

VOICES OF VIETNAM

October 15, 2015

Her Excellency Park Geun-hye
President, Republic of Korea
Cheongwadae, Sejong-ro No. 1
Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-820
Republic of Korea

Madame President:

We write to petition you to use your authority and energy to ease our decades of suffering, and the struggles of our children, the so-called Lai Dai Han in Vietnam.

We represent the Vietnamese survivors of sexual assault and rape at the hands of Republic of Korea soldiers during the Vietnam War, soldiers under the command of your father, President Park Chung-hee. Thousands were raped throughout the Korean military's area of operations, and in major cities of Vietnam. An estimated 800 of us are still living today. Our children are the Lai Dai Han, or mixed Vietnamese and Korean blood.

We and our sisters across the country, and our thousands of children and grandchildren face many challenges today, including in securing an education and finding work, and receiving the support of basic social services. Our experiences and struggles have been rejected for more than four decades by the people and government of Korea.

We write you today because we fear that our stories will be forgotten. Decades have passed without a formal apology, acknowledgement, or reparations from your Government. Even so, the Government of Vietnam recently signed a trade agreement between our two countries, binding our futures while ignoring our shared painful past.

We survivors and Lai Dai Han also want to look ahead. While we are old, we want to have hope for the futures of children and grandchildren. We urge you to issue a sincere and deep apology for the crimes committed against us and our families and to consider reparations for the decades of hardship we have faced. With that, we wish to move forward with the dignity of recognition, and the support of those in a position to take responsibility.

We encourage you to listen to our individual stories first-hand at www.VietnamVoices.org and thank you for your urgent consideration.

Respectfully,

TRAN THI NGAI
DANG THI THAT

VAN THI NGHIEM
TRUONG THI CHIN

Pg. 2

THACH THI HUU
NGUYEN THI BACH TUYET
NGO THI COI

CU THI HONG LIEN
NGUYEN THI XIET
DANG THI TUYET

cc: Ambassador Oh Joon, Representative of Republic of Korea to the United Nations
The Honorable Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations
Prince Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights