

Northeast Asia and Women, Peace + Security

*Conversation with Dr. Henrik Syse
PRIO, Journal of Military Ethics,
Oslo, Norway*

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Russian Invasion of Ukraine - Impact on Asia Pacific

Russia violates UNSCR 1325+others re sexual violence in Ukraine. Consequences re justice? Russia on Security Council but not on ICC.

History of US SGBV in Northeast Asia. USA not on ICC. How to treat historical violations + future implications re Status of Forces Agreements SOFA? Stoltenberg: '*Global Ramifications*' re current Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Japan's Abe brings up 'Nuclear-Sharing' w/ USA. Augmentation of US military bases in Northeast Asia/ Okinawa + Asia Pacific against threats from DPRK and China.

Current SOFA needs change. Okinawans against US military expansion due to experience. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20220314/p2g/00m/0na/063000c>

**China - Potential *mediator* re Russia + North Korea?
USA, Russia, China on Security Council but not part of ICC !**

USA has 750 foreign bases in 80 nations.

US: 3x as many bases as all other countries.

After US is UK with only 145 bases.

Russia: 3 dozen bases China: 5

Where is Okinawa?
0.6% of Japan's Total Land

Population 1.44 mil

**70% of all US forces
of Japan crammed in
Okinawa**

NIMBY *Not in My Back Yard*



2 U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa Today

(1) U.S. Military Bases

- Number of U.S. Military activities-use for Bases: 31
- Area: 45,968 acres
- 8.2% of Okinawa prefectural land
- 14.6% of Okinawa main island
- Designated as water areas for training: 21 (23,575,476 acres)
- Designated as air space for training: 20 (25,577,367 acres)
- Number of military personnel: 25,643 (70.4% of all military personnel in Japan)

Legend

- U.S. Area
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Japan Status II Force Area (4 B) facilities on base
- Designated as training waters and air space



View of U.S. military bases and facilities in current use of March 2017, and number of U.S. military personnel as of June 2011.

Notes: The islands in 2017.

It is in this context that, of the entire area exclusively used by U.S. forces throughout all Japan, 70.4% is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture.

