Human Rights Now

7F Creative One Akihabara Bldg. 5-3-4 Ueno
Taito-ku,Tokyo, JAPAN 110-0005
http://hrn.or.jp/eng/
Phone: +81-3-3835-2110 Fax: +81-3-3834-1025
Email   info@hrn.or.jp

30th Human Rights Council
Agenda item 3: Clustered ID with SR on truth, justice, reparation and non-recurrence & WG on enforced disappearances

Japan's Military Sexual Slavery

Thank you Mr./Ms. President,

Human Rights Now is gravely concerned about the government's sustained denials of historical facts with regards to Japan's military sexual slavery during World War II, as well as the continuing violations of survivors' human rights.

Not only have survivors been denied the rights to justice and reparation, but they have increasingly been facing degrading remarks from high-ranking public figures, radical nationalists and xenophobic citizens. At the same time, the Abe administration has tried to evade its legal responsibility by limiting the debate to the manner of recruiting victims and by accusing critics within domestic and international media and publishing companies of false reporting. For example, Prime Minister Abe said "Now unjust slander is being circulated in the world portraying Japan as a nation that forced them into sex slaves," which he complained jeopardized Japan's reputation.

Moreover, Japan has failed to follow the UN recommendations to educate the general public about the issue with adequate references in history textbooks. Instead, increasing censorship of the issue has been observed in schoolbooks. Since 2012, not a single history textbook used in public junior high schools in Japan has included any reference to the issue.

We urge the Japanese government to stop abusing survivors' human rights and dignity through its attempts to rewrite history and to immediately take action to ensure their rights to justice and reparation. In addition, we strongly recommend all relevant mandate holders to conduct a joint fact finding mission to Japan and to make joint recommendations in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.