

Factsheet

The Killing of Kwang Tae Lee and Richard Kim by Dublin Police Bay Area Korean American Justice Coalition (See Endorsement/Member Form on Next Page)

Background: On August 11, 2005, two Alameda County Sheriffs officers, contracted to the Dublin Police Department, intentionally shot and killed Mr. Kwang Tae Lee and inadvertently killed his brother-in-law, Mr. Richard Kim, in Mr. Kim's own house in Dublin. After hearing a family dispute, neighbors called the police who from outside the home saw a struggle and quickly entered the Kim's home. According to the police, they found Mr. Lee holding a knife and attempting to enter the room where Mr. Kim was hiding. The officers without full assessment of the situation hastily instructed Mr. Lee to drop the knife. Not knowing English, Mr. Lee did not drop the weapon and was consequently shot several times to death. A bullet also pierced through the door where Mr. Kim was hiding, hitting him. He died three days later on Sunday at the hospital of bullet wounds to his arms and face. Prior to the release of a coroner's report or full investigation, the Dublin Police Department issued a press release stating the officers involved were justified in the use of deadly force. **However, Jeeyoung Kim, the wife of Mr. Kim and a witness to the event, states that Mr. Lee had posed no danger and that the shootings were unnecessary.** Also, the Dublin Police tactlessly placed the grieving widows alone in a local hotel without support or grief counseling in order to clear the house to conduct their investigation. Currently there are two separate investigations going on—one by the county sheriff's department and the other by the county district attorney.

Community Response: The family has retained the legal counsel of Jonathan Bae and John Burris to pursue the possibility of civil litigation. Members of several Korean American community organizations, including the KCCEB and the KA Association of SF and Greater Bay Area, quickly responded and formed the **Bay Area Korean American Justice Coalition**, to provide support to the grieving families as well as formulate an appropriate community response to this tragic deaths and demand accountability from the Alameda County Sheriffs Department, the Dublin Police Department, and the City of Dublin. The Coalition wants to raise concerns about the officer's conduct, language sensitivity, cultural awareness, mental health/alcohol and other drug use assessment, lack of restraint in the use of deadly force, and the Police Department mishandling of the family grief.

BA KA Justice Coalition Points of Unity: In order to bring justice for the Lee and Kim families, provide community education, and prevent future similar tragedies, the Coalition came together around the following points of unity:

1. An independent investigative committee **MUST** be formed to investigate the incident that carries the same prosecutory or absolving weight as the County Sheriff's and D.A.'s investigation
2. Community members must have input in the development and facilitation of mandatory trainings of Alameda County Sheriffs and Dublin Police Department and to include the following topics.
 - ◇ Cultural/Linguistic sensitivity
 - ◇ Mental Health
 - ◇ De escalation
3. An independent civilian police review board must be established to act as a proactive measure creation of de-escalation policy and review of police use of deadly force in Alameda County and the City of Dublin.

These Points of Unity serve as a basis for a campaign to achieve justice and policy changes from the County of Alameda and City of Dublin.

Current Member Organizations: Korean American Association of San Francisco and Greater Bay Area (KAASF), Korean Community Center of the East Bay (KCCEB), Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO), Korean Student Association San Francisco State University (KSA)

BAY AREA KOREAN AMERICAN JUSTICE COALITION ENDORSEMENT FORM / MEMBERSHIP FORM

We invite all Bay Area organizations that support the Points of Unity created by the Bay Area Korean American Justice Coalition (See below) to endorse the campaign and/or become a member organization. There is urgent need for action NOW. Police departments have historically been notorious for protecting their own and suppressing the truth in similar incidents. We need the Korean community and other concerned groups to unite in support of a just resolution to this tragedy and to prevent future tragedies.

Member organizations must send one representative to planning meetings. Orgs that choose to endorse the campaign can do so simply in name, or can commit their constituents to events, help with event planning or work with the coalition in other areas of expertise.

BA KA Justice Coalition Points of Unity

In order to bring justice for the Lee and Kim families, provide community education, and prevent future similar tragedies, the Coalition came together around the following points of unity:

1. An independent investigative committee must be formed to conduct a public investigation into the incident that carries the same prosecutory or absolving weight as the County Sheriff's and D.A.'s investigation
2. Community members must have input in the development and facilitation of mandatory trainings of Alameda County Sheriffs and Dublin Police Department and to include the following topics.
 - i. Cultural/Linguistic sensitivity
 - ii. Mental Health
 - iii. De escalation
3. An independent civilian police review board must be formed to act as a proactive measure creation of de-escalation policy and review of police use of deadly force in Alameda County and the City of Dublin.

These Points of Unity serve as a basis for a campaign to achieve justice and policy changes from the County of Alameda and City of Dublin.

ENDORSEMENT/MEMBERSHIP: (Please put an "X" in one of the text boxes)

Our organization would like to endorse the campaign. We give permission to have our organization name printed on outreach materials and press statements. We agree to send members to campaign events organized by the Bay Area Korean American Justice Coalition when possible.

Our organization would like to become a member. We commit to sending at least one staff/member representative from our organization to participate in Bay Area Korean American Justice Coalition member meetings.

Organization Contact Info: Please fill out your organization's contact info below: (Click in text box to type)

Name of Organization:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Website:

Primary Contact Person:

Primary Contact Phone: (if different from above):

Email (if different):