
NGO Report /JAPAN

For the 15th session of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)
in review of the initial report of JAPAN

October 10, 2018

Japan's Military Sexual Slavery Issue

(The so-called 'comfort women' issue)

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	p1
1. The reference in the report and replies by the State party.....	p1
2. The number of "comfort women" who remain as disappeared.....	p2
3. A complaint of enforced disappearances.....	p3
4. Rejection against criminal investigation.....	p4
5. Objections to the right to truth and reparations.....	p4
Recommendation.....	p9
Appendix	
A: Map: "Comfort Stations"	p10
B: Chart: Changes to accounts given in history textbooks.....	P11
C: List: Recommendations by the UN Human Rights Bodies.....	p14



Prepared and Submitted by:

Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM)

Avaco Bldg. 2F, 2-3-18, Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku, Tokyo 169-0051 Japan

Tel:+81-3-3202-4633 wam@wam-peace.org URL:www.wam-peace.org

Introduction

1. The Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM) was established in August 2005 with donations from people in Japan and abroad. WAM is the main project of the Women's Fund for Peace and Human Rights, a non-profit organization authorized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 2003. WAM focuses on violence against women in war and conflict situations, particularly the issue of Japan's military sexual slavery, or the so-called "comfort women" issue. WAM holds exhibitions and other educational events, conducts fact-finding projects, archives data and testimonials, and acts as an advocate for victims of Japan's military sexual slavery. WAM has submitted alternative reports on Japan's military sexual slavery system to various UN human rights bodies, such as ICCPR, CESCR, CEDAW, CAT, CERD and UPR of the Human Rights Council.
2. WAM welcomes the opportunity to submit the first alternative report on Japan's compliance with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

1. The reference in the report and replies by the State party

3. The first report by the State party (CED/C/JPN/1, dated 25 August 2016), does not contain any reference on the so-called "comfort women."
4. The list of issues compiled by the CED (CED/C/JPN/Q/1) requested the State party to provide information on the "comfort women" in paragraph 5 of the general information as follows (underline added by WAM):
 5. Please provide updated statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age and nationality, on the number of disappeared persons under the control of the State party, indicating the number of cases that would constitute enforced disappearance, that is, criminal conduct that comprises all three constitutive elements of an enforced disappearance as defined in article 2 of the Convention. In this respect, please also indicate the number of so-called comfort women that are still disappeared, disaggregated by nationality, and clarify whether any complaints of enforced disappearance have been submitted to the State party in this regard (arts. 1, 2 and 12).
5. The Replies of the Government of Japan (GoJ) to the list of issues (CED/C/JPN/Q/1/Add.1) dated September 28, 2018, states as follows:
 8. Since the Convention on Enforced Disappearance does not apply retroactively to any issues that occurred prior to its entry into force (2010), GoJ considers that it is not appropriate to take up the comfort women

issue in the examination of the Government Report regarding the state of implementation of the Convention.

9. Having said that, no “complaint” pursuant to Article 12 of the Convention, including the comfort women issue, has been raised to date against GoJ.

6. WAM takes this opportunity to provide alternative information on Japan’s military sexual slavery, (euphemistically called “comfort women”), focusing on the Committee’s concerns stipulated in the List of Themes (CED/C/JPN/Q/1, para. 5) as well as related issues on the right to truth and reparations.

2. The number of “comfort women” who remain as disappeared (arts. 1-2)

7. The State party has never conducted any holistic fact-finding research into Japan’s military sexual slavery system, and there is no reliable information available in regard to the number of “comfort women” who remain as disappeared.
8. The practice of Japanese military sexual slavery was widespread. WAM conducted research in 2008 as to the locations of the “comfort stations” based on official documents as well as the testimonies of survivors, former soldiers and witnesses. The Japanese military established “comfort stations” wherever it invaded throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Those women and girls who were sexually enslaved came not only from the Korean Peninsula, Taiwan and Japan, but also from the local communities in which Japanese military were stationed (Please see appendix 1).
9. In the early 1990’s, women from across the Asia-Pacific region broke their silence and testified about their horrific experiences as sexual slaves of the Japanese military. The survivors from the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Japan, had come forward. Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, India, Guam, Solomon Islands, Palau, and other Southern Islands are also countries/regions where the existence of “comfort stations” has been identified, although survivors have not come forward. The estimated total number of the victims of Japan’s military sexual slavery system varies from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands, according to the historians and scholars specializing on the issue¹.
10. The State party is still presumed to hold voluminous related records. Independent scholars have identified these to include: police records; colonial records of the Department of Overseas Affairs and the Home Ministry; a huge collection of diaries held by the Defense

¹ In calculating these estimations, scholars have used figures such as the total numbers of soldiers stationed overseas during the relevant period and various official military records which indicate the ratio, for example, of the numbers of “comfort women” required for certain numbers of soldiers.

Ministry that were kept by officials and personnel who accompanied the military; materials relating to the war crimes trials held by the Justice Ministry; and Welfare Ministry documents relating to repatriation and war victim relief. Although the Japanese government and military officials were ordered to destroy all incriminating official documents at the end of the WWII, scholars assume that the State party still holds many documents housed by the ministries referred to above.

3. Complaints of enforced disappearance (art. 12)

11. Groups that support the survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery have to date focused on these surviving women. Therefore further work is required to look once more at existing testimonies from the perspective of enforced disappearance.

12. There is one complaint of this nature made by a survivor from East Timor.

Ines Magalhaes, an East Timorese survivor of Japan's military sexual slavery, gave birth in a "comfort station" during the Japanese occupation in the 1940's. She named her new-born girl "Kaibuti" The baby, however, was taken away by a Japanese soldier three months later and Ines Magalhaes has never seen her child again. During a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held on November 7, 2016 in Tokyo, Ines Magalhases inquired about the whereabouts of her baby. She has never received any reply².

13. According to Japanese scholars who have researched and interviewed victims of Japan's military sexual slavery in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, there are cases of enforced disappearances³.

