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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 IL-CHUL KANG IN SUPPORT OF
)	DEFENDANT CITY OF
CITY OF GLENDALE, a municipal corporation, et. al)	GLENDALE'S MOTION TO DISMISS
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	
)	

1 9. One day I came home from hiding at my parents' friend's house because I
2 had been away for quite some time and I missed my parents. I was only fourteen.

3

4 10. When I came home, no one but my nephew was there. Shortly after, two
5 Japanese men entered my house. One wore a yellow uniform and carried a rifle.
6 The other was a policeman carrying a long sword. I became frightened at the sight
7 of the sword.

8

9 11. The policeman handed a warrant to my nephew and told him to give it to my
10 parents when they got home.

11

12 12. Then they dragged me away. It was raining hard.

13

14 13. Nobody saw me being dragged away because all adults hide their children at
15 the sight of the Japanese police. Neighbors do not peek out their windows in fear
16 that their child could be next to be taken away.

17

18 14. They loaded me on a truck, and I saw several other girls who were already
19 on board.

20

21 15. They transported us to Sangju, Korea.

22

23 16. In the evening, they transported us from Sangju to Gimcheon, Korea by train.
24 When we arrived at Gimcheon, the Japanese police brought aboard about five to
25 six more girls.

26

27 17. There were nine girls aboard our train car. When we talked to each other in
28 Korean, the policeman beat us. We were under close surveillance at all times. The

1 Japanese police took turns guarding the car we were in. There were many of them.
2 No one else aboard the train was allowed to come close to us.

3
4 18. I do not recall how many days we rode the train.

5
6 19. While passing through Sinuiju, Korea, I saw more girls boarding the train.
7 Six Japanese speaking girls boarded the train.

8
9 20. There were a total of nine Korean girls and seven Japanese girls. The
10 Japanese girls were separated from us.

11
12 21. I cried a lot during the trip because I knew this was a permanent goodbye to
13 my family and life back home. Whenever I cried, the Japanese guard would say,
14 "Bagayaroh!" which means "idiot!" and beat me. Eventually I could not cry out
15 loud because I was scared of being beaten up.

16
17 22. We arrived at Shenyang, China.

18
19 23. We were transported again to Changchun, China. We stayed at Changchun
20 for a few days.

21
22 24. The older women were dropped off at Changchun.

23
24 25. A Japanese girl, another girl, and I were separated from the group and
25 transported again by train to Mudan River in China. I was the smallest girl on the
26 train. Other Japanese girls who were already onboard were much older. They
27 looked like adults.

28

1 26. During each stop at various train stations, new Japanese guards boarded.

2

3 27. At Mudan River, they gave me men's clothes to change into, and a military
4 truck came. About thirteen girls were loaded onto the truck along with several
5 soldiers who guarded us.

6

7 28. We were taken to a military base. The buildings were made of red bricks.
8 Our building was enclosed in metal fence.

9

10 29. They took me to a room.

11

12 30. I was the youngest and the smallest girl there. I had not begun menstruation.

13

14 31. They began raping me as soon as I got there.

15

16 32. My first three rapes were committed by a high ranking soldier. When I
17 screamed in pain he punched me in the head and kicked me across the room. I
18 sustained a permanent scar on my head and developed a condition where to this day
19 my hands and legs shake. I have a hard time eating because of the shake.

20

21 33. During my second time with the same soldier, my genitals were still hurting
22 so I crouched in a fetal position in a corner. The soldier got up, twisted my arm,
23 and broke it. He then twisted my right thumb until it broke. A bone was exposed.
24 He then grabbed me by the collar and pushed me backward. I injured my head
25 during the fall. I am in pain from those injuries to this day. My thumb hurts when it
26 rains.

27

28 34. After the third time, that officer never came back.

1 35. Civilians were not allowed to enter the military base and it was impossible
2 for me to escape. I was held there until just before the end of the war.

3
4 36. The Japanese military put all the girls in the same room. When our names
5 were called, we were taken to another room where we were raped by the soldiers.

6
7 37. I was called more often because I was the youngest and smallest.

8
9 38. My genitals were often swollen and I began to bleed every time I went to the
10 bathroom. I also suffered from a fever.

11
12 39. When my bleeding became excessive, Japanese doctors put medicine on my
13 genitals and put me back in the room before they had a chance to heal.

