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SAVE PETER AND SEEK JUSTICE

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
--- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Feb 20th, 2016

Portland, OR – Today, the Asian American community in Oregon is holding an unprecedented rally in the iconic Pioneer Square in Downtown Portland to show its solidarity with former NYPD Officer Peter Liang, and calls upon all parties, including the De Blasio Administration, the New York Police Department (NYPD), and the Brooklyn Supreme Court, to treat Peter Liang with fair and equal consideration in the sentencing round after the verdict rendered on Feb 12, 2016.

We are deeply saddened by the death of Akai Gurley and the pain it brought to his bereaved family. We are not in a position to ascertain the guilt or innocence of former Officer Liang in the death of Akai Gurley. However, many members of our community are disturbed by the selective and unjust prosecution of Peter Liang, the excessive charges brought against him, the apparent misleading of the jury by the District Attorney and other acts of prosecutorial misconduct. We also have noted that by many accounts, both Liang and his partner were inexperienced and not properly trained and tested for their dangerous assignment, which would make the police department culpable in this tragic accident that led to Mr. Gurley's death.

Rather than the triumph of justice, the selective prosecution of Peter Liang raises our concerns that the lives of people of color are always ready to be sacrificed. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter”. We are thus now calling for all people and groups who believe in justice and freedom to stand united behind Akai Gurley and Peter Liang and to say NO to selective prosecution and injustice. WE ARE HERE Today to manifest a community built on true equality and to put an end to the injustice of bigotry, prejudice and stereotyping.

Enclosed are links from other press organizations about Liang's case:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/supporters-convicted-peter-liang-pawn-article-1.2533868><http://www.bensonhurstbean.com/2015/03/assemblyman-colton-echoes-calls-fair-trial-indicted-officer-peter-liang/#.VsPjtvIrLW1>