

The “Comfort Women” System of the Japanese Imperial Army

日军的“慰安妇”制度

Chinese Comfort Women Research Centre



What is a “Comfort Woman”?

“*Ianfu*” or “comfort woman” is a euphemized term used by the Japanese for those women who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during WWII.

什么是“慰安妇”

“慰安妇”一词原是日语名词，是战前日本法西斯分子创造的一个血腥的字眼。

“慰安妇”就是日本政府及其军队强逼妇女充当的军队性奴隶。



The Making of the “Comfort Women” System

Stage One: 1931-January 28, 1932

- 1919-1922: Japan learned a “lesson” from meddling the Russian Revolution—one out of seven soldiers and officers were infected with sexual diseases
- By the end of 1931, the Japanese navy designated four Japanese clubs in Shanghai as its “comfort stations.” One of them was Dai-Ichi Saloon

The first comfort station for the Japanese military in Asia: Dai-Ichi Saloon at Lane 125, Dongbaoxing Road, 1931--1945



亚洲第一个日军慰安所：大一沙龙（东宝兴路125弄）1931--1945



“慰安妇”制度的演变

第一阶段：1931-1932年1月28日

1919年至1922年日本干涉苏俄革命的教训：7个师团官兵有1个师团的官兵人数患了性病。

1931年底，日本海军指定上海4家日本式俱乐部为海军特别指定慰安所：大一沙龙等。

Stage Two: Jan. 28, 1932 –July 6, 1937

At the time of “January 28 incident”when the Japanese military fought to take over Shanghai, Yasuji Okamura asked that “comfort women troupes”be sent to the Shanghai war front. In March, “comfort women troupes” arrived at Dachang, Jiangwanand other battle fields. It was not until after *Shanghai Truce Agreement* was signed that Japanese army men started to returned to Japan. The “comfort women troupes”also returned to Japan. Yet the number of designated navy comfort stations grew bigger and bigger.



Korean “comfort women” were crossing the Yellow River 朝鲜“慰安妇”正在渡过黄河

第二阶段：1932年1月28日—1937年7月6日

“一二八”事变，冈村宁次要求日本国内派遣“慰安妇团”来上海前线。3月，“慰安妇团”来到大场、江湾等战地。

直到《淞沪停战协定》签署后，日本陆军才陆续回国，“慰安妇团”也返回了日本。但海军指定慰安所则越来越多。

Stage Three: July 7, 1937–August 1945 (end of war)

The system of “Comfort Women”was spread to all Japanese occupied territories. In some places, the ratios of “comfort women”to Japanese soldiers were 1:29 or 1:33.



Japanese soldiers waiting in line to enter a “comfort station.”

Location: Henan

日军士兵排着队正在等待进入“慰安所”

地点：河南

第三阶段：1937年7月7日-1945年8月日本战败

“慰安妇”制度被推广到所有日军占领地。有些地区的“慰安妇”与日军比例达到1：29或1：33。

“Comfort Women”

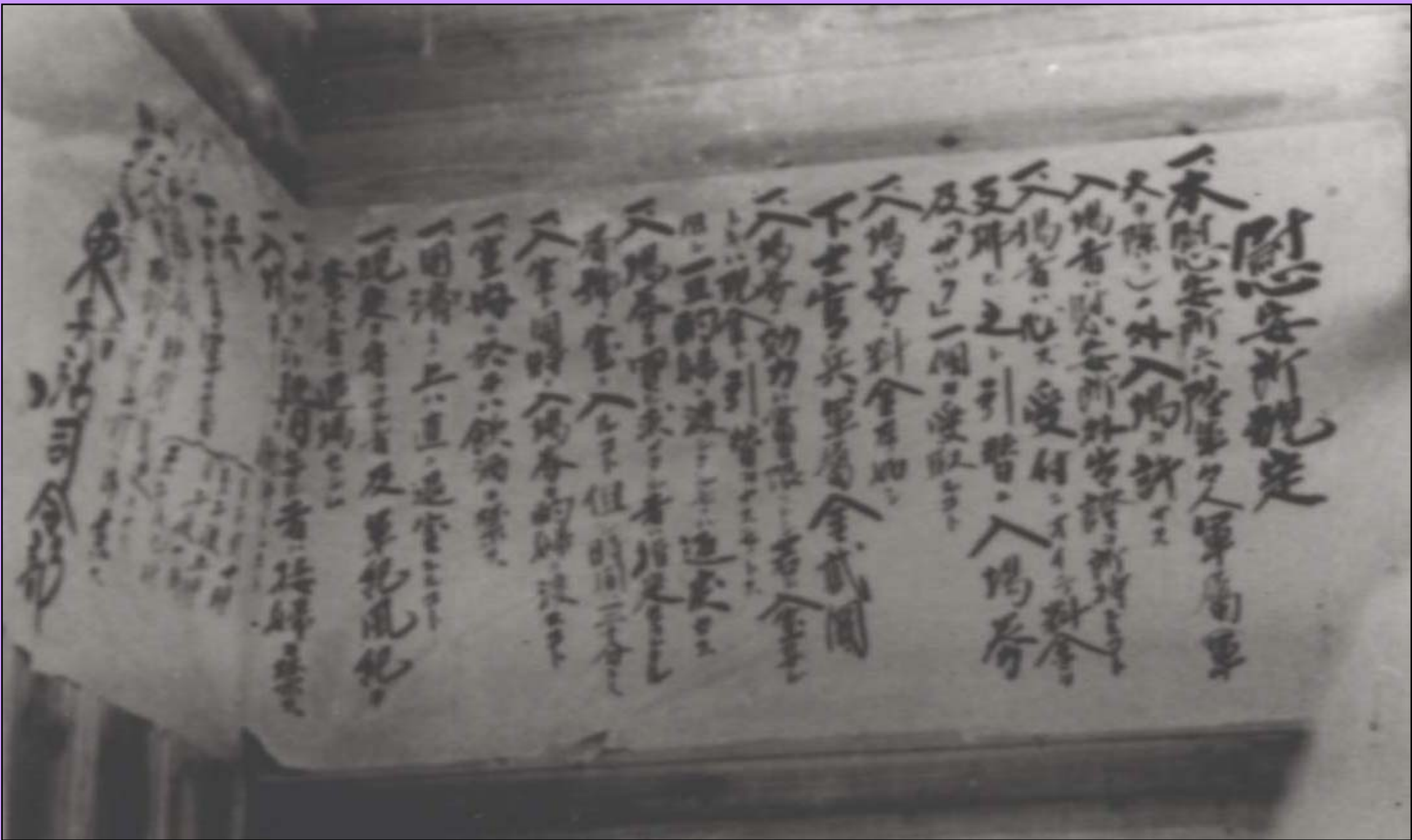
- Yang Jia Zhai “comfort station” established by the Japanese Imperial Army in Shanghai.

