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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Russia seizes control of Sakhalin gas project, raises stakes with West

TOKYO/LONDON, July 1 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin has raised the stakes in an economic war with the West and its allies with a decree that seizes full control of the Sakhalin-2 gas and oil project in Russia's far east, a move that could force out Shell and Japanese investors.

The order, signed on Thursday, creates a new firm to take over all rights and obligations of Sakhalin Energy Investment Co, in which Shell (SHELL) and two Japanese trading companies Mitsui and Mitsubishi hold just under 50%. The five-page decree, which follows Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine, indicates the Kremlin will now decide whether the foreign partners can stay.

State-run Gazprom (GAZP.MM) already has a 50% plus one share stake in Sakhalin-2, which accounts for about 4% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) production.

The move threatens to unsettle an already tight LNG market, although Moscow said it saw no reason for Sakhalin-2 deliveries to stop. Japan imports 10% of its LNG each year from Russia, mainly under long-term contract from Sakhalin-2. The action also raises the risks facing Western companies still in Russia.

"Russia's decree effectively expropriates foreign stakes in the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company, marking a further escalation in ongoing tensions," said Lucy Cullen, a principal analyst from consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

Many Western firms have already packed up, while others have said they would quit, but Putin's move adds complications to an already complex process for those looking for the exit. Moscow has been preparing a law, expected to pass soon, to allow the state to seize assets of Western firms which decide to go.

Shell, which has already written off the value of its Russian assets, made clear months ago it intended to quit Sakhalin-2 and has been in talks with potential buyers. It said on Friday it was assessing the Russian decree.

Sources have said Shell believed there was a risk Russia would nationalise foreign-held assets, while Putin has repeatedly said Moscow would retaliate against the United States and its allies for freezing Russian assets and other sanctions.

Sakhalin-2, in which Shell has a 27.5% minus one share stake, is one of the world's largest LNG projects with output of 12 million tonnes. Its cargo goes mainly head to Japan, South Korea, China,



India and other Asian countries.

### MAKING PREPARATIONS

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia saw no grounds for halting LNG deliveries from Sakhalin-2 and said the future of other projects or investments would be determined case by case.

"There can be no general rule here," he said.

Japan, which depends heavily on imported energy, has said it would not give up its interests in Sakhalin-2, in which Japan's Mitsui has a 12.5% stake and Mitsubishi holds 10%.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday that Russia's decision would not immediately stop LNG imports from the development, while Japan's Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda said the government did not consider the decree a requisition.

"The decree does not mean that Japan's LNG imports will become immediately impossible, but it is necessary to take all possible measures in preparation for unforeseen circumstances," Hagiuda told reporters.

Japan has 2-3 weeks of LNG stocks held by utilities and city gas suppliers and Hagiuda has asked his U.S. and Australian energy counterparts for alterna-

tive supplies, he said.

According to the decree, Gazprom keeps its stake but others must ask the Russian government for a stake in the new firm within one month. The government will decide whether to approve any request.

Gazprom, Sakhalin Energy and the Russian energy ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

A Mitsubishi spokesperson said the company was discussing with partners in Sakhalin and Japan's government about how to respond to the decree. Mitsui did not comment immediately.

Shares in Mitsui & Co (8031.T) and Mitsubishi Corp (8058.T) slid more than 5% on Friday. Shell's shares edged higher.

Shell Chief Executive Ben van Beurden said on Wednesday the company was "making good progress" in its plan to exit from the Sakhalin Energy joint venture without giving details.

Sources had told Reuters in May that Shell was in talks with an Indian consortium to sell its stake. read more

Russian LNG production from projects such as Sakhalin-2 was likely to suffer as foreign expertise and parts became unavailable, said Saul Kavonic, head of Integrated Energy and Resources Research at Credit Suisse.



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

07/01/2022

## First Black Woman Joins The U.S. Supreme Court

Fifty-one-year-old Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in Thursday as an Associate Justice to the United States Supreme Court which makes her the first Black woman to become a judge in the highest court in the nation.

In her statement, Jackson said, "With a full heart, I accept the solemn responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States and administering justice without fear or favor."

She was confirmed with a vote of 53-47 in the Senate after a series of hearings where republicans said she was too soft on crime.

