

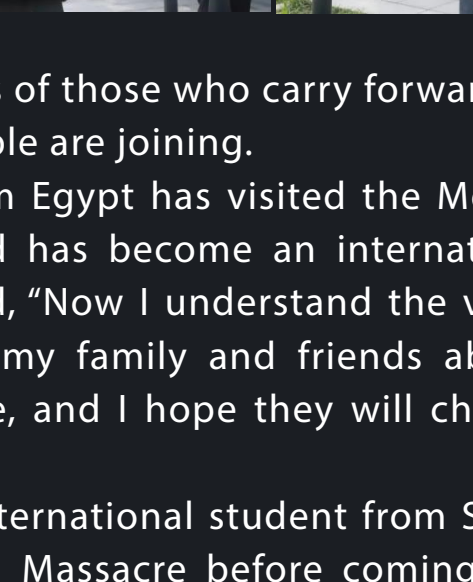
Highlights

Qingming Festival Memorial Ceremony for
Nanjing Massacre Victims Held at the Memorial Hall

On April 4th, the "Qingming Festival Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims" was held in front of the Wall of Tears at the Memorial Hall. Representatives of Nanjing Massacre survivors, representatives of the victims' relatives, representatives of young students, and representatives of international students stood solemnly with chrysanthemums in hand, paying tribute to the Nanjing Massacre victims who perished 88 years ago.



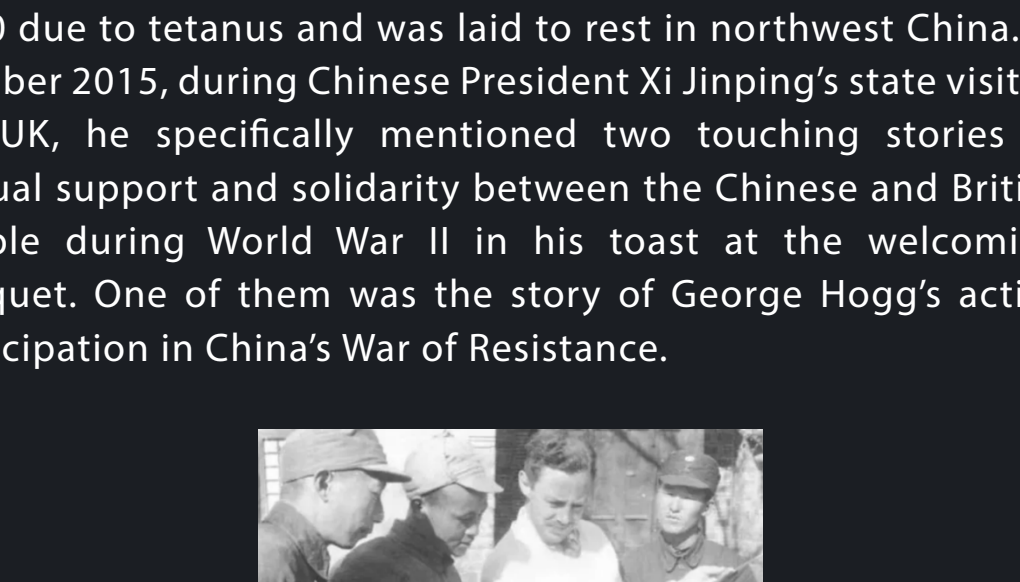
Nanjing Massacre survivor, Xia Shuqin, aged 96, came to the "Wall of Tears" with the support of her family members. On December 13, 1937, seven out of nine people in Xia Shuqin's family were brutally killed by the Japanese troops. At that time, 8-year-old Xia was spared from death after being stabbed three times and falling unconscious.