Manila ●

Guam ●

Okinawa's share of U.S. Military exclusive facilities



Okinawa 0.6%

Okinawa 70.4%

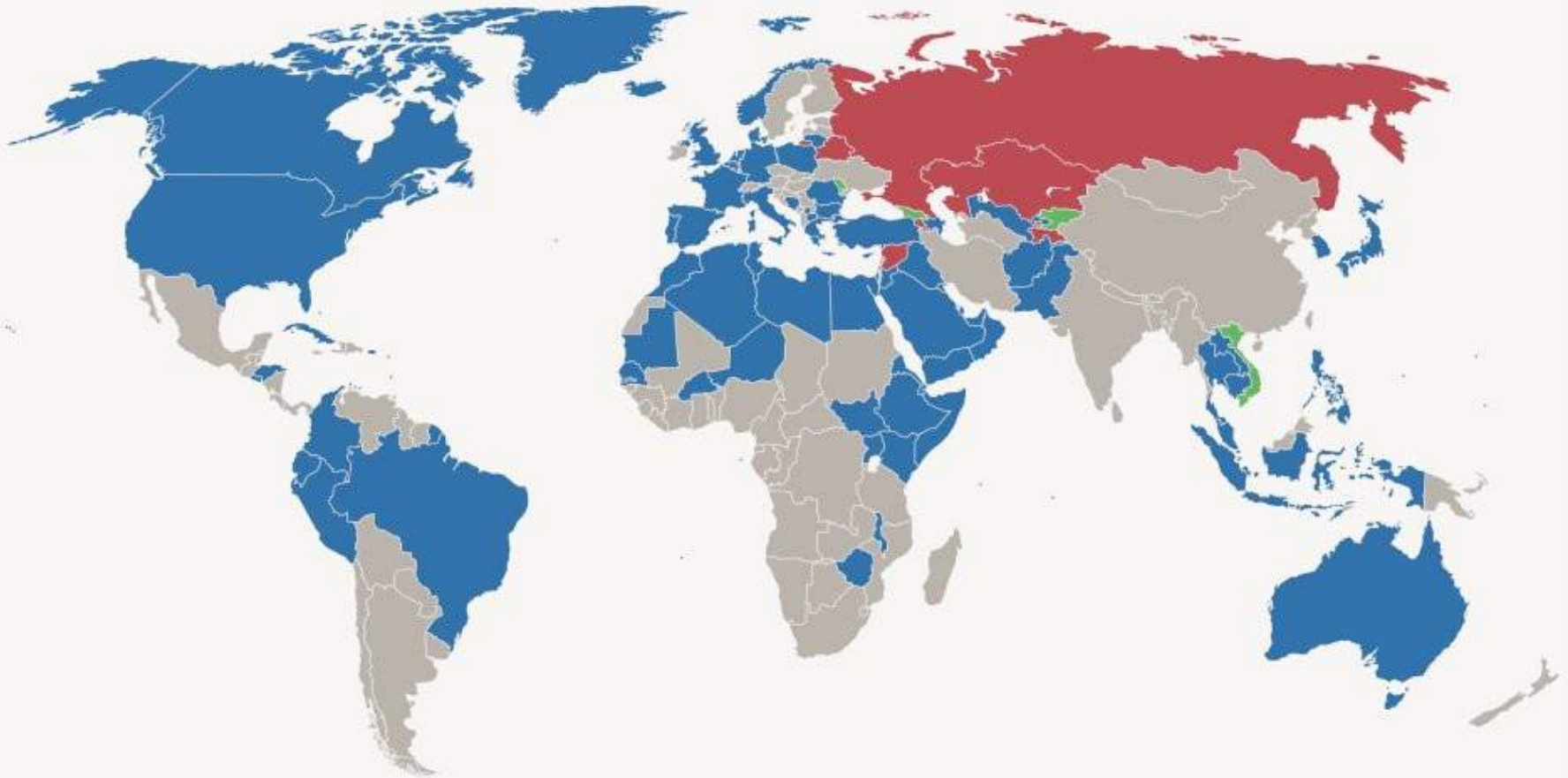


Blue - US bases, Red - Russian bases

// MILITÄRSTÜTZPUNKTE **RUSSLANDS** UND DER **USA**

Länder mit russischen Stützpunkten in **ROT** // Länder mit amerikanischen* Stützpunkten in **BLAU**

Länder mit russischen & amerikanischen Stützpunkten in **GRÜN** // Inselstützpunkte als Kreise angegeben



*darunter CIA-Dronenstützpunkte und aufgedeckte "Secret Rendition Sites"

Datenquellen: Department of Defense Base Structure Report FY 2014 Baseline // Open Society Foundations (2013) – Globalizing Torture // militarybases.com, nationalpost.com, empire.is

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Swiss Institute for Peace
and Energy Research

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What is UNSCR 1325?

United Nations Security Council (SC) resolutions on “Women, Peace and Security.”

UNSCR 1325; 1820; 1888; 1889; 1960; 2106; 2122; 2242

SCR1325 - unanimously adopted by United Nations Security Council 31, October 2000

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1325> **National Action Plans**

<http://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>

- Addresses disproportionate + unique impact of armed conflict on women. **Addresses SGBV**
- Recognizes under-valued /under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution + peace-building.
- Stresses importance of women’s equal + full participation in peace and security.
- But what if nations violate 1325?

UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan: South Korea

- **Date of adoption: 2014**

http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/republicofkorea_nap_2014.pdf

Priorities/focus:

- **Conflict prevention, mediation and peace building**
- **Korean Comfort Women; North Korean refugees; good dialogue with UN agencies.**
-
- **Strengthen, support programs re “comfort women” victims forced into sexual slavery by Japanese Imperial Army**
- **Develop gender-sensitive policies to support North Korean refugees settled in the ROK; improve treatment of female refugees and asylum seekers in the ROK**
- **Communicate w: Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, UN Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination against women in Law and in Practice etc**

1325 National Action Plans: Japan, USA

Japan National Action Plan 1325 Sept 2015

<http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Japan%20National%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Priorities/focus: *World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! Tokyo 2014*”;
No mention of Korean or Japanese Comfort Women, Okinawa issues, SOFA;
shows interest in human trafficking victims.

USA National Action Plan 1325 Executive Order by Obama

- Date of adoption: <http://peacewomen.org/nap-usa> 2011 and 2016
 - http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/us_nationalactionplan_2011.pdf
 - https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20-01943-SGWI_v11_forWeb_Bookmarks508.pdf
- Priorities/focus: **no** mention investigation of SGBV in Asia Pacific nor SOFA
limiting accountability; **no** mention of US military sexual violence to service
women or men.
- <http://www.servicewomen.org/> Military SGBV Service Women’s Action Network

China? Russia? Mongolia, etc.. Rest of Asia, etc...