Suniati was taken to a "comfort station" during the Japanese occupation in the 1940's with her older sister, Mariyama. Japanese soldiers broke into their house in Sungguminasa while they were sleeping at night and took the sisters to a "comfort station" in Makassar. Suniati was 15 and Mariyama was 18 years old. Both were raped by the Japanese soldiers at the same "comfort station." Suniati was able to escape after two months and, with great difficulty, found her way home. She never saw her sister Mariyama again.

Lahami was taken to a "comfort station" during the Japanese occupation in the 1940's with her older sister, Riki. Lahami was 16 years old. Japanese soldiers broke into her house in Bere and took the two girls to a "comfort station" in Lura. Lahari was able to escape a month later. However, her sister Riki was afraid of being killed if she attempted to escape. Lahari has never seen her sister Riki again.

² The testimony as well as information on the complaint, was provided by the Asosiasaun HAK, a human rights NGO in East Timor.

³ Both interviews were conducted by the South Sulawesi Research Group on November 1, 2015.

14. There will be many other cases of enforced disappearances from regions colonized by Japan. Please refer to the alternative report to be submitted by the Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for cases related to the Republic of Korea (ROK).

4, Rejection against criminal investigation (arts. 3-12)

Complaints by the survivors rejected

15. Due to the lack of efforts by the State party, on February 7th, 1994, twenty-seven Korean “comfort woman” survivors and their supporting group, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, tried to submit criminal complaints to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office in order to have that Office initiate a criminal investigation into and prosecution for the “comfort women” system. The Prosecutors Office refused to accept these complaints on the following technical legal grounds: 1. the statute of limitation had expired; 2. the names of the perpetrators were not identified; 3. the facts of the damage incurred were not identified; and 4. the penalty articles were inadequate⁴.

No prosecution by the State party in the post-war period

16. The post-war trials, including the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) held in Tokyo, did not adequately prosecute perpetrators of the sexual slavery system or the enforced disappearances instigated by the Japanese Imperial Army in order to operate the system. This was possibly due to a lack of gender sensitivity among legal professionals at the time. No high-ranking commander was tried for planning or setting up Japan’s military sexual slavery system.
17. Unlike post-war Germany, where those individuals who committed crimes against humanity during WWII were prosecuted, the State party to date has never itself attempted to bring to justice any individual who committed atrocities in its war of aggression. The State party has never tried any individual for the commission of war crimes. Crimes related to Japan’s military sexual slavery are no exception.

5, Objections to the right to truth and reparations (art. 24)

18. The right to truth and reparations on the part of the women who suffered and survived enforced disappearances are not fully protected by the State party.

Denials of Events

19. The State party has not accepted the fact that the “comfort women” system was a system of military sexual slavery. It has yet to acknowledge that the system was a grave human rights violation. The State party continues to refuse to acknowledge the crimes it committed and

⁴ TOTSUKA, Etsuro, “*Nihon ga shiranai sensō sekinin*” (*War responsibility that Japan does not know*), Hōgaku Seminar (Legal seminars), No. 472, 1994, pp 104-105

has never, neither at the time nor in the present, admitted its responsibility under international law.

20. Since 2007, the State party has officially denied the “forcible taking away of women by military or government personnel”, a position that is based solely on its findings from military and government records. There are existing testimonies made by victims/survivors who were taken away by military personnel against their will or by force, especially in territories occupied during the war by the Japanese Imperial Army such as the Philippines, China, and the Dutch East Indies. The State party, however, refuses to accept these testimonies as evidence.

Concrete examples of denial by Cabinet members and government officials

21. Official denials of events have continued, even after the December, 2015, bilateral “announcement” on the “comfort women” issue made by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Japan and the ROK. In January 2016, when both Prime Minister ABE and then Foreign Minister KISHIDA were asked about the meaning of the “announcement” during a Diet session in Japan, they made the following statements:

Foreign Minister KISHIDA: “Expressions such as sex slaves are against the facts and should not be used; such is the understanding of the Japanese government.”⁵

Prime Minister ABE: “This agreement does not mean that [we/the Japanese government] have admitted to, for instance, things that constitute war crimes.” “There is no such fact as sex slaves or 200,000 [victims]; it is a fact that [the western media/the world] has showered [us/Japan] with this criticism. In response [i.e. to this criticism] the government would like to firmly make clear that there is no factual basis to these claims. In 2007, at the time of the first Abe Cabinet, the government made a Cabinet Decision as the official reply to the parliamentary enquiry submitted in writing by MP Kiyomi Tsujimoto. This reply adopted the position that no reference was found then, among the materials discovered by the government, that directly suggested the so-called forcible taking away by military or government personnel. I would like to state anew that there has been no change whatsoever to this position [on the part of the Japanese government].”⁶

22. On February 16, 2016, at the consideration of the 7th and 8th periodic reports of Japan at CEDAW, Shinsuke SUGIYAMA, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs stated the following:

"[F]orceful taking away" of comfort women by the military and government authorities could not be confirmed in any of the documents that the government of Japan was able to identify in this study.

I would also like to point out that the expression "sex slaves" contradicts the facts.

⁵ At House of Councilors Budget Committee, 15 January 2016

⁶ At House of Councilors Budget Committee, 18 January 2016

The truth is that the figure "200,000 persons" as the number of comfort women also lacks concrete evidence.⁷

23. At a meeting of the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs held on March 28, 2018, a government official confirmed that the above statement made at the CEDAW on February 2016 by Shinsuke SUGIYAMA is the official position of the Japanese government. The statement was translated into English, Korean and Chinese and uploaded onto the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
24. Denying and obscuring these events causes tremendous suffering and agony to the survivors. For over 25 years, survivors have refused to accept any so-called "apology" by the State party as a genuine apology. The reason for this is precisely because the State party has never made clear the specific nature of the acts for which it is offering an "apology."

Objections to Memorials:

25. The State party has repeatedly stated that any memorials, including the "comfort women" statues erected overseas, are "not in line with Japan's position". The "position" of the Japanese government is, as far as we have seen from its remarks and actions, to erase the memory and history of Japan's military sexual slavery in Japan as well as overseas. This attitude itself is a defamation against the victims/survivors who courageously testified in public about their horrific experiences as Japan's military sexual slaves.

[ROK]

26. The Japanese government continues to demand the removal of the "girl statue for peace" that stands in front of the Embassy of Japan in Seoul. This statue was put in place on December 14, 2011, by citizens including "comfort women" survivors themselves. The memorial was erected on the day of the 1000th demonstration of protest that has been held there by survivors every Wednesday since 1992.⁸ In response to the erection of this statue, the Japanese government made official requests to the ROK for its removal, claiming that the monument negatively affects the "dignity of diplomatic establishments abroad" and that it is in violation of the Vienna Treaties concerning consulatory relations. When another girl statue was built by citizens on December 30, 2016, in front of the Consulate-General of Japan in Busan, ROK, the Japanese government demanded the removal also of this second statue and, in protest, summoned back Japan's ambassador to the ROK.⁹

[USA]

⁷ See the website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000140100.pdf>

⁸ The "Wednesday Demonstration" started on January 8, 1992 in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. Korean survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery and their supporters have continued to stand in front of the Embassy every Wednesday at noon calling for the restoration of their honor and dignity. The Wednesday Demonstrations have been carried out regardless of the weather with two exceptions. These were the Wednesdays just after the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. On December 14, 2011, at the 1000th demonstration, the "girl statue for peace" was erected.

⁹ At the press conference held on February 17, 2017, Foreign Minister Kishida stated that he made the request again to the Foreign Minister of the ROK "in a strong manner," reported on the website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken4_000458.html#topic1

27. On February 22, 2017, the Japanese government filed an *amicus curiae* brief to the U.S. Supreme Court (in *Gingery et al. v. City of Glendale*) in support of the revisionist plaintiffs who sued the city of Glendale to demand the removal of a “comfort women” memorial that the city erected in July 2013. In this document the Japanese government argues that the girl statue “presents a significant impediment to Japan’s diplomatic efforts” as it is “not in line” with the “spirit” of the bilateral agreement of 2015. The Japanese government also “strongly disagrees that the inscription on the Glendale monument accurately describes the historical record, which Japan has studied at length.”¹⁰ When the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the case on March 27, 2017, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihiro SUGA again stated that setting up comfort women statues is “irreconcilable” with Japan’s stance and “extremely regrettable”. SUGA also claimed that the Japanese government continues to promote an “accurate understanding” of its basic stance and activities relating to this issue.¹¹
28. On June 30, 2017, a girl statue was erected in a Brookhaven park in Atlanta, USA. Prior to the installation, Takashi SHINOZUKA, the consul general of Japan in Atlanta, stated the following on June 16, 2017, in an attempt to block this installation:

No evidence has been found about [this issue]. So first of all, this is [a] fact of history. Not 200,000, not sex slaves and not taken by force. Maybe you know that in Asian culture, in some countries, we have girls who decide to take this job to help their family. [abbr.] The memorial which the city of Brookhaven would like to have is not a simple art object but a political tool which has many controversial implications. As you can see, this has been [a] symbol of hatred and resentment against Japanese.¹²

This remark has not been condemned, refuted or rescinded by the State party.

[Germany]

29. On March 8, 2017, a “girl statue” was erected by a private entity on private premises in Bavaria, Germany. The State party again showed resentment and demanded its removal. At a press conference on March 10, 2016, Foreign Minister KISHIDA noted that “the recent developments centering round comfort women statues are extremely regrettable. We will continue to make every effort to explain the position of our country.”¹³ At the end of April, due to persistent meddling by the Japanese government, the owner removed the plaque from the statue base which had provided an historical explanation of the “comfort women” issue.

[The Philippines]

30. On December 8, 2017, a statue was erected on Roxas Boulevard in Metro Manila, the Philippines, in memory of the suffering of the women sexually abused by the Japanese

¹⁰ The website of Ministry of Foreign affairs, <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000231732.pdf>

¹¹ “US comfort woman statue: CCS calls for understanding of Japanese government’s position”, NHK, 28 March 2017. <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20170328/k10010927181000.html>

¹² Website of Reporter Newspapers on June 20, 2017

<http://www.reporternewspapers.net/2017/06/27/japan-consul-generals-comfort-women-comments-trigger-international-criticism/>

¹³ The website of Ministry of Foreign affairs, http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/kaiken/kaiken4_000467.html#topic2

military during WWII. The Statue was proposed by a civil society organization in the Philippines, authorized by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and handed over to Manila City on December 8, 2017.¹⁴ On December 12, Chief Cabinet Secretary SUGA said in a press conference that “erecting the comfort women statue abroad is not consistent with the position of Japanese government and extremely regrettable”.¹⁵ In February 2018, when Japan’s Minister for Internal Affairs and Communication, Seiko NODA, visited Manila, she again expressed regret about the erection of the “comfort women” statue.¹⁶ Although at first, the Philippines president, Rodrigo Duterte, stated that the statue was a symbol of “freedom of expression”,¹⁷ during the night of April 27, 2018, the statue was demolished by the government of the Philippines. Estelita Dy, a victim/survivor who was sexually enslaved by Japan’s military at the age of 13 in 1945, stated to the media that “it’s a personal insult to us comfort women,” “the world needs to know that here in the Philippines, there are comfort women, too...it’s like they want to erase our existence and for the world to forget about the crimes that the Japanese soldiers committed.”¹⁸

Modified references in history textbooks

31. Most victims hope that, in order to prevent recurrences, history will be told accurately to future generations. However, although all history textbooks used in compulsory education between 1997 and 2001 in Japan included some reference to the “comfort women” issue, the number of such textbooks decreased between 2002 and 2006. In 2012, the term “comfort women” was erased from all compulsory education textbooks. In 2016, a reference to “comfort women” appeared in one history textbook only among books produced by 8 publishers. This reference, however, was largely modified under the scrutiny of a committee set up by the government to approve textbooks for use in compulsory schooling (see Appendix B).

