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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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Chinese American Citizens Alliance Observes 79th Anniversary of Kristallnacht; Heeds Consequences When Indifference Goes Unchallenged

San Francisco, November 9, 2017—Today, Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) joins with Jewish people around the world to remember the 79th anniversary of Kristallnacht, also called the “Night of Broken Glass” for the countless smashed windows of Jewish-owned establishments. Kristallnacht marked the turning point of Nazi Germany’s campaign to purge Germany of its Jewish people. This systematic and widespread violence against Jews foreshadowed the Holocaust in which six million Jews were murdered, of which 1.5 million were children.

“History has shown us that indifference to discrimination and bias can lead to destructive societal consequences. We ignore the warning signs of such behavior at our peril. Each of us can make a difference by speaking out and acting to achieve a just environment for all,” cautioned B’nai B’rith International CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin. Founded in New York City in 1843, B’nai B’rith is the oldest Jewish service organization in the world and is a leader in the fields of human rights, community service and philanthropy.

On November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazis in Germany unleashed a flood of violent anti-Jewish pogroms throughout Germany and Nazi-occupied territories. This violence was retaliation against all German Jews for the death of a German diplomat who was shot by a distraught 17-year-old Jewish youth living in Paris. Nazis in Germany torched synagogues, destroyed thousands of Jewish businesses, desecrated Jewish cemeteries, vandalized hospitals, schools, homes, and killed close to 100 Jews. Some 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps and ghettos. The persecution continued after the pogrom; Nazi government seized Jewish properties and kept the insurance money owed to Jewish people for property damage during the pogrom.

Although the international community was outraged by the events of November 9 and 10, the Nazi regime suffered no serious consequences. The United States responded to Kristallnacht by condemning the Nazi violence, yet there was not much support to ease the immigration restrictions to allow German Jews to seek refuge in America.

“Kristallnacht reminds us of the dangers of being indifferent to the sufferings of people who are defenseless and the need to confront racism and bigotry,” states C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin. “Reminiscent of Kristallnacht, Chinese immigrants suffered intense discrimination and violent



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attacks such as the Chinese Massacre of 1871 in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Anti-Chinese Riot of 1877. The orchestrated efforts to drive them out of cities in California culminated in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.”

Sadly, racial prejudice, anti-Semitism, and violence are still present in today’s world. Let us not forget the lessons history has taught us and break the silence of indifference.

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1044 Stockton St.
San Francisco, CA.
Web: www.CACAnational.org
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), 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.