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HATE crimes -
Ileto

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1999

Hillary and I join all those gathered in expressing our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Joseph Ileto and in praying for their strength and comfort.

This event is a powerful and moving response by the Asian Pacific American community to the violence that ended the life of Joseph Ileto. During the past year, Americans have been shaken by similar violent acts that struck at the heart of what it means to be an American and at the values that define us as a nation. Now is the time for us to take strong and decisive action to fight hate crimes, and I have pledged to work with Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. I know you stand with me in this effort.

It is also more important than ever that we strive to teach our young people to have tolerance and respect for one another and to understand that the more we appreciate one another's diversity, the more we reaffirm the fundamental values that we have in common. I thank each of you for raising your voice against hatred and intolerance and for reminding your fellow Americans that our diversity is not a cause for division but instead is one of our nation's greatest strengths.

Hillary and I are keeping the Ileto family and all those who have been touched by this tragedy in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you will be sustained by the knowledge that, even as we grieve together, we also are recommitting ourselves to do everything possible to prevent another such tragedy.

Bill Clinton

HATE CRIMES-

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Martha's Vineyard

August 26, 1999

Hillary and I join all those gathered in expressing our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Joseph Ito and in praying for their strength and comfort.

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Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE**Office of the Vice President**

For Immediate Release
Thursday, August 26, 1999**Contact:**
(202) 456-7035**STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Tipper and I offer our thoughts and prayers in remembrance of Joseph Ileto, to his family, to his friends, and to every American who shares our sense of outrage at this senseless killing. As we seek to understand the terrible nature of this crime – an act of violence motivated by hate – we must renew our commitment as a nation to end racial hatred and send a clear message to all who would commit these horrible crimes. We will not tolerate it.

Last year more than 8,000 hate crime incidents were reported in the United States – almost one an hour. That is unacceptable. America is too great a country to allow these crimes to go unpunished. We must pass strong legislation that will send a strong message to all who would attack others simply because they are different: Don't do it. It is wrong, it is illegal, and if you do commit these terrible crimes, we will find you, and punish you to the full force of our laws. Together we can practice, and teach a different way of life – one in which we celebrate our diversity and value tolerance.

We must never allow ourselves to forget Joseph Ileto or others who have lost their lives as a result of racial hatred. We must teach our children and let those lessons be reminders to us all of the strength our nation draws from the diversity of its people and the tolerance and understanding that must be part of our daily lives.

Today, we offer our condolences to the family of Joseph Ileto, and in mourning his passing, look forward to a time when hate crime no longer steal lives or leave a single family in pain.

Statement from First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
National Day of Mourning and Protest of the Los Angeles Hate Killing
August 26, 1999

I want to commend all of you gathered tonight to honor U.S. postal worker Joseph Ileto and the other victims of the shootings that took place in Los Angeles on August 10. People all over our country have expressed their outrage at these senseless tragedies – and our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims and their families.

As a nation, we simply cannot tolerate hate crimes and gun violence. Americans should never be the target of hatred because of who they are, or where they worship, or where they were born. And children should never have to worry about the gun violence that too often plagues our schools, our homes and our communities.

We must always remember that our differences – be they race or religion, gender or sexual orientation – will never be stronger than the common humanity that unites us all. It is my hope that the collective sadness and anger that we all feel as a result of these crimes will motivate us to address the scourge of gun violence and hate crimes in America. And when we do, it will be because citizens like you stood up, spoke out and led the way.