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1970, Jackson was raised in Miami and later went to Harvard Law School.

As a district judge she wrote a 2019 opinion siding with House lawmakers who sought the testimony of then-White House Counsel Don McGahn.



Jackson also said her parents grew up in the time in this country in which Black children and white children were not allowed to go to school together. But she said that her parents taught her the importance of hard work and told her that, "Anything is possible in this great country."

Jackson also said, "I am standing on the shoulders of my own role model generation of Americans who never had anything close to this kind of opportunity, but who got up

every day and went to work believing in the promise of America."

Quoting the late poet, Maya Angelou, she said, "I do so now while bringing the gifts my ancestors gave. I am the dream and the hope of the slave."

We are so glad and proud that Judge Jackson sets the role model for all of our minority community's young people. If you work hard, good things will be possible in your future.



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 Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A Ukrainian service member with a dog observes in the industrial area of the city of Sievierodonetsk, Ukraine, June 20. REUTERS/Oleksandr Ratushniak



Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Louis appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace as part of the Trooping the Colour parade during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in London, June 2. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Anti-abortion demonstrators celebrate outside the United States Supreme Court as the court rules in the Dobbs v Women's Health Organization abortion case, overturning the landmark Roe v Wade abortion decision in Washington, June 24. REUTERS/Evelyn...MORE



Actor Matthew McConaughey, a native of Uvalde, Texas as well as a father and a gun owner, becomes emotional as he holds up a picture of 10-year-old victim Alithia Ramirez as he speaks to reporters about the school shooting in Uvalde during a press...



People wade through the water as they look for shelter during a flood, amidst heavy rains that caused widespread flooding in the northeastern part of the country, in Sylhet, Bangladesh, June 18. REUTERS/Abdul Goni



Women react as a conscript, wearing a military uniform, boards a train at a local railway station during departure for the garrisons, in Omsk, Russia June 17. REUTERS/Alexey Malgavko

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Attacks Continue On Asians As Dozens Of Activists, Neighbors And Families Decry The Violent Incident

An Anti-Asian Attack In The Drive-Thru At A North Hollywood, Calif. McDonald's Draws A Crowd Urging An End To Hate

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Patricia and Nerissa Roque speak at a rally put on by the Asian community at the Van Nuys District Attorney's office in Van Nuys, CA Friday, June 17, 2022. The Roques, who are Filipino, were attacked by a white male making racist slurs at a McDonald's on May 13, 2022. The Roque's are living in fear since the attacker did not show up for his court appearance and is still at large. (Photo/David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

family," and urged authorities to do more to investigate and prosecute the hate-crime case. Some were concerned that the case was not being fully investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department. Joaquin, of the Filipino Migrant Center, said members of the Roque family had taken up causes for their community, and now it was the community's turn to stand up for the family. She said she first met the mother, Nerissa Roque, when she fought to "recover back wages (for healthcare workers) from a big millionaire employer."

Nerissa's son, Patrick, is an activist "fighting for the rights and welfare of migrant workers," Joaquin said.



Other groups who rallied behind the family included the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON), Migrante Los Angeles, Kabataan Alliance, the Bayanihan Kollektive, and Anakbayan. Patricia Roque told the Los Angeles Daily News she was disappointed by law enforcement's response to the attack on her parents. She said police arrived an hour after the incident was reported. She alleged that Weber was taken to a hospital, released and issued a citation. She says officers told her family that Weber should have been taken to an LAPD station. Now, she's worried that Weber may target her family and others, after he failed to show up for his hearing. The family's attorney, Sandy Roxas, claimed on Friday that it often takes such rallies to spur law enforcement to take hate-crime cases seriously.

"It's really unfortunate that these kinds of Asian hate cases are not really a priority, unless the media and the community get involved, and attorneys get involved," Roxas said. The incident comes after a string of anti-Asian hate incidents nationally and in Orange County. Locally, in 2020, a Filipino-American woman was the victim of verbal abuse from a woman who filmed her while screaming racial epithets. Patricia Roque, who described herself as an introvert, said she has decided to speak out more because people in her community and other communities vulnerable to hate attacks should not have to face such a reality.

