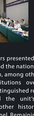
NANJING INTERNATIONAL PEACE NEWSLETTER
南京国际和平简讯
南京国际和平新闻
82
August 2026 Issue 82

The 4th Seminar on Nanjing Massacre History Research by Young Scholars was Held

From July 31 to August 2, Inner Mongolia University hosted a seminar on Japan's invasion of China and the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, together with the 4th Seminar on Nanjing Massacre History Research by Young Scholars.

More than 70 scholars from universities and research institutions in China and abroad, including Peking University, Nanjing University, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Keio University in Japan and the University of Malaya, presented new findings on topics based in primary source records, diaries and other documents. Their research exposed crimes committed during Japan's invasion of China and carried forward the great spirit of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.



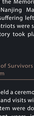
During the seminar, young scholars presented their latest research on Japan's invasion of China and the nationwide War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, among other subjects. Young scholars from academic institutions overseas also presented their findings. Liu Zexin, a distinguished researcher at Keio University in Japan, examined the unit's data, the backgrounds of its personnel, and other historical details through his study of Roster of Personnel Remaining with the Central China Epidemic Prevention and Water Supply Department (Japanese Unit Ei 1644). His findings showed that the Japanese military's establishment of Unit 1644 was a premeditated, organized act carried out at the state level.

Liu Bin, a doctoral student at the University of Malaya, studied classical Chinese poems published in Sin Chew Daily. She showed how accounts of lost homeland and collective commemorations turned the September 18 Incident into a symbol of national trauma for overseas Chinese. The poems portrayed diverse participants in the struggle for national salvation and developed an international anti-fascist outlook, making them a distinctive record of the wartime memories of Chinese communities in Southeast Asia.

Young Visitors from Xinjiang Travel Thousands of Miles to the Memorial Hall

On the morning of August 6, a group of young people from Yining, Xinjiang, arrived at the Memorial Hall after traveling thousands of miles.

Inside the Memorial Hall, the history they had known only from textbooks came vividly into view. At the Nanjing Massacre Exhibit, they traced the course of events and reflected on the dark days following the fall of Nanjing in 1937. The artifacts and historical accounts brought the weight of that history home to everyone present.



After the visit, 13-year-old Mikeriban Abuduwaili was moved to tears. It was her first visit to the Memorial Hall. The remains of the deceased from the Nanjing Massacre and historical images of innocent children suffering left her deeply shaken. She said,"300,000 of our compatriots were slaughtered. Only by standing here, where this history took place, could I truly feel how cruel war was".

Memorial Hall Acquires Valuable Records of Survivors of the Japanese Army's "Sex Slaves" System

On August 14, the Memorial Hall held a ceremony at which audiovisual records from investigations and visits with survivors of the Japanese Army's "Sex Slaves" System were donated to its collection. LI Xiaofang, who has spent years investigating atrocities committed by the Japanese army, and Yan Meihua, who has documented survivors on film, donated photographs, footage and research notes gathered over years of following survivors. The materials further enrich the Memorial Hall's collection on the "Sex Slaves" System.

At the Nanjing Museum of the Site of Liji Lane Sex Slaves Station, a wall bearing black-and-white portraits of 70 victims of the Japanese army's "Sex Slaves" System silently attests to this painful history. LI Xiaofang took dozens of the portraits. LI also donated handprints, photographs and other records of survivors of the Japanese army's "Sex Slaves" System to the Memorial Hall.



The donation includes documentary footage of Mao Yinmei, a victim of the Japanese army's "Sex Slaves" System, in her later years. Yan Meihua, a senior editor at the Xiaogan Conservative Media Center and a council member of the China News Photography Society, filmed her over a two-year period. Mao Yinmei, a Korean victim of the Japanese army's "Sex Slaves" System, was originally named Park Cha-sun and was also known as Park Ai-hwan. In 1940s, the Japanese army brought her to China, where she endured inhumane abuse and brutal torture. After Japan's surrender, she moved from place to place before settling in Xiaogan, Hubei. She died in 2017. Her difficult life stands as compelling evidence of the crimes of the Japanese army's"Sex Slaves" System.

