

Appendix 7

History Inscribed on the Body:

Focus on the Physical Suffering of the Japanese Military

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I. The physical sufferings of the comfort women in the Japanese army at that time.

1) Torture and beatings by bayonets.

When the comfort women would not agree to be raped, the Japanese military did not hesitate to resort to force. Because there was no precedent for any sort of human rights protection agency for colonies under sovereign rule, the Japanese military were free to torture at will.

When they were not satisfied with our actions they would oppress us by putting a metal rod between our fingers(Yi Young-sook, testimony bk 1, page 62), they would take a red-hot poker and burn our armpits, leaving a burn that would take 3 months to heal(Pil-gi Moon, testimony bk 1, pg 114), they would take a telephone cord and wrap it around our wrists and ankles and electrocute us(Yong-Su In, testimony bk 1, page 127).

The owners of the comfort houses or the Japanese military men would regularly beat the military's comfort women. These violent beatings was used as a device in these military comfort houses to keep a strict atmosphere and to discourage any intentions of escape or resistance. All of the comfort women who are testifying state the damage inflicted by these beatings.

(They) would beat us terribly when we wouldn't do as we were told. I was also beaten often in the lower half of my body. Not long after I arrived at Guan-dong one of the soldiers stabbed me in the thigh with a knife. He did so after I repeatedly refused to comply to his wishes. I was forced to entertain these guests even while I was receiving treatment in the army hospital (Sun-Oak Lee, testimony bk 1, pg 174).

When (I) couldn't endure entertaining the soldiers anymore, I was caught attempting to escape and beaten considerably. I was beaten so much that I couldn't hear very well in my right ear, and there wasn't an unbruised spot on my body (Sang-oak Lee, testimony bk 1, pg 189). Once a bad-tempered private stabbed me in the chest, arms and feet and I was taken to

the hospital. I still carry these scars with me today (Sang-oak Lee, testimony bk 1, pg 192).

After I was caught I was hit with the butt of the rifle three times on the buttocks. I fell forward with blood in my mouth. They beat me hard enough to leave a dent. It became infested and inflamed so I couldn't lie down straight. But I still had to entertain the soldiers. The flesh near my wound became so infested that it began to rot (Du-ri Yoon, Testimony bk 1, pg 294).

In that comfort house if one person did something wrong, everybody was beaten, army-style. The owners and the Japanese women in charge of us forced us to kneel and hit us on the inner thighs with clubs. They hit us there so that the guests couldn't see the scars. It really hurt. Black welts shaped in lines formed. They would beat us 8 out of 10 times if even one girl became drunk and refused to do business, so most of the time I was beaten even if I did nothing wrong. I believe that my being deaf has to do with those beatings (Do-ri Bak, testimony bk 2, pg 37).

When I told him not to enter me, he hit me on my left shoulder with the barrel of his rifle. I still can't raise my left arm very high and it hurts from time to time. About 5-6 months after I arrived there, one private refused to use a condom. I told him that I didn't want to get any diseases and asked him to wear a condom, but he stabbed me on the groin with a dagger (Bok-shil Yuh, testimony bk 2, pg 202).

It is apparent from these various testimonies of physical abuse by the Japanese military that the comfort women were not considered to be human, but were degraded to the level of tools and as such were used as sex slaves.

2) Resulting diseases in the reproductive system

For many years countless Japanese soldiers sexually exploited teen-aged girls. As a result there has been many cases of syphilis and gonorrhea and other STD's (sexually transmitted diseases), but they were not allowed treatment. As a temporary treatment, Shot 606 (salvarsan) was used, but this drug has serious side-effects, such as vomiting and cold chills immediately after dosage.

Sexually abusing a teenager not only causes short-term physical damage, but also leaves long-term physical and mental damage. The syphilis virus can alter the fetus' genes and cause mental retardation, thus damaging the next generation as well.

Because I had to entertain so many men, it did not take long for me to catch some vile disease. It got so bad that my genitals became red and swollen and it started to stink. But I had to entertain the soldiers in this state. One time one guy pulled off his pants and started to advance at me, but when he saw my genitals he swore and stabbed my genitals with a sharp object, like a nail. It became even more infected, and it spread until it was a mess of blood and pus, but still the soldiers would lie with me (Myung-soon Choi, testimony bk 1, pg 265).

