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**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE SHOOTINGS AND MURDERS OF SOON CHUNG PARK,  
HYUN JUNG GRANT, SUNCHAK KIM, YONG AE YUE, DELAINA ASHLEY YAUN, PAUL ANDRE  
MICHELS, XIAOJIE TAN, AND DAOYOU FENG IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

On March 16, 2021, eight people were shot and killed at three Asian-owned spas in the Atlanta area in Georgia. A ninth person was shot and hospitalized. Six of those killed were Asian women, four of whom were Korean.

Our hearts go out to Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Sunchak Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng, and their loved ones. We extend our hope for recovery to Elcias Hernandez-Ortiz, who was gravely injured and hospitalized. And our condolences and support go out to the Korean and Asian American community in the Atlanta area.

This irrational act of violence is but the latest of thousands against Asians and Asian-Americans that have been reported in just the last year. Stop AAPI Hate, a nonprofit organization that runs the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center, received reports of 3,795 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021. 503 of those incidents were reported in 2021 alone. 11.1% of these incidents were physical assaults, meaning that hundreds of Asians and Asian-Americans have had their physical safety violated in the past year. Women have reported hate incidents 2.3 times more than men, and 70.5% of all reported incidents have occurred in spaces open to the public (businesses, public streets, and public parks). These reports have come from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Simply put, these incidents have been occurring before our eyes in every corner of the country. No place has been safe.

Even as we grapple with shock and grief in response to these murders, violence against Asians and Asian-Americans is not new. The worsening racism against Asians in the past year is only the most recent wave of anti-Asian hate crimes in this country's history. The reality is that a culture and history of anti-Asian sentiment has existed in this country for as long as Asians have lived here. The violence against mostly Asian women in last week's shooting also reflects this country's long and unfettered history of racism, sexism, and misogyny against **Asian women** in particular. Any suggestion that these murders have nothing to do with anti-Asian animus and its intersectionality with sexism reflects ignorance of this history and the lived experiences of Asians in this country.

The shootings in Atlanta, Georgia are hate crimes. We must recognize racist and gender-based violence for what it is to effectively call out, denounce, and dismantle anti-Asian hate and rhetoric.

Korean American Bar Association of Washington