

Informationen zu Frau Gil Won-Ok und den Trostfrauen



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1. Die neusten Entwicklungen zur „Trostrfrauen“-Frage

Wer sind die sogenannten »Trostrfrauen«?

Die Bezeichnung »Trostrfrau« steht für einen besonders gravierenden Fall systematischer sexueller Gewalt während des Asien-Pazifik-Kriegs (1937-1945). Bis zu 200.000 Frauen und Mädchen wurden aus den betroffenen Regionen – etwa 13 Ländern - vom japanischen Militär verschleppt, entführt und in die Prostitution gezwungen, um die Moral der Soldaten zu steigern. Die Frauen wurden dort oft über mehrere Jahre hinweg in vom Militär betriebenen Bordellen vergewaltigt, geschlagen, gefoltert und gar getötet. Nach der Enthüllung ihres Schicksals im Jahr 1991 begannen die überlebenden Frauen eine aufrichtige und offizielle Entschuldigung, die Wiederherstellung ihrer Menschenrechte, die Anerkennung und Aufarbeitung der Kriegsverbrechen von der japanischen Regierung sowie eine gesetzliche Entschädigung einzufordern.

Die umstrittene japanisch-koreanische Vereinbarung vom 28.12.2015

Am 28.12.2015 verkündeten die Außenminister Japans und Südkoreas völlig überraschend eine „endgültige und unumkehrbare“ Lösung der „Trostrfrauen“-Frage. Die jahrzehntelangen Forderungen der Betroffenen und ihrer Organisationen wurden in die Vereinbarung nicht mit einbezogen, wodurch sich die Überlebenden erneut gedemütigt fühlen. Problematisch bei der Vereinbarung ist, dass weitere Verhandlungen für die Frauen aus anderen betroffenen Ländern ausgeschlossen wurden. <https://www.koreaverband.de/blog/2016/01/04/annullierung-der-japanisch-koreanischen-vereinbarung/>

Die neue Regierung Südkoreas und die UNO für eine Neuverhandlung!

Südkoreas neu gewählter Präsident Moon Jae-in kündigte unmittelbar nach seinem Amtsantritt dem japanischen Premierminister die Annullierung der Vereinbarung an. Am 13. Mai 2017 forderte nun auch der UNO-Ausschuss gegen Folter die beiden Regierungen dazu auf, eine neue Vereinbarung zu verhandeln.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17209&LangID=E>

The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan hat es sich zum Ziel gesetzt, 100 Millionen Unterschriften in Solidarität mit den »Trostrfrauen« zu sammeln. **Unterschreiben Sie hier und setzen Sie sich mit Ihrer Unterschrift für Neuverhandlungen zur Lösung des Problems ein, bevor die letzten Überlebenden sterben! Setzen Sie ein Zeichen gegen sexuelle Gewalt in Kriegszeiten:** <http://womenandwar.net/>

Zu dem Schicksal von Gil Won-ok

Gil Won-ok wurde im Jahr 1940 in die sexuelle Sklaverei gezwungen, als sie 13 Jahre alt war. In ihrer Gefangenschaft wurde sie mit einer Geschlechtskrankheit angesteckt, die es ihr unmöglich machte zu arbeiten. Schließlich wurde sie nach monatelanger Gefangenschaft zurück nach Korea geschickt. Als sie 15 Jahre alt war wurde sie erneut gefangen und nach China verschleppt, wo sie bis zum Kriegsende unter fürchterlichen Umständen in die Sexsklaverei gezwungen wurde. Durch einen medizinischen Eingriff wurde sie absichtlich unfruchtbar gemacht. Später konnte sie per Schiff zwar nach Korea zurückkehren, aber durch den Ausbruch des Koreakrieges und die folgende Teilung des Landes sah sie ihre Familie im Norden nie wieder. Mit 30 Jahren adoptierte sie ihren Sohn, der ihr die Kraft gab, nicht aufzugeben. Das Schicksal der damaligen „Trostrfrauen“ wurde erst im Jahr 1991 durch die mutige Zeitzeugin Kim Hak-soon enthüllt. Frau Gil überwand 2003 die Angst, öffentlich über ihr Schicksal zu sprechen. Seither engagiert sie sich für den Frieden und hilft anderen Opfern sexueller Gewalt.

