



Public Statement

Justice and compensation for former “comfort women” and their families is urgently needed.

November 21, 2007

Amnesty International is calling on the Canadian government to urge the Prime Minister and Parliament of Japan to formally apologize to women coerced into military sexual slavery and provide just and honourable compensation to the survivors and their families. By doing this, the Canadian government will be standing with the survivors, their families and other governments such as the United States and the Netherlands in demanding that the Japanese government fully acknowledge its responsibility for the crimes committed against former “comfort women”.

Amnesty International is calling for the speedy passage of motion 291 through Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and for the committee to refer the motion immediately to the House of Commons. It is our hope and expectation that a resolution would be passed at an early date to allow the Canadian government to press the Japanese government to take full responsibility for the crimes committed against the ‘comfort women’ immediately.

The passage of this motion through the House of Commons will send a powerful message to the survivors, that they have not been forgotten and that their demands for justice and redress must be met.

Amnesty International is calling on the Japanese government to take immediate steps to provide legal redress, a full apology and full reparations to survivors of sexual slavery including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Background

Tens of thousands of women were forcibly abducted and deceived into sexual slavery into Japanese military controlled “comfort stations” organized in the different occupied countries before and during World War II. Amnesty International believes that the crimes perpetrated against these women amount to crimes against humanity. To this day, the Japanese government has refused adequately and unequivocally to acknowledge its responsibility for the crimes committed against former “comfort women”.

Tens of thousands of women were forcibly abducted and deceived into becoming “comfort women” in military controlled “comfort stations” organized in the different occupied countries before and during World War II. Women and girls were repeatedly raped and condemned to sexual slavery. Amnesty International believes that the crimes perpetrated against these women amount to crimes against humanity.

Amnesty International has been campaigning for justice for these women, who have over time courageously spoken of their suffering. Their voices are being heard and have inspired a global movement that has demanded that crimes of sexual violence be redressed.

Amnesty International is urging nations across the world to put pressure on the Japanese government to ensure that survivors receive full reparation including: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.