日军设立的杨家宅慰安所——这张照片是“慰安妇”问题最著名的照片之一，1993年我确认上海东沈家宅为该慰安所遗址。



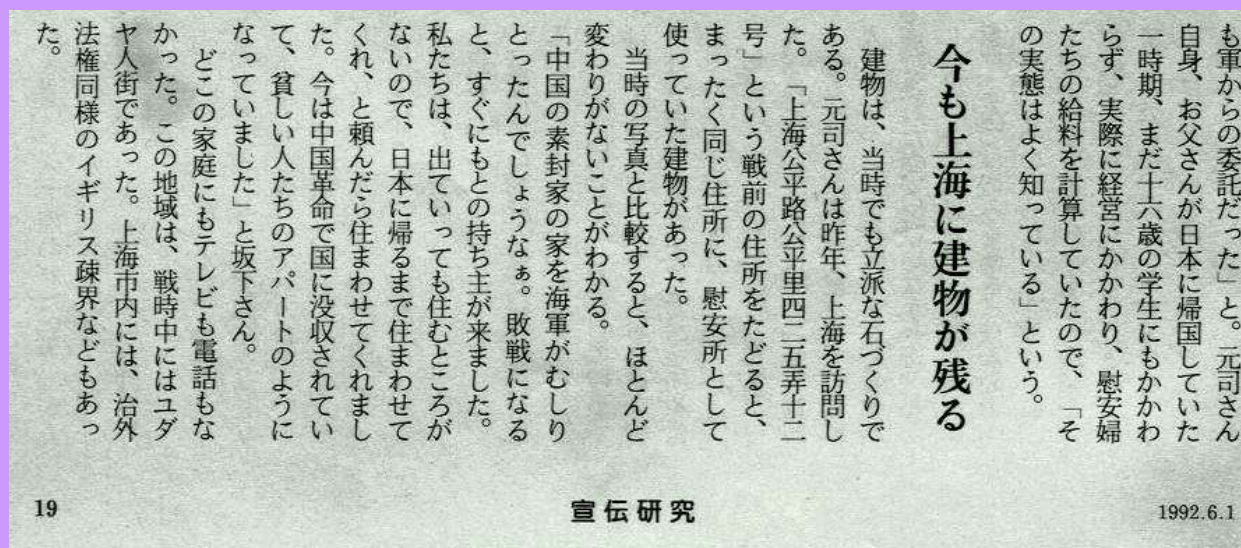
Regulations of the Comfort Station issued by the local headquarters of the Eastern Army Service Station of the Japanese Imperial Army. Photo taken by Tetsuo Aso, a Japanese military doctor at Yang Jia Zhai “Comfort Station”.

