
City Council of Takarazuka, Osaka, Japan

March 26, 2008

**Written Opinion expressing the sense of Takarazuka City Council
that the Japanese Government should settle the issue of the Military Sexual Slavery in
good faith.**

The U.S. House of Representatives adopted the resolution on July 30, 2007 that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge and apologize for its sexual enslavement of young women known as "Comfort Women" during World War II. On July 31st, the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe commented that he regretted the resolution implying that the Government has no intention of making a formal apology to the survivors. His attitude contradicts the Kono statement of 1993.

With such attitude, it is inevitable that the repeated apologies of the Government in the past years are dismissed as mere lip service. Moreover, there is no denying those who argue that the money from "Asian Women's Fund" distributed to some victims with the apology from Prime Minister Murayama was a deceptive scheme to dodge criticism from the international society.

Following the US, similar resolutions and motions were adopted in the Netherlands, Canada in November and EU Parliament on December 13th during the Japanese Government to make an official apology, compensation, history education and etc. These actions demonstrate the rising criticism of the world against the Japanese government which has neither issued a formal apology, compensation to the damaged victims, full investigation of the system, nor prosecuted those responsible while the related articles are disappearing from school textbooks as if there never were such practices.

The citizens' movements have been strengthened internationally to accelerate the settlement although the developments have never been reported in full by the Japanese media. We request that the Government, in addition to the promises of the 1993 Kono statement, thoroughly investigate the military "Comfort Women" system and exert its honest and sincere efforts to recover the dignity of victims.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

Tetsushi Koyama
Chairperson, Takarazuka City Council

To: Hon. Yohei Kono, Speaker of the Lower House, Hon. Satsuki Eda, President of the Upper House, Prime Minister Fukuda Yasuo

City Council of Kiyose, Tokyo, Japan

June 25, 2008

**Written Opinion expressing the sense of Kiyose City Council
that the Japanese Government should deal with the "Comfort-Women" issue in good faith.**

Since June of last year, resolutions and motions have been adopted in the parliaments of US, the Netherlands, Canada and EU demanding the formal acknowledgment, apology, compensation, history education, and more, concerning the issue of "Comfort-Women". Furthermore, during the Universal Periodic Review of Japan by the U.N. Human Rights Council in May of this year, countries including France, the Netherlands, South Korea, North Korea requested Japan to settle the issue of "Comfort-Women" in good faith.

However, the Government has not acted in a responsible manner. The lack of sincerity remains unchanged without full investigations into the truth of the "Comfort-Women" system, a formal apology to the victims as well as appropriate compensation, while at the same time the Japanese Government is pushing to eliminate the articles about "Comfort-Women" from school textbooks. The voices of criticism have risen against the shameful attitude of the Japanese Government widely in and outside the country.

We urge the Government to act in good faith respectfully in compliance with the statement of Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono of 1993, and to further it by conducting inquiries into the truth of the "Comfort-Women" system, making an apology and fulfilling the obligation to pay reparations, to teach the history at schools, and ultimately to recover the dignity and honor of the victims from different countries.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

Kiyose City Council

City Council of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

November 7, 2008

Written opinion No. 9

Written Opinion of Sapporo City Council on the Comfort Women Issue

On July 30, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Japanese Government to formally acknowledge and apologize for the sexual enslavement of young women known as "Comfort-Women" by the Imperial Military Forces of Japan.

Following the United States, similar motions and resolution have been adopted by the Parliaments in the Netherlands and Canada in November and by the EU Parliament on December 13 of last year. Moreover, the Committee of Foreign Affairs at House of Representatives in the Philippines also adopted a second resolution in March of this year, following one in 2005. Furthermore, the Government has repeatedly received recommendations and observations on this matter from international organizations such as UN human rights bodies and the ILO.

However, despite such international developments, the Government has done nothing to offer a formal apology in stark contradiction of the statement of Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono in 1993.

We call the attention to the fact that there are rising voices of criticism against the Government of Japan worldwide because the Government refuses to make a formal apology and to compensate the victims who suffered damages as "Comfort-Women", while it eliminated articles about the issue from school textbooks at the same time. The Government did not

complete its investigations to reveal the entire picture of the "Comfort-Women" system.

We urge the Government and the Diet to make thorough investigations into the truth of the "Comfort-Women" system in sincere compliance with chief Cabinet Yohei Kono's statement in 1993 by performing the following actions, so that the victims may recover their dignity.

1. Acknowledge the fact that the "Comfort-Women" suffered damages and offer a formal apology to the victims through a Cabinet decision.
2. Enact legislation to settle the "Comfort-Women" issue and provide reparations to the victims so that they may recover their dignity.
3. Treat the "Comfort-Women" issue as historical fact and teach it at schools as well as to the public so that the Japanese people may pass down this lesson of history to the future generations.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

Sapporo City Council

The written opinion should be presented to :
Speaker of the Lower House, President of the Upper House, Prime Minister, the Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, the Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

City Council of Fukuoka, Fukuoka, Japan

March 25, 2009

Position Paper for Seeking the Sincere Measures Initiated by the Japanese Government to Deal with the Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" Issue

Even though 64 years have passed since Japan inflicted tremendous suffering on the peoples of neighboring countries during the last World War, the injuries of suffering among the victims remain uncured. Besides those who suffered directly from the war, descendants of such victims have been suffering because their parents and grand parents remain uncured. The Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" issue is one of such symbolic example of this victimization.

In 2007, resolutions seeking recognition of responsibility and a formal apology from the Japanese government to victims of "Comfort Women" system have been passed in foreign congresses including those of the USA, the Netherlands, Canada, and the EU. In 2008, a similar resolution also passed in the committee on foreign affairs of the Philippine Congress, as well as in Congresses of Korea and Taiwan. Recommendations seeking a solution to this issue were also released by international human rights organizations including the United Nations. The international society has come to recognize the "Comfort Women" issue as a grave human rights violation that is relevant to present social issues and as such demands that the Japanese government deal with this issue sincerely.

Should the Japanese government deal with the "Comfort Women" issue sincerely, it will be recognized as the government's declaration of its intent to never again repeat the human rights violations of taking advantage of a women's sexuality in order to wage war. And at the same time, such a declaration shall lead not only to cure the injuries and suffering of war victims in Asian countries, but also help open a path towards reconciliation and peaceful co-existence

among all of our nations.

Due to the continuous passing away of victims, a satisfactory solution should be reached quickly while the victims are still alive.

Therefore, the Fukuoka City Council is now strongly requesting that the Japanese Diet and Government deal with this issue sincerely by implementing the following measures, which are based on the comments made by Mr. Kono in 1993, then Chief Cabinet Secretary, concerning this issue.

1. Hold a public hearing in Diet to be attended by the victims.
2. Take responsibility for the “Comfort Women” issue and public apology.
3. Engage in restoring the honor and dignity of victims for the sake of finding a solution to the “Comfort Women” issue.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

Hiroshi Kawaguchi, Chairperson of Fukuoka City Council

Addressed to: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The President of the House of Councilors, The Prime Minister, The Minister of Justice, The Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

City Council of Mino’o, Osaka, Japan

June 22, 2009

Statement to call for sincere response from the State of Japan to the issue of “comfort women” by Japan’s military

64 years have passed since Japan caused massive damage to its neighboring countries at the past war. However, people’s wounds of war have not healed yet.