Gil Won-Ok ist **eine der Ideengeberinnen des Schmetterlingsfonds**: Zusammen mit Kim Bok-dong wollte sie alles Geld, welches sie je von der japanischen Regierung bekommen würden, für andere Opfer sexueller Gewalt spenden. Da man nicht weiß, ob das geschehen würde, wurde der Schmetterlingsfond gegründet und die gesammelten Spenden unterstützten Frauen und Mädchen aus Vietnam und dem Kongo. Im Mai wurde Marwa Al Aiko, einer Jezidin, die dem IS zum Opfer fiel, durch den Fond unterstützt. Bei ihrem kommenden Besuch wird Frau Gil den Fond an die Selbsthilfe-Organisation „Women in Exile & Friends e.V.“ überreichen.

2. Vollständige Zeugenaussage von Frau Gil Won-Ok

I would really like this to be resolved in the near future.

Won-Ok Gil,

Survivor, military sexual slavery by Japan

I am Won-Ok Gil living in a shelter called "U-Ri-Jib" provided by the Korean Council in Seoul. I am seventy seven years old. I was born in Hee-Cheon, North Pyeongan Province which is now located in North Korea. In 1940 when I was thirteen, I was sent to Harbin in Manchuria as a "comfort woman". Later I suffered from STDs so badly, which made me very unsuitable to receive any soldiers. Then I was sent back home. Again in 1942, I was forcibly deported to Seok-Ga-Jang in China and stayed there as a "comfort woman" until Korea gained independence from Japan. After the independence, I returned to Incheon and have stayed in South Korea ever since. I have lived longing for the unification of Korea in the hope of visiting my hometown after the unification.

I had four siblings; two elder brothers, one elder sister, and one younger brother. When I was young, my father ran a secondhand shop and my mother was a fish peddler. One day when I got back home from the elementary school, there was a disturbance at home. I was told that my father was arrested. It seemed that there were some kind of problems running a secondhand shop. As a result, I had to drop out of school at that time. I was in the second or third grade.

I was told that a twenty won fine was charged to my dad. I was solicited to go work and earn money in Manchuria in order to release my dad from the prison. And I decided to go and work in Manchuria. I was so young and naive back then that I can hardly remember how I went to Manchuria. On the way, I went along with a number of people, most of whom I didn't know.

When arriving in Manchuria, I couldn't see any Korean or Japanese civilians but only Japanese soldiers walking around. I remember that it was incredibly cold days. I was so naive and ignorant back then. I didn't have a slightest idea of such a painful and frightening life awaiting me. I really cannot bear to say those terrifying moments I had to go through; compulsorily serving as a "comfort woman". We were so intensely terrified and frightened by elderly women supervising us as well as Japanese soldiers. That is the only feeling I can recall. But then I ended up catching STDs called "Yokone", which I think was caused by working too excessively considering my young age back then. As parts of complications, I had a severe fever and difficulty in speaking. Consequently I couldn't receive any soldiers.

Then they performed surgery on me. It was such a cruel act. Japanese wouldn't have done such an atrocious act if it had been their daughters. They ended up blocking each fallopian tube on both sides, which later caused fist-sized ovarian cysts at my age of twenty. That is to say that I was virtually a disabled person inside my body around at fifteen. I ended up being sent to Korea because they couldn't continue to take advantage of me as a "comfort woman" even after the surgery. They didn't allow me to choose where to go. Instead, they had one of their person accompany me on my way home.

There was a unit of Japanese army force making bullets stationed near my place. I stayed in line in front of the unit every day. In every morning, many Korean stayed in line and only a limited number of people were allowed to work there on that day on first come first served basis. Belts were handed over to those who were allowed and were required to be worn while working. We made and cleaned bullets.

One day I was told that since I was good at singing, I could have good opportunities working in bars in China. Then I was told that if I were interested in, I should show up at a recruiting event held at Pyoung-Yang station on a specific date and time. I agreed to show up because I thought that I could make more money working in bars than making bullets. When I went to the station as scheduled, there were a large number of people; young women just like me. I was fifteen back

then. I was so stupid. How could I be such a fool back then? Now I cannot understand at all. What a pity that I was deceived one more time.

Since last time I was totally deceived and victimized and I didn't want to work for such a place ever again, I previously chose to work for the unit of the army force making bullets instead. I arrived in China expecting to work in bars as promised. In contrast, the place was neither restaurant nor bar. Named as "Dokiwa", it was exclusively a place to serve Japanese soldiers as "comfort woman". I kept resisting and resisting. Then the owner started to hate me by saying "How dare you resist like that?". I had no freedom at all. I had to receive Japanese soldiers even during the daytime whenever they came. Most of soldiers came between afternoon and evening. There were some days when I had to receive them in succession without having enough time to wash in between. It was extremely hard like that. And I was not paid at all. Sometimes I had to resist because I shed blood and could hardly endure. Then I was beaten because I was told that I resisted. Those soldiers who came after drinking were much more terrifying and threatening. I have a scar on the vertex caused by a downright blow with a Japanese long sword in scabbard by one Japanese soldier. My clothes was too soaked with blood to undress without tearing the clothes. Imagine that. How in the world can you imagine that? How in the world can I as a human being not hold a grudge against Japanese soldiers?

Later one day Korea gained independence from Japan. But I was far from feeling joy and relief. Instead I felt such a meaninglessness and emptiness. Life ahead of me seemed to be so dreadful. I was told of a ship bound for Incheon departing soon. Then I took the ship and arrived in Incheon. There I settled in a life working in bars, working as a peddler, and dealing in goods in the markets. One day a woman without a place to stay gave birth to a baby. I guess it was around at my age of thirty. I blocked her from giving the baby to other person and managed to bring the baby with me. I promised her to raise him very well. I think that without him, I would have not had enough power to continue to stand all the hardships. Also I have tried not to commit any crimes. My son graduated from seminary schools in undergraduate and then graduate level. Now he serves as a pastor. But one thing I am very grateful for him is that not only has he been doing very well to me, but he has also adopted a child from an orphanage and then raised him just like I had done to him.

While joining many events organized by the Korean Council, I also had a chance to participate in "Wednesday Demonstrations". These days I live the most happiest life eagerly protesting and loving and etc. Still I am wounded all-around of my body. Nevertheless, I am free from care. During my lifetime, I think that I should continue to eagerly let young people know our history, the facts and truth about military sexual slavery by Japan during its occupation of Korea. I really wish that during my lifetime an official apology will be made to the victims for this and the survivors or their bereaved families will be compensated by the Japanese government. I would really like this to be resolved in the near future.

Now most of our elderly people compulsorily drafted as "comfort women" are over 80 years old. We are quite sick and very concerned that if we were to die without resolving this issue, we would not be able to pass away peacefully without feeling enormous grief, regret, and distress. Our hope is that in the near future a memorial museum intended to commemorate and remember us will be built with a strong support of people from all over the world who really do care about the world peace. This is because those who have their own offspring can leave their names by themselves and through their offspring and die. In contrast, people like us would live through tremendous hardships and die meaninglessly even without names. We don't even have our own names. However, it is such a relief to hear that a memorial museum will be built to record what we had suffered from and remember us even after we die. I feel even more strongly because this year marks the 60th anniversary of Korea's independence from Japan. I am strongly asking you to make your every effort to have the Japanese government come forward and resolve this issue before we die.