



COMPROMISE  
FOR  
GIRLS



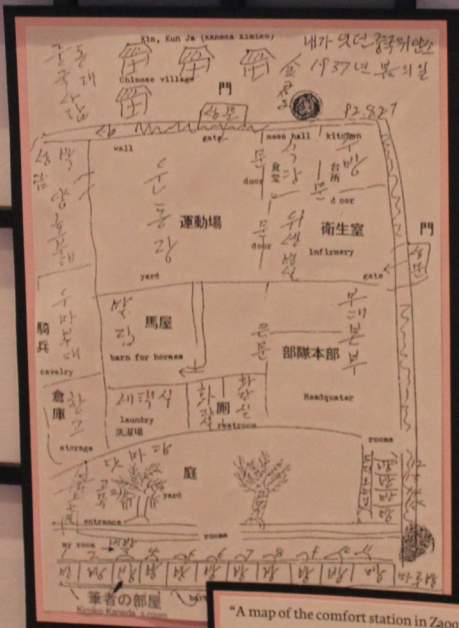






"Chinese and Malaysian women forcibly relocated from Penang in Malaysia by the Japanese to work as "comfort women" are liberated by the British on South Andaman Island, Port Blair, South Andaman Island, Andaman Islands, India. October 1945." (oldpicsarchive.com)

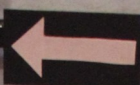
# Accounts of Comfort Women



"A map of the comfort station in Zaoqing, as drawn by Kimiko Kaneda" (Kaneda)







**Kimiko Kaneda**

"Kimiko Kaneda was born in Tokyo on October 22, 1921... When she was 16 years old, she went to Seoul for better employment on the recommendation of her friend who worked as a housemaid for a Japanese family. Led by a Japanese man, she was put on a train to go from Seoul to Tianjin, China, then from Tianjin via Peitan to Zaoqiang. There she was forced to be a comfort woman for the Japanese military... Her life during childhood was difficult and solitary. Out of the wish to forget her pains, she became an opium addict and in 1945 was allowed to return to Korea. After the war, she had to go through an operation in which she lost her womb. In January 1997, Harmoni Kimiko Kaneda became one of the first recipients of the atonement project of the AWF in South Korea. She passed away on January 27, 2005," (AWF).



**Maria Rosa Henson**

"Maria Rosa L. Henson was born in Pasay City on December 5, 1927... In February 1942... while she went to fetch firewood with her uncles and neighbors for her family, she was caught and raped by three Japanese, one of whom seemed to be an officer... After two weeks she was again raped by the same Japanese officer while fetching firewood. In April 1943 she was arrested by Japanese at a checkpoint in the suburbs of Angeles and taken to the garrison. There she was forced to be a comfort woman... Maria Rosa Henson passed away on August 18, 1997," (AWF)



The Photo shows the women who were forced to be comfort women during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Photo by the American War Relocation Authority.







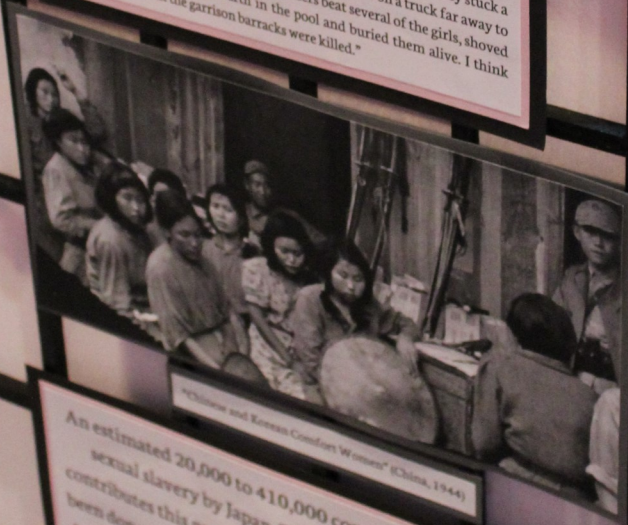


# Living in Slavery

"It's easy to kill you all, easier than killing dogs. Since those Korean girls are crying because they have not eaten, boil the human flesh and make them eat it."  
— Japanese Company Commander Yamamoto