The United States House of Representatives adopted a resolution “urging Japan to formally acknowledge and apologise for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of women into sexual slavery” in July 2007.

Furthermore, similar resolutions were passed by the Dutch Parliament, the Canadian Parliament and the EU Parliament. International human rights bodies including the United Nations have issued recommendations for early settlement of the issue.

In 1993, then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued a statement saying that “the Government of Japan would like to ... extend sincere apologies and remorse,” and “continue to consider seriously, how best we can express this sentiment.” However, no progress has been made since then.

Therefore, we demand that the government sincerely respond to the issue by making inquiries concerning the facts of the “Comfort Women” issue and by restoring honour to the survivors.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the

Local Autonomy Act.

22 June, 2009
Mino'o City Council

City Council of Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan

June 23, 2009

Resolution on the Japanese Military “Comfort Women” Issue

Even though 64 years have already passed since people in neighboring countries suffered at Japan's hand, the scars of those war victims have not yet healed. The issue of Japanese Military “Comfort Women” system perceived to be the most symbolic issue that involves war victims such as these.

The amount of news coverage concerning deceased ex-comfort women who suffered throughout every corner of Asia is currently increasing now that almost of them have reached ages over 80 years old. The Government of Japan once expressed its remorse over the “Comfort Women” issue through an apology issued in 1993 by then Chief Secretary of Cabinet , Sec.Kono, who said that “under the supervision of then military hierarchy, the issue represents a large number of women [who were] disgraced on their honor and dignity”

Having heard the statement, voices of those victimized women began to echo the same sentiment, saying “our honor and dignity shall not be restored truly without formal recognition of its responsibility and formal apology by the Japanese government.”

Resolutions which press the Japanese government to acknowledge its responsibility for the “Comfort Women Issue” and issue a formal apology have even been passed in foreign bodies, including the congresses of the US, the Netherlands, Canada and the EU in 2007, and in the congresses of the Philippines, Korea and Taiwan in 2008.

As victims, these women wish strongly that the misconduct and abuses of the past be addressed formally so that the sexuality of womanhood will never again be abused in the name of warfare and so that women in future generations will never be targeted for such war victims.

Secretary Kono's statement in 1993 explicitly said that “we express our firm decision to never avoid this historical fact but to face up the fact as a lesson, and to remember the fact permanently through the historical research and its educational system while voicing out our firm decision to never permit the same abuse to happen again and paying an attention at the issue including the academic research activities” based on the conduct of first and second official research.

We believe that by maintaining and developing the spirit of Kono's statement and by ensuring that the contents of the statement come to fruition, we will surely discover ways to provide war victims in Asia with healing as well as ways to coexist peacefully within the region through reconciliation.

We need to make this happen quickly so that we may restore dignity to the victims in a manner they find acceptable while they are still alive.

Therefore, the City Assembly strongly requests that the National Government take sincere measures to implement the provisions below.

1. Pay attention to the voices of victims and conduct a fact-finding mission.
2. Acknowledge its responsibility in “Comfort Women” issue and make an official apology.
3. Teach the younger generations the fact through historical education in schools in order that the same abuses and crimes not be repeated.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 23, 2009
Junko Tanaka
Chairperson of the Mitaka City Assembly

City Council of Koganei, Tokyo, Japan

June 24, 2009

Statement to call for sincere response from the State of Japan to the issue of “comfort women” by Japan’s military

64 years have passed since Japan caused massive damage to its neighboring countries at the past war. However, people’s wounds of war have still not healed. Not only have people who were directly victimized been suffering, but also their children suffer from the victimization of their parents. The issue of “Comfort Women” by Japan’s military is a symbolic case of this.

Resolutions urging Japan to formally acknowledge, apologise, and accept its responsibility for the crimes of the “Comfort Women” system were adopted by the American Congress, the Dutch Parliament, the Canadian Parliament and the EU Parliament in 2007. In 2008, similar resolutions were passed by the committee on foreign affairs at the House of Representatives in the Philippines as well as in Korea and Taiwan. International human rights bodies including the United Nations have issued recommendations for early settlement of the issue. International society has recognized the issue of “Comfort Women” as grave human rights violation that continue to the present, and called for the government of Japan to sincerely respond to the issue.

By doing so, Japan should express its resolution that such human rights violations such as the exploitation of women’s sexuality in war and conflict should never be committed. This would lead to a healing people’s wounds of war, facilitating reconciliation, peaceful coexistence in Asia.

The continuous news of deaths of the survivors justifies that a swift and just resolution to the issue must be provided.

Therefore, Koganei City Council urges the Government and the Diet of Japan, in a follow up to the 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on the “Comfort Women”, to sincerely respond to the issue by:

1. Holding a public hearing at the Diet inviting the survivors;
2. Accepting its responsibility for the crimes of the “Comfort women” system and issuing an official apology; and
3. Restoring honour of the survivors

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the

Local Autonomy Act.

24 June, 2009

Miyazaki Harumitsu

Chairperson of the Koganei City Council

City Council of Kyotanabe, Kyoto, Japan

June 29, 2009

Appeal to Urge the Japanese Government to Reach the Earliest and Real Settlement on the Issue of “Comfort Women.”

Sixty-four years have past since the end of World War II – Women who were victimized by the Japanese Imperial Army during the war still cry for a real apology and compensation from the Government of Japan. No words can describe the feelings of whose honor and dignity were so violated.

In July 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge its Imperial Armed Force’s coercion of young women into sexual slavery and apologize for it. Similar resolutions and motions in the Canadian House of Commons, the Dutch Parliament and the European Parliament followed the resolution. The Republic of the Philippines House of Representatives, and the Taiwan and South Korean Parliaments also adopted such resolutions in 2008. International human rights organizations such as the United Nations and the International Labor Organization (ILO) have also repeatedly conveyed suggestions and recommendations to the Government of Japan on the yet unsolved issue of “Comfort Women.”

The victimized women are now between the ages of 80 to 90. This issue must be solved respectfully and without any further delay. We urge the Government of Japan to earnestly uphold its position expressed in the Kono Statement -- to apologize for the Japanese Imperial Army’s actions, and to promise never to repeat the same mistake. We demand the Government listen to the cries of the victims for an official apology and compensation, and bring a true settlement to the issue as early as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 29, 2009

Noboru UEDA,

Chair Person Kyotanabe City Council, Kyoto, Japan

To: Speaker of the Lower House of Japan, President of the Upper House of Japan, Prime Minister of Japan

City Council of Ikoma, Nara, Japan

September 11, 2009

Statement of Ikuno City Council on the Comfort Women Issue

Even though 64 years have passed since Japan inflicted tremendous suffering on the peoples of neighboring countries during the last World War, the injuries of suffering among the victims remain uncured. Besides those who suffered directly from the war, descendants of such victims have been suffering because their parents and grandparents remain uncured. The Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" issue is one of such symbolic example of this victimization.

In recent years, resolutions seeking recognition of responsibility and a formal apology from the Japanese government to victims of "Comfort Women" issue have been passed in the committee on foreign affairs of the Philippine Congress, as well as in Congresses of Korea and Taiwan. Recommendations seeking a solution to this issue were also released by international human rights organizations including the United Nations.

The international society has come to recognize the "Comfort Women" issue as a grave human rights violation that is relevant to present social issues and as such demands that the Japanese government deal with this issue sincerely.

Should the Japanese government deal with the "Comfort Women" issue sincerely, it will be recognized as the government's declaration of its intent to never again repeat the human rights violations of taking advantage of a women's sexuality in order to wage war. Moreover, such a declaration shall lead to cure the injuries and suffering of war victims in Asian countries and to help open a path towards reconciliation and peaceful co-existence among all of our nations.

Secretary Kono's statement in 1993 explicitly said that "we express our firm decision to never avoid this historical fact but to face up the fact as a lesson, and to remember the fact permanently through the historical research and its educational system while voicing out our firm decision to never permit the same abuse to happen again and paying an attention at the issue including the academic research activities" based on the conduct of first and second official research. We believe that by maintaining and developing the spirit of Kono's statement and by ensuring that the contents of the statement come to fruition, we will surely discover ways to resolve the issue.

Due to the continuous passing away of victims after long period from former war, a satisfactory solution should be reached quickly while the victims are still alive.

Therefore, the Ikuno City Council is now strongly requesting that the Japanese Government deal with this issue sincerely by implementing the measures below.

1. With consistent with the statement by Kono, investigate the "Comfort Women" Issue and exert its honest and sincere efforts to recover the dignity of victims.
2. By recognizing the history of the "Comfort Women" Issue, make an effort to let the next generations know about the fact.

As stated above, we hereby submit our statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

September 11, 2009
Ikuno City Council

City Council of Sennan, Osaka, Japan

September 25, 2009

Statement of Sennan City Council that demands that the Japanese government deal with the Comfort Women Issue sincerely

64 years have passed since Japan caused massive damage to its neighboring countries at the past war. However, people's wounds of war have not healed yet.

The United States House of Representatives adopted a resolution "urging Japan to formally acknowledge and apologise for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of women into sexual slavery" in July 2007.

Furthermore, similar resolutions were passed by the Dutch Parliament, the Canadian Parliament and the EU Parliament. International human rights bodies including the United Nations have issued recommendations for early settlement of the issue.

In 1993, then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued a statement saying that, "the Government of Japan would like to ... extend sincere apologies and remorse," and "continue to consider seriously, how best we can express this sentiment." However, no progress has been made since then.

Therefore, we demand that the government sincerely respond to the issue by making inquiries concerning the facts of the "Comfort Women" issue and by restoring honor to the survivors.

As stated above, we hereby submit our statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

September 25, 2009
Sennan City Council

City Council of Kokubunji, Tokyo, Japan

October 1, 2009

Statement of Kokubunji City Council on the Japanese Military's Comfort Women Issue

Even though 64 years have passed since Japan caused massive damage to its neighboring countries at the past war, people's wounds of war have not healed yet. The Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" issue is one of such symbolic example of this victimization.

The amount of news coverage concerning deceased ex-comfort women who suffered throughout every corner of Asia is currently increasing now that almost of them have reached ages over 80

years old. The Government of Japan once expressed its remorse over the “Comfort Women” issue through an apology issued in 1993 by then Chief Secretary of Cabinet, Sec.Kono, who said that “under the supervision of then military hierarchy, the issue represents a large number of women [who were]disgraced on their honor and dignity”

Having heard the statement, voices of those victimized women began to echo the same sentiment, saying “our honor and dignity shall not be restored truly without formal recognition of its responsibility and formal apology by the Japanese government.”

Resolutions which press the Japanese government to acknowledge its responsibility for the “Comfort Women Issue” and issue a formal apology have even been passed in foreign bodies, including the congresses of the US, the Netherlands, Canada and the EU in 2007, and in the congresses of the Philippines, Korea and Taiwan in 2008.

As victims, these women wish strongly that the misconduct and abuses of the past be addressed formally so that the sexuality of womanhood will never again be abused in the name of warfare and so that women in future generations will never be targeted for such war victims.

Secretary Kono’s statement in 1993 explicitly said that “we express our firm decision to never avoid this historical fact but to face up the fact as a lesson, and to remember the fact permanently through the historical research and its educational system while voicing out our firm decision to never permit the same abuse to happen again and paying an attention at the issue including the academic research activities” based on the conduct of first and second official research.

We believe that by maintaining and developing the spirit of Kono’s statement and by ensuring that the contents of the statement come to fruition, we will surely discover ways to provide war victims in Asia with healing as well as ways to coexist peacefully within the region through reconciliation.

We need to make this happen quickly so that we may restore dignity to the victims in a manner they find acceptable while they are still alive.

Therefore, the City Council strongly requests that the National Government take sincere measures to implement the provisions below.

1. Acknowledge its responsibility in “Comfort Women” issue and perform a resolution at Congress.
2. Pay attention to the voices of victims and conduct a fact-finding mission.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

October 1, 2009
Kokubunji City Council

City Council of Nagaokakyo, Kyoto, Japan
December 14, 2009

Statement of Nagaokakyo City Council that demands that the Japanese government deal with the Comfort Women Issue sincerely

Even now after 64 years from the last World War, the injuries of suffering among the victims remain uncured. What is called "Comfort Women" issue is the most important issue from those from the war.

In 1993, government announced secretary Kono's statement on the basis of the inquiry for domestic and foreign related institutions and parties. On the statement, the fact that Japanese Military had engaged in the establishment of "Comfort Facilities", that "Comfort Women" were collected against their will and therefore "the great amount of women's honor and dignity have been wounded", were disclosed. And, by expressing a sincere apology and reflection, he stated that he "regarded this issue on how we should express such feelings as our country as which we should keep examining seriously while referring to the opinions of the experts".

After the statement, however, the Japanese Government has not performed any apology by the cabinet decision and compensation by the nation to the victims yet. Due to the continuous passing away of victims after long period from former war, a satisfactory solution should be reached quickly while the victims are still alive.

That the Japanese government deal with the "Comfort Women" issue sincerely shall lead to cure the injuries and suffering of war victims in Asian countries and to help open a path towards reconciliation and peaceful co-existence among all of our nations. In addition, it is also essential to make the society where the dignity is protected as a true human being.

Therefore, the City Council of Nagaokakyo strongly requests Government to implement the following measures.

1. Deal with the victims of "Comfort Women" sincerely
2. Push forward the investigation of the "Comfort Women" issue more, and make efforts to deepen the understanding of the nation, and try to pass down to the future generations.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

December 14, 2009

Nagaokakyo City Council

Addressed to: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The President of the House of Councilors, The Prime Minister, The Minister of Justice, The Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

City Council of Funabashi, Chiba, Japan

December 14, 2009

Statement of Funabashi City Council on the Japanese Military's Comfort Women Issue

Even now after 64 years from the Asian Pacific Wars, the Japanese Military's Comfort Women Issue is still continued to suit to demand the apology and compensation from the Comfort Women.

In 2007, resolutions seeking recognition of responsibility and a formal apology from the Japanese government to victims of "Comfort Women" system have been passed in foreign congresses including those of the USA, the Netherlands, Canada, and the EU. In 2008, a similar resolution also passed in the committee on foreign affairs of the Philippine Congress, as well as in Congresses of Korea and Taiwan.

At the Mr. Kono's statement in 1993, he issued a statement saying that "the Government of Japan would like to express the strong determination that we would not evade the truth of such history but rather face it as a lesson, keep it as a memory in the future through the study and education of the history, and would not make a same mistake, and would like to keep concerning enough about it including a private investigation continuously". In addition, at a press conference in a Japan-Korea summit of the other day, Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, the Prime Minister then, spoke that "the new government is the government having courage to look straight at the history right".

