

“30 years ago, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was pronounced dead after a brutal beating brought on by anti-Asian and anti-immigrant fears. Chin’s attackers, two men who were recently laid-off by an American automaker, blamed their lost jobs on the rise of the Japanese car companies, mistook Chin for Japanese, and sought retribution. To add insult to injury, Chin’s murderers each received a sentence of only three years probation and a \$3,000 fine—a mere slap on the wrist. Neither killer ever served any jail time. Chin’s death and the eventual acquittal of his attackers was a watershed moment for the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Regardless of ethnic and socioeconomic background, AAPIs came together with a heightened awareness of the shared experience of racism and discrimination. 30 years after his fatal attack, Vincent Chin remains a contemporary martyr and rallying point for the AAPI Movement, and his memory inspires us to combat post-September 11 profiling, discrimination, hate crimes, and cultural and linguistic barriers faced in schools, hospitals, and voting booths. Vincent Chin’s memory unites us in a common and tireless mission to forge a more perfect union.”

For more on the death of Vincent Chin:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/23/opinion/why-vincent-chin-matters.html>