ECAASU Condemns CBP’s Treatment of Iranian Americans at U.S. Border Crossings

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In the aftermath of the U.S. assassination of Qassem Soleimani, leader of the foreign wing of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, people of Iranian descent - or more generally Middle Eastern, Muslim, and other brown people - have been met with backlash, both interpersonal and structural. On Sunday, Jan. 5, the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) released a statement announcing that Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) had detained over sixty Iranians and Iranian Americans at the US-Canada border, regardless of citizenship status.

ECAASU unequivocally condemns the clear racist and xenophobic actions of the US government, especially in response to its own imperialistic actions in Iran.

According to CAIR’s statement, “the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued a national order to CBP to ‘report’ and detain anyone with Iranian heritage entering the country who is deemed potentially suspicious or ‘adversarial,’ regardless of citizenship Status.” This not only results in the possible illegal detainment of U.S. citizens, but also signals to an ability to discriminate and perpetrate violence against people of Iranian descent. These actions have not been taken in the name of “national security.” Rather, as has clearly been demonstrated since the beginning of the Trump presidency, Islamophobia and white supremacy have been a foundation of this administration and its policies; this is no different.

Furthermore, ECAASU condemns the project of US imperialism through sanctions, military-backed coups, and war-making. The United States has time and time again invaded Iran and countless other countries throughout the world under the guise of democracy while only furthering the interests of US empire. We strongly demand no war with Iran and an end of the US occupation in the Middle East.

For more background information on US-Iran relations, visit this study group curriculum curated by the Catalyst Project.

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Run solely by volunteers, The East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to inspire, educate, and empower those interested in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) issues.