



Mr. Jack Cafferty
CNN
202-351-4000

April 14, 2008

Dear Mr. Cafferty,

I have been a devoted viewer of The Situation Room and have enjoyed your coverage of news and geopolitical issues. It is this type of reporting that makes CNN so widely watched around the world.

80-20 Initiative is the largest Asian American political action committee in the US with over 700,000 supporters reachable within 8 hours. Our mission is to gain equal opportunity and justice for all Asian Americans. As such, we are non-partisan and have no interest in siding with or defending any foreign government.

With that understanding, I wish to express on behalf of our supporters our deep concern over certain words you used in your segment on April 9th wherein you complained about the “junk” out of China, and referred to the current Chinese government and/or people as the “same bunch of goons and thugs”. While we share your condemnation of the paucity of human rights progress in China, we are dismayed and disappointed that a person of your intellect and national preeminence made such indistinct statements which could easily be interpreted to be an ethnic slam on the Chinese people in general. Unfortunately, these remarks can be detrimental racial repercussions for the 15 million Asian Americans. Although we are certain you meant no ill towards ethnic Americans, it is important to recognize the damage that such rhetoric can cause not only to Chinese-Americans but also the entire Asian American community who are first and foremost loyal Americans.

The brutal and fatal clubbing in 1982 of Vincent Chin, a young Chinese American engineer by Detroit autoworkers who mistook him for a Japanese American, the wrongful persecution of Los Alamos scientist Dr. Wen Ho Lee, the targeting of Arab Americans in hate crimes post-911 are examples of the power of rhetoric that incite emotions including bigotry. Your sensitivity in taking care to make the distinction that you are castigating a foreign regime, rather than its people will be much appreciated. It would also be most gracious of you to clarify on air what you had meant to say on April 9th and to categorically affirm that your comments were not in any way intended to cast an aspersion on the millions of patriotic Chinese Americans who have nothing to do with defective products or goons and thugs. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful and judicious choice of words in all your future commentaries, because your influential words can have deadly consequences.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen To'.

Kathleen To
President, 80-20 Initiative, Inc.
www.80-20initiative.net

cc: 80-20 Board of Directors