

October 27, 2017

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

We, the citizens and residents of Japan wish for the construction of genuine peace through Japanese government's resolution of the history of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery (or "Comfort Women") system among other acts of imperial aggression waged by Japan during WWII. As such, we were deeply moved by the erection of the Comfort Women Memorial in San Francisco through the acts of solidarity among the people of San Francisco and their supporters, namely from the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese American Diasporic communities and others, as part of an effort to remember the history, sharing in their wish for the resolution of the "Comfort Women" issue, towards eradication of all violence against girls and women. We celebrated your unveiling of the memorial from afar.

However, on September 29, 2017, only a week after the historic unveiling of the memorial, Mayor Hirofumi Yoshimura of Osaka issued an open letter to San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee, demanding that San Francisco reject the memorial, and even threatening that otherwise, he would be compelled to terminate the sister city relationship with San Francisco. We can hardly contain our shock and indignation.

Not only that, we have learned that the San Francisco-based Consul General of Japan, Jun Yamada, insisted that the "Comfort Women" memorial is based on one-sided 'facts' and that a historical perspective grounded in them do not reflect that of Japan's masses. We unequivocally state that this is an inaccurate assertion on his part.

Statements made by Mayor Yoshimura and Consul General Yamada contradict the *Kono* Statement, which was adopted by Japan's Cabinet, and must not be tolerated as coming from a public official of Japan. Furthermore, their statements deny the very existence of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery system, ignoring mounting evidence as a result of many years of rigorous research, investigation and scholarship, as well as the testimonies of the victim survivors themselves, and thus, constitute historical denialism.

On October 13, 2017, with endorsement of 59 organizations throughout Japan, we submitted a written protest letter to Mayor Yoshimura, urging him to immediately halt his pressure on San Francisco. Mayor Yoshimura's acts that resort to political pressure on the City of San Francisco do not reflect the will and the wishes of his Osaka City constituents. We had also denounced the 2015 bilateral "agreement" between South Korea and Japan

on strongest terms on the basis of our belief that it does not lead to a genuine solution of the issue.

We hereby reiterate to you, that we are in unequivocal support of the Comfort Women Memorial establishment in San Francisco, and would like to express our sincerest gratitude and admiration for the will of the people of San Francisco towards this effort.

To accept the gift of the Comfort Women Memorial as a public memorial in San Francisco is our shared sincerest wish, grounded in our vision of a world in which all women's human rights will be respected. We hope that you will all cast your votes to accept the gift of the Comfort Women Memorial from the Comfort Women Justice Coalition on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco.

Signed:

Osaka Residents (surname, given name)

Kawaguti Kouiti

Kishimoto Junko

Higuti You

Kohasi Miho

Kohasi Eiko

Fuzibayasi Kenzi

Arimoto Masaaki

Kitahata Chiyo

Nakazawa Kouji

Yokomichi Akiko

YANG Wooja

Tuzi Mayumi

Ohno Hiroko

Oh Minsuk

Nagasawa Tamie

Bunya Yoshito

Lim Bangja

Tatsumi Yuko

Kobayashi Hiroko

LEE CHEOL

YamamotoTo Tsuneo

YOO YOUNGSOO

Sumitani Akira

Yamada Takatsugu

Honda Teturo

Hong Hyohaeng

Lee Wolsoon

Hirai Mitsuko

Ikura Kaeko

Kanamoto Yasuyoshi

Nakamura Yoshimasa

Tamaki Masahiko

Kim Yanmi

No Henji

CHO CHANGSIK

SHIN JYONG JA

HYON YUMI

XUCUIZHEJ

Mihashi Hideko

Hoshikawa Yohji

Hagiwara Enoo

Sato Nobuko

OH WOOGYEON

BANG CHUNGJA

Osaka Prefecture (excluding Osaka City)

Fujimoto Katsuyo, Higashi Osaka City

Suyama Kiyoko, Moriguchi City

Taima Taeko, Toyonaka City

Kado Taeko, Hirakata City

Suzuki Takashi, Suita City

Nishikawa Takeo, Suita City

Shimizu Kiyoko, Takatsuki City

Tanaka Naoko, Toyonaka City

Mito Kiyoko, Takatsuki City

Matsunoo Kaoru, Ibaraki City

Niimi Masuko, Izumisano City

SEO Yuna, Toyonaka City

Makino Yoshinari, Sakai City
Hasegawa Kumiko, Takatsuki City
Ohto Hiroshi, Suita City
Omura Sunao, Hirakata City
Omura Kazuko, Hirakata City
Onji Tsunenobu, Minoh City
Kitagawa Kyoko, Minoh City
Nishimura Masayoshi, Suita City
Nishimura Sumiko, Suita City
Mizuno Minoru, Matsubara City
Kobayashi Akemi, Sakai City
Futaki Yoko, Takatsuki City
Kuroda Shizuyo, Suita City
Yamada Kouichi, Hirakata City
Nakagawa Kayoko, Toyonaka City
TaniTomoe, Sakai City
Imae Hiroyuki, Sakai City
Okada Dai, Moriguchi City
Matsuda Mikio, Hirakata City
Yamaguchi Hiroshi, Moriguchi City
KIM KYUNGMI, Tondabayashi City
Sako Kazuko, Takatsuki City
Nakakita Ryutarou, Osaka
Nomura Hisashi, Osaka
Nakano Fuyumi, Osaka
Kuroda Kaoru, Osaka

