

Where Should We Cast the First Stone in Condemning War Crimes?

By Jim Smith

(From John 8)

Protecting a woman about to be stoned for adultery by people Jesus perceived as hypocrites, Jesus said, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

Do we have prostitution in SF? Did a now-defunct progressive SF newspaper, for many years, earn a great deal of revenue from prostitution advertising?

Has prostitution been associated with the U.S. military? **Did the U.S. Army and Navy forces avail themselves of the comforts provided by prostitutes throughout Asia in the postwar period?** Did any of our Asian allies in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Vietnam make money off prostitution set up to serve U.S. forces?

Has prostitution increased or decreased in China since Deng Hsiao-ping came to power? Do girls from poor farming families in China come to Shanghai and sometimes end up as prostitutes?

In the 1960s, a different type of Chinese government issued statements—often on Radio Peking—saying that “The U.S. imperialists are worse than Hitler.” Any idea why they used such strong language? Were they justified? That was during the Vietnam War, when U.S. imperialist forces attacked the Vietnamese people. **Were there brothels in Vietnam serving U.S. troops in those days?**

Do we have a monument to Vietnamese victims of U.S. imperialist atrocities?

We do have a monument in Washington DC honoring U.S. military war dead. Is there any monument in Washington in memory of Vietnamese women and children killed by U.S. bombing?

The Japanese government and Japanese conservative political leaders are attacked for visiting Yasukuni, a shrine honoring Japanese war dead, including military fighters some would call war criminals.

Does San Francisco have a monument glorifying U.S. imperialism and colonialism in Asia?

At Union Square, on May 13, 1903, Theodore Roosevelt dedicated a monument to the U.S. Navy's victory on May 1, 1898, when Commodore George Dewey steamed into Manila Bay in the Philippines; 200,000 San Franciscans crowded the streets to see the event. The Chronicle's editorial page, declared that “. . . this city is destined to become the future seat of empire.”

Atop an 83-foot column, sculptor Robert Aitken designed a 12-foot statue of Victory carrying a laurel wreath in one hand and Neptune's trident in the other. The SF municipal report of 1901 explained that Dewey "added glory to American arms and gave the United States a position in the world as one of the great powers, thus extending American influence and exalting American citizenship.

Today imperialist rivalry between Chinese imperialists on one side and Japanese and U.S. imperialists on the other is intensifying. China and Japan are in an arms race. Each government is mounting propaganda campaigns against the other. **Could some of the impetus for monuments to victims of Japanese war crimes come from Chinese imperialist rivals?** Millions of Japanese citizens are disgusted by the

activities of Prime Minister Abe, Osaka Mayor Hashimoto and other right-wing Japanese politicians and academics who deny Japanese war crimes and promote Japanese patriotism and imperialism.

Do we have any right-wing pro-imperialist politicians in the U.S.? In San Francisco?

Do we have any monuments in the city to victims of U.S. war crimes?

I would urge the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to think a little more deeply about these issues and hold off on monuments to **particular sets of victims of war crimes committed by non-U.S. forces**. We should particularly hold off on such monuments while we have a disgraceful monument glorifying U.S. imperialism in the center of our city.

In the early 1900s, Filipinos resisted American occupiers, sustaining heavy casualties. Stanley Karnow, in his history of the islands, "In Our Image," wrote that **"an estimated 200,000 people died, the overwhelming majority of them Filipino civilians."**

We should be concerned about war crimes, and the brutality of the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy inflicted on "comfort women," including Chinese, Korean AND Japanese women should be condemned. **But if we want to condemn war crimes in Asia, shouldn't we first address our own war crimes.** The annual observances of the dropping of Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are approaching. **Was the killing of more than 100,000 civilians with two atomic bombs justified? Or was that a war crime?** Arguments saying it was justified are regularly made in our history textbooks and on our big city newspaper editorial pages.

He who is w/o sin cast the first stone.

