



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
SELANOCO CHAPTER
(South East Los Angeles, North Orange County)

May 20, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

The Japanese American Citizen's League is the nation's oldest Asian American civil rights organization. Founded in 1929, the JAACL has continuously monitored and responded to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans. On behalf of the South East Los Angeles North Orange County, SELANOCO, California Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we write to express our strong support of R 662 and S 381 "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act."

The U.S. government uprooted approximately 2,300 men, women and children of Japanese decent from their homes in thirteen Latin American countries and detained them in internment camps in the United States. Approximately 2,300 Japanese Latin Americans were abducted from their homes by the U.S. government. More than 800 of these individuals were deported to Japan in prisoner exchanges; others were imprisoned in internment camps. While the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 honorably addressed the predicament of Japanese Americans and provided compensation payments to former internees pursuant to Executive Order 9066, it did not bring relief for Japanese Latin Americans who were abducted and unlawfully interned in the United States.

HR 662 and S 381 would establish a nine member commission to investigate the World War II- era relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans by the U.S. government and recommend appropriate remedies. This Bill would be an important step to close this regrettable chapter in American history.

It is important for these events to be fully and properly investigated so that both Congress and the American people can understand what happened. Most importantly, this effort can prevent these grave injustices from ever occurring again. We believe that this Bill deserves your support and urge you to work for its enactment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Matsubara
SELANOCO Chapter President