

Yes, we remember the facts.

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

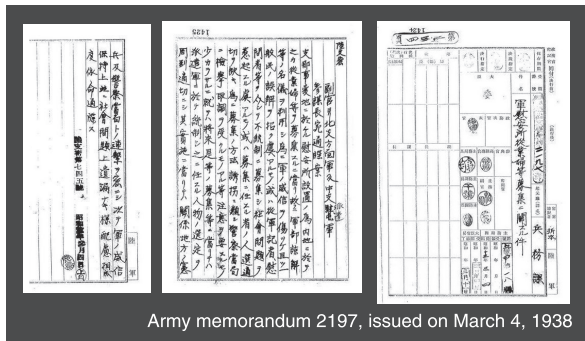
"Sex, Lies, and Comfort Women"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwv2qDJ57SY&>

Fact 1 No historical document has ever been found by historians or research organizations that positively demonstrates that women were forced against their will into prostitution by the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 at the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, which houses wartime orders from the government and military leaders, turned up nothing indicating that women were forcibly rounded up to work as *ianfu*, or comfort women." On the contrary, many documents were found warning private brokers not to force women to work against their will.

Army memorandum 2197, issued on March 4, 1938, explicitly prohibits recruiting methods that fraudulently employ the army's name or that can be classified as abduction, warning that those employing such methods have been punished. A Home Affairs Ministry directive (number 77) issued on February 18, 1938, states that the recruitment of "comfort women" must be in compliance with international law and prohibits the enslavement of abduction of women. A directive (number 136) issued on November 8 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 memorandum offers proof of the army's active involvement.



Army memorandum 2197, issued on March 4, 1938

Please read a compelling essay on comfort women written by a historian and a former professor of Nihon University, Ikuhiko Hata. (Posted on the "Monthly Shokun Magazine" May 2007)

"TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE DEMONSTRATING THAT THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED OR FORCED RECRUITMENT: MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT COMFORT WOMEN AND THE JAPANESE MILITARY"

http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_1/31_S4.pdf

Also, if you are eager to look further into the truth, we strongly recommend Tokyo Christian University Professor Tsutomu Nishioka's book "The truth of Comfort Women" (Soshisha Publishing/2007), which was written based on convincing proofs. "BEHIND THE COMFORT WOMEN CONTROVERSY"

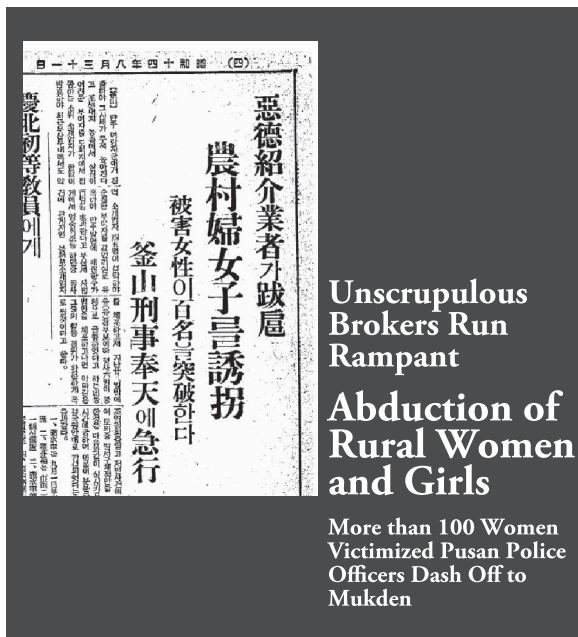
http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_1/39_S4.pdf

Committee for the Historical Facts

*THE TRUTH ABOUT THE COMFORT WOMEN:

http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_1/84_S4.pdf

Fact 2 There are many newspaper articles, moreover, that demonstrate that these directives were dutifully carried out. The August 31, 1939, issue of Dong-A Ilbo, published in Korea, reports of brokers who forced women to become *ianfu* 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 inhumane crimes against women.



Unscrupulous Brokers Run Rampant Abduction of Rural Women and Girls

More than 100 Women Victimized Pusan Police Officers Dash Off to Mukden

Fact 3 The *ianfu* who were embedded 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 689), and there are many testimonies attesting to the fact that they were treated well.

Sadly, many women were made to suffered 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" in "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 *ianfu* during the war were Japanese women, as detailed in an academic paper by historian Ikuhiko Hata.

We are interested, foremost, in sharing 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 friendship. We ask only that the Facts be objectively regarded so that we may share a correct perception of history.

Assentors

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We, the undersigned members of the Committee for Historical Facts, endorse the public comment presented above

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