



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Epidemic of hate symbols must not be taken lightly, says JACL

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is deeply disturbed by the number of noose-hanging incidents and hate symbols that have surfaced across the country in recent weeks, and is concerned that these shocking displays of hate will lead to violent behavior.

Twenty-two swastikas chalked on the walls of a Manhattan high school. A noose around the neck of a tarred doll in Long Island. A noose hanging from a tree at the University of Maryland. A giant swastika cut into a New Jersey cornfield. Another noose on the door of an African American professor at Columbia University. These are just a fraction of the reported incidents which have cropped up in recent weeks.

Following the infamous noose-hangings in Jena, LA less than a year ago, which resulted in a string of violence and hate, this slew of hateful vandalism cannot be dismissed as merely the actions of pranksters.

“The hangman’s noose and the swastika, just like the slur ‘jap’, have historically been symbols of hate, and they will not be tolerated, whether as a prank or threat,” said Floyd Mori, national director of the JACL. As the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, the JACL has long been committed to ending the cycle of violence caused by racial tension, and the recent rise in messages of hate creates deep cause for concern.

The JACL urges all citizens to demand stronger enforcement of laws prohibiting such threatening displays in the hopes that communities can curb the recent epidemic of hate.

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The Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization founded in 1929, is focused on protecting the civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and is committed to protecting the rights of all segments of the Asian Pacific American community.