

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MUST APOLOGIZE TO THE JAPANESE ARMY'S 'COMFORT WOMEN'!

<The YWCA of Korea and the YWCA of Japan Demand the Japanese Government's Apology to the 'Comfort Women'>

The YWCA of Korea and the YWCA of Japan denounce the recent persistent absurd statements about 'Comfort Women' from Japanese politicians. We demand a sincere apology from the Japanese government as well as an acknowledgement of the legal responsibilities toward the 'Comfort Women' issue and a punishment of the officials involved with the issue.

Remarks from Hashimoto Toru, the mayor of Osaka City, such as "Comfort Women were needed during the war.", comes from a serious lack of understanding and awareness of historical events as well as an attempt to evade the responsibility for war crimes during the Japanese invasion on the nearby countries in the early nineteen hundreds.

The conception of the necessity of sex slaves in the army during war is an insult to women in general and an apparent violence against human rights. Moreover, to deny the existence of Japanese army's comfort women and forced exploitations against women is a clear attempt on distortion of history. This problem is not just limited to a few politicians. On the contrary it is an organized and deep-rooted conspiracy and attempt of the Japanese government and extreme right-wing organizations in Japan. They have continued their attempts to modify the statement of Kono, the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan in 1993, which admitted and apologized the enforcement of the comfort women recruit process. Also they are trying to make retrogressive revisions to the Peace Constitution of Japan, article 9.

Forcing women in to sex slave during a war is without doubt a clear sexual violence and war crime. During World War II, the Japanese military government operated a broad-scale 'Comfort Women' system in the Asian region, including Korea. However, Japan has since ignored and neglected the numerous lives of surviving 'Comfort Women', who have suffered from terrible memories and experiences of forcefully living as a 'Comfort Women' to the Japanese army. As of 2002, the Japanese government has already adopted the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 which strengthens the women's role in peace building and protects women during an armed conflict. As a

responsible member of the international community, now Japan must actively participate in the process of solving Japanese army's comfort women issue and pay more attention to the persistent request from the United Nations, the assemblies of each countries and the international society. We demand the Japanese Government to sincerely apologize to the survivors of 'Comfort Women' and do their best effort to straighten the distorted historical acknowledge that insult the countries Japan invaded before.

The YWCA of Korea and the YWCA of Japan demand that the Japanese government officially admit to the crimes related to the Japanese army's forced 'Comfort Women' system, which destroyed the lived of thousands of women. The Japanese government should also, fully compensate the survivors of 'Comfort Women' system for their damages and make any information regarding the forced 'Comfort Women' system public, in order to ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of the survivors. At the same time, we demand that objective and accurate investigation be carried out on the said crimes while citizens are educated to have an accurate and righteous historical recognition. Both YWCAs, in cooperation with the YWCAs in the Asia regions and World YWCA, will do our bests to advocate the historical truth of the Japanese army's 'Comfort Women' system and to educate the public to have a righteous historical acknowledgement. We will do our best to achieve a peaceful future in the Asian region within the global YWCA sisters' network.

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YWCA of Korea



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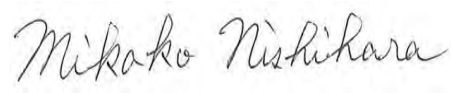


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