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Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Chair and Vice Chair Issue Statement on Horrific Murders in Atlanta

Sacramento, CA – The California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus is heartbroken over the eight people killed in Atlanta, six of whom were Asian American women. Today, we mourn with our fellow community members.

Last night, a white male targeted three massage parlors and murdered eight people in Atlanta. Six of the eight victims were Asian women. Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a sharp increase in attacks against the Asian community. The *Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center* received over 3,700 incidents of anti-Asian attacks nationwide. The elderly and women are more likely to be targeted with women reporting 2.3 times more frequently than men.

Almost half of the anti-Asian attacks have occurred in California. In 2021 alone, there are have been over 500 reports of anti-Asian discrimination and most have occurred in the Bay Area.

“We send our condolences and support to the families and friends of the victims of this horrific attack. The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus stands with you. We will not let hate and fear win,” says **Senator Richard Pan (D-Sacramento), Chair of the API Legislative Caucus**. “Hate and violence have been directed against the Asian Pacific Islander community in America since the 1800s and our community has too often been made invisible and silent in our own country. Asian American and Pacific Islander voices must be lifted and our stories told. Six women were murdered by white supremacy. They were mothers, sisters, daughters, and women whose stories deserve to be heard and understood by all.”

“The horrific murders in Atlanta — eight people dead, including six Asian American women — have me balancing rage, utter sadness and despair. Murder is always a form of hate, whether it's pre-meditated or a crime committed in a heat of passion, but this attack feels particularly cruel in light of the spike in anti-Asian and Pacific Islander American hate crimes over the last year. Right now, we need people to listen. We need people to stand beside the API community. We need people to make our pain their own, so they know how it feels and understand why this can't continue,” said **Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), Vice Chair of the API Legislative Caucus**

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The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. It seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government.

Website of the California API Legislative Caucus: <http://apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov>