

Newsletter

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan



Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery

日本軍性奴隷制を裁く 女性国際戦犯法廷

December 8 - 12 2000 Tokyo Japan



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Yoon-Ok Kim(Co-representative)

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The Korean Council for the Women Drafted
for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

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As We Enter the Century of Peace and Hope

Yoon-Ok Kim (Co-representative)

The UN declared the first 10 years of the 21st century as a decade of peace and culture, based on the hope that the people who have experienced war and violence in the 20th century would settle for peace in the 21st century. The 20th century was a violent century that was characterized by colonization and wars. The sexual slavery issue against which the Korean Council has struggled for the last 10 years was also a consequence of the violence of colonization and war.

We successfully organized the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery in 2000, which was held between December 7~12, 2000 in Tokyo. The purposes of the Tribunal were to punish the responsible perpetrators and to attain justice by restoring the honor of the victims. Furthermore, the Tribunal



aimed at putting an end to the pattern of not punishing assailants of sexual violence during wartime and at eradicating sexual violence in wartime during the 21st century.

The guilty verdict against Emperor Hirohito and the judgement of the Japanese government to compensate the victims were just conclusions in closing the violence-marred 20th century. The awareness of the

global society has changed substantially at the end of the 20th century. When we look back at the activities of the Korean Council briefly, the Tokyo district prosecution office did not accept the litigation when the Korean Council tried to file a legal suit with the Tokyo district prosecution office. However, the report (which was sent to the UN Human Right Committee in January and accepted in April of 1996) by Radhika Coomaraswamy on violence against women recommended that those

who were responsible for the comfort women system be punished.

The ILO Expert Committee report on treaty application that was issued in March 1996 also dealt with the comfort women issue and recommended punishment. The report entitled "Systematic wartime rape and sexual slavery issue", which was submitted by the Special Rapporteur Linda Chavez to the

UN Subcommittee on Human Rights in August 1996, presented the 'comfort women' issue as a representative case on the sexual slavery that occurred in Germany, former Yugoslavia, and Rwanda.

In addition, the report submitted to the UN Subcommittee on Human Rights by the Special Rapporteur Gay McDougall in August 1998 regarding 'systematic rape and sexual slavery issue during wartime' dealt at length with the 'comfort women' issue and recommended the Japanese government and the UN to collaborate with each other in resolving the 'comfort women' issue, since it is considered a crime against humanity. The ILO Expert Committee repeatedly made similar recommendations to the Japanese government in its reports issued in March 1997 and March 1999.

Thus, the opinion that the 'comfort women' issue is a war crime and that those responsible should be punished has been established and legitimized, since no statute of limitations exists for war crimes. In order to effectively try war crimes still occurring today in different regions, international society has set up international courts for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and in 1998 adopted the International Criminal Court clause to establish a standing International Criminal Court.

As we watch this rapid progress in international society, we are awaiting the final verdict of the Women's Tribunal 2000, which will be issued this coming March 8. The entire world shared in the findings of the Women's Tribunal 2000, which was conveyed by 220 international reporters. Many women heard

the news with great emotion and women at the Tribunal watched the dawning of hope with tears. We expect that these findings will bring us surprising results.

As we embark on a century of peace and hope, a century of compromise and dialogue, a century of healing and symbiosis, the values that we hold true can be realized only when the legacies of the violence in the 20th century are eradicated. The Japanese government will not be able to deceive our conceptions, which have already become a part of the common sense of international society. Leaping head on into the 21st century, in which we expect all people to work together to aggregate power toward creating peace, we at the Korean Council are newly determined to restructure both our internal and external struggle.

Looking for the help and donation

We are also waiting for more help including financial assistance from individuals or groups, because the Korean Council is heavily dependent on help from supporters who give money and assistance to maintain our movement. Although we have gotten much help from many supporters, it is not enough to satisfy our needs. For this reason, we are still waiting for more help and donations to support more "Comfort Women" financially and to eventually get the right answer to their unforgettable problem.

1) Your donation will be used to continue the activities and work of this movement for the "Comfort Women", such as the weekly demonstration against the Japanese government and efforts to keep in close relationships with other Asian countries and campaign at the United Nations, so if you would like to your money well spent on this important work, then please send your donation to the following account and address:

Name of bank : Chohung Bank
Account number: 308-01-158087
Name of receiver: The Korean Council for the Women
Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (Jungdaehyup)

2) If you prefer your donation to be used to help individual "Comfort Women" for with living expenses, please send it to the following account and address:

Name of bank : Chohung Bank
Account number: 308-01-150299
The Name of receiver: Lee Mi-kyung

3) We are looking for support and donations for the Korean Council Education Building

Cho-Hung Bank Account Number : 308-03-009542

Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in 2000

Opening of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in 2000 (hereafter Women's Tribunal 2000)

After 2 years of preparation (1999-2000) from the beginning of the International Organizing Committee in February 1999, the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in 2000 was co-hosted by 9 Asian victim nations and Japan. Ten countries (South Korea, North Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor, Malaysia, and the Netherlands) participated in the Women's Tribunal 2000, which took the slogan "Honor and Justice to Comfort Women."

This tribunal was the first civil trial, attended by about 70 victims, 500 participants from abroad, and 600 participants from Japan. The active participation of countries including the Netherlands, East Timor, Malaysia and Indonesia - where the 'comfort women' issue had not been fully

examined - contributed significantly to drawing the big picture of the crimes of the 'comfort women' system inflicted upon these Asian victim nations.

This Tribunal was conducted on the order of the joint indictment brought by North and South Korea against Japan on December 8, indictment and witness testimonies from China, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Malaysia on December 9, and indictment by Indonesia, East Timor, the Netherlands on December 10. During the indictment process brought by each country, expert witnesses were presented relating to different areas including the Japanese Imperial army (Hayasi Hirohumi), the system of the 'comfort stations' (Yoshimi Yoshiaki), the responsibility of HIROHITO (Yamada Akira), Trauma (Lepa Mladjenovic), and State Responsibility (Frits Kalshoven). Testimonies by former Japanese soldiers Yoshimi Suzuki and Kanekoya Suzi drew

special attention, because they vividly described the horrific situation at the time.

Other than Women's Tribunal 2000, an international forum was held under the title, 'sexual violence in arms conflicts'. This international forum was prepared in order to emphasize the point that the 'comfort women' issue is not just an issue of the past but a living feature of armed struggles of the present. Victims of sexual violence from Rwanda, East Timor, Guatemala/the United States, Okinawa, Vietnam, Burundi, Kosovo, Chipase, Algeria, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Somalia and Sierra Leone testified and exposed the reality of sexual violence.

The programs that brightened the rather solemn and serious atmosphere of Women's Tribunal 2000 were the opening ceremony in December and night-time programs: The welcoming dinner on December 8, the video/film festival on December 9, the Asian culture

night on December 10, and the meeting of sexual violence victims on December 11. Korea hosted the opening ceremony, the Asian culture night commemorating world human rights day, and the closing ceremony.

Team of participants formed with 205 people

The team of participants in Women's Tribunal 2000 was actually planned to comprise about 150 people but the actual number of participants was over 205 people. They were from various walks of life, including students, reporters, volunteers, victims (21 people), members and representatives of affiliated organizations, people from abroad, members of The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (The Korean Council), the Korean Organizing Committee and interested individuals. Most of them attended Women's Tribunal 2000, realizing once again the seriousness of the 'comfort women' issue by hearing about the situations of Asian victim countries, the situation of Korea, and by listening to the testimonies of victims. They were once again shocked at the current reality facing women around the world in atrocities against women's human rights. The team of participants also did not forget to share their valuable experiences

by disclosing individual feelings and resolutions to the media.