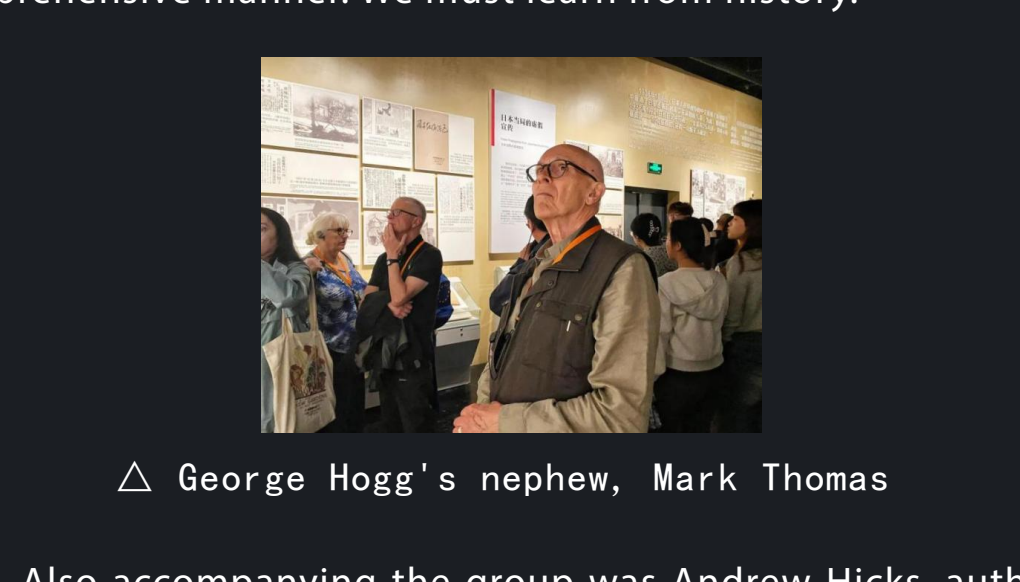
Accompanied by his daughter, 91-year-old Mr. Liu Minsheng laid flowers for his deceased relatives. "Although it hurts every time I recall those memories, I still have to come and speak out! I hope that our descendants will never have to experience the suffering we went through," said Mr. Liu Minsheng.



More than 30 representatives of the victims' relatives and student representatives, including Chang Xiaomei, Xu Hong, and Yu Huiru, stepped forward one after another to lay flowers.



"Great-grandfather, today Nanjing has been reborn from the ruins. The alleys are filled with the fragrance of flowers, and children are running in the sunshine. We have not forgotten history..." Nanjing Massacre historical recollection inheritors Ruan Hongyan and Li Yuhan read out the letters to their relatives who perished 88 years ago with deep emotion.



In the ranks of those who carry forward history, more and more young people are joining.

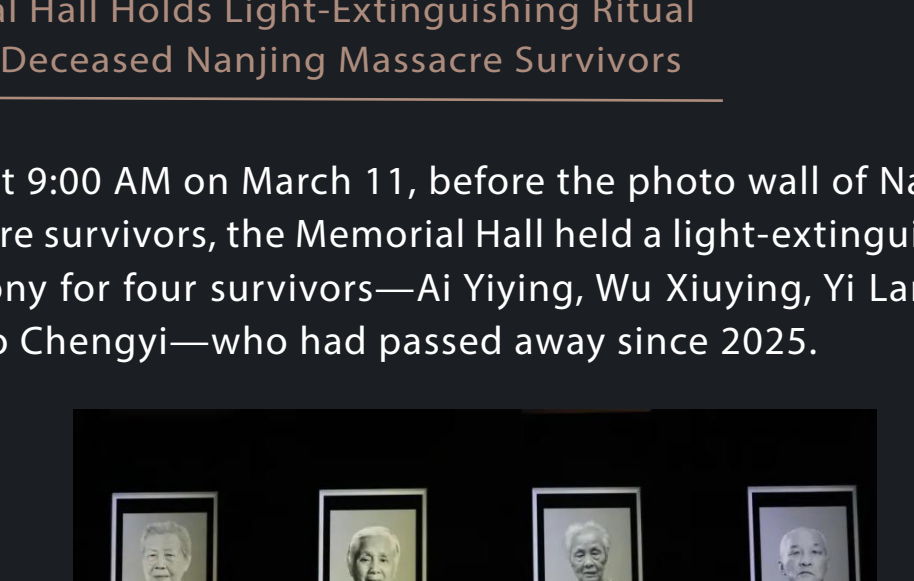
Fayyad from Egypt has visited the Memorial Hall several times before and has become an international volunteer for Zijin Cao. He said, "Now I understand the value of peace even more. I will tell my family and friends about the history of Nanjing Massacre, and I hope they will cherish their peaceful lives even more."