这是日本军医麻生彻男在杨家宅慰安所拍摄的照片，《慰安所规定》由日军东兵站司令部自行颁布。

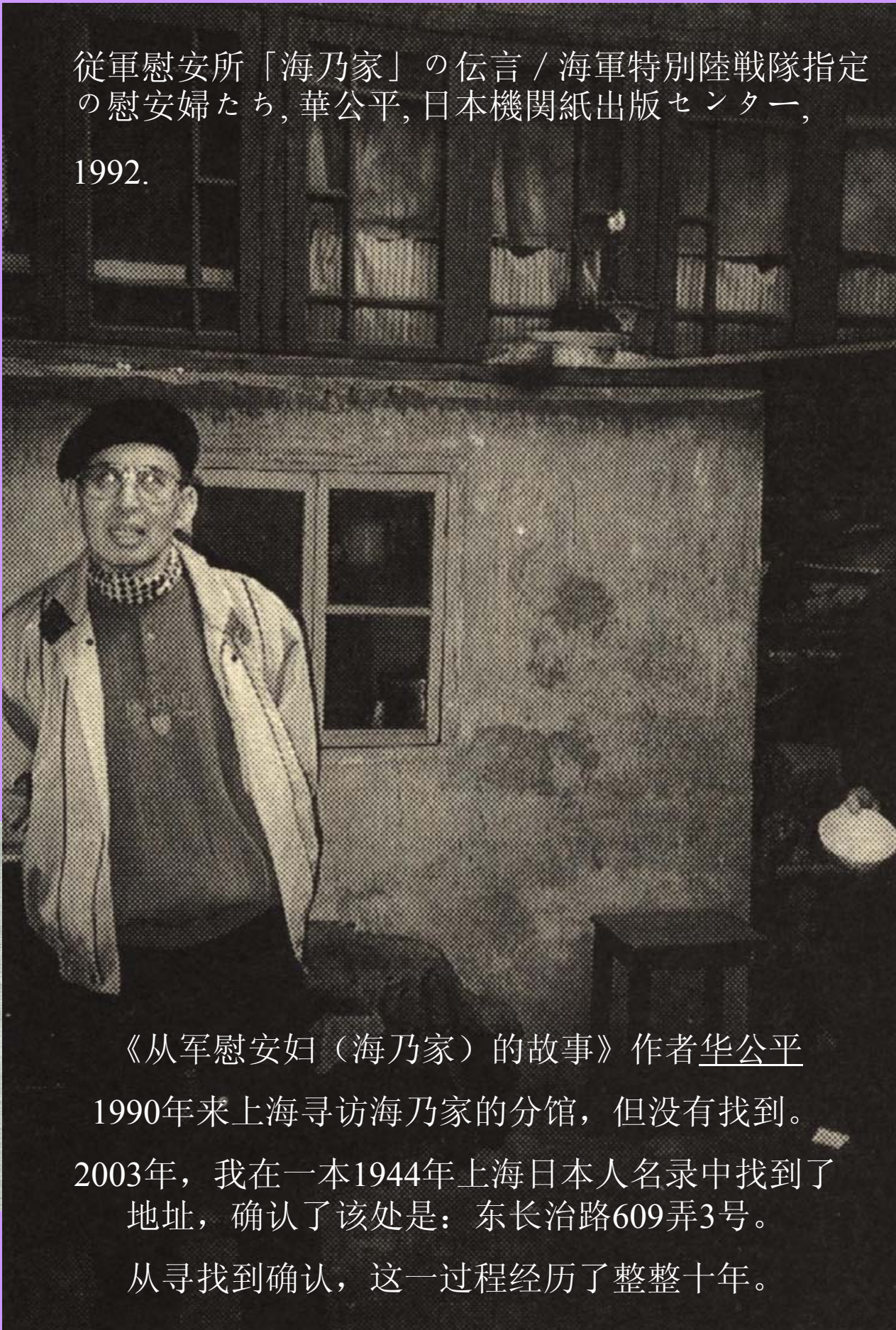


Kouhei HANA, author of *Military Comfort Women: Stories of UMI-NO-IE*, came to Shanghai in 1990 to find the site of a branch of the UMI-NO-IE (a seaside house that was designated as a ‘comfort station’), but was not successful.

After 10 years of research, the site was identified and confirmed at 3-609 Lane, East Changzhi Road by Professor Su of the Chinese Comfort Women Research Centre.



従軍慰安所「海乃家」の伝言 / 海軍特別陸戦隊指定の慰安婦たち. 華公平, 日本機関紙出版センター, 1992.



《从军慰安妇（海乃家）的故事》作者华公平

1990年来上海寻访海乃家的分馆，但没有找到。

2003年，我在一本1944年上海日本人名录中找到了地址，确认了该处是：东长治路609弄3号。

从寻找到确认，这一过程经历了整整十年。

The biggest navy comfort station in Shanghai is located at Gongping Li neighbourhood on Gongping Road



Mother of Kouhei Hana and a Japanese “comfort woman”



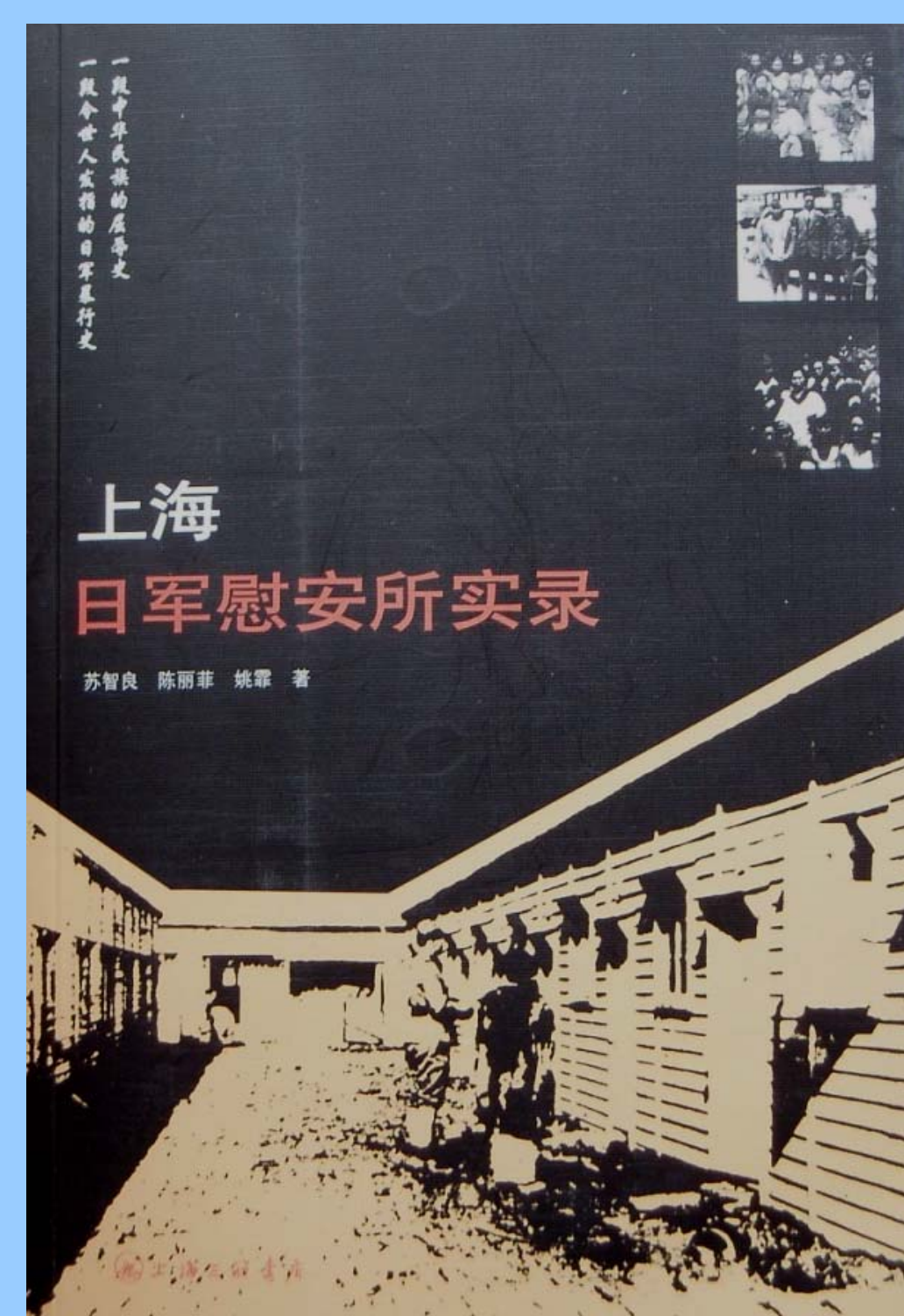
The Misery of “Comfort Women”

