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Stabbing attack on Asian family ruled a coronavirus-related hate crime: FBI

By [David Matthews](#)

New York Daily News | Apr 01, 2020



(File photo)(Susan Walsh/AP)

The brutal stabbing attack of an Asian-American family, including a 2-year-old girl, at a Texas Sam's Club is being investigated as a hate crime, [according to the FBI](#).

The early March attack is one of multiple racist attacks against Asian-Americans during the coronavirus pandemic and authorities fear more racially motivated offenses could happen.

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Jose L. Gomez, 19, was charged with three counts of attempted capital murder and one count of aggravated assault after he stabbed three members of the family, including the 2-year-old and a 6-year-old, and an employee at a Sam's Club in Midland, Texas on March 14. Gomez was ultimately taken subdued by an off-duty Border Patrol agent who was shopping for groceries.

"The suspect indicated that he stabbed the family because he thought the family was Chinese, and infecting people with coronavirus," according to the FBI.

Gomez admitted his motives to arresting officers at the scene of the incident, according to an [arrest affidavit obtained by the Midland Reporter-Telegram](#).

According to a report by the FBI's Houston field office, the law enforcement agency expects a surge in hate crimes against Asians as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

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"The FBI assesses hate crime incidents against Asian Americans likely will surge across the United States, due to the spread of coronavirus disease ... endangering Asian American communities," the report states. "The FBI makes this assessment based on the assumption that a portion of the US public will associate COVID-19 with China and Asian American populations."

[According to The Daily Beast](#), many experts believe discrimination against Asian-Americans, including against Asian healthcare workers, was partially fueled by state and federal officials referring to the coronavirus as the "Wuhan virus" or "Chinese virus."

New York Attorney General Leticia James [launched a hotline](#) for victims of coronavirus-related bias crimes, which could lead to civil cases.

"No one should live in fear for their life because of who they are, what they look like, or where they come from," James said in a statement.

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