The doctors in the hospital diagnosed that my baby was already dead in my womb. When they removed the fetus, his face and body was already rotted. The doctors said that it was the germs that made the baby like that (Myung-soon Choi, testimony bk 1, pg 267).

I tried to get up, but my body wouldn't respond. Both sides of my genitals were swollen and burst, with blood and pus coming out. It was the pus in my womb that rotted and swelled out into my outer genitals. My legs were also swollen. My genitals became so painful that I couldn't use the bathroom (Mo-ja Kang, testimony bk 2, pg 59-60).

There was one woman who hid her past life to her family, until when her married daughter found out that she had the syphilis virus during a pre-delivery checkup. She suffered serious mental pain. Another woman confessed that her son is still suffering mental illness because the syphilis virus infected her son.

3) Abortion

After repeated abortions, natural or surgical, the military's comfort woman could not become pregnant again after returning to their countries. Of course it is up to medical science to decide whether it is because of repeated abortions or miscarriages that these woman have become barren. Nevertheless, it was because of the inhumane situation that stopped the military's comfort women from having a natural pregnant and birth lifestyle during their childbearing years. Therefor it is clear that these women could not live a normal married life even after their return home because of they spent their marriable and childbearing years unnaturally as comfort women.

Because the officers did not use a condom during their sexual relations with the comfort women many of them became pregnant. When these women took Shot 606 without knowing they are pregnant, they would become bloated, suffered the chills, and discharged blood through their genitals. When this happened, they would be taken to the hospital and the doctors would

scrape their wombs. Repeated scrapings would stop any future pregnancies. After one year of this kind of life, most women there would not be any normal women anymore. Most of the time these women would become pregnant two or three times and also would get STD's as well (Kum-ju Hwang, testimony bk 1, pg 99-101).

One year after arriving at Manchuria I became pregnant, after 3-4 months I received a shot and the fetus was aborted. A bloody figure that looked like a person come out. After that I didn't become pregnant anymore (Chun-ja Kim, testimony bk 2, pg 156).

Of course I became pregnant. And I aborted often as well. My owner would take me to the civilian hospital and would make sure that I lost the baby without much fuss. It would be bad for business if I had the baby. he would ask me how I would live if I had the baby. So I aborted often. There wasn't a women there who didn't get pregnant (Oak-ju Kim, testimony bk 3, pg 103).

Then or now, it is not socially acceptable for women to have abortions in Korea. In addition, the ridged standards that these comfort women have toward how men should act, and their ideas about how sexual relations between men and women should be, in contrast to how their bodies are because of the various STD's and experiences with abortion resulted in lower possibilities of normal pregnancies and birth.

4) Suicide Attempts and Their Sequelae

Being unable to bear inhumane conditions, many attempted suicides either individually or as a group. The exact statistics of these suicidal attempts are not available, but through testimonies of survivors, circumstantial situations then and aftereffect of these attempts are to be understood.

Once I jumped off the third floor out of grievances of my misfortune. I got injured badly on my left arm and shoulder bone probably because I covered my head with arms while falling. (Moon, Ok Joo, Testimony bk 1, pg 161)

One of us yelled, "It's drinking! I heard that if you drink enough, you can die. Let's try to drink ourselves to death." we poured that Chinese hard liquor down our throat. We remained unconscious for three days. Excruciating headaches soon followed and upset stomach kept us from eating meals. This condition went on for three months. I can still not digest properly because of the damage to my stomach from this incidence.

I shudder at the mere thought of receiving another person. I thought I'd better die than live like this. They give you lots of malaria medicine. This is to protect us from malaria. Normally you eat only one or two at a time, but I grabbed some forty, fifty pills and swallowed them all up. (Kim, Ok Joo, Testimony bk 3, pg 108)

Many studies have shown that people who experienced sexual abuse during childhood are more probable to commit a suicide (Bedsley LS et al, 1999; Santa Mina EE, et al, 1998). According to these studies, victims of sexual abuse during childhood show higher tendency to have anti-social behavioral difficulties, attempt suicide repeatedly and show self-abuse behaviors. Presumably some military comfort women may have attempted a suicide out of despair and humiliation not being supported by any social group.

5) Threat of Wartime

Military comfort women were not free from a threat of wartime because they had to move frequently along with Japanese army, and often times, comfort house existed near battle fields. Bombing raid from aircraft was a frightening threat which can cause massacre, but never can be prepared against.

6) Threat of Infections from Contagious and Epidemic Disease

Military comfort women were widely distributed covering Japan, whole China, Taiwan, Sakhalin, Indo-China area in possession of France then (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), Thai, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, and Pacific Islands such as the Mariana Islands, the Caroline Islands, the Marshall Islands, the New Britain Islands. Sudden change of circumstances, dietary life and malnutrition lowered their immunity level toward contagious or epidemic disease, and when they were actually infected, they could not receive a proper treatment, let alone a preventive shot.

7) Sequelae of Salvarsan Shot

According to the testimony of military comfort women, Japanese army periodically provided for salvarsan shot 606. The salvarsan shot was made of arsenics and it could cause acute vomiting, miscarriage, stomachache, severe diarrhea with blood, muscle spasm, facial edema, immediately after the shot. (Andrew MP eds, 1995, pg 131-161).

This is in accord with testimonies of comfort women who were given shot 606 for their syphilis and stated, 'for three days I felt dizzy and nauseated, and my period skipped a month (Jin, Kyung Pang),' 'I saw many times that after the shot, patients screamed like crazy in pain (Son, Pan Im),' 'I began smelling funny odors and felt nauseated after the shot (Kim, Bok Dong)' 'the shot 606 caused swelling of body, chills, and discharging of blood through my vagina (Hwang, Keum Joo)' 'once I get shot, I felt disgusted because of the odor from my mouth and nose (Choi, Myung soon).' These testimonies make it possible to guess how horrible the aftereffects of the salvarsan shot really were.

II. The present physical damages.

1) Dormant syphilis

Between 1995 to 1999, Seoul Central Hospital issued a physical check-up of 53 patients, and discovered that 19 (35.9%) tested positive for syphilis. Korea's national average for syphilis is 0.3% for blood donors, 0.8% for physical check-ups, and for high-risk sexually active people only 9~15%. It is therefore fair to conclude that 35.9% is a high statistic for our national average of any group. These statistics show that these teenaged to middle-aged military comfort women were regularly engaged in sexual relations in unsanitary conditions and had to entertain a large number of sexual partners. Syphilis brings about genital ulcer as well as inguinal lymphadenopathy.

In the long run because active syphilis or dormant syphilis viruses comes up positive in a syphilis blood test, the military comfort women are easily degraded to the social lower-class.

2) Trauma

In September, 2000 In-Chun sa-rang hospital's orthopedy department tested the comfort women for any sequela because of beatings or trauma. The test resulted in 7 out of 14 patients suffer from side effects. The orthopedy residents' professional opinion matches the previously mentioned witnesses' testimonies adding credibility to the witnesses' testimony.

Case	Disease	Korean disease Classification number	Remarks
A	neglected right shoulder joint dislocation. hearing disturbance in both ears.	S430 H919	Shoulder dislocation occurred when she was hit with a bayonet at the age of 18 while being a military comfort women. hearing disturbance also occurred when she was a comfort woman, she was hit in the ear.
B	Scar on left inguinal area. Scar on right knee. Carrier of Hepatitis B virus.	S710 S810 K729	The scar on the groin is the place where she was stabbed by a knife, during the time she was a military comfort woman. The scar on her knee is from a bullet and knife wound, and the hepatitis type B virus is most likely from during that time as well.
C	scar on left buttock	S710	scar formed because she was stabbed by a knife and kicked there.
D	left ring finger middle phalanx amputation state.	S681	The finger injury was made when she was a military comfort woman,
E	scar on right shin (dimpling)	S817	
F	scar on scalp (parietal area)	S010	
G	hearing disturbance	H919	

3) psychosomatic disorders

According to DSM-IV diagnostic standard, of the 14 patients that In-Chun Sa-rang Hospital investigated, 11 expressed chronic post traumatic stress disorder. To reach this diagnosis, various mental status examinations such as GAAB, Stream of Mental activity, Contents of thought, Emotional Reaction, Mental grasp and capacity, MMSE, etc. were performed. In

addition standardized clinical interviews and various psychological evaluations such as SCL-90 and impact of event scale, and Rorschach were performed. The evidence for evaluation by PTSD is as follows.

