



Campaign For Justice Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!

Spring 2008 Newsletter

The *Coram Nobis* Legal Teams Support Our Efforts

We are excited to announce that the *coram nobis* legal teams have united in an open letter to the legal community to support the bill.

In 1983, Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui, represented *pro bono* by a group of young, largely Sansei attorneys, filed coordinated *coram nobis* petitions in San Francisco, Seattle and Portland. They charged that their WWII convictions for defying the military curfew and exclusion orders had been corrupted by the government's suppression, destruction and fabrication of material evidence on the

question of Japanese American loyalty.

Their victories discredited the Supreme Court decisions upholding the military internment orders, and helped make the case for redress and reparations.

Below is an excerpt of their letter:

"Although we donated our legal services *pro bono*, we were able to pursue the *coram nobis* cases only because our communities made generous financial donations to pay for the costs of litigation and public education. Together, our victory was not only for

Japanese Americans, but for all of us who care about securing justice and holding the government accountable for its wrongs.

We urge you to support the redress efforts for Japanese Latin Americans by making a donation to the Campaign for Justice today. Time is of the essence as the more elderly internees are quickly passing away."

To read the complete letter, please visit our website: CampaignForJusticeJLA.org.



1983 press conference on his internment case. Seated are (l to r) Dale Minami, Fred Korematsu and Peter Irons. Standing are Donald Tamaki, Dennis Hayashi and Lorraine Bannai.

Honoring Japanese Latin Americans During APAHM

As we celebrate "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month" in May, it is important to honor the immeasurable contributions in business, government, arts and sports that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have given to our nation.

However, this month also warrants reflection about how we can further honor the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Former Japanese Latin

American internees have yet to receive proper recognition of the wrongs done to them more than 60 years ago.

Although we are one step closer to testifying at the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, we must obtain more Republican co-sponsorship in order to move forward.

We have visited numerous congressional offices including Congressman Ken

Calvert and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher. We have collected petition letters from almost 300 individuals. We are working with our partner organizations to reach out to a wider constituency.

As we celebrate "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month," we urge you to join our efforts to obtain justice for Japanese Latin American internees.

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Thank You To Our Generous Donors

We want to express our deep appreciation to all of you who have given financial contributions to our campaign. Your donations are helping us:

- Fund a community delegation to visit Congress to participate in House Subcommittee hearing
- Fund crucial staff needed to provide link between Congress and the public
- Organize a letter writing campaign to obtain more support in Congress

- Organize education forums to raise awareness in the public
- Maintain and display the "Enemy Alien Files" exhibit at community events
- Host documentary screenings and send materials for others to host their own

If you did not have a chance to give and wish to contribute to the campaign, please visit our website and click on "Donate" or send us a check via mail to:
P.O. Box 1384 El Cerrito, CA 94530



Thank you for contributing to our cause!

Individual and Group Contributors

\$1 to \$49

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Greater LA Singles Chapter, JACL

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N. Cal. Time of Remembrance / JACLs

A Former Internee's Story: Hector Watanabe

Hector was born in Peru, South America. He and his family were among the estimated 2,300 Japanese Latin Americans who were forced to relinquish their homes and businesses, as victims of the United States' hostage exchange program. Their next years were spent in Crystal City, Texas where they were imprisoned until late in 1947. Hector recalled the segregated prison-life with the Japanese, German and Italians who lived in separate areas of the camp.

Hector joined the military from 1962 to 1964. His work at North American Aviation required top secret clearance. Unbeknownst to him, this top level clearance fulfilled his four year reserve obligation. As a former hostage of the U.S. government, Hector acknowledges the irony of having served in the U.S. military and, later, getting top level security clearance.

In 1981, during the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings in Los Angeles, Hector testified about being taken hostage for being Japanese Peruvian. Through his own reading, he learned about the prejudice, greed and collusion of the U.S. and Peruvian governments in the taking of his father's department store and bank accounts, and being handed over to the U.S. forces.