Now most of the victims of the Japanese Military's Comfort Women has reached to their 80s and 90s, and there have been the continuous news of deaths of the survivors. It shows that now it is time to pass down the spirit of Mr. Kono's statement and realize its content is strongly demanded.

Therefore, the Funabashi City Council is now strongly requesting that the Japanese Government deal with this issue for its resolutions sincerely by implementing the measures below.

1. Public apology to the victims and to engage in restoring the honor and dignity of victims
2. Compensation for the victim individually
3. Perform the investigation of the Japanese Military's Comfort Women Issue with attendance of victims
4. Teach the historical fact at schools and educational settings

As stated above, we hereby submit our statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

December 14, 2009

City Council of Funabashi, Chiba

Addressed to: The Prime Minister, The Minister of Foreign Affairs

City Council of Kunitachi, Tokyo, Japan

December 18, 2009

Statement of Kunitachi City Council on the Comfort Women Issue

64 years have passed since Japan caused massive damage to its neighboring countries at the past war. However, people's wounds of war have still not healed. Not only have people who were directly victimized been suffering, but also their children suffer from the victimization of their parents. The issue of "Comfort Women" by Japan's military is a symbolic case of this.

Resolutions urging Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept its responsibility for the crimes of the "Comfort Women" issue were adopted by the American Congress, the Dutch Parliament, the Canadian Parliament and the EU Parliament in 2007. In 2008, similar resolutions were passed by the committee on foreign affairs at the House of Representatives in the Philippines as well as in Korea and Taiwan. International human rights bodies including the United Nations have issued recommendations for early settlement of the issue. International society has recognized the issue of "Comfort Women" as grave human rights violations that continue to the present, and called for the government of Japan to sincerely respond to the issue.

By doing so, Japan should express its resolution that such human rights violations such as the exploitation of women's sexuality in war and conflict should never be committed. This would lead to a healing people's wounds of war, facilitating reconciliation, peaceful coexistence in Asia.

The continuous news of deaths of the survivors justifies that a swift and just resolution to the issue must be provided in a manner they find acceptable while the victims are still alive.

Therefore, the Kokuritsu City Council is now strongly requesting that the Japanese Diet and Government deal with this issue sincerely by implementing the following measures, which are based on the comments made by Mr. Kono in 1993, then Chief Cabinet Secretary, concerning this issue.

1. Hold a public hearing with attendance of victims in Diet.
2. Take responsibility for the "Comfort Women" issue and public apology
3. Engage in restoring the honor and dignity of victims for the sake of finding a solution to the "Comfort Women" issue.

As stated above, we hereby submit our statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

December 18, 2009

City Council of Kokuritsu, Tokyo

Addressed to: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The President of the House of Councilors, The Prime Minister, The Minister of Justice, The Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

City Council of Tagawa, Fukuoka, Japan

December 22, 2009

Statement of Tagawa City Council that demands that the Japanese government deal with the Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" Issue sincerely

In 2007, resolutions seeking recognition of responsibility and a formal apology from the Japanese government to victims of "Comfort Women" issue have been passed in foreign congresses including those of the USA, the Netherlands, Canada, and the EU.

And, in 2008, a similar resolution also passed in the committee on foreign affairs of the Philippine Congress, as well as in Congresses of Korea and Taiwan. Recommendations seeking a solution to this issue were also released by international human rights organizations including the United Nations. The international society has come to recognize the "Comfort Women" issue as a grave human rights violation that is relevant to present social issues and as such demands that the Japanese government deal with this issue sincerely.

Should the Japanese government deal with the "Comfort Women" issue sincerely, it will be recognized as the government's declaration of its intent to never again repeat the human rights violations of taking advantage of a women's sexuality in order to wage war. And at the same time, such a declaration shall lead not only to cure the injuries and suffering of war victims in Asian countries, but also help open a path towards reconciliation and peaceful co-existence among all of our nations.

Due to the continuous passing away of victims, a satisfactory solution should be reached quickly while the victims are still alive.

Therefore, the Tagawa City Council is now strongly requesting that the Japanese Diet and Government deal with this issue sincerely by implementing the following measures.

1. Hold a public hearing in Diet to be attended by the victims.
2. Take responsibility for the "Comfort Women" issue and public apology.
3. Engage in restoring the honor and dignity of victims and perform for the sake of finding a solution to the "Comfort Women" issue.
4. Treat the "Comfort-Women" issue as historical fact and teach it at schools as well as to the public so that the Japanese people may pass down this lesson of history to the future generations.

As stated above, we hereby submit our statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

December 22, 2009

Harumi Takase, Chairperson of Tagawa City Council

Statement on “Comfort Women” by the City Council of Fujimino, Saitama Prefecture

March 16, 2010

The statement to request Japanese government’s sincere responses on the issue of the Japanese Imperial Army’s “Comfort Women”

In July 2007, the United States House of Representative passed the resolution that demands the Japanese government to “officially admit that “the Japanese Imperial Army forced numerous women into the sexual slavery system” and apologize to the victims. Following this resolution, the national assemblies of the Netherlands, Canada, the Philippines and South Korea, as well as European Union have passed the similar resolution. However, the Liberal Democratic Party regime of Japan has continued to deny their legal responsibility. This contradicts the 1993 Kono (the-then Chief Cabinet Secretary)’s remarks, which addressed the enforcement in recruiting numerous women to serve the Japanese Army. The government was criticized nationally and internationally for its insincere response to the issue.

In 2009, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women once again urged the Japanese government “to adequately compensate all survivors, prosecute perpetrators who are still alive, and educate students and the general public about the historical facts.” The issue of “comfort women” is about women’s human rights and recovery of human dignity.

The Democratic Party has been proposing a bill to accelerate the resolution for the victims of the military sexual slavery to the Diet since 1998. In the same line, Prime Minister Hatoyama stated at the 2008 Korea-Japan summit, “The new regime is courageous enough to confront the history.”

Many of the former “comfort women” in Asia Pacific region have died, and the remaining survivors are also dying. In order to stop such violation of human rights and violence against women in the war zones, we urge the Japanese government to have sincere responses to this issue promptly.

Therefore, we urge the Japanese government:

1. To officially apologize to the victims and do its best to recover their honor and dignity
2. To compensate the victims individually
3. To investigate the sexual slavery system under the Japanese Military with participation of the victims
4. To teach historical fact at schools

We, the City Council of Fujimino, Saitama prefecture, submit this resolution to

The Prime Minister
The Chief Cabinet Secretary
The Minister of Health and Labor
The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Statement on “Comfort Women” by the City Council of Abiko, Chiba Prefecture

March 23, 2010

The Prime Minister
The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Although 64 years have passed since the World War II ended, the wounds of the people have not been cured. Not only the victims themselves, but their children and grandchildren are still suffering from the wounds of wartime atrocities. The Japanese Imperial Army’s “Comfort Women” is one of the most significant cases among many atrocities.

In 2007, assemblies of the United States, the Netherlands, Canada and the European Union passed the resolution to urge the Japanese government to admit their responsibility of “comfort women” issue and officially apologize to the victims. In 2008, national assemblies of the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan also passed the resolution, and moreover the United Nations and other human rights organizations admonished that the issue must be resolved immediately. The international society regards the issue of “comfort women” as an on-going severe violation of human rights, and urges the Japanese government to have sincere responses.

