



October 6, 2018

The Honorable Kyung Wha Kang
Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Korea
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu
Seoul, Republic of Korea

International Joint Statement—A Support to Disband the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation

Dear Minister Kang:

This is an international joint statement issued by the undersigned human rights and education advocacy organizations. We collectively express our strong support for the disbandment of the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation as an enactment of the flawed 2015 “comfort women” agreement between South Korea and Japan during the corrupt administration of Park Geun-hye.

We strongly support President Moon’s messages to Prime Minister Abe during the summit at the U.N. on September 27 that the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation has “failed to function properly due to objections from the comfort women survivors and South Korean public” and that “we need to bring it to a judicious conclusion.”

The candlelight revolution organized by Korean citizens led to the impeachment of power-abusing Park Geun-hye on March 10, 2017. The situation was brought to a judicious conclusion.

The survivors of Japanese military sexual slavery, their supporters, and most Korean citizens demand the dismantlement of the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation. Instead of providing reconciliation and healing, this foundation has brought betrayal and deeper pain to the survivors whose voices were excluded in the 2015 “comfort women” agreement. This issue needs to be brought to a judicious conclusion.

On January 7, 2018, we sent the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs our petition demanding the nullification of the 2015 agreement. As two specific requests, we demanded that the South Korean government close the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation, established on July 28, 2016, and the return of the one billion *yen* back to Japanese government. We support the progress that the South Korean government has made thus far and value the continuation of that progress.

The 2015 agreement disenfranchises the restoration of dignity and human rights of not only Korean victims but also victims from other neighboring countries, including China, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

On September 3, despite the heavy rain and having surgery five days prior, 92-year-old Bok-Dong Kim staged a solo protest demanding the disbandment of the foundation. She is all of us.

Signed by:

- Bataan Legacy Historical Society-----Berkeley, California, USA
- Education for Social Justice Foundation (ESJF)----- San Francisco, California, USA
- GABRIELA Alliance of Filipino Women-----Quezon City, Philippines
- KAN-WIN-----Chicago, Illinois, USA
- The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan-----Seoul, Korea
- Korean New Zealanders for a Better Future-----Auckland, Palmerston North, Tauranga and Christchurch New Zealand

Korea Policy Institute-----Berkeley, California, USA

Nikkei Resisters-----San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA

Pacific Atrocities Education-----San Francisco, California, USA