Our time and efforts can be better spent on working for international unity against imperialism be it Chinese, Japanese or American. **Let's start by getting rid of the Dewey Monument and cancelling the Blue Angels festival. We can also discuss developing a peace park with proper monuments and exhibits in memory of all victims of imperialist war.**

James B. Smith
1985 Grove Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
Email: luckyj67@gmail.com

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Caldeira, Rick (BOS)
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 9:28 AM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS); BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: FW: RE: Resolution Based on Propaganda
Attachments: comfort women 1.pdf; comfort women 2.pdf; comfort women 3.pdf; comfort women 4.pdf; comfort women 5.pdf; comfort women 6.pdf; comfort women 7.pdf

Categories: 150764

For File No. 150764

-----Original Message-----

From: KATO Ken [mailto:kenkato.hra@nifty.com]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 9:27 PM
To: Caldeira, Rick (BOS)
Subject: Re: RE: Resolution Based on Propaganda

Dear Deputy Director Caldeira,

Thank you very much for including my message in the file.

I would very much appreciate it if you could also include the attached documents to the file. These are interrogation report on "comfort women" by the U.S. Office of War Information Psychological Warfare Team in 1944, and is the most important document on this issue written by a trustworthy third party officials.

Today's meeting of the Board of Supervisors has been reported by Japan's major newspaper the Sankei Shimbun, with a circulation of 1.61 million, on its front page and millions of Japanese people are watching it very closely.

<http://www.sankei.com/world/news/150719/wor1507190022-n1.html>

I am hoping that the Board of Supervisors will show discretion and fairness in looking into what really happened 70 years ago.

Yours truly,

Ken Kato
Director, Human Rights in Asia

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>From: "Caldeira, Rick (BOS)" <rick.caldeira@sfgov.org>
>To: KATO Ken <kenkato.hra@nifty.com>
>Subject: RE: Resolution Based on Propaganda
>Date: Mon, 20 Jul 2015 15:48:11 +0000
>
>
>Your e-mail has been received and included in File No. 150764.
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>Subject: Resolution Based on Propaganda

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>Dear Deputy Director Caldeira,

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>I have learned that the Board of Supervisors is going to adopt a resolution tomorrow that urges the City and County of San Francisco to establish a memorial for so called "comfort women."

><https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=3866247&GUID=1B765573-9914-45FE-8F03-B40036DAF02D>

>

>Regrettably, the issue is riddled with propaganda and I urge that you refer to reliable official documents, such as U.S. Army report written in 1944, in order to ascertain the veracity of the claims and avoid defaming U.S. ally on false charges. The issue has become a major human rights problem for the Japanese people who have been suffering from defamation campaigns.

>

>Many South Korean people, influenced by fictional TV dramas and cartoons, believe the women were forced to become sex workers, however, documentary evidence show that there was no Korean woman forced to become a sex worker by the Japanese authorities. They were very well paid and according to a U.S. Army document, some even married to Japanese soldiers.

>In a reply to a parliamentary question, the Japanese government stated on 16 March 2007 that they found no evidence of coercion by the Japanese authorities in recruiting "comfort women". Until now, there is no evidence to the contrary despite extensive and thorough researches conducted by various actors.

>

>Testimonies made by former "comfort women" change from time to time and sometimes contradict historical facts. For example, one of the most famous former "comfort women" Ms Kim Hak-sun told the media and the Tokyo District Court in Japan that she was sold to a Korean brothel by her mother, and then three years later her step father sold her to a brothel used by Japanese soldiers. However, she later changed her testimony and told the media: "A commissioned officer took me to the next room which was partitioned off by a cloth. Even though I did not want to go he dragged me into the room. I resisted but he tore off all of my clothes and in the end he took my virginity. That night, the officer raped me twice." She accused Japan of making her a sex slave.

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>It is true that many Korean "comfort women" had hard time after the Second World War. In 1992 a former "comfort woman" Ms Moon Ok-ju sued the Japanese government demanding to pay back her postal savings she deposited in just a few years until 1945 and the amount was 26,145 Japanese Yen which is equivalent to US\$1,000,000 today. Many Japanese people, including ethnic Korean Japanese, lost their savings after the war owing to hyperinflation and I feel sympathy for "comfort women" who endured the hardship.

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>However, the Japanese government cannot compensate for their losses. Japan and South Korea signed the Treaty on Basic Relations on 22 June 1965 and in the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the ROK, both countries agreed that it has been "settled completely and finally."

><http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~worldjpn/documents/texts/JPKR/19650622.T9>

>E.html After receiving tens of billions of dollars (in current value)

>from the Japanese government, South Korea's military government lead by the incumbent president Pak Geun Hye's father paid only a small amount to individuals seeking reparations, but Japan cannot intervene on South Korea's legal affairs and cannot be responsible for the action of the military government. This is basically South Korea's internal affairs.

