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WAR CRIMES ON ASIAN WOMEN: MILITARY SEXUAL SLAVERY BY JAPAN DURING WWII (THE CASE OF FILIPINO COMFORT WOMEN PART II)

An estimated 100,000 Asian women were conscripted as “comfort women” by Japan from 1942 to 1945. After 50 years of grief, shame, and trauma, Asian women who were forced to serve as sexual slaves by Japan during the World War II are breaking the silence and demanding justice for human rights violations committed against them by the Japanese government.

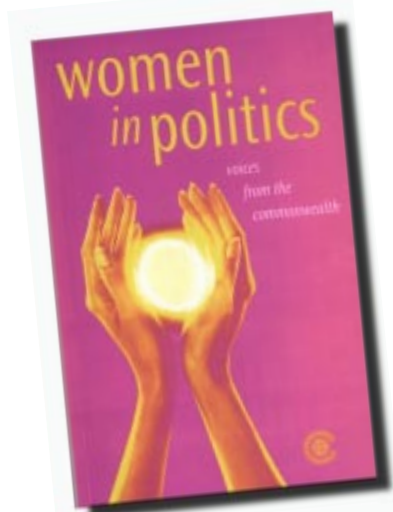
This volume is a sequel to the highly successful War Crimes on

Asian Women published in 1993. The success of Part I, an attempt to foster and deepen understanding of the issue of Asian and Filipino comfort women, is a manifestation of the significant breakthroughs in the struggle of comfort women. Yet, the fight for justice continues as the Japanese government refuses to take responsibility for heinous crimes committed against comfort women. Part II reflects this struggle through a collection of articles, testimonies, letters, statements and appeals made by and in behalf of comfort women organised into five sections for more coherence.

Section 1 gives a background, overview and framework of the issue of Filipino comfort women to orient the reader on the overall

context. Section 2 is a collection of testimonies lifted from legal testimonies of plaintiffs in the suit against the Japanese government. Section 3 guides the reader on the Philippine movement for redress by highlighting the lawsuit versus the Japanese government, the advocacy on the Filipino comfort women issue, international solidarity for the Filipino and other Asian victims and survivors and responses by some sectors in Japan. Section 4, “Takes from the Press,” reflects the achievement and visibility of the movement through media liaison and networking. The last section highlights significant gains and events made from 1991-1998. (Manila: AWHRC and LILA-Pilipina, 1998. 342 p.)

WOMEN IN POLITICS: VOICES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH



This book features the study of women involved in politics. It explores the experiences of 33

women politicians from 11 countries of the Commonwealth: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Dominica, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, South Africa and Uganda.

The study focuses on the realities of life for those committed and courageous women who have decided to take up politics, emphasising the challenges and barriers that women politicians face. From the analysis, the study proves that the prevailing systems of values in a society and the established political pattern determine the political life of women. However, it is evident that their personal values and strengths, their resilience and commitment, and their sheer physical, psychological and mental endurance are reasons that made these

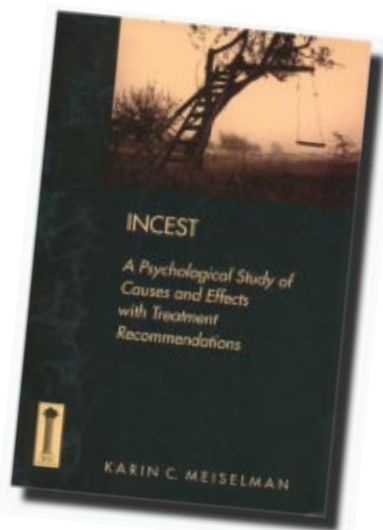
women enter politics, sustain their political careers, and rise to positions of responsibility, prominence and leadership.

The study also analyses the strategies that women could develop and put into place for entry into the world of politics, strategies that could be adapted to the national situations in Commonwealth countries to empower women and enable them to participate more effectively in politics. These profiles demonstrate the critical role that women can play as the Commonwealth strives to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace in the new millennium. (United Kingdom: Commonwealth Secretariat. 1999. ISBN: 0-85092-569-x. 156 p.)

