

JACL

Midwest Office

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July 8, 2010

Mr. Bruce Kaplan
Prosecutor, Middlesex County
Public Safety Buidling
25 Kirkpatrick Street, Floor 3
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

The savage attacks by teenage boys on members of a South Asian family in Old Bridge, which resulted in the death of Divyendu Sinha is appalling and detestable. As the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) urges law enforcement authorities in Old Bridge and Middlesex County to fully investigate this crime and to vigorously prosecute those who are responsible for Mr. Sinha's death.

This deplorable incident is especially troubling because of the possibility that ethnic bias may have been a motivating factor. In recent years the South Asian population has increased dramatically in Old Bridge as well as in surrounding communities such as Edison. 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.

If the facts and circumstances of the crime warrant hate crime charges, they must be filed to send a clear message that bias-motivated behavior will not be tolerated in your community. 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.

Sincerely,

William Yoshino
Midwest Director
Japanese American Citizens League