

# Nomination Form

## International Memory of the World Register

### Documents of Nanjing Massacre

2014-50

#### 1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

On December 13, 1937, after capturing Nanjing, the capital of China at that time, Japanese troops launched a massacre against Nanjing residents and disarmed Chinese soldiers which lasted as long as six weeks. All the submitted items, like the photos taken by the Japanese army, the documentary film shot by American priest John Magee, diaries (known as China's "The Diary of Anne Frank") by Tsen Shui-fang, a Chinese lady serving in the Nanjing International Safety Zone, faithfully recorded the crimes including massacre, rape, arson and robbery committed by the Japanese army in Nanjing from December 13, 1937 to March 1, 1938. The archives also include evidences revealed from the trial of International Military Tribunal for the Far East formed by the United States, China, Britain, Soviet Union, Australia, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, India, the Philippines and other countries and from the trial of China Judiciary against the Nanjing Massacre after Japan's unconditional surrender in August 1945. Released on November 4, 1948, The Judgment of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East says "all resistance had ceased as the Japanese Army entered the city on the morning of 13 December 1937. The Japanese soldiers swarmed over the city and committed various atrocities." "Organized and wholesale murder of male civilians was conducted with the apparent sanction of the commanders on the pretense that Chinese soldiers had removed their uniforms and were mingling with the population. Groups of Chinese civilians were formed, bound with their hands behind their backs, and marched outside the walls of the city where they were killed in groups by machine gun fire and with bayonets." "Estimates made at a later date indicate that the total number of civilians and prisoners of war murdered in Nanking and its vicinity during the first six weeks of the Japanese occupation was over 200,000. That these estimates are not exaggerated...These figures do not take into account those persons whose bodies were destroyed by burning, or by throwing them into the Yangtze River, or otherwise disposed of by Japanese." "The German Government was informed by its representative about 'atrocities and criminal acts not of an individual but of an entire Army, namely, the Japanese,' which Army, later in the Report, was qualified as a 'bestial machinery'."

The above-mentioned items have indisputable authority and authenticity being the testimony of Nanjing Massacre as a historical fact.

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#### 2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

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Central Archives of China  
The Second Historical Archives of China  
Liaoning Provincial Archives, China  
Jilin Provincial Archives, China  
Shanghai Municipal Archives, China  
Nanjing Municipal Archives, China  
The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders

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## **2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage**

The Central Archives of China, the Second Historical Archives of China, Liaoning Provincial Archives, Jilin Provincial Archives, Shanghai Municipal Archives, Nanjing Municipal Archives and The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders are the owners and custodians of the nominated documentary heritage.

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## **2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)**

Yang Dongquan, Director of the Central Archives of China  
Zhai Yuxia, Director of the Second Historical Archives of China  
Zhao Huanlin, Director of Liaoning Provincial Archives  
Yin Huai, Director of Jilin Provincial Archives  
Zhu Jihua, Director of Shanghai Municipal Archives  
Shu Jianmin, Director of Nanjing Municipal Archives  
Zhu Chengshan, Director of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders

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## **2.4 Contact details**

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Name	Address	Zip Code
Yang Dongquan	No.2, Shuangpo Road, Haidian District, Beijing	100095
Zhai Yuxia	No.309, East Zhongshan Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu	210016
Zhao Huanlin	No.45, South Heping Street, Heping District, Shenyang, Liaoning	110006
Yin Huai	No. 63, Minan Road, Nanguan District, Changchun, Jilin	130041
Zhu Jihua	No.326, Xianxia Road, Changning District, Shanghai	200336

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Shu Jianmin      No.41, East Beijing Road,    Nanjing, Jiangsu    210008

Zhu Chengshan      No.418, Shuiximen Street, Nanjing, Jiangsu    210017

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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
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+86-21-62752867	+86-21-62951562	
+86-25-83627148	+86-25-83638691	njshujm@163.com
+86-25-86612230	+86-25-86501033	chshan001@sohu.com

### **3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage**

#### **3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

**If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given**

Name: Documents of Nanjing Massacre

The documents have gathered together views of experts over their years of research on Nanjing Massacre, with full descriptions of the documents' features, their historical values and impact. All the descriptions have the full support of academic research. The title, for instance, is a standardized Chinese official terminology, and also in line with the customary description of the incident by the public. The documents consist of three parts: the first part concerns the files on the atrocities committed during the period of the massacre (1937-1938), the second part is related to the post-war investigation and trials of Japanese war criminals documented by The International Military Tribunal for the Far East and the Chinese Nationalist Government's Military Tribunal (1945-1947), and the third part deals with files of Japanese war criminals documented by the judiciary authorities of the People's Republic of China (1952-1956).

