

Dr. G.W. Kimura, President, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Kimura:

I understand that your organization is showing a movie Called "Silence Broken"

As indicated

by [http://laapff.festpro.com/films/detail/silence\\_broken\\_korean\\_comfort\\_women\\_2016](http://laapff.festpro.com/films/detail/silence_broken_korean_comfort_women_2016)

As a part of the Asian Film Festival. I regret to say that I am vehemently opposed to this showing.

As you may have noted in the recent past, some Korean organizations in the United States are trying to spread the view that Japan forcibly recruited many Korean women during the war, 1937 through 1945, and made them sex-slaves to serve for Japanese soldiers.

They call this an issue of human rights. This film is one of the films produced to spread this view in the United States and the world.

However, this view has been created in order to make a sensation to the people unfamiliar with the situation. The entire Comfort Women stories spread from these organizations are not based on historical facts. Rather, they have been fabricated to dishonor the Japanese. Their objective is to give the Americans and other people that the Japanese are cruel and exploitative, and to plant a feeling of distrust to Japan in the minds of people in the world. Thus, the film is a typical propaganda film for the Koreans.

Let me go further on the issue of fabrication of the Comfort Women stories. It is indeed true that there were Comfort Women associated with Japanese military.

The Japanese military developed this system for protecting the soldiers from the venereal diseases and to protect the women in the neighborhood of the military camps, because soldiers of any country would try to have access to sexual activities. So, the Japanese military established a set of strict rules which should be followed by the private sector business people and Comfort Women as well. The military did not recruit women, but private business people recruited. In some cases, parents "sold" their daughters to the recruiters. This happened when the family was deep in debt. The parents received money from the recruiter. In these case, the women recruited had to stay with the Comfort Women system until she was able to pay back the debt. This was more or less half a year. There was no "hunting" of women as described by Seiji Yoshida in

his famous book "My War Crimes" published in 1983. This book has been totally discredited. It was not based on historical facts, but was a novel.

Second, the Comfort Women had a fairly good life. The most reliable source of information is the report by the U.S. Office of War Information Psychological Warfare Team's Japanese Prisoner of War Interrogation Report No. 49, prepared in 1944. This report is based on interviews with 20 Korean Comfort Women in Burma, and states that Comfort Women had a rather luxurious life, being able to purchase fairly expensive items, having leisure time, had close relationship with soldiers (some got married with soldiers), were able to refuse the customers if she did not like, and received health check up every week by military doctors. If one is found sick, she would not be allowed to work until the disease is cured. They generally made good income, and some were able to buy several houses when they went home.

Despite such generous treatment, some Korean organizations (with the backup by the government of the Republic of Korea until the Japan-South Korea Agreement which was announced on December 28, 2015) have been insisting that Comfort Women had miserable and harsh experience, and have been accusing the government of Japan. There is an organization in South Korea (Heavily influenced by the government of North Korea) which are controlling most of ex-Comfort Women. This organization is holding a demonstration on every Wednesday in Seoul in front of the Embassy of Japan in Seoul, mobilizing ex-Comfort Women, protesting the government of Japan. This same organization is urging some Korean organizations in the U.S. and other countries to erect statues of Comfort Women such as in the City of Glendale, California. This organization instructs ex-Comfort Women what they should be telling the general public and what they should not say. The confessions in the film must have been according to the scripts provided by this organization.

Thus, to show this film to the public by the Japanese American National Museum implies that JANM is in agreement with the Korean organizations such as KAFC in the policy of dishonoring Japan and the Japanese people, or that JANM is not aware of international political movements which are going on around the U.S. Thus, I sincerely urge you to cancel the showing of this film at JANM.

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