STOP POLICE BRUTALITY

Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation

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The Revolutionary Worker has played a vital role in building for the Third National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation. The RW exposes important cases of police brutality and murder, and spreads news of resistance. The recent four-part series, "Black Youth and the Criminalization of a Generation," is an in-depth analysis of what's behind the system's war on our youth. The RW has called on brothers and sisters in prison to find ways to be part of the Oct. 22nd protests.

Special offer: For a limited time, the RW will send the pamphlet "Black Youth and the Criminalization of a Generation" to all new subscriptions and renewals. And, for an additional $10 on top of your own sub, buy a subscription for a prisoner.

Wear Black on October 22nd.

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As of October 18, 1998 Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzmán) has been held in isolation for...

6 Years, 4 Days

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and reading materials. Peru's President Fujimori has publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. Fujimori charged Perú's constitution to legalize the death penalty, which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Fujimori has repeatedly claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can Fujimori now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo's views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.

Support the People's War in Peru!

Support the Communist Party of Peru!

Fight to Break the Isolation!

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution come about. There is a challenge for all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world. Support this Party, this Party's struggle, its organization, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.
We revolutionaries in the RCP want to shout out to all the brave resisters on October 22. We are proud to be standing shoulder to shoulder with people all across the country who are taking a stand on this third National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation. Our hearts are together with all the people whose loved ones and comrades have been murdered by the brutal enforcers in blue...all those who have suffered beatings and humiliation for being “the wrong color” or “being in the wrong place” or having “too much pride” or not having “the right papers” or speaking “the wrong language.”

We are proud to be among the people who have called for this third national day of protest on October 22. Together we are taking an important step on the road toward putting a stop to an intolerable situation...

Where killers in blue go free time after time...

Where the youth are criminalized and disrespected...

Where a blue wall of silence allows crimes like the police torture of Amin Louima to go unpunished...

Where Black people, Latinos, Asians, Native Americans are treated like moving targets by armed and organized authorities...

Where more than 2 ½ million people are locked up in federal or state prisons and county jails...

Where more than 9½ million people were imprisoned in less than four years — at a time when crime is dropping...

Where more Black youth are in prison than in college...

Where even the president is not safe from prosecutors running amok...and where the fear and anger of many middle class people is misdirected against the people on the bottom, the people under the gun of the police...

Today, the problem of police brutality is coming more into the light. The Stolen Lives Project has documented 1,000 names of people killed by police from 1990 to 1998. Reports from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch confirm that the epidemic of police brutality continues to rage, that a generation of oppressed youth is being incarcerated, and prisoners in the United States are being subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment. More than ever—the VOICES OF THE PEOPLE MUST BE HEARD. October 22 is a chance to make a powerful and necessary statement against the epidemic of police brutality.

October 22 — We are wearing BLACK to remember, to demonstrate our anger...and our resolve.

October 22 — We are saying the NAMES of those whose lives have been stolen from us. We are telling the world how they died. We are calling on all who have been brutalized to come out and testify — alone, no more. We are resisting, marching, singing, speaking out, lighting candles, standing up for all the people. We are standing on the shoulders of all who have manifested resistance — from Los Angeles to New York, from border to border.

We are putting things back in focus.

Who are the real criminals? Who are the ones that put the dope in the schools?

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Murder of Andre Jones

On August 22, 1992, 18-year-old Andre Jones and his girlfriend were stopped at a police roadblock. Andre was arrested for allegedly having an open beer, carrying a concealed weapon and driving a truck with a stolen license plate. His girlfriend said later that Andre wasn’t carrying a weapon, and his family said the truck belonged to a friend.

Andre was taken to the Rankin County Jail and then transferred to the Simpson County Jail in Mendenhall, supposedly because of overcrowding. The Simpson jail was run by Sheriff Lloyd Jones—known as "goon" among Black people in the area because of his crude racism and brutality. "Goon" and his men claim they found Andre dead in the shower stall without the aid of a stepstool. According to them, Andre had committed suicide by hanging himself with a shoestring and hang himself from the rafters of a shower stall without the aid of a chair or stepstool. According to them, Andre committed suicide by hanging himself.

This version of events did not ring true to Andre’s family. Charles X Quinn Muhammad said, "Our son, Andre, was a vibrant young man—just graduated from high school and was enrolled in the University for the fall semester. He had never been in trouble with the law. He was not charged with any felonies. Therefore, going to prison was not an issue in his case. He had no reason to kill himself."

The family’s suspicions were confirmed when an independent pathologist concluded, as his report said, "It is physically impossible for a person to pick himself up by a shoestring and hang himself from the rafters of a shower stall without the aid of a chair or stepstool. Accordingly, I interpret this death as a homicide, wherein the shower-string hanging was used to fake the appearance of suicide."

Andre’s parents are well-known activists in the Jackson area. His mother, Esther Chokwe Lumumba, representing the local NAACP chapter. His father, Charles Muhammad, is the minister of the Nadia of Islam mosque in Jackson. Attorney Chokwe Lumumba, representing the family, said that Andre’s parents were "not liked by racist authorities of this state."

And he named the "authorities at Simpson County Jail" as primary suspects in the murder of Andre.