INCEST: A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF CAUSES AND EFFECTS WITH TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
by Karin Meiselman

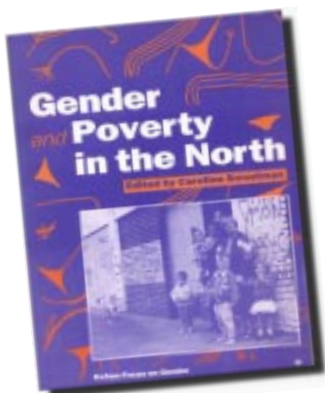
The incest taboo is widely believed to be universal. The universal nature of incest as a taboo and the intense emotions engendered by its violation have elicited the interest of many social scientists especially anthropologists, and numerous theories have been constructed to explain the origin of the taboo and its persistence over time.

This book presents an integration of previous literature on the psychology of incest with the author's clinical findings and new hypotheses about the effects of incest. The book is divided into 11 chapters. Chapter 1 summarises anthropological and sociological views on the origin and the maintenance of the incest taboo. Chapter 2 provides a discussion of the



advantages and inherent problems of various strategies for doing research on overt incest behavior. Chapter 3 delineates the data collection methods that were employed in the author's own study and gives a preliminary description of the psychotherapy sample of incest cases and a control group of non-incestuous clinic patients. The emphasis throughout the remain-

GENDER AND POVERTY IN THE NORTH by Caroline Sweetman (Ed)



While rapid change to the pattern of trade and industrial production is transforming the global economy and challenging North-South differences in the way women and men experience employment, Northern governments and non-governmental organisa-

tions (NGOs) are debating the role of the state in continuing to provide a welfare safety net for all its citizens, and discussing alternative means of working to eradicate poverty and meet basic needs. In line with this new focus on finding solutions for Northern poverty in the experience of the South, this book focuses on the issue of poverty and gender relations in various northern contexts. The authors of the articles featured consider the differences and similarities between experiences of poverty as it relates to gender identity in different Northern and Southern contexts. They also consider how sharing perspectives on approaches to poverty reduction in these different contexts might be mutually enriching.

(UK and Ireland: Oxfam. 1997. ISBN: 0-85598-393-0. 72 p.)

der of the book is on the psychological causes and effects of overt incest. Chapters 4, 5 and 6 are devoted to extensive descriptions of father-daughter incest: the causes of the incest affair and its immediate and long-term after-effects. Other forms of heterosexual incest, notably sibling incest and mother-son incest are discussed in Chapters 7 and 8. Chapter 9 summarises the little that is known about heterosexual incest. Chapter 10 provides a discussion of several patterns of multiple incest; and Chapter 11 makes suggestions for improved detection and treatment of incest cases.

The book in general provides a comprehensive and well-integrated source of information that should not only be helpful to the clinician dealing with incest cases, but will also stimulate further research in an area that is in dire need of well-designed and carefully executed studies.

(USA: Jossey-Bass Inc. 1978. ISBN: 0-87589-380-5. 366 p.)

CARRYING THE BURDEN OF THE WORLD by Jeanne Frances I. Illo and Rosalinda Pineda Ofreneo (Eds.)

The plummeting of currencies rapidly deflated stock and real estate assets, and undermined the health of banks and financial institutions. Businesses are closing down, unemployment is rising, and prices of basic goods and services are exploding. All these have been associated with—either caused by or resulted in—the loss of confidence by foreign investors and economic deceleration. What began as a currency and financial crisis has turned into an economic crisis, with disastrous impacts on individuals, households, businesses and governments.

Prompted by this economic crisis, the University of the

Philippines Centre for Integrated and Development Studies explored the impact of the crisis and its consequences on various sectors such as agricultural and rural women, informal sector workers and producers, overseas migrant workers, women in the formal sector, indigenous women, girl-child workers, and consumer and public sector workers who are being or likely to be affected by the privatisation efforts of the government. The book represents the collective efforts of the editors and authors, development workers, grassroots women, and academic researchers who participated animatedly in roundtable discussions held between July and November 1998. The book, whose underlying analytical framework weaves dis-



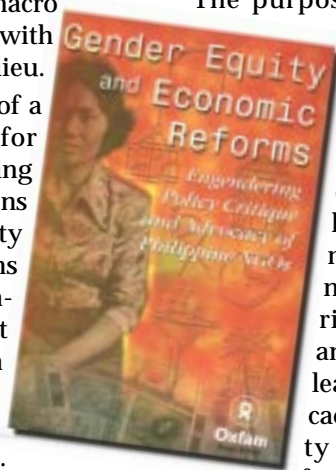
courses on markets and gender, is an excellent source of ideas for research on women and the economic crisis.

