

# AAPI Community Response to Rising Anti-Asian Hostility

2024 Committee of 100 Annual Conference

New York, New York

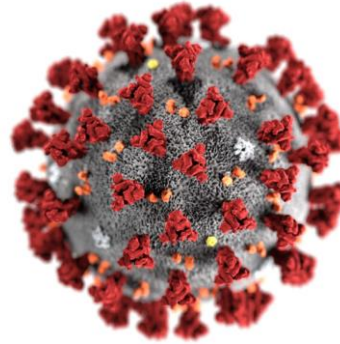
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Founder, APA Justice Task Force; Member, Committee of 100

April 19, 2024

# Asian Americans Face 2 Viruses

1. Coronavirus
2. Social Injustice Virus



## Loyalty questioned

The complaint prosecutors filed against Chen did not accuse him of espionage, but on the morning of his arrest, he was treated like a national security threat. At 6:30 a.m., agents in his house told him to stand in a corner while they went to wake up his wife and daughter.

"My wife was in her sleep," said Chen. "And she told me when she heard the man yell, 'Police! Police!', she thought she was in a dream."

In a press conference following Chen's arrest, then-U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling made plain how the government viewed the stakes of the case.

"The allegations of the complaint imply that this was not just about greed, but about loyalty to China," Lelling said.





# Chinese Exclusion and the U.S. Congress: A Legislative History

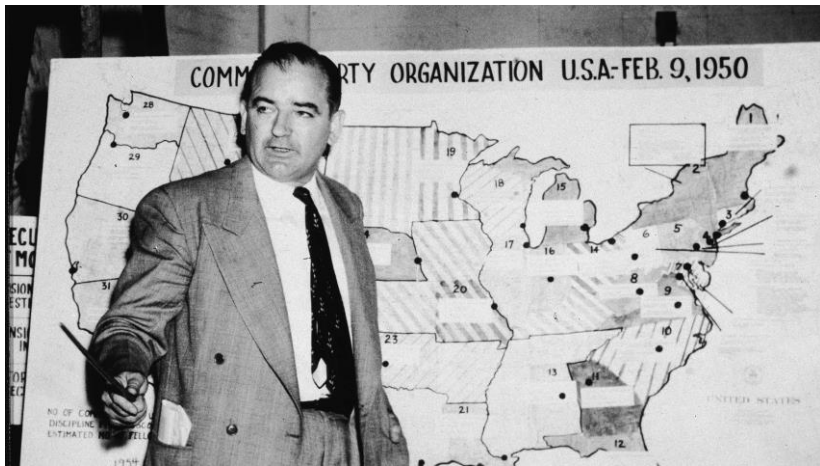


## Anti-Asian Hostility is Not New

Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943)  
 Japanese Internment (125,284+)  
 Vincent Chin (1982)  
 Wen Ho Lee (1999)  
 Sherry Chen, Xiaoxing Xi, ...  
 Baimadajie Angwang, Gang Chen, Yanping Chen, Anming Hu, Franklin Tao, Qing Wang, ...

Bawi Cung, Daoyou Feng, Hyun June Grant, Park Ho, Danny Kim, Suncha Kim, Christina Yuna Lee, Chang Lim, Kert Lin, Guiying Ma, Noriko Nasu, Soon Chung Park, Noel Quintana, Vicha Ratanapakdee, Xiaojie Tan, William Yu, Yong Ae Yue, ...  
 Tens of thousands of nameless and faceless victims...





## Racial Profiling And Xenophobia Will Not Go Away Soon

- Attempts to relaunch the “China Initiative”
- Onslaught of “Alien Land Laws”
- Return of “Red Scare” and “McCarthyism”
- US-China tensions in a presidential election year



— U.S. Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.), U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.)  
Getty Images



# General Observations on Asian American Community Response

- A multifaceted challenge with deep roots and new symptoms
- No singular, effective, one-size-fits all strategy or action
- Requires collective resilience and unwavering resolve
  
- Draw from historical lessons and experts
- Learn, refresh, and innovate
  
- Faith in fundamental American values in a nation built primarily by immigrants





# 1. We Are Not Alone

- Changing demographics
- Federal and state elected officials
- Academic and civil rights communities



