showa 19" (in 1944) to join the comfort girls' corps.

The girl, however, was in the first year of the school's middle school program.

Ikeda confirmed in interviews with Korean news media by telephone that to her knowledge, 14 to 15 more Korean girls, all in the high-school pro-

grams of the school, were also sent to Japan as comfort girls.

Ikeda said that she and other at that time, Japanese teachers in Korea, had to persuade as many Korean girls as possible to join the comfort girls' corps on what she said was an "irresistible order from the emperor."

In an article she recently contributed to a Japanese publication in Osaka, Ikeda said that she felt sorrow when she heard that the Japanese government claimed that they was not in-

involved in the mobilization of comfort girls.

Ikeda discovered the six girls' school registers in Korea after months of searching, hoping to locate them and to convey to them her words of repentance.

Ikeda said that after she returned to Japan, she did not marry because of her guilty conscience about the Korean girls.

The former Japanese teacher also said that she could not even look toward the sky of Korea from her deep sense of guilt.

She said that she is learning Korean to give the Korean girls words of repentance when she meets them.

After months of searching, Ikeda said that she has located one of the six Korean girls.

She said that she heard that one of them died, and another lives in North Korea.

In the article to the Osaka publication, Ikeda also said that then school teachers in Korea were forced by the Japanese government to send as many Korean girls as possible to Japan.

She said that teachers used to visit students' homes after school to persuade their parents to drop their opposition to the conscription of their girls to the comfort girls' corps.

She recalled in the article that many Korean parents appealed to her to allow them to finish primary school first.

She also said that the heads of the schools in Korea which produced many comfort girls were given special promotions.

Miyazawa visit triggers anti-Japan rallies

Protest wartime atrocities including conscription of 'comfort girls'

Tensions are rising over the visit to Korea by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa with anti-Japanese groups pledging the strongest campaigns yet against the Japanese government for its wartime past.

Anti-Japanese sentiment among the public is already running high in the wake of new findings in the past few days that Japanese officials recruited young Korean students for sexual services for its imperial army during World War II.

Korean police have been put on alert in preparation for Miyazawa's three-day visit starting today as one after another anti-Japanese organizations have called for rallies opposing his Korean visit.

Some organizations, including a group of the family members of the victims of Japan's colonial rule of Korea, said they would organize demonstrations along with the travel paths of the Japanese prime minister throughout his stay in Seoul.

Yesterday, the eve of Miyazawa's arrival, at least three anti-Japanese rallies took place in Seoul and one in the southwestern city of Kwangju.

About 150 protesters belonging to the Association of the Bereaved Family Members of the Pacific War Victims, held a rally in front of the Japanese embassy in downtown Seoul.

Earlier, they visited the National Assembly and the Tapgol (formerly Pagoda) Park in Chongno, the latter a



Hundreds of members of civic women's organizations condemn the Japanese imperialists for taking young Korean girls as "comfort girls" during World War II in a demonstration before Tapgol (formerly Pagoda) Park in downtown Seoul yesterday. They demanded Tokyo's apology and compensation.

Korea Herald

symbol of Korea's independence movement.

Leaders of the association said they plan similar protest rallies today and tomorrow in various places in Seoul and along the traveling courses of the Japanese prime minister.

A group of female college students in Seoul and the association of people dealing with the comfort girl issue held separate rallies at Tapgol Park and the Japanese embassy yesterday.

In Kwangju, about 300 people called for the Japanese government to apologize for its recruitment of Koreans during World War II in a rally at the Kwangju Station square.

The protesters marched about 4km in the central part of the city carrying pickets and placards with anti-Japanese slogans.

Besides street demonstrations and rallies, one after another, civic groups are issuing strong-toned statements in

time for Miyazawa's Korean visit.

The Korean Council of Christian Churches (KNCC) said the Japanese government should take the responsibility for the Korean people's sufferings during colonial rule.

"Japan should disclose all the truths about its past and should apologize and make reparations to the Korean people," it said in a statement.

The council also demanded that the Japanese government guarantee human rights of Koreans living in Japan and refrain from returning to military imperialism.