(Quezon City: U.P. Centre for Integrative and Development Studies. 1999. ISBN: 971-742-030-0. 157 p.)

GENDER EQUITY AND ECONOMIC REFORMS: ENGENDERING POLICY, CRITIQUE AND ADVOCACY OF THE PHILIPPINE NGOS by Josefa S. Francisco and Shalimar C. Vitan (Eds.)

The book represents a coming together of feminists and social activists with different backgrounds and varied fields of expertise, exploring gender issues in macro policies to come to terms with a constantly changing milieu.

The book is a result of a process that stretched for almost two years, beginning with roundtable discussions entitled Gendered Equity Issues and Considerations in Macroeconomics convened by Development Alternatives with Women in a New Era (DAWN) and the Philippines Office of Oxfam Great Britain. The roundtable discussions revolved around the observation that increasingly, greater stress was



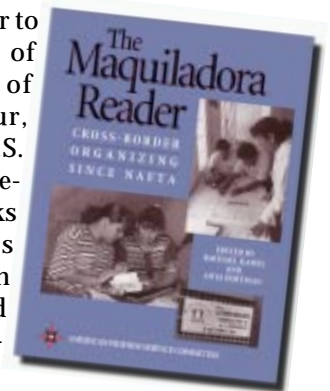
being placed on economic reform with support by state and international policy instruments, and that these are key to achieving growth and development. In this context, the task of accounting and documentation to monitoring and valuing impact become necessarily urgent and essential. To critique sharply, one has to understand clearly.

The purpose of the book is simply to help spur the development of tools for a gendered analysis of economic policies as well as to help its readers make the interconnections among various perspectives and cross the bridge leading to an advocacy for gender equity in economic reforms.

(Philippines: Oxfam Great Britain. 1999. 180 p. ISBN: 971-91752-1-4)

THE MAQUILADORA READER: CROSS-BORDER ORGANISING SINCE NAFTA by Rachael Kamel and Anya Hoffman (Eds.)

The introduction of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the early 1990s sparked much debate not only among policy makers but also among labour unions, other workers' organisations, environmental groups, and community-based organisations in the three NAFTA countries: Mexico, Canada and the U.S. A major strand of such cross-border activism focused on the Mexico-U.S. border and especially the Maquiladora industry, composed of foreign assembly plants that have moved to the Mexican side of the border to take advantage of the low cost of Mexican labour, proximity to U.S. markets and a series of tax breaks and incentives offered by both the U.S. and Mexican governments.



Since NAFTA went into effect in 1994, the Maquiladora industry continued to grow; and Maquiladora activism continued to mature. Since little information is available to those not directly involved, the *Maquiladora Reader* seeks to fill that gap by offering an accessible compilation of articles on Maquiladora issues that have been published in the post-NAFTA era. This book focuses on how activists, especially Maquiladora workers, have responded to this situation. It also allows for an appreciation of the need for cross-border networking and organising in fighting for a living wage and a healthy workplace.

(Philadelphia: American Friends Service Committee, 1999. 131 p.)

List of Publishers

Asian Women Human Rights Council (AWHRC) - Manila office

934-D Tuazon Bldg., Aurora Blvd. cor. 20th Ave., Bgy. Mangga, Cubao,

Quezon City, Philippines

Tel: (63-2) 913-3337

Fax: (63-2) 439-4153

E-mail: awhrc@phil.gn.apc.org or nsancho@skynet.net

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Fax: (44-1732) 770-620

E-mail: vale@vale-ltd.co.uk

Website: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org>
or <http://www.youngcommonwealth.org>

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Fax: (632) 924-6381

Mexico-U.S. Border Program

American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry St. Philadelphia,
PA 19102 U.S.A.

U.P. Centre for Integrative and Development Studies

ATTN: Social Development Agenda Program
Ang Bahay ng Alumni, University of the
Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telefaxes: (63-2) 929-3540; 928-9691;
435-9283

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Oxfam Great Britain Philippines Office

95-A Malumanay St., Teacher's Village,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Tel: (63-2) 921-7203; 433-6115

organisations and electronic resources on human rights groups

Amnesty International (AI)

Amnesty International (AI) is a world-wide campaigning movement that promotes all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. In particular, AI campaigns to free all prisoners of conscience, ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners, end political killings and "disappearances," and oppose human rights abuses by opposition groups.

