

Eshu Martin shared a link.

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Here is a new piece from the Sasaki Archive. I have to agree, it is a chilly silence from Rinzai-ji. I recently made some enquiries about the "process" they are using. They have established a "listening group", but no, you can't know who is on it. So... someone who feels harmed can contact the "listening group", but isn't allowed to know who is on it. They can request that anyone they are concerned about won't receive their comment. Which of course exposes them. Why the secrecy? Apparently because the internet is a mean place, and Rinzai-ji wants to protect the "Listening group" and their families from the abuse of transparency. I feel like the protective instinct is about a half a century late, and even then misdirected.

In effect, Rinzai-ji, with the help of An Olive Branch, has created a process which is of absolutely no benefit to victims, in fact exposes them to further risk, and ensures that the result will be "we offered to listen but there weren't any complaints, no one came forward. Clearly this is behind us now."

An Olive Branch is a contracted employee of Rinzai-ji, and therefore the mandate is set by Rinzai-ji, and nobody else. There are still several Oshos at the top of Rinzai-ji that firmly believe that no wrong was done, that Joshu Sasaki's sexual sanzen is a legitimate teaching, and that all of the complaints are just ignorant fools who don't understand Zen.

Please don't stop applying pressure, don't stop demanding better. Keep talking about this, and keep spreading the word. This issue will not be resolved by silence, or by allowing it to creep back into the darkness.

http://sasakiarchive.com/PDFs/20131206_Reflections_Roshi_RinzaiJi.pdf