Tribunal Events

The opening ceremony

The opening ceremony started at 6:30 p.m. on December 7 with

Yayori, and Indai Sajor and national flags were paraded accompanied by strong marching songs. Lastly, all joined hands and sang "We Shall Overcome" to gather a will to win.

The opening declaration by the prosecution team and



the viewing of a commemorative video that described the life of the elderly KANG Suk-kyung, and slides of the activities undertaken in each country to prepare for Women's Tribunal 2000. The declaration of the opening of Women's Tribunal 2000 was done by the co-representatives of the IOC, YUN Chung-Ok, Matsui

announcement of the summary of the indictment by the prosecution team of North and South Korea

Immediately following the opening declaration by the prosecution team was the announcement of the indictment summary, an argumentative

speech by the Japanese side, and the joint indictment by North and South Koreans. The indictment by Japan was made on the first day (December 8). The prosecution team explained that the purpose of the Tribunal was "to elucidate the basic characteristics of Japan's sexual slavery system and to request that the Japanese government fulfill its consequent responsibility."

The gist of the announcement of the national prosecution team (International Prosecutor: Patricia Sellers) was that criminal responsibility would be requested from the Japanese government, that individual criminal responsibility should be accepted for the 'comfort women' system as a willful crime committed under the systematic crime of the nation and that the former Japanese Emperor should take responsibility.

Historical joint indictment brought up by North and South Koreans

Following the argument by the Japanese side, the historic indictment by North and South Koreans began. By conducting the first order of this joint indictment, South Korea had etched the historical meaning of this indictment. Although an agreement was made before this joint indictment, conducting this agreement was very difficult



Indictment brought by North and South Korea

since South and North could not contact each other but the final agreement was reached after an overnight conference to overcome this difficulty on December 6.

The result of the deliberation on how to effectively conduct the 3 hours' indictment time based on the indictment statement submitted by the joint prosecution team of North and South Korea was that: the overall program would be conducted by PARK Won-soon (Prosecutor from South Korea, a lawyer); the historical background by HONG Sun-ok (Prosecutor from North Korea, COCOPA Chairperson); the forced taking by HA Jong-moon (Prosecutor from South Korea, a professor at Hanshin University); crimes at 'comfort stations' by WHANG Ho-nam (Prosecutor from North Korea, COCOPA general secretary) and KANG Jung-sook (Prosecutor from

South Korea, JUNGSHINDAE Institute); the situation after losing the war by KIM Eun-young (Prosecutor from North Korea, COCOPA Standing Committee member) and YANG Hyun-a (Prosecutor from South Korea, an instructor at Dongkook University); individual responsibility by CHO Si-hyun (Prosecutor from South Korea, a professor at Sungshin Women's University); and national (Japanese) responsibility by JONG Nam-young (Prosecutor from North Korea, COCOPA executive member).

The background of forming the 'comfort women' system was the structural and systematic crimes that the former Japanese government and military committed to annihilate Koreans under the forced occupation by Japan, and the 'comfort women' system was led by the police and military police with lies, kidnapping and human trafficking. As for the crimes at

comfort stations, a total of five witnesses including the elderly AHN Byup-soon and MOON Pil-gi from South Korea, KIM Young-sook and PARK Young-shim from North Korea, and HA Sang-sook from China came forward to expose the lives of 'comfort women' and crimes committed at the comfort stations in detail. In particular, they testified to the atrocities suffered by the victims taken forcefully to the 'comfort stations' and the pain suffered due to abandonment and neglect after the war. To help illustrate their testimonies to the audience, power-point presentations were given.

The demand for a guilty verdict was sought for the former Japanese emperor HIROHITO and 8 perpetrators (Okamura Yasuzi, Umero Ziro, Matsuyama Uzo, Minami Ziro, Itakaki Seisiro etc.) (by CHO Si-hyun/South Korea). When the responsibilities of the Japanese government were requested with eight different indictments, people responded with applause. After the joint indictment brought by North and South Korea, many people praised that the indictment was memorable and well presented, so the indictment process was successful.

Indictment brought by Japan

The indictment started by asking for responsibility be taken by the former emperor HIROHITO

and the Japanese government. For the indictment, expert witnesses were presented to clarify that the entire national structure at the time was under the rule of the emperor and the 'comfort women system' was implemented with the systematic support of Japan.

Indictment brought by China, the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia

On the second day of Women's Tribunal 2000 (December 9), an



Indictment brought by China

indictment was brought by China, the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia, and - of particular note - testimonies were presented by the victims from China describing the atrocities that took place in detail. Three testimonies were given by witnesses from China: one on a group rape by Japanese soldiers after forcible kidnapping; one on a victim taken forcefully to 'comfort stations' due to

trickery; and one on a victim's father slaughtered after being taken by Japanese soldiers, and the mother and the then 7-year-old victim raped in the Nanking Massacre. One witness fainted after getting vehemently angry while testifying, provoking tears among those in the audience. Others included all the victims from the Philippines standing in front of the court to bring charges. Another indictment by the prosecution team was made with a video presentation of

testimonies from victims from Taiwan and Malaysia.

Indictment by the Netherlands, Indonesia and East Timor

A woman from the Netherlands testified on her pain of life as a comfort women and the pain suffered in the aftermath of being a comfort woman. She was taken forcefully while being trained as a nun at a

Catholic school in Indonesia. She expressed strong opposition to the Asian Women's Fund, which proposed to pay compensation without giving an apology. For the indictment brought up by Indonesia, the witnesses testified to their pain as comfort women and the pain of enduring abortion at comfort stations.

East Timor illustrated the pain suffered by the victims at the atrocity of rape with a video presentation.

Expert witnesses

Expert witnesses testified that the Japanese government's acceptance of responsibility would help ease the mental, psychological and social side effects suffered by these victims of long-term sexual violence. An expert witness from the Japanese side said that textbooks in Japan and the Japanese government are still concealing the harm suffered by the victims. The witness also clarified that although treaties with Asian countries have been dealt with in the eyes of Japanese law, and that the time period to bring charges was over under Japanese law, which prioritizes its own law over international law, the Japanese government has responsibility to individuals' demands and a set time period to bring charges was not applicable under international law.

Testimonies given by two former Japanese soldiers



Two former Japanese soldiers testified that rape and violence were committed under with the silent permission and direction of army superiors, that the 'comfort women' system did not help subdue rape and violence in occupied territories, and that the 'comfort women' taken forcefully to 'comfort stations' were forcibly taken under the eye and direction of the military.

The guilty verdict on the former emperor HIROHITO and the Japanese government!

At 12:30 p.m. on December 12, a wave of emotion slowly arose on the stage of the Youth hall in Japan. A team of 4 judges (chief judge: Gabrielle Kirk McDonald) read the summary of the judgement over two hours. The judgement was based on the testimonials and contributions of the witnesses from the 10 Asian countries. When the guilty verdict proclaimed on the former

Japanese emperor HIROHITO, many people in the audience got up and yelled. Tears fell from the eyes of the survivors.