AI has around a million members and supporters in 162 countries and territories. Activities range from public demonstrations to letter writing, from human rights education to fundraising concerts, from individual appeals on a particular case to global campaigns on a particular issue.

AI is impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion or religious creed. Largely, subscriptions and donations from its world-wide membership finance AI. (For specific addresses in different countries see <http://www.amnesty.org/index.html>)

Amnesty International USA Women's Human Rights Program

The Women's Rights Program of AIUSA seeks to stop the particular violations of civil and political rights that women and girls experience. Information on AIUSA's actions, selected articles from the newsletter, links to other women's human rights webpages are on <http://www.amnesty-usa.org/women/index.html#program>.

Address: 322 8th Avenue, New York,
New York 10001, USA
Tel: (1-212) 633-4200

Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre

Established in 1995, the Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre has been actively involved in activities with a

gender and North-South perspective and with critical view of Japan's role in Asia for the last two decades. One of its areas of concerns is violence against women in war and armed conflict situations.

Address: 14-10-311 Skuragaoka,
Shibayu-ku, Tokyo 150-0031, Japan

Tel: (81-3) 3780-5245

Fax: (81-3) 3463-9752

Email: ajwrc@jca.ax.apc.org

Website: <http://www.jca.ax.apc.org/ajwrc/>

VAWW-NET Japan (founded by AJWRC)

Established in May 1998, VAWW-NET Japan stands for Violence against Women in War-Network Japan.

Fax: (81-3) 5337-4088

E-mail: vaww-net-japan@jca.ax.apc.org

Website: <http://www.jca.ax.apc.org/vaww-net-japan/>

Be active, Be emancipated (B.a.B.e.), Croatia

B.a.B.e. is a lobbying and advocacy group for women's human rights that aims to empower women refugees and migrants. It monitors government commitments to mainstream gender in development co-operation programmes, provides institutional support to the Women in Development Europe (WIDE) Platform in Ireland

Address: Prilaz Gjуре Dezelica 26/II,
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: (358-1) 484-6176

Fax: (358-1) 484-6176

E-mail: babe_zg@zamir-zg.ztn.apc.org

Burma.Net [online communities for Burma]

Hundreds of thousands of refugees are being driven forth (and often back) into neighbouring Thailand, India, Bangladesh and China. The Refugee focus group discusses what sort of aid is most needed during any particular month, long-term strategies for enabling the refugees to help themselves, how we can be most effective during an upcoming visit to a border area, reports from recent border trips, organises collections and drives at local churches, works with the Letter Writing focus group to continue to encourage the Thai government and United Nation Human

Rights Council (UNHRC) to co-operate with each other. Many of these ongoing discussions, particularly those regarding State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and the Thai policy toward refugees, take place via the issues.refugees newsgroups at news://news.burma.net/local.issues.refugees. The discussions are open to public.

Listserv: refugees@burma.net
Website: <http://www.burma.net/>

Committee for Humanitarian Assistance to Iranian Refugees (CHAIR)

The Committee for Humanitarian Assistance to Iranian Refugees (CHAIR) was created in 1992 with the mission to locally and globally empower Iranian refugees and asylum seekers to promote and protect their rights within a participatory framework. CHAIR was founded on the premise that refugees and asylum seekers who have access to resources and the support they need for survival, who are aware and informed of their rights and the root causes of their problems, and who are organised in groups around mutual concerns are empowered to articulate and struggle for social changes. One of its programmes is the Women's Programme which aims to raise awareness on the status of women in Iran, advocate for gender-based asylum and expose the Islamic regime's treatment of women. As a member of the International Campaign in Defence of Women's Rights in Iran (ICDWRI), CHAIR conducts international women's rights work under the auspices of ICDWRI.

Address: GPO, P. O. Box 7051, New York, NY 10116, USA
E-mail: info@chair.org
Website: <http://www.chair.org/>

Korea Women's Association (KWA)

Created to unite the power of women's organisations working for women's rights and democracy, the Korean Women's Association (KWA) has 31 member organisations representing the Korean women's movement. KWA strives to build an equal society free from institutional discrimination and a democratic society where political, economic and socio-cultural rights are guaran-

teed, and to achieve the reunification of North and South Korea.