苦难的“慰安妇”们

After 13 years of strenuous investigation, beginning in 1993, the following was confirmed:

About 400,000 women from different countries were forced to be sex slaves by the Japanese military during the war. Among them 200,000 were Chinese.

During the past 10 years, comfort stations in 22 provinces were identified. These included autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, from Heilongjiang to Hainan, from Liaoning to Yunnan. There were at least 160 Japanese military comfort stations in Shanghai.



Disposing “comfort women” when they were too sick or useless as deemed by the Japanese Imperial forces.

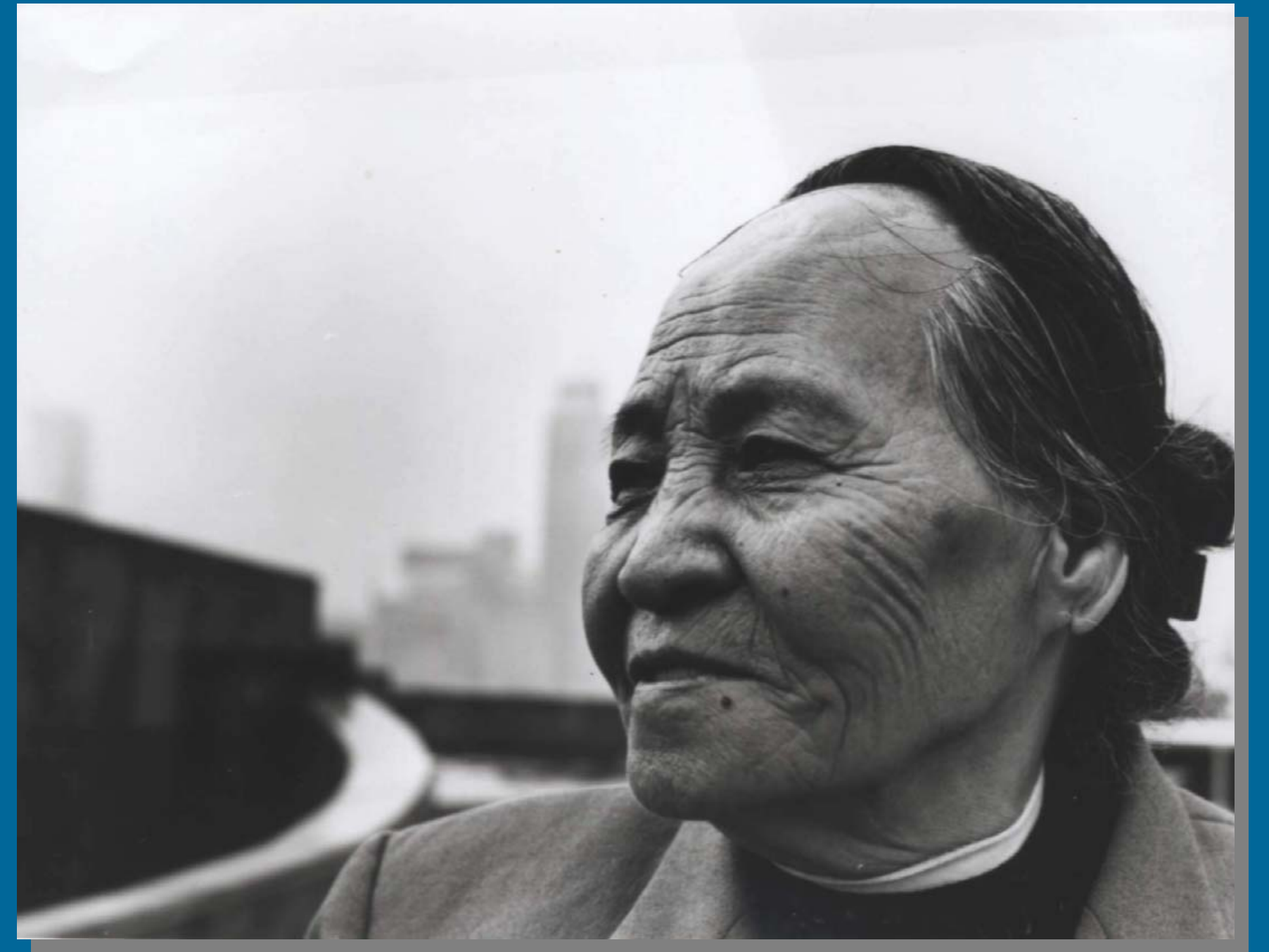
Women and young girls were abducted from wherever the Japanese Imperial forces invaded.



Former “Comfort Women” in China



Chen Jinyu, a Yi native from Hainan Island
来自海南的黎族受害者陈金玉



WAN Aihua (万爱花), a CCP member, was captured, raped and beaten badly in a Japanese fortress in Shanxi. She was the first Chinese victim came forward to testify the sexual slavery in the Japanese military.