Objections to Museums

32. As the “comfort women” issue did not appear in textbooks in mandatory education until 1997, most adults have not had a chance to learn about this issue. Thus, it is important to provide other means of educating people about “comfort women”. However, neither the National Museum of Japanese History nor any other national museum related to the history of WWII explains the facts regarding Japan’s military sexual slavery.

33. Furthermore, the State party objected to and harshly criticized the establishment of museums focusing on the “comfort women” issue in the ROK, China and Taiwan. For example, when then President Ma of Taiwan expressed interest in setting up a memorial museum on “comfort women,” Chief Cabinet Secretary SUGA said: “This is of course in conflict with Japan’s position”; “If such efforts seem likely to be formalized, then we intend to explain our

¹⁴ The Daily Manila Shimbun, December 11, 2017

¹⁵ Asahi Shimbun, December 12, 2107

¹⁶ The Daily Manila Shimbun, January 10, 2018

¹⁷ The Daily Manila Shimbun, January 18, 2018

¹⁸ Philippine Star, May 20, 2018

position [to the government of Taiwan] through a variety of channels and thrash it out [with them] so that the plan is cancelled.”¹⁹

Objections to safeguarding the documents: UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW)

34. The State party is openly against the civil society’s initiative to register documents related to Japan’s military sexual slavery with the UNESCO Memory of the World (hereafter, MoW). On May 15, 2015, Prime Minister ABE noted “with emphasis” to members of his Liberal Democratic Party, including the head of the party’s Foreign Affairs Division: "It is important to start making all-out efforts now so as not to have [the materials concerning “comfort women”] registered [with MoW]”.²⁰
35. In May 2016, civil society groups from 8 countries and regions, namely, the Republic of Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor, the Netherlands, and Japan, together with the Imperial War Museum in the UK, nominated the series of more than 2000 documents on Japan’s military sexual slavery to the MoW under the name “the Voices of Comfort Women.” For this nomination, national archives in places such as the US, Australia, China, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands, gave permission for their documents related to the “comfort women” issue to be lodged with the MoW.
36. The State party has made all-out efforts to pressure UNESCO not to register “comfort women” documents in the MoW, even suspending its fiscal contribution of US\$34 million to UNESCO.²¹ The Register Sub-committee of the MoW notified the nominators by letter that the “Voices of Comfort Women” documents are “unique and irreversible”. In October, 2017, however, the International Advisory Committee of the MoW made a recommendation to the Director General, Irina Bokova, to leave the registration of these documents pending for “dialogue.”²² The Director General accepted this recommendation. Presently, the government of Japan is making another all-out effort to change the rules of the MoW to give relevant governments the right to intervene in decision making processes.²³ This is a threat to the international human rights community which to date has safeguarded documents related to human rights violation by state actors through the UNESCO Memory of the World.

Recommendations

WAM respectfully requests the Committee on Enforced Disappearances:

- To urge the State party to conduct through fact-finding research into Japan’s military sexual slavery system with a special focus on those who remain as disappeared, and to also ensure the rights to truth and reparations of the victims/survivors.

¹⁹ At the Cabinet Secretary’s press conference on June 5, 2015

²⁰ “PM Abe: Memory of the World ‘requires close examination’: efforts for ‘comfort women’ non-registration”, Jiji Wire Service, 15 May 2015. Archived at:<http://archive.fo/nArGp>

²¹ Sankei Newspaper, May7, 2017.

²² <https://en.unesco.org/news/international-advisory-committee-recommends-78-new-nominations-unesco-memory-world>

²³ Sankei Newspaper, January 3, 2018

“COMFORT STATIONS” OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY

Binglin, North Korea. This building was used as a “comfort station” during the Japanese colonial period. It remains today as a historical site. The building was used to be a reception at the right hand side of the entrance, and the building was destroyed on the wall across the reception.

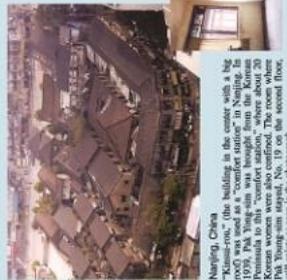


Shuang Province, China. This building in Shuang Province is a former military headquarters after the invasion of Yu Prefecture in Shuang Province, where members of the Japanese military were stationed and tortured. For women, the Japanese military used to be a reception at the right hand side of the entrance, and the building was destroyed for prolonged period of time.

During the period that began with the Manchurian Incident in 1931, which was followed by the outbreak of war with China in 1937 and the Asian-Pacific War in 1941, and continued until Japan's defeat in 1945, the Japanese Military invaded and occupied many areas in Asia. The Japanese Military set up “comfort stations” throughout Asia wherever it invaded, including Korea and Taiwan, which were then Japanese colonies, and in Japan itself. Women from all over Asia were confined there, and continuously raped by Japanese officers and soldiers. Women enslaved by the Japanese Military not only Koreans, Taiwanese and Japanese, but also local women from wherever the Japanese military was stationed: China, the Philippines, Indonesia, the Netherlands, East Timor, Malaysia, Thailand, Guam, Burma and Vietnam.

This map shows the locations of “comfort stations” established by the Japanese Military, including places where combat troops abducted, confined and raped women on their own. Various sources are used to prepare this map: testimonies and documents of the victimized women, former Japanese soldiers, and local residents; official documents and military related documents including evidence from military trials, soldiers’ diaries, records of battles, and memoirs.

Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace



Nanjing, China. “Kamuro-ryu” (this building in the center with a big roof) was used as a “comfort station” in Nanjing. In 1937, it was used as a “comfort station” for Japanese military personnel in this “comfort station,” where about 20 Korean women were also confined. The room where still exists as seen in the photograph.



Marbo, East Timor. As a young girl, Mira Abo Irem was brought to a room with four other women. They did construction work during the day, and were raped by soldiers at night. The building was destroyed by soldiers, who were sent to a health center for Japanese soldiers.



