

Invitation to the International Public Hearing
Concerning Post War Compensation of Japan

The issue of war compensation for the foreigners victimized by Japan during the Asia-Pacific War including so-called "comfort women" has finally gotten public attention in Japan after 47 years passed.

On July 6 this year, the Japanese government at last admitted its involvement in "comfort women" issue by announcing the results of its research on it. However, the research was utterly insufficient with no interviews made to those directly involved. The government concluded to put an end to this issue by doing "something in lieu of compensation" by the end of this year stating that there were no evidence found that proved their attempt to force the women to be the sex slaves.

The foreign war victims in the Asia and Pacific region are not only the comfort women, but also there were numerous victims suffered from different forms of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Japan. The Japanese government has repeated to make a temporary "political settlement" in the matter of war victims whenever it arouse, however, it would only make the world more distrustful of Japan. Therefore, we consider that it is urgently needed to pressure the government and the Diet to find the truth regarding foreign war victims and to start a thorough examination of war compensation based on their findings.

In response to the appeals from the victims, the Sub Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group of Contemporary Forms of Slavery under the U.N. Commission on Human Rights decided to start information gathering about "comfort women" by August this year, and requested Professor Theo van Boven, former Director of the U.N. Center for Human Rights and the U.N. appointed special rapporteur on "compensation for the victims of gross violations of human rights", who will be sent the information, to prepare a report by August next year.

With these recent development, we are planning to hold the international public hearing inviting Prof. van Boven and other guests who are closely working for U.N. or NGOs. This will provide them with an opportunity to directly hear from the victims who are also invited to the hearing, and provide us with a chance to present the findings of our research in Japan. We think that it is high time to urge the government and the Diet to actively cooperate with the research carried out by the U.N., and to set up a special committee in the Diet to find the truth and to give serious considerations to the issue.

We would like to ask for your active support to this event.

The International Public Hearing

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 1992
Time: 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Place: Kanda Panse, Tokyo
Organized by: The Executive Committee of "International Public Hearing Concerning Post War Compensation of Japan"
Supported by: Japan Federation of Bar Associations
Guests:
U.N./NGO related
*Prof. Theo van Boven (special rapportuer of the U.N. Sub Commission on Human Rights)
*Prof. John P. Humphrey (the first Director of the U.N. Human Rights Division)
*Mr. Ameur Zemmali (legal advisor of the International Committee of the Red Cross)
*Att'y Won Soon Park (visiting fellow of Harvard Law School)
*Att'y Karen Parker (International Education Development, U.N. Head Representative)
*Att'y Etsuro Totsuka (visiting academic of University of London)
Witnesses Former "comfort women" from Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines. Victims of forced labor from China, Korea and Sakhalin. Victims of war crimes from the Netherlands. Former Japanese military officers or soldiers conducted the forced labor.
Presentation: Reports of research on "comfort women" and other forced labor in the historical and legal points of view. Documents and information collected by the citizen groups and researchers are also provided.

Symposium

War and Human Rights - Legal Analysis on Post War Settlement

Date: Thursday, December 10, 1992
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Place: Kanda Panse, Tokyo
Organized by: Japan Federation of Bar Associations
Participants: Same guests as above listed

The International Public Hearing is supported by many scholars, religious people, lawyers, writers and individuals.

The Executive Committee
International Public Hearing
Concerning Post War Compensation of Japan