GUO Yaying(郭亚英) from Chong Ming Island, Shanghai,
passed away due to illnesses on August 24, 2001.

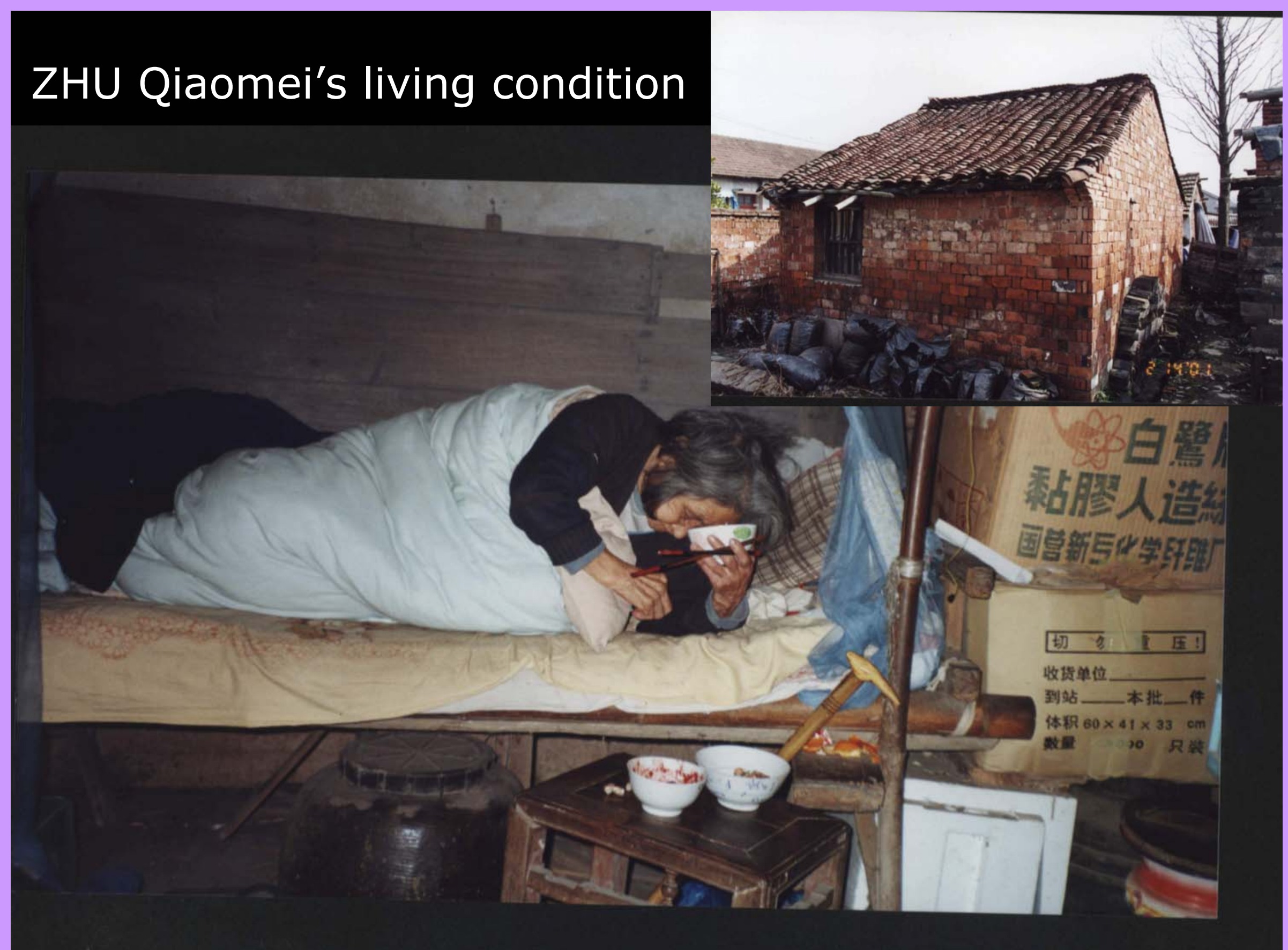


ZHU Qiaomei passed away in 2005



ZHU Qiaomei (朱巧妹), a victim from Shanghai, was born in 1910. She was the oldest living “comfort women” survivor in the world.

