



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/NGO/33  
15 July 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

---

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of Human Rights  
Fifty-seventh 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 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.

[4 July 2005]

---

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

The Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts represents ex-prisoners of war, victims of the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies during WWII. They were civilian internees (men women and children) and also those who were left outside of the camps.

During 3 1/2 years they suffered in concentration camps, forced into slavery and were systematically starved.

In weakened condition the prisoners were prey for tropical diseases and illnesses due to malnutrition.

Available Red Cross medicine was denied.

Young girls were recruited as sex slaves to work in so-called "Comfort Stations", a place of horror and hell never to be forgotten nor forgiven.

The Japanese occupation was extremely violent and tens of thousands of innocent people died under appalling circumstances, some tortured to death, decapitated or because of exhaustion.

Survivors who returned to the Netherlands after the war had lost literally everything. That is, one or more members of the family, their health, some remain physically or mentally handicapped for life, but also ALL their possessions, savings and careers. They came back fragile and broken.

Japan never offered excuses or compensation to those individual Dutch who survived.

Despite the fact that in 1998 Japanese Courts condemned Japan for violating the convention of The Hague of 1907 and declared it to be liable to pay compensation, Japan denied its responsibility to pay individuals, invoking international treaties and procedures.

Nevertheless Japan has a MORAL OBLIGATION to the individual victims of the Japanese brutal occupation of the Dutch East Indies during WWII

The Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts asks the Japanese Government to accept that they have a MORAL OBLIGATION to present excuses and compensate those individuals.

Only an honorable settlement will regain the respect of the Dutch victims and of the international Community.

Only then can the next generations establish a genuine friendship with Japan without looking back to unsolved and painful questions.

On August 15<sup>th</sup> this year, we will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII. There never will be a more opportune moment for Japan to accept its moral responsibility and finally settle this case.

Thank you for your attention.

- - - - -