Other Victims

Some of the other victims of suspected jailhouse lynchings in Mississippi include the following:

- David Scott Campbell was a 21-year-old Black oil worker living in Philadelphia, Mississippi. On October 9, 1990, cops support and arrested Campbell and took him to the Neshoba County Jail. At midnight, the lights in the jail were out for an hour. When the lights came back on, Campbell was dead, hanging in his cell. Campbell was known to date several white women. One of these women—a daughter of a police officer—said she believed Campbell was killed by sheriff's deputies and corps because of his association with white women.

- Bobby Everett, 19-year-old, was found hanged in a Jackson jail in February 1992. His brother said he saw Bobby for the last time less than five hours before he was found ""with one end of aoccoor"" tied to a cell bar.

- Cordell Walker was found with a rope around his neck in his Parrish Parish jail cell in July 1993. In a letter to his mother ten days earlier, Walker wrote that he feared for his future and wanted to get transferred to another jail. "I will feel better here, because you can't trust some of these officers."

An Epidemic of Jail Lynchings

As Andre Jones’ family and their supporters fought to uncover the truth, they formed links with others in Mississippi—
NYPD! This just shows that people like censor the very people whose children and the Million Youth March, and even refusing protesting taxi drivers, unleashing cops on can't sell things on the sidewalk, prescribing people can try to get out of the cold. And he wants to dictate who can and can't city, subjecting everyone to "big brother" for loved ones. They've painfully disaligned inanity lives.

The NYPD have murdered innocent people. Who have been killed by the police want to cut short many young lives. They've denied justice to families grieving. They've denied justice to families grieving.

On October 22nd was also announced. And English, the East Regional Coordinator of the Youth Network for the October 22nd Coalition, was the moderator. English pointed out that the 500 names don't even cover cases like Abner Louima and other cases like Rodney King and people who were just brutalized by the police. English said, "So really, this epidemic is not isolated but it is widespread and it is going on across the country. What we really believe is that that initial 1,000 names is just the tip of the iceberg in that since we're not getting any help from any law enforcement agencies or any other people as to these statistics, we're trying to compile them on our own. So we believe that the statistics and the numbers of deaths are much much broader than that."

The speakers at the press conference included: Nicholás Heyward, Sr., who is 13-year-old son Nicholas Heyward, Jr., was shot by the police; Iris Baez, whose 25-year-old son Anthony was choked to death by the police; Ron Daniels, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and Carl Dix, from the October 22nd Coalition and National Spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party. Other parents whose children were murdered by the police gave interviews to the media, including Carman Ruiz, whose son Danny DiDiodoret was killed by the police. Altagracia Mayi whose son Munnel Mayi was murdered by a racist mob; Lucy Gonzalez whose son Joan Gonzalez was beaten by a racist gang, and Ana Jorge, whose son Felix Jorge it was choked to death after police

Press Conferences
A Thousand Stolen Lives

On October 13, the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation held a press conference at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City. The purpose of the press conference was to announce the publication of an additional 500 names of people murdered by the police across the U.S. since 1990. These names were added to the list of 500 names that had already been documented by the Stolen Lives Project. The third National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality on

New York
The Fight Over Permits

As we go to press, the New York City authorities have denied a march permit for the October 22nd National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, saying that the march would cause too much disruption of traffic.

Under Mayor Giuliani's administration, the NYPD have murdered innocent people. They've cut short many young lives. They've denied justice to families grieving for loved ones. They've painfully disrupted many lives.

Now, when parents and relatives of those who have been killed by the police want to take to the streets to tell their stories and protest police brutality—Giuliani has the nerve to turn them away.

As the editor of Revolution, "Take the system's punishing program."...
As I began to read the Cleveland Plain Dealer on Sunday morning, August 16, I read an article headlined "Police Shoot, Kill Man". It involved a shooting incident that took place on October 25, 1998.

Dealer on Sunday morning, August 16, I

saw an article headlined "Police Shoot, Kill

from all the past cover-ups by the police

thought of how New York cop Francis

case of the police killing a defenseless man.

Housing Authority (CMHA) police. I knew

football hit a police car in front of his own

time playing his guitar, creating graphics on

STORY. They said James Harris had lunged

at the article and told me, "The police are

them not to shoot—they told the cops the

told Lorene that it was over when they

to fight back, I'm interested in getting

And James couldn't have lunched at them

because they were at least 20 feet away and

they shot him as soon as they saw him. They

didn't wait for a moment.

Wille and I attended the funeral for James Harris and went with his family and friends to the cemetery. We drove over to the Evergreen Cemetery, putting his body to rest.

As we were walking in and telling a few people we were from the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, a breakdown. A young woman came up and said, "James' wife loves him. They tell me they were in love. Oh, there she is." So we approached Lorene Harris, James' wife, and told her how we read about the murder of her husband in the newspaper and suspected that the police were lying about what happened.

Willie let Lorene know right away how his son had been lunged by the cops in the Fourth District. Then Lorene told us about where it happened and where the police were when they shot her husband. With deep pain, sadness, and tears, Lorene told us how it all happened.

It was in the early hours of August 15 when James "Bugs" Harris, a 51-year-old Black man, was gunned down in front of his apartment door by two Cleveland Municipal Housing Authority police. James and his wife Lorene had spent the evening together, listening to music, dancing, having a few drinks and just having a good time in their apartment. They got to mentioning a music tape and just couldn't seem to stop. They were outside and were still arguing when James realized he had left his keys in the apartment. He went to the door and tried to pick the lock with his knife. When Lorene saw a couple of police around the corner from their building, she told them to come over, thinking they could talk to James, calm him down, chill him out. But the two white cops came over to the building with their guns.
The Death of Matthew Shepard
Murder in a Murderous Climate

Near morn dawn October 8, two bicyclists riding a deserted road outside Laramie, Wyoming, suddenly came upon Matthew Shepard. Matthew, a 21-year-old freshman at the University of Wyoming, was sprawled, tied on the split wooden rails of a horse fence. From a distance they thought his head was a stiff wooden head. Matthew had been beaten brutally. He had spent 18 hours exposed to near-freezing temperatures and was in a coma. He never regained consciousness. As the news spread, nightly street vigils started in cities and campuses across the U.S. A few days later, Matthew Shepard died in a Colorado intensive care unit.

A Crime of Reactionary Violence
It is believed that Matthew Shepard was kidnapped, tortured and killed because he was gay. The cruel bigotry of Matthew’s torture and death has shocked people and moved many to protest. Two men, Aaron McKinney, 22, and Russell Henderson, 21, are charged with the murder. McKinney’s girlfriend, Kristie Price says he had been embarrased because he believed Matthew Shepard “made a pass at him” at the Fireside Bar in Laramie. Price says that McKinney and Henderson broke Matthew’s head open, broke his legs and beat him to death. The FBI announced that Matthew had been beaten buntally. He was left to die with 21 staples to close the gash that took him to a deserted area outside of town and tied him to the fence. While Matthew reportedly asked them to spare his life, they tortured him, broke open his hand with the pistol butt, emptied his pockets and left him for dead in the cold Wyoming night.

After leaving Matthew, the two killers cruised Laramie and attacked two young Latino men who were just walking along the street. One of these men, 19-year-old Emiliano Morales, III, said that McKinney jumped him out of nowhere and opened a two-man reactionary rampage. That Wednesday night in Laramie was a painful injection of the rightist sense of mission in American cities and campuses across the U.S. A few days later, Matthew Shepard died in a Colorado intensive care unit.

The Danger of Supporting “Hate Crime” Laws
Many people have been grappling with how to actually stop gay-bashing—and how to battle back the climate of reactionary intolerance and reactionary violence that produces it. President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno and many other ruling class figures are trying to recruit such people to support the Federal Hate Crimes Protection Act. This law would widen the power of the federal prosecutors and the FBI by turning crimes based on “sex, disability and sexual orientation” into federal offenses.

It is a dangerous mistake to support this call. And unfortunately many people have done so in the vigils for Matthew Shepard. The push for more police-state powers in itself is an important part of the current reactionary offensive in the U.S. Having anti-hate crime laws on the books in many states has not reduced reactionary violence—but it has given police new ways to manipulate and exploit politically charged situations. The FBI and Justice Department have a long history of working closely with Klan types. New laws will not cause police or the FBI to magically become defenders of the persecuted. The outpouring of outrage over Matthew Shepard is very welcome. It is a sign that many people want to stand against bigotry and reactionary violence. It would be a sad development if this system succeeded in changing this outrage into support for broader police-state powers. Regardless of the intentions of many people supporting new “hate crimes” laws—backing new police powers will strengthen, not weaken, the climate of punishment and patriarchy.

Emboldened by the System
Powerful ruling class forces stand behind the two brutal small-town bigots who killed Matthew Shepard (and behind their brethren in the Montana Militia, the suburban Pominice-Keeper, and the Ku Klux of Jasper, Texas)—powerful forces that are egging such bigots on, flathing them a green light to crawl out from under their rocks. This capitalist system depends on the subordination of women and the enforcement of all kinds of repressive norms. It constantly guarantees and promises extreme reactionary forces who rise up to enforce the oppressive practices of traditional male supremacy and patriarchy. Who can miss that, these days, the whole official political arena is focused on a morality tale about “traditional values.” Sex outside traditional marriage is being treated like a state crime. The very idea of sexual privacy is mocked in Congress. This president (who pushed the conservative “back to the closet” policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell) is now himself publicly asked and forced to ask about his “right.”

Want a glimpse of what the Christian-fascists’ “new intolerance” means at the state level? Follow the trail of McKinney and Henderson’s late night rampage. The killing of Matthew Shepard is intolerable. These are times that demand consciousness and resistance.

Taking a Stand
There has been a powerful outrage over this killing. And a strong sense that Matthew’s death is part of something bigger—that highly placed and influential forces have encouraged a climate in which men like McKinney and Henderson feel empowered to punish homosexuals. Vigils and rallies have been held in many cities and on many college campuses across the U.S. People have denounced intolerant and bigoted “traditional morality.” And many people justly demand that the society as a whole end its cruel, public vendetta against the persecution of homosexuals.