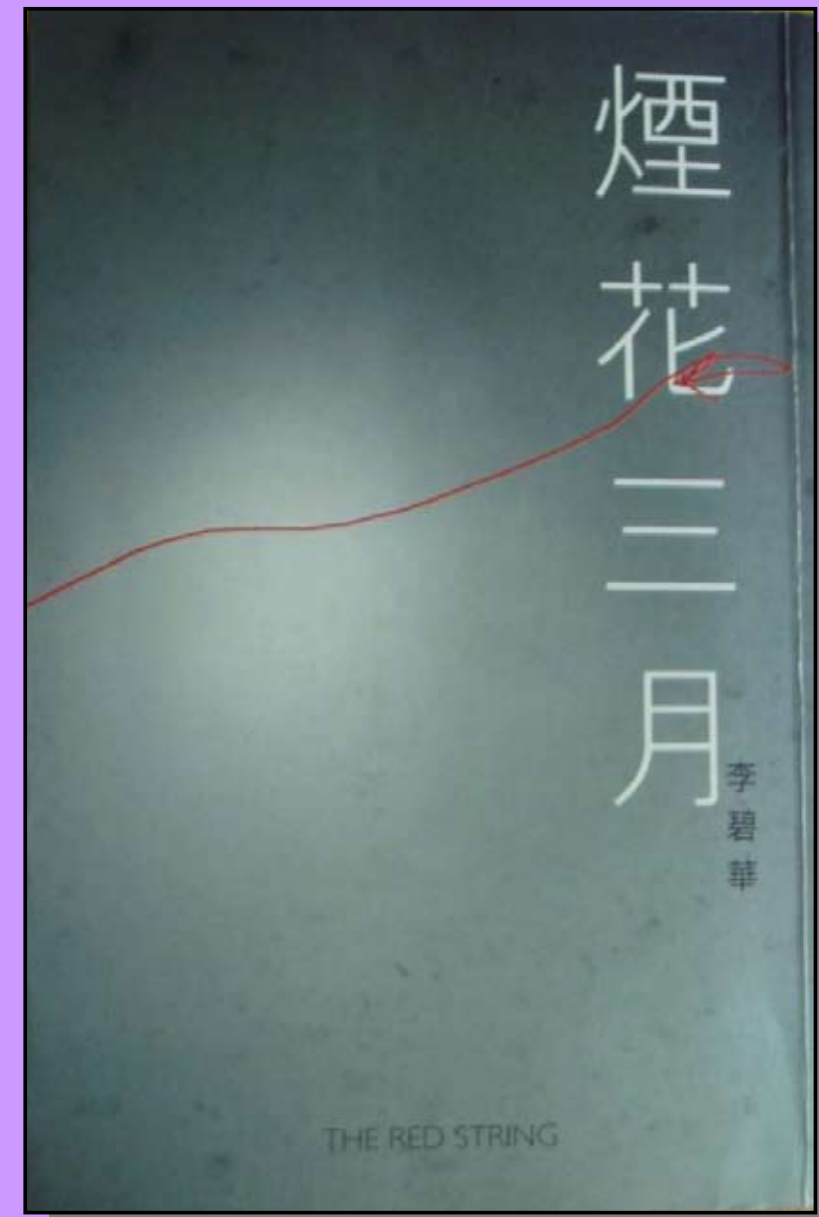
ZHU Qiaomei’s living condition



Former “Comfort Women” in China

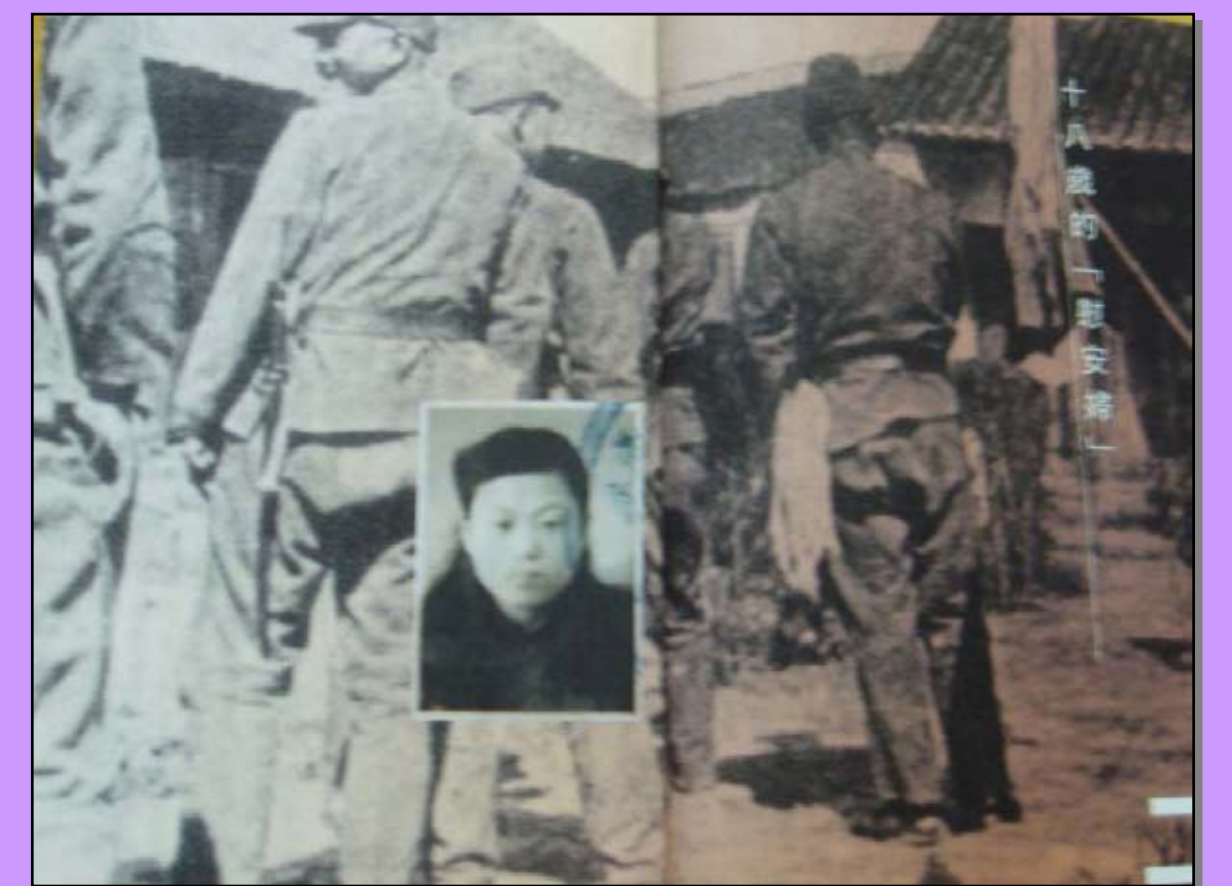


Eighty-year-old YUAN Zhulin (袁竹林) in front of a former comfort station, she passed away in March 2006.



香港著名作家李碧华为她写了《烟花三月》一书。

Yuan's story was re-told by a well-known Hong Kong writer LI Bihua (李碧华) in the book *The Cloudy and Misty March*.



HE Junzi (何君子) still uses the name given by the comfort station—kunshi.