If inscribed, the title should be identified as Documents of Nanjing Massacre. The names of the institutions will respectively be the Central Archives of China, the Second Historical Archives of China, Liaoning Provincial Archives, Jilin Provincial Archives, Shanghai Municipal Archives, Nanjing Municipal Archives, and the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

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#### **3.4 History/provenance**

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Evidences and files on the Nanjing Massacre were recorded in real time during the massacre. At that time, a Japanese officer took films photographed by him to the Huadong Photo Studio, Nanjing, for processing, which had recorded consecutive beheading attempt against Chinese people. Luo Jin, then an apprentice at the studio, printed 16 extra photos and made an album of them. These photos were listed as important evidence by the Nanjing War Criminals Tribunal. Tsen Shui-fang, then responsible for running a refugee asylum at Jinling University, a missionary school located in the Nanjing International Safety Zone, wrote a diary to record the entire process of Japan's atrocities. Her diary, better known as "China's Annie Diary," was once kept in the university archives, and is now preserved by the Second Historical Archives of China. During the massacre, 17 foreigners who stayed in Nanjing set up the International Safety Zone Committee. John Magee, an American citizen, risked his life to shoot a documentary film on Japanese atrocities. The film was then processed secretly at Shanghai Kodak company, and taken out of China. Later, it was shown in Berlin, London, Washington and other places. In 2002, David Magee, John Magee's son, donated a set of the original film and the video camera left over by his dad, to the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

In August 1945, right before their surrender, the Japanese troops burnt and destroyed a large amount of files and evidences with a plan and purpose. Residual files that weren't burnt due to time limits were buried underground hastily. In the 1950s, some of these buried files were found in Changchun, Jilin province and Dalian, Liaoning province. For example, during the renovation of the building that used to be the headquarters of military police of Japanese Kwantung Army in Changchun, Jilin Province in the 1950s, some buried remnants of files were discovered accidentally. A total of more than 100 thousand volumes of those files were found after preliminary filing and are kept in the Jilin Provincial Archives, China. Among them, 5 items are related to Nanjing massacre.

Among the files and evidences, there are: (1) The "Investigation Report on Resumption of Policing in the governed area of Nanjing Military Police (Ultimatum)" by Shigeru Ohki, the Central China Military Police Commander of Japanese Imperial Troops, recorded the "policing resumption" in Nanjing and its surrounding area from February 1 to 10 in 1938. The report reflects that "the Imperial Japanese troops garrisoning different places were still immersed in the momentum of victory, which led to military discipline laxation and various criminal activities". "Comfort facility status" shows that, in Nanjing, the Japanese garrison troops consisted of roughly 25,000 soldiers with 141 "comfort women" in total. "The number of soldiers to which one 'comfort woman' offered sexual service" was 178. (2) During the Japanese invasion of China, mails were inspected by the Japanese military police, and contents considered sensitive in newspapers, letters, publications were deleted, detained or forfeited. These contents were also excerpted, sorted out, and compiled into weekly or monthly summary reports. According to the "Post Inspection Weekly Report" of the Japanese military police collected and kept by Jilin Provincial Archives, there is an excerpt of a letter from someone under the signature of Zhi

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in Lauterstein Germany (transliteration of names, now Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany) to Mr. Yuan at No. 27, Oxford Avenue of British concession in Tianjin in January 1, 1938. The letter mentioned that Japanese's heinous behavior in Nanjing: females aged 14 and above, even nuns, had all been victimized by their vices. The archives indicated that those information were published in British newspapers based on the letter a British priest sent from Nanjing. "The Priest had repeatedly exhorted Japanese commanders but of no avail. Those exhortations were purely from humanitarian considerations." In the letter from Mr. Lai (the recipient's brother) in London to Lai Wenlin in Shiqiao, Ningxiang County, Hunan province on January 29, 1938, the seventh item in the letter wrote: "According to newspaper reports yesterday, Japanese soldiers raped tens of thousands of women in Nanjing, even twelve-year-old girls were not spared. Countless women were murdered after being raped. These Japanese soldiers are inhuman."

Post-war archives on the Nanjing Massacre were based on the investigations of the massacre. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East, consisting of representatives from the United States and 10 other countries, and the Chinese Nationalist Government's Military Tribunal conducted trials of Japanese war criminals such as Iwane Matsui and Tani Hisao. Nanjing citizens' petitions and questionnaires concerning Japanese atrocities, archives on the two tribunals' investigations, especially those of the Nanjing Military Tribunal with regard to court hearing, cross-examination, defence, as well as rulings have long been stored at the Second Historical Archives of China and the Nanjing Municipal Archives.