>

>An interrogation report by the U.S. Office of War Information Psychological Warfare Team in 1944 tells us the truth about "comfort women". You can see it on the website of Mr. Tony Marano in Texas who received it from the National Archives.

><http://texas-daddy.com/comfortwomen.htm>

>It says very clearly: "A 'comfort girl' is nothing more than a prostitute or 'professional camp follower'"

>Their lifestyle was: "They lived in near-luxury in Burma in comparison to other places. This was especially true of their second year in Burma. They lived well because their food and material was not heavily rationed and they had plenty of money with which to purchase desired articles. They were able to buy cloth, shoes, cigarettes, and cosmetics to supplement the many gifts given to them by soldiers who had received 'comfort bags' from home.

>While in Burma they amused themselves by participating in sports events with both officers and men, and attended picnics, entertainments, and social dinners. They had a phonograph and in the towns they were allowed to go shopping."

>It was amazing for me to find out that: "However there were numerous instances of proposals of marriage and in certain cases marriages actually took place."

>However, for humanitarian grounds, the Japanese government cannot announce the fact that "comfort women" were well-paid prostitutes, and Japan's consideration for the old women has been taken advantage of by North and South Korea.

>

>I hope you would understand that the Japanese government's position is based on the rule of law. Japan already made an unlawful compromise and paid a huge amount in the 1990s and 2000s, and cannot bend the Treaty or deny historical facts anymore.

>

>

>South Korean media estimated that there are about 100,000 South Korean sex workers in the U.S., the EU, Australia and Japan and hundreds of thousands in their home country nowadays, but they cannot save one million dollars in just a few years like "comfort women". In 2011, South Korean sex workers threatened to set themselves on fire in a demonstration to protect their brothels and one protestor complained her earnings have plunged from as much as \$9,200 a month to about \$3,700 after police crackdown.

>http://www.nbcnews.com/id/43650531/ns/world_news-asia_pacific/t/s-korea

>n-sex-workers-threaten-set-themselves-fire-protect-their-brothels/

>Decades later, South Korean sex workers in San Francisco might demand apology and compensation from the U.S. government.

>

>Finally, I would like to point out that raising the issue of military prostitution is not in the interest of the U.S. In 1945 when the U.S. military occupied Japan, something called the Recreation and Amusement Association was established in Japan for U.S. soldiers. I do not want to go further and I hope you will not ignite a row over it.

>

>Thank you for your consideration,

>

>Yours truly,

>

>Ken Kato

>Director, Human Rights in Asia

>

>

>P.S. If evidence emerged that "comfort women" were forced to become sex workers by the Japanese authorities, the Japanese government will certainly make a formal apology. I will be the first one to strongly demand it.

>Until such evidence emerges, accusations based on inconsistent testimonies are defamation.

Classified: *[Handwritten Signature]*

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
Psychological Warfare Team
Attached to U.S. Army Forces India-Burma Theater.
APO 689

Japanese Prisoner of War Interrogation Report No. 49. Place interrogated: Lodo Stockade Date interrogated: Aug. 20 - Sept. 10, 1944 Date of Report: October 1, 1944 By: T/3 Alex Yoricchi

Prisoners: 20 Korean Comfort Girls Date of Capture: August 10, 1944 Date of Arrival at Stockade: August 15, 1944

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PREFACE:

This report is based on the information obtained from the interrogation of twenty Korean "comfort girls" and two Japanese civilians captured around the tenth of August, 1944 in the mopping up operations after the fall of Myitkyina in Burma.

The report shows how the Japanese recruited these Korean "comfort girls", the conditions under which they lived and worked, their relations with and reaction to the Japanese soldier, and their understanding of the military situation.

A "comfort girl" is nothing more than a prostitute or "professional camp follower" attached to the Japanese Army for the benefit of the soldiers. The word "comfort girl" is peculiar to the Japanese. Other reports show the "comfort girls" have been found wherever it was necessary for the Japanese Army to fight. This report however deals only with the Korean "comfort girls" recruited by the Japanese and attached to their Army in Burma. The Japanese are reported to have shipped some 703 of these girls to Burma in 1942.

