14 January 2016

Declaration of the Establishment of the Nationwide Actions Demanding Annulment of the Korea-Japan Agreement on the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Issue and Pursuing Righteous Resolution

On December 28 2015, the Foreign Ministers of South Korea and Japan announced an “agreement” regarding the military sexual slavery (“comfort women”) issue. The survivors who heard the news were heavily disappointed, and they expressed that they cannot accept this Agreement as an apology from Japanese government.

The survivors have not heard any explanation whatsoever until they have reached an agreement, meaning that both governments did not put any effort into including the survivors’ input. The “agreement” between the foreign ministers did not include any of the demands made by the civil society.

In this Agreement, Japan did not admit the fact that the military sexual slavery was a systematic crime led by the colonial government. While it states that it “feels [its] responsibilities,” it claims that there is no “legal responsibilities.” While it promises 1 billion yen, it claims that this is not a “reparation.” There is no promise of follow-up initiatives for prevention such as truth finding, recording on history textbooks and memorial efforts.

However, the Korean and Japanese governments have decided that this is a “final and irreversible” settlement and declared that they will “limit criticism of each other internationally.” The Korean government even promised that it will take care of the concerns regarding the Peace Monument, which is an object that the Japanese government demands removal of.

We consider that this was a diplomatic collusion which excluded the victims of inhumane criminal acts. Hence many citizens of Korea and international community are heavily criticizing this Agreement.

Therefore, we establish t**he Nationwide Actions Demanding Annulment of the Korea-Japan**

Agreement on the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Issue and Pursuing Righteous Resolution

The Nationwide Actions will start activities in order to pursue a rightful resolution of the “comfort women” issue, yet again in 2016. The Movement will continuously demand, along with the international community, admission of the criminal acts by the Japanese government, clear and official apology which cannot be taken back, reparation as a proof of the apology, truth finding, historical education and memorial efforts and other necessary actions.

In addition, we start a fundraising as an initiative step towards working directly with the victims, along with the international community. We firmly refuse the 1 billion yen from the Japanese government, which is not much different from the Asian Women’s Fund. The Fund was not provided officially by the Japanese government as a legal reparation, thus, was rejected by the survivors.

We hope to bring dignity and honor for the survivors through this initiative. We will get rid of war time sexual violence. We will stop wars ever happening in this world.

We would like to wipe the tears of the survivors and help the girl of the Peace Monument to step firmly on the ground.

Organizations and Individuals of the Nationwide Actions Demanding Annulment of the Korea-Japan Agreement on the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery Issue and Pursuing Righteous Resolution