Date of adoption: ? Priorities/focus: ? *Walking their Talk* ?

South Korean Comfort Women:

U.N. panel calls for revising Japan-S. Korea "comfort women" deal

<http://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/05/862ae8933095-update1-un-panel-calls-for-revising-japan-s-korea-comfort-women-deal.html>

What do the surviving women wish ?

ROK government platforms their voices – in *sharp contrast* to Japanese comfort women silenced by Japanese government; no action by US government.

Will US + allied forces governments acknowledge + offer reparations for Japanese comfort-women? And SGBV survivors of Okinawa?

Acknowledge accountability today via new UNSCRs ?

History of SGBV by USA in Japan/Okinawa WWII:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recreation_and_Amusement_Association and others

Japan: Recreation and Amusement Association RAA □□□□□□□□

Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombing occurred **August 6, 1945**

RAA founded: **August 23, 1945.** Disbanded by SCAPIN 642 on January 26, 1946

General D. MacArthur, POTUS Truman

Brothels for US/Allied Forces in Japan

55,000 Japanese women employed

15 - 60 clients per day

Earned \$2 USD, for 47 US customers



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_during_the_occupation_of_Japan

Allied Forces + SGBV, Battle of Okinawa 1 April- 22 June 1945

1/3 to 1/2 of Okinawan population killed

1,000's unreported rape cases by US military – no justice

Pan Pan Women, Japanese women prostituted for US military after RAA

<http://www.w4nv.com/pan-pan-women-in-japan-after-wwii-late-1940s.html>

Recreation+Amusement Association, Japan 1945-46, Yasuura House - Prostitution for US Armed Forces by Japanese women. GIs waiting for their



<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/247861-okinawa-japan-us-military-base>

Battle of Okinawa 1 April - 22 June 1945

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/bloody-hell-okinawa-180975148/>

**Japan used Okinawan people as 'human shields' against US military;
Japanese mis-information results in Okinawans' mass suicides**

https://www.democracynow.org/2014/1/16/okinawas_revolt_decades_of_rape_environmental



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLtNrUAcfGw>

Catherine Jane Fisher - 20 years for 'justice'
Rape survivor by US military in Yokosuka, Japan
Australian woman with Okinawan family.
Obstruction of justice by both US and Japan governments



<https://usmvaw.wordpress.com/information-statistics/>

Military Prostitution Serving US Armed Forces:

Pan Pan Women: <http://www.w4nv.com/>

[pan-pan-women-in-japan-after-wwii-late-1940s.html](http://www.w4nv.com/pan-pan-women-in-japan-after-wwii-late-1940s.html) **Young Japanese prostituted women emerged soon after the RAA was shut down to fill demand for paid sex by US armed forces Gis.**

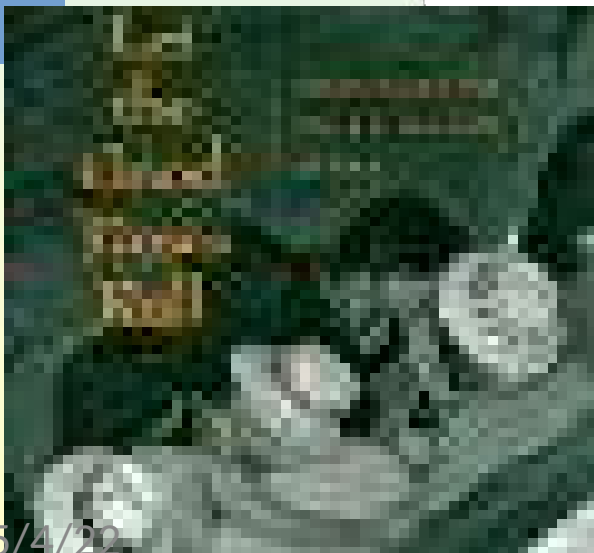
Vietnam War 1955-75 Impact through-out Asia Pacific

– US military prostitution significance

“Let the Good Times Roll: Prostitution and the U.S. Military”

<https://www.amazon.com/Let-Good-Times-Roll-Prostitution/dp/1565840496>

[Mara PollackSturdevant](#) (Author), [BrendaStoltzfus](#) (Author)



Orphaned children in Philipines+Vietnam by American fathers.

