FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 9, 2020
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BLM’s response to the May 25 death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police confirmed its status as an international human rights movement. Protests transcended national borders as societies worldwide declared racism against of blacks as a global pandemic. “Black Lives Matter!” echoed at the demonstrations for George Floyd as a clarion call for reform and justice.

Meanwhile so, too, is heard “All Lives Matter” but it is not seen as a unifying response but as a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of BLM and the purpose that drives that movement.

While there is no disagreement over “all lives should matter,” to use the statement as a retort to “Black Lives Matter” completely misses the point. “We do believe that all lives matter, but we don’t live in a world where all lives matter,” stated Alicia Garza, a human rights activist and one of the cofounders of the BLM movement, in a 2016 television interview. When critics answer “Black Lives Matter” with “All Lives Matters” it is not received as a show of support. Rather, it displays insensitivity to legitimate grievances. It trivializes the reality of how institutionalized racial discrimination, oppression and violence have reduced Blacks to under-valued second-class citizens.

Chinese Americans should embrace Black Americans’ call for justice as we can identify with the legacy of hostile rejection, the denial of fundamental rights and freedoms, and suffering from injustice. Removed from the din of strained exchange, the following analog quietly but powerfully illustrates the pain of words that is circulating in social media:
Imagine your child dying and you are giving a eulogy explaining what your own child meant to you and how special your child was, and then someone grabs the mic and says “actually all children are special...”

That’s what “all lives matter” sounds like.

C.A.C.A. National Lodge publicly supports the aims of the Black Lives Matter Movement in promoting diversity, restorative justice, intergenerationality, engagement and empathy.

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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), 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.