

# A demonstration on Parents' Day

Former comfort women establish fund to benefit female survivors of war crimes worldwide | BY STEPHEN WUNROW



Executive Director Mi-hyang Yun (top left) talks about the new Butterfly Fund, set up by two survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery system (Bok-dong Kim, age 86 and Won-ok Gil, age 84) to aid women who are survivors of war violence around the world. Yun heads up the Korean Council for the Women Drafted into Sexual Slavery by Japan (the Korean Council), which on May 8 held its 1073rd consecutive weekly demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. Butterfly Fund co-founder Bok-dong Kim (above) receives a corsage from a demonstrator in honor of the Korean holiday Parents' Day.



The commemorative statue to the former comfort women is dressed for the demonstration each week (right), and behind them are supporters including members of the labor union of the Japanese National Railway, who demonstrated in cooperation with some South Korean labor unions.

The former comfort women who joined the demonstration that day (top right) are: Young-su Lee, Chong-soon Ahn, Won-ok Kil, and Bok-dong Kim. Jenny Jeong of the Korean Council reported that six of the 239 known former comfort women (known as the *halmonis*, or grandmas) died since last year, and one new woman registered. Fifty-nine are still alive. Since 1991, the survivors have been petitioning for reparations and an official apology from the Japanese government for war crimes it perpetrated, including kidnapping and forced prostitution, prior to and during World War II.

Photos by Stephen Wunrow