

Lila Pilipina

Author: Lila Pilipina Established: 1994

Lila Pilipina is an organization of Filipino 'Comfort Women' - victims of Japanese wartime military sexual slavery, advocating for justice and freedom for victims of violence in wars of occupation or aggression. It was founded on 25 June 1994 and has served as a national focal point to mobilize advocates in the country and around the world to promote the campaign for justice, reparations and historical inclusion. It has participated in national and global efforts to prevent and oppose militarism, armed invasion and their attendant war crimes and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Lola Center has several functions. Firstly, this is a place for solidarity and action for lolas. Lila Pilipina is an organization by the survivors, and Lolas Center serves as a place for decision making and communication. Further, the center functions as a shelter/accommodation for lolas who need livelihood support. Secondly, this is a place for documenting history of the women who survived Japan's military sexual slavery. Lolas Center keeps the documents of 174 survivors' testimonies and other related documents collected since the funding of the Task Force on Filipino Comfort Women 1992. The Center also exhibits the photos of the lolas, records of their activities, their hand-made embroideries depicting their wartime experiences, and quilts made especially for the rally in front of the Japanese embassy in Manila. Thirdly, this is a place to pass on the history to the next generation. We receive university students, media reporters and visitors from overseas. Lolas often have given testimonies in universities, however, due to the old age, lolas have begun to communicate with young people through Skype, and *Pamanas* (legacy in Tagalog), the children and grandchildren of the lolas have begun succeeding the activities.

Lila Pilipina is the organization of Filipino Comfort Women. Follow us on Twitter <u>@lila_pilipina</u> and Like our Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/lilapilipina1992/</u>