A. (1) During the time when these women were the military's comfort women, they were intimidated by the threat of death when they were beaten or when they saw soldiers with guns and swords threatening their companions. (2) They experienced helplessness and fear.

B. After being a comfort woman, they showed physical fear such as elevated heartbeat at the sight of men, especially soldiers.

C. Even now they are in denial of their experience, (2) they avoid men who remind them of their past, (3) they mentally block much of their past, (4) they stopped anticipating a normal married lifestyle.

D. (1) Even after their return home, they spent many sleepless nights, (2) they experienced physical anxiety whenever they saw men or soldiers.

E. The symptoms stated above were repeated continuously for decades.

F. Because of the above stated disorders the patients have shown to have serious impediments in living a normal social and occupational life.

The aftereffects of being traumatized include mental and emotional damage, as well as psychosomatic responses such as chronic headaches and indigestion, elevated heart rate, insomnia, etc. These events were so traumatic that it triggered the body's basic defence mechanism such as these psychosomatic responses.

According to the research done on long-term sequelae for adolescent sexual abuse, the higher the degree of sexual abuse the higher the chances of having major depression disorders, panic disorders, phobia, somatization disorders, and drug abuse, as well as having a higher short-term risk of being diagnosed for major depression disorder and somatoform pain disorder, compared to those who have little or no experience with sexual abuse(Walker E. A. et al, 1992).

In the case of the survivors of the Jewish Holocaust, 40 years after the Holocaust the survivors suffer to a higher degree mental pain such as emotional distress, unhappiness toward their life and psychosomatic symptoms compared to the other regulated groups that was under the Nazi domination (Carmil D, 1986).

Of the psychosomatic symptoms that occur because of trauma, there has been extensive research on the relations between sexual abuse and chronic pelvic pain. One research investigated how the nervous system might be the cause of this particular psychosomatic symptom. The study showed that in cases where the victims experienced a traumatic lifestyle such as chronic stress or sexual or physical abuse, one contention why they experience chronic

pelvic pain is because a specific part of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis becomes physically altered (Heim C. et al, 1998).

Out of the 14 patients the other 3 were not diagnosed as PTSD because of the difficulty of diagnosis. They tended to avoid the topic and recent years in drug therapy did not improve their conditions, as well as cases of idiopathic indigestion and lumbago.

It is also possible that there are cases of major depressive disorders, as they show the symptoms of depression and anxiety, loss of interest, insomnia and somniphobia, feelings of inadequacy and guilt, and recurring thoughts about death. In an international comparative study on depression, a research paper showed that in comparing western and non-western societies, non-western societies tended to have a higher percentage of cases where the patients would show physical symptoms rather than mental or psychological symptoms. For example the symptoms of depression are not limited to emotional or mental symptoms, but also physical symptoms as well such as chronic tiredness and loss of appetite, insomnia and aches (Simon GE, et al, 1999).

4) Diseases related to smoking

The above stated Seoul Central Hospital's physical check-up reported that out of the 53 victims who were a military comfort women, 43 smoked. Compared to the national domestic statistic of 20% for smoking 60+ year old women, this is a very high number. The military comfort women started smoking during or after the ordeal, between the ages of 10 to late 20's. As a result they suffer from many forms of tobacco-related diseases. 8 patients expressed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 3 patients showed respiratory asthma. If the other smoking related factors such as heart attacks, lung cancer and uterine cervix carcinoma are taken to account, the numbers would be much higher. There is a high chance that the military comfort women's precarious living conditions, stress and tension, fear and anxiety were the main factors in encouraging these women to start smoking.

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