



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Eighteenth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts, a non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 August 2011]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **A debt still to be honoured**

The Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts in The Netherlands represents Dutch ex-prisoners of war, civilian internees (men, women and children) and those Dutch who were left outside the Japanese concentration camps. All are victims of the Japanese occupation of the Netherlands East Indies during World War Two, now 66 years ago.

The Foundation represents about 100.000 victims of Japanese brutality, including young girls and women abused by the Japanese military and their agents. Many of those who survived these brutalities continue to live in fear and are traumatized. Despite many petitions to various Japanese Prime Ministers and requests by various respective governments, the Japanese government seems not to be able to understand what damage their military caused not only in the Netherlands East Indies, but in all the other occupied territories in East Asia.

The Japanese military took pleasure in an organised manner in abusing and raping young girls and women and forcing many of them into sexual slavery, the so-called Comfort Women. The latter were systematically recruited by the Japanese military and their agents in China, Korea, the Netherlands East Indies, and other countries.

The number of victims is estimated between 300.000 and 500.000. Many of the victims have not come forward, because of shame and fear of being left out of their community. Many died in the most terrible circumstances. Many were migrated to other countries and left there on their own. All suffer from what they had to endure at the hands of Japanese military. A trauma which will not go away.

Besides the Comfort Women the Japanese military abused young girls and women in the concentration camps and outside. These victims kept silent and will not tell their stories. Surviving Dutch, Indonesian, Chinese, Korean and other women request acknowledgement by Japan of these war crimes too.

- Not by apologies of successive Japanese Prime Ministers, but by its people represented by its Parliament,
- Not by a “privately” funded “Asian Women’s Fund,” but directly by the Japanese government,
- Not by ignoring the facts, but by compulsory education of Japanese pupils and students.

It is never too late for a nation to acknowledge its wrongdoings. Many are the examples of other nations that in considering the future one must acknowledge its past. To date successive Japanese governments have excelled at ignoring its moral responsibility to victims and the world.

The Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts together with its sister organizations in China, Korea and other East Asian countries occupied by the Japanese military during World War Two request the Human Rights Council to ensure that after 66 years Japan recognises its past and rectifies its wrongdoings by acknowledging the facts and subsequently settle the damage done to victims.

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