



美 洲 同 源 總 會

# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge  
ESTABLISHED 1895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Chinese American Citizens Alliance Strongly Condemns Racist Gesture During this Year's Major League Baseball World Series**

San Francisco, November 1, 2017—Seventy years ago, the baseball color line that excluded black players from Major League Baseball (MLB) was broken with the introduction of Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby into National League and American League teams respectively in 1947. It was hailed as one of baseball's most celebrated moments in the Civil Rights movement in efforts to promote racial integration in sports. On Friday, October 27, 2017, during Game #3 of Major League Baseball's World Series, professional sportsmanship landed in a serious fracture on the road to racial harmony.

In the third game of the World Series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Houston Astros held at Minute Maid Park in Houston, Astros first baseman Yuli Gurriel made a racially insensitive gesture against Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Yu Darvish. From the dugout, the first baseman was filmed pulling the corners of his eyes in an offensive jab at Mr. Darvish's Japanese heritage (Iranian father and Japanese mother). Public response was swift. After the game, Mr. Gurriel apologized for the gesture through an interpreter, and admitted he said "chinito" — a derogatory Spanish term that translates literally to "little Chinese."

Mr. Gurriel was suspended five games by Major League Baseball although the suspension won't be served until the start of the next season. The decision by the MLB was not without controversy, mainly from criticism that it didn't go far enough to send a message that such behavior was unacceptable and that the "weak" sanction would reinforce that taunting and mocking of people of Asian descent are tolerated.

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) strongly condemns the offensive conduct of Mr. Gurriel in choosing to mock the physical features of a competitor and the organization also expresses concern over the delayed punishment imposed by MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred. C.A.C.A. calls attention to the seemingly unfair application of disciplinary action against Mr. Gurriel considering the MLB's swift suspension of two players this season for making anti-gay comments.

"The Alliance acknowledges Mr. Gurriel's public apology for unsportsmanlike behavior," states C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin, "and we hope he recognizes that as role models athletes can demonstrate that differences should be respected and not maligned in the field of professional competition."



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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), 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.