The photo shows the current status of the Japanese military. In 2000, the building was destroyed. In cases where place names have changed significantly, the former name is given in parentheses. In the case of Burma, the county name is given in parentheses. Photo: Furutani Yumiko, Kim Heung, Hatakeyama Michiko, Hattori Bunkei, Nobuhisa Mizuno



Perang Malaya. A former Japanese military “comfort station” now the Tong Lock Hotel. In 1942, the Japanese military brought 100 women into a hotel and brought them by force into a room. Most of the some 50 women soldiers. Most of the women were from Java or Java Malaya. However, some were not freed until Japan lost the war.

Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace (wam) AVACD Bldg 2F, 2-3-18, Nishi-Waseda Shinjuku, Tokyo 169-0001, Japan The Web Map of “Comfort Station”: <http://www.wam-paseo.org/wjip-map/>

Legend:
 red circle: locations of “comfort stations”
 blue circle: locations of military bases
 yellow circle: locations of military related documents
 green circle: former military and others

2009/November. Active Museum on War and Peace (wam) Funded by North East Asia History Foundation last updated: August 1, 2009

受理番号 26-65		学校 中学校		教科 社会	種目 社会 (歴史的分野)	学年 1-3
番号	指摘箇所		指摘事項	指摘事由	検定基準	
	ページ	行				
234	273	囲み	【忘れなかったマルタの歌声】 ソ連は軍隊を送り、この民主化の動きを鎮圧しようとした。	生徒が誤解するおそれのある表現である。 (「民主化の動き」の鎮圧にいたる経緯)	3-(3)	
235	278	1 - 14	林亜金は、海南島(中国)の小さな村で暮らしていました。…多くの女性が入られていました。	話題の選択が、具体の事項に偏っており、全体として調和がとれていない。 (辞典類、通史的概説書にもほとんど取り上げられていない個別事例であり、生徒が理解・追究できない。)	2-(5)	
236	278	4 - 9	1943年の夏、19歳の林亜金が稲刈りを手伝っていたとき、突然、日本兵が現れて、いっしょにいた3人とともに、軍の駐屯地に連行されました。かやぶきの小屋に別々に入れられ、日本兵たちの	健全な情操の育成について必要な配慮を欠いている。 (「暴行」についての具体的な記述)	1-(5)	
			暴行を受けました。少しでも抵抗すると、なぐられたり蹴られたり、たばこの火を押しつけられたりしました。その後も、島内各地の駐屯地で、大勢の兵士の相手をさせられました。			
237	278	13 - 14	海南島には、4方所以上の軍の「慰安所」がつくられ、多くの女性が入られていました。	生徒が誤解するおそれのある表現である。 (同ページ1~12行目及び279ページ図4との関係)	3-(3)	
238	278 - 279	15 - 12	金学順の証言(全体) (237ページ囲み【朝鮮・台湾の人びとと日本の戦争】の「一方、朝鮮・台湾の若い女性たちのなかには、「慰安婦」として戦地に送り込まれた人たちがいた。女性たちは、日本軍とともに移動させられて、自分の意思で行動できなかった。」も同様)	政府の統一的な見解に基づいた記述がされていない。 (「慰安婦」に関する政府見解)	固有 2-(4)	

Explanation from WAM:
 ← This document, dated November 2014, is a reply from the government-appointed screening committee to the writer of the “Manabisha” history textbook publisher, indicating paragraphs considered to contain “deficiencies” with accompanying reasons.

*English translations are in gray.

Flagged Items	Explanation
LIN Yajin was living in a small village in Hainan(China)... many women were kept inside them.	The choice of subject matter is slanted to one concrete incident and lacks overall balance. (This is a single example that can be found in almost no encyclopedia or historical overview. Students can neither understand it nor pursue research about it.)
In the summer of 1943 at the age of 19, she was helping with the rice harvest when a group of Japanese soldiers suddenly appeared and abducted her and three others girls. They were taken to an army barracks and placed separately in small rooms with thatched roofs where they were violated by the soldiers. If they showed the least resistance, they were beaten, kicked and burned with cigarettes. In the period that followed, they were forced to lie with countless soldiers in outposts scattered about the island.	Lacks necessary consideration of healthy emotional development. (concrete description with regard to “violent acts”)
At least four military “comfort stations” were built on Hainan Island with numerous women kept inside them.	An expression liable to be misunderstood by students. (Relationship to lines 1-12 on the same page and to Illustration No. 4 on page 279)
The Testimony of Kim Hak-Sun (whole) Same for the column on page 237, [Japan’s War and the People of Korea and Taiwan] “In addition, some young women from Korea and Taiwan were sent to the battlefield as “comfort women.” The women were transported with Japanese troops and were unable to act of their own will.”	Lacking description of unified government viewpoint. (Government view on “comfort women”)

Recommendations by the UN Human Rights Bodies on Japan's military sexual slavery issue

Updated: October 2018

Contents

I. Concluding Observations by Treaty Bodies [on Japan].....	p14
1. Human Rights Committee (CCPR) Observation in 2008 and 2014	
2. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) Observation in 2001 and 2013	
3. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Observation in 1994, 2003, 2009, and 2016	
4. Committee against Torture (CAT) Observation in 2007 and 2013	
5. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Observation in 2014 and 2018	
II. Concluding Observations by Treaty Bodies [on Republic of Korea].....	p21
1. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Observation in 2018	
2. Committee against Torture (CAT) Observation in 2017	
III. Statement/comment by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.....	p22
● Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 6 August, 2014	
● Mr. Zaid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 10 March, 2016	

Prepared by: **Women's Active Museum on War and Peace (WAM)**
 2-3-18, Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku, Tokyo 169-0051 Japan
 t +81-(0)3-3202-4633 f +81-(0)3-3202-4634
 wam@wam-peace.org URL:www.wam-peace.org



I. Concluding Observations by Treaty Bodies [on Japan]

The following table contains excerpts of relevant clauses pertaining to Japan’s military sexual slavery issue from aforementioned UN human rights treaty bodies’ documents.

