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Power Search > Results: (japans socialists repro... > Japan's Socialists Reproach Reproach Disclaimer

The New York Times

December 9, 1991, Monday, Late Edition - Final

## Japan's Socialists Reproach Rulers for Refusal to Apologize for War

BYLINE: By STEVEN R. WEISMAN, Special to The New York Times

SECTION: Section A; Page 7; Column 1; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 903 words

DATELINE: TOKYO, Dec. 8

In a rebuke to the Government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the Socialist opposition in Japan said today that the nation had "turned its back on the historical truth" by refusing to "sincerely apologize" for its aggressive behavior in World War II.

"Words of apology, however genuine they may be, cannot erase the past curses of the victims," said Makoto Tanabe, the Socialist Party chairman, in a speech intended as a rebuttal to recent Government statements. "But failure to apologize will erase the bright future courses of the former aggressor."

Mr. Tanabe's comments were the most sweeping denunciation in Japan of the statements by Prime Minister Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and others this last week expressing general sorrow and regret over suffering in the war but falling short of an outright apology.

The Socialist leader said his speech was addressed not only to American victims at Pearl Harbor and in the war generally, but to Asian prisoners and victims, millions of Chinese and Korean forced laborers, and the many Korean and Chinese women drafted as prostitutes.

Filling a Void

He called on Tokyo to pay reparations to individuals in Asian countries, a step again rejected by Prime Minister Miyazawa in Parliament last week on the ground that compensation had already been paid to governments directly.

Mr. Tanabe's statement was also aimed at filling what Socialists said was a void left by the failure in Parliament of a proposed resolution expressing regret over the war on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The resolution's failure was a major setback for leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The resolution, intended to be unanimous, died because no agreement was reached over its wording. Socialists wanted something strong, but conservatives in the governing party opposed any expression of regret, especially after President Bush rejected the idea of apologizing for the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the war.

The issue of apology is a continuing one in Japan, not because of anything demanded by the United States, but because many leaders of Asian nations that were victims of Japanese aggression say Japan has failed to apologize or take adequate responsibility for its wartime actions.

#### Diluted Regrets

Repeated expressions of regret by recent prime ministers or the Emperor of Japan have been rejected as weak in China, South Korea, Singapore and elsewhere, especially since Japan continues to delete references to atrocities or aggressive acts in textbooks and in popular books and movies.

Last summer, the Mayor of Honolulu said Japan was welcome at Pearl Harbor ceremonies if it first apologized, but a Government spokesman rejected the idea. He added that Japan and the United States both bore responsibility for the war and that it would take decades or centuries to decide who was primarily responsible.

In the last week, officials have said that Japan was engaged in "deep reflection" over the "unbearable suffering" caused by the war and that it vowed never again to repeat its past aggression. This was repeated today by Mr. Watanabe, the Foreign Minister, after President Bush's speech in Honolulu on Saturday.

On Friday night, Prime Minister Miyazawa told a small group of reporters gathered at his house that the Japanese accepted "deep feelings of responsibility" for the war, using the word "sekinin" for responsibility.

But officials have made clear that these comments were not intended as apologies. And in a sign of the lingering sensitivity over the war, there has been some confusion about what was meant by all the statements.

The words used by Mr. Watanabe today and earlier in an interview with The Washington Post, for example, were "fukaku hansei," which the Foreign Ministry translated as "deep remorse." Most Japanese understand this to be more like "deep reflection," however, a somewhat mild form of regret.

Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu used the word "hansei," meaning "reflection," earlier this year in Singapore, but he was still criticized there and in China and South Korea for using weak language.

#### Tailored to Fit the Listener

It is not uncommon for Japanese to take latitude in translating their own words, sometimes tailoring the English to fit what the listener should hear. The same word, "hansei," was translated as "contrition" by the Foreign Ministry earlier this year, and as "remorse" today, in what an official said was an effort to make it sound stronger.

Foreign Ministry officials, speaking on the condition that they not be identified, said that some in the ministry had argued for a stronger choice of words in Japanese by Mr. Watanabe, but that opposition from conservatives in the ruling party dictated that a less strong word be used.

But the Foreign Ministry is not the only group that has loosely translated words to fit the listener. The Socialists have for a couple years been debating whether to change their name to the less ideological "Social Democrats."

Failing to agree, they decreed that their name in English would be the Social Democratic Party, but would remain the Socialist Party in Japanese. Some English-language publications in Japan have followed suit, but most foreign news organizations continue to refer to them by the translation of their Japanese name -- Socialists.

