

North Korea, was captured and forced to serve in a comfort station on the Burmese border. A photo of her, weary, dirty and pregnant, survived the years and was introduced along with her testimony as documentary evidence that located her in a particular place and time. Her route from Pyongyang, North Korea to Burma was also documented.

Chang Rok Kim, professor of Japan Law at Pusan University of Law, said the North-South Joint Legal Team will be working together in the future, possibly on some suits pending in U.S. federal courts. The joint team was an overall success for the members, Kim said. "We didn't agree on every point, but there was no point at which I could not appreciate (the North Korean's) position," he said.

Historian Akira Yamada linked the emperor with the comfort stations by arguing that the emperor was informed about the Rape of Nanking in 1937 and that he was concerned about perception in the world community, a generally agreed-upon premise. In response to questioning from Dolgopol, Yamada testified that the emperor had opportunity to order an investigation of the Nanking incident and order the military to stop

the atrocities. The emperor did nothing about it. Yamada also testified that people who set up the military comfort station system as a result of the Nanking incident had personal access to the emperor and would have been able to speak to him about the comfort women system. Hence, the prosecutors said, Hirohito either knew about this proposed fix for the problem of too many rapes attracting the attention of the world community, or he should have known about it.

Japanese historian Yoshimi Yoshiaki, who first pinpointed the documents that proved the comfort women system was a government system, also said there was considerable evidence that sources close to the emperor, including a cousin of the emperor, Inuma Manoru, chief of the Shanghai Expeditionary Force, were in charge of setting up the comfort stations, some of them prior to the fall of Nanking.



Activist group from Taegu, South Korea demonstrate at the Tribunal.

## THE CHINESE EFFORT

Chinese survivors testified the next day. The testimony of the Chinese prosecuting team began with rare film footage of the infamous Rape of Nanking in 1937, in which Japanese soldiers occupied and nearly exterminated an entire population of a city, possibly 300,000 noncombatants or more. The footage was taken by an American missionary who survived

by establishing, along with other foreign diplomats and academics, a diplomatic 'safety zone' into which Nanking inhabitants fled, some arriving only to die after receiving fatal wounds from attacking Japanese soldiers. The film showed both dead and grievously injured people, many with terrible burns or with large pieces chopped off of them from sharp blades.

Survivor Mingzhen Yang, who lived in an area of Nanking that strongly resisted the Japanese attack said she was seven years old at the time her house was invaded by the Japanese. She watched the soldiers kill her father, rape her mother, and then she was also raped.

Zhulin Yuan said she was 14 when kidnapped to be used as a comfort woman. She recognized the place of her imprisonment, a kind of

dugout hole in a hillside, not far from her village, which she identified from a map. She escaped and was recaptured three times. Each time, the punishment for escaping grew more severe. She was let go, but recaptured later the same year by returning soldiers. This time, she remembers being tied to a tree by her arms and raped every day. She was imprisoned that time for perhaps 20 days, she said.

## TAIWANESE TESTIMONY

Henry Chuang, prosecutor for the Taiwanese team, told the judges that Taiwan's situation was similar to Korea's in the late '30s. By 1939, the population of Taiwan was under the total control of the Japanese. Approximately 2,000 women were taken from Taiwan, and 70 survivors were identified in recent years by the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation, he said. In Taiwan, private contractors were used to provide the so-called recruitment of the women, but the operation was under the supervision of the Taiwanese governor general, a Japanese military officer. Survivor Lien-hsu Chin testified that she was deceived by being told she would be able to become a nurse. She was taken to Hainan Island,

where she was kept for a year as a comfort woman. When she became pregnant, she was allowed to go home. But the baby died in about a month after birth, and she had contracted malaria and was at the brink of death for many days, she said.

## WOMEN IN INDONESIA, EAST TIMOR AND THE PHILIPPINES

Indonesian survivors included women who were kidnapped upon Japanese invasion during the war. This kind of simultaneous occupation, kidnapping of women, and commission of other atrocities designed to terrorize the population, also occurred in Malaysia and in East Timor. Those witnesses also testified on the same day.

In the case of Dutch Indonesian women (Europeans resettled on the island of Java), the women and children of the surrendering population were first rounded up and put in prison camps apart from the men, and later a small number of young women were moved to military brothels in occupied cities. This was the case with Jan Ruff O'Herne (feature story, page 37) Other Indonesian women were put into brothels in their own neighbor-

hoods. One survivor, identified only as Suhanah, testified on videotape and personally appeared. She was captured and dragged off by the hair by Japanese soldiers one day, imprisoned and raped in a house in the same city. In the videotape, she revisited the house where she was imprisoned. There were many other girls and women there when she was brought there, she said. Her experience included a forced sterilization which left a huge T-shaped scar on her abdomen.

Filipino women testified to a horrifying attack and mass murder in their home town of Mapanique, chosen as a target, apparently in order to terrify and intimidate the occupied people. Girls and women were herded into a house, known as the "Red House" where gang raping, beating and other atrocities were carried out over several days by Japanese soldiers, while around them, men, old people and children were rounded up and killed, and their town was burned to the ground. Survivor Maxima Regala de la Cruz testified in writing that after the experience at the red house, she and her mother went home to utter devastation. "Everything was in ashes. There were human bones on the ground where our schoolhouse used to be.



Some of the handful of right wing protestors demonstrating outside the conference site.

There was still blood on grass."

Two former Japanese soldiers also testified that they participated in the comfort women system. One, identified only as Mr. Kaneko, said he was in an army unit in North China, when he was ordered to ride on a truck as a guard. When he climbed aboard, he discovered three young women, who had apparently been captured for a comfort station. He accompanied the truck and its human cargo to a comfort station in Shantung Province, where the women were delivered. Another time, he said, he visited a comfort station and found a Japanese

woman. The woman told him she was not doing it of her own will. He said he paid his money and left, unwilling to rape a Japanese woman. He also said that he gang-raped a woman with several other soldiers in one village he visited. The standing orders in a battle situation were to "kill women and kill children," he said, "because children will grow up and resist us."

Another former soldier, identified as Mr. Suzuki, said he visited comfort stations in China at which there were Korean women. Suzuki said there were "always" rapes in battlefield sit-

uations, and in certain zones, soldiers were told they could do anything they wanted. He testified that he raped a woman, about 30 years old, who he found in a Chinese village. "She was speechless. She obeyed me totally. She was completely helpless. She could do nothing." Asked why he decided to testify, Suzuki said that these things are ignored and that "people should know the true nature of war. That's why I am testifying even though I feel shame."

Throughout these proceedings participants were often blocked from leaving or told to go out another door because of right wing protesters who kept up a steady, though small, presence throughout the proceedings. On the day of the judgment, when the Tribunal pronounced Hirohito and the Japanese government guilty of crimes against humanity in the comfort women system, the protestors objected through a bullhorn that "There were no comfort women! There is an international communist conspiracy behind this event!" At that point, after a week of heartbreaking testimony and hard facts, it is unlikely that many participants stopped to listen. ●