

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5100/07

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to the Council

Subject: 'Comfort women' in Japan

Up to 200 000 women, euphemistically known as 'comfort women', are believed to have been forced into sexual servitude before and during World War II by the Japanese Imperial Army. After 62 years survivors of Japan's sexual slavery system are still waiting for justice. During their lifetime, survivors have suffered physical and mental ill-health, isolation and shame, and often extreme poverty. There is widespread impunity for crimes of sexual servitude and violence against women in war zones around the world. Japan is a leading donor in the post-conflict reconstruction of countries ravaged by conflict but the Government has not yet dealt with the injustices perpetrated in its own past. To date, the Government of Japan has failed to meet international standards on reparation which encompass restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction including full public disclosure, apology and guarantees of non-repetition. Immediate and urgent action is required if these women are to see justice before they die.

Can the Council provide details as to what action it will take to urge the Government of Japan to accept full responsibility for the crimes committed against the 'comfort women', which include slavery, war crimes and crimes against humanity?