Semi, an international student from Sri Lanka, had never heard of Nanjing Massacre before coming to China. He said, "Seeing the heart-rending remains of the victims in the Mass Grave of 10,000 Corpses, I was deeply shocked by the brutality of the Japanese troops' atrocities at that time. It made me feel very sad. War is so terrible. I hope all of us can cherish peace."



△ Semi (left), Fayyad

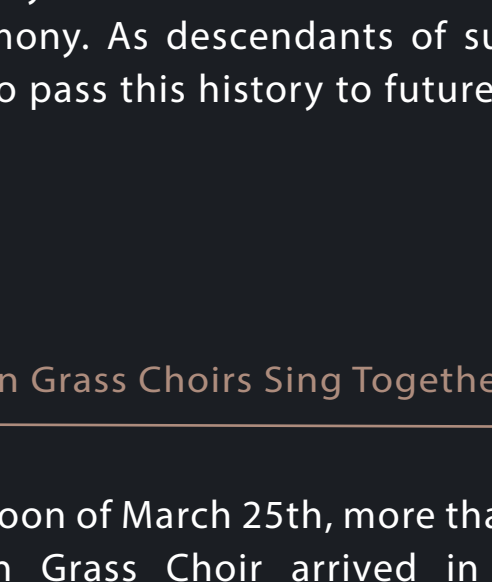
At the end of the Tomb-Sweeping Memorial ceremony, representatives of the relatives of Nanjing Massacre victims each placed a letter they had written to their relatives who perished 88 years ago into the time mailbox, to express their grief.



Descendants of George Hogg,
a British Internationalist Fighter, Visit the Memorial Hall

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, as well as the 110th birth anniversary and 80th death anniversary of British internationalist fighter George Hogg. On April 6, a delegation of more than ten of George Hogg's relatives visited the Memorial Hall.

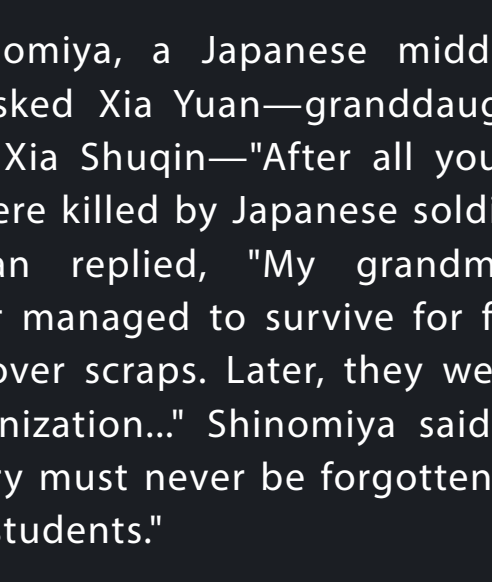
Born in the UK in 1915, George Hogg came to China in 1938 and devoted himself to the Chinese people's resistance against Japanese aggression. In July 1945, on the eve of China's victory in the war, Hogg tragically passed away at the young age of 30 due to tetanus and was laid to rest in northwest China. In October 2015, during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to the UK, he specifically mentioned two touching stories of mutual support and solidarity between the Chinese and British people during World War II in his toast at the welcoming banquet. One of them was the story of George Hogg's active participation in China's War of Resistance.



△ George Hogg poses with soldiers

George Hogg's nephew, Mark Thomas, was deeply moved by his uncle's story and authored the book *The Grasslands: The Story of George Hogg*, which chronicles Hogg's journey across China to support the war effort.

Mark Thomas recounted, "In 1938, my uncle met Archibald Steele, a correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News*, in Shanghai. They became close friends, and Steele shared with him the harrowing accounts of the Nanjing Massacre." The Memorial Hall left a profound impression on Mark Thomas. He remarked, "The exhibition presents historical events in a comprehensive manner. We must learn from history."



△ George Hogg's nephew, Mark Thomas

Also accompanying the group was Andrew Hicks, author of *A True Friend to China* (Chinese title: 《中国挚友》). In 1941, nearly 300 members of the British Friends' Ambulance Unit (FAU), inspired by their aspiration for peace, traversed war zones and perilous mountains to reach Chinese soil. Operating under extremely challenging conditions, their transport teams successfully distributed imported medical supplies to regions open to them, enabling numerous hospitals to remain operational. They also provided essential medical services, making significant contributions during China's most critical time of need. Their arrival not only brought urgently needed medical assistance to the Chinese people but also demonstrated the profound compassion and steadfast support from international friends. Author Andrew Hicks spent years traveling far and wide to collect wartime correspondence, personal diaries, and letters between FAU member Jack Jones and his relatives and friends, which form the core narrative framework of the book.