**People’s Recovery Empowerment Development (PREDA) Philipines: by end 1980s
500 brothels + 15,000 prostitutes in Olongapo meet demand of US naval bases.**

<http://narrative.ly/the-kids-the-americans-left-behind/prio, bkawamura>

Status of Forces Agreement SOFA of US Japan:

Agreement between hosting country of Japan and US visiting forces.
US has 750 foreign bases in 80 nations.

Establishes framework under which U.S. military personnel operate in Japan + how domestic laws of Japan apply toward U.S. personnel.
Covers jurisdictional protocols.

Need to re-evaluate Articles 16, 17, 18 + potential inconsistencies with UNSCR1325 National Action Plans. Japan-USA SOFA was signed in 1961 replacing earlier 1951 security treaty.

UNSCR 1325 was adopted way later on 31 October 2000.

Okinawa was reverted back to Japan from USA in 1972.

Okinawa back in 1961 had little voice re SOFA. Has this changed?

MOFA: Agreement regarding the Status of United States Armed Forces in Japan

<https://www.thesoldiersproject.org/how-many-us-military-bases-are-there-in-the-world/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

外務省

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Agreement regarding the Status of United States Armed Forces in Japan

AGREEMENT UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE TREATY OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND SECURITY BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, REGARDING FACILITIES AND AREAS AND THE STATUS OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN JAPAN

Japan and the United States of America, pursuant to Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America signed at Washington on January 19, 1960, have entered into this Agreement in terms as set forth below:

ARTICLE I

In this Agreement the expression-

- a. "members of the United States armed forces" means the personnel on active duty belonging to the land, sea or air armed services of the United States of America when in the Territory of Japan.
- b. "civilian component" means the civilian persons of United States nationality who are in the employ of, serving with, or accompanying the United States armed forces in Japan, but excludes persons who are ordinarily resident in Japan or who are mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article XIV. For the purposes of this Agreement only, dual citizens of Japan and United States, who are brought to Japan by the United States, shall be considered as United States citizens.

ARTICLE XVI

It is the duty of members of the United States armed forces, the civilian component, and their dependents to respect the law of Japan and to abstain from any activity inconsistent with the spirit of this Agreement, and, in particular, from any political activity in Japan.

ARTICLE XVII

1. Subject to the provisions of this Article,
 - a. the military authorities of the United States shall have the right to exercise within Japan all criminal and disciplinary jurisdiction conferred on them by the law of the United States over all persons subject to the military law of the United States;
 - b. the authorities of Japan shall have jurisdiction over the members of the United States armed forces, the civilian component, and their dependents with respect to offenses committed within the territory of Japan and punishable by the law of Japan.
2.
 - a. The military authorities of the United States shall have the right to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over persons subject to the military law of the United States with respect to offenses, including offenses relating to its security, punishable by the law of the United States, but not by the law of Japan.
 - b. The authorities of Japan shall have the right to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over members of the United States armed forces, the civilian component, and their dependents with respect to offenses, including offenses relating to the security of Japan, punishable by its law but not by the law of the United States.
 - c. For the purposes of this paragraph and of paragraph 3 of this Article a security offense against a State shall include
 - i. treason against the State;
 - ii. sabotage, espionage or violation of any law relating to official secrets of that State, or secrets relating to the national defense of that State.
3. In cases where the right to exercise jurisdiction is concurrent the following rules shall apply:
 - a. The military authorities of the United States shall have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction over members of the United States armed forces or the civilian component in relation to
 - i. offenses solely against the property or security of the United States, or offenses solely against the person or property of another member of the United States armed forces or the civilian component or of a dependent;

SUB-COMMITTEE ON JURISDICTION
ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT MATTERS
CRIMINAL PANEL

25 October 1953

Statement by the Chairman of the Japanese Side
of the Criminal Panel, Jurisdiction Sub-Committee
of the Joint Committee with respect to Paragraph 3
of the Protocol of 29 September 1952, amending
Article XVII of the Administrative Agreement

Japanese Representative:

1. As to practical operation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of the Protocol, I can state that as a matter of policy the Japanese authorities do not normally intend to exercise the primary right of jurisdiction over members of the United States Armed Forces, the civilian component, or their dependents subject to the military law of the United States, other than in cases considered to be of material importance to Japan. In this respect I should like to point out that the Japanese authorities retain their freedom of discretion in the determination of which cases are of material importance to Japan.

