

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 382

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning war crimes committed by Japan during World War II and the liability of Japanese companies to former prisoners-of-war used by such companies as slave labor during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. FROST, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. FARR, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SANDLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOORE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SKELTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning war crimes committed by Japan during World War II and the liability of Japanese companies to former prisoners-of-war used by such companies as slave labor during World War II.

Whereas the Government of Japan deliberately ignored and flagrantly violated the Geneva and Hague Conventions during World War II, and committed atrocious crimes against humanity;

Whereas 33,587 men and women in the United States military, and 13,966 United States civilians, were captured by the Japanese military in the Pacific Theater during World War II, confined in brutal prison camps, and subjected to severe shortages of food, medicine, and other basic necessities;

Whereas one example of the brutality encountered by United States prisoners-of-war was the “death march” that followed the surrender of Bataan in the Philippines in April, 1942, when between 550 and 1,000 United States soldiers perished, including many who were shot, stabbed, or beheaded by the Japanese;

Whereas 37.3 percent of those Americans who were placed in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps died during their imprisonment;

Whereas Americans captured and interned by the Japanese were forced to work for privately held Japanese companies in severe slave-like conditions, with very little food, dangerous work environments, and no medical care;

Whereas the survivors of Japanese prisoner-of-war camps continue to suffer long-term health consequences due to their imprisonment;

Whereas the companies that benefited from the forced labor of American and other prisoners-of-war continued to earn a profit during wartime and beyond; and

Whereas, in contrast to other countries that committed horrific war crimes during World War II, the Government of Japan has still not fully acknowledged the crimes it committed, as well as those committed by private Japanese companies during World War II, and has not pro-

vided full compensation to the victims of these actions:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the Government of Japan should formally
4 acknowledge all of its war crimes committed during
5 World War II and issue a clear and unambiguous
6 apology for those war crimes; and

7 (2) Japanese companies that used prisoners-of-
8 war as slave labor during World War II, or the suc-
9 cessors of such companies, should compensate those
10 former prisoners, or their survivors, for the labor
11 performed for the commercial interests of such com-
12 panies, and further compensate those former pris-
13 oners, or their survivors, for whatever brutality the
14 companies inflicted on those prisoners during their
15 period of forced labor.

○