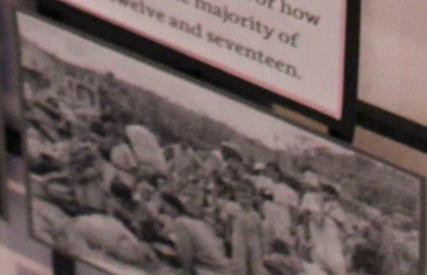
## Chong Ok-Sun remarks her wartime experiences:

"One day in June, at age thirteen, a Japanese garrison soldier surprised me and took me away... I was taken to the police station in a truck, where I was raped by several policemen. When I shouted, they put socks in my mouth and continued to rape me. The head of the police station hit me in my left eye because I was crying. That day I lost my eyesight in the left eye... I was taken to the Japanese army garrison barracks in Heysan City. There were around 400 other young Korean girls with me and we had to serve over 5,000 Japanese soldiers as sex slaves every day - up to 40 men per day. Each time I protested, they hit me or stuffed rags in my mouth. One held a matchstick to my private parts until I obeyed him. My private parts were oozing with blood. One Korean girl who was with us once demanded why we had to serve so many... To punish her for her questioning, the Japanese company commander Yamamoto ordered her to be beaten with a sword. While we were watching, they took off her clothes, tied her legs and hands and rolled her over a board with nails until the nails were covered with blood and pieces of her flesh. In the end, they cut off her head. One Korean girl caught a venereal disease from being raped so often... In order to stop the disease from spreading and to 'sterilize' the Korean girl, they stuck a hot iron bar in her private parts. The soldiers beat several of the girls, shoved them into the water, heaped earth in the pool and buried them alive. I think over half the girls at the garrison barracks were killed."



"Chinese and Korean Comfort Women" (China, 1944)

An estimated 20,000 to 410,000 comfort girls were forced into sexual slavery by Japan. The Asian Women's Fund (AWF) contributes this gap in statistics to the lack of a "survey [that] has been done to determine accurately how many women were taken to the comfort stations of the former Japanese military... or how many did not return from the battlefields." The majority of comfort girls were between the ages of twelve and seventeen.



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"We have a culture where raping women and girls is not taken seriously...  
We need to understand their place in history. We need to make sure it never happens again."  
— Writer M. Evelina Galang

## Women are NOT War Supplies

Before and during World War II,  
the Japanese military enslaved thousands of  
Korean girls in "comfort stations" around Asia.  
These women were forced into prostitution to  
service Japanese troops. While a compromise  
between Korea and Japan attempted to remediate  
Japan's iniquity, the two governments have failed  
to resolve the conflict and provide adequate  
compensation for former comfort women.

## Japanese Sovereignty

Japan expanded its empire extensively during  
the Second World War. Korean citizens, under Japanese  
influence since 1910, were subject to Japanese military orders.  
Seeking a solution for repeated rapes in China, Japanese  
Kempeitai captured and tricked young girls into prostitution.

"[Comfort women] were needed to boost the spirit of the troops,  
keep law and order, and prevent rape and venereal disease."  
— Japanese Department of War directive, 1938



"Park Yun-Nyun" (Kangni 77)

"In 1943, when she was 17 years old, Park Yun-Nyun was deceived by a  
friend who said she could make a lot of money working as a nurse for  
Japanese soldiers. Instead, she was handed over to a gang, together with six  
"comfort women" for soldiers in the Kanto region of Japan along with six  
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"Park Yoo-Nyun" (Koogle TV)

