

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