



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CAMPAIGN CONTINUES FOR A COMMISSION BILL FOR JAPANESE LATIN AMERICAN REDDITION

**Los Angeles, CA** – “Redress Remembered: WWII Rendition of Japanese Latin Americans,” a program discussing the abduction and internment of Japanese Latin Americans (JLA) by the U.S. government during WWII, was held at the Japanese American National Museum on October 25. The event emphasized the tragic reality that, even 20 years after the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, not all persons of Japanese ancestry who suffered government violations of their constitutional and human rights have received proper redress. The program also underscored the JLA redress struggle as a human rights issue with relevance today for all people concerned with government accountability for abuse in the name of national security.

This educational program highlighted a panel of activists in the JLA redress struggle: **Karen Parker**, Counsel for former Japanese Peruvian internees in U.S. courts and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; **Richard Katsuda**, Educator and Co-chair of Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress; and **Craig Ishii**, Regional Director of Japanese American Citizens League—Pacific Southwest District. The panel was moderated by **Grace Shimizu**, Director of Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and Coordinator of Campaign For Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans! The event also included a screening of “Stolen Lives,” an in-progress documentary by Tara Entertainment and a spoken word performance by D.H. Naomi Quiñones, a grand-daughter of a former Japanese Peruvian internee.

Supporters of JLA redress were encouraged to write letters to their local congressmen and work with Campaign For Justice to pass a bill creating a commission to investigate the Japanese Latin American rendition during WWII.

The program was hosted by Campaign For Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!, Japanese American National Museum, Discover Nikkei, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, and Japanese American Citizens League—Pacific Southwest District.

This community event is part of ongoing efforts to obtain proper redress for JLAs who suffered human rights violations due to U.S. government policies. Over 2200 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry were kidnapped from 13 Latin American countries, interned in U.S. Department of Justice camps and Army facilities, and over 800 used in prisoner exchanges for U.S. citizens held by Japan. At war’s end, the JLAs were declared “illegal aliens” and over 900 were deported to war-devastated Japan. Over 300 JLAs remained in the U.S. and fought deportation with the hopes of returning to their homes in Latin America; eventually only 100 were able to return. When government policies changed in the early 1950s, JLAs who stayed in the U.S. were allowed to begin the process of becoming U.S. permanent residents and citizens. The U.S. government continues to deny JLAs proper redress for the war crimes they suffered.

For more info about the WWII rendition of JLAs and how you can support, please contact Christine Oh, Legislative Campaign Manager and Educational Outreach Coordinator for CFJ, at [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org).