



15<sup>th</sup> March 2006

## On the day of the 700<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration

Dear Harmonis, the respectful and courageous leaders of women's movement for women's human rights, and sisters who have supported Harmonis,

On the day of the 700<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration, APWLD would like to renew our commitment to the struggle for justice for victims and survivors of the wartime sexual slavery by Japanese Military before and during the Second World War, and their family members. We also would like to celebrate your courageous and inspiring activism, which has empowered women activists and women who have faced discrimination around the world.

We acknowledge with regret that we have not been able to make the Japanese Government realize legal compensation and sincere apologies in spite of our insistent pressure on the Japanese Government. The Japanese Government has been deliberately resisting and avoiding taking responsibility for the war crimes for more than 60 years: its manipulation of the history textbooks, re-militarisation policy, and creation of Asia Women's Fund are some of the shameful responses by the Japanese Government. It is also shameful that the Japanese Government seeks to become a member of the UN Security Council while ignoring recommendations to take appropriate measures to restore justice for the survivors made by several UN bodies such as UN Commission for Human Rights and CEDAW. This strengthens our anger, our crave for justice, and our commitment to this issue.

We would like to appreciate and celebrate your courageous, persistent and dedicated commitment for justice for women, peace and human rights. Your actions, your voices, and your presence have been encouraging so many women in the world. The 'Wednesday Demonstration' has grown now to be a space for all generations to come together to learn history, human rights and justice as well as to know and hand down Harmonis' and women's struggle for restoring justice. We also see that your struggle led the world to recognize rape and sexual slavery as a crime against humanity codified in the Roma Statute for the ICC.

Dear Harmonis, we will continue to work together with you. We will raise our voices and tell your lives to the next generations until we claim back justice for you and us - until we see an end to violence and discrimination against women.

We raise our voices with you again against the Japanese Government:

**Take state responsibility for wartime sexual slavery by Japanese military !**

**Take appropriate measures and provide compensation based on legal standards for survivors !**

**Abide by the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms !**

**Stop whitewashing our history and provide meaningful descriptions on the "comfort women" for the next generations !**

**Stop re-militarisation !**

**Restore honorable life and human rights for Harmonis!**

Best wishes,

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