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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voices Against Hate, Part 3:

C.A.C.A. Chapter Leaders Respond to Increased Attacks on Asians

San Francisco, February 28, 2021 — Today, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) concludes its series of statements* from Chapter leaders answering the appeal of National President Melanie Chan to submit their observations of the rise in violence and harassment against Asian Americans reported across the country.

“We call for prompt attention of local enforcement to seek out, apprehend, and to pursue justice for these cruel perpetrators attacking our elders and members of the community. We also call upon our members to work for tolerance, understanding, and cooperation toward unity for harmony and social justice in our communities,” stated Ms. Chan.

The responses from chapter officers echo C.A.C.A.’s commitment to its historical leadership role as the oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Americans of Chinese ancestry standing up to the deeply-rooted discrimination and alienation that scar the Chinese American experience.

C.A.C.A. encourages its membership and community allies to send remarks to info@cacanational.org and they will be shared via C.A.C.A. social media.

* www.cacanational.org/CACA_pdf/news_release_CACA_chapters_respond_Asian_attacks_1_February2021.pdf
www.cacanational.org/CACA_pdf/news_release_CACA_chapters_respond_Asian_attacks_2_February2021.pdf

Calvin Louie

President, C.A.C.A. San Francisco

I want to condemn the violence against Asian Americans. The amount of Anti-Asian and hate crimes perpetrated against our Asian Pacific Island (API) community is completely unacceptable.

I believe the rhetoric from former President Trump has ignited all the disgusting acts of racism against our API community. Many of former





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President Trump's supporters has said that hate crimes against the API community has always been there. However, ever since former President Trump called the coronavirus the "Chinese Virus" and the "Kung Flu", the attack has surged exponentially. It may not have been so damaging if an average American says it. But for a standing President to say it over and over to the American people, all that pent up frustration from people that are out of work, people that has lost loved ones to the virus, people that has seen their income reduced during this pandemic, or whatever the reason, the former President is just pointing the finger to the API community to be that scapegoat for the Federal Government.

There is no shred of evidence that the virus came from China. The World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a month long investigation recently and concluded that it was highly unlikely that the virus came from the central city of Wuhan.

Much of what I have seen especially with the deadly capital riots of January 6, 2021, former President Trump's rhetoric caused the insurrection and delayed the peaceful transfer of power. There was only one person who invited the mob that killed five people, former President Trump. Even Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican said the former President was "practically and morally responsible for promoting the events of that day."

What I don't want to see is the Chinese Exclusion Act No. 2. Many of you have heard about the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 that prohibit all immigration of Chinese laborers. The Chinese did such a great job building the Trans-Continental railroad connecting the country between the east coast with the west coast that white America wanted to pass the Federal laws to exclude Chinese. To this day, the Chinese Exclusion Act was the first and only law to have been implemented, to prevent all members of a specific ethnic or national group from immigrating to the United States.

We at CACA will have to speak out against any acts of violence against our community, be united in our message, demand our elected officials provide more resources for our community and above all defend our rights as Americans.

Cathy Lee

President, C.A.C.A. Seattle

The Seattle Lodge is alarmed at and condemns continuing violence against Asian Americans in San Francisco and Oakland Chinatowns and across the country. Last summer, vandals smashed the storefronts of more than a dozen businesses in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. A Chinese American grade school teacher in the Seattle school district was harassed at Home Depot while the police watched and did nothing. Recently, we have seen a rise in spitting on Asian Americans and hateful speech. In response to rising xenophobia and the Black Lives Matter movement, the





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Seattle Lodge with like-minded advocates launched Seattle Unite, a coalition of more than 20 organizations committed to racial and social justice, to promote trust and support among our diverse communities. Member organizations include the Northwest African American Museum, American Romanian Cultural Society, JACL-Seattle, One America, Chief Seattle Club, El Centro de la Raza, and others. Last year, Seattle Unite developed Get Out the Vote and Census2020 messaging. This year we are hosting an intergenerational round table and speakers on topics such as our event on February 28 “The Truth About Hate Groups and Hate Crimes.”

“Ignorance leads to fear, fear leads to hatred, hatred leads to violence.” (Ibn Rushd) The Seattle Lodge seeks to break the cycle by building bridges and ensuring our voices are heard.

Ted Gong

President, C.A.C.A. Washington, D.C.

Violence against any individual, especially against defenseless elderly people, is abhorrent. Recent attacks against elderly Chinese walking alone in Oakland and San Francisco are cowardly and made worse because they are stoking fears of racial targeting. This is nothing new. Vincent Chin was killed in 1982. Vicha Ratanapakdee was attacked and later died last month in San Francisco. The violent and brutal shoving of a 91-year old man in Chinatown was caught on camera and shown around the country. Reports of other attacks followed, with accusations that the spike in violence comes from the constant anti-Chinese rhetoric and blame from Trump and his supporters that the frustratingly extended pandemic is caused by China. “China Flu” and the “Kung-Flu” —as Trump has consistently and deliberately mocked it to excuse his incompetent handling of the national health and economic crisis. President Joe Biden has called for respecting Asian Americans and denounced the previous Administration's race baiting. His statements and his Chinese New Year Greetings are welcome (<https://globalnews.ca/video/rd/035209b0-6e5e-11eb-9e8f-0242ac110003/?jwsourc=cl>). Now, action must follow in the form of stronger and more effective policies and investigations of hate crimes against Chinese and all communities of color and faiths. There must be visible and substantial federal support for community policing.



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Web: www.CACAnational.org

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Orange County (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.