Fifth Group of Inheritors of Nanjing Massacre Historical Memory Begins Its Work

On the morning of August 15, the Memorial Hall held a ceremony to welcome the fifth group of inheritors of Nanjing Massacre historical memory as they began their work. The new group includes descendants of survivors, descendants of the deceased, descendants of people who preserved physical evidence, and descendants of international friends. The Memorial Hall has now certified five groups of inheritors, bringing their total number to 44. Drawing on their families' firsthand experience, the inheritors bear witness to the suffering of the Chinese people. Their commitment across generations helps safeguard the historical record and brings new voices to the work of remembering the tragedy and sharing the message of peace.

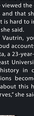


Ruan Zeyu is the great-great-grandson of Ruan Jiatian, who died in the Nanjing Massacre. In 1937, Japanese soldiers stabbed Ruan Jiatian on the banks of the Yangtze River at Yanziji, Nanjing. He later died of his wounds. Xie Jingwen and Chang Ling are descendants of Nanjing Massacre survivors; their forebears survived the atrocity. Luo Meng is the daughter of Luo Jin, who preserved the Nanjing Massacre evidence known as "Jingzi No. 1". In 1938, Luo Jin, then an apprentice, risked his life to secretly make extra prints of photographs documenting Japanese atrocities and keep them safe. The album survived many dangers and became crucial evidence in postwar trials of Japanese war criminals.

Carly Brady is the great-granddaughter of an international friend, Richard Brady. Richard Brady was a surgeon at Drum Tower Hospital. In February 1938, he overcame many obstacles to return to the hospital and treat refugees. He recorded atrocities committed by Japanese troops in his diaries, photographs and letters.



Christoph Reinhardt is the great-grandson of John Rabe, an international humanitarian. During the Nanjing Massacre, John Rabe helped establish the Nanjing Safety Zone, which sheltered more than 200,000 displaced Chinese people. His book, The Good Man of Nanking: The Diaries of John Rabe, is a valuable historical record that documents Japanese atrocities and bears witness to compassion across national borders.



New Evidence of Japanese Atrocities in Nanjing Added to Memorial Hall Collection

August 15, 2026, marked the 81st anniversary of Japan's announcement of its unconditional surrender. More than 150 historical artifacts and archival items, along with over 100 documents, collected in the first half of 2026 have entered the Memorial Hall's collection. They include personal letters from Japanese soldiers who invaded China, postcards from the front, notes from chemical warfare training, collections of wartime news reports and French diplomatic archives. Together, these artifacts and documents shed light from different perspectives on the Nanjing Massacre and other atrocities committed by the invading Japanese army, adding further evidence to the historical record.



Young International Visitors Moved to Tears at Memorial Hall

A group of international visitors recently toured the Memorial Hall. As they immersed themselves in the history of the Nanjing Massacre, they reflected on the meaning of peace and shared their thoughts across national boundaries. At the Memorial Hall's Statues Square, a sculpture depicting the family of Nanjing Massacre survivor Chang Zhiqiang deeply moved the visitors. "My father, Chang Zhiqiang, was only nine when Nanjing fell. He saw his dying mother struggle to give his baby brother one last feed.," Chang Xiaomei, an inheritor of Nanjing Massacre historical memory, recounted the harrowing family story behind the sculpture.



Ellie Forsyth, a young student from the United Kingdom, was moved to tears several times as she viewed the exhibit. She said the visit stirred complex emotions and that she struggled to put her grief and shock into words. "It is hard to imagine that people could do something so horrific," she said.

In front of the statue of Minnie Vautrin, young people from China and other countries read aloud accounts written by people who witnessed the events. Julieta, a 23-year-old student from Uruguay now studying at Southeast University, said she had learned only fragments of this history in class before coming to Nanjing. "As more translations become available, more people in the West are learning about this history. I am glad it is receiving the attention it deserves," she said.