Nationally, in 2008 the City Council of Takarazuka (Hyogo Prefecture) passed the resolution regarding the “comfort women,” followed by the City Council of Funabashi (Chiba Prefecture) and Kunitachi (Tokyo) in 2009 and 15 others. As this year marks the 100th year anniversary of the forced annexation of the Korean peninsula, the people in Japan are determined to not pass down such issue to the next generation.

It is important and necessary that Japanese government officially admits the human rights violation of the women in Asia and the Pacific during the war in order for the victims to recover from their wounds and for us to have a shared path to the peaceful future.

As victims are dying, the recovery of their dignity must be realized immediately. The City Council of Abiko demands the following, in hopes to “be a part of the

international society that is committed to maintain peace, eliminate dictatorship and slavery, oppression and prejudices" (Preface, the Japanese Constitution):

1. The National Diet holds a public hearing in the presence of the former "comfort women" of the Japanese Imperial Army
2. The Japanese government officially apologizes and compensates for the victims
3. The issue of "comfort women" of the Japanese Imperial Army must be included in history textbooks

We, the City Council of Abiko, Chiba Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The City Council of Abiko
March 23, 2010

Statement by the City Council of Muko, Kyoto Prefecture

March 24, 2010

The statement to request Japanese government's sincere responses to the issue of "Comfort Women"

Although 64 years have passed since the end of the Pacific War, victims have not been cured. Among many, the issue of so-called "comfort women" is especially significant.

The Japanese government, according to the related organizations and people, publicized the comment by Kono (the then Chief Cabinet Secretary) in 1993. He mentioned the involvement of the Japanese Imperial Army in establishing "comfort stations," trafficking "comfort women" into the sexual slavery system against their will, and gave them tremendous damage physically and psychologically. He showed the heartfelt apologies and stated that "the government must seriously consider how Japan can express the grief and apology to the victims while working closely with scholars and experts."

However, the government has not done anything to recover the dignity of those "comfort women." It must act immediately because the survivors are aging and dying.

It is important and necessary that the Japanese government takes responsibility sincerely in the issue of wartime sexual slavery so that the victims may find ways to

heal their wounds, and Japan, Asia and the broader international society can work toward a truly peaceful world, in which every human being is treated with dignity.

Hence, the City Council of Muko will strongly demand the Japanese government

1. To show sincere apology to the victims of “comfort women” and take responsible actions to recover their dignity
2. To investigate the issue of “comfort women” and to educate Japanese society about the historical fact so that the next generation will be properly informed what happened during the war

We, the City Council of Muko, Kyoto Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

March 24, 2010

The City Council of Muko, Kyoto Prefecture

Statement by the City Council of Nakijin, Okinawa Prefecture

March 25, 2010

The statement to call for legislative resolution of the issue of Japanese Imperial Army’s “Comfort Women”

The issue of Japanese Imperial Army’s “comfort women” is about women’s rights and restoration of human dignity. We urge the current regime to act on the issue immediately, following such efforts as the 1998 Democratic Party’s bill to resolve the issue of the sexual slavery during the wartime and the Social Democratic Party’s commitment in the issue.

Internationally, assemblies of the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, the European Union, as well as Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan have passed the resolutions that demand the Japanese government to “official admit” and “apologize for their wartime atrocities, specifically forcing women in Asia and the Pacific into the sexual slavery.” Similarly, the 2009 report of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) once again made a strong suggestion that each country “takes urgent actions to compensate the victims, punish the perpetrators, and establish a system for a permanent resolution including educating the public about the atrocities.”

Domestically, numerous city councils have submitted the statement to demand the resolution of the “comfort women” issue. As victims are aging and dying, the Japanese government must work toward a fundamental resolution including the official apology and compensation immediately.

We urge the Japanese government to establish a law to accelerate the redress process for victims of wartime atrocities.

We, the City Council of Nakijin, Okinawa Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The City Council of Nakijin, Okinawa Prefecture

The Statement by the City Council of Suita, Osaka Prefecture

March 26, 2010

The Statement to demand immediate resolution of the “Comfort Women” issue

It has been 64 years since Japan caused tremendous damage and pain to the neighboring countries. The United States House of Representative passed the bill that urges the Japanese government to officially admit the forceful sexual slavery system of the Japanese Imperial Army and compensate the victims in July 2007. Assemblies of the Netherlands, Canada and the European Union also passed the bill, and international human rights organizations such as the United Nations recommended the immediate resolution of the issue. Even though the Japanese government stated that the-then Secretary General, Yohei Kono expressed the heartfelt apology and regret for the victims and said that Japan must consider how to express such sentiments in 1993, there has been no progress. Therefore, the City Council of Suita strongly urge the Japanese government to investigate the matter, restore the dignity of the victims, and resolve the issue immediately.

We, the City Council of Suita, Osaka Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The City Council of Suita, Osaka Prefecture

The Statement by the City Council of Sakai, Osaka Prefecture

March 29, 2010

The statement to request Japanese government's sincere responses to the issue of "Comfort Women"

It has been 64 years since Japan caused tremendous damage and pain to the neighboring countries, however, their wounds have not been cured. In July 2007, the U.S. House of Representative passed the bill that urges Japanese government to "formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women.'" Assemblies of the Netherlands, Canada and the European Union also passed the bill, and international human rights organizations such as the United Nations recommended the immediate resolution of the issue.

Domestically, the Japanese government initiated the Asian Women's Fund in July 1995 that offered the monetary compensation (565,000,000 yen donated by the Japanese nationals) to the 285 surviving victims of "comfort women" in the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan.

In July 2009, the 44th session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women acknowledged the several efforts made by the Japanese government to respond to the issue of "comfort women," however, it also pointed out the lack of permanent resolution for those women whose human rights were severely violated during the World War II, such as the erasure of the "comfort women" issue in history textbooks (article 37). The committee once again urged the Japanese government to act immediately to seek and establish permanent resolutions for the issue of "comfort women" (article 38).

Hence, the City Council of Sakai asks the Japanese government to investigate the issue and make every effort to recover the dignity of the victims of both historical and on-going violence against women urgently and sincerely.

We, the City Council of Sakai, Osaka Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The City Council of Sakai, Osaka Prefecture

The Statement by the City Council of Otaru, Hokkaido Prefecture

June 21, 2010

The statement to request Japanese government's sincere responses on the issue of the Japanese Imperial Army's "Comfort Women"

It has passed nearly 65 years since Japan caused tremendous damage and pain to

the neighboring countries, however, their wounds have not been cured. In July 2007, the U.S. House of Representative passed the bill that urges Japanese government to “formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces’ coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as ‘comfort women.’” Assemblies of the Netherlands, Canada, the European Union, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan also passed the similar bill, and international human rights organizations such as the United Nations recommended the immediate resolution of the issue.

