

Standing for justice

World's longest running demonstration stays strong for 15 years



The three former comfort women attending were (left to right, top right photo) Soon-dok Lee, Yang Soo Lee and Won-Ok Kil. Soon-dok Lee (top left, bottom center, and bottom left), Yang Soo Lee (middle, center) and Won-Ok Kil were joined by students from Goyang Girls' School (bottom left). Korean military police (right, center) are posted in front of the embassy, and supporting citizens (right, bottom) also join the group.

Photography by Stephen Wunrow

Three former comfort women (women forced into military sexual slavery during World War II by the Japanese Imperial Army) were able to attend the demonstration on December 5, 2007, held

weekly since 1992, to protest the Japanese government's refusal to recognize them as war crimes victims.

For the past 15 years the former comfort women have had

the same demands: For the government of Japan to apologize and make reparations for the offenses against them — including kidnapping, torture, murder, sexual assault and child trafficking, among others;

and for it to educate the Japanese people about its system of military sexual slavery, including teaching about the crimes of the Japanese Imperial government in public schools and textbooks.

The demonstration, held weekly in the same location in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest running weekly demonstration. ●