RECRUITING:

Early in May of 1942 Japanese agents arrived in Korea for the purpose of enlisting Korean girls for "comfort service" in newly conquered Japanese territories in Southeast Asia. The nature of this "service" was not specified but it was assumed to be work connected with visiting the wounded in hospitals, rolling bandages, and generally making the soldiers happy. The inducement used by these agents was plenty of money, an opportunity to pay off the family debts, easy work, and the prospect of a new life in a new land - Singapore. On the basis of these false representations many girls enlisted for overseas duty and were rewarded with an advance of a few hundred yen.

The majority of the girls were ignorant and uneducated, although a few had been connected with "oldest profession on earth" before. The contract they signed bound them to Army regulations and to work for the "house master" for a period of from six months to a year depending on the family debt for which they were advanced.

DECLASSIFIED BY: *[Handwritten Signature]*
JCS DECLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

DATE: 1973

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Approximately 800 of these girls were recruited in this manner and they landed with their Japanese "house master" at Rangoon around August 20th, 1942. They came in groups of from eight to twenty-two. From here they were distributed to various parts of Burma, usually to fair sized towns near Japanese Army camps. Eventually four of these units reached the Myitkyina vicinity. They were; Kyoel, Kinsui, Bakushinro, and Momoya. The Kyoel house was called the "Maruyama Club", but was changed when the girls reached Myitkyina as Col. Maruyama, commander of the garrison at Myitkyina, objected to the similarity to his name.

PERSONALITY:

The interrogations show the average Korean "comfort girl" to be about twenty five years old, uneducated, childish, whimsical, and selfish. She is not pretty either by Japanese or Caucasian standards. She is inclined to be egotistical and likes to talk about herself. Her attitude in front of strangers is quiet and demure, but she "knows the wiles of a woman." She claims to dislike her "profession" and would rather not talk either about it or her family. Because of the kind treatment she received as a prisoner from American soldiers at Myitkyina and Ledo, she feels that they are more emotional than Japanese soldiers. She is afraid of Chinese and Indian troops.

LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

In Myitkyina the girls were usually quartered in a large two story house (usually a school building) with a separate room for each girl. There each girl lived, slept, and transacted business. In Myitkyina their food was prepared by and purchased from the "house master" as they received no regular ration from the Japanese Army. They lived in near-luxury in Burma in comparison to other places. This was especially true of their second year in Burma. They lived well because their food and material was not heavily rationed and they had plenty of money with which to purchase desired articles. They were able to buy cloth, shoes, cigarettes, and cosmetics to supplement the many gifts given to them by soldiers who had received "comfort bags" from home.

While in Burma they amused themselves by participating in sports events with both officers and men; and attended picnics, entertainments, and social dinners. They had a phonograph; and in the towns they were allowed to go shopping.

PRICE SYSTEM:

The conditions under which they transacted business were regulated by the Army, and in congested areas regulations were strictly enforced. The Army found it necessary in congested areas to install a system of prices, priorities, and schedules for the various units operating in a particular area. According to interrogations the average system was as follows:

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1. Soldiers	10 AM to 5 PM	1.50 yen	20 to 30 minutes
2. NCOs	5 PM to 9 PM	3.00 yen	30 to 40 minutes
3. Officers	9 PM to 12 PM	5.00 yen	30 to 40 minutes

These were average prices in Central Burma. Officers were allowed to stay overnight for twenty yen. In Myitkyina Col. Maruyama slashed the prices to almost one-half of the average price.

SCHEDULES:

The soldiers often complained about congestion in the houses. On many occasions they were not served and had to leave as the army was very strict about overstaying leave. In order to overcome this problem the Army set aside certain days for certain units. Usually two men from the unit for the day were stationed at the house to identify soldiers. A roving MP was also on hand to keep order. Following is the schedule used by the "Kyooi" house for the various units of the 18th Division while at Naymyo:

Sunday	-----	18th Div. Hdqs. Staff
Monday	-----	Cavalry
Tuesday	-----	Engineers
Wednesday	-----	Day off and weekly physical exam.
Thursday	-----	Medics
Friday	-----	Mountain artillery
Saturday	-----	Transport

Officers were allowed to come seven nights a week. The girls complained that even with the schedule congestion was so great that they could not care for all guests, thus causing ill feeling among many of the soldiers.

Soldiers would come to the house, pay the price and get tickets of cardboard about two inches square with the price on the left side and the name of the house on the other side. Each soldier's identity or rank was then established after which he "took his turn in line". The girls were allowed the prerogative of refusing a customer. This was often done if the person were too drunk.

