

WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PENTAGON ATTACKS: THE ANTI-ASIAN AMERICAN BACKLASH

Partial List of Reported Incidents (as of October 11, 2001)

*compiled by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
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**To report an incident or receive free legal assistance,
call AALDEF at 212.966.5932 or email legal@aaldef.org**

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) sends condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. We condemn these acts of terrorist violence against innocent people.

We also are concerned about reports of harassment, intimidation and violence against South Asian Americans, particularly Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sikhs and other Indians in New York City and across the country. We call on all New Yorkers and all Americans to speak out against the backlash that has targeted law-abiding South Asian, Arab, Middle Eastern, and Muslim communities and individuals.

The list below includes brief descriptions about incidents of anti-Asian American violence, as reported to AALDEF staff, volunteers, and cooperating attorneys. Other groups are also collecting anti-Asian American hate crime statistics, so this should not be considered a comprehensive listing of all anti-Asian American hate crimes since the September 11 attacks. The list includes reports of vandalism, assaults, and other serious crimes that have not received widespread media attention or have not yet been reported to law enforcement agencies. We urge all media outlets to provide full coverage of bias incidents against Muslim Americans, South Asian Americans and others in the wake of the September 11 attacks and to investigate allegations of racial and ethnic profiling.

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State	Date	Incident
Arizona	09/15/01	A gunman drove to a Mesa gas station and fired three shots, killing its Sikh owner, Balbir Singh Sodhi. In a wild rampage, the gunman drove to another gas station and shot at the Lebanese American owner, and then fired shots into the home of an Afghan family. Mr. Sodhi was the father of three sons, ages 22, 24, 27. He was planning to return to India in November to live with his youngest son and wife. The assailant, Frank Roque, was charged with one count of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder, and three counts of drive-by shooting.
California	09/12/01	A Sikh student was verbally harassed and physically assaulted by classmates at a Fremont high school.

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California	09/13/01	In San Francisco, a vandal threw a bag of blood on the doorstep of an immigration center that serves Arabs and the city's large Asian population. He also threw a large plastic bag labeled "pig's blood" on the front door of Minority Assistance Services in the Mission District. Police have arrested Michael James, whose image was captured on a surveillance camera.
California	09/13/01	A Molotov cocktail was thrown into a Sikh household, injuring a 3-year old boy. The device was defective and did not ignite.
California	09/14/01	An Indian American walking in the South of Market area of San Francisco was beaten and stabbed by a gang of individuals yelling anti-Black and anti-Arab epithets.
California	09/14/01	A drunken white man followed and threatened to kill an Indian man as he was walking the streets of Palo Alto. The victim walked into a store for safety and called the police. The white man waited outside, until approached and arrested by police.
California	09/17/01	In Los Angeles, a Pakistani man parked his vehicle at the Glendale Galleria Mall and returned to find it scratched across the right side with the words "Nuke 'em" written all over.
California	09/18/01	Police found the body of an elderly Sikh man in an irrigation canal in Ceres. His turban was gone, but his wallet was found on his person; no money was missing. His family had reported him missing two days prior.
California	09/30/01	Swaran Kaur Bhallar, a Sikh in San Diego County, was stabbed in the head by two men on a motorcycle while stopped at a red light. Police are investigating.
Colorado	09/13/01	A Sikh household was vandalized in Colorado Springs. The couple awoke to find their driveway and car spray-painted with graffiti that said "Terrorists" and "Terrorist on board."
Connecticut	09/14/01	A Caucasian male threatened to kill a Pakistani storeowner in Norwich if he did not leave the country.
Connecticut	09/16/01	A Bridgeport mosque was vandalized. Phone lines were cut and "You will all die" was written on the mosque.
Illinois	09/13/01	A Pakistani cab driver was beaten on East Chicago Avenue in Chicago.
Maryland	09/12/01	Passengers spewing anti-Arab hate pushed an Indian American student at the University of Maryland out of a metro train.

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Maryland	09/19/01	Shots were fired at a Sikh man while he was driving along Route 15N in Frederick. Satpreet Singh was followed by a white man in a pickup. Mr. Singh tried to ignore the man, who was making profane gestures and pretending to shoot at Mr. Singh. The man then rolled down his window and took out a rifle and shot his gun. Police are investigating this incident.
Massachusetts	09/13/01	Two teens threw a Molotov cocktail into an Indian-owned convenience store. The teens were charged with assault with the intent to murder, hate crime, possession of an infernal machine, and malicious and willful burning.
Michigan	09/13/01	An Indian American student from the University of Michigan was harassed by two white men as they screamed, "Go back to your country."
New Jersey		Two Sikh men were driving on Route 80 when the drivers of another vehicle slammed into them.
New Jersey		Vandals threw a Molotov cocktail at a Hindu temple in Matawan.
New Jersey	09/11/01	In Atlantic City, a man accused of calling a taxi company and threatening to blow it up unless its taxis were pulled off the road was charged with making terrorist threats.
New Jersey	09/11/01	A Pakistani man in Middlesex County was attacked by seven black men. He was seriously injured and taken to the hospital.
New Jersey	09/11/01	Indian stores in Jersey City were robbed.
New Jersey	09/12/01	A Sikh owned gas station was vandalized with graffiti that read, "Consequences must be rendered. JIHAD has come."
New Jersey	09/12/01	A Bound Brook Sikh family awoke to vandals throwing stones through their living room window at 1 am. The Bound Brook police department has not yet classified the incident as a bias crime.
New Jersey	09/12/01	A South Asian resident was pulled over by a white police officer while driving on Prospect Avenue in Bergenfield. Although there was no formal "checkpoint" in sight, the police demanded that the resident show identification and interrogated him.
New Jersey	09/12/01	Two Collingswood Indian-owned businesses were spraypainted with the words, "leave town."
New Jersey	09/13/01	An East Indian male was stabbed in the arm by a group of white males, who called the victim a "terrorist."