In July 1950, the former Soviet Union handed over to China about 1000 Japanese war criminals who were captured during the Battle of Manchuria. A special military tribunal of People's Republic of China Supreme Court opened two trials of the criminals, respectively in Shenyang and Taiyuan in June 1956. The confession files of Hiroyuki Nagatomi and Hisao Ota, which are related to the Nanjing Massacre, are now kept at the Central Archives of China.

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## **4.0 Legal information**

### **4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)**

Name	Address
Central Archives of China	No.2 Shuangpo Road, Haidian District, Beijing. Post Code: 100095, Tel: 86-10-66173675, Fax: 86-10-66176354, Email: hmwang@saac.gov.cn

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The Second Historical Archives of China	No.309, East Zhongshan Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu. Post Code: 210016, Tel: 86-25-84801996, Email: esg@shac.net.cn
Liaoning Provincial Archives	No.45 South Heping Street, Heping District, Shenyang. Post Code: 110006, Tel: 024-23251859, Fax: 024-23252611
Jilin Provincial Archives	No.63 Min'an Road, Nanguan District, Changchun. Post Code: 130041, Tel: 86-431-88553779, Fax: 86-431-88957722
Shanghai Municipal Archives	No.326 Xianxia Road, Changning District, Shanghai. Post Code: 200336, Tel: 86-21-62751700, Fax: 86-21-62951562, Email: lait63@hotmail.com
Nanjing City Archives	No.41 East Beijing Road, Nanjing. Post Code: 210008, Tel: 86-25-86636383, Fax: 86-25-83638691, Email: bgs@archivesnj.gov.cn
The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by	No.418, Shuiximen Street, Nanjing, Jiangsu. Post Code: 210017, Tel: 86-25-86612230, Email: chshan001@sohu.com

**4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)**

Name	Address
Facsimile	Email

**4.3 Legal status**

**Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage**

The related items are mainly collected by the Central Archives of China, the Second Historical Archives of China, Liaoning Provincial Archives, Jilin Provincial Archives, Shanghai

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Municipal Archives, Nanjing Municipal Archives and Archives of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders. They are protected by laws and regulations of national archival management as well as intellectual property protection.

The above-mentioned institutions own the rights to manage and use the archival materials on the Nanjing Massacre.

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#### **4.4 Accessibility**

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##### **Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed**

All the original items stored in the above-mentioned archival institutions are conditionally accessible, while the digitized and copied items are unconditionally available. Since 1985, various publications on the topic have been edited and published, and are available in major libraries across the country.

##### **All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:**

For the purpose of protecting the original items, only digitized or copied files are provided for public viewing and reference, while the original ones are generally inaccessible.

*Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.*

Since 2010, the above-mentioned archival institutions have all started digitization of the original items on the Nanjing Massacre, in order to protect the originals and let the general public make use of the digitized and copied files.

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#### **4.5 Copyright status**

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##### **Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection**

The original items of the Nanjing Massacre Documents are collected and copyrighted by the Central Archives of China, the Second Historical Archives of China, Liaoning Provincial Archives, Jilin Provincial Archives, Shanghai Municipal Archives, Nanjing Municipal Archives and the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

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#### **5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria**

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## 5.1 Authenticity.

All the Nanjing Massacre Documents collected by the above-mentioned archival institutions are original ones. Some of them were acquired during the massacre; some are from the archives of the post-war investigation of Japanese army's crimes, or from the Tokyo International Military Tribunal and Nanjing War Criminals Tribunal. Other categories of documents include trials of Japanese war criminals by the judiciary of the People's Republic of China, and historical materials and relics donated to the archival institutions by individuals at home and abroad. All the documents and archival items have been collected, sorted and identified by experts. Hence, their identity and provenance have been reliably established.

For example, during the Nanjing Massacre, Li Xiuying, a woman in her seventh months of pregnancy taking refuge in the Nanking Safety Zone, was stabbed by Japanese troops that dashed into the safety zone on December 19, 1937. She suffered more than 30 wounds in her face, legs and abdomen due to her defense against rape by the Japanese troops. Li Xiuying lost her consciousness and was then sent to the Drum Tower Hospital where she was rescued by an American doctor Robert Wilson, head of the surgical department of the University of Nanking Hospital. Li Xiuying survived, but her child didn't. John Magee, a priest of the American Church, was in the hospital at that time and filmed and recorded the rescue of Li Xiuying (the film is now kept at the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders). Li Xiuying presented as witness during the trial of war criminals at Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal in October 1946. Her interrogation record, witness affidavit and summons for the trial are kept at the Second Historical Archives of China.