Address: 38-84 Changchung-Dong 1KA, Chung-ku, Seoul 100-391, Republic of Korea
Tel: (82-2) 273-9535
Fax: (82-2) 273-9539;
E-mail: info@www.women21.or.kr
Website: <http://www.women21.or.kr>

MADRE

MADRE is a US-based international women's human rights organisation with local women's organisations in different parts of the world: Central America, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, and the former Yugoslavia. MADRE has information on these organisations and their programmes.

Address: 121 West 27th Street, Room 301 New York, NY 10001, U.S.A.
Tel: (1-212) 627-0444
Fax: (1-212)675-3704
E-mail: madre@igc.org
Website: <http://www.MADRE.org/>

Sisterhood Is Global Institute

Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI) is an international women's human rights organisation working toward empowering women in the Global South to define and achieve their human rights. SIGI's projects focus on developing women's leadership, women-to-women international dialogues, urgent action alerts, and coming out with publications on human rights education. SIGI's most recent manual addresses eliminating violence against women and girls.

Address: 4343 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 201, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA
Tel: (1-514) 846-9366
Fax: (1-514) 846-9066
E-mail: sigi@igc.apc.org
Website: <http://www.sigi.org/>

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Palestine

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom conducts research and works with peace and human rights organisations to end Israel's occupation of Palestine. This group monitors Israel's policies of occupation and their impact on Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, freedom of movement and worship, education, health services,

equal employment. It also monitors the work of the UN Security Council and General Assembly and American foreign policy in the Middle East. Its monitoring methods include research using government publications and statements, regular debriefing reports to the United Nations, WILPF sections, and networking with government officials, NGOs, and peace and human rights organisations.

Address: #4 Al Khaldi Street, Wadi Joz, Jerusalem, Palestine
Tel: (972-2) 626-2970
Fax: (972-2) 626-4620

Peace Brigades International (PBI), Guatemala

Peace Brigades International works to establish justice and peace in the world through non-violent action. To do so, PBI sends unarmed international peace teams, when invited, into areas of repression or conflict. By doing so, Peace Brigades International challenges the belief that violent institutions and warfare must inevitably dominate human affairs. PBI demonstrates that as international volunteers, citizens can act boldly as peacemakers when their governments cannot. Through its activities, PBI learns about, develops, and models forms of non-violent action in the spirit of Gandhi's experiments with truth. PBI maintained a team in Guatemala from 1983 to 1999. Its activities included offering an unarmed international presence to Guatemalan individuals, organisations and communities threatened with violence and human rights abuses. It worked to develop and maintain channels of communication with the different actors involved in the conflict as a means of deepening its understanding of the situation and to facilitate communication between groups. It also used its presence to report to the international community on human rights and social justice issues in Guatemala. A number of these reports are available at this site.

Address: Central America/Mexico Project Office, 1787 Columbia Rd. NW, 3rd floor, Washington DC 20009, USA
Tel: (1-202) 238-0923
E-mail: pbicam@igc.org
Website: <http://www.igc.org/pbi/guatemala.html>

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)

RAWA is a political/social organisation of Afghan women struggling for peace, freedom, democracy and women's rights in fundamentalism-blighted Afghanistan. Address: P.O. Box 374, Quetta, Pakistan
Tel: (92-300) 551-638
Fax: (1-760) 281-9855
E-mail: rawa@rawa.org or rawa@geocities.com
Website: <http://www.rawa.org/>

Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace, Kenya

Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace airs the concerns of women in war-torn areas through media. It mobilises and trains women community leaders in peace making, serves as a channel through which organisations give assistance to women peace groups. Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace monitors the peace process, economic policies, and women's development, health and reproductive rights. Its strategies include advocacy with government and media and assessment work in liberated areas and refugee camps. Address: c/o LPI, P.O. Box 21123, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254-2) 441-372
Fax: (254-2) 441-372