PAY AND LIVING CONDITIONS:

The "house master" received fifty to sixty per cent of the girls' gross earnings depending on how much of a debt each girl had incurred when she signed her contract. This meant that in an average month a girl would gross about fifteen hundred yen. She turned over seven hundred and fifty to the "master". Many "masters" made life very difficult for the girls by charging them high prices for food and other articles.

In the latter part of 1943 the Army issued orders that certain girls who had paid their debt could return home. Some of the girls were thus allowed to return to Korea.

The interrogations further show that the health of these girls was good. They were well supplied with all types of contraceptives, and often soldiers would bring their own which

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had been supplied by the army. They were well trained in looting after both themselves and customers in the matter of hygiene. A regular Japanese Army doctor visited the houses once a week and any girl found diseased was given treatment, secluded, and eventually sent to a hospital. This same procedure was carried on within the ranks of the Army itself, but it is interesting to note that a soldier did not lose pay during the period he was confined.

REACTIONS TO JAPANESE SOLDIERS:

In their relations with the Japanese officers and men only two names of any consequence came out of interrogations. They were those of Col. Maruyama, commander of the garrison at Myitkyina, and Maj.Gen. Mizukami, who brought in reinforcements. The two were exact opposites. The former was hard, selfish and repulsive with no consideration for his men; the latter a good, kind man and a fine soldier, with the utmost consideration for those who worked under him. The Colonel was a constant habitue of the houses while the General was never known to have visited them. With the fall of Myitkyina, Col. Maruyama supposedly deserted while Gen. Mizukami committed suicide because he could not evacuate the men.

SOLDIERS' REACTIONS:

The average Japanese soldier is embarrassed about being seen in a "comfort house" according to one of the girls who said, "when the place is packed he is apt to be ashamed if he has to wait in line for his turn". However there were numerous instances of proposals of marriage and in certain cases marriages actually took place.

All the girls agreed that the worst officers and men who came to see them were those who were drunk and leaving for the front the following day. But all likewise agreed that even though very drunk the Japanese soldier never discussed military matters or secrets with them. Though the girls might start the conversation about some military matter the officer or enlisted man would not talk, but would in fact "scold us for discussing such un-lady like subjects. Even Col. Maruyama when drunk would never discuss such matters."

The soldiers would often express how much they enjoyed receiving magazines, letters and newspapers from home. They also mentioned the receipt of "comfort bags" filled with canned goods, magazines, soap, handkerchiefs, toothbrush, miniature doll, lipstick, and wooden clogs. The lipstick and clogs were definitely feminine and the girls couldn't understand why the people at home were sending such articles. They speculated that the sender could only have had themselves or the "native girls" in mind.

REACTION TO THE MILITARY SITUATION:

It appears that they knew very little about the military situation around Myitkyina even up to and including the time of

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their retreat and capture. There is however some information worth noting:

"In the initial attack on Myitkyina and the air strip about two hundred Japanese died in battle, leaving about two hundred to defend the town. Ammunition was very low.

"Col. Maruyama dispersed his men. During the following days the enemy were shooting haphazardly everywhere. It was a waste since they didn't seem to aim at any particular thing. The Japanese soldiers on the other hand had orders to fire one shot at a time and only when they were sure of a hit."

Before the enemy attacked on the west air strip, soldiers stationed around Myitkyina were dispatched elsewhere to stem the Allied attack in the North and West. About four hundred men were left behind, largely from the 114th Regiment. Evidently Col. Maruyama did not expect the town to be attacked. Later Maj. Gen. Mizukami of the 56th Division brought in reinforcements of more than two regiments but these were unable to hold the town.

It was the consensus among the girls that Allied bombings were intense and frightening and because of them they spent most of their last days in foxholes. One or two even carried on work there. The comfort houses were bombed and several of the girls were wounded and killed.

RETREAT AND CAPTURE,

The story of the retreat and final capture of the "comfort girls" is somewhat vague and confused in their own minds. From various reports it appears that the following occurred: on the night of July 31st a party of sixty three people including the "comfort girls" of three houses (Pakushinro was merged with Kinsui), families, and helpers, started across the Irrawaddy River in small boats. They eventually landed somewhere near Waingnaw. They stayed there until August 4th, but never entered Waingnaw. From there they followed in the path of a group of soldiers until August 7th when there was a skirmish with the enemy and the party split up. The girls were ordered to follow the soldiers after a three hour interval. They did this only to find themselves on the bank of a river with no sign of the soldiers or any means of crossing. They remained in a nearby house until August 10th when they were captured by Kachin soldiers led by an English officer. They were taken to Myitkyina and then to the Leda stockade where the interrogations which form the basis of this report took place.

