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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 20, 2007

Co-sponsor H.Res. 121, asking Japan to acknowledge its enslavement of "Comfort Women" during World War II

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Dear Colleague:

During World War II, as many as 200,000 women in Asia, euphemistically known as "Comfort Women," suffered unimaginable dehumanization organized by the Japanese Imperial Army during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Today, fewer than 300 surviving Comfort Women are alive. These women want and deserve a direct apology from the Japanese government. That is why I introduced H.Res.121, a resolution which calls on Japan to formally, unequivocally, and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy which the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II.

On March 24, 2007, The *Washington Post* editorialized "That the Japanese government has never fully accepted responsibility for their suffering or paid compensation is bad enough...[Prime Minister Abe] should straightforwardly accept responsibility for Japan's own crimes -- and apologize to the victims he has slandered."

Next week, Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, will be visiting the United States. Showing your support for the Comfort Women survivors by co-sponsoring H.Res.121 will send an important signal to Prime Minister Abe that the U.S. is deeply concerned about the Japanese Government's recent attitude and response to this important international human and women's rights issue.

I urge you to join me in support of H.Res.121. If you would like to cosponsor H.Res. 121 or if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ayame Nagatani in Rep. Honda's office at 5-2631 or email Ayame.Nagatani@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Honda
 Member of Congress