



D E N S H Ō

The Japanese American Legacy Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CIVIL LIBERTIES PROGRAM TO BE HOSTED BY DENSHO:
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN LEGACY PROJECT**

SEATTLE - "Civil Liberties Denied: After December 7 and September 11," a public Day of Remembrance program, will commemorate the 120,000 Japanese Americans who lost their freedom when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. The program will acknowledge the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during World War II, as well as the targeting of Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, and South Asians since the attacks of September 11. Civil liberties are again being compromised in the quest for national security. This event will bring together communities that have experienced the limitations of democracy, and will promote respect for the democratic principles of equality and personal justice.

Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project will host the event on Sunday, February 9, 2003, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 8th Avenue. (Reception follows.) Lori Matsukawa of KING 5 TV will serve as emcee. Tom Ikeda, executive director of Densho, will share the stories of Japanese Americans who were deprived of their civil liberties in the 1940s. Syrian college student Nadin Hamoui will speak of being detained for nine months by the Immigration and Naturalization Service along with her father and mother. Keynote speaker Dale Minami, lead attorney in *Korematsu v. United States coram nobis*, which challenged the 1944 Supreme Court decision supporting the exclusion orders, will examine the alarming similarities between the measures taken against Japanese Americans during World War II and the treatment of Muslim Americans today.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call Densho at 206-320-0095, or send e-mail to info@densho.org.

Densho is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing artifacts and life histories documenting the Japanese American incarceration. Densho's online archive (www.densho.org) features hundreds of hours of interviews, a thousand historical images, and an extensive curriculum on civil liberties.

Event supported by the Furuta Lee Foundation, Japanese American National Museum/Center for the Preservation of Democracy, Seattle Peoples Fund, and United Parcel Service. Endorsed by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington, Japanese American Chamber of Commerce, Japanese American Citizens League - Pacific Northwest, Nisei Veterans Committee, Washington Defenders Immigration Project, and Wing Luke Asian Museum.