

Human Rights Now



**Oral statement on agenda Item 3
Clustered ID with SR on truth, justice, reparation and
non- recurrence
UN Human Rights Council 27th Session,
Geneva, 8-26 2014 Speaker: Ms Yuriko Moto**

Japan's Military Sexual Slavery Issue

Human Rights Now, a Tokyo-based international NGO, fully supports the Special Rapporteur's recommendations articulated in his reports, yet we regret much that Japan's response to the military sexual slavery issue has been contrary to his recommendations. Not only have the survivors' right to justice and reparation never been realized, but they have been facing increasing denials of the facts and degrading remarks such as 'wartime prostitutes' by some public figures, politicians including cabinet members, and the mainstream media in Japan, which the government of Japan has condoned. Being repeatedly insulted and stigmatized, the survivors continue to suffer grave distress. Many of them have passed away without having their rights and dignity restored and without receiving the reparation to which they are entitled to.

The government, particularly the Abe administration has doubled its efforts to negate its responsibility by denying the forcible nature of the recruitment of the victims. However, no matter whether the victims were 'forcibly confiscated' by Japanese military or by entities on its behalf, any such acts and the sexual slavery carried out against the will of the victims are human rights violations involving the direct legal responsibility of Japan.

The other problem is that the government of Japan persistently refuses to implement recommendations received from a number of UN human rights bodies and mechanisms to redress the issue. The present administration has made a step forward and openly stated that it's not obligated to implement the recommendations that are not legally binding.

Human Rights Now strongly feels the need of establishing a new mechanism that will enable this Council to effectively prevent UN member states, particularly the members of this Council from concealing or denying the facts relating to grave violations of human rights, from justifying the atrocities, from neglecting to provide remedies to victims, and from insulting and re-traumatizing victims through such acts.