



**Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic  
of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other  
International Organizations in Geneva**

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Chairman,

This year, the Korean people celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of liberation of Korea, which ended nearly half a century of Japanese occupation following the defeat of Japan in the Second World War.

Crimes against humanity committed by Japan against our people during its occupation of Korea, whose precedent cannot be found in the world history, will never be forgotten by the Koreans and world people.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK delegation would like to refer to the issue of "comfort women" for Japanese military once again.

Although the world people have been familiar with the word "comfort women" for the Japanese military, they know less about the gravity of the sexual slavery committed by Japan and the real intention and behaviour of Japan that denies the legal responsibility for its past crimes.

My delegation takes this opportunity to draw the attention of this Commission once again to the attitude of Japan which attempts to bury behind the black curtain its past crime through distortion, covering up and deception.

As is well known, Japan had committed crime of "comfort women" before and during the Second World War, mobilizing its government and military power in accordance with its wartime national policy. This constitutes the most organized and systematic crime against humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

In 1996, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, the then Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, defined the "comfort women" system run by Japanese military as a crime of "military sexual slavery" and recommended the Japanese government to accept legal responsibility for the crime, make a public apology and pay compensation to the victims, ensure the correct reflection of historical realities in educational curricular and punish the perpetrators (E/CN.4/1996/ 53/Add.1).

Nearly 10 years have elapsed since then. However, her recommendations have not been implemented as yet, due to the persistent denial by the Japanese government.

Worse still, Japan has insistently claimed unreasonable argument that the "wartime rape was not a war crime or a crime against humanity" (E/CN.4/2003/75). Meanwhile, it attempted to evade its state responsibility for the crime by offering "consolatory money" through a civilian fund. This is the true nature of Japan, which thinks that money can smooth down the crimes.

Japan remains unchanged in its real intention of denying its state responsibility and, in particular, even refusing to acknowledge its crime-woven history.

In history textbooks approved by the Japanese authorities, such atrocities as crime of "comfort women" committed by Japan in Korea and other Asian countries were deleted, and the war criminals were praised as "national heroes".

High-ranking Japanese officials and politicians are not hesitant to beautify its criminal past and even defame the victims of "comfort women" system by describing them as "prostitutes". They even take the lead in officially visiting "Yasukuni" shrine to pay tribute to the war criminals who established the "comfort women" system and committed inhumane evil-doings against the victims.

Moreover, on April 5, the Japanese authorities, in defiance of strong denunciation of the international community over the distortion of history by Japan, approved the history textbooks which totally distorted or deleted the crime-woven history.

Inspiration of war criminal-worship by the Japanese authorities among new generations is clearly aimed at realizing its ambition of militaristic reinvasion of other nations.

Starting point for Japan to be a responsible member of international community lies in clear and total liquidation of its past stained with blood of other nations.

The DPRK delegation once again strongly urges Japan to accept the legal responsibility, make sincere apology and compensate for its overall past crimes including Japanese military sexual slavery it forced upon 200,000 women and girls, forcible drafting of 8.4 million and genocidal massacre of 1 million Koreans.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.