



**H.Res. 121 – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II**

**Floor Situation**

H.Res. 121 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Michael Honda (D-CA) on February 16, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, by a recorded vote of 39-2, on June 26, 2007.

H.Res. 121 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 30, 2007.

**Summary**

H.Res. 121 resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should:

- Formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women," during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II;
- Have this official apology given as a public statement presented by the Prime Minister of Japan in his official capacity;
- Clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the 'comfort women' for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and,
- Educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the 'comfort women'.

**Background**

The Government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, officially commissioned the

acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces, who became known to the world as “ianfu” or “comfort women.” Historians and researchers have found that the majority of “comfort women” were from Korea, China, and other occupied territories.

Current Prime Minister Abe expressed his apologies for the suffering of ‘comfort women’ on April 27, 2007, at a Camp David meeting with President Bush. Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan Yohei Kono released a statement in 1993 regarding “comfort women,” which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal

**Cost**

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Staff Contact**

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