The main points of the judgement were that it is clear



that the Japanese government forcefully took the comfort women, and the former Japanese emperor HIROHITO as the supreme commander of the Japanese military knew about the appalling acts of the Japanese military of establishing and operating comfort stations through the Nanking Massacre and rapes in 1937. The judgement emphasized that the emperor should have acted on this atrocity by investigating and taking appropriate action. Thus, they gave a guilty verdict according to the criminal code on individual responsibility in Charter article 3. They also requested the responsibility of the Japanese government, and confirmed that

the Japanese government holds responsibility for the violation of the treaty against human trafficking in 1921, the ILO treaty in 1930, and the Hague treaty in 1907 - all signed by the Japanese government.

Various programs

Welcome dinner

After the Tribunal on December 8, a welcome dinner was held on the second floor of Kudan Hall sponsored by VAWW-Net Japan. This was a meaningful meeting, where each victim sang and prayed for the success of the Women's Tribunal 2000.

North and South Korean exchanges

On December 9, after the successful indictment by North and South Korea, a small exchange program was held at the education center with the prosecution teams of North and South Korea. They shared not only the difficulties faced during the indictment, but what they were going to do to resolve the comfort women issue. After dinner, heart-warming songs were sung by people of North and South Korea and Japan.

Young people's forum of Korea and Japan

In addition to the Tribunal, a team of young people from Korea called "To make 'comfort

women' proud of the power of the young" held a young people's forum at Waseda University on December 9. About 60 people participated from Korea and Japan, declaring the movement and making an Asian young people's declaration.

Cultural night

A "cultural night" was held was on December 10 participated



in by each country. This cultural night was planned by the producer KIM Sun-kook from South Korea and hosted by the reverend KWON Hee-soon, and featured songs by KANG Jung-mi and KIM Yei-yool from North Korea, dance by KANG Hae-sook's group from South Korea, songs by HONG Soon-kwan from South Korea and PARK Bo (a Japanese-Korean), and a song by YI Jung-mi. Also, songs and folk dances were presented from Japan, Taiwan, China, the Philippines, Indonesia and the

女性国際戦犯法廷





dance by KANG Hae-sook's group from South Korea

United States. This event was held over two hours and was celebrated by the elderly and participants.

Meeting of the victims

A meeting of victims from each country was held on December 11. The victims had dinner together, embracing each other and holding hands even though they could not talk the same language, as if they were one family with one pain. While singing merry tunes, a oneness could be felt between the survivors from North and South, as they shared songs and embraced.

Chat session of Korean and Japanese NGOs

During Women's Tribunal 2000, two talk sessions were held on the direction of the future movement by NGOs from Korea and Japan. The first meeting was a chat session

hosted by Daegu Citizens' Group for Historical Grandmas and the Women's Group in Jeonju, with 'comfort women' support organizations from Japan. The second meeting was held on December 11 at the invitation by Jungdaehyup with legally related NGOs from Japan. In that time they shared thoughts on the direction and strategies of the future after the Women's Tribunal 2000, and the Japanese side asked the Korean organizations to seek the active support of the Korean National

Assembly and government.

Solidarity demonstration

During Women's Tribunal 2000, demonstrations were held demanding the Japanese government accept responsibility, centering around the participants from South Korea. During lunch hours on December 8th and 9th in front of Kudan Hall, the banners already prepared from Korea were waved and a protest was held for 30 minutes with songs and slogans. Even after the judgement on December 12, a street demonstration was held for about an hour with about 200 participants attending. Due to the late judgement, many people could not participate in the demonstration because many from the first team of participants had to leave for the airport. Protests were also held every day by right-wing people of Japan throughout the period of the Women's Tribunal 2000, and tensions rose for a while on the day the Women's Tribunal 2000 closed.



Statement on Misleading Content in Japan History Textbooks



Meaning and content of the retrogression of Japanese history textbook

The attempt for the retrogressive revision of history textbooks in Japan which has been raising public indignation throughout entire society is not just a matter of the past or present. This attempt is based on lack of recognizing accurate awareness of the past history within Japanese society and overall Japanese society moving toward the right wing. The passive attitude of the Korean government toward the Japanese government is also a cause of this problem. We, under this type of problem awareness, want to make a starting point to create correct order within Asia in the 21st century beyond the Korea-Japan relationship by changing the current public indignation being raised throughout Korean society into a historic problem. In order to achieve this objective, the only thing that we need to do and can do is not to achieve results that are anti-history, anti-human rights and anti-peace for

the history textbook authorized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Regarding those Japanese retrogressive change of history textbooks, Asian countries including Korea show strong responses not to decline diplomatic disputes in case of the introduction of the history textbooks in Japan. Conscientious intellectuals, politicians, and civil organizations especially in Japan are raising voices of criticism against the middle school history textbook that is to be passed through very soon with that retrogressive content. Massive petition movement including no-

introduction of the textbook activities are planned to be executed against the retrogressive textbook when the introduction of the textbook is officially publicized through Japanese news media on April 3.

Main activities in Korea and abroad

February-March

The statement denouncing Japan that tried to choose the regressive history textbook with the distorted facts by glorifying the 'invasion' as the 'debouchment', removing the 'comfort women' of the Japanese military, and describing the Nanking Massacre having no evidence and demonstrations

opposing the releasing of the textbook were held in a massive scale in Korea and abroad.

Early March

The formation of the campaign headquarter for the stopping of the Japanese history textbook was planned, and the movement to oppose the regressive textbook was started.

March 14(Wed)

Press conference to announce the formation of the Headquarter at 10a.m. at the philosophical conference zelcova tree
Demonstration in front of the Japanese embassy by representatives from the Headquarter, each organization, National Assemblymen

After the demonstration by



We oppose Japan's regressive attempt to revise history textbooks with the name of Asian people!

The current Japanese government is to accept the claim by the ultra-right wing organization 'Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform' and tried to describe the Pacific War as the war to liberate Asia, and the forced occupation of Korea as a justifiable annexation. The regression of Japanese history textbook is the act of anti-history and anti-humanity by not mentioning but rather glorifying the anti-humane crimes and other crimes of war committed by Japan to the people of the occupied territories.

History is from interrelationship. The so-called 'debouchment' to the Asian continent claimed by Japan was undeniable 'invasion' to Asian people. The issue of comfort women and military and work draft removed in the new history textbook of Japan were especially shameful to Asian people that can not be replaced, were anti-humane, and forced mobilization.

Especially, Japan wanting to believe 'comfort women as volunteers' for the Japanese military is a claim that clearly invades human rights and defamation of character. This move to reform their textbook is a movement to plan the revival of Imperialism through refusing to reflect on their past acts of Imperialistic invasion.

This anti-historic act is an act to protect the interests of Japanese government and people with the Japanese government drastically leaning toward the right wing. It is true that many Japanese agree with this flow. However, it is clear that this short-sighted distortion of history will be the issue going against the interest of Japan, and narrow the stance of Japan in the international society pursuing peace and human rights.

People in Asian remember clearly the impoverished past brought by the invasion of Japanese imperialists; however, people in Asia would not live forever in the past while hating Japan.

Asian people, of course, longingly desire the establishment of a new Asian cooperative order where each individual's rights are respected. They believe that new order can be realized only with the precondition of correct history education for the future generations on Japan seriously reflecting on the past history of invasion.

We can not but define the attempt by the Japanese government that stepped over the hope of Asian people and furthermore tries to glorify the act of invasion as an act of second invasion.

If the right wing attempt to twist the history is not to be stopped immediately, a serious warning is awaiting through the extensive resistance by Asian people in the live history that the history textbook wants so much to hide.

Our demands on the Japanese government

1. To stop the regressive revision of the history textbook immediately.
2. To conduct correct history education through humbly reflection on the fact of invasion.
3. To conduct thorough fact-finding investigation and recover honor of the victims.