The National Federation for Democracy and National Unification urged the Japanese government to formally apologize for its role in the forced conscription of the "comfort girls" and pay compensation for victims and their bereaved family members.

The federation said that unless Japan disclose the list of the press-ganged Korean women, officially acknowledge and make an apology, it would launch nationwide anti-Japan drive.

The Human Rights League of Korea pointed out that the Korean government's failure to call on the Japanese government to pay due indemnities for the victims is not only a case of buck-passing but also a violation on human rights.

The human rights group urged the Korean government to take a tougher stance toward the matter.

NATIONAL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992

Page 3

Japan Begins to Admit Cruelties

200,000 Presumed Drafted as 'Comfort Girls'

Japanese authorities has been mute over the issue of Korean women mobilized forcibly as laborers or "comfort girls" during World War II.

But their attitudes changed recently, especially on the occasion of Japanese Prime Minister Kiuchi Miyazawa's visit to Korea, and they began to admit the abuse of Korean women during wartime.

The Japanese government recently made an official apology for drafting Korean women as "Teishintai" members. Teishintai means "comfort girls corps," as was euphemistically called by Japanese. The term also stands for "women's voluntary labor corps."

Many Koreans doubt the Japanese government's sincerity in making the apology, citing its reluctance to make public the exact figures and lists of Korean Teishintai and the destinies of those who had not returned to their homeland after the war.

Speculations abound on how many Korean girls had been mobilized as

laborers or comfort girls for Japanese soldiers. But it is widely believed that 100,000-200,000 Korean women were forcibly drafted as Teishintai members.

In 1975, Kang Wi-chong, then president of the Association of Bereaved Families of Pacific War Victims visited the Japanese Health-Welfare Ministry and got a document confirming that 90,000 comfort girls for the Japanese army died during the war.

It was reported that most of the Teishintai victims were Korean, estimated at over 80 percent. The remainder reportedly were Japanese and Taiwanese girls. The data on wartime comfort girls is missing since Kang's death in 1988.

Seichi Yoshida, who confessed that he engaged in recruiting Korean girls during wartime, recently told reporters that the hunt for comfort girls was conducted systematically at the government's order.

He said that after the war, the Japanese government was all out to cover up its wartime atrocities, including the

drafting of comfort girls.

Just after the war, Japanese vice home minister sent a secret order urging local administrative units to scrap all documents related to Teishintai, according to Yoshida who revealed the truth out of remorse.

In addition to the Japanese government's systematic coverup attempts, Korean victims' reluctance to reveal the truth, apparently out of shame, hinders Korean activist women groups' efforts to hold the Japanese government accountable for the comfort girl mobilization.

According to data and witness accounts gathered by the activist groups thus far, the Japanese government's effort to draft Korean comfort girls in earnest dates back to 1937 when the Sino-Japanese War broke out.

But it is widely believed that Japanese colonialists began mobilizing Korean women as laborers or comfort girls in the 1920s. The theory is very persuasive in light of the existence of the "suicide cliff" in Hakodate, Hok-

kaido.

The cliff got the name in that many Korean girls forcibly taken to the military supply plants in the Japanese island committed suicide there in despair or out of desperation.

Towards the end of the war, Japanese imperialists intensified their women-hunt, forcing girls working in the fields or those passing on streets into military trucks. They were sent to camps for the Japanese army on battle fronts.

Many Korean comfort girls died due to maltreatment or were massacred by retreating or surrendering Japanese who feared the revelation of their atrocities.

A large number of Korean Teishintai members were killed in Japanese ships, sunk by the torpedoes and bombs of allied forces.

Few records of their ordeals remain and the existing data is kept in the dark by Japanese authorities which seem ashamed of their past tainted by infamy and inhumanity.

Conscience of Japan

The latest discovery of an official document on wartime mobilization of women from Japanese colonies to satisfy the sexual needs of soldiers has once more shocked the nation, and we are all dismayed at the Japanese attitude of connivance and dishonesty.

At first, the Japanese government denied involvement of its army of the government in the operation of the battlefield brothels, but soon official records were found proving that the imperial army and the government were in fact all involved.

