

# JACL

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## **JACL URGES THAT POLICE SPARE NO RESOURCES IN PURSUING THE KILLING OF AN ASIAN FISHERMAN**

The Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, is deeply disturbed by police speculation that the death of Yu Doan, based on investigation of the facts, may be a hate crime.

Our concern is heightened because this does not appear to be an isolated incident and the perpetrators are still at-large. Shortly before Doan was pushed into Chicago's Lake Michigan and drowned, another fisherman of Asian descent was harassed and spat on; only a month earlier, a man described as having Asian features was also accosted and shoved into the water.

If, as it appears from this pattern of violence, Asian Americans are being targeted, members of our community should exercise all due caution by not putting themselves at risk in situations similar to that of Mr. Doan.

The Asian American community vividly recalls in 2000, when for months, Asian American women were being targeted and sexually assaulted in Chicago and in the northern suburbs. The actions by the attacker caused Asian American women to feel apprehension and fear until an arrest was made in the case. Unlike that case, if the facts warrant, it will be important for prosecutors to file hate crime charges in Mr. Doan's case as a way of sending a clear message that acts of violence motivated by bias will not be tolerated.

The JACL urges that the Chicago Police Department spare no resources in pursuing those responsible for this vicious crime, which will hopefully result in early arrests so that Asian Americans needn't fear the sense of vulnerability raised by hate crimes.

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