Courtesy Filipino Migrant Center https://filipinomigrantcenter.networkforgood.com/projects/159630-stop-asian-hate-help-roque-family-recover-from-hate-crime

At one point, she cried while listening to a performer recite a poem about attacks on Asian women. She has been composed during media interviews about the attack at McDonald's, she said, but in that moment says, "It hit me that the Filipino community... the Asian community and other vulnerable communities have been dealing with this for years."

"And it just hit me that this has been going on for so long, and we just stood back and watched it happen, and that's unfortunate," she said. (Courtesy https://www.oregister.com/)

Related

An 'Ugly Poison': Biden Signs Bill To Combat Hate Crimes Against Asians And Pacific Islanders



WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden in 2021 called for an end to the "ugly poison" of hate as he signed a new federal law aimed at combating violence against Asian Americans.

In a ceremony in the White House East Room, Biden signed the first new federal hate crimes law in a dozen years and denounced what he described as the "gut-wrenching" attacks against Asian Americans that have surged since the spread of COVID-19 across the country.

"I believe with every fiber of my being that there are simple core values and beliefs that should bring us together as Americans," Biden said. "One of them is standing against hate."

"Hate in the U.S. hides in plain sight and too often is met with silence, Biden said.

"Every time we're silent, every time we let hate flourish, you make a lie of who we are as a nation," he said, his voice rising.

The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress, expedites the Justice Department's review of hate crimes and designates an official at the department to oversee the effort. It also provides grants to states to improve hate crime reporting.



President Joe Biden @POTUS

"Hate has no place in America - and I look forward to making that clear this afternoon by signing the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law."

Violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities has been on the rise for more than a year with the spread of COVID-19 and as some politicians, including former President Donald Trump, blamed China for the pandemic.

More than 6,600 anti-Asian hate incidents have been reported in the year since the pandemic arrived in the U.S.,

according to Stop AAPI Hate, a nonprofit group that tracks incidents of hate and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Reported cases jumped more than 164% in the first quarter of this year in 16 major cities and jurisdictions, according to a report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. The new law - which the House passed on a 364-62 vote and the Senate 94-1 - came amid calls for action after a mass shooting in March that killed eight people, six of whom were women of Asian descent.

Until now, the most recent hate crimes legislation was the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which targeted crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity and more. President Barack Obama signed the law in 2009 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Related

COVID-19 Has Driven Racism And Violence Against Asian Americans: Perspectives From National Polls



Recent racially motivated violence against Asian Americans—including the March 2021 Atlanta spa shootings that killed eight Americans, among them six women of Asian descent—has added urgency to efforts to protect their health and safety after the COVID-19 pandemic. The following information uses national public opinion data to document the extent of violence and racism experienced by Asian Americans nationally during the pandemic and suggests a path forward. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has documented a 77 percent increase from 2019 to 2020 in hate crimes against Asian people living in the U.S. And during the period from March 2020 to June 2021 more than 9,000 anti-Asian hate incidents were self-reported to the advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate. Yet, such crime statistics are likely vastly underreported. Meanwhile, profound research gaps hinder broader understanding about violence and racism affecting the Asian American community.

The broad Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community represents a heterogeneous group, with 50 ethnicities and 100 languages; extensive and detailed polling data on them has long been lacking.



How Have Threats Of Violence And Racism Affected Asian Americans During COVID-19?

The vast majority of Asian Americans (82 percent) agree that, as a group, Asian Americans have faced discrimination as a result of the coronavirus pandemic in this country. Seventy percent say discrimination poses more of a threat now during the COVID-19 pandemic than it did before the pandemic. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of Asian Americans say they think racism is an extremely or very serious problem

in the US, while about half (53 percent) say Asian Americans face a great deal or quite a bit of discrimination in the US today. In addition, more than half (57 percent) of Asian Americans say they often or sometimes feel unsafe in public because of their race or ethnicity; only 12 percent say they never feel unsafe in public. Most Asian Americans (81 percent) think violence against the Asian American community is increasing, while 73 percent say violence poses more of a threat now than it did before the pandemic. In addition, between one-quarter (25 percent) and one-third (32 percent) of Asian Americans have reported personally fearing that someone might threaten or physically attack them or their household members because of their race/ethnicity.

