



# Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

APWLD NGO on the Roster in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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15 March 2006

Hon. Jyunichiro Koizumi  
The Prime Minister  
Japan

Dear Prime Minister,

On the day of the 700<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration to protest against the Japanese Government by calling for justice to “comfort women”, sexual slavery by the Japanese military before and during the Second World War, we would like to remind you that Japan cannot escape from its responsibility for war crimes, the war time sexual slavery, euphemistically called “comfort women”.

We, a network of women human rights activists across Asia Pacific, have witnessed that women have been deprived of their life by being exploited as sexual slaves by the Japanese military and continued to be denied their claim for their lives with dignity for more than 60 years. We have witnessed that the Japanese Government has ignored the recommendations to take appropriate measures to compensate for survivors made by several UN human rights bodies while shamefully seeking a permanent seat in the Security Council of the UN. We have witnessed that the Japanese Government has whitewashed its history textbooks by deleting the issue of “comfort women” and justifying its war of invasion in Asia Pacific. We have witnessed the Japanese Government has mocked internationally recognised human rights standards by creating Asian Women’s Fund with charity money. We have witnessed that the Japanese Government has sent troops to Iraq and is now attempting to corrupt its Peace Constitution.

We remind you that we, women and human rights activists across the world will never soften our voices to protest against the Japanese Government to take its responsibility for the wartime sexual slavery until we see survivors restore their lives with dignity and peace. We will continue to mobilise people in the civil society to end state repression until we will see that no more women are suffering from violence and discrimination.

### **We ask the Japanese Government to:**

- **Take State responsibility for wartime sexual slavery by Japanese military !**
- **Take appropriate measures and provide compensation based on the legal standards for survivors !**
- **Abide by the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms !**
- **Stop whitewashing its history and provide meaningful descriptions on the “comfort women” for the next generations !**
- **Stop re-militarisation in the region!**

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