LOAD-DATE: December 9, 1991

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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ニューヨーク・タイムズ

1991年12月9日付最終版

■「日本の社会党が戦争についての謝罪を拒んでいる与党を批判」

日本の野党の社会党はきょう(8日)、日本は第二次大戦の際の侵略行為に対する心からの謝罪を拒否することによって歴史の真実に背を向けているとして、宮沢喜一首相の政権を非難した。

田辺誠社会党委員長は最近の政府声明に反論する演説の中で「謝罪の言葉は、それが どんなに偽りのないものでも、被害者ののろいを消し去ることはできない」と語った。 「しかし謝罪に失敗してしまえば、かつて侵略者だった者にとっての明るい未来がなく なってしまうだろう」

田辺氏のコメントは、宮沢首相や渡辺美智雄外相らが先週、戦争の被害に対して総合的には悲しみや遺憾の意を表明する声明を出しながら、率直な謝罪が足りなかったことに対する日本国内で最も広範な非難だった。

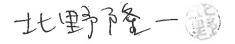
社会党委員長は自分の演説について、真珠湾攻撃や戦争一般での米国人犠牲者だけに 向けたのではなく、アジアの捕虜や犠牲者、労働を強いられた何百万もの中国人や朝鮮 人、売春婦として連行された朝鮮人や中国人の多くの女性にも向けたものだと語った。

(見出し「空白を満たす」)

彼(田辺氏)は政権に対し、アジアの国々の個人に賠償を払うことを求めた。この件は先週の国会で、補償は各国の政府に直接支払われていることを根拠に宮沢首相から改めて拒否されている。

(後略)

2016年4月27日 以上の通り翻訳しました。 株式会社朝日新聞社 東京本社報道局編集委員 北野 隆一



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The Toronto Star

December 11, 1991, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

# Japanese will probe wartime sex slavery

BYLINE: Reuter

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 291 words

DATELINE: TOKYO

TOKYO (Reuter) - Japan will investigate claims that thousands of Korean women were used as prostitutes for the Japanese army in World War II, the government said today.

"The government must gather documents related to government involvement in order to deal with this (issue)," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

Tokyo has long maintained that it does not have any evidence of the so-called "comfort women's" activities and the investigation is seen as a bid to defuse any anti-Japanese sentiment before Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Seoul in January.

An elderly woman earlier this month filed the first-ever lawsuit by a "comfort woman" seeking damages from Japan. Kim Hak Jun, 67, said she was abducted from her home in Pyongyang in 1941 and forced by the army to work as a prostitute in China.

Experts estimate that 100,000 to 200,000 women, 80 per cent Korean, were used as slave prostitutes for Japanese soldiers.

No other modern army has ever kept a system of forced prostitution for its battlefront soldiers. The system was born with the Japanese army in China in the 1930s, where its soldiers were indulging in wholesale rape of the local population.

The South Korean foreign ministry criticized Japanese diplomats yesterday over Tokyo's position, the daily Asahi Shimbun reported.

The newspaper said a committee of the South Korean Parliament would listen to testimony Friday from those involved in the operation, the first such hearings.

Tokyo had long maintained that wartime claims were settled once and for all by its 1965 normalization treaty with South Korea and that it could not provide individual compensation. World; War; II; prostitution; Japan

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 1999

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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トロントスター

1991年12月11日付最終版

■「日本人は戦時中の性奴隷について調査する」

(12月12日付英ガーディアン紙「日本政府による、売春婦の請求についての審理」 もほぼ同じ文)

東京(ロイター):日本政府は、何千人もの韓国人女性が第2次大戦中、日本軍のための売春婦として使われたとの主張について調査すると、きょう述べた。

「政府はこの問題を扱うため、政府の関与に関連した文書を集めなければならない」と加藤紘一官房長官は記者会見で語った。

日本政府は長い間、いわゆる「慰安婦」の活動についての証拠はないという主張を維持してきた。調査は、宮沢喜一首相の1月のソウル訪問の前に、少しでも反日感情を静めたいとのねらいがあるとみられる。

今月上旬、高齢女性が「慰安婦」の損害賠償を日本に求める初めての訴訟を提訴した。 金学順(67歳)は、1941年に平壌の自宅から拉致され、軍によって中国で売春を 強いられたと語っている。

(後略)

2016年4月27日 以上の通り翻訳しました。 株式会社朝日新聞社 東京本社報道局編集委員 北野 隆一

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December 12, 1991

# Tokyo inquiry into prostitution claim

BYLINE: By REUTER in Tokyo

LENGTH: 287 words

JAPAN will investigate claims that thousands of Korean women were used as prostitutes for the Japanese army in the second world war, the government has announced.

