

Testimony

Yuet Li Hao

Born in China, 1928–2017



Yuet Li Hao in 2014

“Medicine is really expensive. It takes up most of my expenses ever since the incident.”

Yuet was fifteen when Japanese soldiers came to her house while her parents were out working in the field. The door was kicked open, and the Japanese soldiers rushed in with guns pointed at her. She was terrified. While one soldier went to search for valuables, the other one took off her pants and raped her on top of the oven bed.* After the first soldier raped her, the other soldier took his turn. They left, taking the valuables, while the traumatized girl hid under the bed’s blanket all day. The terror returned when the Japanese soldiers came back to her house and dragged her onto the main road.

On the main road, Yuet saw about ten Chinese men being chained to a rope. She witnessed the Japanese soldiers waterboarding the Chinese men. Along with two other girls, Yuet was raped again. Soon, she started bleeding. Although she returned home after about a month, in exchange for money, she was taken again two months later. She was gang-raped constantly, and though she was starving, she was only allowed to eat a bit at night.

From the 1930s to the end of WWII, the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces established and operated a military sexual slavery system for Japanese soldiers in the territories they occupied. Hundreds of thousands of women and girls from throughout Asia were forced into Japanese military sexual slavery.

Later, Yuet was rescued by her father and brother. As a result of her assault, she couldn’t even use the toilet when she got home.

*Shanxi has a very cold climate so most people sleep on a bed placed over a brick oven for warmth.

Photo credit: Pacific Atrocities Education

Source: PAE’s interview with Yuet Li Hao in Shanxi, China, 2014.

