

## **Recommendations to the Government of Japan For Resolution of the Japanese Military “Comfort Women” Issue**

The international community is now urging the Japanese government to resolve the Japanese military “comfort women” issue, a grave violation of human rights against women. Resolution of this issue is the first step towards normalization of relations with neighboring countries, and a necessary foundation in order to contribute to world peace. Furthermore, the first step towards “resolution” can only be taken after presentation of a proposal which can be accepted by the survivors themselves.

What then, would be an acceptable proposal to the survivors? An apology is one of the important elements of the resolution sought by the survivors. The key issue here is for the perpetrating country to accurately recognize who conducted which kind of violating acts, to acknowledge responsibility, to clearly and unambiguously express this apology both domestically and internationally, and take continuing measures to make it credible and sincere. Only then will the survivors be able to accept it as a genuine apology.

Now that the survivors, who have been forced to continue to suffer both physically and mentally in the post-war period without recovery, are becoming older, the time remaining for Japan to resolve this issue is short. We, the victims and supporters who participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Solidarity Conference, demand that the Japanese government preserve and further develop the “Kono Statement” and, upon recognizing the following points, take the necessary measures.

In order to resolve the Japanese military "comfort women" (sexual slavery) issue, the Japanese Government should:

- ✧ Recognize the following facts and responsibilities:
  - That the Japanese Government and Military proposed, established, managed and controlled military facilities known as “comfort stations”.
  - That the women were forced to become “comfort women / sexual slaves” against their will, and were kept in coercive circumstances in the “comfort stations” etc.
  - That there were various forms of victimization of women from the colonies, occupied areas and Japan who suffered sexual violence by the Japanese military, that the scale of victimization was extensive, and that the suffering continues today.
  - That it was a serious violation of human rights which contravened a variety of both domestic Japanese as well as international laws of the time.
  
- ✧ Take the following measures for reparation:
  - Apologize to the individual victims in a manner that is clear, official, and can not be overturned.
  - Make compensation to victims as proof of apology
  - Accounting of the truth:
    - full disclosure of all documents possessed by the Japanese Government
    - further investigation of documents within Japan and internationally
    - hearings of survivors and other related persons within Japan and internationally
  - Measures to prevent further occurrence:
    - Implementation of school and social education including references in textbooks used in compulsory education
    - Implement commemorative activities
    - Prohibit statements by public figures based on incorrect historical recognition, and clearly and officially rebut similar kinds of statements etc.

June 2, 2014

12th Asian Solidarity Conference on the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan