



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
DC Office: 1828 L Street NW, Suite 802 • Washington, DC • 20036
Phone: (202) 223-1240 • Fax: (202) 296-8082 • E-mail: natdir@jacl.org

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director

June 10, 2009

natdir@jacl.org or 202-223-1240

JACL DISMAYED AT U.S. HOLOCAUST MUSEUM SHOOTING

Washington, D.C. -- Members of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) are dismayed and appalled at the shooting at the U.S. Holocaust Museum which resulted in the death of a courageous museum security guard.

The JACL, which was organized in 1929 by Second Generation Japanese Americans to fight discrimination and prejudice, is commemorating its eightieth year. The JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation. Civil rights continue to be at the forefront of the mission of the JACL as the organization strives to help ensure the civil rights of all people who face injustice and discrimination. The JACL has strong alliances with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and other national civil rights organizations.

National Executive Director of the JACL, Floyd Mori, commented: "Crimes of hate adversely impact entire communities and the nation. This action at the U.S. Holocaust Museum emphasizes the need for continued vigilance in fighting against hate and the need for continued education in order to avert such tragedies in the future. Strong anti-hate crime legislation is absolutely essential. Hateful actions and attitudes toward any particular group of people are contrary to the values of our country and the foundations upon which our principles of justice are based. It is extremely unfortunate that this type of hatred continues to exist in this world."

The Holocaust Museum is a reminder to millions of visitors of the evils inflicted upon the Jewish people by the Nazi regime during difficult times. The anti-Semitism and prejudice which caused the holocaust should not be allowed to continue in today's society.

Eighty-eight-year-old James von Brunn, who allegedly walked into the museum with a gun and opened fire, has a website which indicates that he is a white supremacist who denies the validity of the holocaust. He was once convicted and went to prison for an attempted attack on the Federal Reserve.

Larry Oda, National President of the JACL, said, "Because of the discrimination inflicted upon the Japanese Americans during World War II when 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes and placed in concentration camps, the JACL is acutely aware of the results of hate and prejudice. We are sickened by this hateful act at the Holocaust Museum and offer condolences to the family and friends of the slain guard."

#####