What Do Asian Americans Believe Are The Reasons For Increased Violence And Racism During COVID-19?

Asian Americans largely feel scapegoated and blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic. Roughly two months after the first confirmed COVID-19 case in the US, 60 percent of Asian Americans reported having witnessed someone blaming people of Asian background for the coronavirus epidemic. This was a time when President Donald Trump regularly and directly blamed China for spreading COVID-19.

When asked to give major reasons for discrimination against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, 64 percent of Asian Americans cite COVID-19 cases first being reported in China, followed by 57 percent citing Donald Trump. These results are supported by other polling asking about the main reasons that violence against Asian Americans has been increasing (open-ended). The top reasons cited are Donald Trump (20 percent), overall racism against Asian people (16 percent), the COVID-19 pandemic (15 percent), and blaming/scapagoating Asian people for the pandemic (12 percent).

How Do Asian Americans Describe The Impact Of Violence And Racism On Their Mental Health?

Spillover effects of anti-Asian violence on the mental health of a majority of Asian Americans have been widely assumed but rarely demonstrated. Polls in both 2020 and 2021 show more than 35 percent of Asian Americans report their mental health has worsened during the pandemic. And 58 percent of Asian Americans said that, from March 2020 to March 2021, reports about discrimination and violence against Asian people affected their own mental health.

Based On These Experiences Reported Nationally, What Is The Path Forward?

This analysis documents profound and pervasive impacts of pandemic-related racism and violence against Asian Americans, involving not just direct victims but more broadly, a majority of the Asian American community nationally. Such actions during COVID-19 may well reflect public perceptions of Asian Americans as "perpetual foreigners," despite their many ongoing contributions to society. The nation needs a comprehensive plan to further reduce trauma for Asian Americans occurring across institutional, interpersonal, and individual levels and address broad concerns from Asian American community groups with diverse perspectives. Such a plan should advance fundamental and substantial improvements in all areas of concern. (Courtesy https://www.healthaffairs.org)



Dozens of activists rallied on Friday, June 17, standing beside members of a Filipino-American family who were the victims of an anti-Asian attack in May when a man in a Jeep bumped their vehicle as they waited in the drive-through of a McDonald's in North Hollywood. The Roque family was surrounded by activists gathered outside a Van Nuys courthouse calling for justice to be brought against suspect, Nicholas Weber, who has been charged for assaulting the family's father and mother who, along with their daughter, were getting fries at a McDonald's on Victory Boulevard, on May 13.

"We're here to hold the government accountable for their lack of response and to demand that District Attorney George Gascon prosecute Nicholas Weber to the fullest extent of the law," said Katie Joaquin, board president of the Filipino Migrant Center.

The victims allege that the father suffered a broken rib and the mother was strangled but survived. In a video by their daughter, a man can be seen verbally attacking the family with racist language and motions mocking their Asian background.

An Arrest warrant issued for the man who attacked a Filipino family at North Hollywood fast food drive-thru.

The District Attorney's Office has pressed charges against Weber on June 5 for hate-motivated battery, including a felony offense connected to "serious bodily injury." An arrest warrant was issued for Weber after he failed to appear for a June 8 court hearing.

The activists who gathered on Friday belong to groups active in the Filipino community, including those who fight for labor rights. They chanted "Justice for the Roque

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Vincent Chin Was Killed 40 Years Ago And His Case Still Resonates

Forty years ago, 27-year-old Vincent Chin was enjoying a night out with his friends in Detroit. It was meant to be a celebration ahead of Chin's upcoming marriage, but he didn't make it to the wedding. That night he was beaten to death by two white men who worked in the auto industry and, according to witnesses, were angry over what they perceived as the loss of American jobs to Japanese imports. The men targeted Chin because he was Asian - not knowing he was Chinese American, not Japanese. The killing galvanized Asian Americans across the entire country to fight for civil rights. It's a battle that continues today.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The murder of Vincent has become particularly relevant in the past two years, as racist attacks against Asian Americans have risen exponentially since the start of the pandemic. At least 10,905 hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were recorded from March 19, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021, according to the coalition Stop AAPI Hate. Chin's death on June 23, 1982, came at a time when the Japanese automotive industry was a flashpoint for racism. Today's hate incidents can be traced in large part to the anti-Asian rhetoric used at the beginning of the pandemic, including that by former President Donald Trump who referred to the coronavirus as "the Chinese virus."

