

Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact

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The Honorable Mike Honda
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0515

RE: An Open letter to Representative Honda

Dear Representative Honda:

On January 31, 2007 you, along with six other Representatives, submitted House Resolution 121, which calls on the Japanese government to apologize for having forced young women to become sex slaves during World War II, to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The import of Resolution 121 is identical to that of Resolution 759, which expired in committee last year.

On September 28, 2006, we sent the attached letter to all members of the House of Representatives. In it, we indicated that the accusations in Resolution 759 were exceedingly unjust and based on gross distortions of historical fact. Accordingly, we find it very difficult to comprehend your reasons for submitting this resolution.. We strongly urge you to withdraw it without delay.

If you choose not to withdraw Resolution 121, you must shoulder the burden of *disproving* historical fact as outlined in the aforementioned letter. The persons referred to as "comfort women" were prostitutes (a legal profession at the time) working in brothels; they were indisputably not coerced to engage in such activities by the Japanese military.

We would like to draw particular attention to excerpts from two *official U.S. military records* cited in our letter. The first is a report issued by the United States Office of War Information, Psychological Warfare Team Attached to U.S. Army Forces, India-Burma Theater, which states that "comfort girls" are nothing more than a prostitute or professional "camp follower", and the girls' average total monthly earnings were 1,500 yen, and 750 yen went to their master. (The monthly salary of a sergeant in the

Japanese Army at the time was 30 yen; thus, the prostitutes made over 25 times more!)

The second can be found in depositions taken from three Korean civilian employees of the Japanese army, who stated the following: In the battle zones of the Pacific War, the Korean comfort women we met were all either volunteers, or women who had been sold by their parents. If the women had been victims of coercion, all the Koreans both young and old would have risen up in rage, and regardless of whatever retaliation, killed the Japanese (from Composite Report on Three Korean Civilians, List No. 78, dated 28 March 1945, "Special Question on Koreans" in the U.S. National Archives).

We also attach a research paper that describes the comfort women, and how misunderstandings about them originated in Japan and grew into an international problem of monumental proportions. It also discusses how the various nations involved in the Pacific War dealt with the sexual needs of their military personnel in battle zones. It is our fervent hope that you will read it and the other attachment, and, thus, arrive at an accurate understanding of the comfort women and their circumstances.

We appeal to your wisdom and sense of justice, as this is a matter of honor for us, as Japanese, and also affects the human rights of all concerned. We look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

KASE Hideaki
Chairman