

Screening of "City of Life and Death; Nanking Nanking".

"City of Life and Death; Nanking Nanking", a Chinese movie with English subtitle, was screened at the San Diego Asia Film Festival (SDAFF) at 2:00pm, October 24th, 2010. Ms. Mye Hoang, the associated director of SDAFF, gave an introduction to the movie and indicated that eventhough this movie may be the most graphic among all the movies in the festival, it is worthy watching as its stories reflected the WWII atrocity in Asia, which may be not known by many people.

In all, around 250 turned out for the film, including some students from many high schools students and college students.

This film tells the story of "the Rape of Nanking", a period of several weeks after the fall of Nanking, the capital of the Republic of China, in December 1937 to the Japanese Imperial Army. After the Japanese Army occupied the Capital, there were some very weak resistances by the weakened Chinese troops. Japanese Army rounded up the residual Chinese soldiers and other young people whom they suspected to be military personnel and systematically slaughtered them they already laid down their weapons.

Japanese soldiers tortured and murdered more than 300,000 Chinese civilians. They forced women and teenage girls to become "comfort women" for the purpose of relieving the soldiers' sexual appetite. The stories of those atrocities were mentioned in many diaries and memoirs of Japanese soldiers. The director of the movie also showed a German businessman John Rabe, a Nazi party member, settin up an International Committee (a total of 27 Westerners) of "Nanking Safety Zone" with the help of Professor Minnie Vautrin, Rev. James McCallum, and others. The Westerners did not flee the city. They stood in the front to face the brutal Japanese soldiers and guarded Nanking residents behind them.

Our organization strives for the accuracy of history. Knowing the history is helpful to prevent such kind of atrocities from happening again. The victims deserve justice and Japanese government needs to come to terms of the past and issue formal apology to all victims of WWII in Asia.

This film was co-presented by: Association for Preserving Historical Accuracy of Foreign Invasions in China (APHFIC), American Chinese Culture and Educational Foundation (ACCEF), and San Diego Chinese American Association (SDCAA)