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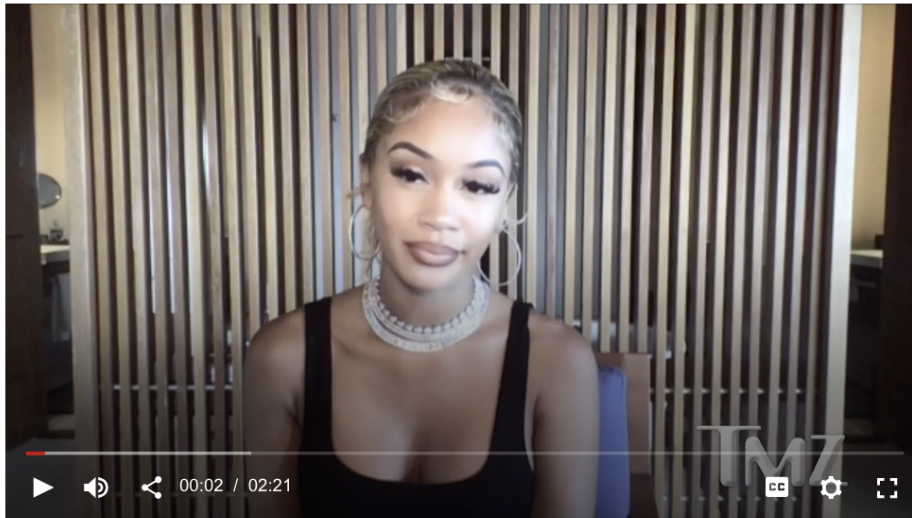
SAWEETIE ASIAN HATE HITS TOO CLOSE TO HOME ... We Need to Educate!!!

EXCLUSIVE

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5/17/2021 11:30 AM PT



TMZ.com

Saweetie says the rash of violence against Asian Americans that's stirring fear across the country has affected her family as well ... but she's aiming to put a stop to the hate she believes is at the root of it.

The "Fast (Motion)" rapper joined "TMZ Live" Monday to discuss Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month ... which is perhaps more important than ever as hate crimes against Asian Americans have risen during the COVID-19 pandemic.



ASSAULTED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

NYPD

Saweetie -- who's of Filipino and Chinese descent -- explains how the widespread violence has hit close to home ... especially the video of the elderly Asian woman **getting randomly attacked** in NYC.

She tells us that could have very well been her own grandmother, and says incidents like that have caused concern among families just like hers.

The bright side, according to Saweetie, is she believes the age of social media is opening people's eyes to how rampant this problem is ... and she's doing her part to raise awareness too.



She'll be performing with **Jhene Aiko** on Friday for the AAPI Heritage Month special, "See Us Unite for Change" ... hosted by **Ken Jeong** and featuring appearances by **Daniel Dae Kim**, **Lisa Ling** and more.

Saweetie says the goal is pretty simple -- educate and stop the hate ... and she sounds very hopeful.