Tokyo has long maintained it has no evidence of the activities of so-called 'comfort women' and the investigation is seen as an attempt to defuse anti-Japanese sentiment before the prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, visits Seoul in January.

An elderly woman earlier this month filed the first law suit by a 'comfort woman' seeking damages from Japan. Kim Hak-jun, aged 67, said she was abducted from her home in Pyongyang in 1941 and forced by the army to work as a prostitute in China.

The system was born in China in the 1930s, where Japanese soldiers were indulging in the wholesale rape of locals. Experts estimate that 100,000 to 200,000 women, 80 per cent Korean, were used as slave prostitutes for Japanese soldiers.

The chief cabinet secretary, Koichi Kato, told a news conference yesterday that because of an increase in public interest, the government had instructed the labour ministry and others to investigate the problem thoroughly.

The South Korean foreign ministry criticised Japanese diplomats on Tuesday about Tokyo's position, the daily Asahi Shimbun reported. It said that a committee of the South Korean parliament would hear testimony tomorrow from those involved in the operation, the first such hearings.

Tokyo has denied that the pre-war state was responsible for the women. Labour ministry officials have said such people were kept by private companies.

'This is not just a legal problem, but the suffering and wounds from the past remain and must also be taken into consideration,' Mr Kato said.

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 2000

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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ガーディアン

1991年12月12日付

■「日本政府による、売春婦の請求についての審理」

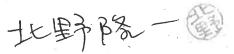
日本政府は、何千人もの韓国人女性が第2次大戦中、日本軍のための売春婦として 使われたとの主張について調査すると述べた。

日本政府は長い間、いわゆる「慰安婦」の活動についての証拠はないという主張を維持してきた。調査は、宮沢喜一首相の1月のソウル訪問の前に、少しでも反日感情を静めたいとのねらいがあるとみられる。

今月上旬、高齢女性が「慰安婦」の損害賠償を日本に求める初めての訴訟を提訴した。金学順(67歳)は、1941年に平壌の自宅から拉致され、軍によって中国で売春を強いられたと語っている。

(後略)

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The Independent (London) December 15, 1991, Sunday

# Japanese army forced girls into sex slavery

BYLINE: From TERRY MCCARTHY in Tokyo

SECTION: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 17

LENGTH: 785 words

KIM HAK SUN was just 16 when she was first raped by a Japanese soldier in 1939. She was a virgin, unmarried, and scared. But she had no way out because, along with tens of thousands of other Korean women, she had been kidnapped by the Japanese army from her home in Korea and transported to the war front as sexual fodder for Japanese soldiers. It has taken her half a century to tell her story in public.

In one of the most horrifying, but least known stories of Japan's war in Asia, as many as 160,000 Korean women were abducted and forced into prostitution for Japan's Imperial army. Only now is the story coming out, as some have finally summoned the courage to talk openly about their experiences. Last week three of these women known to the Japanese army as "comfort women" - came to Japan to file a suit against the government for compensation. The Japanese government maintains there is no evidence of official involvement.

Ms Kim lived in a town in northern Korea - the Korean peninsula was then a Japanese colony - when she was abducted. "The Japanese came along in a truck, beat us and then dragged us into the back," she said in Osaka last week. She was taken to China, where she was thrown into a brothel attached to a military camp.

"I was raped that first day, and it never stopped for a single day for the next three months," said Ms Kim. Often she had to submit to 20 or 30 men daily. She tried to escape twice, only to be caught both times, brutally beaten, and then the Japanese soldiers came back for more.

Finally Ms Kim met a Korean man who helped her to escape, and later became her husband. But Ms Kim could never get over her experiences. "I feel sick when I am close to a man. Not just Japanese men but all men, even my own husband, who saved me from the brothel, made me feel this way," she said.

Ms Kim never had any children, and her husband died recently. She said that she no longer had any close family, and so she was less ashamed to tell her story. The other two women who accompanied Ms Kim to Japan asked that their names and photographs not be used.