Even since the disclosure of the evidence, however, the Japanese government has played an insincere and disgraceful two-faced role: While one official was making a lip-service apology, another was an arrogant front-man refusing to consider any kind of compensation for its past wrongs and crimes.

Now it has become clear that not only was Japan's war minister responsible for setting up the brothels for Japanese soldiers overseas, but Emperor Hirohito himself signed into being the law enabling his government to mobilize and operate the "comfort girl" stations.

Economic mega-power Japan is now slowly but carefully also moving into the international arena as a political power. But even now observing their dishonest and distrustful public behavior, we are convinced that Japan still cannot be allowed to take part in any international peace-keeping effort or other form of serious political cooperation.

As long as the Japanese government fails to show itself to be an honest and conscientious partner, it does not deserve to be allowed into a position needing trust.

Coming back to the issue of the comfort girls, Japan can no longer escape world-wide condemnation. Further it must demonstrate its decency before the world community by adequately compensating all the nations and individuals who were harmed by the crimes they committed.

This is the least Japan can do at this moment to absolve it of what it did in the past.

The Korea Times

February 9, 1992

Korea Times Jan 23, 1992

Activists Seeking Korea UN Commission's Support for 'Comfort Girl' Issue

1-23

A group of human rights activists is seeking to ask the U.N. Human Rights Commission to deal with the controversial issue of Korean women enslaved to serve the sexual needs of Japanese soldiers during World War II in an effort to raise international concern.

Lee Hyo-chae, co-chairwoman of the Council for Korean Comfort Women, told reporters yesterday that the council would formally submit the issue to the U.N. commission to seek international support in dealing with the problem.

Lee said she and other council members will visit the headquarters of the United Nations in New York in early February.

According to the council's survey, 89 aged women have since last week reported themselves as having served as comfort girls for Japanese soldiers during the Pacific War.

Reports were mostly made between Jan. 14-21 when the comfort girl question became a hot issue in the Korean-Japanese relations in time for Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Seoul.

A council members said an estimated 200,000 Korean women, from teenagers to middle-aged, were forcibly conscripted by Japan in well-organized ways to offer sexual service to Japanese soldiers from the late 1930s until 1945.

The council estimated that many of them were killed by the Japanese just before the end of the Pacific War in Japan's attempt to destroy war crime evidence or died of hunger and disease after the war.

"No one knows how many survived the atrocities committed by the imperialistic Japanese as long as Japan avoids the truth," the council chairwoman said.

"The first thing that the council has to do," chairwoman Lee observed, "is to reveal the truth about the comfort women problem. Next comes the problem of war compensation by the Japanese government."

The council would soon file a class suit with the Japanese court for reparation for the 89 women who claim to be victims, Lee added.

NK, Japan Wrangle Over Compensation

BEIJING (Reuters) - North Korea and Japan bickered at normalization talks on Saturday over providing proof for compensation to victims of oppression during the Japanese occupation of Korea.

Five previous rounds of normalization talks have stalled because North Korea insists Japan make a full accounting of its wartime crimes and pay compensation.

North Korean chief negotiator Chon Il-chol told a news conference on Saturday that Japan reneged on a promise to provide documents to back up Korean claims.

Korea Times 2.2.92

Remorse Not Enough for 'Comfort Girls': Newspapers

TOKYO (UPI) — Prime Minister Ki-ichi Miyazawa's apologies to South Koreans for the enslavement of women in World War II military brothels triggered reminders in Japanese newspapers Saturday that remorse is not enough.

"Anything short of satisfactory compensation to the Korean women forced to suffer so will further open up rather than heal the historical wounds," the Japan Times said in an editorial.

Miyazawa apologized Friday to South Korea's National Assembly and earlier to President Roh Tae-woo for the forced prostitution of up to 200,000 teenagers and young women by the Japanese Imperial Army but repeated his earlier contention that individual compensation is up to the courts.

Three Korean women have filed suit against the Japanese government and are seeking 160 thousand dollars each in compensation.

While the Japan Times praised Miyazawa for "expressing his deepest apologies and remorse for the immoral and inhuman wartime conduct," the editorial said the "settlement of this issue will require much more than a mere expression of apology."

Miyazawa promised Roh "and the South Koreans that his government will do its best to look into this past Japanese misdeed and to take necessary measures," the editorial said. "Japan now must fulfill the prime minister's promise to the latter."

In a similar tone, the Asahi Shimbun expressed concern the government "is likely to avert its eyes from its disgraceful history."

"Shouldn't Miyazawa articulate concrete measures or policies on the war prostitution issue?" an editorial asked.

Miyazawa has insisted the compensation

tion issue was settled in 1965 when Seoul and Tokyo established full diplomatic relations.

In wrapping up his South Koreans trip Saturday, Miyazawa said the forced prostitution is "an issue Japan cannot avoid."

The Korea Times

Jan 19, 1992

Feb 1, 1992

NK Backs Seoul on Japan's Compensation

BEIJING (Reuters) — Talks aimed at normalizing ties between North Korea and Japan made no progress on Friday as Pyongyang continued to demand compensation for Japan's forced prostitution of Korean women during World War II.

"We didn't get anywhere on the basic issue — normalization," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

The talks did, however, produce a rare display of North Korean support for South Korea which first raised the issue of the tens of thousands of so-called wartime "comfort women" with Japan and demanded compensation for their suffering.

"I strongly support South Korea's demand," Chon In-chol, Pyongyang's chief delegate to the normalization talks, told a news conference.

"The Japanese government should compensate South Korea," he said, adding that although North and South

Korea had been divided for a long time they had suffered equally during Japan's 1910-1945 rule over the Korean peninsula.

But he hedged on whether the two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-63 Korean conflict, should unite to press their demands for compensation.

"We have to wait and see whether we should raise the compensation issue separately or together," Chon said.

North Korea raised the "comfort women" issue with Japan for the first time Thursday, although it has previously demanded compensation for other aspects of Japan's brutal colonial rule.

Friday morning's talks did not touch on North Korea's compliance with a nuclear safeguard agreement it signed in Vienna on Thursday.

Japanese negotiators are seeking assurances that Pyongyang will fully

comply with the terms of the agreement, which provides for international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Tokyo has insisted no progress can be made on normalization unless Pyongyang allows such inspections.

The current talks were scheduled to finish later on Friday but negotiators said they could continue on Saturday.

Pyongyang's Chon was unconcerned at the lack of progress in the talks.

"We are not in a hurry. We will have talks continually until the Japanese side comes out with a good attitude," he said.

North Korea said Friday it will not establish diplomatic relations with Japan unless Tokyo apologizes for its wartime actions and pays reparations.

North Korea also demanded that a clause be included in any normalization document specifying that both sides oppose big-power domination.

Hirohito OK'd mobilization of comfort girls

Sungcha U. official uncovers copy of statute document in Japanese Diet library

CHONAN, Chungcheongnam-do (OANA-Yonhap) — A Japanese document surfaced here Friday showing former Japanese Emp. Hirohito directly made the law enabling his government to mobilize and operate "comfort girls," euphemism for forced laborers and sex slaves, during World War II.

Lee Dong-choon, deputy director of Sungwha University library, made public a copy of Japanese statute document dated Aug. 22, 1944, he dug up from the library of the Japanese Diet earlier this month.

The 23-article document, imperial ordinance No. 519, details who will recruit the women and how the women will be "employed," laying legal grounds for recruitment of comfort girls.

It has the seal of Emp. Hirohito and endorsement signatures by four cabinet ministers including the then Prime Minister Kuniaki Koiso.

Article 6 says provincial governors, mayors and school presidents can order recruitment for comfort women whenever needed. Article 4 says the women should be employed for a year with an exception for those who agree to stay longer.

Article 21 says that Taiwanese and Japanese women are possible subjects of recruitment.

Papers, documents and witnesses have been surfacing linking the Japanese government with mobilization and operation of comfort women, but this is the first time that mobilization of the comfort girls is directly linked to the emperor.

Tokyo overturned years of denial and admitted last month of government involvement in operating comfort girls, and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized.

