

Previously, Mr Abe had said that the 28 Japanese military and



political leaders charged with Class-A war crimes are 'not war criminals under the laws of Japan' Photo: AFP

Japan PM dismisses WWII war crimes trials as 'victors' justice'

Thursday 28 March 2013

Japan's nationalist prime minister has dismissed the Tokyo war crimes trials in the aftermath of World War II as nothing more than victors' justice. By Julian Ryall, Tokyo

Shinzo Abe, who was elected in a landslide general election victory in December, expressed beliefs that are likely to trigger anger in nations that were occupied by the forces of imperial Japan in the early decades of the last century and raise eyebrows in allied nations, primarily the United States.

"The view of that great war was not formed by the Japanese themselves, but rather by the victorious Allies, and it is by their judgement only that [Japanese] were condemned," Mr Abe told a meeting of the House of Representatives Budget Committee on Tuesday.

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Since his election, Mr Abe has unveiled plans to dramatically revamp a national constitution based heavily towards peace and self-defence, as well as lifting the ban on the sale of Japanese weapons systems overseas. Another area of controversy has been the issue of "comfort women," the women forced to serve as sex slaves for the Japanese military during the war, with Mr Abe suggesting he may review the government's official position on whether the women were coerced into their roles.

Excerpted from www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/9930041/Japan-PM-dismisses-WWII-war-crimes-trials-as-victors-justice.html

A Beautiful and Righteous Statement

By Congressman Michael M. Honda
17th District,
Central County of Alameda, California

March 25 2013

Dear Honorable Congressman Michael Honda:

Greetings from Walter Ko to you for a healthy and prosperous New Year of Snake. Thank you for honoring Minnie Vautrin, the American Goddess at Rape of Nanking 1937 China, in Congress a few years ago.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent disturbing remark by the new Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe who said: "WW II War Crime Trials were just 'victors' justice". (Please see enclosed page). The Japanese hardliners display a dangerous pattern of whitewash, distortion and denial from Rape of Nanking, to Comfort Women and now to Tokyo Trial. Encouraged by frequent visits of government officials to Tokyo Yasukuni Shrine for honoring the convicted and executed war criminals of WW II, the former Imperial Armies restaged their glorious days in an attempt to resurrect Imperial and Colonial dreams. Abe's statement is a challenge to freedom, justice and peace and a contempt of the International Tribunal.

We need your leadership in condemning such alarming and dangerous statements. To tolerate such remarks will render the risk and danger of another Pearl Harbor. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Walter Ko❖

"While I congratulate Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on his recent election and look forward to his upcoming visit to the U.S., we cannot afford the time for revisions or retractions of past statements. Indeed, nothing is more important right now than for a democratic country like Japan to formally acknowledge and unequivocally apologize for its systematic atrocity.

Government is a living, breathing organism that is responsible for its past, present and future. As someone who was put into an internment camp as an infant during World War II, I know reconciliation through government actions, to admit error, are the only ones likely to be long lasting. In order to move toward a more peaceful, global world, Japan must accept responsibility and apologize. The grandmothers of those survivors of physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetuated by Japan Imperial Army are still waiting for an appropriate apology."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinto Abe Visits US on February 22-24th, 2013

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