**“10000 Cries For Justice – Tong Zeng’s Collection” website now operational**

Informing you of unknown atrocities committed by the Japanese military

After over a year’s cooperation, the Chinese-American team has officially published the non-profit website “10,000 Cries for Justice – Tong Zeng’s Collection.” A group of Chinese Americans - under the leadership of Mr. David Chai, former mayor of Holmdel, New Jersey, and Mr. Don Tow, president of the New Jersey chapter of Alliance for Learning and Preserving the History of World War II in Asia (NJ-ALPHA) – established this website to assist Tong Zeng in his pursuit of rightful compensation for Chinese victims harmed by the Japanese during the Second World War. The website publishes the letters from the victims and their families collected during the 1990s, and exposes the atrocities committed by the Japanese military during WWII.

A movement to collect damages from Japan by individual victims was started by Tong Zeng in the 1990s. The publicity generated by media reports resulted in thousands of individuals writing him in support and appreciation of his initiative; they also talked in detail about the atrocities they or their family members experienced. In a few short years, Mr. Tong Zeng received close to 10,000 letters. Victims and victims’ families can never forget the pain inflicted by the Japanese military; through this compensation movement started by Tong Zeng, they can now see justice like a banner calling them to action.

When the news of the existence of these letters reached the United States, Mr. David Chai and Mr. Don Tow, experienced community activists, contacted Tong Zeng. Mr. David Chai said, “We took the initiative to contact him and remind him of the risk of this large volume of letters perishing in a fire. Also, given the difficulties of accessing the information, it would be wise to scan the originals, and publish the content on a website. This way the originals can be preserved, the documents can be easily accessed, and we can prevent vandals from destroying the documents.” With Tong Zeng’s agreement, the planning of the work began: scanning, digitalization, translation of some of the letters into English, and building the website. Finally, work on this joint project began in January 2014.

Tong Zeng was born in Chongqing in 1956; he graduated from Sichuan University at the provincial capital of Chengdu in 1982, and studied in Beijing University from 1986 to 1989, where he earned a master degree in law. In 1990 he started the movement to seek compensation from the Japanese on behalf of individual Chinese victims, and in 1996 he started the movement China Federation of Defending Diaoyu Islands. He was nominated for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. David Chai and Dr. Don Tow established a new non-profit educational organization, “10,000 Cries for Justice,” in the United States. Registered in California, the organization has been granted a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as a public charity. Many have been invited into the organization, including Dr. Ying-Ying Chang (mother of “Nanjing Massacre” author Iris Chang), Dr. George Koo, and Dr. Peter Stanek (Dr. Stanek passed away in October 2014.)

Mr. Chai serves as the president of “10,000 Cries for Justice.” He is very active in community affairs, including serving on the Township Committee and mayor of Holmdel, New Jersey. He was a Board member of several non-profit organizations, including The United Way of Monmouth County, Leadership New Jersey, Senior Health Service in San Francisco, Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) – San Mateo. He co-founded and was the first president of Chinese American Heroes.

Mr. Tow is the vice-president and secretary of “10,000 Cries for Justice.” He has been active in his communities, including serving as the president of NJ-ALPHA. He also served for several years as a member of the Human Rights Commission of Middletown, New Jersey. He organized Scholastic Aptitude Test tutoring programs for several high schools in New Jersey. In 1994 he was selected as a Fellow of Leadership New Jersey.

The Chinese American team worked diligently right from the start of the project, with the objective of having the website on line during the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Sino-Japanese War and the worldwide anti-Fascist war. The tasks have been completed after working diligently for over a year on organizing, scanning, assigning indices, abstracting, categorizing, transcribing, translating, editing and testing of the website. The link <http://www.10000cfj.org> will take the visitor to “10,000 Cries for Justice – Tong Zeng’s Collection.” The current version of the website publishes about 4,000 letters, with English translation for about 10% of the documents. Additional translation and functions are planned for future editions of the website.

At present the website is in both English and Simplified Chinese; a Traditional Chinese version will be added later. For each of the letters there is information on the index, date of letter, address of author, date of event, location of event, name of author, name of victim, and type of atrocity. Searches on key words or categories return relevant documents in scanned and digital format. This function facilitates a reader’s access to specific contents of the website, and serves as a resource and platform to scholars studying the atrocities committed by the Japanese during their invasion of China.

The aim of this cooperative project is to preserve the original testimonies of the Japanese invasion of China in digital format; it offers powerful evidence to counter the false claims made by the Japanese government. This precious historical archive can also stimulate further research into the topic. This website was built to demand a serious accounting of history by Japan, and to resolve the long-overdue injustices, so China and Japan can establish genuine friendship and true peace.

Tong Zeng says, “In the 1990s, the internet was not widely developed, and people did not know how to put together a narrative from the atrocities committed by the Japanese published on the web. The letters they wrote all described the harm done to them or their relatives, some didn’t know how to write and asked others to write on their behalf. These letters were real and shocking, and oftentimes the atrocities were so cruel that I had to stop reading them. These letters are the most powerful testimonies to the atrocities the Japanese committed on the Chinese.”

Tong Zeng also says, “Justice may be late, but will not be truant. ’10,000 Cries for Justice’ provides a concrete description and a forceful prosecution. It is hoped that the Japanese will look seriously at history and learn from it, so these atrocities will never be repeated.”