



The Australian Institute of International Affairs and
the United Nations Youth Association

invite you to a

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

War Crimes Prevention in Today's World; Lessons from Japanese Atrocities in the Asia- Pacific War

Professor Yuki Tanaka

Research Professor of History, Hiroshima Peace Institute and
2008 Sir Ninian Stephen Visiting Scholar at the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law

Japanese Imperial Forces committed numerous atrocities during the 15 years of the Asia-Pacific War, starting from the so-called Manchurian Incident in September 1931 and continuing on until the end of war in the Pacific in August 1945. This lecture first examines several major war crime cases that the Japanese forces committed and then identifies some important factors as reasons for Japanese cruelty at that time. In this context, more recent inhumane conduct by the US and British forces in the Middle East are discussed and what we should learn from the Japanese experiences in order to prevent war crimes, particularly military violence against civilians.

Thursday 27 November 2008
4:30 pm

The Friends Meeting House,
5 Boa Vista Road, North Hobart

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Professor Yuki Tanaka is Research Professor of History at the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University. In 2008 he has been Visiting Professor at Birkbeck College, University of London, and the Sir Ninian Stephen Visiting Scholar at the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law. An acknowledged international expert on the history of Japanese war crimes during the Second World War, Professor Tanaka's books; *Japan's Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery and Prostitution During World War II and the US Occupation* (2002) and *Hidden Horrors: Japanese War Crimes in World War II* (1996) both remain seminal works in English. The latter volume provided extensive background material for a BBC documentary series entitled "Horror in the East" produced in 2000. Professor Tanaka's most recent book *Sora no Sensō-Shi (A History of Aerial Warfare)* has been published in Japan in 2008 to critical acclaim.