



Anti-Asian Violence One Year into the Pandemic

On the morning of January 28th, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee of San Francisco went out for an early stroll. Less than an hour into his daily walk, a man on the street charged into him at full speed, pummeling the 5 foot 6 inch, 113-pound retiree onto the pavement. Ratanapakdee, a retired auditor who immigrated from Thailand, died of his injuries two days later after the violent assault in San Francisco's Anza Vista neighborhood by a complete stranger.



Vicha Ratanapakdee, 84, died of a brain hemorrhage following the attack in San Francisco.



CCTV footage shows a 91-year-old man being pushed to the ground in Oakland, CA (Jan 31, 2021).

On January 31st, another elderly Asian man was forcibly slammed to the ground by a passerby in Oakland's Chinatown. The 91-year-old suffered severe lacerations on his hands and was one of three Asian pedestrians attacked that day, including a 55-year-old woman who lost consciousness after being pushed to the ground from behind in the Chinatown district of Oakland.

Virus-era Attacks on Asian-Americans Continue to Rise

Since mid-March 2020, more than 3,000 Asian-targeted incidents have been reported across the country to Stop AAPI Hate, a California-based advocacy group. Data collected by California State University, San Bernardino's Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism show that Asian-targeted hate crimes **increased 149%** in 2020 even while overall hate

crimes dropped by 7%, a staggering uptick associated with the negative stereotyping of Asians relating to the pandemic.

The majority of these incidents have been unprovoked, such as the near-fatal stabbing of a Burmese man and his 3- and 6-year-old sons by a random assailant at a Sam's Club in Texas. According to the FBI, the 19-year-old arrested for the knife attack believed the man and his children were Chinese and were spreading the virus. Outside of hate crimes, more commonly cited incidents have included being spat on, verbal harassment, and being shunned or refused service -- most of which go unreported.



Bawi Cung pictured with his two sons, center and right, prior to the March 2020 knife attack at a Sam's Club in Midland, TX. The three sustained serious injuries.



CCTV footage of an Asian woman being assaulted outside a bakery in Queens, NY. The 52-year-old suffered a gash to the forehead that required ten stitches (Feb 16, 2021).

Statement from APIASA President Cirian Villavicencio

Tragically, there has been a rise of anti-Asian hate and racism across the country and it continues to be perpetuated because of the rise of xenophobia and hate. As a Political Scientist on campus, we know that overt discrimination and racism not only undermines the plural society in which we live, but ultimately contradicts our democratic values that promote pluralism, tolerance, and equality under the law. Indeed, this is why we must be intentional as we move forward with policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

*- Cirian Villavicencio
APIASA President
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What Can You Do to Help?

In response to these events, volunteer-led foot patrols have been formed in Chinatowns across the nation to assist elderly residents during outings. Offers of assistance go a long way, as many of these elderly live by themselves and run their own errands without help.



In addition, Chinatown businesses across the country have been hit disproportionately hard since the beginning of the pandemic due to a notable decrease in foot traffic associated with anti-Asian xenophobia. Choosing to actively support your local Asian restaurants, grocers, and establishments can go a long way to helping Asian-American communities sustain themselves during these economically-stressed times.

You can also consider supporting the work of advocacy groups such as [Stop AAPI Hate](#), [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#), and [AAPI Women Lead](#) among many others striving to build awareness of AAPI issues. Here are [50 other ways to donate](#) in support of Asian-American communities (or 51 if you include supporting APIASA!).

At our own community level, you may also consider supporting APIASA and the work we do to support Delta's own AAPI students, many of whom are among some of the most economically disadvantaged. According to the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, over 90% of our Cambodian, Laotian, Vietnamese, and Samoan students are low income. If you would like to support our cause, please consider making a one-time donation. Every dollar goes 100% to awarding student scholarships and is tax deductible.

[Donate Now](#)

You can also consider donating through a monthly payroll deduction! If all Delta employees contributed just \$5 a month (the price of a Venti Latte at Starbucks), all of our annual awards would be easily sustained.

[Set a Monthly Contribution](#)

For more information, please contact our Outreach Coordinators: Drs: Dustin Tsai (dustin.tsai@deltacollege.edu) and Le Phan (lphan@deltacollege.edu).

Thank you for reading!

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