



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/NGO/21
13 July 2004

ENGLISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-sixth session
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES : CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

**Written statement* submitted by the Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts, a non
governmental organization in consultative status (Roster) with ECOSOC**

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

[2nd July 2004]

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

The Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts in the Netherlands represents ex prisoners of war (pow's) and victims of Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies during WW II.

During 3 ½ years children, women and men were interned in concentration camps. Many died under inhuman circumstances: Women were forced into sex slavery to "serve" the imperial army. Men had to do slavery work, the horrors of the Birma road and the Pakan Baru railroad are now known worldwide.

Others were deported to Japan to work in mines or do coolly work in harbours.

Tens of thousands died under appalling circumstances.

Boys as young as 10 years were separated from their mothers and transported to boys camps. The mothers were not informed about the destination.

There was no communication between families possible and if illegal correspondence was found it could cost one's life.

Young children and women suffered past belief.

Lack of food, insufficient drinking water and no medicine, had its effect.

Representatives of the Red Cross were not allowed to visit the overcrowded and stinking camps. Once you were ill you were sure to die, especially undernourished children.

3 1/2 years of systematically organized starving of 400.000 innocent Dutch citizens, children, women and men, points to GENOCIDE.

The Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts has 80.000 registered claims.

Claims from people who still suffer from physical and mental disorders.

Examples of actions taken by the Foundation:

- appeal to the Secretary General of the United Nations (1990)
- the Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts opened a dialogue with the Japanese government after legal appeal was rejected in Japan due to international treaties and conventions.
- a monthly peaceful demonstration in front of the Japanese embassy in The Hague where a petition is handed over to the ambassador addressed to the Prime Minister of Japan. 115 petitions have been offered, no answer has ever been received.

We very much appreciate this Commission of Human Rights to discuss Japan's violations of ratified conventions. Only if Japan acknowledges its wrongdoing during WW II, it will become a truly respected member of the international community.