Women for Women

Women for Women is a not-for-profit humanitarian organisation dedicated to the educational, economic, and interpersonal support of women world-wide who are survivors of war and genocide, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. The organisation, originally called Women for Women in Bosnia, was founded in 1993 in response to the Serbian army's war strategy of rape camps, concentration camps and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. With so many women brutalised and forced to flee their homes, Women for Women in Bosnia recognised that these survivors needed both emotional and financial support from other women around the world. In 1997, Women for Women expanded its services to Rwanda where women have survived yet another genocide. Address: 733 15th St., NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20005, USA
E-mail: infor@womenforwomen.org
Website: <http://www.womenforwomen.org/>

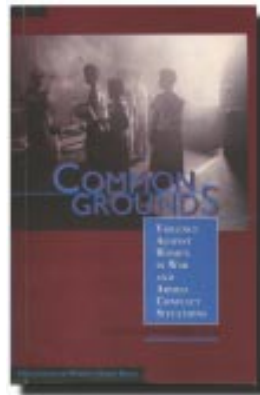
Reviews

SURVIVING WAR

COMMON GROUNDS: Violence Against Women in War and Armed Conflict Situations, edited by Indai Sajor, reviewed by Celeste Cinco

That women have been excluded in the history of war should not be contested. "Where are the women?" is a question often asked upon reading historical accounts where men played all the key roles, and women were unexplainably absent.

The book *Common Grounds: Violence Against Women in War and Armed Conflict Situations* answers in part where the women were and continue to be in the history of war: in comfort houses, in brothels, in mass graves, in military sex camps, in torture chambers, *in fear*. Women were not absent; they were silenced.



Until recently, women were silent about their tragic plight in war situations. Until recently, the definition of war crimes did not include violence against women. But after the Asian comfort women finally told their stories of abuse suffered under the Japanese Army during World War II and when the mass and systematic rape of women in the former Yugoslavia finally made international headlines, the world finally took notice of the unique terror women face during times of war and armed conflict. Now, women are gathering to gain justice for human rights violations committed against them, starting at redefining war crimes and wartime rape to include sexual slavery, forced impregnation, mass rape, the impact of chemical warfare, military sexual slavery, forced prostitution, and other gender-based atrocities done in the name of war.

Common Grounds is a direct result of the International Conference on Violence against Women in War and Armed Conflict Situations held in Tokyo, Japan from 30 October to 3 November 1997. The conference, attended by about 50 women and men from around the world, aimed to shed light on the experiences of women in war and their struggle to obtain justice for the atrocities committed against them during armed conflict. The conference was also held to ensure that the recommendations and resolutions of women would be included in the United Nation's report on state violence against women by UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Radhika Coomaraswamy.

The book includes papers pushing for a redefinition of war crimes to include sexual and gender-based violations that reflect the actual experiences of women in war. In addition, a redefinition of wartime rape is being sought for it to be considered as a human rights violation and not just a violation of a woman's chastity.

Experiences of Women in War

Armed groups have systematically used rape against large numbers of women for various reasons, all of them appalling. The case of the comfort women, according to Yuki Tanaka, whose paper "Rape and War: the Japanese Experience" was part of *Common Grounds*, reflects the attitude of Japanese society towards women and "the exploitation of their (women's) sexuality by Japanese men." Brothels and "comfort houses" were set up as necessary military units, with abducted women forced to provide sex to the men of the Japanese Army. The comfort houses were established supposedly to boost the well-being of Japanese soldiers and to decrease the incidence of civilian rape and venereal disease. Comfort houses were an alternative to providing the Japanese Army's rank and file the same designated leave periods that Allied soldiers enjoyed and to non-military brothels that could have easily been infiltrated by spies.

Rape, forced prostitution and mass killings were not limited to Asian women. Tanaka's paper also recounts similar experiences endured by Australian and British nurses during the Japanese invasion of Banka Island in Indonesia.

Women have also been raped to instil fear of an enemy state or group. *Common Grounds* also explains how the rise of fundamentalism in many countries has resulted in the systematic and mass rape and execution of women. In Algeria, women have been mutilated and decapitated then paraded on the streets to terrorise the public, and to show other women the consequences of not adhering to fundamentalist beliefs. In Afghanistan, the Taliban, a very strong fundamentalist group, has massacred, beaten, raped and forced into *mutaa* marriages (temporary marriages)

women who were either relatives of enemy groups or were perceived as not upholding "true" Islamic beliefs. In Bangladesh, the Pakistani army has been reported to have raped and used Bangladeshi women as sex slaves. Women are forcibly impregnated to "taint" the lineage of the enemy tribe/group.

