

Dear Sirs,



As news reported on Oct 5th 2012, South Korean singer Jang-hoon Kim and Prof. Kyoung-duk Seo organized an event to erect a poster “Do You Remember” in New York’s Times Square. This was in an attempt to spread the negative image of Japanese Army during World War II.

For Koreans who is campaigning ill image of Japan for decades, the portrait of former German chancellor Willy Brandt making his “silent apology” at Jewish ghetto monument in Warsaw in 1971 is rather convenient.

Koreans' intention to get attention to what they call “Comfort Women” is simply irritation to many Japanese. Despite apologies taken places privately and by the Japanese government, the compensation for former comfort women, or other efforts such as Asian Women's Fund, Koreans has no intention of forgiveness. Furthermore, they are obsessed with fake stories to blame institutional involvement for the coerces or even abductions of women.

In November 2012, in order to help bringing justice and put the end of this endless nonsense, an advertisement was placed in New Jersey Star Leger which listed facts of “Comfort Women”. The advertisement is attached as well as the booklet to explain why their allegations are wrong.

Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. We are to cherish and share our growth and prosperity of the region together for years to come. Our partnership should not never be affected by these cheap lies.

Sincerely,

ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT

The purpose of this paid public comment is to present historical facts.

Yes, we remember the facts.

This is an objection advertisement of the “Do you remember?” ad which is currently being posted in Times square. (P.S. It was also posted on the New York Times in May this year as well) We are here to convey the truth, based on actual historical facts and data achieved as a result of years of research. And before you move on, let us please introduce you a videoclip which we believe is indispensable to the basic understanding of this issue.

“Sex, Lies, and Comfort Women”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwv2qDJ57SY8>

Fact 1 No historical document has ever been found by historians or research organizations that positively demonstrates that women were forced against their will into prostitution by the Japanese army. A search of the archives of the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, which houses archives taken from the government and military leaders, turned up nothing indicating that women were forcibly made up to work as sex slaves. On the contrary, many documents were found warning strict leaders not to force women to work against their will.

Army memorandum 2197, issued on March 4, 1918, explicitly prohibits recruiting methods that fraudulently employ the army's name or that can be classified as abductions, warning that those employing such methods have been punished. A House Affairs Ministry directive (number 77) issued on February 13, 1918, states that the recruitment of “comfort women” must be in compliance with international law and prohibits the enslavement of abductees of women. A directive (number 176) issued on November 4 the same year, moreover, orders that only women who are 21 years old or over and are already professionally engaged in the trade may be recruited as “comfort women.” It also requires the approval of the woman's family or relatives.

A historian who claims that the number of “comfort women” reached 200,000 – a contention frequently quoted in the US media – believes, on the other hand, that the documentation offers proof of the army's active involvement.



Army memo number 2197, issued on March 4, 1918

Fact 2 There are many newspaper articles, however, that demonstrate that these directives were dutifully carried out. The August 31, 1919, issue of Dong-A Ilbo, published in Korea, reports of traders who forced women to become earth against their will being punished by the local police, which was under Japanese jurisdiction at the time. This offers proof that the Japanese government dealt severely with instances contrary against women.



Unscrupulous Brokers Run Rampant - Abduction of Rural Women and Girls
More than 100 Women, Youngest From Police Officers Desk Off in Manila

Fact 3 The infants who were embroiled with the Japanese army were not, as is commonly reported, “sex slaves.” They were working under a system of licensed prostitution that was commonplace around the world at the time. Many of the women, in fact, earned incomes far in excess of what were paid to field officers and even generals (as reported by the United States Office of War Information, Psychological Warfare Team Attached to U.S. Army Forces, India-Burma Theater, APO 890), and there are many testimonies attesting to the fact that they were treated well.

Sadly, many women were made to suffer severe hardships during the wretched era during World War II, and it is with profound regret that we contemplate this tragic, historical reality. At the same time, we must note that it is a gross and deliberate distortion of reality to contend that the Japanese army was guilty of “coercing young women into sexual slavery” or “one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century,” as the House Resolution claims. After all, two-fifth of the approximately 20,000 infants during the war were Japanese women, as detailed in an academic paper by historian Ikuhiko Hata.

We are interested, foremost, in showing the truth with the American public. Criticism for events that actually occurred must be humbly embraced. However, any sort of apology over falsified information or fabrication of history will not only harm the fair and a balanced justice within the society, but also destabilize the Japan-U.S ties and friendships. We ask only that the facts be objectively regarded so that we may share a correct perception of history.

Assentors

The Democratic Party of Japan: Noboru Fukushima, Hideo Hamada, Yoshio Kuroki, Juji Marukawa, Noboru Mitsu, Kenji Nakayama, Takashi Nagai, Masami Nakahara, Kenji Taniuchi, Shiro Watanabe, Isamu Yoshida

<http://tinyurl.com/nadeshikoaction>