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| Subj: | **JACL Press Release (9/12/01): JACL Urges Caution In Aftermath of Terrorist Attack** |
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**For immediate release**:

September 12, 2001

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**JACL Urges Caution In Aftermath of Terrorist Attack**

**San Francisco** - In the aftermath of yesterday's horrific and deliberate acts of terrorism, all Americans are reeling in disbelief and sorrow, and are united in a sense of outrage at those who committed these heinous acts.  The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) joins the millions across the country and the world who mourn this tragic loss of life, livelihood and peace of mind.

However, the JACL is deeply alarmed over reports that some Arab Americans and Muslims have already been targeted and mistreated by their fellow Americans as perpetrators of yesterday’s tragedy.  The organization expressed grave concerns that yesterday’s terrorism not lead to further tragedy with Arab Americans and Muslims being collectively blamed or specifically pursued as scapegoats through unsubstantiated accusations or biased treatment by investigative agencies or the public.

JACL National President Floyd Mori, recalling the experiences of Japanese Americans, stated, “We urge citizens not to release their anger on innocent American citizens simply because of their ethnic origin, in this case Americans of Arab ancestry. While we deplore yesterday’s acts, we must also protect the rights of citizens. Let us not make the same mistakes as a nation that were made in the hysteria of WWII following the attack at Pearl Harbor.”

The JACL headquarters and regional offices throughout the country have been monitoring the reactions to Tuesday’s tragedy to determine whether any groups are targeted for retaliation by the public and indicated that there have been reported incidents aimed at Arab Americans. In response, JACL chapters have intervened to assist Arab and Muslim communities being targeted and have also participated in blood donor efforts to contribute to the effort to assist the victims of the attack.

The JACL vowed to continue its efforts to help curb such incidents and to remind the public that the rush to judgment in the Oklahoma City bombing led to unjustified accusations against Arab Americans when erroneous assumptions were made about those responsible for the bombing.

JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi stated, “It is in times of national tragedies such as this that the character and will of the American public are tested as well as the strength and value of the Constitution.”

In the wake of yesterday’s national tragedy, the JACL urged restraint and caution against the possible scapegoating of any group based on ethnicity, religion, or national origin and urged Americans to pull together as a nation and not let yesterday's tragic events undermine our basic beliefs in democracy.

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[JACL\_action\_alerts-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:JACL_action_alerts-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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