

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

By

Japan Family Value Society

In reference to item 9 of the list of issues, the issue regarding “comfort women,” we strongly request the committee to stop bringing up this issue based on the following reasons:

I. The governments of Japan and South Korea reached the historical agreement on 28 December last year that both governments will “refrain from criticizing and blaming each other in international society, including the United Nations.”

II. The claim that “comfort women were sex slaves” was nothing but a fabrication of history. The involvement of the Japanese military was simply in the control of venereal diseases, in making sure that no women were forcefully recruited, and in making sure that the women were properly paid.

III. There was no historical evidence to indicate that comfort women were sex slaves and that more than 200,000 women were recruited. Interagency Working Group Report conducted by the American government could not find any evidence to such a claim after eight years of investigation. Also, the Japanese Prisoner of War Interrogation Report No. 49 by the U.S. Army Forces indicated that they were simply war-time prostitutes.

IV. The issue of comfort women is and has been a political problem, not the problem of human rights. The Japanese government has been apologizing to South Korea about the comfort women, not because Japan was guilty of the crime but simply to ease tensions between the two nations. The Kono Statement was issued and worded in such a way based on the request of the then South Korea government precisely for this purpose, to ease tensions, but to no avail. The more Japan apologized, the angrier South Korean became. The clear evidence that this issue is political can be seen by the fact that Professor Park Yuha was prosecuted for publishing a book that is contrary to their claim. (Please refer to “Comfort Women of the Empire” by Professor Park Yuha of Sejong University in South Korea.)

Other evidence that this issue is political is in the nature of the organizations which keep promoting this issue. The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery is an anti-Japan lobby and was formed by the South Korean communists. They are using this issue to drive a wedge into the U.S.-Japan-South Korea security partnership. Now, the Global Alliance for Preserving the History of World War II in Asia, a Chinese anti-Japan organization located in CA in the U.S., is using the issue to weaken the alliance between the U.S. and Japan. Because of their vocal allegation against Japan, many innocent Japanese children living in the U.S. are being bullied and victimized, which is a true case of a human rights violation.

Based on the reasons mentioned above, we sincerely wish that the Committee will put an end to this politically heated issue. By bringing up this issue over and over again in the United Nations makes an already fragile international situation even more fragile. It is time to stop looking back and time to take care of more serious human rights problems at hand.

Also, we sincerely wish that the Japanese government stop apologizing for something Japan did not do, speak up the truth about the comfort women, and clear misunderstandings which have spread all over the world.

Thank you very much for your attention.