

***Campaign For Justice:
Redress Now For Japanese Latin Americans!***

Founding Organizations Include:

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2008**

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**THE JULY 31ST HEARING ON JAPANESE LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSION BILL
CANCELLED;
CFJ URGES HEARING TO BE HELD THIS SESSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Campaign For Justice (CFJ) is very disappointed to learn that the hearing on H.R. 662, originally scheduled for July 31, was cancelled. CFJ believes that it is crucial to have a hearing this session and asks community supporters to urge Representative Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Chair of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, to hold a hearing before the end of the 110th Congress.

Shortly after the Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties scheduled the hearing, the Committee parliamentarian declared that the bill was in the wrong subcommittee. H.R. 662 was referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, which is chaired by Rep. Lofgren. The July 31st hearing was taken off the calendar and has not been rescheduled by the Immigration Subcommittee.

“This is an unfortunate development given the hard work of internees and supporters in preparation for the hearing. This is particularly a huge disappointment for the former internees and their families who have waited so long,” said Grace Shimizu, Campaign For Justice Coordinator. “We urge Chairwoman Lofgren to reconsider and schedule a hearing on H.R. 662 this session.”

The purpose of the hearing was to review H.R. 662, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. H.R. 662 was introduced by Representatives Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Mike Honda (CA-15), Dan Lungren (CA-3) and Chris Cannon (UT-3) on January 24, 2007.

The bill would establish a commission to investigate and make appropriate recommendations on the World War II abduction and internment of over 2,200 persons of Japanese ancestry from 13 Latin American countries by U.S. government.

Campaign for Justice urges its supporters, particularly those who are constituents of Congresswoman Lofgren’s district or involved in organizations that include members in the district, to contact Congresswoman and encourage her to conduct a hearing on H.R. 662 in September.

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