Moreover, television talk shows gave major airtime to Christian-fascists who promote a “new intolerance.” “The outrage over Matthew’s murder is so strong that even these energy rightists had to denounced the killing—but then they used their TV time as a pulpit to condemn any departure from traditional patriarchal roles and family values” as immorality and “sin.” James Dobson, leader of “Focus on the Family,” denied that “the Biblical standard on homosexuality leads to murder” (while knowing perfectly well that Bible explicitly calls for the killing of gay men in Leviticus 20:13.). Then Dobson went on to rave that same-sex relationships undermine “the fabric of civilization.” CNN’s resident rightist Pat Buchanan charged that the murder of Matthew Shepard had been latched by forces wanting “special privileges for homosexuals.”

University of Wyoming marchers protest the attack on Matthew Shepard, October 10.
These are people whose lives were stolen by police murder. For each face seen here, there were hundreds and hundreds more who were also killed by the police. The U.S. is in the midst of an epidemic of murder "under the color of law."

Police killings are routinely covered up—with approval and protection from high levels of government. Meanwhile the victims of police murder are portrayed as people who deserved execution and police "street justice." Statistics showing the extent of police murder are treated like state secrets by the federal authorities—who refuse to release this important information to the public.

The Stolen Lives Project recently announced that they have documented the names of over 1,000 people killed by law enforcement agents since 1990 (including killings by police, border patrol and prison guards). The New York Times estimates that 600 people a year are killed by police in the U.S.

A recent Amnesty International report on human rights violations in the U.S. says, "There is a widespread and persistent problem of police brutality across the USA... Police officers have beaten and shot unresisting suspects; they have misused batons, chemical sprays and electro-shock weapons; they have injured or killed people by placing them in dangerous restraint holds... The majority of victims have been members of racial or ethnic minorities. Many people have died, many have been seriously injured, many have been deeply traumatized."

This epidemic of police murder is intolerable. It must be forced out of the shadows—it must be fought, exposed, denounced and ended. The cause is just. The situation is urgent.

Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation

Murdered in Cold Blood

If you know someone who has been killed by police, contact the Stolen Lives Project.
LIVES

by Police 1990-1998

Jorge Guillen, 40, cops beat his head and put a (sic) on his heart, Chicago, Oct. 3, 1995

Joseff C. Gould, 36, homeless man shot by cop and left to die, Chicago, July 30, 1995

Luke Grinnage, 21, shot by cop after he asked for a ride to explore his dog, Oakland, July 15, 1995

Raphael Grinnage, 62, wheelchair-bound musician shot to death when police shot down his son, Oakland, July 15, 1995

Mark Garcia, 41, cops pepper-sprayed then killed him, San Francisco, Apr. 6, 1996

Pedro Oregon, 33, shot by police, Kim Hong II, 27, murdered by police during a warrantless raid, Houston, July 13, 1995

Angel Casiano, Jr., 15, shot after his bike hit a cop car, Chicago, Oct. 23, 1995

Hector Islas, beaten to death by cops, Riverside, CA, Jan. 29, 1997

Yong Xin Huang, 16, 9th grade student thrown through glass door then shot by cop, Brooklyn, Mar. 24, 1996

Esequiel Hernandez, 18, high school student shot by marines while herding goats near the U.S.-Mexican border, Bedford, TX, May 20, 1997

Kevin Cedeno, 16, shot in the back by NYPO, Manhattan, Apr. 6, 1997

Marc Fitzsimmons, 26, shot in the back by LAPD, LA, July 2, 1998

Henry Sanchez, beaten to death by Bell Gardens police, California, Oct. 19, 1996

Jesus Ruvalcaba, 25, shot by two cops outside his home, Harlem, Apr. 13, 1995

Leonard Lawton, 25, shot in head by cop, Manhattan, Jan. 20, 1995


Charles Vaughn, Sr., 60, pepper-sprayed then shot by police, Monterey County, California, May 19, 1998

Hook up with October 22nd Coalition
1-888-NO-BRUTALITY
The police murder of Pedro Oregon and the people's determination to stop police brutality

On the weekend of July 11, 22-year-old Pedro Oregon returned to his apartment in the Gulfton area of Houston. After working all week on a landscaping job in Austin, Pedro was looking forward to spending some time with his family and a soccer game on Sunday. But at 1:30 a.m. on July 12, someone knocked on Pedro's door. While someone opened the door a bit to see who it was, six uniformed cops from the Houston Police Department's "gang task force" came storming in. They began shooting, hitting, and threatening people in the apartment. The cops kicked down the door of Pedro's bedroom and started shooting. Only moments after the cops came crashing through the door, Pedro Oregon lay bleeding to death on his bedroom floor—shot 12 times, 9 in the back.

The cold-blooded police murder of Pedro Oregon sparked broad outrage in Gulfton and throughout Houston. Two weeks after Pedro's death, 200 angry people marched through Gulfton in 104 degree heat in a demonstration called by La Resistencia, and demonstrations and meetings have continued in Gulfton and throughout the city. On Saturday, September 19, a memorial mass was held for Pedro.

The police version of what happened on July 12—which was portrayed in the local media—was quickly exposed as a lie. And the lies of the official story soon overflowed the dreary, unpolished/overcrowded apartments, which in fact victimized them.