While rape and feminicide remain the most appalling of war crimes against women, there are other manifestations of violence against women in war and armed conflict situations. In her section of the book, Reiko Watanuki discusses the long-term and time-delayed effects of chemical warfare on women. During the Vietnam War, the United States Army used chemical weapons—defoliants that contained dioxin. Years after the war had ended, dioxin continued to affect the Vietnamese women's reproductive health with abnormal pregnancies and birth defects among their children.

Another type of violence women face during war is forced evictions. Leilani Farha discusses the impact of forced evictions on women's lives, highlighting the brutality of forced evictions in Turkey, Burma and the Occupied Territories in Palestine. These evictions, which displace women and their families, are violent and often result in the rape and massacre of women.

What Women are Doing

Women are lobbying at national and international levels for reparation and rehabilitation for gender-based war crimes, the most popular movement being that of the World War II comfort women. That the International Conference on Violence against Women in War and Armed Conflict Situations was held in Japan was especially significant because it stressed the support that the Japanese women's movement gives to the comfort women. This

is particularly significant since the comfort women have filed a case against the Japanese government, the progress of which is also discussed in the book.

Should the efforts of the women's movement gain victory, it would have implications on the work and conduct of War Crime Tribunals that have so far failed to fully address human rights violations against women during times of war. The contributors to and the editor of *Common Grounds* hope that these changes would be able to prevent violations against women from happening again.

Common Grounds gives an overview of women's experiences in war—both past and present. While it is good that women's war stories are finally out in the open, and that international government and non-government bodies are seeking to redress violations on women, it is disturbing how rape and other forms of gender-based violence are integral and intrinsic to warfare. "War is an inherently patriarchal activity, and rape is one of the most extreme expressions of the patriarchal drive toward masculine domination over the woman." Wars and armed conflicts are but another stage on which the same old story is told of men and women: men's power and control over women. The book stresses the need for women and women's groups to be vigilant in monitoring and reporting war crimes against women. A difficult enough task, since women in war are often silent and fearful of the consequences of telling their tales; more difficult still, when one considers that the task of documenting these experiences cannot prevent these crimes from happening again.

Celeste Cinco is the project associate for the Asian Women's Resource Exchange (AWORC).



www.arttoday.com

Hands

Black hands
Brown hands
Yellow hands
White hands
Shadows of hands
Colors of women's hands
Speak of tales
That words can't tell.

Red loving hands
Orange peaceful hands
Green nurturing hands
Blue serene hands
Indigo dignified hands
Violet reflective hands
Colors of the rainbow
Promise a bright tomorrow.

Cold hands, warm hands
Trembling hands, fists clenched
Tired hands, playful hands
Hurting hands, wounds healed
Caloused hands, caring hands
Life-enhancing hands
Women's common language
Hearts alone can tell.

Holding hands, nourishing hands
Sorting hands, discreet hands
Generous hands, enabling hands
Lazy hands, relaxing hands
Creative hands, dreaming hands
Praying hands, soulful hands
Weavers of human tapestry
All women's hands.

maria (socorro paulin) ballesteros
29 june 1999, los angeles, ca.

War is Over

Tell me, Uncle Sam
Why do you create wars
Which cut bodies in Kosovo
And make people kill each other
Justified war for bread
While your women and children
Embraced by their fathers and brothers
Scream their hearts and lungs out
In roller coaster rides in Disneyland?

I just found out, here in America
War is on the table
Ultimate goal is to finish them all:
Burgers, bacon, fries, chocolates,
Shakes, pies, floats, freezies
If one can't beat them, just throw them
Garbage bins always full
Cues in public comfort rooms
Fat American rats clear the war.

Back in my village,
Women and children
Starve in their sleep
War is on the table



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There's no food to eat
People share their food
No matter how small
Women sacrifice
So children won't die.

Kosovo in my mind
Men's war is over
Burgers, bacon, shakes...
Peace reigns in the air
Human bodies no longer starve
There are no more cries
Tell me, Uncle Sam
Where're your guests?
Ravens feast on human corpses
Food has ceased to be the problem.

maria (socorro paulin) ballesteros
28 june 1999, los angeles, ca.