2. When the Japanese authorities have decided to bring an indictment with respect to a case over which Japan has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction, they will so notify the United States military authorities. The notification will be made in such form, by such authorities, and within such time as the Joint Committee may prescribe.

3. The above statements shall not be interpreted to prejudice the principles of paragraph 3 of the Protocol.

As regards the interpretation of my statements concerning paragraph 3 of the Protocol, I deem it appropriate, in order to prevent the occurrence of any dispute in future, to state as follows:

Under paragraph 3 (c) of the Protocol, when the Japanese Government has decided not to exercise its primary right of jurisdiction in an individual case, it shall so notify the United States authorities as soon as practicable. Accordingly, pending such notification within the maximum time limit set for notification by the Joint Committee, it should not be presumed that the Japanese Government would not exercise its primary right of jurisdiction as provided for in paragraph 3 (b) of the Protocol. My statements mentioned above shall be interpreted in this sense.

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Minoru Tada
TADA, MINORU
Chairman, Criminal Panel,
Japanese Sub-Committee on Jurisdiction

1953 Japan USA agreement.

**Oct. 1953 Japan/USA Agreement.
Truman/Eisenhower POTUS.
Allows Japan to show
discretion. Loopholes allowed
in prosecution of crimes
committed by US military in
Japan. Catherine Fisher, 'I Am
Catherine Jane', June 2014, Tokyo**

<https://www.amazon.com/I-Am-Catherine-Jane-Fisher/dp/1925171639>

Australia '60 Minutes' program
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmdKKPV4UWc&feature=youtu.be>

Page 183 ~ "I Am Catherine Jane"

I had settled my landmark case in the U.S.A. for one dollar because I finally had the proof that the U.S. Military had obstructed my fight for justice. The man who raped me, Bloke Deans, had submitted a statement to the courts of Milwaukee. 'When the Navy hearing ended and the Navy lawyer told Mr Deans, "You're now leaving Japan," Mr Deans asked the lawyer about the Japanese civil case. The lawyer just answered, "You're out of here." Mr Deans said, 'Since he told me I had to leave. I'm thinking everything is washed. I'm thinking everything is done... When they- my lawyer came and told me, you are now leaving Japan, I said okay. I just followed orders. I don't have no say-so. I'm thinking everything is done.'

Almost twelve years since I was raped...and the truth is finally out. I had left no stone unturned fighting for justice not only for myself, but also for all victims of U.S. Military crime. Any true investigator would do the same and would not give up until the crime was solved. The U.S. Military claims zero tolerance to rape but the stories pouring in from around the world contradict this. All problems in this world are made by humans therefore we as humans can solve them. Sweeping them under the carpet will never make them go away. It all begins to change when people admit that there is a grave problem at hand. I won't give up. ©CatherineJaneFisher

**Obstruction of Justice.
US military assisted
assailant to leave
Japan. Page from
Catherine Fisher, "I am
Catherine Jane",
Tokyo.**

<https://www.amazon.com/I-Am-Catherine-Jane-Fisher/dp/1925171639>
June, 2014

Bridging Required for Northeast Asian WPS Synergies, Communication + Empowerment

Support Required:
Resources, administrative,
political, endorsements, +
kind services ...

International Government Ministries,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Defense,
Justice, EU, NATO, OSCE etc.

NGOs, UN Women, etc.

Media groups, museums, i.e.,
Centres for Journalism + Trauma,
Comm. to Protect Journalists,

Military Academies +
Universities incorporate
testimonies

Acknowledgement by key political
figures,
Parliaments globally

Academics + Specialists
on WPS and
Medical Centers

Endorsement by recognized HR
influencers, refugee women, Nobel
Peace Laureates, State Heads leading
gender initiatives, etc.

Empowerment of Northeast Asian Survivors Possible?

