

闲聊全美华人挺梁大游行

本报特约撰稿人：王辉云



(图片摘自网络)

2月20日，全美四十多个城市的十数万人走上街头，集会游行，声援纽约华人警察梁彼得。这是“六四”以来爆发的全美华人规模最大的一次游行示威活动。

梁彼得何许人也？竟能让全美华人闹出这么大动静！

事件背景

梁彼得是个在纽约当差的华裔警察。2014年11月，这位工作不到两年的实习警察和另一位白人实习警察在纽约布鲁克林地区的一栋治安状况极为恐怖的政府所属的居民楼里巡逻。因为是在犯罪高危区巡逻，梁彼得端着枪在黑灯瞎火的楼道里，有点儿像“鬼子进村”，胆战心惊地听到楼道里有动静，一紧张就扣动了扳机，开枪壮胆。结果子弹打到楼道的墙上反弹后射进正在下楼的非裔男子格利的胸膛，就那么寸，心脏中弹，致其死亡。

事件刚发生时，纽约警察局长布拉顿的用词是意外走火 (accidental discharge)；虽然包括警察局在内的各方都认为这是一场不幸的意外，但是死者格利的非裔身份令这一事件变得非常敏感，因为此时正是全美警民关系和种族冲突紧张的时刻。

在此之前，纽约史丹顿岛白人警察锁喉勒死非裔青年，紧接着密苏里州弗格森白人警察枪杀非裔少年，这一系列警察暴力执法导致非裔死亡的事件已经激起非裔社区的强烈不满，他们正在美国许多城镇掀起一场反对警察暴力执法的运动，并且喊出“Black Lives Matter (黑人生命也重要)”的口号。因此，梁彼得作为警察开枪导致非裔居民死亡一案就注定引人注目。

今年2月11日，梁彼得一案宣判。据说，纽约警察局为此准备了大量警力，以便应对随时发生的非裔上街游行而引起的混乱。然而，此案宣判结果出人意料，陪审团裁定梁彼得过失杀人 (manslaughter)、渎职等5项罪名成立，最高将面临15年监禁。法庭将于今年4月14日做出量刑判决。美国近年来发生的几起白人警察执勤致人死亡的案件中，警察都没有被起诉或被判无罪，唯有梁彼得被判过失杀人罪。

其实，美国司法机构对警察开枪的解释有很大余地，认为当处于危险境地时警察有权开枪。因而，美国近十年来都没有一位警察因为误杀被定罪。射杀无辜平民的白人警察没有受到法律制裁，而华裔警察只是因为子弹击中墙壁后的反弹，就成为阶下囚。不仅如此，纽约警察工会PBA也没有像支持一些白人警员一样出面支持梁彼得。相反，纽约警察局还因此事将梁彼得开除。因此，许多华人认为，在白人警察与黑人民众对立情绪日益激化的大背景下，梁彼得被人当成缓和警民关系的替罪羊，是司法不公的牺牲品。

“模范少数民族”发声了

在美国这个多元社会中，华裔堪称模范少数民族，勤劳肯干、注重教育、依法纳税，不惹是生非，遇事多采取息事宁人

的态度，与非裔形成了鲜明的对比。尽管如此，华裔在美国社会始终处于一种边缘化的地位，这当然也有华人自己的问题。大多人华人对公共事务缺少兴趣，对政治不关心，热衷于老婆孩子热炕头，且胆小怕事，遇到不公正，往往选择沉默。对于这样的少数民族，检察官拿华人警察梁彼得开刀，纽约警察局把他抛出来当替罪羊也就不足为奇了。梁彼得如果是黑人，不论检察官还是纽约警察局，可能都会在审判中仔细掂量掂量后果。这不明摆着专拣软柿子捏嘛！

梁案的判决结果引发了大多数华人的不满情绪，在华人社区激起轩然大波。2月20日在华人第一次同时在40多个城市举行大规模游行示威，声援梁彼得。

全美华人挺梁大游行对于梁彼得一案的判决结果不见得产生直接影响，但它反映了在美华人要求司法公正，平权平等的基本诉求。很明显，华人游行的更深层意义是，通过声援梁彼得，对外发声：我们不愿再当“模范少数民族”。当然，华人要改变这一形象，绝非一朝一夕能够实现。华人更应该把眼光放远，不仅是在自己的同胞出事的时候示威游行，而应该以此次大规模游行集会为契机，积极参与政，真正融入主流社会，为促进整个美国社会的公平公正，做出贡献。

