The Korean Council
for The Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

"Dignity and Justice For the 'Comfort Women'!"

History of the Koran Council

1990.11.16	Formation of the "Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. (hereafter the 'Korean Council') in a gathering of 37 women's organizations.
1991.8.14	The first Korean press conference in which Kim Hak-Soon(67 years old) a survivor of the 'comfort women' system testifies.
1991.12.6	Three 'comfort women' survivors, including Kim Hak-Soon, file a case against the Japanese government.
1992.1.8	The Korean Council holds the first Wednesday Demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy.
1992.3.7	The Korean Council holds a press conference on the presentation made to the UN Commission on Human Rights about the 'comfort women' issue.
1993.8.4	Announcement of the results of the investigation of the 'comfort women' issue by the Japanese government. Talks are held with Cabinet Secretary Kono, who admits direct and indirect involvement of the Japanese government in the forced mobilization of 'comfort women'.
1994.2.7	A legal suit against the perpetrators of the 'comfort women' system is filed at Japan's Prosecution Office.
1994.9.2	The ICJ announces recommendations related to the 'comfort women' issue.
1995.6.14	The Japanese government initiates the 'Asian Women's Fund', essentially sympathy money generated through civilian donations, in an attempt to avoid the issue of legal reparations and responsibility.
1995.8	The 'comfort women' issue is included in the Beijing Platform for action at the Fourth World Conference on Women.
1996.3.4	The ILO Committee of Experts announces that the 'comfort women' issue is a violation of the Forced Labor Convention.
1996.4.8	At the UN Commission on Human Rights, the report by Special Rapporteur Radhika Coomaswamy on the 'comfort women' issue is adopted.
1996.10.18	A citizen's solidarity organization is formed to the resolve the issue of 'comfort women' who were taken by force by the Japanese Military. They oppose the 'Asian Women's Fund', and initiate fundraising in Korea.
1998.4.15	The 5th Asian Solidarity session is held in Seoul. The decision to hold the 2000 Women's Tribunal to prosecute Japanese war criminals for their involvement in forced sexual slavery is adopted.

1998.8.10	In the supplementary session, the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopts the report of Special Rapporteur Gay McDougall that requires the Japanese government to pay reparation to the 'comfort women'.
1998.12.7	The Korean Organizational Committee for the 2000 Women's Tribunal is established.
1999.3.3	An opening ceremony for the Korean Council's Education Institute is held.
1999.12.22	A memorial is held for former 'comfort women' who have passed away.
2000.12.7-12	The 2000 Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery is held in Tokyo, Japan.
2001.7.20	Formation of the Board of "War and Women's Rights Center"

The Tasks of the Korean Council includes the following

A demonstration is held every Wednesday to demand reparations from and punishment of those responsible for coercing and forcing women into sexual slavery: Since January of 1992, we have held demonstrations every Wednesday at noon in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. It has been nine years since the demonstrations first began, and as of October 31, 2001 482 demonstrations have been held. Approximately 30 sister organizations and 22 organizations affiliated with the Korean Council have joined forces to fight for women's rights, peace, and promote human rights education.

Welfare Activities for the Survivors:

The majority of the comfort women are aging, and we are working on various tasks to help these women including providing medical aid, funeral arrangements, and formal counseling. In conjunction with volunteers who discovered our organization through volunteer education, one particular task taken up in 2001 is the implementation of a psychological healing program for the survivors. An annual human rights camp is planned to further aid these women in the psychological healing process.

Making Demands of the Government:

As a result of the persistence of the Korean Council, the government has responded positively to a number of the Council's demands. As the majority of the women were facing financial hardships, legislation was passed to ensure a stable life for them. Additionally, in 1997 a law prohibiting former Japanese war criminals from entering Korea was adopted. In 1997, and again in 1998, the Korean Council opposed the Japanese government's initiation of the "Asian Women's Fund" (AWF). Under the pretense of remuneration, the Korean Council paid each survivor 7,608,000 won, and allocate 31,500,000 won per survivor via the fund set up by the Korean government.

International Human Rights Organizations:

In the name of human rights, awareness of the 'comfort women' situation has spread internationally. Since 1992, the Korean Council has received recommendations from various committees regarding the Japanese government's legal responsibilities, including the UN Commission on Human Rights, the International Commission of Jurists Association, and the expert committee of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Moreover, in annual joint cooperation with other Asian countries, which were victims of Japanese atrocities, we are coordinating efforts to publically resolve the issue of Japan's legal responsibility.