"In 1941, when she was 19 years old, Park Yoo-Nyun was deceived by a friend who said she could make a lot of money working as a nurse for Japanese soldiers. Instead, she was handed over to a press gang supplying 'comfort women' for soldiers in the Kanto region of Japan along with six other Korean women. Park was forced into sexual slavery in Singapore until Japan's surrender in 1945 and returned to Korea when it became liberated. She lived first in Busan and then in Paju, Gyeonggi Province, selling wild greens to make ends meet." (Koogle TV)

"On December 13, 1937, Japanese troops began a six-week-long massacre that essentially destroyed the Chinese city of Nanking. Along the way, Japanese troops raped between 20,000 and 80,000 Chinese women. The mass rapes horrified the world, and Emperor Hirohito was concerned with its impact on Japan's image." (Blakemore). Seeking prevention of another massacre, Japan increased its number of comfort stations.



A black and white photograph showing a group of women in military-style uniforms standing in a line. They are wearing dark, heavy coats and caps. The background is dark and indistinct.



An estimated 20,000 women were forced into sexual slavery by Japan during the Second World War. It has been difficult to determine the exact number of women who were taken to the comfort stations of the Japanese Empire. Many of the women from the comfort stations were taken to...



“Korea was liberated from Japan's 35-year colonial rule on August 15, 1945, at the end of World War II,” (Donnelly).

Not all surviving comfort girls found freedom upon the war's conclusion. Thousands of women were forced to service American men when the United States occupied Japan. It was not until January of 2017 that the Seoul Central District Court acknowledged these claims by former comfort women, demanding the US and South Korean government apologize and pay survivors a considerable sum for their suffering.

“The compensation may be minimal, but more meaningful is the message that victory would send, potentially amounting to an admission of government responsibility for coerced prostitution that served the US military,” (Cain).

“... the Japanese government denied that women had been forced to work at comfort stations and maintained that it was never involved in operating comfort stations,” (Horn).



“This Is The Business Of The Asian Women's Fund”











"Letter from the prime minister of Japan to comfort women,  
translated to English" (MOFA, 1996)



"Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohsei Kono" (AWE)

"Undeniably, this was an act, with the involvement of the military authorities of the day,  
that severely injured the honor and dignity of many women. The Government of Japan  
would like to take this opportunity to extend its sincere apologies and remorse to all those,  
irrespective of place of origin, who suffered immeasurable pain and incurable physical and  
psychological wounds as comfort women."  
— Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohsei Kono, 1993



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohsei Kono (right) and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (left) during a press conference in 2013.

In 2013, Japan and Korea agreed on a compromise that Japan  
would pay 1 billion yen to the families of comfort women.  
Korea agreed to drop all negotiations with Japan over the apology,  
acknowledging the role of the Japanese government.



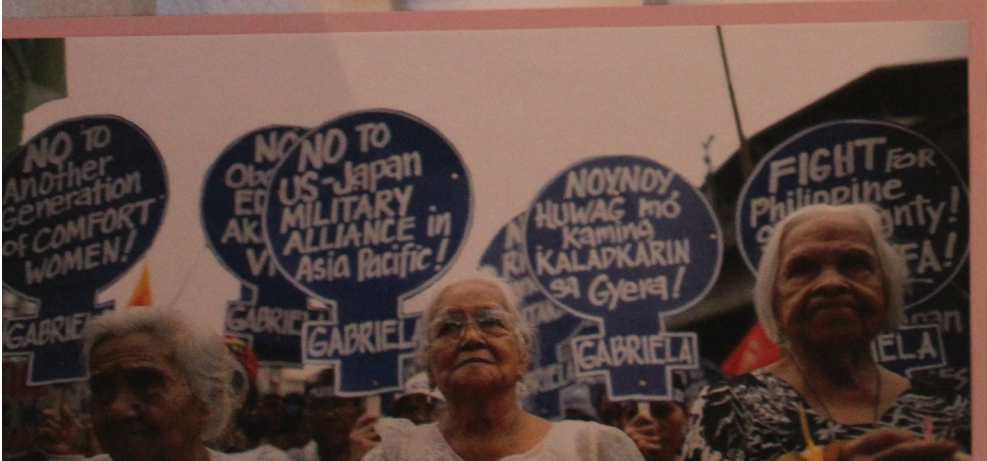
# The Conflicts of Compromise



"Lolas protest in front of the Japanese Embassy on August 14, 2015," (Mosbergen).