However, the Japanese government has not offered the official apology to this day, which contradicts the statement of the-then Secretary General, Yohei Kono who expressed the heartfelt apology and regret for the victims. The Japanese government has not offered the official apology or compensation or investigated its wartime atrocities, but instead erased the description of the “comfort women” issue from history textbooks and received criticisms from the international society. Therefore, to investigate the issue of “comfort women” and make efforts to restore the dignity of the victims, based on the 1993 Kono statement, the City Council of Otaru demands the Japanese government and national assembly to:

1. Act against any attempt to minimize the 1993 Kono statement and materialize the statement through legislation to offer official apology and compensation
2. Educate students using textbooks that have descriptions of the sexual slavery system of the Japanese Imperial Army and develop their consciousness around human rights and peace
3. Discuss and pass the bill for permanent resolution for the Japanese wartime atrocities, as well as establishing an institution for investigation, disclosing various documents, and offer the official apology and compensation to the victims

We, the City Council of Otaru, Hokkaido Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The City Council of Otaru, Hokkaido Prefecture

City Council of Nishi-Tokyo, Tokyo Prefecture

June 21, 2010

The statement demanding that the Japanese government deal with the “Comfort Women” issue in good faith

We wish for a peaceful society in which each member is respected. In the past war, Japan did tremendous damage to people of the neighboring countries. Even though 64 years have passed after the end of the war, there are still issues that remain to be resolved. Those women who were forced to be the “Comfort Women” still suffer from severe physical and emotional pain and are passing one after another without any reconciliation. The Japanese government issued “Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono’s Comment” in 1993 to express its apologies and regret. After the first and second investigations, they stated that “We express our firm determination that we will face such historical truths as lessons without avoiding them, remember them forever through historical research and education, and never repeat the same mistakes. In the future, we believe that this matter should be given serious considerations including non-governmental research.” In regards to this issue, the United Nations Commissioner of Human Rights has issued numerous statements that demand the Japanese government to express its remorse. In addition, beginning in 2007, the United States House of Representatives, six nations and cities, and the European Union have passed legislations to demand official acknowledgement of its responsibilities and an apology for the “Comfort Women” issue by the Japanese government. Furthermore, the “Written Opinion requesting the government to deal in good faith” has been legislated by 20 local city councils in Japan as of now. As we hear the news of passing of the victims one after another, we must prioritize the acceptable resolution. The Japanese government’s expressing of its opinions can heal the pain of wartime victimization among people in Asia, resolve, and pave the way for peaceful coexistence. Thus, with its “Anti-Nuclear and Peace City Declaration,” the City Council of Nishi-Tokyo firmly request that “the government deal in good faith” with the following matters:

1. To investigate the truths behind the “Comfort Women” issues, to make efforts to restore the dignity of the victims, and to take faithful actions
2. To make efforts to tell the next generations truth behind the history of the “Comfort Women” issue

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 21, 2010

Takashi Asano, Chairperson of Nishi-Tokyo City Council

Addressed to: the Chairperson of the House of Representatives, the Chairperson of the House of Councilors, and the Prime Minister

City Council of Nanjo, Okinawa Prefecture

June 21, 2010

The statement expressing the demand for legislation to resolve the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue

The Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue is an issue of women's human rights, as well as a challenge to restore people's dignity. The ruling party, the Democratic Party of Japan, has been proposing "Promotion of Resolution for Issues concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act" since 1998, and the Social Democratic Party has included this issue in their manifesto for the general election in the previous year; we demand that the new administration promote the fundamental resolution as soon as possible.

In the world, the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, the European Union, as well as the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan within Asia have passed the legislation one after another to demand the Japanese government to "officially acknowledge" and "apologize for" the fact that "the Japanese military forcibly made the women sexual slaves." Last year, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women stated in their report that it will "urge the participating nations to make serious efforts to find a lasting resolution including reparation for the victims, prosecution of the perpetrators, and education of the general public about these crimes."

A number of local councils in Japan have lately legislated position statements demanding the resolution of the "Comfort Women" issue. The reality is that the victimized women have already reached the old age, and we have been hearing mournful news. Wishing for a fundamental resolution such as an apology and reparation for the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue, we demand the Diet and the government to do the following:

To urge the government to legislate "Promotion of Resolution for Issues Concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act" as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 21, 2010

City Council of Nanjo, Okinawa Prefecture

Council of Tomigusuku, Okinawa Prefecture

June 22, 2010

The statement expressing the demand for legislation to resolve the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue

The Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue is an issue of women's human rights, as well as a challenge to restore people's dignity. The ruling party, the Democratic Party of Japan, has been proposing "Promotion of Resolution for Issues concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act" since 1998, and the Social Democratic Party has included this issue in their manifesto for the general election in the previous year; we demand that the new administration promote the fundamental resolution as soon as possible.

In the world, the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, the European Union, as well as the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan within Asia have passed the legislation one after another to demand the Japanese government to "officially acknowledge" and "apologize for" the fact that "the Japanese military forcibly made the women sexual slaves." Last year, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women stated in their report that it will "urge the participating nations to make serious efforts to find a lasting resolution including reparation for the victims, prosecution of the perpetrators, and education of the general public about these crimes."

A number of local councils in Japan have lately legislated position statements demanding the resolution of the "Comfort Women" issue. The reality is that the victimized women have already reached the old age, and we have been hearing mournful news. Seeking a fundamental resolution such as an apology and reparation for the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue, we demand the Diet and the government to do the following:

To urge the government to legislate "Promotion of Resolution for Issues concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act" as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 22, 2010
Council of Tomigusuku, Okinawa Prefecture

Village Council of Yomitan, Okinawa Prefecture

June 22, 2010

The statement expressing the demand for legislation to resolve the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue

June 23rd, the anniversary of the end of the war in Okinawa, is coming soon. After 65 years since then, the wounds still remain unhealed for the people who survived the war.

During the Battle of Okinawa, we can see how severe and tremendous the damages were, from not only the estimated casualty of the 200,000 soldiers and civilians but also a thousand survivors out of approximately 10,000 military personnel and comfort women from the Korean peninsula.

In particular, the human rights violations against those young women who were brought over under the cunning name of "girls' _____" and were forced to serve Japanese soldiers at the "comfort stations," also known as the "soldiers' clubs," are beyond imagination. It has been revealed that there were eleven comfort stations in Yomitan village and more than 40 "Comfort Women" from the Korean peninsula.

The Japanese government has conducted an investigation into the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue since 1991 and release the results in August 1993 as part of the comment from then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono.

The comment stated that this is an "issue that deeply violated the honor and dignity of many women under the operation of the military at that time" and that Kono expresses "a heartfelt apology and remorse, and how our country should express those feelings should be given serious considerations in the future." Nonetheless, no efforts for the resolution are being made today after 17 years.

In the meantime, following the United States in July 2007, the councils of the Netherlands, Canada, EU, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), and Taiwan, as well as the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) have passed the legislations and demanded for "apologies and reparations for the victims."

Also within Japan, one local council after another has approved the position statement that demands for a fundamental resolution of the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue as something that should not be passed down to the next generation.

The reality is that the victimized women have already reached the old age, and we have been hearing mournful news.

Today, 100 years after the annexation of Korea, to be remorseful of the history in the past and to further strengthen the friendship between Japan and South Korea, as well as to gain international trust, we demand the following action will be taken as soon as possible.

1. To urge the government to legislate "Promotion of Resolution for Issues

concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act” as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 22, 2010

Village Council of Yomitan, Okinawa Prefecture

Addressed to: the Chairperson of the House of Representatives, the Chairperson of the House of Councilors, and the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Village Council of Tarama, Okinawa Prefecture

June 22, 2010

The statement expressing the demand for legislation to resolve the Japanese military’s “Comfort Women” issue

The Japanese military’s “Comfort Women” issue is an issue of women’s human rights, as well as a challenge to restore people’s dignity. The ruling party, the Democratic Party of Japan, has been proposing “Promotion of Resolution for Issues concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act” since 1998, and the Social Democratic Party has included this issue in their manifesto for the general election in the previous year; we demand that the new administration promote the fundamental resolution as soon as possible.