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New Jersey	09/13/01	The 2-year-old daughter of a Woodbridge resident was playing outside her apartment complex when a number of teenagers started to pelt her with stones while yelling racial slurs.
New Jersey	09/14/01	When a South Asian man driving from work in Jersey City to his home in Franklin Township approached a stop sign, a group of people threw garbage and stones at his car while they cursed and told him to "go back to his country." The harassment continued as he drove on Interstate 78, when a car next to him sped up and gestured for him to lower his window. The driver of the other vehicle cursed at him and said, "You did it!"
New Jersey	09/14/01	A Sikh man from Lawrence discovered that his car tires were slashed.
New Jersey	09/16/01	A Pakistani man and his friends were stopped after they left a Burger King in North Brunswick, where police were told a suspicious package was left. The police told the men, "You guys look like terrorists."
New Jersey	09/17/01	After exiting the Rahway train station, an Indian man was chased by 3 white men shouting racial epithets.
New Jersey	09/21/01	The Indian owner of Dominos Pizza in Mercer County received a call with the threats, "You fucking bitch. Go back to India. You fucking Indians. We're going to bomb your fucking asses."
New Jersey	09/26/01	A Hindu woman received call that said, "Fuck you" repeatedly and "Go back to your country. I'll come down to (where you live) and kill you all."
New York		Three Sikh men aboard a train leaving Grand Central Station were singled out by NYPD officers, who asked to search their bags. It was reported that the officers kept saying, "We're sorry we have to do this" after the men asked why their bags were being searched.
New York		A 7-11 shop owned by a Sikh was burned down in Ronkonkoma, Long Island.
New York		Indian stores in Jackson Heights, Queens were vandalized.
New York		A taxi cab driver of South Asian descent was pulled out of his vehicle and beaten.
New York		A 55 year old Pakistani candy store owner was beaten by five African American teenagers.

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New York		A West Indian student at Hunter College High School was asked if he was "Arab or Pakistani" and then beaten by three white classmates until teachers intervened.
New York	09/11/01	A Sikh man in Richmond Hill, Queens (home to a large Indo-Caribbean and Sikh community) was assaulted with a baseball bat and shot at with a BB gun by three Caucasian teenagers. He was seriously injured.
New York	09/11/01	Several South Asian AALDEF volunteers were driving through the town of Hempstead, Long Island approaching Baldwin Road North when the vehicle was pelted with rocks. AALDEF reported the incident to the Hempstead Police Department.
New York	09/11/01	As a Sikh man was running to escape the explosion at the World Trade Center, a group of four unidentified men chased after him, calling him a "terrorist."
New York	09/11/01	Unidentified men with a paintball gun assaulted two Sikh teenage boys in Richmond Hill, Queens. NYPD officers, who witnessed the attack, apprehended the perpetrators.
New York	09/11/01	A Sikh temple in Richmond Hill, Queens was attacked by miscreants who drove by and fired rubber bullets at the building.
New York	09/11/01	A Sikh man driving on Northern State Parkway was stalled in traffic when the passenger in the next car knocked on his window and started cursing, "You fucking Arab raghead, you're all going to die, we're going to kill every one of you." All five of the people in the next car were giving him the finger.
New York	09/12/01	An elderly South Asian couple in Flushing, Queens was shopping for groceries when they were hit in the back by rocks while anti-Muslim epithets were shouted.
New York	09/12/01	A South Asian woman riding a New York City subway was spat on and told that she belonged to the group of people who blew up the World Trade Center.
New York	09/12/01	A South Asian student at the State University of New York at Binghamton was pushed and shoved while his tormentors shouted racial epithets.
New York	09/12/01	A Huntington Station man screamed "[I am] doing this for my country" as he attempted to run down a Pakistani woman with his vehicle. He revved his engine for several minutes, put his car into drive and headed directly at the Pakistani woman standing on the sidewalk.