The similarities between the rhetoric used 40 years ago and today present a chilling pattern, says social justice activist Helen Zia, who is also the executor of the estate of Vincent Chin and his mother, Lily.

"That was what was going on in America in the 1980s. And that's why as soon as that callout in the White House was pointing the fingers at China, everybody Asian American knew that that was going to land very hard on Asians in America," Zia told NPR's All Things Considered in reference to the former president's remarks.

"So, yes, the rhetoric, the innuendo - it has its impact. And when people are targeted and scapegoated, we know that that's only going to be bad for every American."

The fact that Chin was Chinese American, Zia said, is also telling about how Asian Americans are perceived in the U.S. "Asian Americans have always been lumped together, even though Asia is the largest continent on the planet," she said. "And so when people have hate or anger directed at some nebulous thing about Asia, it doesn't matter. If you're Asian, you're a target. And that's what's going on today. Every different ethnicity of Asian American has suffered the hate incidents that are going on today."

Zia is one of the organizers of the Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance & Rededication happening in Detroit this weekend. Events, including film screenings, public art, performances and panel discussions started on Thursday and go through Sunday.

David Han, commissioner of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, spoke at the official kickoff event. He told member station WDET the rededication also serves as a reminder that "underneath the surface things are not OK," and that people in power play a role in the safety of the communities they represent.

"In leadership roles of any kind, whether it's the presidency or leaders in companies, leaders in our communities or even

leaders in our churches, the positions and the narratives that different folks speak, based on self-interest as well as fear, certainly impacts the Asian community in America," Han said.

While political leaders play a role in combating anti-Asian American sentiments, so do average citizens. Connecting the older and younger generations through Chin's legacy is another aim of the commemoration.

"The Vincent Chin Legacy Guide" was put together by Zia, with help from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. It's a teaching tool that tells the story of what happened 40 years ago. It is also meant to inspire people to take action. It ultimately shows why Chin's case still matters today.

"It really stands out as a landmark, not only for Asian Americans - it stands out as a landmark in American history," Zia said. "It's a time when a people in America, who were treated as though they were aliens - those people stood up and said, 'this is wrong. And not only that - we are a part of the American democracy, and we deserve to be treated as full Americans and full human beings.'" (Courtesy npr.com)

Related Vincent Chin's Death Gave Others A Voice

An Interview With Writer Paula Yoo

Writer Paula Yoo was 13 years old and finishing up seventh grade when Vincent Chin was killed. Chin was a 27-year-old draftsman who was celebrating his impending wedding at a strip club in Detroit, when he was bludgeoned to death by a pair of white men. Those men were apparently upset by their perception that American auto jobs were disappearing as a result of Japanese success in the auto industry. (Chin was Chinese.)

Yoo didn't learn much about Chin's killing when it actually happened - let alone imagine that it would eventually become the subject of one of her books. But as an adult, she became fascinated by Chin's story and how it spurred a new generation of Asian Americans into political action. She started doing some reading and research, which eventually turned into her latest non-fiction book, geared toward young adults, which will be published next month: From A Whisper to A Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial That Galvanized the Asian American Movement.



Writer Paula Yoo

Full disclosure - Paula and I first met in the 90s when we both worked for People magazine in Los Angeles - so I've

known her for years. She's now a TV writer and producer in addition to being the author of several children's books about famous Asian Americans.

Tell us a little bit about who Vincent Chin was, and what happened to him.

Vincent Chin is famous in the Asian American community; his name has resurfaced recently due to the spike in anti-Asian racism. His was the first federal civil rights trial for an Asian American. On the night of June 19, 1982, the night of his bachelor party, Vincent Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two white auto workers in Detroit. Ronald Ebens was a foreman at Chrysler at the time, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, was a recently laid-off auto worker. The reason I mention that is because this happened during the height of anti-Japanese sentiment. The American auto industry was



reeling, due to increased competition from Japanese import cars and mass layoffs happening across the country. Things were especially bad in Michigan, home to the Big Three: Ford, Chrysler and GM.

