



# EDITORIAL

## *U.S. Asian shootings a stain worldwide*

Shootings at three massage parlors in Atlanta on March 16 left eight people dead, many of them women of Asian descent. 21-year-old Robert Long, of Woodstock, Georgia, the principle suspect for the shootings, was arrested after a manhunt. Long frequented some of the spas where the shootings happened.

The first shooting happened around 5:00 pm on March 16 at the Young's Asian Massage Parlor in Acworth, a suburb north of Atlanta. Two people died at the scene and three were taken to hospital, where two of them died.

A short time later, three more people were found dead at the Gold Massage Spa on Piedmont Road in Atlanta, and one person was also found dead at the Aroma-Therapy Spa, directly across the street.

The victims included six Asian women, one white woman and one white man. South Korea later confirmed that four of the victims were of Korean descent. Officials revealed the names of all eight victims, including Daoyou Feng, 44; Delaina Ashley Yaun, 33; Hyun Jung Grant, 51; Paul Andre Michels, 54; Soon Chung Park, 74; Suncha Kim, 69; Yong Ae Yue, 63 and Xiaojie Tan, 49, who owned one of the massage businesses. The ninth victim, the only injured survivor, was Elcias R. Hernandez-Ortiz, 30.

The motive for the crime is unknown, but there are fears it may have consciously aimed

at people of Asian descent. President Joe Biden, who met with Asian-American leaders in Atlanta the following Friday, said the shootings were based on anti-Asian racism.

“Too many Asian Americans have been walking up and down the streets and worry,



*Asian-Americans in Taiwan during a demonstration in Taipei March 26*

waking up each morning this past year fearing for their safety, the safety of their loved ones,” Biden said.

Anti-Asian violence in the U.S has increased over the past few months, partly due to opinions blaming them for the spread of COVID-19. Asian Americans have reported being targeted at least 500 times in the first two months of 2021, according to the organization Stop AAPI Hate. The majority of these were verbal harassment, while 11% involved physical assaults. The killings last week could well be the latest example of such violence.

Asian Americans have been part of the American tapestry for more than 100 years, and this is not the first time Asians have experienced profound discrimination. The Chi-

nese Exclusion Act in the U.S. in the 19th century codified anti-Asian discrimination, making immigration illegal and barring existing Chinese-Americans from becoming citizens. This discrimination went on until the 1940s. In WW II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established Japanese-American internment camps, a stain on the nation's history that was not rectified until President Ronald Reagan issued a formal apology and made in 1988, and the U.S. paid remuneration to survivors.

Our world has entered the third decade of the 21st century with an increasingly inclusive appearance. This must be the time that all people in the world should create equal and harmonious relationships with each other. Putting an end to racism would be a milestone representing our developed and civilized world. The need to "Stop Asian Hate" is not just a U.S. or European challenge. It is a world challenge. “You're here, supposedly, in a new land full of opportunity, but somehow have gotten trapped in a pretend version of the old country” said American writer Charles Yu.

Art by *Taipei Times*

Readers, if you have any comments please write and we will publish it next issue. Send to [dpendery@ntub.edu.tw](mailto:dpendery@ntub.edu.tw).



# *Pineapple Transnational War—Are Taiwanese industries ready against Chinese economic sanctions?*

By staff writer Gigi Chen

*The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China issued a notification on February 26th announcing that China would suspend the import of Taiwanese pineapples, officially taking effect on March 1, 2021. China said that they have detected poisonous substances in Taiwanese pineapples, and the spokesperson of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council said that in order to prevent the risk of plant epidemics, suspending the export of Taiwanese pineapples to China was a normal biosafety precaution, in accordance with China's legal norms and standards. However, Taiwan said that the quality rate of the pineapples exported to China reached up to 99.79% last year.*

## *Eat Pineapples to Support Taiwan*

The Council of Agriculture in Taiwan has said that all pineapples exported to China and another 16 countries were in accordance with the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO), so they do not accept the prohibition. President Tsai Ing-Wen posted on Facebook to urge Taiwanese people to “Eat Pineapples to Support Taiwan.” She said the quality rate of Tai-

wanese pineapples exported to China was fully sufficient, and the “The fact that China unilaterally suspended the import of Taiwanese pineapples is obviously out of consideration of normal trade.”

## *Taiwanese Pineapples Are Mainly Exported to China*

The Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan stated that China has simply used political considerations to ban the import of Taiwanese agricultural products and exert economic pressure on Taiwan, with the aim of disturbing the public sentiment in Taiwanese society. In the contrary, the Chinese Nationalist Party stated that whether Taiwanese pineapples carried diseases had to be scientifically confirmed, and Taiwan and China should make contact with each other to resolve disputes. According to statistics of the ROC Council of Agriculture, the Chinese market accounts for more than 90% of Taiwanese pineapples exports. Last year, about 46,000 tons of pineapples were exported to China, although about 90% of Taiwanese pineapples are for domestic sales in Taiwan, with exports only accounting for 10% of the annual output.

Therefore, increasing domestic sales can stabilize prices.

## *Japanese People Are Panic Buying Taiwanese Pineapples*

After Japanese media reported the China/Taiwan pineapple incident, it set off panic buying by Japanese people. Although the price of Taiwanese pineapples is higher than Philippine's pineapples in Japanese markets, they are still sold out. Social media users in Japan shared photos showing supermarket shelves stripped clean of Taiwanese pineapples as well as recipes and advice on where to find the much-loved fruit. The Council of Agriculture said that the number of Taiwanese pineapples exported to Japan has tripled since last year, a new high.

And indeed, news reports said that consumers across Asia were snapping up Taiwanese pineapples in an act of solidarity. Wholesalers in Hong Kong say they have seen a rise in people wanting to show their backing for Taiwan. Australia also placed large orders for Taiwan pineapples, according to agricultural experts.

Art by <https://www.bing.com/>