March 14, 2001

the campaign headquarter for the stopping of the Japanese history textbook



representatives from each organization, participate in Wednesday March

March 14(Wed)

Wednesday march to stop and denounce the retrogressive revision of history textbooks in Japan (Gwangwhamoon Kyobo building at noon)

March 24

Asian Action Day and joint demonstrations by Korea and Japan to denounce the Japanese history textbook to be chosen were held. (Korea : held at 2 p.m in Seoul and Busan / Japan: held hosted by Peaceboat in Tokyo)

March 26

Opening of a joint seminar between Korea and Japan for correct history textbooks

Participation from Japan

Future activity plan to stop the choosing of the regressive Japanese history textbook Civilian organizations and coalition activities

1. By establishing a permanent organization joining teachers, researchers and activists throughout Korea, the activities to stop the choosing of the regressive history textbook by Japan are to be held continually.

2. By making the issue of the regressive history textbook as the topic of the events in Korea and abroad held according to each professional area, joint measures are to be made.

3. Through peace education program in August, a workshop

Items	Existing history textbook (Japan)	The textbook submitted by the 'Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform', the most
serious current issue	Japanese army 'Comfort women' Movement of compensation in all 7 textbooks	no description/no description in other textbooks
Asian invasion	Use of the word 'invasion'	The word 'invasion' is not appropriate but described with 'debouchment' and described as Asian liberation
Forced taking of man power	Described the fact of forced mobilization through 'theme study', 'column'	Manpower was mobilized to conduct the war but no forced taking was present.
Nanjing Massacre	Hundreds of thousands were killed	Described that there is no evidence
Colonization Policy	Described the fact of exploitation to conduct the war	Japan helped Korea in modernization by ruling of the Korean peninsula.

is to be held preparing to develop a common textbook between Korea and Japan.

4. Through the coalition with Japanese civil organizations, a close support system is to be made between Korea and Japan by activities to not choosing the textbook or releasing joint statements.

Activities by the Korean government

1. Taking a strong position by taking actions such as summoning back the Korean ambassador to Japan.

2. Asking a civilian organization to develop a joint textbook between Korea and Japan.

3. Demanding the revision of the Korea-Japan Agreement of 1965 that poses problems for all matters.



Landscape Painting of Wednesday Demonstration



The team of prosecutors opening the Wednesday March on the new year

Wednesday March was not lonely in the later part of the year 2000. When the March is to begin in front of Japanese Embassy in front of Kyobo Building, the fact that another march is held at another place at the same time gave us the strength. More than anything else, for the Asian coalition march held on November 29, the march was held in not only Seoul and Junju, Korea but also abroad including Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and China.

The first Wednesday March of the year 2001 was opened with a strong shouting by the team of prosecutors who lived through nightless world for the preparation of the Women's Tribunal 2000. Even with the cold weather in the intersection of Ha, Chong moon the most strong seemed to be the elderly. Despite especially cold weather, the elderly who always takes a part in the March made the young who were shivering in the cold shameful. The solemn stance that they keep despite the old body made us to awake and made us to think about the elderly who are to march on Wednesday.

People frequently ask whether Wednesday March will be held after the Women's Tribunal 2000; the answer is yes until the day that the Japanese government makes formal apology and compensation. The March is one that let the Japanese government know that we know about the crimes they committed so that the March will be held until the Japanese government recognizes (until they make formal apology and compensation) their crime.

Activities of The Korean Council

Shanghai International Organizing Committee for the Women's Tribunal 2000

An international symposium and International Organizing Committee meeting, sponsored by Shanghai 'Comfort Women' Research Center, were held in Shanghai, China from March 30 to April 2, 2000. A total of 175 people from 8 countries participated in this event, including 12 researchers, lawyers, and activists from Korea. With a focus on the 'comfort women' issue, this symposium dealt with such topics as the Nanjing Massacre and biological warfare that occurred under Japanese rule during wartime. This event also dealt with the 'comfort women' issue in Korea and the issue of post-war compensation, and included presentations on these topics by Jeong-Sook Kang, Hye-Jeong Ko, Chin-Sung Chung, Wan-Ik Chang, and Mi-Kang Yang.

After the international forum, the Legal Organizing Committee, comprised of the prosecution teams from each country, confirmed the Legal Chart for 2000, and discussed the contents and schedule of the indictments from each country.



Taipei IOC Meeting

Manila International Organizing Committee for the Women's Tribunal 2000

Manila International Organizing Committee was held on July 28-August 2, 2000. Despite the hot weather, the international prosecution teams and other relevant people from various countries gathered together for discussion on a hot issue: what the verdict should be for former Japanese Emperor Hirohito. Thanks to night after night of long meetings, these prosecutors were able to examine the basic scheme of each country's indictment and the progress on the Women's Tribunal 2000. Further, the agreement between North and South Korea to file a joint indictment added great significance to this Organizing Committee meeting.

Taipei International Organizing Committee for the Women's Tribunal 2000

A meeting of the International Organizing Committee was held in Taipei (September 13-18, 2000) for final confirmation after the Manila Meeting. In addition to examining the basic principles of the North and South co-indictment as they had agreed in Manila, the North and South Korea indictment team also reviewed a draft of the indictment and established a basic frame for the historical co-indictment. After the international organizing committee meeting which was comprised of victim countries in Asia, sub-committees from Korea, Japan, and the Philippines convened in Tokyo to perform a working level examination. The committees from these 3 countries

Activities of The Korean Council

reviewed the details of the Women's Tribunal 2000--including opening and closing ceremonies, the main court, and international forum--and divided their roles.

Regional Cultural Festival for the Women's Tribunal 2000

Various regional cultural festivals were held all through the last half of 2000. Student tribunals and cultural festivals around colleges not only triggered momentum to informing people about the Women's Tribunal 2000, but also succeeded in bringing various groups together. Regional cultural festivals were held in Jeonju (August 12), Daegu (September 23), Jinju (September 30-October 1), Incheon (October 2), and Masan (November 3). In addition, the organization committee for the Women's Tribunal 2000 created a coalition among regional women groups and student organizations in Jeju Region (October to November), and organized campaigns and video screenings every Wednesday.

Student Tribunal and College Cultural Festivals for the Women's Tribunal 2000



Campaign in Seoul

The high level of student interest in the 'comfort women' issue resulted in a preparation committee for the student tribunal. After about a year of preparation, students from different universities created a coalition and prepared the Student Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery 2000 through various seminars and discussion sessions. Finally, with about 200 participants, the student tribunal was held at Ewha Women's University (April 28-29, 2000, in the Central Auditorium at Ewha Women's University) for 2 days.

Through the opening ceremony and tribunal itself, this event proved itself a serious attempt to gain victory over suffering in history and

the sufferings of women through the strength of the young generation. These student tribunals, which served as an opportunity to inform people about the comfort women issue, were held consecutively in each region at different universities. Various cultural events were also held at Busan University (May 9), Chosun University



Student Tribunal in Ewha Women's University

Activities of The Korean Council

(May 19), Dong-A University (Sept 26), Changwon University (Sept 28), Kyunghee University (Oct 12), Pusan Sea and Marine University, Wonkwang University, Hanshin University, Seoul National University, and Seowon University.

Symposium in Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Korean Council

About 60 people attended the symposium in the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Korean Council, which was held at the international conference hall in the Nationwide Bank Association Building in Myung-dong on November 16, 2000. The theme of the symposium was "Reflection on the activities of the Korean Council over the last 10 years, and future prospects."

