

## Statement of Korean American community leaders on the death of Latasha Harlins

**W**e, Korean American community leaders, would like to express our deepest regret and sympathy to Latasha Harlin's family and friends. We are shocked and outraged by this tragic loss of life.

Korean American and African American communities have worked together many years to promote mutual understanding between the two groups.

These efforts include the formation of the Black-Korean Alliance, church exchanges, joint business ventures, mediation projects, educational efforts, merchant support of community events, fund raising, and mutual political support of community needs. We are very concerned that this incident

may cause detrimental blows to the positive efforts between the two communities.

Tragic incidents such as this often focus on differences rather than the commonalities between the two communities. Both Korean Americans and African Americans share a history of oppression. As racial minorities in this country, we have and will continue to work together toward a greater political and economic equality.

In order to strengthen our bonds, we will actively join hands with the African American community to promote peace and harmony. Again, we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Latasha Harlins.

**Korean Federation of Los Angeles**

**Korean Chamber of Commerce**

**Korean American Grocers Association of Southern California**

**Korean American Grocers Association/National**

**Korean American Coalition**

**Korean Youth Center**

**Koreatown Development Association**