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## 5.2 World significance

The Nanjing Massacre took place in the country's former capital. Disarmed Chinese soldiers were mass murdered, while peaceful civilians including seniors, women and children were slaughtered. After the war, both the Far East International Military Tribunal, which was organized by 11 countries including the United States, United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union and China, and the Nanjing War Criminals Tribunal set special trials on the war criminals of the Nanjing Massacre. Iwane Matsui and Tani Hisao, respectively class-A and class-B war criminals, were both sentenced to death by court ruling.

The Nanjing Massacre Documents consist of not only original Japanese and Chinese archives, but also documentary films and photos, diaries and the Nanjing International Safety Zone files recorded by citizens from the United States, Germany, Denmark, etc., who then stayed in Nanjing as teachers, missionaries and journalists. These solid evidences had a profound appeal to the global community and helped people around the world better understand the cruelty of war.



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### **5.3 Comparative criteria:**

*Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)*

#### **1 Time**

The Nanjing Massacre Documents collected by the above-mentioned archival institutions were partly acquired during the massacre, partly from post-war investigations by Chinese government, civilian petitions, trials of the Far East International Military Tribunal and the Nanjing War Criminals Tribunal; other documents include trials of Japanese war criminals by the Supreme Court of the People's Republic of China. All the documents are related to this period of history.

#### **2 Place**

The city of Nanjing, located in China's most developed east, was the national capital at the time. The fall of Nanjing and the following massacre committed by Japanese troops reduced the city's 1 million-plus urban population prior to the war by more than half.

#### **3 People**

The Japanese army carried out the massacre in Nanjing for six weeks, which inflicted an unprecedented impact on the Chinese people, especially Nanjing citizens, and brought about a traumatic memory till today. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East confirmed in its judgment that over 200,000 Chinese were killed, and over 20,000 women were raped or gang raped by Japanese army. "These figures do not take into account those persons whose bodies were destroyed by burning, or by throwing them into the Yangtze River, or otherwise disposed of by Japanese." The Nanjing War Criminals Tribunal concluded that "at least 300,000 Chinese were killed".

The Nanjing Massacre Documents contain files on Japanese perpetrators, Chinese victims, and third-party witnesses from the United States, United Kingdom, etc. The historical clues and records are clear, while the materials are mutually verifiable and complementary. The aggressive war launched by Japan brought a standstill to China's political, economic and cultural development, severely damaged the historical cultures of a city with over a 1,000-year history.

#### **4 Subject and theme**

The Nanjing Massacre Documents recorded the historical fact that civilians and disarmed Chinese soldiers were killed by the Japanese army in Nanjing, then China's capital. The city

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of Nanjing and its people were subject to killing, looting, burning and raping. The massacre committed by Japanese troops disrupted the then fast-developing Chinese social economy, with the economy of Eastern China devastated especially.

## **5 Form and style**

The Nanjing Massacre Documents are basically paper files, including single pages, combined files and archival fonds. There are also photos, films and objects made from iron and silk, etc. They are of great historical value, as well as documentation and cultural value.

## **6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:**

The Nanjing Massacre Documents can be mutually supportive to the oral accounts of the massacre and served as important evidence. As the number of living survivors decreases each year, the historical value of the archives becomes even greater. These archives mean so much emotionally to the descendants of the victims of the massacre, to the citizens of the victimized city of Nanjing, and to the people of the once injured country. Today, tens of millions of Chinese and foreign people, including Japanese people, pay their visit to the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders annually. On December 13 each year, people hold memorial services for the victims. As from 2014, the Chinese government makes December 13 a national memorial day for the whole nation to hold mourning events and convey condolences to those killed during the Nanjing Massacre.

## **6.0 Contextual information**

### **6.1 Rarity**

Due to Japanese troops' deliberate cover-up of the truth, the damage to the files by the war and social upheaval, and that Japan destroyed many archival materials after its surrender in August of 1945, the rarity of the non-renewable documents stored in the archival is increasingly perceived as the time goes by.

### **6.2 Integrity**

For the same reasons, it's difficult for the archival institutions to keep complete documentation.

By mutually reflected and supplementary, the documents nominated by these institutions form a complete chain of evidence. Through the sharing of the files, public collaboration and

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online communication, these institutions will further enhance the integrity of the Nanjing Massacre Documents.

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