

Eugene family speaks out after burglary linked to crime ring targeting Asians

by Tiffany Lewis & KVAL.com Staff

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(SBG)

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EUGENE, Ore. — A Eugene family is speaking out months after their home was ransacked in a burglary tied to an international crime ring targeting Asian households across the country.

That family is now breaking their silence in an exclusive local interview and hoping their story will prevent others from becoming victims.

Eugene family speaks out after burglary linked to crime ring targeting Asians



The Eugene South Korean-American family's home was violated in a burglary this August.

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Chong Man Kim and his wife came home after a long day of working at their Corvallis Asian grocery store to find their home torn apart.

“They were absolutely horrified to come home and just see everything was upturned,” said Gloria Kim, the daughter of Chong Man Kim and Byung Sook. “All of those, like drawers and shelves and everything, drawer was pulled out, all of their clothing pulled out, pockets turned inside out, like everything.”

The Kims lost their life savings, family heirlooms, Eisenhower dollars, and their wedding rings.

“I don't know why those people target us. Otherwise, the house is most safe place in my mind. But it's not now,” said Chong Man Kim, who owns Rice 'N' Spice Oriental Foods.

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For 45 years – 365 days a year – the Kims have run the business. Investigators say the alleged burglars surveilled the Kims before finally breaking in – in broad daylight.

“They follow us. Probably couple weeks. They find that was the way we live, where we work, and what days empty, the house they knew, and they target the daytime,” said Chong Man Kim.

The burglary is part of a nationwide pattern of break-ins targeting Asian business owners.

Police describe an international crime ring – highly organized, brazen and technically sophisticated – with members from South America, including Colombian nationals in the country illegally or on expired visas.

A new report from the Asian American Foundation says 485 homes have been robbed from 2018 to 2024.

“Another reason why these crime groups have been targeting Asians is because there's a lot

of false racist stereotypes and narratives that Asians are quiet and submissive and won't speak out," said Gloria Kim, the Kim's oldest daughter. "And they're not wrong in that Asians do tend to underreport crimes. A lot of studies do show that, but I am here and working with the Asian American Council of Oregon and others to show that we are not quiet. We will not sit back and allow you to continue to victimize our parents, you know, our friends, families, colleagues."

Their eldest daughter urged the Kims to speak out publicly in the New York Times last month to raise awareness.

She says it was hard for them to overcome the shame of being victimized and fear of being targeted again.

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"My mind is really angry. Every night. Seems like I cry every night, because my life is really upset, really, really upset," Chong Man Kim said.

He says he’s still angry they didn’t know they were at risk and heartbroken that their home no longer feels safe - and their retirement plans may never recover.

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“Living in this area, up until now, used to be a very safe, nice place. But after this happened, I cannot trust anybody. Really, really sad. My whole life is disappeared, it seems like.”

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Police describe an international crime ring – highly organized, brazen and technically sophisticated – with members from South America, including Colombian nationals in the country illegally or on expired visas... They are here "illegally"...I thought it was supposed to be undocumented...LOL. Great...

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Wonder what they think of the crooks immediately being let out on bail?

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At the end of the day, there is only one cause for this - liberals allowed this to happen.

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