Year	Document Number	Excerpt
------	-----------------	---------

1. Human Rights Committee (CCPR)

2008	CCPR/C/JPN/CO/5	<p>22. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has still not accepted its responsibility for the “comfort women” system during World War II, that perpetrators have not been prosecuted, that the compensation provided to victims is financed by private donations rather than public funds and is insufficient, that few history textbooks contain references to the “comfort women” issue, and that some politicians and mass media continue to defame victims or to deny the events. (arts. 7 and 8)</p> <p>The State party should accept legal responsibility and apologize unreservedly for the “comfort women” system in a way that is acceptable to the majority of victims and restores their dignity, prosecute perpetrators who are still alive, take immediate and effective legislative and administrative measures to adequately compensate all survivors as a matter of right, educate students and the general public about the issue, and to refute and sanction any attempts to defame victims or to deny the events.</p>
2014	CCPR/C/JPN/CO/6	<p>Sexual slavery practices against “comfort women”</p> <p>14. The Committee is concerned by the State party’s contradictory position that the “comfort women” were not “forcibly deported» by Japanese military during wartime but that the “recruitment, transportation and management» of these women in comfort stations was done in many cases generally against their will through coercion and intimidation by the military or entities acting on behalf of the military. The Committee considers that any such acts carried out against the will of the victims are sufficient to consider them as human rights violations involving the direct legal responsibility of the State party.</p> <p>The Committee is also concerned about re-victimization of the former comfort women by attacks on their reputations, including some by public officials and some that are encouraged by the State party’s equivocal position. The Committee further takes into account, information that all claims for reparation brought by victims before Japanese courts have been dismissed, and all complaints to seek criminal investigation and prosecution against perpetrators have been rejected on the ground of the statute of limitations. The Committee considers that this situation reflects ongoing violations of the victims’ human rights, as well as a lack of effective remedies available to them as victims of past human rights violations (arts.2,7 and 8).</p> <p>The State party should take immediate and effective legislative and administrative measures to ensure: (i) that all allegations of sexual slavery or other human rights violations perpetrated by Japanese military during wartime against the “comfort women”, are effectively, independently and impartially investigated and that</p>

		<p>perpetrators are prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished; (ii) access to justice and full reparation to victims and their families; (iii) the disclosure of all evidence available; (iv) education of students and the general public about the issue, including adequate references in textbooks; (v) the expression of a public apology and official recognition of the responsibility of the State party; (vi) condemnation of any attempts to defame victims or to deny the events.</p>
--	--	--

2. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

2001	E/C.12/1/Add.67	<p>26. The Committee expresses its concern that the compensation offered to wartime “comfort women” by the Asian Women’s Fund, which is primarily financed through private funding, has not been deemed an acceptable measure by the women concerned.</p> <p>E. Suggestions and recommendations</p> <p>53. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party find an appropriate arrangement, in consultation with the organizations representing the “comfort women”, on ways and means to compensate the victims in a manner that will meet their expectations, before it is too late to do so.</p>
2013	E/C.12/JPN/CO/3	<p>26. The Committee is concerned about the lasting negative effects of the exploitation to which ‘comfort women’ were subjected on their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and their entitlement to reparation. (art. 11, 3)</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to address the lasting effects of the exploitation and to guarantee the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by ‘comfort women’. The Committee also recommends that the State party educate the public on the exploitation of ‘comfort women’ so as to prevent hate speech and other manifestations that stigmatize them.</p>

3. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

1994	A/50/38	<p>633. The Committee expressed its disappointment that the Japanese report contained no serious reflection on issues concerning the sexual exploitation of women from other countries in Asia and during World War II. It noted that Japan’s commitment to the Convention required it to ensure the protection of the full human rights of all women, including foreign and immigrant women.</p> <p>635. [abbr.]...The committee also encourages the Government to take specific and effective measures to address these current issues as well as war-related crimes and to inform the Committee about such measures in the next report.</p>
2003	A/58/38	<p>361. [abbr.]...While appreciative of the comprehensive information provided by the State party with respect to the measures it has taken before and after the Committee’s consideration of the second and third periodic reports of the State party with respect to the issue of wartime “comfort women,” the Committee notes the ongoing concerns about the issue.</p> <p>362. [abbr.]...The Committee recommends that the State party endeavour to find a lasting solution for the matter of “wartime comfort women”.</p>
2009	CEDAW/	<p>37. The Committee notes that some steps were taken by the State party to address the</p>

	C/JPN/C O/6	<p>situation of “comfort women” but regrets the State party’s failure to find a lasting solution for the situation of “comfort women” victimized during the Second World War and expresses concern at the deletion of references to this issue in school textbooks.</p> <p>38. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party urgently endeavour to find a lasting solution for the situation of “comfort women” which would include the compensation of victims, the prosecution of perpetrators and the education of the public about these crimes.</p>
2016	CEDAW/ C/JPN/C O/7-8	<p>“Comfort women”</p> <p>28. The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6, paras. 37 and 38) and also refers to numerous recommendations on the unresolved issue of “comfort women” made by other United Nations human rights mechanisms such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/JPN/CO/7-9), the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/JPN/CO/6), the Committee Against Torture (CAT/C/JPN/CO/2), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/JPN/CO/3), several United Nations special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review (A/HRC/22/14/Add.1, for example, paras. 147-145). While noting the efforts by the State party to attempt to resolve the issue of “comfort women”, most recently through the bilateral agreement between the State party and the Republic of Korea announced on 28 December 2015, the Committee regrets that the State party has not implemented the aforementioned recommendations and that its position on the issue of “comfort women” does not fall within the mandate of the Committee since the alleged violations occurred prior to the entry into force of the Convention by the State party in 1985. The Committee further regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That, recently, there has been an increase in the number of statements from public officials and leaders regarding the State party’s responsibility for violations committed against “comfort women”; and the announcement of the bilateral agreement with the Republic of Korea, which asserts that the “comfort women” issue “is resolved finally and irreversibly” and did not fully adopt a victim-centred approach; (b) That some “comfort women” have died without obtaining an official unequivocal recognition of responsibility by the State party for the serious human rights violations that they suffered; (c) That the State party has not addressed its obligations under international human rights law towards “comfort women” victims in other concerned countries; (d) That the State party deleted references to the issue of “comfort women” in textbooks. <p>29. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6, paras. 37 and 38) and observes that the issue of “comfort women” gives rise to serious violations that have a continuing effect on the rights of victims/survivors of those violations that were perpetrated by the State party’s military during the Second World War, given the continued lack of effective remedies for those victims. The Committee, therefore, considers that it is not precluded <i>ratione temporis</i> from addressing such violations and urges the State party:</p>