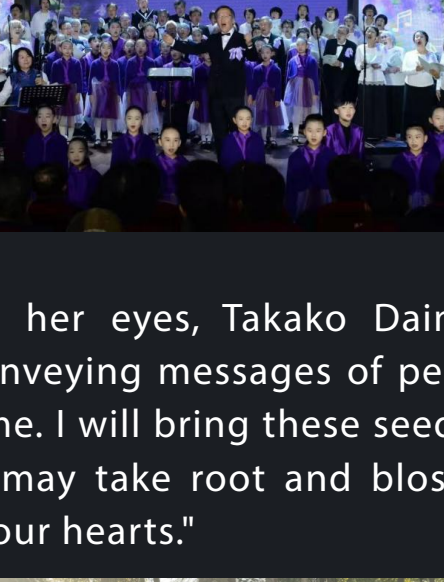
Andrew Hicks remarked, "I first learned about the Nanjing Massacre through Iris Chang's book. In my opinion, this Memorial Hall is the finest I've ever visited, it serves as the most appropriate commemoration of that tragic history and effectively conveys messages about both history and peace to visitors."



△ Andrew Hicks

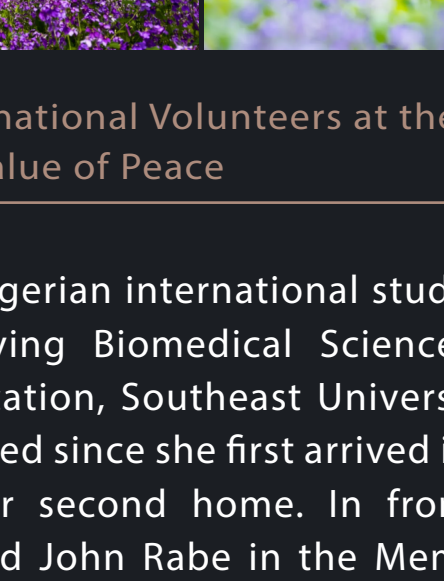
Descendants of Nanjing Massacre Survivors
Share Family Stories at Memorial Hall

On the morning of April 5, Ren Ying, granddaughter of Nanjing Massacre survivor Xue Yujuan and Nanjing Massacre historical recollection inheritor, visited the Memorial Hall to share her grandmother's story with visitors.



During the massacre, Xue Yujuan was steeped in the chest by a Japanese soldier. The trauma left deep physical and psychological scars, yet she remained incredibly optimistic. She later became a schoolteacher and worked until retirement. "My grandmother was our family's spiritual guiding light," Ren Ying said. "Inspired by her, two of my aunts, myself, and my cousin all became educators. She taught us to work hard and share this history with younger generations."

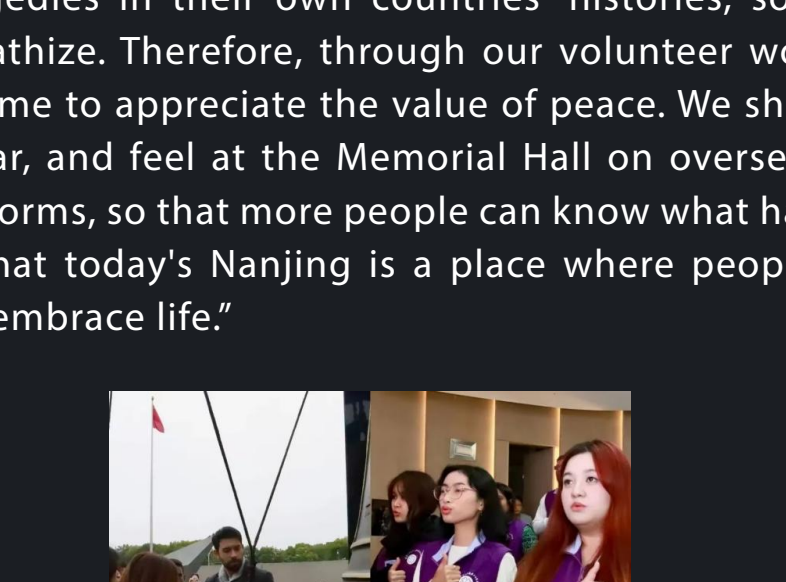
Ren Ying's heartfelt narrative deeply moved the audience, with many parents bringing their children to listen. Zhang Shizhen, a primary school student from Hebei, China, took the stage and said solemnly, "Today our country has become strong, but we must never forget history. We must study hard and strive relentlessly to ensure such history never repeats itself."



