

"For Women" --- A Cenotaph of Comfort Women Was Raised (2008)

"For Women"— A Cenotaph of Comfort Women Was Raised

On Miyako Island of Okinawa, the southern tip of Japan, a cenotaph of "comfort women" has been raised. The unveiling ceremony took place on September 17, 2008.

During World War Two, approximately 30,000 soldiers were stationed on the island exceeding more than half of the island's population and the number of "comfort stations" were at least 16.

The cenotaph consist of three monuments and is placed behind a huge stone, once called "Arirang Stone"—after a traditional Korean folk song. The stone marks the place where "comfort women" often sat to rest on their way to and from a well they used.

The central monument is named "Onna-tachi-e" in Japanese ("for women") and "For people who love peace" in Korean. The inscription reads: "We mourn the women who died in grief far away from their homes. We pledge to join hands with women who still live in hardship. We remember women's suffering and preserve their memories for the next generations to come."

The monuments bear inscriptions in



the twelve languages that were spoken by the victims of the Japanese military slavery system, namely, English, Chinese, Chamorro (Guam), Indonesian/Malaysian, Japanese, Korean, Burmese, Dutch, Thai, Tagalog, Tetung (East Timor) and Vietnamese. The inscriptions read: "We remember the sufferings of all individual women who were subjected to sexual violence by the Japanese military. Lament the Victims of sexual violence during war throughout the entire world and pray for a peaceful world without war."

The unveiling ceremony was held in a grand style and was attended by a number of the "comfort women" themselves from South Korea. A local high-school girls' brass band performed a traditional Korean song, "Arirang" during the ceremony.

Translated by Akemi Marumo

Rape Case in Okinawa Dismissed in US Military Court

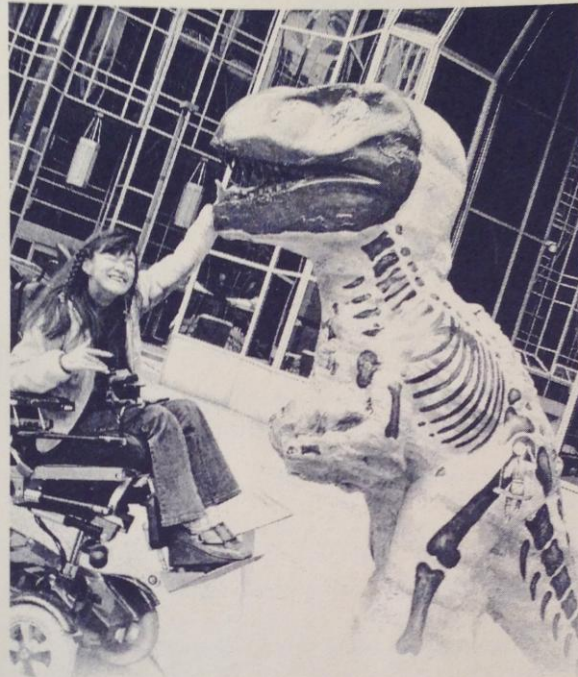
A US soldier charged of raping a Filipino woman in Okinawa in February 2008 was tried in a court-martial on February 24, 2009. Spc. Ronald Hopstock pleaded guilty to three other unrelated charges and was sentenced to eight months of confinement and a bad-conduct discharge for disobeying an order. However the rape case against him was dropped.

On the night of February 17, 2008, Hopstock took a Filipino woman known as "Hazel", who was working in a bar in Okinawa as a dancer, to a hotel

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