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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHIKO SHIOTA GINGERY, an individual, et. al,)	Case No.: 2:14-cv-1291-PA-(AJWx)
)	
Plaintiff,)	[HONORABLE PERCY ANDERSON]
)	
vs.)	
)	DECLARATION OF OK-SEON LEE IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT CITY OF GLENDALE'S MOTION TO DISMISS
CITY OF GLENDALE, a municipal corporation, et. al)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	
)	

1 lights in the car. No one heard our cry for help as ordinary passengers were riding
2 in passenger cars several cars away.

3

4 7. We rode the train for two days straight. Throughout the trip, our abductors
5 did not give us food or water. We were scared and miserable. We had planned to
6 commit suicide by jumping off the train, but the door remained locked.

7

8 8. On the third day, we arrived at Tumen, China late at night. I do not know
9 how many girls were led out of the train, but six of us were taken to a detention
10 center nearby.

11

12 9. At the detention center, I was separated from the girls and placed in solitary
13 confinement overnight. Our abductors still did not give us food or water.

14

15 10. The next morning, we were transported by train from Tumen train station to
16 a Japanese air force base in Yanji, China. We were led to a brick building inside the
17 base, and forced to work as laborers on the runway expansion at the base..

18

19 11. Inside the air force base, there were several hundred Korean and Chinese
20 men who performed all the labor for the Japanese military. I later found out that
21 one of the Korean laborers fell in love with me in secret.

22

23 12. Some of us, including myself, kept protesting and confronting our captors,
24 and demanded that we be sent home, even though we knew we would be beaten.

25

26 13. Then one day, as I was in my room with other girls, a group of soldiers
27 abruptly entered.

28

1 14. The soldiers took turns raping us. They were like animals.

2

3 15. I had not even started menstruation yet because I was still young.

4

5 16. At that moment, all I could think of was wanting to die.

6

7 17. The soldiers freely raped all of the girls there.

8

9 18. One day, the Japanese soldiers told us that they were taking us somewhere.
10 We were happy because we thought they were finally sending us home. Little did
11 we know. We were taken to a large house with a sign that said "Comfort Station"
12 near the West Market in the city, where each of us was given a room. There were
13 about ten girls in this building. This was the comfort house for the Japanese air
14 force.

15

16 19. The administrators of the comfort house were a Japanese couple. They wore
17 civilian clothes. One of the ten comfort girls was Japanese. She told us she came
18 from Japan voluntarily to make money. The rest of us were abducted from various
19 locations in China and Korea. At the comfort house we were all given Japanese
20 names; mine was Tomiko.

21

22 20. For a while the administrators made me do domestic chores around the
23 house.

24

25 21. At the entrance of the comfort house, our Japanese names were written on a
26 wooden plaque. If any comfort girl caught a sexually transmitted disease, her
27 plaque would be turned over to indicate that she is not available.

28

1 22. From that day on, soldiers came every day and raped us.

2
3 23. When a soldier entered my room, he would simply announce how long he
4 was planning to stay. We never talked about anything related to the military.

5
6 24. At first the soldiers did not wear a condom and they were not tested for
7 sexually transmitted diseases. After a while, Japanese military doctors started
8 making visits to the comfort house once a week to perform STD tests.

9
10 25. There was a rule that required the soldiers to wear a condom during sex.
11 Nevertheless, a lot of soldiers beat me when I asked them to wear a condom.

12
13 26. Also, we were not supposed to receive soldiers when we menstruated.
14 However, the administrators shoved pillow stuffing in our vagina and made us
15 receive soldiers. The doctors who came to test us once a week knew about it, but
16 did not intervene.

17
18 27. We were always hungry and cold. We made makeshift underwear from
19 worn-out military clothes. The quality of our food depended on our ethnicity. The
20 Japanese girl received good food. Korean girls received bad food and Chinese girls
21 received the worst. We ate mostly left over vegetables. I witnessed many girls die
22 of hunger and disease.

23
24 28. I once planned to escape. I was about sixteen. I managed to escape from the
25 comfort house, but once outside, I did not know which direction to go, did not
26 speak the language, and did not have any money. I was hiding in the mountains
27 when I was caught and brought back to the comfort house. I was almost beaten to
28 death. It is amazing that I survived those beatings. The soldiers beat me in order to

1 make me say that I would not run away again, but I refused to say it. Then I got
2 beaten so severely that I started having problems with my vision and my hearing.
3 My teeth were loosened as well.

4
5 29. I received on average ten soldiers on a slow day and twenty-five on a busy
6 day. Some other girls received up to forty.

7
8 30. Soldiers and officers paid the same price to the administrator. However,
9 some officers spent the night and a few of them tipped us. The administrator kept
10 track of how many soldiers we received. Soldiers had to buy a ticket from the
11 administrator to enter the comfort house. The soldiers gave us the ticket when we
12 received them. We gave the ticket back to the administrator to verify that we
13 received the soldiers.

14
15 31. I contracted syphilis at this comfort house. I was sent to a military hospital
16 and received a "606" shot. However, I was still not cured after two months. The
17 administrator decided to handle the matter himself and acquired mercury from a
18 military doctor. He boiled the mercury and made me expose my genitals to mercury
19 steam. As a result, I was cured of syphilis but became infertile. I still deeply resent
20 that I became infertile. I really wanted to have kids someday. I often cried out,
21 "Who is there to listen to my cry that I became infertile all my life because of the
22 Japanese soldiers?"

23
24 32. I was beaten a lot at this comfort house. The soldiers frequently beat me
25 when I would not give into their sexual demands. The administrator would also call
26 for a military policeman and he would violently beat me with his fists and leather
27 belt. No one dared to stop his rage.

28

1 33. One day, I was running errands outside and I was stopped by an ethnic
2 Korean policeman. He asked me in Japanese, "Where did you come from?" and I
3 answered in Japanese, "I came from over there". He asked, "Where are you from?"
4 When I answered in Korean "3-8, Bosujeong, Busan, Gyeonggam," he started
5 beating me violently. I still vividly remember my hometown address because of
6 this beating. I was beaten on one of the ears so severely that I became partially
7 deaf. The Japanese military doctors gave us treatment for any problems related to
8 our genital area, but not for other injuries.

9
10 34. There was a Korean girl at the comfort house whose last name was Ha. She
11 got pregnant, and after giving birth, the Japanese soldiers took the baby away. No
12 one knows what they did with the baby. The girl could not receive many soldiers
13 after that.

14
15 35. A new girl came to the comfort house who was only thirteen years old. She
16 was reserved by an old divisional commander only. She ran away once but she was
17 caught. She ran away a second time and she was successful. After her flight, we
18 were placed under more strict surveillance and no one dared to run away again.

19
20 36. The comfort house was later moved to a bigger house near a hospital in
21 Yanbian, China. Several days before the liberation army reached Yanbian, there
22 were lots of artillery explosions. Towards the end of the war, the administrator took
23 us to a hut deep in the mountains. The girls talked of a plan to kill the administrator
24 and escape. However, after telling us to wait for a moment, he left us and never
25 came back.

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1 37. We stayed in the mountains for several days. Then, by chance, a Korean
2 farmer was traveling past our hut and shared the news that the liberation army had
3 prevailed. Thus we made our way back to Yanbian.

4
5 38. I realized after the war I had nowhere to go and knew no one. I was
6 homeless. I survived by begging for food on the street.

7
8 39. One day a vehicle full of soldiers stopped in front of me. One of the soldiers
9 was the Korean man who had fallen in love with me at the air force base. He had
10 been searching for me in the city.

11
12 40. We got married and I lived with him for a short while in Longjing, China,
13 until he joined the liberation army. Shortly after his deployment, he died on the
14 battlefield. I lived with my parents-in-law for ten years until they introduced me to
15 another Korean man. I remarried when I was twenty eight.

16
17 41. In 1996, I visited Korea for the first time since my abduction in 1942. With
18 the help of Mr. Park at Yanji Korea University, I was able to find my older and
19 younger brothers. I also appeared on Korean TV. My family asked me to come to
20 Korea to live with them, but I told them, "I have my family there - an invalid
21 husband that needs my care and grandchildren to teach. I have to go back." My
22 grandchildren, the children of my current husband's children, are very good and
23 smart. My only hope is to see my grandchildren become well-educated and grow
24 up to be someone great.

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42. My husband died in 1999 and I came to Korea. Now I live in the House of Sharing where I receive good care.

Executed at Los Angeles, California, on July 22 2014.



Ok-Seon Lee

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, Phyllis Kim, say: I am familiar with and fluent in, both the KOREAN and ENGLISH languages; I am a duly certified and sworn Court Interpreter by the Judicial Council of the State of California, (State ID: 300893); I have prepared an English summary of Ms. Ok-seon Lee's statements made in the Korean language, based on which her declaration was prepared.

The declarant, Ms. Lee, is fluent in the Korean language and has limited English proficiency. I further say: I read the entire declaration to Ms. Lee in the Korean language, truly and accurately to the best of my abilities, and Ms. Lee stated that it was accurate, and she understood the declaration before signing it.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this Certificate was executed on this July 22, 2014, in the City of Glendale, State of California.



Phyllis Chong Kim
Court Certified Interpreter
Certification # 300893
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