Presented in acknowledgement of International Day of Peace & Constitution Day:

U.S. and South Korea Responsibility for the "Peacetime" Jeju April 3rd Grand Massacre—Revitalizing Reconciliation by Present day Social Healing Through Justice

Presentation and Moderated Discussion Featuring

Professor Eric K. Yamamoto
Internationally-recognized Scholar & Advocate for Social Healing Through Justice

September 24, 2014 • 4:00 - 5:30 pm
William S. Richardson School of Law, CR 2 • UH Mānoa Campus
(Event is Free. $6 parking in Dole Street Structure)

On April 3, 1948, amid turbulent 'peacetime' rebuilding after the end of World War II, residents of Jeju Island in Korea gathered to protest police brutality and unfair government policies. An estimated 30,000 islanders were killed and thousands tortured and villages burned over the ensuing months by South Korean military, paramilitary, and police under United States authority and oversight — all justified by claiming (falsely) that Jeju was an "island of reds". The two governments quickly silenced all mention of what became known as the Jeju 4.3 Massacre. Reconciliation efforts began in the early 2000s; however, they are incomplete, especially regarding US involvement in the harsh military actions.

Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice Eric Yamamoto and his Law School Scholar Advocates will present their work on reconciliation efforts between South Korea, the United States, and the people of Jeju Island within the framework of social healing through justice. Professor Yamamoto is a law professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘i, known for his legal work and scholarship on social healing through justice and civil rights and racial justice, emphasizing reconciliation initiatives and redress for historic injustice.

Law Student Scholar Advocates assisting Professor Yamamoto: Miyoko Pettit, Katherine Vessels, Maria Amparo Vanaclocha, Nathan Shimodori, and Janna Wehi Ahu

Professor Yamamoto’s writing and teaching emerge out of his justice advocacy in two realms. First, with his work as legal team counsel to Fred Korematsu in reopening his World War II Japanese American internment case, and continuing with post-9/11 disputes works with communities to heal the persisting wounds of injustice to individuals and society itself. Second, he works with communities to heal the persisting wounds of injustice to individuals and society itself including [the U.S. and] Native Hawaiians and the United Church of Christ; the indigenous Ainu and Japan; the Korean World War II military sex slaves and Japan — and also the Filipino human rights reparations victims of the Marcos regime’s political torture and murder; and this surviving African American targets of the 1921 Tulsa race riot. He also served as class action counsel to Native Hawaiians resulting in the 600 million dollar Hawaiian Homelands settlement.

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