Surviving comfort women, totaling less than 100 in number, fought against the inadequate compromise, feeling that their torture had been disregarded as an opportunity for unnecessary diplomacy.

"Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan said that a 2015 deal with South Korea to make reparations for sexual slavery in World War II was 'a promise between countries,' and called a request for further apology 'unacceptable,'" (Rich).





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"Lolas protest near the Malacanang Palace in Manila, where visiting Japanese Emperor Akihito met President of the Philippines Benigno S. Aquino III on Jan. 27, 2016," (Mosbergen).

"Their demand of Japan is that it includes in its historical accounts, such as school textbooks, the history surrounding the women who were forced to work in military brothels in order to educate present and future generations," (Japan Times).



"Filipina 'comfort woman,' a sex slave for the Japanese Imperial army during World War II, holds an origami paper peace crane as she participates in a protest near the Malacanang Palace in Manila, 2016," (Ifra).





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"Filipina 'comfort woman,' a sex slave for the Japanese Imperial army during World War II, holds an origami paper peace crane as she participates in a protest near the Malacanang Palace in Manila, 2016," (Hua).



"An old woman holds origami cranes during a rally in Manila, the Philippines, January 27, 2016. A group of Philippine comfort women during World War II held a protest rally outside Malacanang, the presidential palace, as Philippine President Rodrigo S. Duterte III met with visiting Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko," (Hua).



The group of Philippine comfort women during World War II held a protest rally outside Malacanang, the presidential palace, as Philippine President Rodrigo S. Duterte III met with visiting Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, January 27, 2016.

