



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION
February 24, 2017**

**ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE CONDEMNS APPARENT HATE ATTACK AND
MOURNS THE KILLING OF SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANT**

LOS ANGELES - [On February 22, two Indian American immigrants were targeted and shot in a bar in Olathe, Kansas, and one of them was killed.](#) A third man was shot trying to stop the shooter. [The shooter reportedly yelled “get out of my country” and thought his victims were “Middle Eastern”.](#) This horrible tragedy comes on the heels of months of racist and xenophobic rhetoric and recent Presidential executive orders targeting immigrants and Muslims.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice, an affiliation of five civil rights organizations, issues the following statement:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Advancing Justice) extends our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Srinivas Kuchibhotla, who died after sustaining a gunshot wound, and our wishes for a full recovery to Alok Madasani and Ian Grillot, who were also shot in the attack.

As civil rights organizations that have fought hate attacks against our community for decades, we are particularly saddened and angered by the shootings in Kansas. In 2017, it is outrageous that two Asian Indian immigrant men would be shot, and one killed, by a white man who senselessly fired on innocent men as he reportedly shouted “get out of my country.” The Olathe shooting is reminiscent of the 1982 hate crime killing of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American engineer, who was beaten to death in Detroit by two white unemployed autoworkers who called him “Jap” and blamed him for the decline of the American auto industry.

“We condemn the rising Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racism that has been unleashed on our nation during the past year, and in particular the rhetoric and actions of the Trump administration, such as the recent Muslim Ban. They set the stage for Srinivas Kuchibhotla to be the Vincent Chin of our current generation,” said Stewart Kwoh, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles. Kwoh worked with Vincent Chin’s mother and local lawyers in Michigan more than 30 years ago to seek justice for Chin’s killing. “We demand a thorough investigation into the shootings, including the hate crime allegations, and for local, state, and national leaders to denounce such hate and violence.”

While Asian Americans have long been targets of harassment due to the perception that they are foreign, South Asian communities in particular have experienced a significant increase in hate violence since 9/11 and

[saw a spike again during the 2016 presidential campaign cycle.](#)

Aarti Kohli, executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, noted, “Indian Americans, particularly Sikhs, have shared the considerable cost of anti-Muslim violence in recent years and our communities live with increasing fear. We ask all Asian Americans to rise up and demand a change in rhetoric and policy from our leaders. Attend a town hall or city council meeting and ask what public officials plan to do to ensure that all Americans feel safe in their communities, regardless of their race or immigration status.”

In the past month since the Advancing Justice affiliation launched www.standagainsthatred.org to track anti-Asian hate incidents, we have received more than 80 reports from victims and are tracking additional cases like the Olathe shootings. We encourage reporting anti-Asian and other hate attacks to our tracking site www.standagainsthatred.org. Advancing Justice’s online reporting site does not trigger law enforcement investigations or action; however, it is a critical tool to track and expose hate attacks against Asian Americans such as the shootings in Olathe, Kansas.

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Asian Americans Advancing Justice is a national affiliation of five leading organizations advocating for the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and other underserved communities to promote a fair and equitable society for all. The affiliation's members are: Advancing Justice - AAJC (Washington, D.C.), Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, Advancing Justice - Atlanta, Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), and Advancing Justice - Chicago.