2000 Women's International War Crime Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery:
From the 7th to the 12th of December, the 2000 Women's International War Crime Tribunal was held in Tokyo. The International Human Rights Tribunal symbolically raised the issue of criminal liability; at the tribunal, the Japanese government was charged with war crimes related to military sexual slavery. It was a historic moment when North and South Korea jointly submitted legal proceedings, then subsequently witnessed the verdict convicting the Japanese government and Emperor Hirohito of war crimes. Hereafter, the tribunal will be viewed as a model for the punishment of those responsible for committing crimes against women in armed conflicts.

History and Women's Right Education for Future Generations:
The women who lived through this ordeal are rapidly aging; approximately 60 of the 210 women who have registered as 'comfort women' have passed away. Thus, it is crucial to see that future generations are educated about the 'comfort women'. Consequently, the Korean Council has raised the issue of the infringement of women's rights during the war. We are educating the public about the history of the 'comfort women' by planning projects and visiting schools. At our Council, the Education Institute exhibits the artwork and personal affects of the 'comfort women', and preserves various historical documents and artifacts.

War and Women's Rights Center:
The 'War and Women's Rights Center', established July 20, 2001 conducts education and research, and collects data regarding women's rights and the 'comfort women' issue; and more generally, investigates infringements of women's rights in armed conflicts. This includes publishing various works, and conducting symposiums relating to the issue of the 'comfort women' and sexual violence against women.

The <Korean Council> is making seven demands of the Japanese government:

1. To acknowledge the abduction and forced mobilization of 'comfort women'
2. Make official apologies
3. Reveal the truth in its entirety about the crimes of military sexual slavery
4. Make reparations to the victims
5. Erect a memorial to the 'comfort women' and establish a historical museum
6. Punish those responsible for war crimes
7. Accurately record this crime in history texts

At this time, the Japanese government still refuses to make formal official apologies and pay reparations to the victims.

Publications and Other Materials of the Korean Council

Literature:

1. <The Truth About the Issue of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery> 1997
2. <Military Sexual Slavery Comfort Women Who Were Forcibly Taken to China> 1995
3. <Testimonials, Korean Military Sexual Slavery Comfort Women Who Were Forcibly

Taken 1-3>

4. <Testimonials 4, Rewriting History from Memory> 2001
5. <Women's Rights and Sexual Violence in Asian-Armed Conflicts>
6. <Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Issues and War Crimes- Gay McDougall, International Symposium> 1999
7. <Collected Materials on Military Slavery (1)-(12)>
8. < Past, Present, and Future of Activities to solve the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Issue> (Training Manuel 1)
9. <The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery in Japan, 10th Anniversary Symposium> 2000
10. <Reference on Women and Human Rights- UN Data> 1998

Other Materials

(Education Videos)

1. <Their Stories Are Still Going On> (Korean, English, Japanese) - 20 minutes
2. <YTN, "I Cannot Die This Way" Testimonials by North Korean Comfort Women> (Korean, English)- 27 minutes
3. <A Memorial Video of Mrs. Deok Kyong Kang> (Korean, English, Japanese) -20 minutes
4. <2000 Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery> (Korean, English, Japanese)- 20 minutes
5. <The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery in Japan and the History of the Movement> (Korean)- 20 minutes
6. <State Accountability For Violence Against Women During Wartime (English) -25 minutes

(Paintings)

1. Historical Pictures ("Dragged", Comfort Station", and After Wartime Defeat") <10 pictures>
2. Artwork of the 'Comfort Women' <10 paintings>
3. Pictures of the Korean Council's Activities, ("Demonstration", "Deceased Comfort Women", "2000 Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery" <6 pictures>

Small Streams Make the Sea (Many Hands Make Light Work) (6페이지)

Your support makes the Korean Council possible. We hope that the Education Center will serve to enable a true understanding of our history and a genuine recovery of women's human rights. We sincerely and humbly request your support.

How You Can Support the Korean Council; There are three ways to contribute.

Supporting the Cause- this entails providing sponsorship for the operation of the Education Center

Cho Hung Bank, Account No. 308-03-009542

Depositor: The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

Supporting Publications- this is a way of sponsoring the publications of the Korean Council.

Cho Hung Bank, Account No. 308-01-158087
Depositor: The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

Support the Welfare of the Survivors- your contribution will go to directly to the support of the survivors.

Cho Hung Bank, Acount No. 325-01-150299
Depositor: Lee Mee-Kyung

Deposits

Electronic transfer can be a convenient method of making payment. Prior to making a deposit, please notify us of your address and the date of transaction either by phone or by fax.

Contact Information

Phone:	82-2-365-4016, 392-5252	Fax 82-2-365-4017
Address:	CISJD Bldg. #35, 3rd Floor Chungjeongro 2 Ga, Seodaemun Gu, Seoul, Korea 120-012	
Homepage:	http://www.k-comfortwomen.com	
E-mail	jdh@peacenet.or.kr	