The document shows an August 1944 decree signed by Hirohito and four Japanese cabinet ministers allowing school principals and district government heads to pick women to serve either as "comfort women" for the Japanese Imperial Army or defense factory workers during World War II, the news reports said.

Yonhap said an article stipulates that not only Japanese but also Koreans and Taiwanese are subject to the decree. The issue of wartime forced prostitution became a major controversy be-

tween Seoul and Tokyo after an elderly Korean woman in December filed the first-ever law suit by a "comfort woman" seeking damages from Japan.

During his trip to Seoul last month, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa repeatedly apologized to Koreans for atrocities during Japan's brutal colonial rule from 1910 to 1945, including the abduction of Korean women as prostitutes for its army.

South Korean newspapers had published documents showing that Japan seized scores of Korean elementary school pupils aged from 12 to 16 to work as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers from 1944 to 1945.

Just before Miyazawa's visit to Seoul, however, reports surfaced in Tokyo proving what Tokyo had long denied — that Japan's Imperial Army forced 100,000 to 200,000 women, 80 percent of them Koreans, into prostitution from 1931 to 1945.

Lingering anti-Japanese sentiment was stirred up in South Korea during Miyazawa's trip by revelations about the scale of the atrocities, setting off a series of demonstrations protesting against the visit and demanding compensation by Japan. (Reuters)



Yonhap
A college curator in Chonan Thursday disclosed the paper he obtained from the Japanese Parliament library which shows Japanese Emp. Hirohito decreed the mobilization of Korean 'comfort' girls. They were forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during WWII.

The Korea Herald,

February 8, 1992

24 hours a day
seven days a week

Come and Try, the World of Excitement

Walker-hill Casino

Sheraton Walker Hill

TEL (02) 456-2121, FAX (02) 455-2121

THE KORI

42nd Year, No. 12865

코리아 타임스

SEOUL, SATURDAY, FEB 8, 1992

Telegram Discovered at Library

Tojo Involved in Wartime Brothels

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's war minister during World War II, Gen. Hideki Tojo, was involved in setting up brothels for Japanese soldiers overseas, according to a wartime telegram made public here Thursday.

The telegram, dated March 12, 1942, was discovered at the Defense Agency library by Hideo Ito, a legislator with the main opposition Social Democratic Party and sheds new light on the issue of so-called "comfort girls."

The telegram was sent from the Japanese imperial Army forces in Taiwan to Tojo, the Kyodo news agency reported.

"Regarding a request I have received from South Theater Headquarters to dispatch 50 comfort natives to Borneo, I ask your permission to send the following three selected by the military police as (brothel) managers," the telegram said.

Japan has apologized to North and South Korea over



Hideki Tojo

the comfort girl issue after official records were found in January pointing to the Japanese Imperial Army's involvement in the network of wartime brothels.

Three South Korean women filed a suit in December with the Tokyo district court, seeking government compensation for being forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the war. So far Japan has refused an compensation requests.

During his visit to Seoul last month, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized for the army's role in forcing 100,000-200,000 women, mostly Koreans, into prostitution.

Tojo, who also served as prime minister from 1941 to 1944, was hanged for war crimes after the war ended.

Other war ministry documents were released Thursday, according to Kyodo, showing how the army supervised recruitment and the management of the brothels.

According to one rule, "comfort girls can take walks every day only between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and walks at other time require the chief officer's consent," Kyodo said.

Japanese lawyer Kenichi Takagi, assigned to the three Korean plaintiffs, was quoted by Kyodo as saying the documents showed the government and the military were "completely in charge of the prostitution."

The Korea Times

Feb 8, 1992

Other Comment

Jan 24, 92.

Time for Tokyo to Pay

When Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan drew up plans to visit South Korea for a summit meeting on problems between the two countries he knew it was going to be a tough trip. Deep resentment over Imperial Japan's rule of Korea lingers as does friction over Tokyo's refusal to lower trade barriers. But the issue dominating the meeting that ended unconvincingly last Saturday was far more dramatic — and embarrassing.