Vincent was beaten in the head so badly, he lapsed into a coma and died four days later. Before he lost consciousness, he whispered three words to one of the friends who'd been out with him that night: "It's not fair." He was buried the day after what should have been his wedding day.

What happened after Vincent's death? Was there a trial?

More than one. The first was presided over by Judge Charles Kaufman. He gave both Ebens and Nitz three years' probation, fined them \$3,000 and court costs and released them. He later said that they "weren't the kind of men you send to jail." Citing the fact that neither man had a previous record, Kaufman said that he just didn't think putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society. That "you don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal."

It's Not Fair!

What was the public's reaction?

Judge Kaufman's lenient sentencing angered not just Vincent Chin's family, but the entire Asian American community. Led by activist Helen Zia, several Asian American lawyers and community leaders banded together to create American Citizens for Justice. This grassroots advocacy organization rallied with several diverse groups - churches, synagogues, Black activists - to protest Kaufman's sentencing.

This inspired other Asian Americans across the country to hold their own demonstrations. These protests resulted in the first federal civil rights trial for an Asian American. In 1984, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz were indicted on two counts of conspiracy and violating Vincent Chin's right to be in a place of public accommodation because of his race, and sentenced to 25 years. In the trial that followed the indictment, Nitz was cleared of all charges. Ebens (who held the baseball bat) was convicted of violating Chin's civil rights, and sentenced to 25 years.

But due to accusations of alleged witness coaching, Ebens was acquitted in a second trial held in 1987, in which his guilty conviction was reversed. He would ultimately be found not guilty, and he never spent a day in jail.

You started this book before this most recent surge in anti-Asian violence. Why did you want to write it, and why write it for a young adult audience?

My whole life I always kept thinking one day I'd love to write a non-fiction adult book, like In Cold Blood. And I remember everybody that I talked to about Vincent, everybody that I worked with, they all responded with, "This is an incredible story. We know nothing about it." So that's why I think it's a special book not just for adults, but also for teenagers, because I hope that it gives them a firsthand understanding of what this was like.

A bat, a gavel, a question of justice



When I was offered a job at The Detroit News, for instance, I remember the first thing my Asian American journalist friends said to me was, "Are you afraid to go live in Detroit because of Vincent Chin?" You know, being Asian American in this country, we're often alone. We're often the only one in our high school or the only family on our block because for many, many decades, we have been a very small part of the percentage of the population. So being an Asian American in this country is very lonely. I've been very lonely my whole life.

Did you do first-person interviews for this book, or rely mostly on archival information?

I have thousands of pages of transcripts from 1982 to 1984; I read every single motion, all the boring stuff. I read everything. I have primary sources. I've actually talked to people who have refused to talk about this case for almost 40 years. And I have exclusive new information. I'm one of the first and only people to have met Ronald Ebens in person in his house. And it was an off-the-record informal visit. So I can't talk about what we talked about, but that was one of the most profound, deep and very disturbing moments in my life.

One of the interesting things about this book is you show all sides of this tragedy. Even Ebens and Nitz. You actually had some compassion for these white men who killed someone who looked like you...

You can have compassion, but compassion is not mutually exclusive from justice. At the end of the day, now that I know the humanity behind these two men, I can have compassion for them. But I can still think, "You still should have gone to jail. What you did was wrong. Justice was not served."



Many people believe that Vincent Chin did not receive justice in the legal sense. But some important things emerged from his death. Tell us what some of those things are.

His death had a tangible effect; he's not just a symbol. It changed manslaughter sentencing in Michigan. Because of Vincent Chin and other cases very similar to his, victims' families are now allowed to deliver a victim impact statement to the judge at a hearing. At Vincent's first trial, the prosecutors were just overwhelmed with cases and they didn't appear in court. Now, because of this, prosecutors have to be at all hearings.

His case also inspired Asian baby boomers. They came of age [about standing up for themselves and other people of color]. This was part of their civil rights education.

Aside from the tangible legal changes that happened in the court system, Vincent's case inspired a younger generation to get involved as activists, as writers, as lawyers going into politics, trying to effect policy change. There are so many Asian American politicians out there now, which is so wonderful! So I think our voice has been raised, our stories, our history, our contributions have been raised. So we've got to go out there and fill in the blanks, because if we don't, who will? (C NPR)