Farewell

Memorial Hall Holds Light-Extinguishing Ritual
for Four Deceased Nanjing Massacre Survivors

At 9:00 AM on March 11, before the light-extinguishing ceremony for four survivors—Ai Yiyi, Wu Xiuying, Yi Lanying, and Tao Chengyi—who had passed away since 2025.



△ From left to right: Ai Yiyi passed away on January 9 at the age of 97; Wu Xiuying passed away on January 10 at the age of 92; Yi Lanying passed away on February 15 at the age of 99; and Tao Chengyi passed away on February 15 at the age of 89

Huang Rui, Ai Yiyi's grandson, frequently accompanied his grandmother to memorial events. He said, "Grandmother constantly taught us to remember our family's suffering during the Nanjing Massacre, and more importantly, to work hard and contribute our part to the nation."

Tao Chengyi's son donated his father's posthumous honors to the Memorial Hall, including the "Dedication to National Defense Science and Technology" commendation medal. He stated, "My father was an ordinary worker throughout his life, yet he discharged his duties with great conscientiousness. He often recounted the history of the Nanjing Massacre to us - we will forever hold him dear in our hearts."

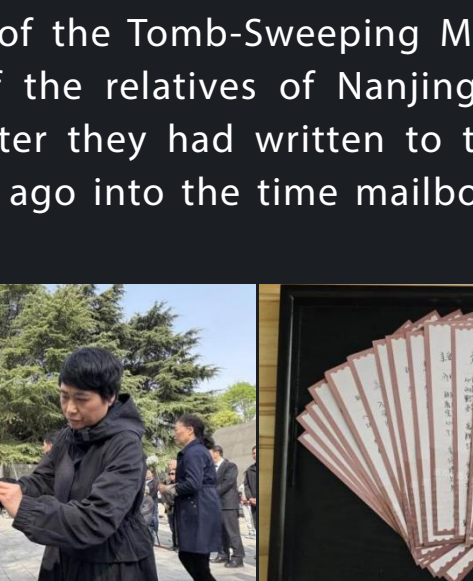
Yi Lanying's son Li Shichun shared, "Watching my mother's light extinguish, I was overwhelmed with emotions beyond words. Though she has passed, her name remains eternally inscribed in history. We must continue passing down the memory of the Nanjing Massacre - this is how we honor and console her spirit."

Wu Xiuying's son Luo Sijun stated, "During her lifetime, my mother frequently visited schools and communities to share her personal testimony. As descendants of survivors, we bear the responsibility to pass this history to future generations and the wider society."

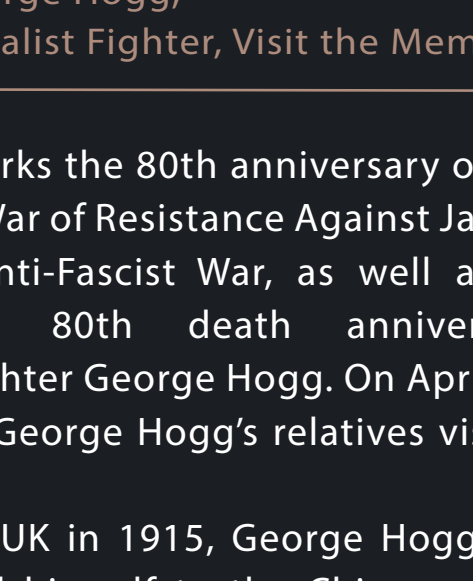
Aspirations

The China-Japan Zijin Grass Choirs Sing Together for Peace

On the afternoon of March 25th, more than 60 members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir arrived in Nanjing by air, embarking on their 13th journey for peace. On the morning of the 26th, the members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir visited the Memorial Hall and engaged in a dialogue with the descendants of the survivors of the Nanjing Massacre. Members of the Chinese and Japanese Zijin Grass Choirs also jointly planted a "Music Tree" symbolizing peace in the Zijin Grass Garden at the Peace Square of the Memorial Hall. On the 27th, the Chinese and Japanese Zijin Grass Choirs took to the stage together to sing out the voice of peace.

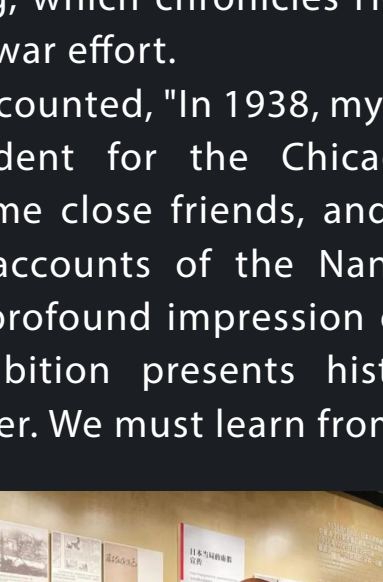


△ Members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir visit the Memorial Hall

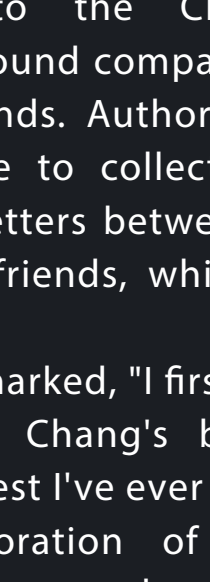


△ Descendants of the Nanjing Massacre survivors, Cao Yuli and Xia Yuan, engage in face-to-face exchanges with members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir

Masayo Shinomiya, a Japanese middle school social studies teacher, asked Xia Yuan—granddaughter of Nanjing Massacre survivor Xia Shuqin—"After all your grandmother's family members were killed by Japanese soldiers, how did she survive?" Xia Yuan replied, "My grandmother and her four-year-old sister managed to survive for fourteen days on fried rice and leftover scraps. Later, they were taken in by a civilian relief organization..." Shinomiya said solemnly, "Your grandmother's story must never be forgotten. I will teach this true history to my students."



Hiroumi Bando, former Japanese professor at China Radio International, served as the host when Japan's Zijin Grass Choir first performed in Nanjing, China in 2001. Her father had been a Japanese soldier during Japan's invasion of China, arriving in Nanjing on December 14, 1937. During his one-day stay in the city, he witnessed scenes of unimaginable horror. Bando said, "In 2004, I compiled and published my father's wartime letters. In 2012, I joined fellow activists in protesting the Nanjing Massacre denial by Nagoya's mayor, and we organized a peace concert through civilian efforts. I sincerely hope the tragedies of my father's generation will never repeat, for peace is the most precious treasure of all."

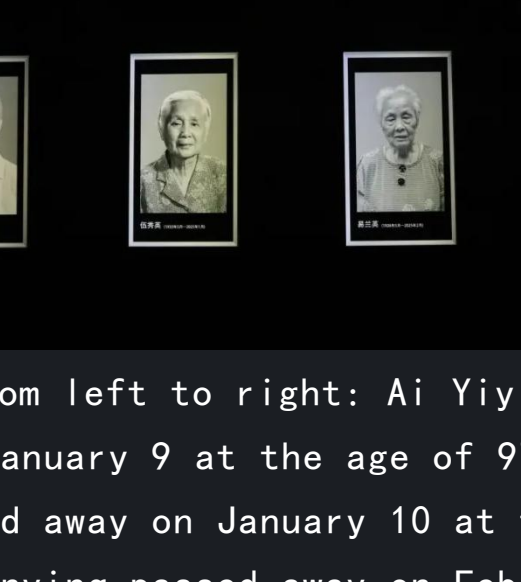


In the Zijin Grass Garden at the Peace Square of the Memorial Hall of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, Zhou Feng (Director of the Memorial Hall, second from the left), Takako Daimon (Honorary Choir Director of Japan's Zijin Grass Choir, first from the right), Shochi Nakamura (Choir Director of Japan's Zijin Grass Choir, first from the left), and He Quanjie (a member of the Nanjing Zijin Grass Children's Choir, second from the right), jointly planted a "Music Tree" symbolizing peace.



Nakamura said, "The pine tree symbolizes resilience and perseverance. We hope peace, like this pine tree, will take root and grow in people's hearts. In Japan, many young people first learned through our performances that Japan was the aggressor during World War II. When I came to Nanjing in 2001 as a choir member, and now return as the director, what touches me most is this profound emotional resonance. I believe music can transcend language and national boundaries, creating resonance in the hearts of people from both China and Japan."

On the 27th, the children of the Nanjing Zijin Grass Children's Choir sang together with the members of the Japanese Zijin Grass Choir on the same stage, performing the traditional Chinese folk song "Jasmine Flower" and "The Flower of Peace—Zijin Cao." After the performance, silver-haired elderly Japanese choir members and Chinese children shared heartfelt embraces.



In the spring, the flower of peace
—Zijin Cao—blossoms in every corner of Nanjing.

In March, throughout Nanjing, both within the city and in the countryside, by the riversides, Zijin Cao is in full and passionate bloom.

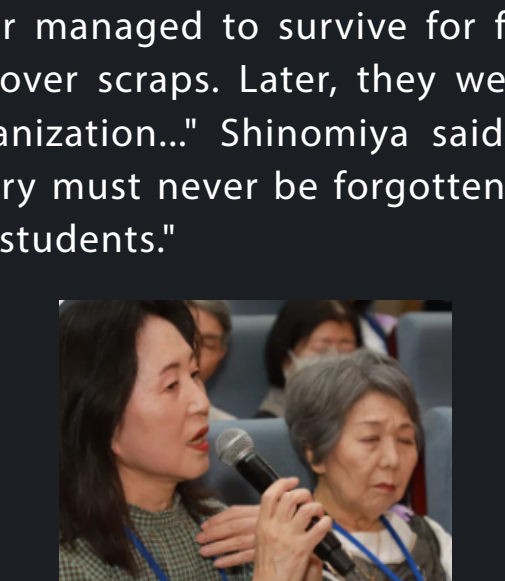
Zijin Cao sprouts in the biting cold of winter and flourishes in the chilly early spring. Even after the brutal massacre by the Japanese troops, it still bloomed in the spring of the following year. It is like the unyielding and tenacious character of the people of Nanjing, and also like the resilient and vigorous vitality of the city of Nanjing.

Dutch visitor Brinkman said, "Upon arriving in Nanjing, I learned the story of Zijin Cao. It is a very beautiful plant. It shows me the kindness in human nature and the reflections of the ordinary Japanese people on the war. It also makes me realize the importance of peace."



They Serve as International Volunteers at the Memorial Hall
Experiencing the Value of Peace

Emma, an Algerian international student born after 1995, is currently studying Biomedical Science at the School of International Education, Southeast University, Nanjing. Almost six years have passed since she first arrived in China, and she has made Nanjing her second home. In front of the statue of international friend John Rabe in the Memorial Hall, she read excerpts from the Rabe Diary to the visitors and participated in the 8th "Gratitude-Nanjing Safety Zone" International Peace Walk. She said, "These volunteer experiences have helped me gain a deeper understanding of the history of the Nanjing Massacre and the past and present of the city of Nanjing. After graduation, I hope to settle in Nanjing. The people here are very friendly, and the city is highly livable with a great quality of life."



Fang Yijing, an international student from Malaysia, is an assistant to international students at the School of International Education, Nanjing Tech University. She led a group of 20 to 30 international students from countries such as Bangladesh, Thailand, and Indonesia to the Memorial Hall to participate in activities including the Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony and the sowing of Zijin Cao seeds. She said, "War brings painful memories to people. Some international students have seen similar tragedies in their own countries' histories, so we can really empathize. Therefore, through our volunteer work here, we have come to appreciate the value of peace. We share what we see, hear, and feel at the Memorial Hall on overseas social media platforms, so that more people can know what happened here and that today's Nanjing is a place where people cherish peace and embrace life."

