the common indictment of crimes against humanity, particularly rape and sexual slavery. The judges also found Hirohito and Yamashita Tomoyuki guilty of rape as a crime against humanity, for the mass rapes inflicted upon the female population of Mapanique in the Philippines on November 23-24, 1944.

On the first day of the Tribunal, a number of the victims, now elderly women, testified. Their accounts were explicit and vivid, tinged with anger. "They enslaved, raped and tortured us," Ruff-O’Herne told the judges and the audience seated in the Het Lucent Dans Theatre. "Lives were ruined and youth was stolen. There was immense suffering which didn’t end with the war. The war never ended for us. The atrocities haunt us still. They stripped us of everything—possessions and self-esteem. Our dignity was taken and we were left to feel soiled and dirty."

After the war, there was no counseling available to victims, instead there was isolation. How anyone possibly begin to understand what she and the others had gone through. Instead of sympathy, the other Dutch women called them "whores." One woman has told Ruff-O’Herne privately, that even now, when her husband is angry with her, he calls her a Japanese whore.

Eventually Ruff-O’Herne married a British soldier. She told him the story. He understood and “he loved me just the same,” and now the world knows it.” Yune wrote. "It is true that the ‘guilty’ sentence to Hirohito had heavier weight than all the rest of the criminals put together. Yet, I think the survivors felt a kind of peace with the sense of accomplishment that justice judged the crime of Japan’s military sexual slavery. It is the Japanese emperor and the war criminals who should be ashamed, and not the victims, and now the world knows it.

"Justice is brought to society, even it is symbolic," Yune said of the judgment. "In a sense, Tokyo and The Hague judgments have higher authority than any state because it does not belong to any political power. The Tribunal is based on human conscience."