

The Korean American Association of U.S.A.



kaausa250@gmail.com

Statement

February 15, 2023

Joshua Teitelbaum, JD, PhD

Editor

International Review of Law and Economics

via jct48@law.georgetown.edu

RE: Call to Retract J. Mark Ramseyer's Article on Comfort Women

Dear Dr. Teitelbaum,

Representing 2.5 million Korean Americans residing in the United States, the Korean American Association of the United States of America (KAAUSA) strongly urges you to retract "Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War" by J. Mark Ramseyer. We have grave concerns with Elsevier' and the International Review of Law and Economics (IRLE)'s recent decision to keep Ramseyer's article despite a lack of consensus, and irrespective of the fact that all have expressed and acknowledged the article has problems. Given that the article is inaccurate by any standard, we call upon you to retract the article by May 15, 2023.

The entire Korean American community rejects what is being reported on the grounds that it is historically inaccurate. We unequivocally denounce Ramseyer's false, unsubstantiated claims that sex slaves taken by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II were voluntarily contracted sex workers. Consequently, we strongly urge you to withdraw Ramseyer's misleading article which is an injustice to all those who have been affected by what was written.

The article not only denies the trafficked status of comfort women, who were victims of sexual slavery under the Japanese Empire during World War II, but also works to exonerate the Japanese government of their culpabilities in the trafficking and enslavement of these women. The explicit sexual slavery of comfort women has been documented through extensive reports by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Amnesty International, and many notable scholars in Korea, Japan, the United States, and other countries. The comfort women system is a set of Japanese war crimes and atrocities. The Japanese government wrongly continues to insist that these victims were paid prostitutes, as if to somehow absolve Japan of its accountability in their wrongdoing. The comfort women issue remains important because of the nature of the government-led system of sexual slavery,

unprecedented in its scale and cruelty. Hundreds of thousands of women and young girls from more than a dozen countries were victimized against their will, and most of them died from sheer brutality.

Founded in 2017, KAAUSA is comprised of civic leadership organizations from all major cities across the nation that represent and empower the Korean American community.

We, the undersigned, respectfully demand that you retract the article by May 15, 2023.

Please reply to Elynn Park at kaausa250@gmail.com no later than March 15, 2023. Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

CC: Kumsal Bayazit, Elsevier CEO
J. Mark Ramseyer
John F. Manning, Harvard Law School Dean
Larry Bacow, Harvard President

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Korean American Federation of
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