

We send our sisterhood and respect to those of you in various parts of the world who are fighting for the protection of and development in women's human rights and its peaceful stability.

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan' (The Korean Council) is an organization striving to solve matters in regards to military sexual slavery by Japan during WWII, which is one of the most tragic violation against women's human rights during the war. The Korean Council has endeavored to bring back justice and dignity to the victims since 1990. Our continuous campaigns have drawn great attention from international and national supporters. We all agreed that the violation against women's human rights in war is still happening around the world and realized the seriousness of the matter.

The Korean Council wishes to restore the victims' rights and dignity by solving the "comfort women" issue and is trying to form solidarity with women who are experiencing similar pain from current wars and armed conflicts. The Korean Council is working to prevent the recurrence of similar war crime and is participating in bringing peace to Asia and the world.

For the past 20 years, The Korean Council with Japanese military "comfort women" victims, who are now in their 80s and 90s, have fought in front of Embassy of Japan in Korea demanding formal apology, legal reparation, and other just claims. We call this fight as "Wednesday Demonstration." Every Wednesday at noon at the same place we have demanded solution to the Japanese military "comfort women" problem. This coming December 14th will mark the extraordinary 1000th Wednesday Demonstration. As The Korean Council welcomes 1000th demonstration mark, we ask women from all over the world to act in solidarity and join the Japanese military "comfort women" victims in their persistent fight.

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We hope that more women and people advocating human rights can join us in our worldwide solidarity movement, "Justice for 'Comfort Women'!"

#### In solidarity,

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



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[Intro: What is the 'Comfort Women' issue & 'Wednesday Demonstration']

# Japanese Military Sexual Slavery ('Comfort <u>Women') issue Is..</u>.

Japanese Military Sexual Slavery ('Comfort Women') is a systematic and deliberate crime, which the Japanese government committed by forcing thousands of women from Japan's annexed or occupied territories into sexual slavery before and during World War II. The institutionalization of 'Comfort Women' system was executed by the Japanese military which was directly involved in recruiting women and establishing and regulating the stations. The Japanese military set up 'comfort station' throughout the Asia-Pacific region and herded young women, most of whom in their teenage years, into the front lines in the war, inflicting horrendous atrocities on them such as rape, torture, terrible beating, and forced abortion.

After a Korean survivor of the military sexual slavery spoke up about such painful experience through a public testimony for the first time in 1991, the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan(the Korean Council) and the victimized survivors filed a petition to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR). Not only did the UN Special Rapporteurs on Violence Against Women report on the 'comfort women' issue, but human rights bodies of the UN, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and other international organizations also have raised the issue as a systematic rape and sexual slavery. They have continued urging Japan to fully investigate, provide reparations, and prosecute the perpetrators. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has also made recommendations to Japan to resolve the issue.

Starting with the United States House of Representatives in 2007, parliaments of the European Union, Canada, and the Netherlands have adopted a resolution demanding Japan to take necessary measures to solve the issue. Furthermore, the international community including the Amnesty International and other international non-governmental organizations has jointly raised voices to restore justice and rights of the victims of "comfort women" system.

# What is the Wednesday Demonstration for the resolution of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery('Comfort Women') issue?

The Wednesday Demonstration was first held on January 8th, 1992 in order to demand investigation and fulfillment of responsibility when Japan's then Prime Minister Miyazawa visited the Republic of Korea. Since then, the Wednesday Demonstration has continued as a regular event on every Wednesday at noon. The Korean Council hosts the Wednesday Demonstrations with support from and participation of numerous women's organizations, socio-civic organizations, religious groups, and individuals. The survivors of the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' system, who are now in their advanced years, have been and continue to be in the front lines of the demonstration every week.

At the Wednesday Demonstrations the following demands to the Japanese government are made:

- 1. Acknowledge the war crime
- 2. Reveal the truth in its entirety about the crimes of military sexual slavery
- 3. Make an official apology
- 4. Make legal reparations
- 5. Punish those responsible for the war crime.
- 6. Accurately record the crime in history textbooks
- 7. Erect a memorial for the victims of the military sexual slavery and establish a historical museum

The Wednesday Demonstration is the cradle of peace and human rights movement against war and gender-based violence. In spite of Japan's persistent inaction to commit to its responsibility, the Wednesday Demonstration has turned into a place for peace and women's human rights. The demonstration has also become a living site for educating history and bringing people together in solidarity beyond gender, borders, ideologies under one cause — to ensure justice. The victimized survivors have proudly become human rights activists, spreading new hope to the many suffering women around the globe.