This symposium was to commemorate the 10 years of activity by the Korean Council and to examine the organization's prospects for the future by reviewing agendas proposed by lawyers and researchers who had worked on the comfort women issue over the past 10 years. After the opening ceremony, Korean Council Co-representative Yoon-Ok Kim

presided over the first session, where the following papers were presented: "10 years of

(Hyun-Ah Yang, Lecturer, & Soo-Jin Kim, Ph.D. candidate, at Seoul National University),



Symposium of the 10th Anniversary of the Korean Council

the Korean Council and its future agenda" by Co-representative Eun-Hee Chi; "Recovery of the human rights of the victims" by Chung Chin-Sung from Seoul National University; "The issue of compensation for the victims" by Wang-Ik Chang, esquire; and "Punishment of war criminals" by Si-Hyun Cho from Sung Shin Women University.

Research on the Women's Tribunal 2000, especially on investigations regarding the former comfort women themselves, were presented in the second session hosted by Kook-Yum Han, an Action Committee member from the Korean Council. Presentation and discussion topics for the second session included "Testimony: memory, remembering, writing history"

"Post-traumatic psychological symptoms of the victims" (Chel-Won Lee, President of Idam Consulting), "Post-traumatic social symptoms of the victims" (Young-Hee Shim, Professor at Hanyang University), "What does the Japanese imperial forced occupation mean to us?" (Chang-Rok Kim, Professor at Pusan National University), "Why Tribunal 2000?" (Chung-Ok Yun, Co-representative of the Korean Council).

Seoul Cultural Festival for the Women's Tribunal 2000

The Seoul Cultural Festival was held in the Grand Conference Room of Korean Church 100th Anniversary Commemoration Hall on November 17, 2000, to commemorate the 10th

Activities of The Korean Council

anniversary of the Korean Council. This cultural festival, "Autumn Concert", was held for 2 hours with 300 participants, under the production by Art Chaos. Hosted by Eun-Jin Bang, the program included a rap song about the comfort women by Honey Family, "When you go to Saipan" by Ji-Sang Lee, songs by Byung-Whi Sohn, Hyung-Won Shin, Ggotdaji, Ji-Sang Lee, and Mi-Jin Yoon, and monologue by Ok-Hee Kim. In addition, there was a screening of a film on a testimony from an old woman who talked about the lifelong agony of the comfort women and on the former comfort woman, Duk-Kyung Kang. Various people--from elementary students to adults--were in the audience and shared agony and hope of the survivors. This event was a meaningful time for people to learn more about the Women's Tribunal 2000, and wish for its success.

Youth Film Festival for the Women's Tribunal 2000

The Youth Film Festival, held at UNESCO Ms Center on November 25, served as a space for young people who made films on the 'comfort women' issue to come together. Although this event



Cultural Festival

was not widely attended, it was still meaningful in the sense that we could provide the youth with a space to express their views on this issue. Moreover, a power point presentation and complete video documentary(19 minutes) entitled "Would you want to listen to a 'comfort women' story?" that were presented by the youngest group of elementary students surprised and impressed everyone in the audience.

Relay Wednesday Demonstration and Asia Coalition Wednesday Demonstration

A Relay Wednesday Demonstration to publicize the opening of the Women's Tribunal 2000 started with canvassing for signatures, a picture exhibition, and fund-

raising activity in Seoul for one month, and continued in Cheju (September 6), Masan-Changwon (September 20), Konkuk University (September 27), Pusan (October 4), Daegu (October 11), and Suwon (November 1). At the Asia Coalition Demonstration on November 29, organizations from various countries that had been preparing for the Women's Tribunal 2000 engaged simultaneously in demonstrations in front of Japanese Embassies in various countries on the same date of November 29. Also in Korea, a street march was held to Jongro 1 Ga after a Wednesday Demonstration at the small park in front of the Kwanghwamun Kyobo Building. On the same day in Jeonju, Jeonju Christian Life Women Association took a leading position at a fierce

Activities of The Korean Council

demonstration, attended by about 100 people, as part of the Asia Coalition Wednesday Demonstration. Meanwhile, demonstrations to publicize the Wednesday Demonstrations were held in countries including Japan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, France, and Germany.

was given on the progress of the Women's Tribunal 2000, the joint North and South Korean indictment, the meaning of the final verdict, and the direction of future activities. Films and pictures from the Women's Tribunal 2000 were also viewed. About 150 participants were in attendance at the assembly.

2000 were held actively in not only Korea but also abroad including the United States, Germany and Japan. The singer Soon-Kwan Hong had tour concerts from September and December in the United States and Japan for the fundraising concert, 'tears of the land'. Other fundraising activities and publicity campaigns for Tribunal 2000 were held actively centering around Minnesota(Korean-American Today & Tomorrow Center, Byung-Moon Kim), New York(Hak-Joon Yi), Utah(Ok-Nam Shin), and San Francisco(Ok-Nam Kim). A Wednesday March was held on November 22 in Berlin centering around the organizations of Korean-German women in Germany, and the co-representative of Jungdaehyup, Yoon-Ok Kim, publicized and held campaigns for Tribunal 2000 through touring lectures for a month from September and October going around entire Germany.

Assembly Report on the Women's Tribunal 2000

An assembly was planned for those who could not participate in the Women's Tribunal 2000. This assembly was provided for people in Korea and abroad who have taken an interest in the comfort women issue, for those persons who had participated in the tribunal but were not able to observe because of their voluntary responsibilities, and to celebrate the commencement of the Women's Tribunal 2000. A summarized report

The first half of this event was held to commemorate those comfort women who had passed away, and the last half was to hear comments and insights from the prosecution team and participants. This assembly allowed us to reconfirm the incessant support of the participants who had participated in the Women's Tribunal 2000 with all their hearts.

International campaigns for the Women's Tribunal 2000

Various campaigns for the successful opening of Tribunal

Participation of UN Commission of the Status of Women

Jungdaehyup sent the co-representative Eun-Hee Chi, the action member Hae-Soo Shin, the comfort women victim Geum-Joo Hwang, and the administrator Hyun-Jung



Activities of The Korean Council



Jin at UN Commission of the Status of Women. A press conference was held on March 8 at 1 p.m. on Tribunal 2000. Reports on Tribunal 2000 by Gabrielle Kirk McDonald and Matsui Yayori(VAWW-Net Japan) were given and the opinion participating in Tribunal 2000 by the comfort women victim Geum-Joo Hwang was given through Hae-Soo Shin translating. Also, an International Women's Day reception was held at 6 p.m. at UN Church Center where videos were shown and reports were given successfully on Tribunal 2000 with the dinner with many people attending.

Testimony of an elderly victim in Middle Tennessee State University

Hosted by Professor Jung-Hwa Lee of Middle Tennessee State University, a lecture session was held on March 12 with the topic of comfort women. The elderly victim, Geum-Joo Hwang, was invited

to this session and gave a testimony amongst about 600 students. This lecture has been the most serious lecture ever given to so many students at one setting. Everyone said that the testimony gave them strength and they did not know about this issue and are willing to help. This lecture ended successfully and everyone including Professor Lee was happy with the lecture given and showed a strong will that this issue should not be hidden anymore, this history should not be repeated, and victims should not be hurt anymore.

