

# Shadow Report to the Committee of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

By Ninohashi Club

In reference to the issue of the Comfort Women:

Both the Coomaraswamy Report (E/CN.4/1996/53/Add.1 ) and the McDougall Report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/13 Appendix: An analysis of the legal liability of the Government of Japan for “comfort women stations” established during the Second World War ) state that “the Japanese military forcefully recruited 200,000 Korean women and made them sex slaves.” However, this claim is completely inexplicable due to the following reasons.

1.

The population of Korea back then was 20 million. If indeed 200,000 were forcefully recruited, why wasn't there a single witness who claimed that he saw a girl abducted? Why wasn't there a single riot to object to such abductions?

During WWII, 80% of the police force in the peninsula were Koreans. How was it possible to forcefully recruit 200,000 Korean women without being noticed by these Korean police officers? Since roughly half of the Korean population were women, the number of Korean women must have been around 10 million.

Two hundred thousand were about one fiftieth of all Korean women. The ratio of young Korean women was even smaller, probably about one twentieth. It's hard to believe that there was not a riot nor rumors of such abductions while one in every twenty young women were recruited or abducted.

2.

Many Korean men volunteered for the Japanese military. Six and a half times more Korean men applied for military service than what the Japanese military requested. Would they have done that if many of the Korean women were being abducted?

3.

After WWII, even the two most anti-Japan presidents of South Korea, Syngman Rhee and Chung-hee Park, never mentioned anything about the comfort women. It is so odd that President Park didn't even mention about them when the treaty between Japan and South Korea was concluded, if these women were indeed sex slaves. Many of the comfort women went to public 40 years after WWII and said that “their very existence is proof of forceful recruitment.” The claim of victims has to be supported by some kind of evidence.

4.

August of 2015, Asahi Newspaper apologized for their false report about comfort women.

It all started when then Asahi reporter, Takashi Uemura, wrote an article about Hak-sun Kim on 11 August 1991 without verifying the credibility of her story. On 28 June 2015, Mr. Uemura was asked whether or not he verified the story during a panel discussion at Sophia University; he was dismayed by the question.

Based on the facts stated above, we request the Japanese government make every effort so that the Coomaraswamy Report and the McDougall Report can be invalidated by the United Nations.