

Statement:**[Trigger Warning / Content Warning]: Descriptions of Violence**

On January 28th, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee, a Thai American, was murdered while on his routine morning walk in the Anza Vista neighborhood of San Francisco. [1] On February 3rd, a 64-year old Vietnamese grandmother was assaulted and robbed in San Jose in broad daylight. [2] The next day, a 91-year-old man was attacked—violently pushed to the ground—in Oakland’s Chinatown. [3]

These deliberate and targeted acts of violence against members of the Asian/Pacific Islander American (APIA) community are part of a long history of racism that threatens our communities. [4] APIA elders are particularly the most vulnerable and are now being attacked, physically and verbally, more so than ever since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Stop AAPI Hate National Report, over 2,000 anti-APIA incidents have been reported since early 2020, which does not account for the number of unreported and ignored cases. [5, 6]

APIA communities such as those in Oakland, CA are expecting a rise of robberies and burglaries ahead of the Lunar New Year celebration. [7] The mainstream media hardly covers the problems that often affect our communities, and this is further exacerbated by the model minority myth—where Asians are assumed to be wealthier, healthier, and more educated—erasing the concerns that many of us face.

APAMSA, both National and our chapter at UCSF, denounces these and all acts of violence against our community, and we oppose racism in all its forms. Additionally, APAMSA reaffirms calls for better reporting and prevention on anti-APIA hate incidents as part of any anti-racist policy. [8] In this time of crisis, we urge all students to show solidarity with APIA communities by speaking out against all forms of anti-APIA aggression, supporting our fellow peers, patients, and community members alike, and advocating for anti-racist policies that not only addresses the concerns of APIA communities, but those of all marginalized peoples.

In solidarity,
APAMSA at UCSF

Sources:

1. <https://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/elderly-San-Francisco-man-killed-racist-act-Vicha-15918274.php>
2. <https://news.yahoo.com/grandmother-64-robbed-1-000-213216433.html>
3. <https://abc7news.com/shocking-video-shows-man-pushed-to-ground-in-oaklands-chinatown/10311111/>
4. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/09/asian-american-racism-covid/>
5. https://securereservercdn.net/104.238.69.231/a1w.90d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Stop_AAPI_Hate_National_Report_200805.pdf

6. https://a1w.90d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Press-Statement-re_Bay-Area-Elderly-Incidents-2.9.2021-1.pdf
7. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/oakland-police-warn-of-increased-chinatown-crime-incidents-against-asian-americans-increasing/ar-BB1djSJ3?ocid=uxbndlbing>
8. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/26/memorandum-condemning-and-combating-racism-xenophobia-and-intolerance-against-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders-in-the-united-states/>

Resources:

1. Stop the AAPI Hate Incident Form: <https://stopaapihate.typeform.com/to/zhMP3fUx>
2. Community Safety Starts with Us: We Move Together:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12Re9XS3_MlazkZ6DvhAhhtJ3zjJBUiYshK-HqAAecpM/viewform?ts=60222a9d&gxids=7628&edit_requested=true
3. Asian Americans Advancing Justice Incident Form:
<https://www.standagainsthatred.org/report>
4. SF PD Hate Crime Task Force: 1-415-553-1133