This coming December 14th, the Wednesday Demonstration will mark its 1000th weekly protest. Please join the Wednesday Demonstration which has filled every Wednesday with a message of justice. The 1000th protest will be held as the Global solidarity action calling for restoration of justice for the victims. Join the survivors in raising voices to stop violence against women under armed conflicts and to revive justice and human rights. Please refer to the following information to participate in the cause:

"At first I thought the whole demonstration thing is a disgrace. But through the Wednesday Demonstrations, I realized that it is not my disgrace but only that of the Japanese government, and that I should not hide but let everyone, from a child to adult, know (of the issue) to make the world a place with no war but peace. That's why I keep coming to the protests."

- Gil, Won-Ok. A victim-survivor of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

\*\*For more information on The Korean Council's activities and Japanese military "comfort women" issue, please visit <a href="www.womenandwar.net">www.womenandwar.net</a> (Korean)/ <a href="http://en.womenandwar.net">http://en.womenandwar.net</a> (English) or reach us at <a href="www.women@naver.com">war\_women@naver.com</a>.

#### [Action Guideline 1.Offline Action]

## Campaign Slogan

Global Action Day\_Justice for 'Comfort Women'! Join the 1000th Wednesday Demonstration!

# Period of Global Solidarity Action

**November 25, 2011**(International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women)-**December 10** (International Human Rights Day) - **December 14** (the 1000<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration & Global Action Day)

# Action Plan Way to organize and participate in the Global action

## **Offline Actions**

- 1. Hold a Simultaneous or Solidarity Demonstrations: the 1000th Wednesday Demonstration will be held on December 14th at noon Korea time. Hold a rally at your own communities at the same time, on the same day, or on any day during the period of Global Solidarity Action. Please hold the demonstration in front of Japanese Embassy in your location or at a place where our voice can be heard to many people. Mass rally, single protest, candlelight vigil, or any other form of demonstration is welcome.
- 2. Send a petition to the Japanese government: Collect a petition demanding that the Japanese government solve the Japanese military "comfort women" problem. You can bring the petition to the Japanese Embassy in your location after your solidarity demonstration or during the Global Solidarity Action period. In addition, please deliver a copy of the petition to your government and legislature and alert your press. (Please refer to the sample petition letter below.)
- **3. Organize Cultural events/ Campaign:** During the period of Solidarity Action, hold any kind of cultural events or campaign to promote resolution of 'comfort women' issue. It can be anything from film screening, photo exhibition, poetry reading to other creative forms of cultural events and campaign.
- **4. As part of the 16 Days Campaign:** We would especially appreciate if any organization participating in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence can join the cause by including this issue in the campaign.
- **5. Sending a solidarity message to the 1000th Wednesday Demonstration:** In honoring the 1000th demonstration, a solidarity message supporting the Japanese military "comfort women's" fight and demanding restoration of their dignity and human rights will be announced across the world. Please ask for a solidarity message from your president, prime minister, congressman, opinion leader, or an influential leader. (Please refer to the sample letter below.)

## <u>Action tip</u>▶

When you are participating in Global Action Day for the solution to Japanese military "comfort women" issue, please consider the following.

**Color concept:** The campaign colors for the solution to Japanese military "comfort women" issue are yellow and purple. Yellow indicates our warm and heartfelt action in solidarity with the victims. Purple symbolizes the suffering experienced by the victims. Please include the two colors in your demonstrations.

**Symbol:** The campaign for the solution to Japanese military "comfort women" issue uses a butterfly as the symbol. The butterfly symbolizes our wish for the Japanese military "comfort women" victims to be free from pain and fly in liberty. In addition, the butterfly is a symbol for the freedom for all

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women who are suffering from discrimination and violence. (Please refer to the image below.)

**Demands:** The following is the slogan spoken at Wednesday Demonstration: You can speak for the following demands to Japanese government in addition to saying "Justice for 'Comfort Women."

- 1. Acknowledge the war crime
- 2. Reveal the truth in its entirety about the crimes of military sexual slavery
- 3. Make an official apology
- 4. Make legal reparations
- 5. Punish those responsible for the war crime.
- 6. Accurately record the crime in history textbooks
- 7. Erect a memorial for the victims of the military sexual slavery and establish a historical museum

# <Butterflies & Color in the Wednesday Demonstrations>



#### [Action Guideline 2.Online Action]

#### **Online Actions**

**1. Sharing Banner & Poster:** Share the 1000<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration and the Global Solidarity Action banner & poster on websites and blogs to promote the event.

(You can download the image files at the Korean Council's website <a href="http://en.womenandwar.net">http://en.womenandwar.net</a>)

**2. Sending a message:** Please send us: 1. a petition message to the Japanese government for a resolution and 2. a supporting message to the victims and survivors of the Japanese military sexual slavery. Received messages will be shared with everyone at the  $1000^{th}$  demonstration and sent to the Japanese government later on.

(Send to: <a href="mailto:war\_women@naver.com">war\_women@naver.com</a>)

(After, you can leave a message on The Korean Council's website.)

- **3. Online Demonstration:** Join us in our <code>"Online Wednesday Demonstration"</code>. During the period of Global Solidarity Action (November 25 December 14), tweet a message demanding for resolution at the official Twitter page of the Prime Minister of Japan(<code>@JPN\_PMO</code>, <code>@Kantei</code>). More tweets will be especially appreciated while the 1000<sup>th</sup> protest is being held (December 14<sup>th</sup> 12:00 13:30 Korean Time). The live streaming of the 1000<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration will be available online.
- **4. SNS Participation:** Please let us know of your activities and solidarity message by becoming a fan on The Korean Council facebook page or through Twitter.

Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/womenandwar">http://www.facebook.com/womenandwar</a>

Twitter: <a href="http://twitter.com/#!/war\_women">http://twitter.com/#!/war\_women</a> (@war\_women)

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[Actions in Korea]

## **Actions in Korea**

In Korea, the following activities are carried out.

- -The 1000<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration for the Resolution of the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' issue: the Wednesday Demonstration starts at noon every week. The 1000<sup>th</sup> protest will also start on December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon with deafening shouts of support. Hundreds of people will gather in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul and stand up for justice for the victims. A variety of cultural events and solidarity declaration will be held during the rally. Solidarity protests will also be held simultaneously in different cities throughout South Korea.
- -Naming Peace Street and Erecting Peace Monument: The street in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, on which the Wednesday Demonstration is held every week, is now called the "Pyeonghwa-ro (Peace Street)." In commemoration of the 1000<sup>th</sup> demonstration, the Korean Council is erecting "Pyeonghwa-bi (peace monument)" on Pyeonghwa-ro to remember the twenty years of struggles of the victims and people who have joined in bringing the violence to an end and their aspiration for Justice. Pyeonghwa-bi is in its making process with help of generous donations from all around the world. The unveiling of the monument will be held at the 1000<sup>th</sup> demonstration.
- -Making a commemorative photo book and DVD: A commemorative photo book and DVD will be produced in remembrance of the twenty years and a thousand Wednesday Demonstrations and historical truth of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan issue. They will be subsequently distributed throughout the world.
- -Education Week on Japanese Military 'Comfort Women': During the period of Global Solidarity Action, students in elementary, middle, and high schools nationwide will have a chance to learn about 'comfort women' and the history and struggles to resolve the issue. Using a variety of resources such as visual aids, students will come to know the importance and value of peace and human rights.

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#### [Images: Banners & Poster]



300x113 pixels



600x80 pixels



787x1065 pixels

## [Sample Petition Letter]

# Dear Prime Minister of Japan

We support the victims and their fight to the 1000th Wednesday Demonstration. We strongly demand that the Japanese government make formal apology, pay legal reparation, and be involved in the prevention of similar war crime. We insist that the Japanese government commit to administrative and legislative actions to restore victims' dignity and human rights.

Country: Organization(name):

Address:

## [Sample Request Letter for Solidarity Message]



**November 5, 2011** 

Dear	

Re: Please send a message of peace and solidarity for victims of Japanese military sexual slavery ('Comfort Women') who have been continuously fighting for truth and justice through 1000 demonstrations in the past 20 years.

Peaceful greetings from Seoul, Korea.

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (The Korean Council) is an organization which, since the 1990s, has dedicated itself to resolving issues surrounding Japanese military sexual slavery, an unprecedented and inhumane violence against women. Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' issue is a systematic and deliberate crime designed to force the countless women from Japan's annexed or occupied territories during Asia-Pacific wartime into sexual slaves. The women, mostly in their teens, who were taken in by the Japanese military lived for many years in Japanese Military 'Comfort Station' placed throughout Asia-Pacific. In these stations, the women were deprived of freedom and were forced to experience rape, torture, battery, forced abortion, murder, and other atrocities that can't be described in words. When the war was over in 1945, the women's lives were at risk as they were abandoned at battlefields, murdered, or forced to commit suicide. The women who returned home lived in silence and shame like they were sinners while the Japanese government hid their crime.