22 Ji Qing Li, Hankou is the place where HE suffered.

她至今还在使用慰安所里的名字——君子
汉口积庆里22号，是何君子大娘受难之地



LEI Guiying (雷桂英) of Nanjing testified at the age of 78



Potassium permanganate that Lei took from the comfort station when she escaped

消毒用的高锰酸钾



Lei Passed away on April 25, 2007

Former “Comfort Women” in China

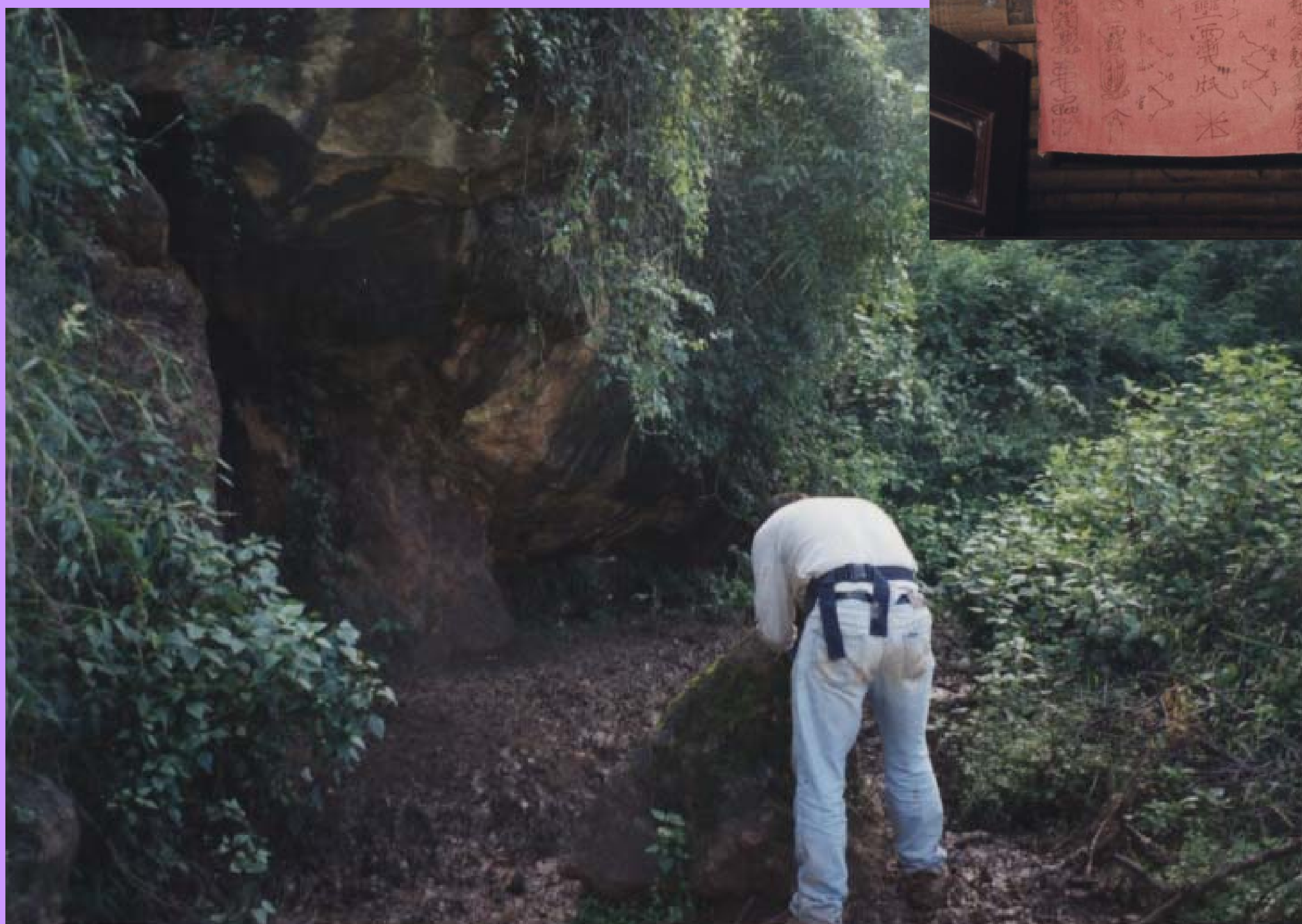


LI Lianchun's home is located deep in Bingsai mountains, Baoshan, Yunnan Province 李连春的家：云南保山秉塞大山深处

LI Lianchun (李连春), who escaped from a comfort station, hid in a mountain cave for half a year in order to avoid being caught by the Japanese military.



This is the cave where LI Lianchun hid. She passed away in January 2004.



当年李连春避难的山洞。二零零四年一月，老人离开了人世。



从慰安所逃出的李连春，为了躲避日军，曾穴居山洞半年之久。

Former “Comfort Women” in China

林亚金
生于1926年，海南保亭县南林乡人。1943年10月与多名少女一起被日军抓去，在多个日军据点间辗转充当性工具。因被蹂躏致病，得以回家。



LIN Yajin (林亚金), born in 1926, was from Baoting County of Hainan Province. In October 1943, she and several other girls were captured by the Japanese soldiers and forced to serve as sex slaves in different Japanese strongholds. She became very sick after being raped repeatedly, and thus was allowed to return home.



符学英
用双手做出当年日本兵抓人的样子，她说现在每天晚上自己都还会梦到日本兵来抓她。生于1913年3月的符学英，海南省澄迈县福山镇人。1941年7月被日军抓至军部，成为慰安妇。

FU Xueying (符学英), with her hands mimicking the Japanese soldiers who grabbed people in those days, said that she still dreamed of being captured by the Japanese soldiers at night.

Born in March 1913, she was from Cheng Mai County, Hainan Province.