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The police version of what happened on July 12—which was portrayed in the local media—was quickly exposed as a lie. And the lies of the official story soon overflowed the dreary, unpolished/overcrowded apartments, which in fact victimized them.
in Gulfton

found in Pedro’s apartment. An autopsy revealed there wasn’t a trace of drugs or alcohol in Pedro. The cop who was shot was also wounded by one of his fellow cops when they blasted off over 50 rounds at Pedro. A gun Pedro had to protect himself and his family was never fired. And the cops even violated several of the regulations of Houston Police Department policy. They had no search warrant authorizing them to go into Pedro’s apartment, and they had no arrest warrant for Pedro. The snitch who supposedly told them drugs were dealt from Pedro’s apartment was not a "registered informant" with HPD, as is required by department policy.

Johnny Holmes, the Harris County District Attorney in charge of presenting cases to grand juries in Houston, has been responsible for sending more people to the execution chamber than any other prosecutor in the country. He fought and maneuvered for years to keep Ricard Alopio Quintero on death row for killing a Houston cop, even though all the evidence showed that Ricard was innocent, and that the legal case against him was a racist frame-up from beginning to end.

Holmes quickly defended the cops who shot Pedro Oregon. Even though he admitted the cops didn’t have any authority to enter the house, Holmes said the cops didn’t violate Texas homicide laws. His argument is basically that even if everything the cops did before they shot Pedro was a violation of the system’s own laws and the HPD’s own policies, the police were legally justified to shoot Pedro—because any attempt to violate police orders is illegal.

Holmes also seems to be trying to drag out the grand jury presentation as long as possible, hoping peoples’ anger will cool down by the time the jury comes back with a decision. A few days after the shooting, the plain-clothes police went through the Gulfton apartments where Pedro had lived. In a cruel and sinister act they went door-to-door, asking for Pedro Oregon, saying they had an arrest warrant for him. In another incident at a demonstration, a woman active in many struggles in Houston said she was approached by a well-dressed woman she suspected was a plainclothes cop. The woman said, "Give Travis Morales a message for me. Tell him to rest in peace." Travis Morales is well known in Houston as a supporter of the Revolutionary Communist Party and a spokesperson for La Resistencia.

Then, a few days before the mass and march for justice for Pedro, a suspicious article appeared in the newspaper El Dia. There have been several articles in El Dia sympathetic to the struggle for justice for Pedro Oregon. But this article was very sinister. It claimed to be based on a conversation with an activist in the coalition involved in this struggle. Its headline said that "violence was foreseen" in the struggle for justice for Pedro. The article claimed some people in the coalition were talking about taking violent measures if the decision reached by the grand jury was not considered favorable. The article didn’t name any names, but pointedly referred to the Moody Park Rebellion of 20 years ago, when people on Houston’s Northside rose up in righteous rebellion one year after the police murder of Jose Campos Torres. The article claims that an activist in the coalition told the paper, "We know that there are members of our organization who participated in the Moody Park Rebellion 17 years ago and who have mentioned the use of violence in case the Grand Jury doesn’t formally accuse the officers." The article further states that plans for "violent reactions" have been part of discussions within meetings of the Justice for Pedro Oregon Coalition.

Everyone in Houston knows that Travis Morales is the one person most associated with the Moody Park Rebellion. He was deeply involved in the year-long battle to win justice for Joe Torres. After people rose up and rebelled against an outrageous court decision which essentially let off the cops who killed Joe Torres, Travis defended the rebellion at a City Hall press conference, stating that, "This was a glorious day in the history of the Chicano and Mexican people when they gave the capitalists and their cops a small dose of the justice they deserve." He was arrested on charges of "flying riot" and put in jail on half a million dollars bail.

Travis sees all his political work from the perspective of contributing everything he can to preparing for proletarian revolution, which he calls the "revolution of the people." He has said, "There’s no such discussions have taken place within the coalition. And the person who will win this battle to have been the source of the El Dia article, which aimed to keep the struggle for justice for Pedro Oregon alive, has made their revolutionary point of view clear.

The El Dia article represents a coward and obvious attempt to possibly set up Travis Morales and others on criminal charges. In fact, no such discussions have taken place within the coalition. And the person who was responsible for being the source of the El Dia article wrote a letter, published in the paper the following day, which repudiated the article’s accusations.

People’s struggles in the U.S. have been filled with examples of fabricated and police-planted stories used to set up revolutionary activists and activists, and to disorient and confuse the people. Often, articles filled with lies have been used by the police as justification for attacking revoluntionaries. For instance, in 1970 the Houston newspapers contained hysterical articles charging Carl Hampton and other young revolutionaries associated with the Black Panther Party were agents of the government, and that there were numerous cases in which Carl Hampton was murdered and several other people were severely wounded. All attempts like the El Dia article, which aim to divide and set back the struggle, need to be denounced and exposed.

People in Gulfton and elsewhere in Houston are saying that Pedro Oregon will not be forgotten. And there is strong determination among many people in Gulfton to continue the fight for justice for Pedro Oregon whatever the grand jury decides. People don’t want this struggle to stop until the cops are indicted, tried, and serving time for murder. And as October 22 approaches, some people who have been active in this struggle are beginning to make preparations to continue the struggle against all police brutality, repression, and criminalization of the people.

