

News Item

Asian-Americans are pulling together on—and off—Instagram | MIT Technology Review

By Tanya Basu April 23, 2021

One February afternoon, a 50-year-old Asian woman was waiting in line at a bakery in Queens, New York, when a man threw a box of spoons at her and then shoved her so violently she required 10 stitches in her head. In a surveillance video, a crowd watches as the man attacks the woman, doing nothing as he hits her and then walks away.

"When I saw that, I thought, 'That could be my mother. That could be my grandmother. That could be someone I knew,'" says Teresa Ting, a resident of Flushing, the neighborhood in which the attack occurred. "It hit close to home."

The assault in Queens was one of a series of attacks on vulnerable or elderly Asian-Americans that have been captured in viral videos over the past few months. The March mass shooting of eight people in Atlanta, six of whom were Asian-Americans, was a breaking point.

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