

**Canadian Conference on Preventing Crimes Against Humanity:  
Lessons from the Asia Pacific War (1931-1945)**

c/o International House of UBC, 1783 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2  
Tel: 604-822-4904 Fax: 604-822-5099 Email: [apl.conference@ubc.ca](mailto:apl.conference@ubc.ca) [www.aplconference.ca](http://www.aplconference.ca)

---

**MEDIA NOTICE: "Survivors of Biological Warfare to Call for Canadian Public Enquiry"**

What: **Press Conference**

When: **Wednesday, March 19, 2003, 2:30 p.m.**

Where: **Choi Hall, SUCCESS, 28 West Pender Street, Vancouver**

A survivor of the first modern use of biological weapons, Xu Jiayi, will join victim representatives Yang Dafang, and Wang Xuan, in calling on the Canadian government to broaden its enquiry into biological weapons testing at Suffield in a press conference to be held in Vancouver this Wednesday.

Xu Jiayi, Yang Dafang, and Wang Xuan are among 180 Chinese survivors and victim representatives who are suing the Japanese government for restitution because of the suffering caused by the Japanese Imperial Army's use of biological weapons in China during World War II.

The Chinese survivors are in Vancouver to speak at the "Preventing Crimes Against Humanity: Lessons from the Asia Pacific War (1931\_1945)," which will take place Friday and Saturday, March 21\_22 at the First Nations Longhouse, 1985 West Mall, UBC.

They will be calling for the government to broaden the inquiry into the history of biological weapons testing in Canada (Globe and Mail, March 12) to see if Canadian scientists were using information obtained from war criminals in Japan.

A new study by Professor John Price, (Department of History, University of Victoria) suggests that Canadian officials and scientists knew fifty years ago about the war crimes committed in China but did nothing to support the victims or to pursue the Japanese war criminals responsible for the atrocities. The study will be released at the press conference.

The press conference is called by Thekla Lit and Richard Vedan, co-chairs of the Vancouver conference.

Attending the press conference will be:

**Wang Xuan**, representative for 180 plaintiffs who filed a lawsuit against the Japanese government for damages caused by biological warfare in China during the Asia Pacific War.

**Yang Dafang**, who lost family to Japan's biological warfare in China; he is a victim's representative in the Tokyo lawsuit.

**Xu Jiayi**, a survivor of Japanese biological warfare in China.

**John Price**, associate professor of Japanese History, University of Victoria. For the last two years he has been conducting research on the history of "Canada and the Cold War in Asia" with the financial support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

**Tatsuo Kage**, a member of the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association (JCCA), Human Rights Committee and contributor to A Resource Guide for Teachers: Human Rights in the Asia Pacific War (1931-1945).

**Richard Vedan**, from the Neskonlith Band, Associate Professor at the UBC School of Social Work since 1995 and director of UBC's First Nations House of Learning.

**Thekla Lit**, Co-chair of Canada Association of Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia (ALPHA) and co-chair of the conference.

---

For further information contact:

Thekla Lit                      Tel: 604-313-6000

Dan Keeton                      Tel: 778-773-4368