- UN sections in New York, Geneva, the ICC, international tribunals, etc. can network with 1325 NAP working-groups of Asia and globally.
- Respect survivor histories – not always congruous with ‘official’ histories.
- Remove “conspiracy of silence”. *Openly discuss* stories for adjudication. Military academies and think-tanks can make historical differences. *Zero-tolerance* of White-Washing history by governments.
-
-
- Help organize Northeast Asian survivors into *working-committees* for UNSCR 1325 NAPs and SOFA re-evaluation for NATO and EU.
- Strengthen education – work with museums, media, military academies, educational institutes to *un-silence* darker historical incidences no matter how ‘inconvenient’.
-
- Engage survivors in Peace Negotiations - Track I and Track II.
-
-

Northeast Asia and Women, Peace + Security: Future Action Plans ?

- **Re-evaluate the presence/decision-making power of USA in Asia.**
- **Truth + reconciliation of US Military+Allied forces' SGBV in Asia.
Inform NATO and EU of analysis + recommendations.**
- **Have POTUS discuss issues transparently.**
- **Is Japan willing to discuss RAA + Okinawa issues with USA?**
- **Consider responsibility to protect re SOFA esp Okinawa?**
- **Consider special UN investigations with Special Rapporteurs.**
- **SGBV survivors must have political will to speak up internationally**
- **Need support by national, intern'l governments**

... Future Action Plans ?

- Re-evaluate 1325 National Action Plans for North Asia + USA vis a vis SOFA. NATO + EU should be notified of findings for change.
- Erase 'secrecy' agreements' between USA + Japan, other nations that perpetuate immunity via SOFA. *Remember USA not part of ICC/Rome Statute.*
How to deal with nations that violate UNSC Resolutions?
-
- Empower SGBV histories via commissions of inquiries + investigations. Include survivors of RAA and Pan Pan Women *on same level and priority* as Korean comfort women.
- **NATO + EU and other nations strong on Women, Peace + Security serve as Peer Reviewers for WPS throughout Asia.**
- * International community should re-evaluate its relations to US + Japan if SGBV issues are to be taken seriously.
Calculate relations vis a vis balance of power + global geopolitics.

If no re-evaluation done, we have failed to take WPS seriously – meaning we prioritized geo-political , military and economic conveniences...with blind eyes...

Conclusions: WPS Women Peace+Security in Asia:

“Reconciliation is best achieved when guilt is admitted voluntarily and a hand is reached out to the victims.” “Requisite for reconciliation is to acknowledge essential facts, however disagreeable to oneself.”

S. Tonneson, Explaining the East Asian Peace, 2017

Acknowledge gravity of SGBV crimes committed in Asia Pacific, regardless of how geopolitically ‘inconvenient’ and uncomfortable.

Re-evaluate presence /‘hegemony’ of USA in Asia Pacific?

USA and Allied Forces SGBV in Asia Pacific needs to be reviewed and investigated. NB – USA + China not signatories to Rome Statute

Consider accountability, immunity and reparations for survivors?

SOFA Status of Force Agreements – loopholes Japan USA

US Military Code of Conduct – re-evaluate, make accountable?

Re-examine harmony with UNSCR1325 initiatives.

And how to deal with nations that violate UNSC Resolutions?

Additional Resources – Please contact me for further info!

US/Japan Status of Force Agreement

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/n-america/us/q&a/ref/2.html>

Background Info on Okinawa

<https://dc-office.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/E-all.pdf>

Women's Active Museum, Tokyo, Japan <http://wam-peace.org/en/>

Interviews of Betsy Kawamura

By Dr. Henrik Syse PRIO Oslo, Norway March 2021

[https://www.w4nv.com/news/february-2021;-conversation-henrik-syse-\(prio\)-with-betsy-kawamura-\(w4nv\).html](https://www.w4nv.com/news/february-2021;-conversation-henrik-syse-(prio)-with-betsy-kawamura-(w4nv).html)

By Dr. Carlos Juarez, East West Center Honolulu, USA December 2021

<https://thinktechhawaii.com/women-peace-and-security-in-north-asia-global-connections/>

Asahi Shimbun Japan New York, USA April 2021

<https://www.asahi.com/articles/photo/AS20210419000982.html>

Mental Health and Human Rights Info, Oslo Norway November 2020

<https://www.hhri.org/newsletter/newsletter-no-4/>

Articles on North Korea and UNSCR 1325:

www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/2011/05/north-korea-and-far-east-asia-new-frontiers-for-uns-cr-1325/

Powerpoint on North Korea, presented at Lillhammer University College, Norway

www.academia.edu/5331428/North_Korea_LILLEHAMMERApril6