

Press Conference by KIM Byung-heon, Director of the Korean History Textbook Research Institute, at Demonstration for Removal of the Comfort Woman Statue

<https://youtu.be/ZnWorSfhGs0?t=859>

Anti-Japan Statue Removal Demonstration Series (Part 12) Tuesday, May 15, 2020

**Emergency Press Conference for Inquiring into the Fact of the Comfort Woman Statue in front of the (Former) Embassy of Japan in Korea
by KIM Byung-heon, Director of the Korean History Textbook Research Institute**

(Address)

As I delve into the situation concerning Ms. LEE Yong-soo,

**an issue concerning finances is involved
and various other regrettable things as well
but this misses the core of the problem.**

What I mean is that it misses the essential point.

What is the essential point?

**The essential point is that both the ruling party and the opposition
basically believe
that comfort women were victims of Japanese imperialism.**

**However, this is obviously
a lie.**

**These comfort women were neither victims of Japanese imperialism
nor victims of the Japanese army.**

**When there is a victim, there is always a perpetrator
but was the perpetrator the Japanese army? Or Japanese imperialism?
Absurd!**

**The victims were women
who were born, in those days in a poverty stricken country called Korea**

and sold by their own parents.

**Ms. KIM Hak-sun, the first of those who came out as a comfort woman,
was sold for 40 won.**

To whom? A Korean human trafficker.

**How much was KIL Won-ok, for whom the KIL Won-ok Peace Award was
named, sold for?**

Twenty won.

If they were sold, who were the buyers? Korean Human traffickers.

**These human traffickers bought women
for 20 won or 40 won
and resold them.**

**When they were resold, other buyers resold them
again and again,
their price
rising enormously--100 won, 200 won
and even 2000 won or 5000 won.**

**And the point is that these women
never knew how much they were sold for.**

Then, they were taken away.

By whom?

In the end, these women were deprived of their freedom

by owners of houses of prostitution.

**And these women were taken to brothels in various parts of the country
and, if business within Korea was difficult,
they were taken to faraway battlefields.**

**There was no reason for the Japanese army
to have dragged Korean women along.**

**Why not? Because prostitute owners took these women anywhere
so as long as it was profitable.**

**The Japanese soldiers receive regular pay.
For prostitute owners,
Japanese soldiers are their best customers.**

**That is why they go anywhere:
Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia...you name it.**

**Therefore, those behind the comfort women were not
the Japanese army or Japanese imperialism
but destitute Korean parents, human traffickers and prostitute owners.**

**Now, if these women need to blame someone,
they should note the fact that they were born in poverty-stricken Korea.**

**In this impoverished country, it was impossible
to protect people.
They should be angry at the fact that they were born a poor family.**

**Needy parents were unable to care for their children
and sold them like commodities.**

**Without reflecting of our shameful history
why are we proud of erecting comfort woman statutes
all over the world?**

**Is a comfort woman an embodiment of justice?
How can a comfort woman be an apostle of peace?**

**What we are doing now
is bringing international shame on ourselves.**

**Those without discretion or good sense
are saying things that are disgraceful!**

**They do not even understand
the comfort women! They must have a good understanding
of the issue before they open their mouths!**

That's all for now.