The visit of the team of lawyers filing suit related to 'comfort women'

The lawyers including Barry Fisher, Tae-Ho Han, Ki-Jun Kim, and Yun-Chin Chung who brought up a suit related with the comfort women issue against the Japanese government in Washington D.C. in the United States, visited the Korean Council from October 3 to October 6, 2000. They participated in Wednesday March, had a meeting with the comfort women elderly, and had an intensive discussion on the suit in the United States at 5 p.m. on October 4th, and on 5th, had a press conference asking

the amendment related with fact finding at the National Assembly. On February 28(Wed), 2001 at 10 a.m. at Cecil Theater, Committee Korean Council for Redress and Reparations for the Victims of WW II Atrocities and the team of lawyers related with the suit in the United States held a press conference on the suing in the United States related to forced draft.

Opening of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in 2000

The Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in 2000, which has been prepared since 1998, was held from December 7 to 12 at Kudan Hall in Tokyo, Japan. About 250 participants from Korea and over 1000 total attended the tribunal, and many people could not attend due to lack of seats. In addition to the main court proceedings and indictments from each country, there were cultural events, meetings between survivors, and public hearings to show the human rights situation as well as the strong solidarity on this issue in Asia.

Activities of the Educational Center

The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (hereafter, Korean Council) has developed educational programs for women's rights and peace, since it opened the Education Center of the Korean Council in March 1999.

Those who were educated in 1999 were about 40 teams, 1600 men and women (including 1200 that participated in the first education). In 2000 as of now, with 29th education for visitors given, 7th project education programs were provided as well, thus, all told, 775 men and women were educated through 37 times of education.

The following shows how those educated are composed of in detail.

In case of education for visitors

Education for visitors is an education for those visiting the Education Center of the Korean Council every year. Mainly we show visitors videos on the issue of women drafted for military sexual slavery by Japan, or some victimized grandmothers themselves offer testimony. And then we provide lectures or special lectures and question and answer session on that issue.

As most people who are educated through education for visitors are much interested in the military sexual slavery problem and passionate to know much about the problem, their intentions and zeal are very much clear.

In case of elementary school students and middle and high

school students, they were led mainly by teachers who have much interest in the human rights and peace. Those students were guided to not only experience real sites and fields, but also take part in Wednesday Demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy that is held on every Wednesday. Thus, it can be said that the education for elementary school, middle and high school students are very much effective.

In case of foreign organizations, mostly Japanese civic organizations, students, and professors participate in the education. They are very much concerned about the Japanese military sexual slavery problem and eager to solve it to the extent that they aim to visit Korea in order to help solve the military sexual slavery problem. In addition, more and more lawyers and law professors who support for resolution of the problems of Japanese military sexual slavery and those coercively drafted by Japan are gradually joining us.

By and large, visitors accept and share the military sexual slavery

	elementary school students	middle and high school students	University students	civic organizations	foreign organizations	(history) teachers	sum
education for visitors	1(6)	9(100)	3(31)	4(20)	13 (184)	1(300)	30 (641)
project education	1(40)		2(39)	3(40)		1(15)	7(134)
sum	2(46)	9(100)	5(70)	7(60)	13 (184)	1(315)	37 (775)

*team number (visitors number)

Activities of the Educational Center

issue as a concrete content through videos or victim's testimonies, and they can understand the past, present and future of the movement to solve the military sexual slavery problem from the historical perspective through lectures.

Visitors take part in question and answer session, talking about what they felt through lectures and videos. Thus, evaluation is smoothly made, and the main points of the evaluation are as follows; 1) it is generally accepted that time is running out for resolution of

the military sexual slavery problem, as most victims are at their late 70s.

2) visitors endeavor to come up with ideas of what each of students, adults, and civic organization activists can do to solve this issue. 3) Japanese visitors try to find ways to urge the Japanese government to solve this issue in light of the recent tendency towards the right wing in Japan.

One episode

Last March professors and students of Myungchi University in Japan visited the education center of the

Korean Council at 9:30 a.m. Right after they were educated about the Korean Council's movement and Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery in 2000, they participated in the Wednesday demonstration. Their attitude and stance in taking part in the Wednesday demonstration were far from clear. It is natural that they must have felt awkward and uncomfortable demonstrating for apology and reparation for wrongdoing from their own government in front of their own Embassy. That's why they were standing at the margin of the demonstration rather than in the forefront. It was just the same as the first 'War and Women's Rights' workshop held in 1999, when those Japanese University students felt awkward joining Wednesday demonstration. It seems that until now it is hard for Japanese University students to be in victims' shoes. It is natural, as they never learned about the issue from history textbooks at school.

In case of project education

Project education of the Korean Council in 2000 is education for civic organization activists,



Activities of the Educational Center

education for elementary school students, education for University students, and education for history teachers. Among these, education for civic organizations activists was offered mainly to those activists of the organizations in various regions related with the military sexual slavery issue

and high school students (twice), we focused on education for elementary school students which is yet to be much developed. As for education for University students, the 2nd Japanese and Korean University students' workshop on 'War and Women's rights' was

some activists of movement to correct Japanese history textbooks to have conference with Korean history teachers and find future directions.

As for education for civic organizations activists, we could build a network among several organizations that



2nd workshop of Japanese and Korean University students

with the aim of preparing together the Women's International War Crime Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery in 2000 which was the central task of the Korean Council movement of the year 2000.

As many visitors were middle and high school students, (and because we already had project education for middle

held following that in 1999 with much attention to how Japanese and Korean University students consider the Japanese military sexual slavery problem and how they narrow the gap in their thoughts. Mainly, University freshmen joined that workshop. As for history teachers' meeting, as Japanese history textbooks were even more being distorted in 2000, we invited

were spontaneously formed and continued to support the military sexual slavery victims during the past. Through the common project aim of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery in 2000, we were able to form solidarity relations with various organizations including strengthening support for the victimized grandmothers living in various regions and holding

Activities of the Educational Center



cultural events for public relations of the international tribunal in 2000 in various regions.

These projects and events are of great import in that they could spread the Japanese military sexual slavery issue widely among the various regions through solidifying network among the civic organizations, and that they paved the way for supporting welfare project for victimized grandmothers.

One episode; In case of education for elementary school students, thanks to the zeal of a teacher of Namsung elementary school, Mr. Choi Jongsoon, the Korean Council played a role of helping teaching in the 2nd class of 6th grade of the Namsung elementary school for one semester. Mr. Choi developed various kinds of programs to

educate on the military sexual slavery problem during one semester and to lead students themselves to experience the problem. Such programs as making videos on the theme of the military sexual slavery victims, visiting 'House of Sharing' where 9 victimized grandmothers live together, interviewing those partaking in Wednesday demonstration and citizens in the streets on every other Wednesday helped students raise consciousness greatly on human rights.

When we saw a girl student joining the Wednesday demonstration on a cold winter day gave grandmothers sweet potatoes so that they might not get hungry, we could see that this military sexual slavery issue is their own business, not others' business.

In the end, as time goes by,

it is felt that improving women's rights and awareness on peace through the education center of the Korean Council is much necessary. Teaching young generation women's rights and peace issue is not a superficial matter at all.

Growing generations can see sites and fields of historical victims through meeting with the military sexual slavery victims (through testimony, Wednesday demonstration, and videos), and they can realize that such a grave wrongdoing has not yet been resolved until now even 50 years since the liberation, and that sexual violence against women is still widespread under today's military confrontation. In other words, it can be said that education program of the Korean Council is a basic field and site of women's rights education

Activities for the Welfare of the Survivors

Human Rights Camp with the Former 'comfort women'



For three days and two nights from August 30 to September 2, 2000 at Ewha University Kosari training center, a human rights camp with the former 'comfort women' was held under the theme "Beautiful Meeting."

About 40 people attended this event, including 'comfort women' from the Daegu, Junju, Seoul and Kyunggi regions, working level people from Daegu Citizen Sponsors for Historical Grandmas, the House of Sharing, the Korean Council, Christian Sallim Women's Committee in Junju, volunteers, and college students who shared a meaningful time.

Since this program was a group communal program that attempted for group counseling and treatment programs that are to be held for the elderly victims, this event was the first time where the victims from each region and working level people got together.

For all programs, Ji-Ye Lee, a professional counsellor of elderly welfare, and two professionals of traditional group play came and joined. The first day was the day to find oneself

by centering around the program 'meeting with myself', and the day that made the elderly to think about how are they would live through the program of constructing lives.

The program with the topic, 'meeting between you and me', to establish a relationship and to understand each other was held on the second day. Camp fire was set at night with traditional play and song contest and later, dance party was held. On the last day, with the topic, 'meeting between you and us', well-wishing remark was given to each other, and shared colorful thread to let everyone know that we are one. Through this camp, the love amongst the elderly got deeper, they understood the other's pain overcoming one's pain, and it was time to aware that each other gave strength.

More than anything else, the camp gave the elderly joy who said they want to live there because they had such a good time and they never laughed this much before.

Also, this was the precious time that trust and love amongst the comfort women victims got deeper. This type of group counselling program is planned in the future with more in-depth program when support is possible.

Year 2000 Remembrance: Women of Dignity and Honor

On September 20, 2000 in Washington D.C., human rights awards were given to the comfort women from Asian countries, who did not hesitate to call for justice. Six women survivors representing Korea attended the ceremony and received the award.

Although all the survivors could not attend

Activities for the Welfare of the Survivors



due to their health and other problems, we want to congratulate those women who consistently worked against the odds to resolve the 'comfort women' issue.

Health Check-ups for Survivors at Incheon Sarang Hospital

For the investigation and health check-up of the victims at Incheon Sarang Hospital, general health check-up was given to 15 victims at different departments including the departments of OB/GYN, orthopedics, and psychiatry. For this event, students and volunteers place much efforts. We would like to thank everyone.

Dental Treatment for Survivors

For survivors who live alone all over Korea, "Korean Dentists' Association for a Healthy Society" contacted its members to offer dental services. Of course, this service was not possible everywhere. But if the survivor wanted, she was referred to the association member closest to where she was living to get dental treatment. Currently, 5 victims contacted us for the service and are being treated. We would like to thank the members of "Korean Dentists' Association

for a Healthy Society" for healthy teeth of the comfort women elderly.

Cold Prevention and Health Check-up at Seoul Central Hospital

After the Wednesday Demonstration on



October 4, 2000, 12 survivors received flu shots and health check-ups at Seoul Central Hospital, care of the Asan Foundation. After a delicious lunch, they were happily examined and taken home. We would like to thank the doctors and nurses who cared for these women from the bottom of our hearts.

Farewell to Former Comfort Woman, Myung-Keum Moon

Former comfort woman, Myung-Keum Moon, is no longer with us. Despite the difficulty she had in moving, she always fought with us at Wednesday Demonstrations and various events with a smiling face. Her death still does not seem real to us. She sang endlessly at the summer camp, saying that she wanted to sing until she died. She had a sudden stroke in

Activities for the Welfare of the Survivors



October and died on November 18, 2000. The funeral was held in Kwanju and her 49th day commemoration ceremony was on December 26. Myung-Keum Moon, who gave her entire savings to the Vietnamese comfort women: May she pray for peace in this nation from the peace she finds in heaven.

The Survivors Go to the Women's Tribunal 2000!!

Twenty-one former comfort women went to the Women's Tribunal 2000, including Il-Chul



At Narita airport

Gang, Sang-Hee Kim, Eun-Rye Kim, Bok-Sun Kim, Boon-Sun Kim, Boon-Yi Kim, Wha-Sun Kim, Pil-Gi Moon, Ok-Ryen Park, Byup-Soon

Ahn, Dal-Yun Shim, Keun-Soon Yang, Yang-Kum Yi, Yong-Ye Yi, Yong-Soo Yi, Soon-Man Yoon, Suh-Woon Jung, Wha-Soon Jin, Do-Soon Han, Geum-Joo Hwang, and Gap-Soon Choi.

The Women's Tribunal 2000 was a time for these survivors to think more deeply as they listened to the indictments and testimonies. In the midst of talking about buried pain and facts arose a desire for solidarity and truth, that granted the survivors new strength to attend the tribunal until the end - even after the indictment from Korea - and to say, "We came because of this court...."

In particular, while listening to the testimonies of survivors from China on the second day, many of the Korean former comfort women shed tears. As if all her agony from China came flooding back, Eun-Rye Kim mourned again and again while wiping the tears from her eyes, "I thought I was the only one who suffered, but (you) suffered a lot worse, poor things." The Il-Chool Kang cried, "(You) know how great the sadness of being without a country is! The pain cannot be explained. You should not lose your country." Pil-Ki Moon, in particular, had nightmares and kept talking in her sleep, and many of the other Korean survivors had trouble sleeping through the entire duration of the tribunal, as if all the memories they had kept locked deep inside were rising to the surface again.

Several times, while asking which country would give their report each day and what countries had participated, Pil-Ki Moon and Ok-Ryen Park would say, "Yes, we could do this not just with our own power, but by building solidarity with other countries." Most of the Korean survivors had trouble eating during the tribunal and kept asking for analgesics and medications, but rarely complained and participated seriously. In the solidarity formed by

Activities for the Welfare of the Survivors

the tribunal, the South Korean survivors tenderly grasped the hands of survivors from other countries, including North Korea, even if they had not met before, thereby making people feel a strong sense of cohesion and support among the Asian women.

Third Memorial for Deceased Survivors

The third memorial for those former comfort women who have passed away was held at



2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 27, in the Conference Hall of Sejong Cultural Center. As of the end of the year 2000, a total of known 57 survivors have passed away. 10 survivors passed away in the year 2000 alone. The memorial for 12 deceased comfort women was attended by 12 of their fellow survivors and 100 others. During the second half of the memorial service, a report on the Women's Tribunal 2000

was given.

Recent News on the Survivors

When winter arrives, health problems become an important issue for survivors who may not feel ill during summer time. Moreover, many of the survivors grew more ill after attending the Women's Tribunal 2000. Needless to say, it was difficult to sit through the tribunal, even for the young. It seems that watching the tribunal for 6 days straight while refusing to rest took its toll on the elderly survivors.

Calls came non-stop on survivors being admitted into and discharged from hospitals as we entered the winter, including calls about Young-Soon Yi from Dongduchon, Wha-Sun Kim from Chungchong Province, Suh-Woon Jung from Jinhe, and Ok-Sun Yi from Sokree Mountain. These women had great difficulty in getting to hospitals due to the snow, and in obtaining necessary medication because of the national dispute on the new policy on separation of medication prescription and sales between pharmacists and doctors.

Although this year's harsh winter kept many of the survivors in ill health, we were heartened by their frequent calls of thanks and by a New Year's greeting from former comfort woman, Sang-Hee Kim, who was also in poor health during the Women's Tribunal 2000. However, we got frequent calls from Soon-Ae Kang, who had been planning to attend the Women's Tribunal 2000 when she fell and injured herself in a bath two days before she was supposed to depart. We received many other calls from survivors, apologizing and saying that they could not attend the Women's Tribunal 2000. Although the calls did not always bring good news, we at the Korean Council truly appreciated all the contact from the survivors.

