

Madam Liu Mianhuan

Madam Liu Mianhuan, was born on June 28, 1927, in Yangquan Village, Xipan Township, Yuxian County, Shanxi Province. She still lives in this address.

Liu Mianhuan's own account: When she was 16 years old according to traditional Chinese age counting (15 in the Western age counting, the year being 1942, but was entered as 1943 in the court's written judgement), one morning in the lunar month of March, she was home with her parents, when several Japanese soldiers and their Chinese collaborators broke into her home, guns in hand, forcing them to come out to a meeting. When Liu and her parents came to the threshing ground in front of their home, there were already 20-30 villagers there. Later, Japanese soldiers were going to take Liu and two other young women to Jingui Village by force. Jingui Village was over ten km away from Yangquan Village and the Japanese had established a military stronghold there. Liu Mianhuan cried and said "No", but the Japanese soldiers struck her left arm with rifle butt and slapped her. The Japanese soldiers tied up Liu and two other young women and took them to Jingui Village by force.

Liu was locked up in a villager's residence in Jingui Village. Outside there were Chinese collaborators stationed as guards.

Liu was raped that very night by a Japanese squad leader. During her imprisonment of more than 40 days, she was raped by 5-6 Japanese soldiers every day.

During her imprisonment, she was not allowed to go outside, only when she needed to use the outhouse. She could go only with the guard's permission.

Liu's body was totally ruined. She had vaginal bleeding incessantly. After some 20 days, her whole body was swollen and she could hardly walk.

When Liu's relatives in Jingui Village learned about this, they told her father. Liu's father

borrowed dozens of silver dollars and gave them to the Japanese soldiers to get her released.

Liu had no siblings and was the only daughter at the time when she was kidnapped. Because she was raped by Japanese soldiers, she had to marry a man who had a previous marriage before. Her husband died a long time ago.

The atrocities committed by the Japanese soldiers during those days caused severe damages to Liu's physical and mental health. To this day, movement of Liu's left arm is still restricted due to injury caused by the beatings. She often has nightmares.

In August 1995, Liu Mianhuan and other victims of sexual violence, Li Qiumei, Zhou Xixiang, Chen Lintao etc filed a lawsuit against the Japanese government at Tokyo District Court, they demanded that the Japanese government apologize and give compensation. On May 30th, 2001, Tokyo District Court dismissed their lawsuit without even hearing the facts. For this Liu Mianhuan and others filed an appeal. On Dec 15th 2005, Tokyo High Court acknowledged the facts of their victimization, but exempted the Japanese government's responsibility under the excuses of State Immunity (editor's note: State Immunity means that the state of Japan has no responsibility to pay compensation to its subjects for any acts committed by state authorities under the 1890 Meiji Constitution.) and the plaintiffs' rights to claim have expired because of a the 20-years statute of limitation. Liu Mianhuan and other victims appealed to the Supreme Court of Japan. On April 27th, 2007, the Supreme Court of Japan gave the lawyers a verbal notice that the appeal was dismissed without giving a verdict for the case. It is with such a slight attitude, the Supreme Court of Japan dismissed the Liu Mianhuan case and freed the Japanese government of any legal responsibility.

Compiled by Lawyer Kang Jian

On Oct 19th, 2007

[Updated note: Liu passed away on April 12, 2012]

