

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 1, 2021

**Asian Canadian Communities' Impact Statement on the Prosecution of Joseph O'Sullivan Martinez**

TORONTO - In response to the guilty plea of a hate motivated attacker in court on Friday October 1, 2021, Chinese Canadian advocates will present a statement that speaks to the negative impact of hate crimes on Asian Canadian victims and communities as a whole.

[Joseph O'Sullivan Martinez](#), 26, pleaded guilty to several hate-related charges in provincial court connected to attacks on Asian Canadians last spring. The attacks took place on April 9 and 11, 2021 at two TTC subway stations. They involved spitting at all of his victims and yelling racial slurs at one woman. Martinez was arrested on May 5, 2021.

"We are shocked, hurt, and angered that this predator -- this coward -- would target our communities' women and elders, simply for the color of their skin," said Ryan Chan, Project Lead for the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice (CCNC-SJ), delivered the joint statement on behalf of both CCNC-SJ and the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNCTO).

"Crimes like these have disrupted the lives of Asian Canadians across the country, forcing many to stay away from public places for fear of their safety," Chan said. He added that "Asian Canadians generally face much higher levels of poverty compared to Canada's population as a whole, and have suffered economically as well during the pandemic. Targeted hate motivated crimes like this put our front line workers at higher risks of harm and threaten their livelihood."

As of June 2021, more than 1,500 self-reported incidents of anti-Asian racism have taken place across Canada. Many of these attacks have been violent. Community advocates say the number of actual attacks is much higher.

One year ago, a group of community organizations issued a report entitled, "A Year of Racist Attacks: Anti-Asian Racism Across Canada One Year into the COVID-19 Pandemic." The report indicated the following:

- Canada has a higher number of anti-Asian racism reports per capita than the US
- Women are impacted the most, reporting 60% of all incidents
- Verbal abuse and harassment are widespread, occurring in 65% of all reported incidents
- Nearly 30% of reported incidents are assault, including targeted coughing, spitting and physical attacks and violence.

**For more information, please contact:**

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