



TORONTO ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING & PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF WWII IN ASIA

March 12, 2015

US Representative
39th District of California
DISTRICT OFFICE
210 W Birch Street, Suite 201
Brea, CA 92821

Dear Congressman Ed. Royce,

I am writing to request your special attention not to allow Prime Minister Abe to address a joint session of Congress unless

- (1) he acknowledges the war criminals convicted in the Tokyo Tribunal as war criminals under all laws;**
- (2) he promises not to visit the controversial Yasukuni Shrine; and**
- (3) he stops rewriting the history of the Asia Pacific History.**

On March 12, 2013, Mr. Abe remarked at a meeting of the Japanese House of Representatives Budget Committee that “the view of that Great War was not formed by the Japanese themselves, but by the victorious Allies, and it is by their judgment only that Japanese were condemned.” On another occasion, Mr. Abe maintained that “those convicted by the tribunal set up by Allied forces after the war are not considered war criminals under Japanese law.”

Further, on February 11, 2015, Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker Koichi Hagiuda, who serves as a special advisor to Mr. Abe, shocked the world with his remark “in Japan, according to a National Diet resolution, war criminals do not exist and their honor was recovered.”

Denying the verdicts of the Tokyo Tribunal, Mr. Abe has visited the controversial Yasukuni Shrine numerous times and as recently as December 2013 in his official capacity as the Prime Minister. Yasukuni Shrine is a national religious institution in Japan, where about 2.4 million souls are enshrined and revered. Among them are over 1,000 war criminals from World War II, including 14 Class A war criminals who were convicted and executed by the Tokyo Tribunal, or who died in jail.

Mr. Abe’s revisionist view of history represents only a tip of the iceberg that is the dangerous and widespread distortions of the history of World War II in Asia. For instance, the Yushukan Museum in Tokyo suggests that President Roosevelt was responsible for the Pearl Harbor attack since his oil embargo left Imperial Japan no choice.



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Others even go on to argue that Hideki Tojo is not a war criminal for his attack on Pearl Harbor, and other atrocities committed throughout Asia.

Such revisionist efforts to distort the history—that cost tens of millions of innocent lives—have intensified recently. Some of Japan’s leaders have gone on to deny the Nanjing Massacre, the military sexual slavery, the sufferings of the Prisoners of War, and even criticized the depictions of gruesome agony the late hero Louis Zamperini experienced as distortions and outright lies in the recent film *Unbroken*.

Moreover, the Japanese Government recently demanded an American textbook publisher, McGraw-Hill, to change its depiction of Imperial Japan’s war crimes during World War II, which include the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Bataan Death March, the ‘Comfort Women’ tragedy, and the Nanking Massacre.

These claims disregard and disrespect the fact that the Government of Japan accepted the verdicts of the Tokyo Tribunal and acknowledged its wartime responsibilities when it signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951.

If Prime Minister Abe is invited to speak in the House Chamber but does not address Japan’s responsibility in the Asia-Pacific War, it signifies an utter disrespect to many who died in defending justice and protecting the innocence against the invading Japanese Imperial Army during the Asia-Pacific War. The American Congress will be sending a wrong message to her citizens and the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Wong', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Joseph Yu-Kai Wong C.M., B.Eng., M.D., D.Sc.(Hon.)
Founder and Chair
Toronto ALPHA