In the world, the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, the European Union, as well as the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan within Asia have passed the legislation one after another to demand the Japanese government to “officially acknowledge” and “apologize for” the fact that “the Japanese military forcibly made the women sexual slaves.” Last year, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) stated in their report that it will “urge the participating nations to make serious efforts to find a lasting resolution including reparation for the victims, prosecution of the perpetrators, and education of the general public about these crimes.”

A number of local councils in Japan have lately legislated position statements demanding the resolution of the “Comfort Women” issue. The reality is that the victimized women have already reached the old age, and we have been hearing mournful news. Wishing for a fundamental resolution such as an apology and reparation

for the Japanese military's "Comfort Women" issue, we demand the Diet and the government to do the following:

To urge the government to legislate "Promotion of Resolution for Issues concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act" as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 22, 2010
Village Council of Tarama, Okinawa Prefecture

City Council of Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture

June 25, 2010

The statement demanding the Japanese government's faithful action concerning the "Comfort Women" issue

Even though 64 years have passed after Japan did tremendous damage to people of the neighboring countries, the wounds of wartime victimization have not yet healed.

In July 2007, the United States House of Representatives passed a legislation to demand official acknowledgement of its responsibilities and an apology for the "Comfort Women" issues by the Japanese government, followed by similar legislations by the Netherlands, Canada, and the European Union Council and demands for early resolutions by international human rights advocacy organizations such as the United Nations.

As for the Japanese government, then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono Yohei issued a comment in August 1993 to express his apologies and regret, as well as his belief that the government should give serious consideration in the future on how Japan should express those attitudes, but no progress has been made.

Therefore, this City Council firmly demands the government, in accordance with Kono's comment, make efforts to restore the dignity of the victims and resolve the issue as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 25, 2010
City Council of Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture

Village Council of Takatsuki, Osaka Prefecture

June 28, 2010

The statement demanding the Japanese government's faithful action concerning the "Comfort Women" issue

Even though 64 years have passed after Japan did tremendous damage to people of the neighboring countries, the wounds of wartime victimization have not yet healed.

In July 2007, the United States House of Representatives passed a legislation to demand official acknowledgement of its responsibilities and an apology for the "Comfort Women" issues by the Japanese government. Similar legislations by the Netherlands, Canada, and the European Union Council has followed, and demands for early resolutions were issued by international human rights advocacy organizations such as the United Nations.

In our country, on July 19th, 1995, "Asia Peace Citizen Fund for Women" was founded with the Japanese government's initiative; donations from the citizens, totaling 565 million yen, were delivered to the 285 former "Comfort Women" in the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan as "compensation."

However, in July 2009, in the final agreement of the 44th meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the article 37 states that while they acknowledge the Japanese government's several actions to deal with the situations of the "Comfort Women," they regret that no long-lasting resolutions have been found for the situation of the "Comfort Women," who became the victims during the World War II, and express concerns over the deletion of the texts about this issue from school textbooks. Furthermore, the article 38 expresses their demand the Japanese government for its immediate efforts to figure out the long-lasting resolutions of the "Comfort Women" situations.

Therefore, we demand the government to take faithful actions for the revelation of the truth of the "Comfort Women" issue, the restoration of the victims' dignity, as well as resolution for the ongoing violation of women's human rights including violence against women.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

June 28, 2010

Village Council of Takatsuki

City Council of Shibetsu, Hokkaido

September 16, 2010

The statement demanding legal resolution, apologies, and reparations for the Japanese Imperial Army's Comfort Women issue as soon as possible

The Japanese Imperial Army's Comfort Women issue is a challenge to restore women's human rights and human dignity, and the resolutions cannot wait any longer as the women are aging.

In the global society, it cannot be condoned that the Japanese government continue to resist its legal responsibility for this issue. The Japanese government has been advised many times by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, UN General Assembly, and UN Human Rights Council and International Labor Organization to prompt the resolution of the Comfort Women issue; in addition, national assemblies of the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, European Union, the Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea), and Taiwan have passed the legislations one after another to demand apologies, reparations, and history education.

In August 2009, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women strongly advised the Japanese government to "take immediate action to find long-lasting resolutions including the reparations for the victims, prosecution of the perpetrator, and education for the general public about these crimes."

Within Japan, many local councils have passed the statements to demand the government for early resolutions of the Comfort Women issue. The Democratic Party, Communist Party, and Social Democratic Party has repeatedly proposed "Promotion of Resolution for Issues Concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act," calling the government to account for its action.

Therefore, we strongly demand the government for a legal resolution of the Japanese Imperial Army's Comfort Women issue, apologies and reparations for the victims, and the fulfillment of its international duty as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

September 16, 2010

City Council of Shibetsu, Hokkaido

The Statement by the Town Council of Hokuei, Tottori Prefecture

September 24, 2010

The Statement to demand immediate resolution of the “Comfort Women” issue

Although it has been 65 years since the end of the Asia Pacific War, the surviving victims of the Japanese Imperial Army’s “Comfort Women” are still demanding the apology and compensation.

The assemblies of the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, the European Union, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan passed the bill and demanded Japanese government’s official apology and compensation. In 2009, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) made a strong suggestion that Japan “take urgent actions to compensate the victims, punish the perpetrators, and establish a system for a permanent resolution including educating the public about the wartime atrocities.” However, the Japanese government has not initiated any actions, or rather tried to completely obliterate the history from the textbooks.

In 1993, the-then Secretary General, Yohei Kono stated that “We must not avoid historical truths, but face them as lessons and remember them through historical researches and history education. We must show our determination not to repeat the same mistake, and I would like to pay closer attention to the issue.” The majority of the surviving victims are over eighty years old, and many are dying. It is high time for the Japanese government to inherit Kono’s spirit and materialize what he stated.

Therefore, for the permanent resolution of the “comfort women” issue, the Town Council of Hokuei demands the Japanese government to:

1. Investigate the issue of the Japanese Imperial Army’s “comfort women” system with the participation of surviving victims.
2. Admit the responsibility of the Japanese government and offer the official apology to the victims
3. Restore the dignity of the victims and offer personal compensation to them
4. Educate public about Japan’s “comfort women” and make sure that next generations will receive proper history education

We, the Town Council of Hokuei, Tottori Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The City Town of Hokuei, Tottori Prefecture

City Council of Yawata, Kyoto, Japan

September 29, 2010

Statement of Yawata City Council that demands Japanese Government's sincere concrete policy on the Japanese Military's Comfort Women Issue

It has been already 65 years after the war, but Japan has never performed historic reflection to that war till now. The war that was an ultimate form of the violence took the life of many both domestic and foreign people and their future. Above all, as for the Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" system, which infringed upon the nature and the dignity of the woman, the fact has been crossed out by an interval for the half a century from the history. By the courageous accusation of the victim, the Japanese Government publicized Chief Cabinet Secretary Kawano "statement" (1993) to recognize "participation" of the Japanese Military and "enforcement" about this issue as a result of two times of investigation, but still there has not been any concrete policy based on it. In recent years, in the global society, resolutions to demand public apology and compensation to the Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" system's victims against the Japanese Government occur successively in the assembly of U.S.A., Netherlands, Canada, EU, Philippine, Korea and Taiwan as well including the advice of the Commission on Human Rights. In Japan, statements to demand early solution on this issue have been resolved in 29 city councils after March, 2008. Yawata city which is located in the Southern part of Kyoto has featured the "peace" as a significant theme from the beginning, and has demonstrated "never accept any violence, and stick to peace" in its citizens' charter. To demand the true peace, it is indispensable to reflect on that war properly and take a concrete action based on the reflection. The Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" issue has not been yet solved truly, and it is urgent work for the Japanese Government to perform investigation of the fact, and listen to a voice of victims to demand public apology and compensation. In addition, it is also necessary to convey a historic fact of the war and its reflection to the next generation as an action to the future. Victims of the Japanese Military's "Comfort Women" who was 15 years old then have already become 80 years old now, and there is only a little time left. On a "Comfort Women" issue, we wish Japanese Government would perform a concrete policy as soon as possible.