14
15 40. During winter, it was extremely cold. Our rooms were not heated and all they
16 gave me was a yellow blanket. When I became very sick, they gave me a kimono.
17 However, I was too small to fit into it.

18
19 41. I cried silently a lot. When the older Japanese comfort woman and the
20 administrator saw my tears, they told me to stop crying because I would be beaten
21 again.

22
23 42. The military ordered me to clean the house and do laundry during the day.
24 Japanese girls did not do house chores. However, I was frequently stricken with
25 fever, so I did not work as much.

26
27 43. In spring I suffered from Typhoid fever. Despite my fever and illness,
28 soldiers continued to rape me. Some comfort girls brought me food and water, but

1 they were not able to care for me as we were strictly forbidden from speaking to
2 each other. My illness remained for a prolonged period of time. When my
3 symptoms became worse, I could no longer take in food and at that point, soldiers
4 stopped raping me for a short while.

5
6 44. When I became gravely ill, the Japanese military said they will have to burn
7 me to death. They said that I might spread my Typhoid on the soldiers.

8
9 45. The soldiers loaded me and another girl who caught Typhoid onto a truck.
10 They drove us to the mountains. They parked the truck on the side of the road and
11 marched us up the hills.

12
13 46. I could not run away because I was frail and could barely walk.

14
15 47. One of the two Japanese soldiers who were supposed to execute us was of
16 Korean descent. His name was Yong Ho Kim, and he was one of the comfort
17 station administrators. He was short but very intelligent.

18
19 48. The two men laid our bodies on top of firewood and went away to look for
20 more wood.

21
22 49. The Korean soldier stalled longer than I thought was necessary, and that is
23 when I realized that he was trying to figure out a way to save us and escape
24 together.

25
26 50. Shortly after, a group of Korean villagers came to us and overpowered the
27 Japanese soldier. The villagers apparently saw us being dragged up the mountain.
28 Our helpers pushed the Japanese soldier into a pit that was intended for me, and we

1 ran for the hills. The villagers took turns carrying us to a small house deep in the
2 mountains.

3
4 51. The house belonged to a forty-year old Korean man who lived with his seven
5 year old son and a dog.

6
7 52. I found out that the other girl was Japanese. Her name was Rizunsan. We
8 stayed in the mountains until liberation.

9
10 53. One of the villagers performed acupuncture treatment on me and later that
11 day my fever started to go down. Before he headed back down, he instructed us to
12 stay in this house until someone came to get us.

13
14 54. After I got better, I acted as a messenger between the man in the house and
15 two men hiding out in a cave. The two men were apparently notorious Korean
16 gangsters in China. I delivered notes hidden in a small shovel.

17
18 55. After some time, the two men and I made our way back down from the
19 mountains. We had apparently been liberated.

20
21 56. Once we arrived in Jilin, China, one of the men sold me into marriage.

22
23 57. I lived with my husband and gave birth to a daughter three years later, but
24 she died of pneumonia before she reached seven months. I helped with farming
25 while my husband left to join the liberation army. He joined the army in 1946 and
26 never came back. He died in the war in 1950.

27
28

1 58. After he died, I left my in-laws and joined the liberation army as a nurse.
2 After the war, I worked at a hospital in China.

3
4 59. I tried to move back to South Korea, but I never made it that far because
5 North and South had been divided. After my attempt to go back I was able to get
6 my job back at the hospital and worked there for a little over thirty years.

7
8 60. I remarried after I turned thirty with a Chinese man. I gave birth to two sons
9 and a daughter. They are good to me.

10
11 61. I lived in shame all my life because I was a comfort woman. It is a secret scar
12 that I carried with me for a long time. My first husband never knew of my
13 experiences as a comfort woman. There are nights when I wake up to find my
14 pillows soaked in tears. When I think about my experiences, I often collapse and
15 find myself in the hospital.

16
17 62. I moved back to Korea in 2000. Whatever happened I am still thankful
18 because I was able to return to my home country.

19
20 Executed at Los Angeles, California on July 22, 2014.

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24 Il-Chul Kang
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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. Il-chul Kang's statements made in the Korean language, based on which her declaration was prepared.

The declarant, Ms. Kang, is fluent in the Korean language and has limited English proficiency. I further say: I read the entire declaration to Ms. Kang in the Korean language, truly and accurately to the best of my abilities, and Ms. Kang 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
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