



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

### **Joint written statement\* submitted by Japan Society for History Textbook, International Career Support Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 January 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **Violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 2 and 9, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by China**

According to Chinese media, a female teacher, Ms. S. G., at a vocational school, “Vocational Academy,” in Shanghai stated during her class on December 14, 2021 that instead of endless hate, it is important to reexamine how the [Sino-Japanese] War started. She said this after she earlier stated that, “there is no evidence to support the allegation that there were 300,000 victims of the Nanjing Massacre.”

After a video of this class spread on the Internet, strident criticism, “ignorant and shameful,” erupted everywhere on the Web. The school then announced that this teacher was relieved of her duties because she was a negative influence on Chinese society. (1)

As far as the number of victims involved in the Nanjing Incident, this has been a point of dispute between Japan and China. The Japanese Government’s position is that it is difficult to determine an exact number (2). The Chinese Communist Party’s organ, the People’s Daily, condemned this teacher as an undesirable, clearly indicating its intolerance of opinions that differ from that of the Chinese Communist Party. (1) and (3)

Moreover, another female teacher, Ms. L.T., in Hunan Province was criticized for her statement on a website and was arrested by Chinese authorities, according to Hong Kong, China media and others. It was later reported that this female teacher was forced into a mental hospital and much criticism arose concerning her inhumane treatment.

Ms. S. G. was dismissed by the school after a video taken by one of her students was posed on the Internet. Ms. L.T. vindicated Ms. S.G.: “What she said during her class was perfectly O.K. Any criticism should rest with the student who took the video and the school that expelled Ms. S.G.”

After posting her comment, Chinese authorities urged Ms. L.T. to enter a mental hospital and “ask for help”. Hunan Province authorities stated on December 24 that Ms. L.T. had a mental disorder and since her condition worsened, she was hospitalized at the request of her family. Hunan Province authorities also stated that they were going to investigate the case because of her “inappropriate opinion.” (4)

These incidents violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2, in that her rights and freedom were violated based on her opinion:

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

These incidents also violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Appendix B, Article 18, 1:

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”

In addition, the act of firing Ms. S. G. on account of her opinion and confining Ms. L. T. to a mental hospital for vindicating Ms. S.G. violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9: “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”

Therefore, we urge that the United Nations Human Rights Council convey the following measures to the Chinese Government:

The Government of China, in light of the relevant Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights, must promptly recognize its violations of international human rights against Ms. S. G. and Ms. L. T., set Ms. S.G. and Ms. L.T. free, recognize their rights to freedom of speech and expression and allow them to return to their previous occupation.

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International Research Institute of Controversial Histories (iRICH), NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

1. NHK News Web (December 17, 2021)

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20211217/amp/k10013392871000.html>

Website last visited on January 10, 2022.

2. The official statement of the Japanese Government regarding the “Nanjing Incident” refers to the number of victims in this manner: “The Japanese Government thinks it undeniable that there was killing of non-combatants and looting after the Imperial Japanese Army entered Nanjing in 1937. However, as to a concrete number of victims, there have been various views and the Japanese Government thinks it difficult to decide which is the correct number. (The Website of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, April 6, 2018.) In addition, scholarly studies clearly showed that Iris Chang’s book, *The Rape of Nanking*, was largely a fabrication and lacking in credibility as a historical reference. The book has turned out to be a handy tool for Chinese propaganda. (Examine the Photographic Evidence of the Nanjing Incident, written by Higashinakano Shudo, Kobayashi Susumu and Fukunaga Shinjiro, published by Shoshi-sha, 2005)

3. The first Director of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders and President of Historical Society of China’s War against Japan, Zhu Cheng-shan, reportedly criticized Ms. S. A.’s opinion in extremely harsh language. (Global Times, December 17, 2021, an English-language Chinese newspaper published by the People’s Daily)

<https://3g.163.com/news/article/GRF31MP700019K82.html> Website last visited on January 10, 2022.

Zhu has always claimed that: “The Nanjing Massacre was a historical fact already confirmed by the International Military Tribunal for Far East.” (Communists Times, December 12, 2014)

<https://news.12371.cn/2014/12/08/ARTI1418009285668578.shtml>

Website last visited on January 10, 2022.

4. Yomiuri Shimbun Online (December 24, 2021)

<https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/world/20211224-OYT1T50224/amp/>

Website last visited on January 10, 2022.