As stated above, we hereby submit our statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

September 29, 2010

City Council of Yawata, Kyoto

Addressed to: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The President of the House of Councilors, The Prime Minister, The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

City Council of Hakodate, Hokkaido

September 30, 2010

The statement regarding the “Comfort Women” issue

This year 2010, it has been 100 years since the annexation of Korea by Japan. Among many issues that still remain unresolved, the “Comfort Women issue” is one of the most urgent ones, for the victims are reaching old ages.

On July 30, 2007, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed the legislation to demand the Japanese government officially acknowledge and apologize for the fact that “the Imperial Japanese Army forcibly made women sex slaves.”

After the U.S., the legislations to demand the Japanese government for apologies, reparations, and history education have been passed in the Netherlands and Canada in November and the European Union on December 13, 2008. Furthermore, the Philippine Senate Foreign Relations Committee has passed the second legislation in March 2008 after the first one in 2005, and other international human rights organizations like the United Nations and International Labor Organization have repeatedly issued advice and recommendations.

However, despite these legislations, the Japanese government has yet to officially apologize. This contradicts the spirit of the comment by the then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono in 1993.

Many nations around the world are criticizing the Japanese government not only for avoiding official apologies, reparations, and investigations for the women who were made “Comfort Women” but also for even attempting to delete the account of the issue from the textbooks.

Therefore, we strongly demand the government and the Diet, based on the comment by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono in 1993, conduct full investigations in to the “Comfort Women” issue, make efforts to restore the dignity of the victims, and as stated below, take faithful actions.

The government shall recognize the fact of “Comfort Women” victimization and issue an apology to the victims through a Cabinet decision.

The government shall pass a legislation to resolve the “Comfort Women” issue in order to restore the victims’ dignity and compensate for the damage.

The history of the “Comfort Women” issue shall be taught through education in school and society at large so that the citizens can inherit the history.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

September 30, 2010
Takahito Yoshida
City Council of Hakodate, Hokkaido

City Council of Kizugawa, Kyoto Prefecture

October 1, 2010

The statement demanding the Japanese government's faithful action concerning the "Comfort Women" issue

65 years after the end of the Asia Pacific War, the wounds of those who suffered damage done by the war remain unhealed. So-called "comfort women" issue is among the most important related issues.

In 1993, the Japanese government released a comment by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono, considering the investigations into internal and external relevant institutes and those involved. The comment revealed that the Japanese military was involved in the establishment of the "comfort stations," that the "comfort women" were gathered against their will, and that it "deeply violated the honor and dignity of many women." It also expressed a heartfelt apology and remorse and stated that "how our country should express those feelings should be given serious considerations in the future, including opinions of the experts."

Nevertheless, the government has taken no action for cabinet-approved official apologies to the victims or compensation by the nation. As the victims of the "comfort women" issue are reaching elderly and passing away, action needs to be taken as soon as possible.

Dealing faithfully with the "comfort women" issue is essential in healing the wounds of the people suffering the war damages and in Japan's peaceful coexisting with Asia and the global society. It is also essential in creating a society in which one's dignity as a human being is protected.

Therefore, this city council strongly request the government regarding the following:

1. To deal sincerely with the "comfort women" victims and speed up the actions for the cabinet-approved apologies, national compensation, and restoration of dignity.
2. To further investigate the truth behind the "comfort women" issue, deepen the citizens' understanding of the issue, and make efforts to tell the next generations.

As stated above, we hereby submit our position statement in accordance with Article 99 of the Local Autonomy Act.

October 1, 2010
City Council of Kizugawa, Kyoto Prefecture

The Statement of the City Council of Osaka, Osaka Prefecture

October 13, 2010

The statement to demand immediate resolution of the “Comfort Women” issue

The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
The Chairperson of the Councillers
The Prime Minister
The Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications
The Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare

It has passed nearly 65 years since Japan caused tremendous damage and pain to the neighboring countries, however, their wounds have not been cured. The issue of the Japanese Imperial Army’s “Comfort Women” is particularly significant amongst numerous wartime atrocities. Victims of such crimes against humanity still suffer from the wounds and humiliation that they experienced during the WWII.

Although the-then Secretary General, Yohei Kono expressed the heartfelt apology and regret for the atrocities and stated that Japan must consider how to express such sentiments to the victims in 1993, there has been no progress.

Therefore, the City Council of Osaka urges the Japanese government to investigate the case, restore the dignity of the victims, and make sincere effort to resolve on-going violence against women and others.

We, the Town Council of Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, submit the statement according to the 99th article of the Local Authority Act.

The Resolution by the City Council of Okayama, Okayama Prefecture

March 19, 2010

The resolution to create another 100 years of a new relationship between Japan and South Korea

Japan and the Korean peninsula have always had a close relationship since the ancient time. Particularly, in the ancient time, in the process through which the foundation of our country was established, there is no doubt that the cultures, religions, ideologies, technologies, and political structures of the continent delivered through the Korean peninsula had significant influences.

Since then, both the government officials and civilians of Japan and the Korean peninsula have been maintaining various kinds of exchanges.

In the modern era, by prioritizing becoming equal to the Western powers after the Meiji Restoration, our country annexed Korea in 1910; the reality is that the wounds caused by the following war remains unhealed today.

With such historical processes, in August 1993, the Japanese government issued a comment through then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono to “express a heartfelt apology and remorse for all those who have suffered numerous painful experiences as so-called military comfort women and been inflicted physical and emotional wounds that cannot be healed. How our country should express those feelings should be given serious considerations in the future.” Since then, the government has inherited this spirit.

In July 2007, the United States House of Representatives passed “the resolution urging Japan to officially acknowledge and apologize for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of women into sexual slavery.” This was followed by similar legislations passed by the assemblies of the Netherlands, Canada, and the European Union.

In addition, in July 2009, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended the Japanese government “make immediate efforts to help the participating nations find a measure for a permanent resolution.”

This year is a 100-year anniversary since the annexation of Korea.

On this occasion, positioning this year as a turning point to begin creating the new future of both Japan and South Korea, through the official and grassroots exchanges with the friendship cities we have been continuing as Okayama City, we will strengthen the friendship between each other. At the same time, looking directly at the past history and the related challenges in the present, we will value the lessons we can learn from them, and we will act upon a fresh resolve to make the best efforts for the resolution of the remaining issues including the Comfort Women issue.

As stated above, we will pass this resolution.

March 19, 2010

City Council of Okayama, Okayama Prefecture