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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. National Responds to Rising Anti-Asian Attacks as a Result of Coronavirus Pandemic

San Francisco, March 30, 2020 — As insidious as the medical symptoms of the Coronavirus are, a serious infection also has eroded public civility as evidence by an alarming rise in racist and xenophobic assaults on Asian Americans, who are blamed for spreading the contagion. “We are very concerned about the health and safety of our members in this time of crisis. Avoid nonessential public outings and exercise caution and awareness of your surroundings,” advises Melanie Chan, National President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.).

The principal law enforcement agency of the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warns of an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans as the coronavirus crisis continues to grow, according to a new agency analysis distributed to local law enforcement agencies across the country. An FBI spokesperson emphasized the agency “remains committed to ensuring national security and pursuing violations of federal law.”

Critics charge President Donald Trump’s reference to the outbreak of the “Chinese Virus” on his Twitter messages and at White House press briefings on Coronavirus inflamed the discrimination that Asian Americans were experiencing. The president maintained he was not being racist, but was emphasizing the Coronavirus originated from China. However early last week, the president posted a tweet calling for the protection of “our Asian American community” in the U.S., and he added in a press conference, “the spreading of the virus is not their fault in any way shape or form.”

An early news release issued by C.A.C.A. National condemned the use of “Chinese Virus” by President Trump. (See www.cacanational.org/CACA_pdf/news_release_CACA_Condemns_Trump_Chinese_Virus_March2020.pdf)

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community groups and allied organizations have responded to increasing racist and xenophobic transgressions with expanding awareness by hosting online public forums to and online mechanisms for reporting hate incidents. The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the AAPI community in the greater Los Angeles area. It launched a new website called Stop



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AAPI Hate and in the site's first eight days, it was reported to have received more than 650 reports of discrimination — largely against the Asian American community.

If you feel you are a victim of a racist and xenophobic attack due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, C.A.C.A. National President Chan recommends immediately contacting your local law enforcement and any of the following hate crimes reporting websites:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – Civil Rights/Hate Crimes: www.fbi.gov/contact-us

National Center for Victims of Crime: victimsofcrime.org/

Asian Americans Advancing Justice's Stand Against Hatred: www.standagainsthathred.org/

OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates Hate Incident Reporting Website: aapihatecrimes.org

Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center: www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate

“The more we speak out the greater the impact will be,” stated U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu of California in a recent ADL-sponsored webinar on “The Danger to Minority Groups Due to Coronavirus-fueled Xenophobia and Violence.”

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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), 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.