**Final Tally - 03/03/2022**

**Endorsers of Stanford Letter**

Stanford University:	<b>177</b>
University of California Berkeley:	<b>214</b>
Temple University:	<b>167</b>
Princeton University:	<b>198</b>
University of Michigan:	<b>430</b>
Southern Illinois University Faculty Senate:	<b>53</b>
Yale University:	<b>192</b>
University of California Irvine:	<b>92</b>
University of Pennsylvania:	<b>168*</b>
Baylor College of Medicine:	<b>219</b>
APA Justice nationwide campaign:	<b>1,209</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,119</b>

\* Updated on 2022/02/12



Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles  
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Washington (AAJC)  
 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
 Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA)  
 Asian Services in Action (ASIA)  
 Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.)  
 Committee of 100 (C100)  
 Council of Korean Americans (CKA)  
 Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
 Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)  
 OCA - Asian American Advocates (OCA)  
 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
 United Chinese Americans (UCA)

Organizations listed alphabetically; list in formation

For further information, please contact Frank H. Wu, Chairman, Committee of 100, at [chair@committee100.org](mailto:chair@committee100.org) or 212-371-6565.



# 2. Use of Technology and Information

- Webinars and virtual events
- Tell our stories
- Educate and advocate

**DEMOCRATIC MEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

Researching while Chinese American: Ethnic Profiling, Chinese American Scientists and a New American Brain Drain.

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:30 PM

Reflecting on Professor Gang Chen's Case and Looking Ahead to the Future of the China Initiative

Keynote Speaker: Ted Lieu (Member of the US House of Representatives)

Panelists: Gang Chen (Professor of Power Engineering at MIT), Robert Fisher (Partner in Nixon Peabody), Margaret Lewis (Professor of Law at Seton Hall University)

Moderator: Michael German (Fellow, Liberty and National Security Program, Brennan Center at NYU)

11am-12:30pm EST, January 30<sup>th</sup> (Sunday), 2022

Logos: AASF, AAASE, ADVANCING JUSTICE, APA Justice, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

**MIT Technology Review**

Featured Topics Newsletters Events Podcasts MY ACCOUNT

**POLICY**

**The US crackdown on Chinese economic espionage is a mess. We have the data to show it.**

The US government's China Initiative sought to protect national security. In the most comprehensive analysis of cases to date, MIT Technology Review reveals how far it has strayed from its goals.

**MIT Technology Review**

Featured Topics Newsletters Events Podcasts MY ACCOUNT

**POLICY**

**We built a database to understand the China Initiative. Then the government changed its records.**

Our monthslong investigation revealed a major DOJ effort troubled by shifting narratives and a lack of focus. Here's how we got the facts.

# The China Initiative

**Timeline of Major Events**

- 1. DOJ launched China Initiative** (Nov 1, 2018): U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the China Initiative to combat national security threats and economic espionage originating from the People's Republic of China.
- 2. Attempted Dialogue with FBI Failed** (Dec 7, 2018): A series of meetings between the DOJ and the FBI failed to resolve concerns regarding the China Initiative.
- 3. Media Reports on Purge by FBI and FBI** (Apr 19, 2019): Media reports revealed that the FBI was purging Chinese American scientists and researchers from its database.
- 4. Shift to Profiling Scientists of Chinese Origin** (Aug 21, 2019): The focus of the China Initiative shifted from economic espionage to targeting scientists of Chinese origin.
- 5. Communities Respond with Resilience** (Feb 27, 2020): Communities across the country organized protests and rallies in support of Chinese American scientists and researchers.
- 6. Letter to President-Elect Biden to End China Initiative** (Jan 9, 2021): A coalition of scientists and researchers wrote a letter to President-Elect Joe Biden asking him to end the China Initiative.
- 7. Congressional Roundtable on Racial Profiling** (Jun 30, 2021): A roundtable discussion on racial profiling and the impact of the China Initiative on Chinese American scientists and researchers.
- 8. Five Visa Fraud Cases Dismissed** (Jul 22, 2021): The DOJ announced that it had dismissed five visa fraud cases against Chinese American scientists and researchers.
- 9. Stanford Faculty Starts Nationwide Campaign to End China Initiative** (Sep 9, 2021): Stanford University faculty members launched a nationwide campaign to end the China Initiative.
- 10. The China Initiative Drawing and Out of Control** (Sep 15, 2021): A report from the Brennan Center for Justice stated that the China Initiative was drawing and out of control.
- 11. MIT Technology Review Investigative Reports** (Dec 2, 2021): MIT Technology Review published two investigative reports on the China Initiative, revealing a major DOJ effort troubled by shifting narratives and a lack of focus.
- 12. China Initiative Ends** (Feb 28, 2022): President Joe Biden announced the end of the China Initiative.

**Federal and State Bills Prohibiting Property Ownership by Foreign Individuals and Entities**

Select bill provisions:

Entities prohibited from owning property:  Properties prohibited from ownership:

At least one category:  At least one category:

State considered a bill that includes all selected provisions:

- Yes
- No

**Here are some key takeaways from our research. In 2023...**

- 121 bills limiting or prohibiting property ownership by foreign citizens and/or entities were considered by 36 states (113 bills) and Congress (8 bills)
- Of the 121 total bills, 18 passed and were signed into law in 15 states
- Of the 121 total bills, 77 were considered that explicitly mention or target Chinese citizens
- Of the 77 bills that explicitly mention or target Chinese citizens, 5 passed and were signed into law in 5 states

Tracking of federal and state bills for the 2024 legislation sessions is in progress.





### 3. Litigation

Florida Alien Land Law SB 264  
Shen v. Simpson (4:23-cv-00208)

Florida Higher Education Bans SB 846  
Yin v. Diaz (1:24-cv-21129)

Victim's Rights  
Le v. Boudin (3:22-cv-477)

Baseless Arrest & Warrantless Surveillance  
Xi v. Haugen (2:17-cv-02132)

False Arrest and Civil Conspiracy  
Chen v. USA (1:19-cv-00045)

Birthright Citizenship  
Wong Kim Ark v. USA 169 US 649 (1898)

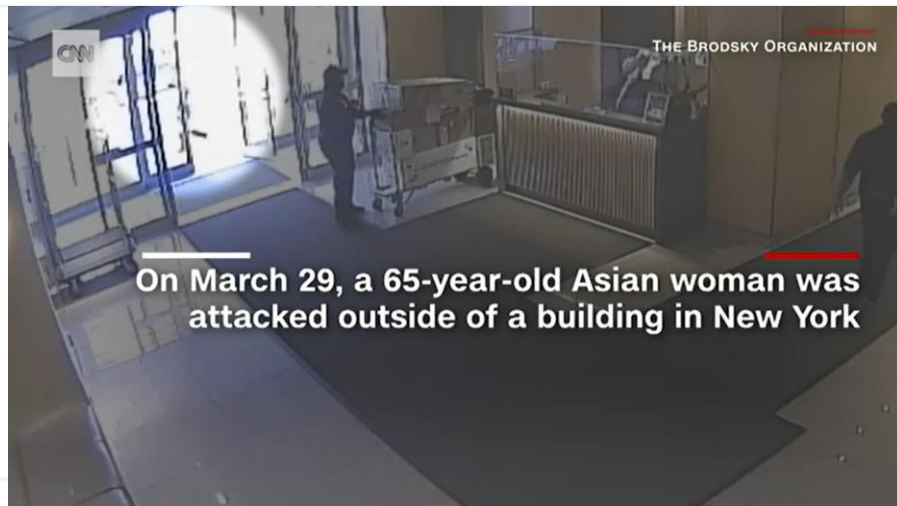




# Community Responses

- Advocate
- Educate
- Mobilize
- Coalition building
- Civic engagement
- Collect data and information
- Work with media
- Litigate

- **The Yellow Whistle**



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**IN AMERICA, YELLOW HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED AGAINST ASIANS AS THE COLOR OF XENOPHOBIA.**

**THE YELLOW WHISTLE™ IS A SYMBOL OF SELF-PROTECTION AND SOLIDARITY IN OUR COMMON FIGHT AGAINST HISTORICAL DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE. THE WHISTLE IS A SIMPLE GADGET WITH A UNIVERSAL PURPOSE—TO SIGNAL ALARM AND CALL FOR HELP—FOR ALL AMERICANS.**

**WE SHALL NOT REMAIN SILENT, BECAUSE WE BELONG™.**

# Thank You

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