

Yumi Takahashi (Born in Manila, Philippines, 1964–1991)

In 1964, Masahiro Takahashi was born in the suburb of Manila, Philippines. His parents immigrated to the Philippines in 1961 and worked at a munitions factory until 1977. Masahiro Takahashi was born with inherent disability due to his parents' long term intake of tranquilizer. His two arms were short and his hands and back were crooked, a condition referred to as Phocomelia. The medical technology in those times as well as his parents' financial circumstances did not allow him to improve his condition.

Despite his physical disability, Masahiro Takahashi remained cheerful. At the age of seventeen, he began to be confused about his sexual identity. By the age of 20, he decided to live as a female. (He changed his name to Yumi Takahashi.) Shortly after this decision, she started working as a she-male at a nightclub nearby the American military base where she was employed for the next three years. When she turned 22, she underwent a hardship of losing her right leg by a car accident which eventually led her to work at a brothel. After spending two years at the brothel, Yumi Takahashi discovered that she had been changed to a lesbian and was no longer able to cater to the American armies. She chose to leave the brothel but was unable to find a job in the area which induces her to resort to theft. She was caught stealing American military supplies by an American military police officer and one of her eyes went blind as a result of severe beating. In 1991, she died on the street of hunger and disease.

After her death, her story became known to a human rights organization operated by Catholic churches and her miserable death was disseminated across the country. Subsequently, labor, human rights, anti-Americanism, religion, education, environment, female rights and many other organizations for social reform held large-scaled demonstrations to manifest their official position and rights. Yumi Takahashi was symbolized as a heroic figure that resisted against such issues as legal recognition of minority, welfare of persons with disabilities, amendment of laws relating to American military, amendment of labor regulation, legislative protection of minors with trans-genital procedures and reinforcement of environmental laws.

However owing to contradictions between the organizations, Takahashi's death was forgotten only four months after it occurred.

The following is the list of organizations that showed interests in Yumi Takahashi's death.

Labor Organization: International Confederation of Free Trade Union- Asia, Pacific Regional Office / Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (ICFTU-APRO, ICFTU-ORIT) / American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

(AFL-CIO) / European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) / Global Unions / Japanese Trade Union Confederation (RENGO) / Trade Union Confederation of the Philippines / Japanese Trade Union Congress / Congress of Independent Industrial Trade Union Federations of the Philippines / The Philippines Council of Trade Union Representatives / Solidarity for Abolition of Temporary Labor **Anti-American Organization:** Council of Anti-Americanism / Pan South Korean Committee Against US Base Extension / Joint Committee for Commemoration of Heroic Victims for Democratic Nation / Central Council on Autonomous Peaceful Reunification of the Philippines / Council of Families of Democratization Movement Activist / Supporting Commission for Prisoners of Conscience under Council of Families of Democratization Movement Activist / Pan-Japanese Alliance for Unification / Resident's Committee Against US Base Extension / Headquarter of Autonomous Unification of the Philippines / National Committee for Commemoration of Heroic Victims for Democratic Nation **Human Rights Organization:** Gay Human Rights Commission / Transgender Human Rights Alliance / Solidarity for LGBT Human Rights / Center for Sexual Minority Culture of the Philippines / Female Sexual Minority Network of the Philippines / Sexual Violence Relief Center of the Philippines / Solidarity of the Disabled to Obtain Mobility Right / Disabled People's International of the Philippines / Research Institute of the Differently Aabled Rights / Center for Human Rights Movement / Solidarity for Migrant Worker's Human Rights / Japanese Federation of Medical Groups for Health Rights / Joint Committee on Human Rights Federation / Arts Festival for Peace and Human Rights Commission / Supporter for Convicted Laborer / Lawyers for Democratic Society / Buddhist Human Rights Committee / Solidarity of Peace and Human Rights Asia / International Solidarity for Peace and Human Rights / Catholic Committee on Human Rights / Solidarity for Peace and Human Rights Philippines / Japanese Organ and Tissue Donor Program **Environmental Organization:** Association for Better Environment / Green Philippines / Citizens' Coalition of Environmental Movement / Citizens' Solidarity for Environmental Justice / Philippines Federation for Environmental Movement **Societal Reformation Organization:** Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice / People's Solidarity of Participatory Democracy / Civil Solidarity for Political Reformation / Humanity Recovery Movement Council / Citizens United for Better Society Educational Organization / Parent's Council on True Education / The Philippines National Confederation of Performing Artist / Korean Pioneers In Overseas NGOs (KOPION) / Foundation for Prevention of Adolescent Violence **Women's Rights Organization:** Women's Political Caucus of the Philippines / Headquarter of Food Sharing Program / Philippines Volunteer Forum **Religious Organization:** Catholic Commission of Human

Rights / National Catholic Coalition for Justice / Young Men's Christian Association /
Young Women's Christian Association.