

To: Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
President of Harvard University
Editor-in-Chief of the International Review of Law and Economics
Chairman of the National Assembly of Korea

Statement:

**Professor John Ramseyer's Paper is Nothing Less than
Infringement of Human Rights
under the Guise of Academic Freedom**

The issue of "comfort women" refers to the sex crime committed against women by the Japanese military during the Second World War and has already been recognized as wartime sexual violence, i.e., a sex crime, by international institutions such as a commission on human rights of the United Nations.

It is a fact that the Japanese government and military were involved in the establishment of brothels and recruitment of comfort women, and the fact that the proprietors were selected secretly by the Japanese government has been proven from Japanese state documents.

In August of 1993, Yohei Kono, Chief Cabinet Secretary in the Miyazawa cabinet, released the "Kono Statement" in which he acknowledged and apologized for the participation of Japanese military and authorities in the comfort women issue.

Many women were forcibly conscripted by the Japanese military or deceived with job offers into becoming sex slaves of the Japanese military.

These included not only Japanese women but also Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, Southeast Asian, and even Dutch and German women.

Nevertheless, Professor Ramseyer has written a paper falsely asserting that the Japanese government and military were not involved, and that the women and brothel owners had signed contracts for their mutual profit. In this paper, he has made the critically erroneous statement that the Japanese military's comfort women were all voluntary prostitutes while giving an overly broad interpretation of the status of the prostitution industry in Japan. It is particularly noteworthy that these errors may surpass simple academic errors and may intentionally correspond with the views of certain political forces.

The "prostitution contracts" themselves that Ramseyer mentions did not exist for comfort women, and all these women were forced or deceived into their roles and unable to escape. This is a historical truth that can only be considered sexual slavery.

Professor Ramseyer's paper, which ignores these historical facts, goes beyond the boundaries of academic freedom and contains abundant violations of the human rights of victims to the point that it should have been deemed unpublishable. We consider it appropriate for the journal containing his paper to reevaluate it.

The game theory Ramseyer uses to explain the issue of the comfort women is unsuitable for a discussion of historical facts. Such theory declaring that both parties signed contracts for mutual benefit cannot be applied to sex crimes.

This fabrication and distortion of historical facts by Ramseyer and the Japanese far-right and new pro-Japanese forces within Korea who support him must end now. Furthermore, the Korean National Assembly must quickly revise the Law Prohibiting Distortion of the Comfort Women Issue. The American

Historical Association should also thoroughly review Ramseyer's paper.

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