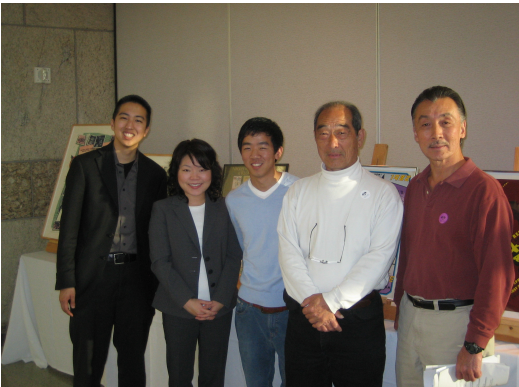
The Commission concluded that the incarceration was based on wartime hysteria, race prejudice and the failure of leadership. Hector feels that the conclusion is erroneous in that it fails to mention the deeper motivation of the economic greed of the governments involved.

Hector has three children and one stepson and is a recent retiree from the Los Angeles Unified School District's



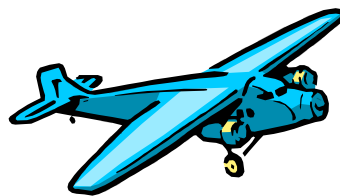
Transportation Branch. He is a familiar and friendly face in Little Tokyo where he lives. He enjoys singing karaoke and staying involved in community issues.

"(the Commission's) conclusion is erroneous in that it fails to mention the deeper motivation of the economic greed of the governments involved."



CFJ members and volunteers at the Los Angeles Day of Remembrance, February 16, 2008

L to R: Craig Ishii, Christine Oh, Dana Nakano, Hector Watanabe, Richard Katsuda



Upcoming Events

Manzanar Pilgrimage (April 26)

Nikkei Community Day (May 17)

Tule Lake Pilgrimage (July 3-6)

"Whose America? Who's American? Diversity, Civil Liberties, and Social Justice" Conference (July 3-6)

JACL National Convention (July 16-20)

"Neglected Legacies: Japanese American Women and Redress" (August 3)

Perukai Reunion of former Japanese Peruvian Internees (October 18-19)

Volunteer Profile: Shigueru Tsuha

Shigueru Tsuha is a Peruvian Nikkei residing in Los Angeles. He is currently finishing his studies in sociology to obtain his Ph.D.

He became involved in Campaign for Justice after teaching a course on Japanese American internment at UC Riverside.

He has previously been involved in

labor, student and pro-immigrant organizing and considers all these deeply connected to this particular campaign.

Shigueru plans to be a professor upon graduating and hopes to be able to bring awareness to issues of justice through his work.



If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact us at info@campaignforjusticejla.org.

We hope to hear from you!

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Campaign For Justice
P.O. Box 1384
El Cerrito, CA 94530

info@campaignforjusticejla.org
CampaignForJusticeJLA.org

Contributors to the newsletter:
CFJ, JACL-PSW, NCRR



*We're on Facebook!
Look for us:
Campaign For Justice: Redress Now
for Japanese Latin
Americans!*

What is Campaign For Justice?

Campaign for Justice was founded in 1996 as a collaborative effort by individuals and organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project.

Campaign for Justice has two primary goals. First, it continues to help former Japanese Latin American internees secure proper redress. Second, it works to educate the public about the wartime and redress experiences of the Japanese Latin Americans.

Sign the Petition!

*Visit our website
for more information:
CampaignFor-
JusticeJLA.org*



Our Partner Organizations

Please contact us at info@campaignforjusticejla.org if your organization would like to support our efforts.

American Friends Service Committee
Asian American Justice Center
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Association of Humanitarian Lawyers
Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalist
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Rights
Human Rights First
Japanese American Bar Association
Japanese American Citizens League—Berkeley Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League—National
Japanese American Citizens League—Pacific Southwest District

Japanese American Citizens League—Seattle Chapter
Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project
Korean American Coalition – DC Chapter
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Korean Resource Center
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens
Manzanar Committee
Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Coalition for Redress/Reparations—San Francisco
National Council of La Raza
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
Nihonmachi Outreach Committee

Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress
Organization of Chinese Americans
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Washington Office on Latin America
Young Korean American Service and Education Center

