

OSAKA WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

P.O.Box 15, Higashi-Yodogawa-ku,
OSAKA, 533, JAPAN
TEL 81-6-322-2313

Sex

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26 October, 1992

Dear Sisters,

"OSAKA WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT" ("ASA") was formed in November 1988. We are active mainly in three areas:

1. to empower women who had suffered from sexual violence by men (such as providing telephone consulting, counseling, legal advice, introducing women lawyers) and so on. Through these services, we help victimized women to recover their dignity and become survivors.
2. to eliminate sexual violent socially environment, behaviour, attitude, and norms from our society. For example, We found that a Publishing company "KK BEST SELLERS" published a overseas tour guide book titled "Traveling Alone in Southeast Asian Tour for Men" which recommends and promotes prostitution tour. This spring, We organized campaign and action to protest the Company together with other women's groups in Japan and other countries. The Company was forced to stop publishing the book and collect the book from bookstores.
3. to provide information relating to sexual violence against women by publishing quarterly titled "FIGHT BACK (only Japanese Edition)" and holding a open seminar for women every other months.

In this letter, we want to ask you to corporate with us in the protest action against Japanese largest condom maker Okamoto C.O.LTD.

We found that Okamoto is selling condoms in packages with the catchphrase "Totugeki Iciban (Make the Charge be the first)". This catchphrase was used for a condom's brand name at the time of World War II. Japanese military government at that time supplied Japanese soldiers with these condoms. As many people

know, Japanese soldiers committed sexual violence(rape) against Asian women including "Comfort" Women who had been forced to give sexual services for Japanese soldiers, most of whom used these condoms.

Kokusai Rubber Company, which used that brand name, later became Okamoto which has developed as the top condom maker in Japan in the wake of AIDS campaign.

We think the catchphrase is promoting and reproducing sexual violence against Asian Women and it also violates dignity and human rights of those who were comfort women. Therefore we launched the protest action against Okamoto. We sent the writing protest to the Company.

The writing protest consisted of the following 4 demands.

- 1) Okamoto should stop selling the condom and collect all of the product from market.
- 2) Okamoto should apologize in advertisement Japanese five national newspapers (Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Sankei, and Nihon Keizai).
- 3) Okamoto should explicitly apologize to women in Asian.
- 4) Okamoto should give the answers on the above demands to us on no later than the 10th November 1992.

We want you to send us your writing protest to Okamoto and your solidarity voice with our group to:

OSAKA WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT
P.O.Box 15, Higashi-Yodogawa-ku
OSAKA, 533, JAPAN

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely

Yoko Kurihara
for OSAKA WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

This picture is the original version of the package of "TOTUGEKI ICHIBAN"

From the end of 1937 (Japanese Arms began to invade China) to 1940, Japanese soldiers in general used condoms (ex. HEART BEAUTY). In the course of extending the war, Japanese Military government restricted business activities and specified some products as munitions. "TOTUGEKI ICHIBAN" produced by The KOKUSAI RUBBER(now, OKAMOTO C.O.LTD) was specified as munitions by Military government. That was supplied to every soldiers.



This picture is the package of condom produced by OKAMOTO C.O.LTD.

The condom's brand name is "RUBBER MAN".

The package looks like a cassette tape case. The catchphrase "Totugeki Ichiban" is printed the spine of the case. The back cover of the label carry a sexually violent cartoon.

