



## TAKE ACTION FOR JUSTICE FOR THE SURVIVORS OF JAPAN'S MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY SYSTEM

In April 2013, the G8 foreign ministers adopted the UK government-led Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>1</sup> As a member of the G8, Japan has also committed to this Declaration. Amnesty International and the Korean Council for Women Drafted into Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (Korean Council) welcome efforts to prevent and end impunity for crimes of sexual violence committed during armed conflict and the commitment made by Japan and other G8 States to address this serious human rights issue. However, Japan's commitment to the G8 initiative is undermined by its continuing failure to meet its obligations under international law to provide justice for the survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system.

To coincide with a panel discussion that will be co-hosted by Amnesty International and the Korean Council at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September, we are urging countries to highlight the connection between the principles and pledges in the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict to which Japan has committed itself, and its failure to provide justice for the survivors of its military sexual slavery system. Our organizations have written to the Prime Minister of Japan and the Japanese government, urging them to give substance to Japan's commitment to the G8 Declaration by providing justice to the survivors..

**TAKE ACTION:** Write to the Foreign Affairs Department/Ministry of your government and urge them to call on the Japanese government to take concrete steps, without further delay, to fulfil Japan's obligations towards the survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system and to prove its commitment to the G8 Declaration. Send a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister of Japan: Shinzo ABE, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretariat, 1-6-1 Nagata Cho, Tokyo 100-8968, Japan. Fax: +81 3 3581 3883 / +81 3 3592 0179.

Dear [Name/Title]

I am writing to urge you to call on the Japanese government to provide justice and full reparation, without further delay, for the survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system.

In April this year foreign ministers from the G8 countries, including Japan, adopted the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. This is a welcome initiative to prevent and end impunity for crimes of sexual violence committed during armed conflict that has been made by Japan and the other G8 States to address a serious human rights issue. However, Japan's commitment to the G8 initiative is undermined by Japan's failure over the past six decades to meet its obligations under international law to provide justice and full reparation for the survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system.

Contrary to the commitments in the Declaration to raise awareness of crimes of sexual violence and remove barriers to justice, provide better support to victims and bring perpetrators to justice, Japan has refused to fully acknowledge and accept responsibility for the system of military sexual slavery. The failure of the Japanese government to provide justice prolongs the suffering of these women and constitutes an on-going violation of their human rights.

I urge you to call on the Japanese government to act consistently with the commitments Japan made when committing to the G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict by providing justice without further delay to the survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system. Call on the Japanese government to:

- Accept full responsibility, including legal responsibility, in a way that publicly acknowledges the harm suffered by these women and is acceptable to the majority of survivors;
- Apologize unequivocally for the crimes committed against the women and provide adequate and effective reparation directly from the government and in line with international standards;
- Ensure non-repetition by including an accurate account of Japan's military sexual slavery system in textbooks used in the Japanese educational system.

Yours sincerely,  
[Name]

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Declaration is available on-line at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-declaration-on-preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict>)