

### Testimony of YANG Dafang

#### *Japan's germ warfare in the Second World War destroyed my family*

I come from Quzhou in the Zhejiang Province of China. I am 71 years old, born in Quzhou in 1932. It is a city with 1,800 years of history, the second hometown of the famous Chinese philosopher Confucius. I was brought up in the philosophy of Confucius, with emphasis on trustworthiness, to treat others as you would like others to treat you, to treasure peace, and to work hard building your home, etc.

On Sep 26, 1937, the Japanese warplanes started bombing Quzhou. The train station and over a hundred houses were burnt to the ground. 165 people died in this air raid. Even worse, in Oct 1940, a Japanese warplane dropped onto Quzhou's densely populated areas fleas, food, cotton, rags, paper packages, etc., that were carrying pathogens including plague, typhoid, malaria, dysentery, and anthrax. In less than half a month, the western part of Quzhou experienced the first outbreak of plague in its long history, affecting Yunzi Street, Chaija Alley and Lohanjin Street, etc. The Japanese twice occupied Quzhou, in 1942 and 1944 respectively. According to the statistics of local government, 11,450 people were killed in bombing or murdered, 106,784 houses were bombed or burnt, 5,250 people went missing after being arrested by the Japanese, 3,200 women were raped, 5,623 tons of food was looted from government warehouses, and innumerable properties were plundered. As a result, 200,000 people became homeless. The Japanese devils did not stop at these atrocities. When they were retreating, they deployed plain-cloth agents to secretly spread pathogens of contagious diseases such as anthrax, plague, malaria, dysentery and scabies along the Ganzhou rail line and in the areas of Jiangzshan, Changfa, Kaifa, and Youlong. Subsequently, Quzhou and vicinity experienced widespread attack of epidemic. The epidemic control agencies of Quzhou estimated that between 1940 and 1948, a total of 300,000 people were infected in the area, causing 50,000 fatalities. These crimes committed by the Japanese invaders were monstrous and unforgivable. This is a debt in blood that they owe to the people of Quzhou. The people of Quzhou, in generations to come, cannot forget and will not forget.

Here are the photos of my father and my family, and the clipping of a report from the Quzhou Daily on April 4th, 1941 about the death of my father caused by plague.

Let me tell you how my family was destroyed by the germ warfare of the Japanese military!

In March 1941, plague killed my father, YANG Huifeng. He was victim of Japan's germ warfare.

At that time, my family of eight consisted of my parents, two elder brothers, two younger sisters, our grandma and me. My father was 39 years old, strong and healthy, running a clock and watch shop bearing his own name - Huifeng. The shop was located on South Avenue in Quzhou, less than 300 meters away from the plague quarantine area in Zhunxi Street.

My parents and I lived in the shop; others lived at the Qifong Alley very close by. My father's business was very good. My uncle was also helping out there. My father was strong and I never saw him get sick. I was nine at that time, just starting elementary school. Those were happy days for me, seeing my father working busily in the shop, enjoying his affection for me.

In late March, 1941, my father began to suffer from a serious fever and could not get out of bed. Even though we sought help from the doctor right away, his illness continued to deteriorate. The fever did not recede at all and my father moaned in pain all day. My mother ran around getting advice from doctors and collecting traditional remedies. But my father never recovered and left us in less than a week. I was a child and could not believe that my father had left us behind just like that. My mother and I were crying non-stop. After all these years, I still cannot forget the way my father looking at my mother before he died. His eyes were telling us he did not want to die. He wanted to live.

After father's death, his body was wrapped in white cloth and taken away by the epidemic control agents to be buried deep somewhere in the Xishan Fayuengong. To add to our pain, up till today, we have never found out the exact location of his burial site. After father's death, his watch shop had to be locked up. My mother and I were taken to a ship in Qu River for quarantine, and only allowed to return home on Qigong Alley half a month later. Unfortunately, my grandma also passed away shortly after. She could not endure the pain caused by the death of my father. We also got the news that my uncle, who had earlier left for the countryside, also passed away. My 15-year-old brother, who had been attending junior high school at that time, decided to join the Nationalist army with my uncle, so as to reduce the burden on our family and to resist the invasion of the Japanese. This was how my happy family shattered by the germ warfare of the Japanese devils.

In 1998, my brother and uncle returned from Taiwan to visit us. This was the first reunion of the siblings in 47 years. My mother who had to work extra hard to bring us up died of tuberculosis in 1952. She never got a chance to see her son who was separated during the war.

I am a survivor of this tragic event. I was not infected with plague. My second elder brother and I however contracted scabies while hiding in the countryside to run away from the invading Japanese. Scabies was all over my body, the lower part was especially covered with boils, so serious that I could not even take off my pants! Fortunately, I did not need to go through the 61 years of suffering like some other victims such as Mr. XU Jiaxie who attended the conference today. His rotten legs were caused by anthrax. Many people have suffered even more than Mr. XU and are in much worse situation. Some of these old people shared with me the following thoughts. The Japanese devils not only committed such atrocity as the germ warfare, but have also kept denying and covering up the facts until today. The current Japanese Government is refusing to apologize and to compensate. The current Japanese Prime Minister repeatedly paid tribute to the deified war criminals at the Yasukuni Shrine. That is seriously hurting the feeling of the Chinese people and shaking the foundation for long lasting friendship between the two nations.

In the last six years, I went to Japan three times as one of the plaintiff representatives in the Unit 731 biological warfare victims lawsuit, to sue the Japanese government. We have all the evidence and witnesses. History cannot be rewritten and covered up. The Japanese government should show the courage in accepting the responsibility of germ warfare, the Nanjing massacre, and the Japanese military sexual slavery. Germany has admitted the fascist atrocities and made compensation. Only when Japan learns from history and opposes militarism can Japan earn the praise and trust from the people of the world and make real contribution to world peace. I would like to repeat a statement I made in my first testimony in the Japanese court: "There is an old Chinese saying, 'You cannot live under the same sky with those who killed your father'" Japan's Unit 731 germ warfare in China is an undeniable fact. Until this horrific atrocity is admitted and settled, the victims of the germ warfare will never forgive Japan. I am prepared to fight to the end, until justice overcomes evil and conscience overcomes brutality!

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Representative of victims of germ warfare in Quzhou, Zhejiang Province.

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