PROPAGANDA:

The girls know practically nothing of any propaganda leaflets that had been used against the Japanese. They had seen a few leaflets in the hands of the soldiers but most of them were unable to understand them as they were in Japanese and the soldiers refused to discuss them with the girls. One girl

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remembered the leaflet about Col. Maruyama (apparently it was Myitkyina Troop Appeal), but she did not believe it. Others heard the soldiers discussing leaflets from time to time but no tangible remarks resulted from their eavesdropping. However it is interesting to note that one officer expressed the view that "Japan can't win this war".

REQUESTS:

None of the girls appeared to have heard the loudspeaker used at Myitkyina, but they did overhear the soldiers mention a "radio broadcast".

They asked that leaflets telling of the capture of the "Comfort girls" should not be used for it would endanger the lives of other girls if the Army knew of their capture. They did think it would be a good idea to utilize the fact of their capture in any droppings planned for Korea.

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APPENDIX "A"

Following are the names of the twenty Korean "comfort girls" and the two Japanese civilians interrogated to obtain the information used in this report. The Korean names are phoneticized.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. Shin Jyun Nimi	21	Keishonando, Shinshu
2. Kak Yonja	28	" Sanzampo, Yantai
3. Pen Yonja	26	" Shinshu
4. Chinga Chunto	21	Keishohokudo, Taikyū
5. Chun Yonja	27	Keishonando, Shinshu
6. Kim Manju	25	Keishohokudo, Taikyū
7. Kim Yonja	19	" "
8. Kim Kenja	25	Keishonando, Hosen
9. Kim Sanni	21	" Kumboku
10. Kim Kun Sun	22	" Taikyū
11. Kim Chongi	26	" Shinshu
12. Pa Kija	27	" "
13. Chun Punyi	21	" Keisan Sun, Koyachū Jūrō
14. Koko Sunyi	21	" Kōgyō, Sekiboku Jū, Kyū Ruri
15. Yon Muji	31	Heiannando, Keijo
16. Opu Ni	20	" "
17. Kin Tonhi	20	Keikido, Keijo
18. Ha Tonyo	21	" "
19. Oki Song	20	Keishohokudo, Taikyū
20. Kim Gupogo	21	Zonranando, Koshu

Japanese Civilians:

1. Kitamura, Tomiko	38	Keikido, Keijo
2. " Eibun	41	" "

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Their lifestyle was: “They lived in near-luxury in Burma in comparison to other places. This was especially true of their second year in Burma. They lived well because their food and material was not heavily rationed and they had plenty of money with which to purchase desired articles. They were able to buy cloth, shoes, cigarettes, and cosmetics to supplement the many gifts given to them by soldiers who had received ‘comfort bags’ from home.

While in Burma they amused themselves by participating in sports events with both officers and men, and attended picnics, entertainments, and social dinners. They had a phonograph and in the towns they were allowed to go shopping.”

It was amazing for me to find out that: “However there were numerous instances of proposals of marriage and in certain cases marriages actually took place.”

However, for humanitarian grounds, the Japanese government cannot announce the fact that “comfort women” were well-paid prostitutes, and Japan’s consideration for the old women has been taken advantage of by North and South Korea.

I hope you would understand that the Japanese government's position is based on the rule of law. Japan already made an unlawful compromise and paid a huge amount in the 1990s and 2000s, and cannot bend the Treaty or deny historical facts anymore.

South Korean media estimated that there are about 100,000 South Korean sex workers in the U.S., the EU, Australia and Japan and hundreds of thousands in their home country nowadays, but they cannot save one million dollars in just a few years like “comfort women”. In 2011, South Korean sex workers threatened to set themselves on fire in a demonstration to protect their brothels and one protestor complained her earnings have plunged from as much as \$9,200 a month to about \$3,700 after police crackdown.

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/43650531/ns/world_news-asia_pacific/t/s-korean-sex-workers-threaten-set-themselves-fire-protect-their-brothels/

Decades later, South Korean sex workers in San Francisco might demand apology and compensation from the U.S. government.

