

Human Rights Now

**Oral statement on agenda Item 3
PANEL ON HISTORY TEACHING &
MEMORIALIZATION PROCESSES
UN Human Rights Council 27th Session,
9 September 2014, Speaker: Ms Yuriko Moto**



Status of history teaching and memorization of the Japan's Military Sexual Slavery issue

Human Rights Now, a Tokyo- based international NGO, commends the Special Rapporteurs' most valuable work and fully supports their endeavors to promote appropriate history writing and teaching from a human rights perspective so as to ensure recognition of the truth and guarantee non-recurrence.

In the case of Japan, the government has failed to provide impartial history teaching on its invasion, colonial rule, all kinds of war crimes and other atrocities committed by Japan during World War II including the practice of military sexual slavery.

Under the school textbook authorization system by the Ministry of Education, history textbooks that critically depict Japanese imperialism have been rejected, while ultra-nationalistic history textbooks have been approved and its use in schools has been promoted.

The obvious consequence of such a practice for nearly 70 years is the lack of sincere remorse on those acts among not only political leaders but also ordinary citizens. This, in our view, is one of the major factors facilitating the escalating attempts of denying historical facts, Japan's legal responsibility and the rights of the survivors to effective redress and reparation, attempts that have been persistently made by some public figures, politicians including cabinet members and the mainstream media in Japan.

HRN fully agrees with the Special Rapporteurs that a multi-perspective approach should be applied in memorialization of the pasts well as history teaching, particularly by taking different views of the other parties of the present or past conflicts into consideration. Only by doing so, good relationships between countries and also between ethnic or cultural groups within a country will be promoted and human rights of all individuals regardless of ethnicity, culture or religion will be protected.

Thank you.