		<p>(a)To ensure that its leaders and public officials desist from making disparaging statements regarding responsibility, which have the effect of retraumatizing victims;</p> <p>(b)To recognize the right of victims to a remedy, and accordingly provide full and effective redress and reparation, including compensation, satisfaction, official apologies and rehabilitative services;</p> <p>(c)To ensure that, in the implementation of the bilateral agreement announced jointly with the Republic of Korea in December 2015, the State party takes due account of the views of the victims/survivors and ensures their rights to truth, justice and reparations;</p> <p>(d)To adequately integrate the issue of “comfort women” in textbooks and ensure that historical facts are objectively presented to students and the general public;</p> <p>(e)To provide information in its next periodic report on the extent of consultations and other measures taken to ensure the rights of victims/survivors to truth, justice and reparations.</p>
--	--	---

4. Committee against Torture (CAT)

2007	CAT/C/J PN/CO/1	<p>Statute of limitations</p> <p>12. The Committee notes with concern that acts amounting to torture and ill-treatment are subject to a statute of limitations. The Committee is concerned that the statute of limitations for acts amounting to torture and ill-treatment may prevent investigation, prosecution and punishment of these grave crimes. In particular, the Committee regrets the dismissal of cases filed by victims of military sexual slavery during the Second World War, the so-called “comfort women”, for reasons related to statutory limitations.</p> <p>The State Party should review its rules and provisions on the statute of limitations and bring them fully in line with its obligations under the Convention, so that acts amounting to torture and ill-treatment, including attempts to commit torture and acts by any person which constitute complicity or participation in torture, can be investigated, prosecuted and punished without time limitations.</p> <p>Compensation and rehabilitation</p> <p>23. The Committee is concerned at the inadequate remedies for the victims of sexual violence, including in particular survivors of Japan’s military sexual slavery practices during World War II and the failure to carry out effective educational and other measures to prevent sexual violence- and gender-based breaches of the Convention. The survivors of the wartime abuses, acknowledged by the State party representative as having suffered ‘incurable wounds’, experience continuing abuse and re-traumatization as a result of the State party’s official denial of the facts, concealment or failure to disclose other facts, failure to prosecute those criminally responsible for acts of torture, and failure to provide adequate rehabilitation to the victims and survivors.</p> <p>The Committee considers that both education (article 10 of the Convention) and remedial measures (article 14 of the Convention) are themselves a means of</p>
------	--------------------	---

		<p>preventing further violations of the State party's obligations in this respect under the Convention. Continuing official denial, failure to prosecute, and failure to provide adequate rehabilitation all contribute to a failure of the State party to meet its obligations under the Convention to prevent torture and ill-treatment, including through educational and rehabilitation measures. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to provide education to address the discriminatory roots of sexual and gender-based violations, and provide rehabilitation measures to the victims, including steps to prevent impunity.</p>
2013	CAT/C/JPN/CO/2	<p>Victims of military sexual slavery</p> <p>19. Notwithstanding the information provided by the State party concerning some steps taken to acknowledge the abuses against victims of Japan's military sexual slavery practices during the Second World War, the so-called "comfort women", the Committee remains deeply concerned at the State party's failure to meet its obligations under the Convention while addressing this matter, in particular in relation to: (arts. 1, 2, 4, 10, 14 and 16)</p> <p>(a) Failure to provide adequate redress and rehabilitation to the victims. The Committee regrets that the compensation, financed by private donations rather than public funds, was insufficient and inadequate;</p> <p>(b) Failure to prosecute perpetrators of such acts of torture and bring them to justice. The Committee recalls that on account of the continuous nature of the effects of torture, statutes of limitations should not be applicable as these deprive victims of the redress, compensation, and rehabilitation due to them;</p> <p>(c) Concealment or failure to disclose related facts and materials;</p> <p>(d) 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;</p> <p>(e) 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;</p> <p>(f) The State party's rejection of several recommendations relevant to this issue, made in the context of the universal periodic review (A/HRC/22/14/Add.1, paras.147.145 et seq.), which are akin to recommendations made by the Committee (para.24) and many other UN human rights mechanisms, inter alia, the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/JPN/CO/5, para.22), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6, para.38), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/JPN/CO/3, para.26) and several special procedures' mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council.</p> <p>Recalling its general comment No. 3, the Committee urges the State party to take immediate and effective legislative and administrative measures to find victim-centered resolution for the issues of "comfort women", in particular, by:</p> <p>(a) Publicly acknowledge legal responsibility for the crimes of sexual slavery, and prosecute and punish perpetrators with appropriate penalties;</p> <p>(b) Refute attempts to deny the facts by the government authorities and public figures and to re-traumatize the victims through such repeated denials;</p> <p>(c) Disclose related materials, and investigate the facts thoroughly;</p>

		<p>(d) Recognise 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;</p> <p>(e) Educate the general public about the issue and include the events in all history textbooks, as a means of preventing further violations of the State party’s obligations under the Convention.</p>
--	--	--

5. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

2014	CERD/C/ JPN/CO/ 7-9	<p>Comfort women</p> <p>18. The Committee notes information provided by the delegation of the State party about efforts made to solve the issue of foreign “comfort women” who were sexually exploited by the Japanese military during the World War II. The Committee also notes information on compensation provided through the Asian Women Fund, established by the State party in 1995, and government expressions of apology, including the apology of the Prime Minister of Japan in 2001. Bearing in mind that human rights violations against surviving “comfort women” persist as long as their rights to justice and reparation are not fully realized, the Committee is concerned at reports that most of the “comfort women” have never received recognition, apologies or any kind of compensation (art. 2, 5).</p> <p>The Committee urges that the State party take immediate action to:</p> <p>(a) Conclude investigations on violations of the rights of comfort women by the Japanese military, and bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations;</p> <p>(b) Pursue a comprehensive, impartial and lasting resolution of the issue of comfort women, including expressions of sincere apology and the provision of adequate reparation to all surviving comfort women or to their families;</p> <p>(c) Condemn any attempts at defamation or denial of such events.</p>
2018	CERD/C/ JPN/CO/ 10-11	<p>Comfort women</p> <p>27. While noting information provided by the State party on the efforts to resolve the issue of “comfort women”, including the recent agreement with the Republic of Korea in 2015, the Committee is concerned at reports that these efforts do not take a fully victim-centred approach, that the surviving comfort women were not adequately consulted and that this solution did not acknowledge unequivocal responsibility for the human rights violations committed against these women by the Japanese military before and during the Second World War. The Committee is also concerned by statements of some public officials, minimizing the responsibility of the Government with respect to comfort women, and their potential negative impact on survivors.</p> <p>28. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure a lasting solution to the issue of comfort women with a victim-centred approach, inclusive of comfort women of all nationalities, accepting responsibility for its role in the violation of the human rights of these women. The Committee requests detailed information in its next periodic report on efforts to resolve the issue of comfort women, including adequate measures addressing surviving comfort women and their families.</p>

II. Concluding Observations by Treaty Bodies [on Republic of Korea]

1. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

2018	CEDAW/ C/KOR/C O/8	<p>“Comfort women”</p> <p>26. The Committee recalls its concluding observations concerning Japan (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6, paras. 37 and 38, and CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/7-8, paras. 28 and 29) and welcomes the additional steps taken by the State party since the publication, on 27 December 2017, of the results of the review of the bilateral agreement between the State party and Japan of 28 December 2015. It further notes the State party’s intention to implement follow-up measures based on a victim-centred approach, and the opposition of victims/survivors and their families to the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation established under the bilateral agreement to distribute 1 billion yen received from Japan.</p> <p>27. The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that, in the implementation of the bilateral agreement announced jointly with Japan in December 2015, the State party takes due account of the views of the victims/survivors and their families;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that the rights to truth, justice and redress of the victims/survivors and their families are fully upheld, including rehabilitation and fair and adequate compensation to be afforded without delay.</p>
------	--------------------------	---

2. Committee against Torture (CAT)

2017	CAT/C/K OR/CO/3 -5	<p>Redress for victims of torture and ill-treatment</p> <p>47. The Committee:</p> <p>(a) While welcoming the agreement reached at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Republic of Korea held on 28 December 2015 and taking note that 38 victims of sexual slavery during the Second World War are still alive, is concerned that the agreement does not comply fully with the scope and content of its general comment No. 3 and that it fails to provide redress and reparation (including compensation and the means for as full a rehabilitation as possible) or to ensure the right to truth and assurances of non-repetition; [abbr.]</p> <p>48. The State party should: [abbr.]...</p> <p>(d) Revise the agreement of 28 December 2015 between Japan and the Republic of Korea in order to ensure that the surviving victims of sexual slavery during the Second World War are provided with redress, including the right to compensation and rehabilitation, and that they are guaranteed the right to truth, reparation and assurances of non-repetition, in keeping with article 14 of the Convention;</p>
------	--------------------------	---

III. Statement by then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

- **Japan’s approach to the issue of “comfort women” causing further violations of victims’ human rights¹**

GENEVA (6 August 2014) – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on Wednesday expressed profound regret that Japan has failed to pursue a comprehensive, impartial and lasting resolution of the issue of wartime sexual slavery, warning that the human rights of the victims, known as “comfort women”, continue to be violated decades after the end of the Second World War.

“During my visit to Japan in 2010, I appealed to the Government to provide effective redress to the victims of wartime sexual slavery,” the High Commissioner said. “Now, as my tenure in office comes to an end, it pains me to see that these courageous women, who have been fighting for their rights, are passing away one by one, without their rights restored and without receiving the reparation to which they are entitled.”

“This is not an issue relegated to history. It is a current issue, as human rights violations against these women continue to occur as long as their rights to justice and reparation are not realised,” she stressed.

Instead of justice, the High Commissioner said, the women are facing increasing denials and degrading remarks by public figures in Japan. A report issued by a Government-appointed study team on 20 June 2014, stated that “it was not possible to confirm that women were forcefully recruited.” Following the release of this report, a group in Tokyo publicly declared that “comfort women were not sex slaves but wartime prostitutes.”

“Such statements must cause tremendous agony to the women, but we have not seen any public rebuttal by the Government,” Pillay said.

Over the years, Japan has received recommendations from a number of UN independent experts, human rights treaty bodies and from the Human Rights Council under its Universal Periodic Review for it to take concrete measures to tackle the issue. Most recently, the UN Human Rights Committee, which oversees implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, called on Japan to take “immediate and effective legislative and administrative measures” to ensure that all allegations of sexual slavery are investigated and perpetrators prosecuted. It also called for access to justice and reparations for victims and their families, the disclosure of all evidence available, and education in the country surrounding the issue.

Pillay noted that Japan had signed the UN Declaration on the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict last year and that it had offered strong support to the UK summit on sexual violence in conflict earlier this year

“I encourage Japan to pursue a comprehensive, impartial and lasting resolution of the wartime sexual slavery issue with the same vigour,” she added, noting the Office’s readiness to offer any necessary assistance.

¹ Source: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14920&LangID=E>

● **Mr. Zaid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The following is the excerpt from the statement made on March 10, 2016, during the 31st session of Human Rights Council.

Last year I highlighted the unresolved suffering, and search for justice, of the women who survived sexual slavery by Japanese military forces during World War II. Since then, in December 2015, the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea have announced a bilateral agreement to address the issue. Its terms have been questioned by various UN human rights mechanisms, and most importantly by the survivors themselves. It is fundamentally important that the relevant authorities reach out to these courageous and dignified women; ultimately only they can judge whether they have received genuine redress.²

² URL:<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17200&LangID=E>