

***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  
May 29, 2008**

**Contact:** Grace Shimizu  
(510) 459-7288

**A STEP FORWARD FOR JAPANESE LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSION LEGISLATION  
(H.R. 662)**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House Judiciary Committee scheduled a hearing on H.R. 662 for July 31, 2008, marking a momentous step towards the establishment of a commission that will investigate the internment of over 2,200 persons of Japanese ancestry from 13 Latin American countries by the U.S. government during World War II.

The “Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act” was introduced by Rep. Xavier Becerra, Rep. Dan Lungren, Rep. Mike Honda, and Rep. Chris Cannon on January 25, 2007 in the House of Representatives. This bill would create a commission to investigate U.S. government policies and actions resulting in wartime violations (including hostage-taking, indefinite internment without charge or trial, forced labor, and placement of civilians into war zones) and to make recommendations for any appropriate remedies to Congress based on their findings. The commissioners would be composed of 9 members, 3 each appointed by the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the Senate.

The House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties will hold a hearing on this bi-partisan effort. The Subcommittee will hear testimonies from several witnesses, including Members of Congress, scholars, community supporters and former internees themselves.

“We are grateful for Committee Chairman John Conyers, Ranking Member Lamar Smith as well as Subcommittee Chairman Jerrold Nadler and Ranking Member Trent Franks for their support and willingness to hold a hearing on this very important bill,” Grace Shimizu, Campaign For Justice Coordinator said. “I expect that, as a result of this hearing, Congress will gain a better understanding of the need for a Commission to investigate the injustice faced by Japanese Latin Americans.”

A community delegation of former Japanese Latin American internees and supporters will travel to Washington, D.C. to attend this important Congressional hearing. For more information, contact Grace Shimizu at 510-459-7288 or [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org).

###

*P.O. Box 1384, El Cerrito, California 94530  
info@campaignforjusticejla.org*