Justice for Pedro Oregon!
Jail The Murdering Police for Life!
Revolutionaries Must Not Be Killed for Their Beliefs—The People Must Defend Them

Revolutionaries, who embody the highest interests of the people and inspire the masses in fighting for these interests, are very precious to the people. And, particularly where revolutionaries hold firm to their principles in the race of persecution at the hands of the oppressors—including long years in jail and the threat of execution—it is extremely important for the people to rally to the defense of such revolutionaries and to refuse to accept the “right” of the oppressors to carry out this persecution and “legalized murder.”

...This is the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, whom the government is moving to execute in the near future, on the basis of another frame-up and cover-up.

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP.USA

The RW received the following commentary:

A Presidency of Betrayal
by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Consider Labor: their millions marched in his support.
Consider Blacks: Who voted for him in overwhelming numbers.
Consider Gays: From coast-to-coast, his core fans.
Consider women: Clinton's Response; They supported gays in the military, only to flip when the right-wing barked.

The Clinton Administration was built on the sands of Betrayal, a betrayal that didn't begin with a girl named Monica, and didn't end there either. The Clinton Administration was built on the basis of another frame-up and cover-up.
Richard Pryor Routines... Or Why Pigs Are Pigs

By Bob Avakian

The following is an excerpt from "Hell Street Buildin', Richard Pryor Routines, and the Real Deal" by Bob Avakian, Chapter 7 of the RCP. The complete essay, written in 1983, is in the book, Reflections, Sketches & Provocations by Bob Avakian.

Recently I was reading reports of police assaults on Black people and of Black people fighting against the police in Memphis and Miami. This called to mind a story I was told a while back. A rookie cop was riding in his police car with his veteran partner when a report came in that there was a Black man in the vicinity with a gun. As their car screeched around the corner, a young Black man suddenly appeared sprinting up an alley—into a dead end. "Shoot him!" the older cop screamed, "Go on, shoot him—it's free!"

"It's free?" I asked about that for a second. "It's free?" In other words, how's a chance that gets a pig to sweating and salivating with anticipation—a chance to "kill a nigger" with the already provided cover that "this is a problem of Black man, any Black man—was reported in the area with a gun. This is an opportunity too good to pass up.

"Go on, shoot him—it's free!"

Well, in this case, the rookie was not ready that—perhaps he was one of those rare ones who joins a police force actually believing the "serve and protect" bullshit—and that particular Black man did not die that day. But one of the most telling things about this whole incident is the fallout from it: the rookie cop had to resign. If he wasn't ready and willing—if he didn't have the proper attitude to do what his veteran partner was calling for, what came naturally to the seasoned "peace officers," what any pig in his place and in a pig's right mind would do—then there was no place for him on the force. Pryor's live performances.

Pigs are pigs. Of course, that's an image, a symbol—in the most literal sense they are human beings, but they are human beings with a murderer's mentality, sanctioned, disciplined, unlimited by the ruling class of society to keep the oppressed in line, through terror which is necessary and as the "bottom line," as they like to say. Terror against the oppressed is even a special reward for "carrying out the dangerous and thankless duty" of being the "thin blue line" between "civilization on the one side and savagery on the other." Terror, terror, terror

Think about it once again: Terror against the oppressed is not just part of the job, it's also a reward. That is one of the deeper meanings of the story at the start. "Go on, shoot him—it's free!"

"Maybe some liberals (of the "left" or "right") will object that these stories I've recounted are after all only stories..."

But for the masses of Black people in this "great land of freedom and justice" (what it's been called, and has been by at least, every year. Of course, this kind of freedom and justice is not reserved for Black people alone in the U.S., though they are special "beneficiaries" of it. It also lash out at other oppressed nationalities, imigrants (so-called "legal" as well as so-called "illegal") and in general those who are without wealth and therefore without power, including many others whom Officer Timpson is hardly a friend.

In short, the armed force of the bourgeois state exists for the purpose of suppressing, by force and arms, the masses of other oppressed nationalities, immigants (so-called "legal" as well as so-called "illegal") and in general those who are without wealth and therefore without power, including many others whom Officer Timpson is hardly a friend.

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Continued from page 5

Nicholas Heyward, Sr.

My name is Nicholas Heyward, Sr. My son Nicholas, Jr., was a 13-year-old honor student at 15293 in Brooklyn, attended church at the Church of God and Christ. Nicholas was also a role model to other youths in the community and its school. Nicholas was playing a game of cops and robbers with some friends after school on September 27, 1994 in the Gowanus housing complex in which he lived. I was told that he was talking to someone on the stairwell when three officers arrived. I was told by Brooklyn D.A. Charles Hynes that of the three officers that came upon try soa He was doing a check on the gun at the officer and told the officer, “We’re only playing!” and the officer shot him.

Nicholas Heyward

I feel that police brutality is an epidemic in this city and the Stolen Lives has come to show that there is over 1,000 names now. And the police are supposed to be monitoring and taking notes and documenting these names, which they haven’t started. And this is 1998. And we want to tell them, we’re documenting the names, would you like the names, which they haven’t started. And this is the is that unleashing cops to spread terror in all the communities. I mean he’s going around the country speaking here and there and that’s his claim to fame—“the man who brought order to New York City.” And we see how he does it. We see it here with these parents in terms of what comes down to it in this case.

On October 22nd, a lot of the victims of Giulianiism and many other people who stand for justice are going to show that here in New York City who reject Giuliani and his police-state program. And that’s Adolf, No. 1 mean Adolf Giuliani. You know, Giuliani is a national posterboy for the form of policing that is unleashing cops to spread terror in all too many communities.

I never thought that there was a problem with the police department until it hit home. Once it touched me, then I started coming to the press conference, the Coalition distributed a videotape with public service announcements against police brutality by Reg e. Gaines, poet, writer of Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk; Iris Baez; Father Lawrence Lucas, New York priest & activist against police brutality; Nicholas Heyward, Wyclef Jean, musician; Danny Hoch, actor, Joe Lee, actor; Goodie Mob, hip hop group; Marquita Reaves, mother of Anthony Rosario, killed by New York police; Rashida Grinage, whose son and husband were killed by Oakland, California police and a P.S.A. with video footage of Jerold Hall who was killed by California police.

The following are excerpts from the statements given at the press conference:

Carl Dix, National Spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party:

When you look through the list of the Stolen Lives Project you see young people who have been murdered because the police say they thought their toy gun was real. You see young people who were murdered because the effect of police thought their toy guns were a weapon. You see people unarmed shot in the back and the police justification being that they made some sort of suspicious move and threatened the life of the officer.

Now the authorities tell us that police brutality and police taking someone’s life is a rare occurrence. I say that when a grassroots documentation effort finds 1,000 cases—and counting—just in the 1990s, how can they be a question of rare occurrence? How can it be rare when you see how many cases we have documented of immigrants crossing the border in search of work and survival and end up dead at the hands of the Border Patrol and police in this country?

The authorities also say that it’s just a few rogue cops that are responsible for police brutality. Well, I say it can’t be like that because the majority of cops maintain a blue wall of silence that helps them cover up the crimes of law enforcement. And it also can’t be like that when the D.A.’s almost never indict a cop who kills someone, when judges refuse to correct it. It can’t be a question of just a few rogue cops, but a green light being given to brutal, murdering cops by the system.

Now, the list that we’re releasing today for the Stolen Lives Project should open the eyes to many of what we’ve been saying and that is that there is an epidemic of police brutality spreading, like a cancer all across this country. And it should also spur many to act to stop this epidemic of police brutality.

A way right now to do that here in New York City is to be with us on October 22nd when we march from Union Square Park, 14th and Broadway, down Broadway to City Hall and lay the problem of police brutality at the feet of the architect of New York’s police-state program. And that’s Adolf, No. 1 mean Adolf Giuliani. You know, Giuliani is a national posterboy for the form of policing that is unleashing cops to spread terror in all too many communities.

I mean he’s going around the country speaking here and there and that’s his claim to fame—“the man who brought order to New York City.” And we see how he does it. We see it here with these parents in terms of what comes down to it in this case.

On October 22nd, a lot of the victims of Giulianiism and many other people who stand for justice are going to show that there are a lot of people here in New York City who reject Giuliani and his police-state program.

Anna Jorge and Cari Dix at the New York press conference.

Anna Jorge and Cari Dix at the New York press conference.
These are facts and facts that call us and tell us to go in the telephone book and pick them out... We don't play with the numbers. We have to keep an eye on them so they won't continue. We have to know that you know that you're going to be doing this. Something and it does fall back on you. This is what we're here for. We have to feel sorry for their mothers. Nobody. So the guys. You are the ones that can make a difference. Why should they have had to die...? Other participants included poet Keith Asar. Mason and D.I.O. movie producer David Letter and several family members whose relatives have been killed by the police. Raquel Fontes of the Central American Resource Center in Pico Union (CARECEN), spoke and read a statement from María de los Ángeles Aguilar, the wife of Oscar Contrada Velez—who was shot to death by Border Patrol agents in San Ysidro on September 25. Less than 24 hours later, another immigrant, Leonard Valenzuela, was also shot and killed along the border. Both men were unarmed. Their names were among those added to Stolen Lives.

Stolen Lives Project in Los Angeles

The Stolen Lives Project held a press conference at the Los Angeles Federal Building on October 15. It was widely covered by the press, especially the Spanish-language media, including local TV stations and the international networks Univision and CNN-Telmespan.

Rev. Andrew Robinson-Gaiter of Faith United Methodist Church and others told the stories of some of the more than 1,000 people whose names are on the "stolen lives" list of people who have been killed by law enforcement. Rodney King came to give his support, telling reporters, "If there wasn't a problem with police brutality and the police beating people and shooting innocent people for nothing, I wouldn't have to be out here." Other participants included poets Keith Asar. Mason and D.I.O. movie producer David Letter and several family members whose relatives have been killed by the police. Raquel Fontes of the Central American Resource Center in Pico Union (CARECEN), spoke and read a statement from María de los Ángeles Aguilar, the wife of Oscar Contrada Velez—who was shot to death by Border Patrol agents in San Ysidro on September 25. Less than 24 hours later, another immigrant, Leonard Valenzuela, was also shot and killed along the border. Both men were unarmed. Their names were among those added to Stolen Lives.

out. I started saying, what's happening? You know, these kids are not supposed to die...