Outside of Osaka

Ishihara Eizi, Kobe, Hyogo
Matsui Kazuko, Gifu
Matsui Eisuke, Gifu
KIM Puja, Tokyo
Nakajima Yasuko, Yokohama
Tanaka Tohru, Shiga
Ago Kenji, Fukuoka
Kobayashi Hisatomo, Sapporo, Hokkaido
Kuno Ayako, Nagoya

Shiroyama Daiken, Hiroshima
Oshiharu Yoneda, Kyoto
Ohga Mieko, Kyoto
Mori Kazume, Takarazuka
Takemoto Noboru, Mie
Yamagata Junko, Shimonoseki
Yoneda Chiyoko, Takarazuka
Uenishi Sozo, Kitakyushu
Ikeda Yoshihiro, Kobe
Noguchi Chieko, Kitakyushu
Yokohara Yukio, Hiroshima
Kise Keiko, Kawasaki
Tsuzuki Sumie, Fukuyama
Maruta Takayoshi, Nagano
Yamashita Akiko, Kyoto
Yasuhara Keiko, Tokyo
Ikeda Eriko, Tokyo
Sekiguchi Akiko, Tokorozawa
Okumura Hiroshi, Hiroshima
Nishida Chizu, Kyoto
Fujii Katsuhiko, Nagoya
Iguchi Nariko, Takarazuka
Taba Sachiko, Tokyo
Taba Hirokazu, Tokyo
Kitamura Megumi, Hiroshima
YANG AISUN, Nara
Okahara Michiko, Hiroshima
Akiyoshi Kyoko, Ashiya
Sasaki Nobuyoshi, Amagasaki
Nakamura Takeshi, Nishinomiya
Yakabi Fumiko, Tokyo
Ito Taeko, Kyoto
Kitada Michiko, Kobe
Okauchi Yoshie, Kobe
KIM TAEHONG, Kobe
MITANI JUNKO, Amagasaki
Hirade Masato, Amagasaki
Hamaguchi Katuhiko, Kitakyushu

Hamaguchi Mariko, Kitakyushu
Kishi Naoto, Hiroshima
Mizutani Masanobu, Aichi
Anzai Reiko, Gifu
Anzai Tatuhiro, Gifu
Iwata Asako, Nagoya
Kogure Mitutsi, Nara
Kogure Humiko, Nara
Kubota Satoshi, Gifu
Kubota Mitie, Seto
Oonisi Yutaka, Nagoya
Nomura Masao, Gifu
Gotou Terumi, Gifu
Hayasi Kimiko, Gifu
Sugiyama Nanako, Aichi
Seo Hideyuki, Hokkaido
Isita Sotosige, Gifu
Isigouoka Hideko, Tokyo
Jae Bok Son, Nagoya
Anzai Sino, Tokyo
Misina Hiroko, Gifu
Terao Koumi, Saitama
Doi Keiko, Hiroshima
Nishi Kinya, Kobe
Adachi Katsuro, Nishinomiya
Fukada Keiko, Kobe
Awai Eiji, Ashiya
Yorinobu Naoe, Hiroshima
Mikami Wataru, Kitakyushu
Mikami Sachiko, Kitakyushu
Yokota Jun, Hiroshima
Iwaki Shunichi, Tokyo
Shiba Yoko, Saitama
Horie Setsuko, Toyama
Itou Kazuyuki, Yokkaichi
Gotou Shouzi, Nagano
Okuda Kazuhiro, Kyoto
Nemoto Masaru, Tochigi

Morikawa Shizuko, Saitama
Tsubokawa Hiroko, Tokyo
Iwamura Yoshio, Kobe
Inoue June, Nishinomiya
Shibasaki Haruko, Tokyo
Sato Chiyoko, Tokyo
Yasuda Chise, Tokyo
Minakami Sae, Hokkaido
Niwa Masayo, Tokyo
Ichiba Keiko, Okayama
Kwak Jinwoong, Kyoto
Nezu Kimiko, Tokyo
Ono Kyoko, Nara
Tai Eika, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

Respectfully submitted,

Bang Chungja, pang_c7@tuba.ocn.ne.jp, Osaka City, Japan