Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

What happened to these children?
Cosponsor H.R. 662

January 29, 2007

Dear Colleague:

During World War II, about 700 children who were born and raised in Latin America were kidnapped to the U.S. and forcibly kept behind barbed wires in Crystal City, Texas. They were a part of the U.S. government's mass internment of people of Japanese descent from Latin America despite the lack of evidence that they posed a threat to the United States.

The U.S. government was involved in the abduction and internment of an estimated 2,300 people of Japanese descent who lived in 13 Latin American countries, and as many as 800 were included in two prisoner exchanges between the United States and Japan during the war. Since the end of the war, our nation has made honest efforts to extend an apology to American citizens of Japanese descent who suffered internment. However, Latin Americans of Japanese descent who endured human rights abuses were not included. **Fifty-five years later, there are only a few surviving former internees scattered in the United States and other countries who are waiting for proper recognition of what they suffered as children.**

That is why we have introduced the **Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act (H.R. 662).** The commission would investigate the relocation, internment and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans and recommend appropriate remedies. We urge you to join us in this important effort to bring to light a monumental injustice.

To cosponsor this legislation or for more information, please contact Christine Oh (Becerra) at 5-6235 or Karin Moore (Lungren) at 5-5716.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

DAN LUNGREN
Member of Congress

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