

More on Call for House Hearing

"To date, Congress has held numerous hearings focused only on the espionage threat, and has not addressed the civil rights violations of Chinese Americans who have been wrongly targeted." This is part of the letter Maryland Senate Majority Whip Susan Lee and Dr. Terry Lierman pointed out to Rep. Jamie Raskin, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. APA Justice is committed to help the effort for reputable organizations and prominent individuals to co-sign the letter. Please contact Steven Pei, Vincent Wang, or Jeremy Wu directly or send an email to contact@apajustice.org if you wish to join. Deadline is December 20, 2020.

SCOTUS Ruling and Right to Sue, FBI Coercion, and Unreliable Informants

On December 10, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled **unanimously** that three Muslim men may seek monetary damages from the government agents they say placed them on a no-fly list because they refused to become FBI informants. According to [NPR](#), Justice Clarence Thomas noted that money damages have long been authorized in American law, dating back to the founding of the republic. And he pointed specifically to a post-Civil War statute that provides for damages against government officials who act "under color of state law" to deprive people of their constitutional rights.

Reporter Laura Secor shared a similar story about Iranian scientist [Sirous Asgari](#) in her "[The Man Who Refused to Spy](#)" report in the [October 2020 APA Justice meeting](#).

Use of informants has its rewards and risks for law enforcement. It depends heavily on the credibility of the informant and a check and balance system in the Department of Justice's [Guidelines Regarding the Use of Confidential Informants](#) for the FBI. However, the system was broken in the [Franklin Tao case](#) when it was started by a "disgruntled, unpaid visiting scholar" who failed "to extort Dr. Tao for \$300,000" and the [Sherry Chen case](#) when a fellow federal employee, who was later promoted into the Senior Executive Service,

accused her to be “a U.S. Citizen, but a Chinese National” and a spy for China.

GoFundMe for Anti-Hate Crime Hero and Victim Zach Owen

A GoFundMe campaign for Zach Owen was started on December 8, 2020, led by the ACP Foundation (Qiang Gan), OCA Greater Houston (H. Chang and Cecil Fong), Reagan Hignojos, United Chinese Americans (Steven Pei), and APAPA Austin Texas Chapter (CJ Zhao). As of the moment when this newsletter was released, over 2,400 people have contributed a total of over \$102,000 in 5 days. Visit <https://gf.me/u/zbvzbzr>.

Watch this Tri-Caucus Congressional Forum on "Rise in Anti-Asian Bigotry during the COVID-19 Pandemic" hosted by CAPAC about Zach: https://youtu.be/9yinW2_m-II.

Honor, Protest, Diversity, and More

On December 9, 2020, [NBC News](#) reported that Congress presented the Congressional Gold Medal - the US's highest civilian award - to about 20,000 Chinese Americans. Despite the many barriers, Chinese Americans joined the military and fought for a country that banned their new entries under the Chinese Exclusion Act, a restriction that wasn't repealed until 1943, and created an environment of inequality for Chinese people. An estimated 40 percent of veterans with Chinese ancestry who were not U.S. citizens would end up fighting in one of the deadliest military conflicts in history.

On December 10, 2020, the South China Morning Post reported on [Chinese-Americans protest US Senator Marsha Blackburn's tweet over China's 'cheating and stealing'](#). The Tennessee senator tweeted a week earlier that "China has a 5,000 year history of cheating and stealing." Members of the community said the level of hostility and vitriol they have been experiencing has reached a boiling point. On December 12, 2020, Nashville News 4 reported [another protest against Senator Blackburn](#) in the capital of Tennessee.

On December 7, 2020, the Washington Post reported that [Asian American leaders press Biden for more diverse Cabinet picks](#). CAPAC members met virtually with some of President-elect Joe Biden's transition team to express their growing

concern that there will be insufficient Asian American representation in top-tier spots in Biden's administration.

On December 9, 2020, the New York Times reported [Biden Picks Katherine Tai as Trade Representative](#).

On August 31, 2020, McKinsey & Co. published a report titled [COVID19 and advancing Asian American recovery](#) on how the pandemic has disproportionately affected the Asian American communities.

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