



To Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan,
To Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs,

1st July, 2013

Request to accept and make appropriate responses and actions to the Recommendations of UN Committee against Torture regarding the 'Japanese wartime military sex slavery system'

In May, 2013, the Committee against Torture made strong recommendations toward Japan, regarding the improper and inadequate situations as to the issue of Japanese wartime military sex slavery system.

The Committee pointed out the following situations:

- Continuing official denial of the facts and re-traumatization of the victims by high-level national and local officials and politicians, including several diet members;
- The failure to carry out effective educational measures to prevent gender-based breaches of the Convention, as illustrated, inter alia, by a decrease in references to this issue in school history textbooks.

The Committee strongly recommended the following measures:

- Publicly acknowledge legal responsibility for the crimes of sexual slavery, and prosecute and punish perpetrators with appropriate penalties;
- Disclose related materials, and investigate the facts thoroughly;
- Recognize the victim's right to redress, and accordingly provide them full and effective redress and reparation, including compensation, satisfaction and the means for as full rehabilitation as possible;
- Educate the general public about the issue and include the events in all history textbooks.

These recommendations reveal the shameful situations of Japan, where repeated irresponsible nationalistic remarks by statesmen and high-rank officials of both national and local governments are eroding the international trust toward Japan. Such remarks downplay the accumulated historical research in the past and official statements based on such research,

including the statement by Mr. Yohei Kono, Chief Cabinet Secretary, in 1993, which recognized and apologized about the wartime offenses based on the research.

Japan should face its own history and make efforts to share historical views with its neighbors, instead of waiting for international institutions to point out its problems. Japan, as a nation to be proud of her principle of peace, justice and human rights, should pay the utmost attention and consideration to women's human rights, especially the rights of women under the severe circumstances such as wartime.

Preceding the Committee recommendations, in April 2013, Mr. Kazuyoshi Umemoto, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, officially announced Japan's commencement of a National Action Plan for the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This means that Japan has made a long-awaited commitment to the resolution on women's rights, upheld by all the 193 UN member states.

The YWCA of Japan works for women's rights, in collaboration with the World YWCA network. We have continued our work in the belief that we can build a peaceful future with other Asian countries, by reflecting upon our past in which we were unable to stop the Japanese colonization of Asian countries, and sincerely facing and apologizing about the historical reality of Japanese aggression.

We request the Japanese government to appropriately accept and respond to the Recommendations by the Committee against Torture and to restore the honor as a nation which respects peace, justice, and human rights.

俣野尚子

Naoko Matano
President
YWCA of Japan

Mikako Nishihara

Mikako Nishihara
General Secretary
YWCA of Japan