

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM23.3	ACTION			Ward:All
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**City Council affirm its recognition of the Nanjing Massacre - by Councillor Jim Karygiannis, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Jim Karygiannis, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council recognize the Nanjing Massacre as a crime against humanity and to honour the memory of the men, women and children who died.

### Summary

On December 13, 1937, the Imperial Japanese army captured Nanjing, the capital city of the Republic of China during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The Imperial Japanese Army conducted a six-week campaign where an estimated 300,000 people, including young children were tortured, raped, and murdered.

This dark period in history is seldom discussed, yet the legacy of these atrocities live on in the memories of survivors and it continues to have a deeply felt impact in many Asian societies, including Toronto's diverse Asian communities.

In 2008, the Toronto District School Board, the largest school board in North America, passed a unanimous motion encouraging the teaching of the atrocities of the Nanjing Massacre and Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in its schools.

The City of Toronto can play a key role in raising public awareness by affirming its recognition of the Nanjing Massacre, as a crime against humanity, in honour of the men, women and children who died.

Honouring the individuals that lost their lives and educating the public of these atrocities is necessary to promote understanding and peace. Toronto is home to Canada's largest Chinese and Asian communities, some of whom survived the Japanese occupation of China during World War II and recall the atrocities that took place during this period.

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM23.3