Solidarity Activities

Korean Research Institute for Jungshindae

The Korean Research Institute for Jungshindae actively participated in the Women's Tribunal 2000. Studies related to international law examined the report by Ms. Coomaraswamy. You can find further information on their website (<http://www.truethruth.org>) or through their newsletter which is published every month. Further, Testimonial 5, the book being prepared by the institute in cooperation with Christian Sallim Women's Committee (in Junju), is near completion.

The Korean Research Institute for Jungshindae hosted the 445th Wednesday Demonstration on January 31 of this year. Their plans for 2001 include publication of the fifth book in a series entitled The Korean comfort women taken forcefully. The institute is also in the process of organizing into a book for publication the testimonies collected from the survivors they met in China. In addition, Director Young-Sook Shin--in collaboration with Professors Jin-Sung Jung and Myung-Sook Yoon--is planning a project entitled "Social awareness on the 'comfort women' issue" at the Korea Research Foundation.

Citizen Sponsors for Historical Grandmas(in Daegu)

A chat session was held in the basement of Kwak Hospital at 3 p.m. on October 3. Attorneys Tae-Ho Han and Ki-Jun Kim were filing legal suits for people forceably drafted and for comfort women in the United States. At this meeting, the survivors from the Daechang nursery, the Daegu branch of an organization for atomic bomb victims, and Daegu Citizen Sponsors for Historical Grandmas attended this meeting and showed a keen interest by asking

detailed questions. To commemorate the death (October 26) of former comfort woman Ok-Ju Moon, members of the Research Center and members of steering committee visited the grave site on Saturday, October 28.

Remembering her struggle while she was alive, those attending used that occasion to renew their promise to fight to resolve the comfort women issue as soon as possible.

On Saturday, November 18 at Kwak Hospital, about 40 students from Byupmool Middle School's Japanese culture class attended an educational session with instructor Sang-Chul Yi. Through a slide show and video presentation, these students learned about the comfort women issue for the first time and showed interest in how they could participate. This session impressed upon us the need for continued solidarity and education of teachers and students on the Korean government's dismissal of this issue, the Japanese government's denial of its responsibility, and the lack of education policy.

A lecture was given by Jung-Sook Kang of the Korean Research Center for Jungshindae at the regular monthly meeting in November. About 30 members attended the meeting to organize activities for the Women's Tribunal 2000. After the Women's Tribunal 2000, another monthly meeting was held in December centering around reports on the tribunal. The slides and videos taken by the members during the Tribunal session, especially of the activities of civilian organizations and the joint indictment by North and South Korea, were shown to the members who could not attend the Women's Tribunal 2000. Steering committee member, Bong-Tae Choi, and regular member, Ryung-Kyug Yi, led discussions on possible post-

Solidarity Activities

Tribunal activities.

Kyungnam Citizens' Solidarity Meeting for Measures against 'Comfort Women'

"The Human Rights Cultural Event for the Japanese military comfort women" was held on Friday, November 3 in the auditorium and in front of Kyongnam Bank. The theme of this event was "Not Fully-Bloomed Flower." There were about 200 people in attendance. Funds for this event were raised from ordinary citizens and members of the organization.

A Relay Wednesday Demonstration, held on September 20 in Changwon, was co-organized with women student associations from Changwon University and Kyungnam University. Beginning at 5 p.m. on the street in front of Jungwoo market, this Wednesday Demonstration comprised of a signature campaign and an exhibition of drawings and historic pictures by the survivors.

Members of Kyungnam Jungdaehyop attended the Student Tribunal held at Changwon University on September 28. The Student Tribunal was held at 5:30 p.m. in the small auditorium of Changwon University Sarim Center, with passion from the students who filled the auditorium.

Christian Sallim Women's Committee (in Junju)

At the auditorium of Junju city hall on August 12 with about 300 people attending, "Peace session together with the comfort women elderly" was held. With the comfort women elderly, this event was held to continue on with



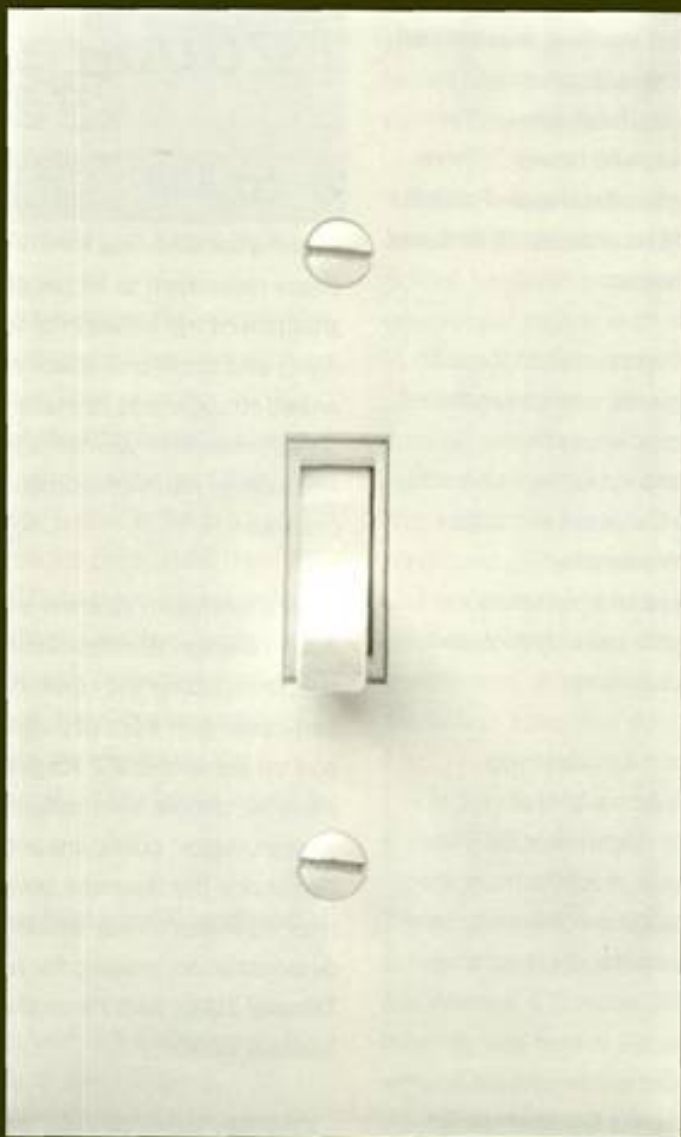
Asian coalition Wednesday March in Junju city>

peace movement to let people know about the situation of the violation of women's human rights and those anti-peace elements from armed struggle and to make the world where the promotion of women's rights and peace and human rights of women are regarded precious.

Christian Sallim Women's Committee held Asian coalition demonstration with about 150 people including the comfort women elderly participating in front of Junju Inn between 3-5 p.m on November 29. Forgetting about the cold weather, people from religious sector and women sector, politicians and students demanded the Japanese government for its responsibilities of war crimes and was a strong demonstration, praying for successful Women's Tribunal 2000, with PR on the Women's Tribunal 2000.

Christian Sallim Women's Committee held a chat session with 4 other coalition organizations from Japan and Korea attending the Women's Tribunal 2000. Also, after attending the Women's Tribunal 2000, the bond amongst the elderly got stronger and the will to actively pursue the resolution of the comfort women issue amongst the members was promoted.

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