After a Korean survivor of the military sexual slavery spoke up about Japan's heinous barbarities through a public testimony for the first time in 1991, the Korean Council and the victims filed a petition to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR). As a result, the UN Special Rapporteurs on Violence Against Women report, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women(CEDAW), the Committee against Torture(CAT) and other human rights bodies of the UN have raised the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' issue as a systematic rape and sexual slavery. They have continued to demand solution to the issue by urging a thorough investigation to seek the truth, legal compensation from the Japanese government, and prosecution of the perpetrators. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has also considered Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' issue as forced sexual slavery and made recommendations to the Japanese government to resolve the issue. Starting with the United States House of Representatives in 2007, parliaments of the European Union, Canada, and the Netherlands have adopted a resolution demanding Japan to take necessary measures to solve the issue. Furthermore, the international community including the Amnesty International and other international non-governmental organizations have worked together to restore justice and human rights of the victims of 'Comfort Women' system.

Despite the fact that thousands of women experienced horrible pain in the front lines of war, the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' issue risked being lost in history due to the special nature of the issue as sexual violence and the Japanese government's hiding of its crime. However, the brutal crime's truth was being revealed half a century later since the event with the help of persistent efforts from conscientious scholars and women. In 1991, a Korean survivor of the military sexual slavery spoke up for the first time about Japan's brutalities through a public testimony. From this courageous testimony, surviving victims from Korea, Asia,

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and Europe also demanded the truth from the Japanese government and joined in the fight to resolve the issue.

The Wednesday Demonstration was first held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1992 in order to demand investigation and fulfillment of responsibility when Japan's then Prime Minister Miyazawa visited the Republic of Korea. Since then, the Wednesday Demonstration has continued as a regular event on every Wednesday at noon. The Korean Council hosts the Wednesday Demonstrations with support from and participation of numerous Korean women's organizations, socio-civic organizations, religious groups, and individuals. The survivors of the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' system, who are now in their advanced years, have been and continue to be in the front lines of the demonstration every week.

For the past 20 years that the Wednesday Demonstration was held, it has become the cradle of peace and human rights movement against war and gender-based violence. In spite of Japan's persistent inaction to com mit to its responsibility, the Wednesday Demonstration has turned into a place for peace and women's human rights. The demonstration has also become a living site for educating history and bringing people together in solidarity beyond gender, borders, ideologies under one cause — to ensure justice. When the Wednesday Demonstration occurs during International Women's Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the anniversary of the end of the war, solidarity rally is held across the world and the conscience Japanese citizens participate in weekly or monthly Wednesday Demonstration in their regions. Through such solidarity, victims have proudly become human rights activists, spreading new hope to the many suffering women around the globe.

This coming December 14<sup>th</sup> marks the 1000<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration! Please join the Wednesday Demonstration which has filled every Wednesday with a message of justice. The 1000<sup>th</sup> protest will be held as an international solidarity action calling for restoration of justice for the victims. We will raise our voices to stop the unfair reality in which elderly victims in their 80s and 90s have to fight on the streets. We will raise our voices for the restoration of human rights to the women before we lose any more victims.

We sincerely hope to hear your voice. Please join us in raising our voices with the victims so that we can prevent violence against women in wars and armed conflict regions and achieve justice and restoration of human rights. We firmly believe that your message of peace and solidarity to the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' victims will give hope to the survivors who have been waiting for the truth for the past 20 years and provide courage for the women currently suffering in war.

Sincerely yours,

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



### [Application Form]

- ♣Please let us know of your action plans. Solidarity actions from across the world will be shared on The Korean Council's website.
- Please fill out the below information.
- ■Country:
- ■Region:
- ■Date/Time:
- ■Location:
- ■Name of solidarity action:
- ■Content of solidarity action:
- ■(Host/participating)Organization(s) Name:
- ■Website:
- ■Contact person(name/email/phone number):

Send to: war\_women@naver.com

• In addition, please share pictures and videos of your action by sending them to The Korean Council or posting on Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/womenandwar">http://www.facebook.com/womenandwar</a>
Twitter: <a href="http://twitter.com/#!/war\_women">http://twitter.com/#!/war\_women</a> (@war\_women)

#### [Contact Information]

- ▶In the near future, we are planning on updating action plans of various countries on our website and sharing them with you.
- ► For questions about participation in and suggestions for Global Action "Justice for Comfort Women," please contact us at the information provided below.

**Contact information** of the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan

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