

## **Wednesday Demonstration for Resolution of the Issue of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan**

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Established: 1992

Location: Korea

On January 8, 1992, survivors and activists gathered in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, South Korea to protest the Japanese Government's denial of the Japanese military sexual slavery issue, in light of the Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to South Korea. Ever since, survivors and activists have staged weekly Wednesday Demonstrations to demand the Japanese Government to: 1) Admit the Japanese military sexual slavery system as a war crime, 2) Disclose official documents, 3) Deliver an official apology, 4) Make reparations to the victims, 5) Punish those responsible, 6) Record the sexual slavery system in history textbooks, 7) Erect a memorial monument and build an official archive.

At first, the Wednesday Demonstration was held by a few survivors and advocates. Some called the survivors "shameful women" and ignored the call for justice. As the movement continued, however, the Wednesday Demonstration has become a space of remembrance, solidarity, and education, regardless of participants' gender, age, and nationality. On December 14, 2011, the Statue of Peace was established to commemorate the 1,000th Wednesday Demonstration and has become a symbol of call for justice and human rights around the world.

Come rain or shine, they gather in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul every Wednesday with young children, students, and citizens who join to stand in solidarity with survivors. The one exception was in 1995 when a Wednesday Demonstration was canceled as an expression of condolence for the Kobe Earthquake that struck Japan. The Wednesday Demonstration has continued as an educational space for peace, justice, and human rights for the 28 years and July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 marks the 1500<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration.

The Wednesday Demonstration Archive offers related photos, videos, documents, and reports:  
<http://www.archivecenter.net/wednesdaydemo>



The 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Demonstration on January 8, 1992 ©The Korean Council



Photo of the Statue of Peace, established at the 1000<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Demonstration

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1,400th Wednesday Demonstration on August 14, 2019 ©The Korean Council