

Invitation to Join the Association of Lawyers
for Coordinating Activities Seeking Post War Compensation

Recently, the comfort women for military servicemen, the victims of compulsory labor and other victims suffered from the Japanese government's activities during the Second World War, who have been left out of the post-war compensation by Japan, have raised cries for the post-war compensation based on the liabilities of Japan for the war activities. In Japan, they have initiated to place demands for the compensations in various manners, direct negotiations or filing legal actions, against the Japanese government or the Japanese companies involving the war activities.

Even victims in China who suffered most seriously damages from the Japanese war activities have announced their intent to demand the compensations to be paid to individual Chinese citizens, regardless of the release by the Chinese government of the claim for war compensation against Japanese government as declared in the diplomatic formality between China and Japan.

Not only victims residing in Asian countries but also prisoners of war in countries of the Allied Powers have now become active to seek the full compensation from Japan for the imprisonment during the war.

The issues for post-war compensation by Japan have become the subject before the United Nations, the sub-committee of Human Rights, and been considered as one of the most important matters in terms of the present and future protection of the international human rights as well

as the one with respect to which the humanitarian relief is to be granted urgently to the war victims.

In this regard many Japanese private organizations and lawyers have been coordinating with each other in the international aspect, assisting in investigation of the historical facts and interview of victims, and actively engaging in the direct negotiation or the legal action to seek the compensation.

Required are the broad international view, taking into account, as a part, of the activities at the United Nations, to accomplish post-war compensation by the Japanese government, because there exist important legal issues to be overcome, such as the statute of limitation of the claim for the compensation under the domestic law, the release of the war compensation claim by the government and its effect on the private claim under the international law.

We are of opinion that the post-war compensation by the Japanese government is the matter for which the Japanese government has been liable because of its war activities and must be resolved urgently, especially in the light of the ages of the victims.

We believe that seeking the resolution of the post-war compensation by Japan will contribute to further development of the international and universal human rights pursuant to which international judicial remedies are available to victims for recovery of damages suffered from the war activities of a government.

Consequently, we invite you to join the Association of Lawyers for Coordinating Activities Seeking Post-War Compensation, to achieve the following objectives:

1. Establishing a policy to framework the various matter and aspects concerning post-war compensation;
2. Researching, studying and/or proposing legal principles in the laws of international human rights and other associated legal materials;
3. Acquisition, communication, exchange or otherwise coordination with various NGO with respect to information regarding the activities of the United Nations, including the sub-committee of international human rights; and
4. Assistance and coordination with lawyers group in representing or to represent individual cases and facilitation of the communication among those groups.

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