She was captured by the Japanese soldiers in July 1941 and brought to the headquarters to serve as a “comfort woman.”



PU Abai (蒲阿白) in front of her daughter’s grave

Born in 1915, she was from Fenghuang, San Ya City, Hainan Province. She was kidnapped by the Japanese soldiers in 1941, raped by several Japanese soldiers and was locked up. A year later, she was moved to the headquarters where she was kept until Japan surrendered.

She became pregnant while she was locked up and gave birth to a baby girl. Her daughter suffered from some diseases after an injury at the age of 15. She became sick suddenly while fetching water from a well. She fell into the well and died.

蒲阿白在女儿的坟墓前。

蒲阿白，生于1915年，海南省三亚市凤凰镇人。

1941年被日军抓去，当日即遭多名日军强奸并被关押。一年后被转移至司令部，直至日军投降。

蒲阿白在被关押期间怀孕，后生下一女婴，女孩15岁时受伤致病，后在井旁打水时病发，落井死亡。

Former “Comfort Women” in China

Pak Yong-sim came forward as a witness of history in the 1990s.



90年代人们终于寻找到这位见证人



On Nov. 19, 2003, Pak Yong-sim revisited Nanjing in an effort to find Liji Lane, one of the places where she was enslaved and victimized.

2003年11月19日，朴永心来到南京，寻访当年的受害之地——利济巷。



In March 2000, the first International Symposium on Chinese “Comfort Women” was held in Shanghai.

2000年3月第一届中国慰安妇问题国际学术研讨会在上海举行



Pak Yong-sim with her adopted son in Korea

朴永心与其养子在朝鲜

Sanctioning Japan for its Sexual Slavery System is a Challenge to the international legal community

Four Lawsuits Filed in Japan

1. LIU Mianhuan (刘面换), LI Xiumei (李秀梅) and et al from Shanxi Province (1995)
2. WAN Aihua (万爱花) et al
3. Ah Zhu(阿珠), Ah Tao (阿桃) and et al from Taiwan
4. CHEN Yabian (陈亚扁), HUANG Youliang (黄有良) and et al from Hainan

对“慰安妇”制度罪行的制裁，是国际法学界面临的一个重任。
在日本的4起诉案



In March 2002, Tokyo District Court dismissed the claims of LIU Mianhuan and other four victims on the ground of state immunity and statute of limitations. Two weeks later, LIU filed an appeal to Japan's High Court.

In November 2003, LIU Mianhuan went to Japan again.

The Tokyo High Court rejected their demands for an official apology and compensation on Dec. 15, 2004.

2002年3月，日本东京地裁法院以政府无答责和超时效为由，驳回了刘面换等5人的控诉。两个星期后，老人向日本高等法院提起上诉。

2003年11月刘面换再度去日本

12月15日，中国慰安妇代表、77岁的山西老人刘面换在日本东京高等法院外哭诉。新华社记者马平摄



On Dec. 15, 2004, 77-year-old LIU Mianhuan, a representative of the Chinese "comfort women" victims, tearfully spoke to the media outside the Tokyo High Court.



2004年12月15日，刘面换（前右）在日本东京高等法院外感谢日本民众对她的支持。

On Dec. 15, 2004, LIU Mianhuan (front right) thanked the Japanese people for their support to her.

Findings of Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal 2000 for the Trial of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery

in the matter of
the Prosecutors and the Peoples of the Asia-Pacific
V. Emperor Hirohito et al. and the Government of
Japan

Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, Presiding
Judge Carmen Argibay
Judge Christine Chinkin
Judge Willy Mutunga

在审判日本军事性奴隶制度2000年女性国际战犯法庭上关于
原告及亚太地区人民告诉昭和天皇（等）及日本政府一案的判决

加百利.柯克.麦克唐纳主法官、卡门.阿吉贝法官、 克里斯廷.钦肯法官、 威利.芒廷夹法官



The international judges



The former “comfort women”
who testified at the Tribunal



In December 2000, the International Women’s Tribunal in Tokyo ruled against Japan’s crimes of sexual slavery.

Conclusions (I)

38. After considering the extensive documentation received by the Tribunal during the course of these proceedings, and in reviewing the applicable law as it stood at the time the crimes were committed, the Tribunal rendered its summary of findings. The final Judgment will be delivered on March 8, 2001.

结论 2000年12月12日

38、在考虑了在诉讼过程中所收到的大量的档案后，在审查了在犯罪实施时存在的适用法律中，法庭提出了判决摘要，最后的判决将在2001年3月8日提出。

Conclusions (III)

40. As to the other accused, the Judges have not had sufficient time to digest the voluminous evidence presented to it to determine criminal liability at this stage. Therefore, individual and superior responsibility of the other accused will be determined in the final Judgment.

40、在现阶段，关于其他的被告，法官们没有足够的时间整理呈递上来的众多的证据来决定罪责。因此，其他被告的个人和上级责任将在罪状判决书中确定。

39、基于前面提到的证据，法庭认为检察团已经证明了对被告昭和天皇的起诉。在总诉状的1—2条罪状中，认为他对强奸和性奴隶制度的反人道罪的责任而有罪。在总诉状的第3条中，作为反人道罪的强奸罪为有罪。另外，正如在宪章第4章中确认的，法官们判决日本政府负有国家责任，因为它建立和维持了慰安妇制度。

Conclusions (II)

39. The Tribunal finds, based on the evidence before it, that the Prosecution has proved its case against the accused Emperor Hirohito, and finds him guilty of responsibility for rape and sexual slavery as a crime against humanity, under Counts 1-2 of the Common Indictment, and guilty of rape as a crime against humanity under Count 3 of the Common Indictment. Additionally, the Judges determine that the government of Japan has incurred state responsibility, as recognized under Article 4 of the Charter, for its establishment and maintenance of the comfort system.