

For Immediate Release
Director
Okinawa Victims of Military Rape Tribute
Phone: [502-418-0423](tel:502-418-0423)
E-mail: drcampbell@twc.com

Okinawa Remembrance to be Held March 8 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Muhammad Ali Center

Close to midnight on April 4 1946, nearly 50 GIs arriving in three trucks attacked women at Nakamura Hospital in Omori. At the blow of a whistle, the men systematically raped more than 40 patients and an estimated 37 female staffers. In one instance, the soldier threw the victim's two-day old baby to the floor killing the baby.

Dr. Rene Campbell first heard this story, one of a multitude of accounts of the rape of Japanese women at the hands of US service members, from Suzuyo Takazato, when Campbell was serving as a delegate to the United Nation's Summit on Women and Girls and Domestic Violence in 2013. Such cases have been documented since the arrival of U.S. troops in Okinawa in 1945 to present day.

"The stories were devastating. The fact that the crimes have been largely ignored motivated me to bring community partners together to remember these women and try to prevent such crimes in the future," said Campbell.

The Okinawa Victims of Military Rape Tribute is a collaboration between groups including the Muhammad Ali Center, Wesley House, The Louisville Clothesline Project, the Humanity Passport Project, and Ellen Birkett Morris Communications.

The tribute is patterned after the Louisville Clothesline Project which brings attention to the widespread abuse of women through the decoration of color coded tee-shirts that represents abuse that is perpetrated against a woman. Shirts are hung on a clothesline to provide a visual representation of "airing dirty laundry."

There will be an opportunity for community members to create shirts based on the stories of women victims in Okinawa on February 20th at 5:30 at the Fairness Campaign Headquarters, 2263 Frankfort Ave in Louisville.

The tribute will include a display of over 300 shirts by local artists, each of which tells the story of military rape, the unveiling of two paintings by Danielle Eubank and a call to action about how to combat violence against women.

"How could this happen without us knowing about it? There is a need for us to look deep within and work to root out the evil of rape and other crimes against women from our present and future. This tribute will give voice to the voiceless and help us continue this important work," said Catherine Stone, associate director of the Okinawa Victims Tribute.