消除种族主义需要持续的努力

美国各大媒体都对这次游行进行了比较客观的报道。看到主流媒体播报的华人游行的场面，让我不禁想起上世纪五、六十年代由马丁·路德·金等人领导的民权运动。如果没有马丁·路德·金坚持不懈的努力及黑人群众的广泛参与，美国的种族隔离制度可能会延续至今。

南北战争结束后，虽然美国在法律上解放了黑奴，但种族隔离在南方依然盛行，黑人在社会上仍然受到种族主义者的公开歧视。在当时的美国南方，在黑人是不是人这样的问题上存在着巨大分歧，遑论黑人的平等权利。如果说当时的美国南方对于黑人来说是暗无天日，那么，马丁·路德·金等人敢于在那样的政治形势下向种族隔离制度开战就尤其令人敬佩。民权运动后，黑人在美国的政治地位，获得极大提升，远非华人可比。这种巨大变化，与黑人长期坚持在体制内争取平等权利的政治斗争是分不开的。美国的政治制度在法律上保障人人都有追求幸福的平等权利，这为少数民族争取平权平等创造了有利条件。

由于近年来所谓的“政治正确”风靡一时，种族问题成为美国的敏感话题，这其实更有利于少数民族裔在美国改善自己的处境。然而，以“白人至上”为核心的种族主义是美国特定历史发展的产物，一时半会儿不易消除。任何一种文化传统的形成都要经过相当长的一段时间，而这种文化传统的改变消失也是如此。这就是所谓的“传统的持续性”，也是为什么美国

种族主义文化传统不易消失的原因。现如今，尽管公开歧视转变为隐性歧视，但离彻底消除种族主义尚有很长的距离。

美国近期一份民意测验结果显示，80%的美国非洲裔人士和60%的美国白人认为，种族主义在美国是一个严重的问题，目前美国社会存在着针对不同群体的不同形式的种族歧视。亚裔在大学录取、高级职位晋升等方面遭受的歧视便更有目共睹。

这次全美华人挺梁大游行和平理性，喊出的口号简单扼要，诉求明确，就是要求司法机关抛弃种族主义偏见，秉公执法。虽然有些人对游行持反对态度，认为美国司法独立，就连总统也无权干预司法，以街头政治的方式声援梁彼得可能会适得其反，但我认为，这次游行的意义远非如此。它不仅表达了华人对梁案判决结果的强烈不满，也向世人表明华裔并非一盘散沙，而是一个值得重视的少数民族。会哭的孩子有奶吃。在美国这种民主制度中，华人应该改变过去那种甘当游离于主流社会的沉默的少数族裔形象，团结起来，大胆行使宪法赋予自己的公民权利，这样才能从被边缘化的位置上融入主流社会。

微信功不可没

这次全美华人挺梁大游行之所以能够在全美四十多个城市同步举行，微信发挥了巨大作用。2月11日，梁案审判结果公布后，在华裔社区引起极大反响。当然，挺梁倒梁的观点都有。华人利用微信就美国司法制度，审判程序，种族歧视，华人形象以及该不该游行等问题展开了热烈讨论。一贯以“一盘散沙”闻名的华人在声援梁彼得问题上达成高度共识，形成空前团结一致的大好局面。

微信对这次全美华人挺梁大游行产生的作用令人信服地证明，科学技术的进步对社会变革产生的影响不可低估。

欧洲中世纪曾经历过教会一统天下的黑暗时期。那时，罗马教会垄断了对《圣经》的翻译权和解释权，广大基督教徒只能听命教会。但是，随着纸张的普及和印刷术的出现，《圣经》得以大量翻译和印刷，人民群众才有可能读到《圣经》，最终导致马丁·路德与罗马教会分道扬镳，引发宗教改革运动，使欧洲率先走向现代化道路。

