

# Testimony

Xian Tu Zhuang  
Born in China, 1926–2015



Xian Tu Zhuang in 2014

*“I had not lived a day of normal life since the incident.”*

In 1941, at age sixteen, Xian was married to a husband who was three years her junior. Xian was married to a husband who was three years younger. A few months after her marriage, Japanese soldiers came to her house and took her to a “comfort station,” part of the military sexual slavery system established and operated by the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces in their occupied territories from the 1930s through the end of WWII in 1945.

Running away wasn’t an option because she had bound feet. Her family sold valuables and borrowed money from friends and relatives to bring her out of sexual slavery. Xian was one of hundreds of thousands of women and girls from throughout Asia who were forced into Japanese military sexual slavery.

Xian eventually went back to live with her husband, who suffered from PTSD and did not work because of it. She became the main breadwinner in the family, although she, too, suffered from PTSD.

**Photo credit:** Pacific Atrocities Education

**Source:** PAE’s interview with Xian Tu Zhuang in China, 2014.