Why are they arresting innocent people out in the streets? And then after they arrest them, they have to lie about it, to make up a story so that they can lock them up and have the excuse. Well, that is why we did it. And then the ones that have let's say the toy gun—how could a cop not tell a toy gun from a real gun? I mean these are trained professionals...

This week I had a problem with Liviot's mother (Liviot is the cop who killed Anthony Davis.) She got on television saying that she feels for her son that's in jail. But how many innocent ones are in jail hurting? What about their mothers? They didn't deserve to go to jail, but yet they're in jail. So what about their mother? Who's going to feel sorry for their mothers? Nobody. So this is what we're here for. We have to do something and it does fall back on you guys. You are the ones that can make a difference. You have to put pressure so they know that you know that you're going to keep an eye on them so they won't continue doing this.

We don't make up these names, they give it to us. We don't make them up. We don't go in the telephone book and pick them out... We don't play with the numbers. These are facts and facts that call us and tell us these things. We just go and see if it's true. If we find out, we document it. What we don't know we don't put down. We only put down what we know. So let's get together and let's start working to end police brutality and the abuse.

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Ros Daniels, Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights:

"The United States of America has become, particularly New York, the focal point for the question of policing in the world today. The Giuliani model, Giuliani time, if you will, is being seen as the prototype for police departments in the world today. Of course, all across the world there are people like the October 22nd Coalition and others who are vehemently protesting this kind of quality of life, zero tolerance policing, much of which emanates from the fact that there is a fundamental crisis not only in this country but in the world today.

It would be a mistake to see police brutality and misconduct outside of the context of growing inequality in the world today, where large numbers of people are living in poverty and inequality and where we have in this global economy—they're a little shaky right now, but—a significant number of people who really control most of the wealth. And as a result, what we have is an effect, as opposed to investing in the quality of life for real—in terms of education and health care and housing and all of the things that would, in fact, enrich the lives of human beings—we have a growing emphasis on zero tolerance and punitive measures and the growth of the prison, jail industrial complex, the death penalty.

That is the way in which it is seen that the population is to be controlled in the absence of the agenda for social justice and for human development in that country and the world. And so this October 22nd activity is very crucial... There are horror stories on top of horror stories on top of horror stories in New York with Mayor Giuliani. And that's why, again, it's important to put a stop to it in New York because it is spreading, like a cancer across this country. Giuliani and his concept of policing is spreading across this country and across the world. So it's important that we intensify the struggle here."

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Statement issued by Amnesty International USA:

The concerns regarding police brutality that the Stolen Lives Project reflects are ones that are shared by Amnesty International. Indeed, the systematic abuse of citizens, particularly citizens of color, by police in many of our largest cities is a major focus of Amnesty's report on human rights violations in the United States, released just a week ago.

As recently as 1991, 5 percent of the American people (approximately 12.5 million people) and 9 percent of all people of color in this country reported in a Gallup poll that they had been mistreated by the police. Under the Police Accountability Act provisions of the 1994 Crime Control Act, the Justice Department is required to compile and publish regularly detailed national data on police use of force. Such data is not, however, available in any satisfactory form. That private organizations have undertaken to begin such a compilation is highly commendable. But that they should have had to do so is both a tragedy and an indictment of the government.

The only way the American public will ever demand an end to harassment and unjustified killings by the police is if they know the full extent and nature of the problem. The Stolen Lives Project makes a valuable contribution to that education. What is required now is to put our knowledge to work to stop the police violence that has made this project necessary in the first place.

Dr. William F. Schulz, Executive Director
Amnesty International USA
The Call for a National Day of Protest on October 22nd, 1998, to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation!

This call is from the October 22nd Coalition: The Call for a National Day of Protest on October 22nd, 1998, to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation.

1998—the epidemic of police brutality continues to intensify all across the U.S. Every year hundreds of thousands more police abuse short of death. This brutality mostly targets Blacks, people with disabilities, and Native Americans. The criminalization of a generation continues.

1999—the police brutality crisis continues, but with vigour. Each year thousands more suffer police abuse short of death. This brutality mostly targets Blacks, people with disabilities, and Native Americans. The criminalization of a generation continues.

1998—1.7 million people are in prisons across the country, most of them young, black or Latino and most are in prison for minor violent offenses. Congress is debating lowering the execution age to fifteen and imprisoning juveniles with hardened adult offenders. A whole generation of our youth is being handed death sentences on how they dress, their attitude, the color of their skin or where they live. Who will stop the criminalization of a generation?

1999—Very basic legal rights, such as the right to challenge wrongful imprisonment, are being stripped away from our people. Surveillance cameras are being put up throughout the country. The right to a fair trial is slowly being whittled away. At this rate poor and oppressed people hardest as the authorities fuel their neighborhoods with police who set up roadblocks, demand to see ID and conduct warrantless searches. More than 100 million "political prisoners" languish in U.S. jails. St. Petersburg, FL, Chicago's Cabrini Green housing projects, and elsewhere.

This call is from the October 22nd Coalition: The Call for a National Day of Protest on October 22nd, 1998, to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation.

For more Information contact the October 22nd Coalition at 1-888-NO-BRUTALITY or go online at www.unstopable.com/22