The three women, along with 32 other Koreans, filed a 700 million yen (pounds 3m) suit against the Japanese government last week claiming compensation for their wartime sufferings. The Japanese government has not paid any individual compensation to Koreans for wartime atrocities, and maintains that all such claims

were nullified by a government-to-government economic co-operation agreement with Seoul in 1965.

The Japanese government's refusal to accept responsibility makes Ms Kim furious. "I'm sure Japanese people in their seventies and eighties know about comfort women. Why do they pretend they know nothing?"

According to Mizuho Fukushima, the Japanese woman lawyer who is representing the three former comfort women, the difficulties in getting their stories were immense. "What we are talking about is gang rape, extended over months or years," said the lawyer.

"In a way, these women were killed once by the Japanese military, and now coming out with their evidence they will die again," said Ms Fukushima.

"The amount of courage required for these women to speak up is so vast it doesn't compare with that shown by Korean men who come out as former Imperial Army personnel," said Kenichi Takagi, another Japanese lawyer involved in the suit against the government.

Mr Takagi and Ms Fukushima are two of a growing number of Japanese people who feel their government should do more to atone for Japanese war atrocities. "The Japanese military behaved like beasts in Asia," said Mr Takagi. "There are army records citing the necessity of allocating one woman for 35 or 39 soldiers. These women were treated like animals and not counted as human beings."

Last Tuesday the Foreign Ministry in Seoul made an official request to the Japanese government for a list of the names of all Korean women forced to become comfort women during the war.

The response from the Japanese government was slightly more flexible than in the past, possibly because the Japanese Prime Minister is to make a trip to Seoul next year. "We must not only respond to this legalistically on the basis of a treaty but also take into consideration the suffering and scars that were inflicted," said Koichi Kato, the chief Cabinet Secretary, on Wednesday.

But Ms Fukushima says the government must go much further, not just to atone for what was done to Korean women, but also to highlight that Japan's sex industry continues to exploit Asian women. "The Japanese are using the same tactic today in south-east Asia, telling women they can find safe jobs as maids, babysitters or plain hostesses."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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インディペンデント

1991年12月15日付

## ■「日本軍は少女らに性奴隷を強制した」

金学順は1939年に初めて日本兵に強姦されたとき、ちょうど16歳だった。彼女は処女で未婚でおびえていた。しかし彼女には逃れるすべはなかった。他の何万もの朝鮮女性とともに、彼女は日本軍によって朝鮮の自宅から誘拐され、日本兵の性的なえじきとして戦争の前線に運ばれたからである。彼女が自分の話を公に語るまでに半世紀かかった。

(中略)

3人の女性は他の韓国人32人とともに、戦時中の被害に対する賠償として日本政府を相手取り、7億円(3百万英ポンド)を要求する訴訟を先週に起こした。日本政府は戦時の残虐行為に対して韓国人に少しの個々の補償金も支払っておらず、1965年に韓国と政府間で結んだ経済協力協定により、そのような請求はすべて無効になったとの主張を維持している。

(後略)

2016年4月27日 以上の通り翻訳しました。 株式会社朝日新聞社 東京本社報道局編集委員 北野 隆一

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The Daily Yomiuri

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December 7, 1991, Sunday

# Korean 'Comfort Women' File Suit

SECTION: Pg. 2

LENGTH: 398 words

A group of 35 South Koreans, including three women forced into prostitution as "comfort women" for the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II, filed suit against the Japanese government Friday, demanding 700 million yen in compensation.

The suit was filed at the Tokyo District Court by 35 members of the Association of Korean Victims During World War II, including chairman Kim Tae Chong, 54. For the first time, the plaintiffs include three former comfort women for the Japanese army. Korean women who were forced into prostitution as "comfort women" have never before gone public, preferring to maintain their privacy. Each are asking for 20 million yen in compensation.

According to the suit, one woman, now 67, was assigned to work for the Japanese when she was 16 years old. She was taken to northern China on an army train, not knowing she was going to be forced into prostitution as a "comfort woman" for the Japanese army. She was given a Japanese name, "Aiko," and was forced to have sexual intercourse with Japanese soldiers.

Another woman, now 69, was taken to Shanghai. When she refused to have sex with Japanese soldiers, she was beaten. Because of the assault, she has been unable to have children.

Another woman, now also 69, was taken to Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. She said the Japanese government's response to a Diet inquiry that "comfort women" were recruited by civilian brokers was a lie.