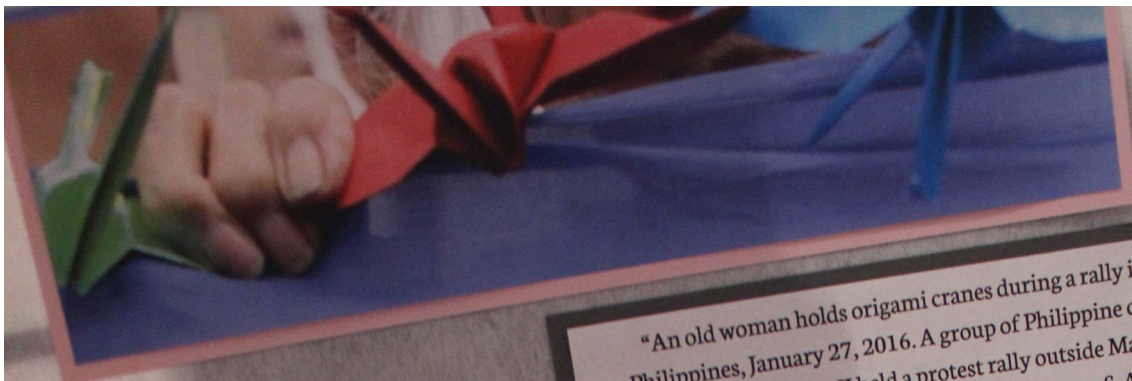


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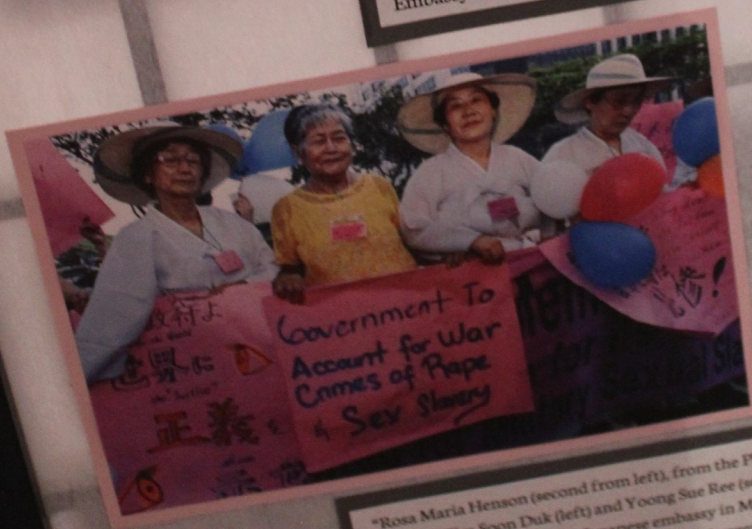




"An old woman holds origami cranes during a rally in Manila, the Philippines, January 27, 2016. A group of Philippine comfort women during World War II held a protest rally outside Malacanang, the presidential palace, as Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III met with visiting Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko," (Hua).



"A group of women, who survived being forced into brothels set up by the Japanese military during World War II, protesting in front of the Japanese Embassy in 2000, demanding an apology for their enslavement," (Blakemore).



"Rosa Maria Henson (second from left), from the Philippines, joins Korean "comfort women" Kim Soon Duk (left) and Yoong Sue Ree (second from right) during a protest rally staged in front of the Japanese embassy in Manila in 1996. Henson died a year later," (Mosbergen).







"South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha addresses her statement during the High-Level Segment of the 37th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland," (Japan Times).

"Tokyo criticized Seoul on Tuesday after South Korea's foreign minister raised at a U.N. committee concerns about a 2015 bilateral deal on "comfort women" who were forced to work in Japan's wartime military brothels," (Japan Times).

In February of this year, Korea mentioned comfort women at a United Nations meeting. Japan responded by verbally attacking Korea, which had broken the compromise made three years earlier (Donnelly).





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"Richelda Extremadura (right), executive director of Lila Pilipina, or the League of Filipino Women, an organization of former 'comfort women' and their supporters, assists Filipino victims at a forum Friday in suburban Quezon City, northeast of Manila. The event was held ahead of this week's five-day state visit to the Philippines by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko," (Filipino 'Comfort Women' Want Plight Raised With Emperor).







“South Korea activists pose with comfort woman statue during a 72nd Liberation Day rally in front of Japanese embassy on August 15, 2017, in Seoul, South Korea,” (Donnelly).

Protesters argue that proper retribution has yet to be achieved, and in association with the Me Too movement, comfort women may finally receive the proper apology and reassurance they deserve.



“A statue in a San Francisco park depicting Japanese World War II-era sex slaves called ‘comfort women’ has angered Japanese officials who want to erect the decades-old statue unless the statue is taken down,” (Donnelly).





"A statue in a San Francisco park depicting Japanese World War II-era sex slaves called 'Comfort Women' has angered Japanese officials who want to sever the decades-old sister city relationship with San Francisco unless the statue is taken down," (Donnelly).

"The statue was originally erected in 2011 in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul and regarded as the symbol of the sex slaves forced into service by the Japanese Imperial Army during the WWII," (Do)

Protests continue to be held in defense of living former women, who now total less than 24.



"A statue of a teenage girl symbolizing the former 'comfort women' who served as sex slaves for wartime Japanese soldiers is seen last year in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul," (Japan Times).

"We have yet to receive real justice. We were so young, but a lot was already taken from us. We lost our dignity. We weren't able to go to school. We suffered under the Japanese soldiers."  
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"We are..."





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"We are in for a very steep fight, and only a few of us remain to continue. We can only solve this through dialogue and harmony. We want to hear directly from the government leaders. Many have died without the taste of justice. We are now very old, time is running out. Until there is a compromise, we are fighting two battles; our own and the enemy."  
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