Finally, I would like to point out that raising the issue of military prostitution is not in the interest of the U.S. In 1945 when the U.S. military occupied Japan, something called the Recreation and Amusement Association was established in Japan for U.S. soldiers. I do not want to go further and I hope you will not ignite a row over it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Ken Kato
Director, Human Rights in Asia

P.S. If evidence emerged that “comfort women” were forced to become sex workers by the Japanese authorities, the Japanese government will certainly make a formal apology. I will be the first one to strongly demand it. Until such evidence emerges, accusations based on inconsistent testimonies are defamation.

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 11:04 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 150764 FW: Anti-Japanese Racism By SF Board of Supervisors
Attachments: ltr-comfort%20women-1.docx

Categories: 150764

From: Dana Sack [mailto:ds@sackrosendin.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2015 6:10 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Subject: Anti-Japanese Racism By SF Board of Supervisors

Dana Sack
One Kaiser Plaza, Suite 340
Oakland CA 94612
510-286-2200
ds@sackrosendin.com

July 16, 2015

Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco CA 94102

Re: Resolution No. 130632 – Bashing Japanese Citizens Over WWII

Dear Supervisors:

Please vote No on the racist anti-Japanese motion regarding the war crimes committed by the fascist government which took over Japan and drove its people to war. That government was conquered. That government is gone. The current people of Japan have had a constitution dedicated to peace ever since, and have abided by the literal terms and the principles which it represents.

Why do members of the Board of Supervisors believe that it is alright to insult the current peaceful people of Japan, and not pass similar resolutions and build similar monuments to the Native Americans and Africans slaughtered and enslaved by Americans, or the Tibetans and Uighurs attacked by the Chinese, or the Native Americans slaughtered and enslaved by the Spanish throughout Central and South America, or Christians and Jews slaughtered and exiled throughout the Arab world? Why single out the Japanese living today for conduct by people long dead and a government conquered, its leaders imprisoned and executed?

I am a native San Franciscan and the product of San Francisco schools and one of its universities. I majored in Chinese history and politics in college.

This resolution will not solve any problem and will not promote better relations among any of the parties. It will encourage anti-Japanese passions in Korea and China, and it will insult and demean the peaceful people of Japan. It could even promote and encourage a fascist movement in Japan which has been a fringe element since the war. This resolution will make the problem and the bad feelings in that part of the world worse.

Please do the right thing and vote no.

Very truly yours,

Dana Sack

Dana Sack

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 11:05 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 150764 FW: Resolution Based on Propaganda

Categories: 150764

-----Original Message-----

From: KATO Ken [mailto:kenkato.hra@nifty.com]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 7:50 AM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Subject: Resolution Based on Propaganda

Dear Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,

I have learned that the Board of Supervisors is going to adopt a resolution tomorrow that urges the City and County of San Francisco to establish a memorial for so called "comfort women."

<https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=3866247&GUID=1B765573-9914-45FE-8F03-B40036DAF02D>

Regrettably, the issue is riddled with propaganda and I urge that you refer to reliable official documents, such as U.S. Army report written in 1944, in order to ascertain the veracity of the claims and avoid defaming U.S. ally on false charges. The issue has become a major human rights problem for the Japanese people who have been suffering from defamation campaigns.

Many South Korean people, influenced by fictional TV dramas and cartoons, believe the women were forced to become sex workers, however, documentary evidence show that there was no Korean woman forced to become a sex worker by the Japanese authorities. They were very well paid and according to a U.S. Army document, some even married to Japanese soldiers.

In a reply to a parliamentary question, the Japanese government stated on 16 March 2007 that they found no evidence of coercion by the Japanese authorities in recruiting "comfort women". Until now, there is no evidence to the contrary despite extensive and thorough researches conducted by various actors.

Testimonies made by former "comfort women" change from time to time and sometimes contradict historical facts. For example, one of the most famous former "comfort women" Ms Kim Hak-sun told the media and the Tokyo District Court in Japan that she was sold to a Korean brothel by her mother, and then three years later her step father sold her to a brothel used by Japanese soldiers. However, she later changed her testimony and told the media: "A commissioned officer took me to the next room which was partitioned off by a cloth. Even though I did not want to go he dragged me into the room. I resisted but he tore off all of my clothes and in the end he took my virginity. That night, the officer raped me twice." She accused Japan of making her a sex slave.