Some who worked as military employees or soldiers were injured by bombs, losing their arms or their vision.

"If the government says the issue of compensation is over between the Japanese and Korean governments, we will argue that compensation toward individuals is different," said Kenichi Takagi, who heads the lawyers' group.

Other recent compensation suits against the government include:

South and North Koreans who were stranded in Sakhalin after being taken there by the Japanese army filed suit at the Tokyo District Court in August 1990.

Koreans who were brought to Japan to work as employees of the Japanese army filed a suit against the government in January this year at the Osaka District Court, demanding to be included under a war wound compensation law.

South and North Koreans alleged to have been Class B war criminals filed a suit at the Tokyo District Court in November this year, stating that they had been wrongly accused.

ORGANIZATION: TOKYO DISTRICT COURT (86%);

COUNTRY: JAPAN (95%); KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

OF (92%); KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (92%); CHINA (79%); PAPUA NEW GUINEA (79%);

STATE: NORTH CENTRAL CHINA (70%); EAST CHINA (70%);

CITY: TOKYO, JAPAN (90%); OSAKA, JAPAN (58%); SHANGHAI, CHINA (55%);

COMPANY: TOKYO DISTRICT COURT (86%);

SUBJECT: SUITS & CLAIMS (92%); WORLD WAR

II (90%); LITIGATION (90%); ARMIES (90%); PROSTITUTION (90%); ARMED FORCES (89%); WOUNDS & INJURIES (89%); WAR & CONFLICT (89%); WAR

CRIMES (78%); BOMBINGS (73%); FERTILITY &

INFERTILITY (67%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (65%); ASSOCIATIONS &

ORGANIZATIONS (73%);

LOAD-DATE: September 21, 1994

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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デイリー・ヨミウリ

1991年12月7日付

## ■「韓国人『慰安婦』が提訴」

第二次大戦中、日本帝国軍によって「慰安婦」として売春を強制された3人の女性を含む35人の韓国人グループが日本政府を相手取り、7億円の賠償を求める訴訟を金曜日に起こした。

(中略)

訴訟によると、67歳の女性は16歳だった当時、日本人のため働くように命じられた。彼女は軍の列車で中国北部に連れて行かれたが、自分が「慰安婦」として売春を強いられることになるとは知らなかった。

(後略)

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December 14, 1991

The Nikkei Weekly (Japan)

Power Search > Results: (korean comfort women fi... > KOREAN 'COMFORT WOMEN' FILE SUIT

# KOREAN 'COMFORT WOMEN' FILE SUIT AGAINST JAPAN

BYLINE: The Nihon Keizai Shimbun

SECTION: POLITICS & SOCIETY; In Brief; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 139 words

A South Korean group that includes women allegedly forced to engage in sex with Japanese soldiers during World War II has filed suit against the Japanese government, requesting a total of Y700 million in compensation.

The group was formed by 35 South Koreans, including three former "comfort women," the euphemism used by the Imperial Japanese Army for women forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers.

It also includes South Koreans who were coerced into working for the Japanese military without payment, as well as family members of such workers who are now deceased.

The plaintiffs are demanding Y20 million for each war victim as compensation for violation of their human rights.

The suit was filed late last week to mark the 50th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, said a group spokesman.

SUBJECT: SUITS & CLAIMS (92%); WORLD WAR II (90%); ARMED

FORCES (90%); LITIGATION (90%); WAR &

CONFLICT (90%); ARMIES (88%); WOMEN (88%); NEWS

BRIEFS (74%); ANNIVERSARIES (72%); HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (51%); THIS

DAY IN HISTORY (72%);

ORGANIZATION: IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY (55%);

COUNTRY: JAPAN (96%); KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (94%);

COMPANY: IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY (55%);

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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ニッケイ・ウィークリー

1991年12月14日付

■「韓国人『慰安婦』が日本に対して提訴」

第二次大戦中に日本兵らとの性行為に携わることを強制されたと訴えている女性ら を含む韓国人グループが、日本政府に7億円の賠償を求める訴訟を起こした。

グループは35人の韓国人で、3人の元「慰安婦」が含まれている。慰安婦とは、日本兵に対する売春婦として奉仕するよう強制された女性に対して日本帝国軍が使った遠回しな呼び方だ。

(後略)

2016年4月27日 以上の通り翻訳しました。 株式会社朝日新聞社 東京本社報道局編集委員 北野 隆一

