



American Citizens for Justice
P.O. Box 1019
Royal Oak, Michigan 48068

January 2, 1984

Mr. Robert Eng
Asian American Coalition for Justice
31 Henry St.
New York, NY 10002

Dear Mr. Eng,

As the new year begins, the nine months of intensive national effort which brought the Vincent Chin case to the U.S. Department of Justice is getting closer to what we've been seeking: a fair trial with the hope of obtaining equal justice for Vincent Chin and all Asian Americans. I would like to take this opportunity to bring you and your network of supporters up to date on the current status of events affecting this case, on the attached summary sheet. In addition, I have enclosed some of the major documents pertaining to recent events and a current financial report.

On behalf of Mrs. Lily Chin, the members and supporters of the American Citizens for Justice, and the many people across the country who are behind us in our pursuit of justice for Vincent Chin and equality for all Asian Americans, we would like to express our profound gratitude to your group and the other organizations involved in the support coalition, and all those in the New York area whose support and hard work has been vital to our common cause. We hope that you can convey our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped in this effort.

Over the past few months, the ACJ has continued to be extremely busy monitoring the legal efforts, coordinating the various national activities, and promoting the national and local press coverage. We continue to run on an all-volunteer force with no office or overhead; while this has saved us a considerable amount of money, it has also been frustrating and inefficient for you and us at times. Yet even though the U.S. attorneys will be representing us, and even though the state appeal has been filed, in a sense there is now even more to do, because we must take advantage of the national attention we have garnered to make sure there will never be another Vincent Chin case.

In order to maintain our legal monitoring activities and push forward our efforts to educate law-makers and the public to oppose racial scapegoating, we will be taking a number of steps toward organizational stability. Firstly, we have begun a search for inexpensive or free office space and have committed ourselves to some kind of minimum level of office staffing to ensure that the necessary paperwork gets done, such as sending the latest information to our supporters, or responding to the high volume of inquiries we have received.

Secondly, we are planning to prepare some written resource material that will provide other groups with the knowledge that we have gained from the Vincent Chin case, such as establishing a legal support and fundraising network, and how to do publicity.

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Some of you will ask, and rightfully so, how we will be planning to fund these activities? We will continue in our fundraising efforts; to prevent any misunderstanding on what individual contributions are being used for, we have established segregated financial accounts for expenses related to the legal work in the Vincent Chin case, and another account to be used for broader educational and coalition work. To date, all of the funds have been used to support the Vincent Chin case, with over 75% going directly to legal fees and expenses, and the rest toward costs like printing, postage, phonecalls and travel. But to avoid any confusion or concern in the future, we are requesting that those who wish to direct their contribution to either fund to specify so on the check.

In addition to segregating our accounts, we are in the process of establishing our Advisory Council which will serve in an advisory capacity on matters of finance and policy to the officers and executive board of the ACJ. We would like to invite you or another designated representative from your organization to serve on this council. The council will be composed of individuals and representatives of organizations who have exhibited a commitment to the goals and ideals of the ACJ. There are about a dozen Detroit-area groups which have been invited to serve on the council, and about an equal number of national or non-local groups. A meeting of the local Advisory Council members (and whoever else would like to attend) will be held early this year to set forth the parameters of the council, which at this point would be mainly to improve communications and obtain the advice and input from members of the council.

These actions are not only necessary to ensure stability in our efforts, but to prevent such a racial attack, or miscarriage of justice, from occurring to any other Asian American. Mrs. Lily Chin often says, "I don't want any other mother to suffer like me." Although there has been racial harassment against Asian Americans ever since we set foot on this land, never before have we been so organized as one to do something to change things for the good of our children and for generations yet to come. This is our responsibility to them and to ourselves. This is what the ACJ sees as the task before us, and we hope that we will have your continued support, because none of us can do it alone.

Ever since the circumstances surrounding the murder of Vincent Chin thrust our Asian community into the national limelight, we have taken our responsibilities to the Asian American population very seriously and have tried to represent our brothers and sisters well. Make no mistake, whatever differences that may have arisen among the various groups that make up our many distinguished nationalities, our approach has been to seek a united and cooperative effort without compromising our goal of equality and justice.

Once again, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of you, because we would clearly not have achieved so much without the support and hard work of your committee and community. We look forward to continuing to join hands across the country with you in our cause of equality and justice for Vincent Chin and all Asian Americans.

With highest regards,



Helen Y. Zia
President,

On Behalf of the ACJ Executive Board