



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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OFFICIAL JACL POSITION STATEMENT  
JAPANESE AMERICANS SPEAK TO IRANIAN ISSUE

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The National Organization of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is aware of references that there exist similarities in the plight of Japanese Americans during World War II and the proposed actions against Iranian visitors and/or Americans of Iranian ancestry. These references arise from the disturbing developments in Iran involving the safety and well being of American citizens.

For the record, our organization, long known for its efforts in advocating civil rights, deplores the acts of tyranny and violations of human rights perpetrated on this country's diplomatic corps in Iran. Further, we have called for the immediate release of Americans being held hostage. We consider the incident in Tehran outrageous, deplorable, and least of all, an outright violation of diplomatic relations.

JACL implores the American public to maintain a peaceful vigilance in this terrifying moment of crisis. We must rally to support our President. As a nation of law, it is imperative that the actions of the United States, its government and people uphold the spirit of our Constitution.

In the United States, some Iranian nationals are conducting demonstrations. Their right to do so is protected under the laws of this nation. Such individuals should be handled in the manner prescribed by law. To take action against people on the basis of ancestry is wrong, but to act swiftly against those individuals who choose to act outside the law is just.

As an organization of American citizens who were at one time subject to the suspension of civil liberties as a group, solely on the basis of ancestry, JACL cautions the American public to only address those individuals who are violators of the laws of this nation.

Public anger and frustration are understandable and justified. It is tempting to draw a parallel based only on emotion engendered. What is important now is to prevent the revocation of civil rights. The American compassion for the suffering, for political prisoners and for all innocent victims of violence, wherever they may be, must not be diminished.