



September 26, 2008

Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member Steven King  
Subcommittee on the Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and  
International Law  
517 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member King:

The undersigned organizations write to respectfully request a hearing on **H.R. 662, Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act** before the end of this year in remembrance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Civil Liberties Act.

H.R. 662 would create a commission to investigate the World War II-era abduction, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans and to recommend appropriate remedies for the manner in which they were treated.

The U.S. government uprooted approximately 2,300 men, women and children of Japanese descent from their homes in thirteen Latin American countries and detained them in internment camps in the United States. Over 800 of these individuals were deported to Japan in prisoner exchanges. While the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 addressed the plight 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.

H.R. 662 is an important step in bringing this regrettable chapter in American history to closure. It would establish a nine member commission to investigate the relocation, internment and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans, the impact of those actions, and it would make appropriate recommendations. Within one year, the commission would conclude its work by submitting a written report to Congress.

We urgently request you to hold a hearing on H.R. 662 in your subcommittee before the end of the year or in January 2009. We realize that time is running out for the remainder of this year; however, we have been preparing for this hearing for many months, and we can assure you that we will do everything we can to lessen the workload of your subcommittee staff. Holding a hearing on this bill would help expedite the legislative

process next Congress and we would appreciate your commitment to hold a hearing during the lame duck session or early next year.

Thank you for your support in the past years and we look forward to your continued support especially as Americans commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historical Civil Liberties Act. **Please hold this hearing to commemorate this monumental civil and human rights anniversary.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Christine Oh at Campaign For Justice at 213-500-9346 or at [info@campaignforjusticejla.org](mailto:info@campaignforjusticejla.org).

Signed:

1. Akbayan (SJSU)
2. American Jewish Committee
3. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
4. Anti-Defamation League
5. Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area
6. Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
7. Asian American Recovery Services
8. Asian American Women's Alliance
9. Asian Law Alliance
10. Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County
11. Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida
12. Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance – AFL-CIO
13. Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute
14. Asian Pacific Bar Association
15. Cambodian American Resource Agency
16. Campaign For Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!
17. Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene
18. Council of American-Islamic Relations
19. Filipino Community Support, Silicon Valley (FOCUS)
20. Filipino National History Society, Santa Clara Chapter
21. Filipino Youth Coalition
22. Friends Committee on National Legislation
23. Global Rights
24. International Children Assistance Network
25. Japanese American Bar Association
26. Japanese American Citizens League of San Jose
27. Japanese American Citizens League—Berkeley Chapter Civil Rights Committee
28. Japanese American Citizens League—National
29. Japanese American Citizens League—Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District
30. Japanese American Citizens League—Pacific Southwest District
31. Japanese American Citizens League—San Diego Chapter
32. Japanese American Citizens League—San Jose Chapter
33. Japanese American Citizens League—Seattle Chapter
34. Japanese American Citizens League—Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter

35. Japanese American Citizens League—West Valley Chapter
36. Japantown Community Congress of San Jose
37. Korean American Bar Association of Northern California
38. Korean American Bar Association of Southern California
39. Korean American Community Services, Inc.
40. Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
41. League of United Latin American Citizens
42. Maitri
43. MALAYA
44. Manzanar Committee
45. Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
46. National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
47. National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
48. National Council of La Raza
49. Nihonmachi Outreach Committee
50. Organization of Chinese Americans—National
51. Organization of Chinese Americans, Silicon Valley
52. South Bay First Thursdays
53. Southeast Asia Community Center
54. Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association
55. Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California
56. Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO)
57. Vision New America
58. Yu-Ai-Kai

CC:

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