

PRESS RELEASE

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8/12/2000 VAWW - NET JAPAN

December 8, (Fri) 2000 _____ Day 1: Tribunal

I. Name of speakers during the Tribunal

Prosecutors on the stage : Korea: Park Won-Soon, Ha Jong-moon, Yang Hyuan-ah, **China:** Zhou Hong-jun, **Taiwan:** Chuang Kuo-Ming, **The Philippines:** Merlin Magallona, **Malaysia :** Juliette Chinaud, **East-Timor:** Carmelita Moniz, **The Netherlands:** Henry Grant, **Japan:** Kazuko Kawaguchi

10:00-10:30 Opening remarks by IOC

Yayori MATSUI, Yun Chung Ok and Indai SAJOR

Opening statements of the Presiding Judges

The honorable Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald.

10:30-11:30 Reading the indictments by Chief Prosecutors

Patricia Viseur-Sellers and Tina Dolgopoul

Amicas Curie

Tsuguo Imamura

11:30-13:00 Country presentation: Korea I

Prosecutors: Park Won-Soon, Ha Jong-moon, Yang Hyuan-ah

Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 Country presentation: Korea II

16:00-16:40 Experts testimonies

(1) The structure of Japanese Imperial Army by Hirofumi HAYASHI

(2) Emperor Hirohito's responsibility by Akira YAMADA

16:40-17:30 Establishment of Emperor's liability by Japanese Prosecutors (Kazuko KAWAGUCHI, Yuichi YOKOTA and Yasushi HIGASHISAWA)

II. Relevant issues of the day

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL OPENS IN TOKYO

The Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery opened in Tokyo this morning. With participants from 8 countries, including 75 survivors and about 20000 attendees drawn from over 30 countries and 5 continents, the Tribunal aims to do what the Tokyo Tribunal and the international community have thus far failed at – to indict senior figures in the wartime Japanese leadership, including the late Emperor Hirohito, for crimes against humanity.

'The Tribunal will examine crimes of sexual slavery and rape that, although known about at the time of the IMTFE were unconscionably virtually ignored', said Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald in her opening remarks. The Tribunal will examine documentary evidence, expert witness opinion and survivor testimony, and apply international law as it existed at the time the war crimes occurred. The prosecution's case against the Japanese

Government has been brought on the grounds that it failed to adhere to its international legal obligations. The prosecution is seeking both acknowledgement of state responsibility and reparations for survivors.

Ms Indai Sajor, one of the convenors of the Tribunal, said that, 'In a time when sexual violence against women in war has become epidemic, to ignore such conduct is to sustain its repetition.'

Already, the Tribunal has seen history being made, with a joint indictment presented by North and South Korea.

JOINT PRESENTATION BY NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA PROSECUTION TEAMS (MORNING SESSION)

After outlining the structure of their prosecution, the North and South Korean prosecutors gave three presentation in the morning session of the Tribunal. Their central aim was to demonstrate in the clearest possible terms that the sexual enslavement of Korean women by the Japanese Imperial Army was carefully planned and systematically instituted throughout all Japanese occupied territories.

The first presentation given by, Hong Son Ok a North Korean prosecutor, informed the court of the socio-historical background of the Japanese enslavement of Korean women. Annexed by Japan in 1910, Korea served as a staging ground for Japanese expansion into continental East Asia. Hong stressed that, for Japan, Korea was merely a source of natural resources and labor power. Forfeiture were clear-cut; agricultural products seized; six million men forced into slave labor; and over 100,000 Korean women enslaved into sexual service.

In the next presentation, Ha Jong Moon, South Korean presented evidence of how the so-called "comfort women" were forced into prostitution. Of the 237 survivors interviewed, 120 were taken through fraud, 84 through kidnapping, 11 by trafficking. These women were taken throughout Asia, all traveling with the army divisions which they served.

Hwang Ko Nam of North Korea presented video testimony by Park Young Sim who was 16 when she was enticed by a police official with a seemingly legitimate job offer. She was taken to China in 1942 and sold to the army. She was forced into sexual service even though she was pregnant at the time.

III. Tomorrow? - Day 2: Tribunal 2 - Highlights

Morning session

- Country presentation: China, The Philippines

Afternoon session

- Experts testimonies: 1/The comfort women system by Yoshiaki Yoshimi, 2/PSTD by Lepa Mladjenovic
- Country presentation: Taiwan, Malaysia
- (Evening session : Video Showing)