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New York	09/13/01	A Japanese American Brooklyn resident was leaving the Graham Ave train station when he was followed by several men shouting, "fucking foreigner" and "cocksucker."
New York	09/13/01	A Floral Park resident reported that an Indian antique store located in Jamaica, Queens was vandalized when unidentified individuals threw stones through its windows.
New York	09/13/01	A Chinese American resident was followed by a black man while walking in the Murray Hill neighborhood of Manhattan. The man yelled, "You Korean, you Chinese, go home to where you belong."
New York	09/14/01	A Bangladeshi mail handler was traveling on the F train at 1 am when a white passenger asked the victim a question related to the World Trade Center bombing. The white passenger then attacked the victim. The other passengers ignored the victim's cries for help.
New York	09/15/01	A 15-year-old Farmingville male was arrested after making harassing phone calls to a Hindu owner of a 7-Eleven.
New York	09/15/01	Four white teens threw three bricks through the first floor bathroom and kitchen windows of a 4-family house in Brooklyn. (All four families are South Asian.) The night before, eggs were thrown at their second floor window. The police responded to the attack in a hostile manner.
New York	09/15/01	A Filipino woman shopping in a supermarket in Central New York was hit on the shoulder by a white teenage girl who called the woman a "Bomber." The same Filipino woman was called a "chink" by a white neighbor.
New York	09/16/01	A Sikh owner of a grocery store in Long Island was shot and killed.
New York	09/16/01	While a male South Asian male was driving on the Deegan Expressway in the Bronx, a white man driving alongside shouted, "You Arab, you die!" and cursed at the victim. The white driver then steered his car into the victim's. The victim then informed the white driver that the victim was Indian. The white driver then made anti-Indian comments and said, "You're not white." Victim filed a police report.
New York	09/17/01	Three white students attacked an Indian classmate at Queens College.

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New York	09/19/01	A half dozen police officers surrounded the turnstiles of a Queens subway station off the E/F line when a train pulled into the Kew Gardens/Union Turnpike station. NYPD boarded the train and asked all passengers to evacuate, except two South Asian men carrying black bags. As the train was taken out of service, the South Asian men were searched and asked to raise the legs of their pants above the knees while their socks were patted down. NYPD removed the contents of their bags on the seats and interrogated the men for half an hour.
New York	09/22/01	Pardeep Singh, a Sikh living in Richmond Hills Queens, was attacked while in line at a Dunkin' Donuts. Three men beat Singh with chairs until he blacked out.
North Carolina		Two Muslim students at North Carolina State University were physically attacked and spat upon.
North Jersey		An Indian woman was driving along Route 287 when she noticed she was being followed by another car. She called the police, who apprehended the other driver. When questioned as to what he was doing, the other driver answered that he wanted to kill her because she looked Muslim. The police arrested him.
Ohio	09/12/01	A Sikh gurdwara (place of worship) was attacked when an individual threw a beer bottle filled with gasoline through the window. The fire was later contained.
Oklahoma	09/11/01	A Tulsa resident of Pakistani descent was beaten by three men and hospitalized.
Pennsylvania	09/14/01	A South Asian student was walking down the street when a passing car threw a glass bottle at him.
Rhode Island	09/12/01	An Amtrak train in Providence was stopped by local police officers, who boarded the train and arrested a Sikh man because he appeared "suspicious." The passengers of the train applauded as he was taken away, and several white youth shouted, "Let's kill him, let's kill him."
Texas	09/15/01	A firesetting device was thrown at a Conoco station in Southeast Austin owned by a Pakistani man. No one was injured because the device fell short of the store, leaving burn marks on the sidewalk.
Texas	09/15/01	A Pakistani grocer in Pleasant Grove, Dallas was slain; the local police have not yet determined the motive for the killing.

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Texas	09/16/01	A southwest Houston tire store caught fire Sunday morning, two days after customers threatened the Pakistani owner. The customer said, "You are going to come in my country and threaten me? The way you burned us, I am gonna to burn you and I'm gonna burn your place and I'm gonna burn your people."
Texas	09/17/01	In San Antonio, a Delta Airlines pilot refused to fly the plane with a Pakistani passenger on board. The passenger deplaned and forced to miss the flight.
Texas	09/18/01	Pakistani student Hasnain, who was on a Greyhound bus in Houston en route to school in New York City, was taken off the bus by INS officers. While detained, the student was beaten and threatened by other detainees. Guards stood by while he was being attacked, and he was not taken to a hospital until his aunt paid a \$5,000 bond.
Washington, D.C.	09/18/01	Four white men stopped a Sikh man and accused him of being a terrorist. They told him, "We will bomb you."
Washington, D.C.	09/11/01	A Sikh man was accosted by pedestrians on the street, who began to yell expletives and threatened to "get" him and bomb him in retaliation for the terrorist acts.
Wisconsin	09/15/01	Two Asian students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison were attacked while walking down West Gilman Street. This assault was the fourth incident of violence to occur near the district, but local police officers have not classified it as a hate crime.
Wisconsin	09/11/01	An Indian convenience store owner in Union Grove is harassed by a man who demanded to know whether he conspired with people involved in terrorist attacks to raise gasoline prices. The man is charged with disorderly conduct as a hate crime.