



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3675

Introduced by Hon. Roilo Golez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The fight of the "Filipino Comfort Women" for the restoration of their honor and dignity has long been a lingering issue.

During the Japanese occupation in the Philippines in the Second World War, Japanese Imperial Forces coerced Filipino women to submit themselves to sexual slavery, inflicting both physical and psychological violence in the process. This ignominy has inflicted deep wounds on the honor and dignity of these women and the entire Filipino people.

Because of this painful and traumatic experience, life for them has never been the same. They are constantly haunted by the horrors of a war fought more than half a century ago. Many of them have carried their pain to the grave.

After the war, while to seek redress would have been the natural recourse, they chose silence if only to shield themselves and their families from shame. It was only in 1992 that the so-called "Filipino Comfort Women" came out into the open. This was spawned by an announcement over a Philippine radio station appealing to "Filipino Comfort Women" to come out in public and seek an official apology and legal redress in the form of monetary compensation from the Japanese government. This occurred following the discovery, in 1990, that there had been Japanese "comfort women stations" in South Korea and other parts of Asia.

Thereafter, more and more "Filipino Comfort Women," mostly between the ages of 70 and 80, decided to come out. And, together, they formed an organization to fight for the restoration of their honor and dignity by appealing to the Japanese government to address their case.

In August 1993, the Japanese government finally admitted and expressed remorse over the sexual slavery committed by its Imperial Forces during the Second World War. But when it came to the issue of monetary compensation, it denied any obligation. It was of the opinion that it had already settled the same when it signed the San Francisco Treaty and other related bilateral treaties.

On 09 June 2004, the Democratic Party of Japan, the Japanese Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, and some independent Japanese senators jointly filed and introduced a bill to the Japanese House of Councilors to address the issue of wartime sexual slavery during the Second World War. The bill, titled "Promotion of Resolution for Issues Concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act," has yet to be approved.

In the meantime, pending the approval of the aforementioned bill, it is incumbent upon the Philippine government to advance the monetary compensation intended for these women with the expectation of reimbursement by the Japanese government.

With this bill, the grave wrong committed upon "Filipino Comfort Women," who are all in the twilight of their years, can finally be recognized and given redress.

The approval of this measure is earnestly sought in view of the foregoing premises.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Roilo Golez', with a stylized, flowing script.

ROILO GOLEZ

Republic of the Philippines
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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION TO THE FILIPINO VICTIMS OF WARTIME SEXUAL COERCION, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FILIPINO COMFORT WOMEN," DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION IN THE PHILIPPINES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the ***"Filipino Comfort Women Compensation Act of 2005."***

SEC. 2. Purpose. – The purpose of this Act is to advance monetary compensation due to the "Filipino Comfort Women," as defined in this Act, pending the approval by the Japanese House of Councilors of Bill titled, "Promotion of Resolution for Issues Concerning Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion Act" filed on 09 June 2004.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – In this Act, the following terms shall be understood to mean as follows:

- a. ***"Wartime Sexual Coercion"*** - The act of organized and prolonged sexual coercion of Filipino women, who were recruited against their will with direct or indirect involvement of the Japanese Imperial Forces during the Second World War.
- b. ***"Filipino Comfort Women"*** - Also known as the ***"Filipino Victims of Wartime Sexual Coercion,"*** are the Filipino women who suffered wartime sexual coercion as defined in the immediately preceding paragraph.
- c. ***"Commission"*** - Refers to the Commission on Human Rights.

SEC. 4. **Amount and Source of Compensation.** – The amount of two hundred fifty million pesos (P 250,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated by law for any purpose.

Other funding schemes or sources, subject to the limitations provided for by law, shall be allowed in furtherance of the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 5. **Number of Filipino Comfort Women.** – There are about five hundred (500) Filipino women who suffered from sexual coercion by the Japanese Imperial Forces during the Second World War. Each will be given an amount of five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) out of the two hundred fifty million pesos (P 250,000,000.00) appropriated for the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 6. **Role of the Commission of Human Rights.** – Pursuant to Section 17(11) Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that the Commission on Human Rights shall perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law, the Commission is hereby tasked to implement this Act and to issue the necessary rules and guidelines.

SEC. 7. **Separability Clause.** – Any provision or part of this Act which has been declared invalid or unconstitutional shall not affect any other provision or part hereof not so declared.

SEC. 8. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,