The topic was sex slavery, the brutal behavior of the Japanese Army in dragging innocent girls off the streets and out of school classrooms to work as prostitutes servicing Japanese troops in World War II. It was savage, bestial behavior for which no proper compensation can exist. However, this does not excuse the fact that no attempt to ease the plight of these girls after they had been discarded toward the end of the war was ever made by any Japanese government.

Japan is carefully cultivating relations with the countries it does business with. It has largely shaken off the image of a rapacious, unethical, trade-hungry animal (except among the uncompetitive American car-making fraternity) and is moving toward playing a greater role in world affairs. The last thing Tokyo needs at this juncture is a protracted squabble over events which happened before the majority of the new Japan was born.

Forget face, forget the rewriting of history books and settle this most embarrassing of issues on a direct, government-to-government basis. That is Tokyo's most sensible option. The alternative is to let the wound fester, hoping that the pain will go away. It will only do so once Japan has rid itself of the remnants of its inglorious past. Reparations need not be paid twice, but in this case it was a mistake to pay none at all — a mistake that honor demands be rectified within the lifetimes of the survivors of this cruelty.

— The Bangkok Post.



EXTERN

Weitere Informationen zu

UA 99/89 ai Index: ASA 25/20/89 14. Juni 1989 - khw
(ASA 25/14/89, 18. April 1989; ASA 25/19/89, 9. Juni 1989)

R E C H T S L A G E

Südkorea: Rev. Moon Ik-hwan, Yoo Won-ho, Lee Bu-yaong,
 Prof. Lee Yong-hee, Koh Eun, Lee Jae-oh

amnesty international hat erfahren, daß Koh-Eun trotz seiner Freilassung am 2. Juni 1989 (wie in den Weiteren Informationen vom 9. Juni 1989 gemeldet) sich immer noch unter Hausarrest befindet.

amnesty international fordert weiterhin die sofortige und bedingungslose Freilassung von Rev. Moon Ik-hwan and allen anderen, die im Zusammenhang mit seiner Reise nach Nordkorea oder wegen versuchter Treffen mit nordkoreanischen Organisationen zu friedlichen Diskussionen noch festgehalten werden.

WEITERE EMPFOHLENE AKTIONEN: Schreiben Sie bitte Teleexe, Telegramme, Telebriefe, Luftpost- und Eilbriefe, in denen Sie

- * Ihre Besorgnis über die noch anhaltende Haft von Reverend Moon Ik-hwan, Yoo Won-Ho, Lee Jae-oh, Lee Bu-yong und Professor Lee Yong-hee zum Ausdruck bringen und verlangen, sie unverzüglich freizulassen, weil ihre Inhaftierung eine Verletzung ihrer Rechte auf freie Meinungsäußerung und Vereinigungsfreiheit darstellt;
- * fordern, daß der Hausarrest und die Anklage gegen Koh Eun aufgehoben wird.

APPELLE AN:

President Roh Tae-woo, President of the Republic of Korea,
The Blue House, 1 Sejong-no, Chongno-gu, Seoul, REPUBLIK KOREA
(Präsident)

Telegramme: President Roh Tae-woo, Seoul, Südkorea

His Excellency Mr Chung Hae-chang, Minister of Justice,
Ministry of Justice, 1 Chungang-dong, Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun,
Kyonggi Province, Republik Korea
(Justizminister)

Telegramme: Minister Justice, Shihung-gung, Kyonggi, Südkorea

bei Telebriefen: Minister of Justice Chung Hae-chang,
1 Chungang-dong, Kwachon-myon, Shihung-gun, Kyonggi, Seoul,
Südkorea

Telex für beide über das Außenministerium:

0801 24 651, 0801 24 652, 0801 24 653 woimubu k

KOPIEN AN:

Kanzlei der Botschaft der Republik Korea, Adenauerallee 124,
5300 Bonn 1

Telex: 886 95 08 kor d

Telefax: (02 28) 22 39 43

BITTE SCHREIBEN SIE IHRE APPELLE SO BALD WIE MÖGLICH. SCHREIBEN SIE IN GUTEM ENGLISCH ODER AUF DEUTSCH. DA INFORMATIONEN IN URGENT ACTIONS SCHNELL AN AKTUALITÄT VERLIEREN KÖNNEN, BITTEN WIR SIE, NACH DEM 21. JULI 1989 KEINE APPELLE MEHR ZU VERSENDEN.