另一个例子就是土豆被引进欧洲并广泛种植，造成欧洲人口激增，不仅为西欧国家对外扩张提出要求，也为其后的工业革命提供了大量劳动力。

同样，微信的普及正在悄悄地改变着人们的生活。可以毫不夸张地说，微信为这次全美华人挺梁大游行立下了汗马功劳。同时，也给天朝的“维稳”工作提出了新的挑战。有了微信，不但全美华人能够步调一致地组织集会游行，全球华人组织这样的集会游行也应该是可能的。有朝一日，全球华人如果能组织起来声援刘晓波，科技对社会变革的促进作用就更令人欣慰了。

Silent Minority Make Big Noise!

By Yu-Long Ling

Professor Yu-Long Ling
A Franklin resident, an expert in foreign policy

For the last several years, a pattern has been established in this country. In many cases where white police officers have killed a black person, we have seen mass protests and rallies in major cities across the country demanding justice and change. Unfortunately, in most of these high profile cases, there has been a cover up or the police officers involved have not been charged or found not guilty, creating the perception that the police protect their own. As a result, more protests and rallies occur. This cycle has become commonplace.

Recently, there has been a new twist. In New York, we have a similar incident where the police have killed a black person; however, in this case, the police officer is not white but a Chinese American. Officer Peter Liang and his partner, Shaun Landau were conducting a vertical patrol from the eighth floor of the building. During the patrol, Officer Liang heard a loud noise from the dark stairwell and fired a single shot. The bullet bounced off a wall and struck Akai Gurley who happened to be a black male. Officer Liang claimed that he was startled by the loud noise and accidentally fired his gun. He did not see Mr. Gurley when his gun discharged. Unfortunately, rather than immediately call for help, Officers Liang and Landau argued about who should call their supervisor, thus, contributing to the death of Mr. Gurley.

This incident occurred on November 20, 2014. Officer Liang was indicted, and convicted of manslaughter on February 11, 2016. In New York, manslaughter carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. He was also fired by the New York Police Department.

After the trial, there were protests and rallies, but not from the black communities. Rather, on February 20, 2016, thousands of protesters gathered around the country to show support for Peter Liang. The majority of protesters were Chinese Americans. In addition to the February 20th protest, more protests are also planned for Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016 in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Chicago, Boston and Indianapolis and many more.

Why are these protests occurring, that is the question? First, unlike other incidents (the deaths of Eric Gardner and Michael Brown at the hands of white police officers), this shooting was accidental. Officer Liang unintentionally shot Mr. Gurley.

Second, in the mass protests of the deaths of Mr. Gardner and Mr. Brown and others, the protesters were angry with the systematic killing of black men by white police officers and the general distrust of the police force. In Officer Liang's case, many are questioning why he is the only one to be convicted. Has he been singled out because he isn't white and hung out to dry as an offering to show the world that the police are in fact accountable for their actions? Because of this, many Chinese Americans called the conviction unfair and thinking that Peter Liang was a scapegoat, are upset and much like our black communities, are losing faith in the system.

Third, Chinese Americans (much like other Asian American groups) have been labeled the model minority and are viewed as passive, indifferent and quiet. They are the silent minority. As we have seen, if you don't make any noise, no one will notice or listen to you. Many minority or historically disadvantaged groups have institutional support groups to make noise, but there is nothing for Chinese Americans. After this event, the Chinese Community is rallying together to make some noise. A legal expense fund has been started and a professional legal team has been formed. Thousands have signed a petition to US Supreme Court on Mr. Liang's behalf and more than a 100,000 people have signed the online petition demanding Liang's conviction be vacated.

First, through all of this, we have to keep in mind that two families have been greatly affected by this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers should be extended to both Mr. Gurley's and Officer Liang's families. Second, why has Office Liang been the only police officer that has been convicted? If he were white, would that have changed anything? Third, while the Chinese Community should be more active and have a voice, it shouldn't take an unfortunate incident like this to wake up Chinese Americans to the fact that silence does not work in a democracy. Last, racism still exists, but it is not just black and white. It affects everyone.

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