

San Francisco unveils memorial to WWII “comfort women”

By Ellen Knickmeyer
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO— Now 89, former World War II “comfort woman” Yongsoo Lee clutched a microphone in one hand at a park outside San Francisco’s Chinatown, thrust her other clenched fist in the air, and made a vow.

Lee, abducted from her Korean homeland at age 15 and forced into working in brothels servicing Japanese soldiers, was speaking at the dedication of the latest of dozens of statues put up around the world, commemorating the ordeal of thousands of women like her in territory held by the Japanese army before and during World War II.

Japan has not gone far enough in apologizing, and the statues memorializing those the Japanese army called “comfort women” for their soldiers will keep going up, Lee, her frame bent in traditional green and pink Korean robes, told scores at the unveiling ceremony.

“And at the end, we will have a memorial in Tokyo. So they can say, ‘I’m sorry, I’m sorry,’ when they pass by,” said Lee, who came from South Korea for the ceremony,



ATROCITY ACKNOWLEDGED. Former World War II “comfort woman” Yongsoo Lee, 89, of South Korea, stands by a statue of Haksoon Kim while looking at the “Comfort Women” monument after it was unveiled in San Francisco. The monument was dedicated to the young female victims of Japanese military sexual slavery from 1932 until the end of World War II in 1945. Haksoon Kim was the first to break the silence about “comfort women” in 1991. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

focus on comfort women, Lee told the crowd, through a translator, “Japan must apologize.”

The South Korean and Japanese foreign ministers, meeting in New York, agreed to work together to resolve their countries’ lingering differences over the episode, according to Japan’s Kyodo news agency.

No more than a few dozen of the comfort women remain alive, said retired San Francisco judge Lillian Sing, who was a leader in the effort by California’s Korean, Chinese, and Filipino communities to commission and put up the statue in a park on the edge of San Francisco’s Chinatown.

“What these grandmas did was change the way the world looked at sex trafficking,” Sing told the state and local dignitaries and others in the audience.

as she has for at least four other such dedications in the United States alone.

Historians say tens of thousands of women, and perhaps hundreds of thousands, were seized in Asian territories under Japanese military control and made to work in military brothels. The issue has remained an open rift between Japan and

other Asian nations. Surviving comfort women and their supporters rejected a 2015 statement from Japan expressing “apologies and remorse,” saying it did not go far enough in acknowledging what they say was the Japanese government’s responsibility.

“If Japan does not like” the continued

U.N. meeting on Myanmar spotlights Security Council divisions

Continued from page 5

There is no alternative to resolving “the longstanding and complicated crisis” in Rakhine through political means and a dialogue among representatives of all nationalities and faiths, he said. “We need to stop any kind of violence from any side and the rhetoric which fuels it.”

The Russian ambassador and the U.N. secretary-general both warned that the Rohingya crisis could spread.

Guterres said “the failure to address this systematic violence could result in a spillover into central Rakhine, where an additional 250,000 Muslims could potentially face displacement.”

He also warned that the humanitarian crisis is a breeding ground for radicalization, criminals, and traffickers. And he said the broader crisis “has generated multiple implications for neighboring states and the larger region, including the risk of inter-communal

strife.”

Nebenzia said “terrorists and extremists ... are already trying to put down roots in Southeast Asia” and “we cannot allow further radicalization in the region.”

The council meeting also exposed tensions between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Myanmar’s national security adviser blamed the crisis in Rakhine state on terrorism and declared that “there is no ethnic cleansing and no genocide in Myanmar.”

U Thaung Tun said security operations ended September 5 and the vast majority of those who fled to Bangladesh did so because “fear was instilled in the heart by the terrorists.”

More than 50 percent of villages in Rakhine state are intact and people are living in peace with their neighbors, he said.

He announced that diplomats, ac-

companied by the media, are visiting northern Rakhine on October 2. And he said Guterres has been invited to visit Myanmar.

“It is imperative that the international community join hands with us to ensure that democracy takes firm root,” U Thaung Tun said. “The Security Council must refrain from taking measures that exacerbate rather than alleviate the situation in Rakhine state. It can and must do no less.”

But Bangladesh’s U.N. ambassador, Masud Bin Momen, told the council the violence in Rakhine hasn’t stopped despite government claims.

He said Rohingyas described rape being used as a weapon to scare families to leave, and reported villages being burned and looted, and people being abused.

“These atrocities attest that the Myanmar government is using arson to de-populate northern Rakhine and take

over ownership of lands,” he said.

Bin Momen said the Security Council should also take into account that reportedly more than two divisions of Myanmar’s armed forces were deployed near the Bangladesh border in the first week of August with heavy armaments and artillery.

With the arrival of more than 500,000 Rohingyas since August 25, he said Bangladesh is now hosting over 900,000 members of “this most-persecuted minority in the world.”

Bin Momen called the situation untenable and reiterated an appeal to the U.N. to create “safe zones” inside Myanmar.

The Security Council over the years has discussed Myanmar behind closed doors, including three recent closed meetings. The last open meeting in 2009 was attended by then-secretary-general Ban Ki-moon.

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1			9	4			2
	2						7
	6		5	3			1
		4	8	5	9	1	
	8						9
		6	4	3	1	2	
	5		7		2		4
	4						6
9			3	6			8

Difficulty level: Easy #19422

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle # #26578 (Hard)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

2	4	6	3	5	7	9	8	1
7	8	5	9	4	1	2	6	3
1	9	3	8	2	6	5	7	4
6	2	9	5	3	4	8	1	7
8	7	4	2	1	9	6	3	5
5	3	1	6	7	8	4	2	9
3	6	7	4	9	2	1	5	8
4	1	2	7	8	5	3	9	6
9	5	8	1	6	3	7	4	2

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