- expressing concern at the continued detention of Reverend Moon Ik-hwan, Yoo Won-ho, Lee Jae-oh, Lee Bu-yong and Professor Lee Yong-hee who are held in contravention of their rights to peaceful freedom of expression and association and urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released;

- urging that Koh Eun be released from house arrest, and that all the charges against him be dropped.

BITTE BEMÜHEN SIE SICH BESONDERS UM APPELLE VON JOURNALISTEN, KIRCHENGRUPPEN, SCHRIFTSTELLERN UND POLITIKERN.

- Bitte reagieren Sie sofort, wenn Sie diesen Brief erhalten, und beachten Sie die Empfehlungen zu jedem Einzelfall.
- Ihre Briefe sollten freundlich formuliert sein. Stellen Sie klar heraus, daß Ihr Einsatz für die Menschenrechte in keiner Weise parteipolitisch gebunden ist. Weisen Sie gegebenenfalls auf Bestimmungen internationaler Abkommen hin, wie beispielsweise auf die folgenden Artikel der Allgemeinen Erklärung der Menschenrechte:
Art. 3: „Jeder Mensch hat das Recht auf Leben, Freiheit und Sicherheit der Person.“
Art. 5: „Niemand darf der Folter oder grausamer, unmenschlicher oder erniedrigender Behandlung oder Strafe unterworfen werden.“
Art. 9: „Niemand darf willkürlich festgenommen, in Haft gehalten oder des Landes verwiesen werden.“
- Sie können den Namen von amnesty international erwähnen, wenn es nicht anders vermerkt ist. Briefe mit

persönlichem oder beruflichem Bezug haben jedoch oft größere Wirkung.

- Bitte senden Sie Kopien Ihrer Appelle mit einem Anschreiben an die entsprechende Botschaft.
- In urgent-action-Fällen muß amnesty international im Interesse der betroffenen Personen schnell handeln. Eine urgent action wird dann herausgegeben, wenn ai glaubt, über zuverlässige und genaue Informationen zu verfügen. Wichtige neue Informationen werden jedem Teilnehmer einer urgent action mitgeteilt.
- Kopien von Antwortschreiben sollten Sie sofort weiterleiten an:
amnesty international
Sektion der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- urgent actions -
Postfach 170 229, 5300 Bonn 1
Danken Sie der Behörde oder Person für ihre Antwort und bitten Sie darum, weiterhin über den Fall informiert zu werden.

amnesty international

SOUTH KOREA

REVEREND MOON IK-HWAN AND YU WON-HO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

MARCH 1990

AI INDEX: ASA 25/11/90

DISTR: SC/CO/GR

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan, a Presbyterian minister and leading political dissident, and Yu Won-ho, a businessman, are serving sentences of seven years' imprisonment for visiting North Korea without the authorization of the South Korean government. Amnesty International considers that the mere fact of travelling to North Korea without evidence either of espionage activities or the use or advocacy of violence cannot justify imprisonment. It considers Reverend Moon Ik-hwan and Yu Won-ho to be prisoners of conscience held for their peaceful political activities, and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan, 72, and Yu Won-ho, 60, visited North Korea from 25 March to 3 April 1989. They travelled via Japan and China and their arrival in Pyongyang took many by surprise. Reverend Moon Ik-hwan was the first person to take up an invitation Kim Il-sung, the North Korean leader, had extended in his New Year message to seven South Korean public figures, namely the leaders of the four political parties, Cardinal Kim Sou-hwan and two dissidents, Reverend Moon Ik-hwan and Paik Ki-wan, to visit Pyongyang to discuss reunification.

In North Korea Reverend Moon Ik-hwan had several meetings with government officials and reportedly held discussions with Kim Il-sung for seven hours. He issued a Joint Statement with Ho Dam, the chairman of the North Korean Committee on Reunification of the Fatherland, on the basic principles that should govern Korean reunification. He also attended church services and visited some of his relatives. On several occasions he explained his motives for visiting North Korea. Besides realizing a personal wish to visit his ancestors' graves, he said that he hoped his visit would give a fresh impetus to dialogue between the north and the south and open the way for contacts between ordinary people.

