



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE/JACL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JACL CALLS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT TO FULLY INVESTIGATE BEATING DEATH OF SOUTH ASIAN IN NEW JERSEY

Divyendu Sinha and his sons were out for a walk when they were attacked by a group of teenage boys outside their home in Old Bridge, New Jersey. Sinha, a 49 year-old scientist, died on Monday, three days following the attack.

The JACL has contacted the Middlesex County prosecutor's office urging them to fully investigate the crime. In a letter sent to Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan, JACL Midwest Director, Bill Yoshino urged a vigorous prosecution of those responsible for Sinha's death.

According to news accounts, South Asians living in Old Bridge have reported daily harassment and intimidation, especially by teenagers. Old Bridge has a predominately white population of 70,000 residents. In recent years, South Asians have moved into the community and now comprise approximately six percent of the population. This growth in the South Asian population is reflected in nearby communities such as Edison, which is predominately South Asian. In the letter, Yoshino noted. "It is also clear that ethnic tension and hate crimes are caused by changing demographics when ethnic groups move into communities that have not previously experienced their presence."

Finally, in pressing for hate crime charges if they are warranted, Yoshino said, "The South Asian community and all groups living in Old Bridge must be reassured that they needn't live in fear or isolation because of their ethnic identity."

End

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization. Visit the JACL website for information or to join the organization: www.jacl.org.