It is true that many Korean "comfort women" had hard time after the Second World War. In 1992 a former "comfort woman" Ms Moon Ok-ju sued the Japanese government demanding to pay back her postal savings she deposited in just a few years until 1945 and the amount was 26,145 Japanese Yen which is equivalent to US\$1,000,000 today. Many Japanese people, including ethnic Korean Japanese, lost their savings after the war owing to hyperinflation and I feel sympathy for "comfort women" who endured the hardship.

However, the Japanese government cannot compensate for their losses. Japan and South Korea signed the Treaty on Basic Relations on 22 June 1965 and in the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the ROK, both countries agreed that it has been "settled completely and finally."

<http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~worldjpn/documents/texts/JPKR/19650622.T9E.html>

After receiving tens of billions of dollars (in current value) from the Japanese government, South Korea's military government lead by the incumbent president Pak Geun Hye's father paid only a small amount to individuals seeking reparations, but Japan cannot intervene on South Korea's legal affairs and cannot be responsible for the action of the military government. This is basically South Korea's internal affairs.

An interrogation report by the U.S. Office of War Information Psychological Warfare Team in 1944 tells us the truth about "comfort women". You can see it on the website of Mr. Tony Marano in Texas who received it from the National Archives.

<http://texas-daddy.com/comfortwomen.htm>

It says very clearly: "A 'comfort girl' is nothing more than a prostitute or 'professional camp follower'"

Their lifestyle was: "They lived in near-luxury in Burma in comparison to other places. This was especially true of their second year in Burma. They lived well because their food and material was not heavily rationed and they had plenty of money with which to purchase desired articles. They were able to buy cloth, shoes, cigarettes, and cosmetics to supplement the many gifts given to them by soldiers who had received 'comfort bags' from home.

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It was amazing for me to find out that: "However there were numerous instances of proposals of marriage and in certain cases marriages actually took place."

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P.S. If evidence emerged that “comfort women” were forced to become sex workers by the Japanese authorities, the Japanese government will certainly make a formal apology. I will be the first one to strongly demand it. Until such evidence emerges, accusations based on inconsistent testimonies are defamation.

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 11:07 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 150764 FW: Letter in support of Resolution #72
Attachments: SF_CW_support.pdf
Categories: 150764

From: yukoyukoyukoyuko@gmail.com [mailto:yukoyukoyukoyuko@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** SANS Nuclear
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 8:09 AM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS); Lee, Mayor (MYR)
Subject: Letter in support of Resolution #72

July 20th, 2015

Mayor Edwin Lee

City and County of San Francisco

City Hall, Room 200

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mayor Lee and the Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to you in support of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for building a memorial to commemorate of the victims of "Comfort Women" system.

We are NYC-based group of activists and researchers organizing educational programs and actions for social and environmental justice. We are deeply troubled by Japanese Nationalists in Japan as well as in the US who are attempting to revise the history of "Comfort Women" system. They claim that the memorial is an attack on Japanese Americans, and that similar memorials elsewhere in the U.S. have resulted in widespread hate crimes against Japanese residents, even though no such incident has been reported to authorities.

We are sure that you are already receiving a great number of messages from Japanese far-right groups in opposition to the proposed memorial. We want to assure you that these antagonistic nationalists and historical revisionists do not speak for the Japanese-American communities.

We appreciate your interest in addressing this very important issue, and we recognize your efforts as one of the important steps to learn lessons from the atrocities advanced by colonialism. We hope that the Board of Supervisors will express full support for the victims and survivors of the women harmed in the "comfort women" system.

Sincerely,

Members of Sloths Against Nuclear State

Sloths Against Nuclear State
227 E 7th Street Apt 7G
Brooklyn, NY 11218

July 20th, 2015

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City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

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Sincerely,
Members of Sloths Against Nuclear State

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 11:08 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation, (BOS)
Subject: File 150764 FW: In Support of Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women"
Attachments: SF_CW_BOS.pdf
Categories: 150764

From: yukoyukoyukoyuko@gmail.com [mailto:yukoyukoyukoyuko@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** SANS Nuclear
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 8:28 AM
To: BreedStaff, (BOS); Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Subject: In Support of Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women"

July 20th, 2015

The Honorable London Breed
President of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

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Members of Sloths Against Nuclear State

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Sloths Against Nuclear State

227 E 7th Street Apt 7G

Brooklyn, NY 11218

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Brooklyn, NY 11218

July 20th, 2015

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City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
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San Francisco, California 94102

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