



Shusenjo: The Main Battleground of the Comfort Women Issue

Film screening will be followed by Q & A with the director, Miki Dezaki

Trailer: <https://www.shusenjo.com/>

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020

Location: Room 1440

Time: 12:30 to 3:30 PM

Synopsis:

The “comfort women” issue is perhaps Japan’s most contentious present-day diplomatic quandary. Inside Japan, the issue is dividing the country across clear ideological lines. This film delves deep into the most contentious debates and uncovers the hidden intentions of the supporters and detractors of comfort women. Most importantly it finds answers to some of the biggest questions for Japanese and Koreans: Were comfort women prostitutes or sex slaves? Were they coercively recruited? And, does Japan have a legal responsibility to apologize to the former comfort women?

Director Biography:

Miki Dezaki is a recent graduate of the Graduate Program in Global Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo. He worked for the Japan Exchange Teaching Program for five years in Yamanashi and Okinawa before becoming a Buddhist monk in Thailand for a year. He is also known as "Medamasensei" on Youtube, where he has made comedy videos and videos on social issues in Japan. His most notable video is “Racism in Japan,” which led to numerous online attacks by Japanese neo-nationalists who attempted to deny the existence of racism and discrimination against Zainichi Koreans (Koreans with permanent residency in Japan) and Burakumin (historical outcasts still discriminated today).

For additional information, please contact Prof. Anu Mande, Department of History. Telephone: 714-992-7510. Email: amande@fullcoll.edu. Brief lecture on “comfort women”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8Tbkaxwex4>