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan and Yun Won-ho were arrested on 13 April upon their arrival at Kimpo International Airport near Seoul. They were immediately taken into custody by the Agency for National Security Planning. Reverend Moon Ik-hwan was not allowed to see his lawyers until 21 April, after they lodged a protest with the Prosecutor General over the refusal of the Agency to allow a meeting.

On 31 May Reverend Moon Ik-hwan was formally charged under the National Security Law on three counts. He was charged under Article 6(2) with "escaping to an enemy area under enemy instructions", under Article 7(1) with praising North Korea and under Article 8(1) with meeting and communicating with the enemy. Yu Won-ho was charged under the same law with arranging Reverend Moon Ik-hwan's visit to Pyongyang and of spying for North Korea.

Their trial before Seoul District Court started on 25 June. Reverend Moon Ik-hwan claimed that his visit was a contribution to efforts to bring about peace in Korea and he criticized the National Security Law as a law designed to persecute people who, like him, sought democracy and reunification. Yu Won-ho explained that he went to North Korea with Reverend Moon to advance unification and because he did not consider North Korea to be an "anti-state organization" as defined in the National Security Law because President Roh Tae-woo had announced that his government would try to ease tensions with the north. The defence lawyers protested about the proceedings, in particular the court's refusal to hear most of the witnesses suggested by the defence, and requested that the presiding judge be replaced with a judge who would not be acting under government pressure. They boycotted the last hearing on 18 September at which the prosecution authorities demanded life sentences for both defendants. On 5 October they were both sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The presiding judge acquitted them on the charge of praising and sympathizing with North Korean leaders. He accepted that their visit had been motivated by their commitment to reunification of the country but said that they had fallen victims to a North Korean propaganda ploy and in so doing had harmed the interests of the south. Yu Won-ho was acquitted of the charges of spying for the north.

Both prisoners appealed against their sentences and appeal hearings began before Seoul High Court on 27 December. Reverend Moon Ik-hwan at first refused to appear in court on grounds of ill-health. He attended the third hearing after the court ordered on 15 January 1990 that he be released to hospital custody for nine days to undergo medical examinations. On 10 February Seoul High Court reduced their sentences to seven years' imprisonment.

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan is a Presbyterian Minister and an Old Testament scholar. He has written 10 books of poetry and essays and is a proponent of "minjung (people's) theology". He became involved in anti-government activities in the mid-1970s and was imprisoned on four occasions, from March 1976 to December 1977, October 1978 to December 1979, May 1980 to December 1982, and May 1986 to July 1987. He was an adviser to the dissident organization Chonminnyon (the National Council for Democratic Movement) but undertook his visit to North Korea at his own initiative.

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan is detained in Anyang prison. Doctors at the Seoul National University Hospital have diagnosed him as suffering from hypothyroidism and high blood pressure and have recommended constant medical attention. The Seoul High Court has refused to release him on bail on health grounds, saying that medical facilities at the hospital were adequate.

The visit to North Korea of Reverend Moon Ik-hwan and Yu Won-ho was the catalyst for a government crackdown on dissident efforts to contact North Koreans and on the expression of views supportive of the north. A number of people have been arrested under the National Security Law for

promoting meetings between students, writers or others from North and South Korea but outside government channels. Other were arrested for possessing North Korean books or having written or published articles allegedly sympathetic to the north.

Korea was divided into two after World War II and in 1948 two separate governments were established : the Republic of Korea in the south and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north. After a three-year war from 1950 to 1953, an armistice created a demilitarized zone along the 38th parallel. The country has since remained divided with both states maintaining large standing armies and devoting a large proportion of national resources to defence. There are no postal or telephone contacts between people in the two parts of Korea. On 7 July 1988, President Roh Tae-woo made a special declaration in which he proposed to end confrontation, achieve common prosperity and actively promote exchanges of visits by people from various walks of life. Until now, however, South Koreans have required government approval before visiting the north and few have received such permission.

Reverend Moon Ik-hwan



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

