

# Call for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation on October 22, 2022

## National Day of Protest 2022: Raise Your Fists Across America and Take the Struggle for Justice Back to the Streets!

- In a year that is on track to break records for killings by law enforcement, it's time to take the struggle for justice BACK TO THE STREETS.
- In a year when police and politicians are using a temporary uptick in crime to roll back gains in police accountability, it's time to make our demands clear by getting BACK TO THE STREETS.
- In a year when the growth of fascism led by the Republican Party is enabled by the refusal of the Democratic Party to mobilize any real kind of resistance, it's time to take the struggle BACK TO THE STREETS.
- In a year when we still vividly remember the power of being in the streets in our millions in every city and town against police terror, white supremacy and oppression, it's time to take the struggle BACK TO THE STREETS.
- On **October 22, 2022**, the **National Day of Protest against Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation**, RAISE YOUR FISTS ACROSS AMERICA and GET BACK ON THE STREETS in every city and town for all Stolen Lives and casualties of police terror!



**2022 is a year on the precipice:** All of society is looking for a way to go forward. One way is being loudly proclaimed by powerful Republican fascists seeking to squash dissent and to intensify the oppression of Black and Brown people, women, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ people. The other way, which came so powerfully to the forefront during the beautiful uprising of the summer of 2020 against police terror and white supremacy, is struggling to make its way past gatekeepers and moderates, who don't want to stop oppression but simply manage it on behalf of their Democratic Party patrons. The old, intolerable status quo is dying, while a new, liberating way forward for all of us is fighting to be born. It's on us to turn the tables on this terrible situation, and take the struggle back where it belongs, to the people and to the streets!

**Daily Police Terror Escalating:** According to an August 2022 [article](#) in *The Independent*, U.S. police had already killed over 700 people by August 1st, and are on track to kill more people this year than in any year this past decade. Among these [Stolen Lives](#) are Donovan Lewis, a 20 year-old Black man who was shot to death in his bed by Columbus, OH police, while holding a vape pen that cops claimed was a gun; in Greensboro, NC, police shot and killed an unarmed 17 year-old Black high school student named Nasanto "Duke" Crenshaw after a traffic stop. In Pennsylvania, an Asian transgender woman named Maddie Hoffman was killed by police while experiencing a mental health crisis. As her sister said on her GoFundMe page, "Nationwide, police are usually the first responders to people with mental health crises. They are often not trained to provide proper support and the results have been deadly and devastating." How many times have we seen the truth of this statement?

**Resurgent White Supremacy Seizing Control:** "Old Boy" networks of institutional White Power are flagrant with their bigotry. Even the most tepid reformers are immediately neutralized, like the Black female police chief

appointed to rebuild the image of the Charlottesville, VA police department in the wake of the white supremacist riot of 2018, who faced an outright rebellion from the 90% white police force who refused to follow her orders and then forced her removal. In Kenly, NC, the entire all-white police force resigned following the hiring of a Black town manager in a town that is majority Black and Latinx. An [exposé](#) of the fascist Oath Keepers group that coordinated the January 6, 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol revealed how that group has infiltrated law enforcement at all levels nationwide. White Power is resurgent nationwide, with law enforcement, who legally get away with murder every day, leading the pack.

**Cops and Fascists Attacking Dissent and Protest:** In Portland, OR, after a white 43 year-old fascist killed 60 year-old white anti-police brutality activist June Knightly and wounded four others, police there spread the lie that it was the result of an "armed confrontation." Police violence, from tasers to tear gas, has been used against protesters resisting the overturning of abortion rights in South Carolina, Nevada, and New York, while one protester from the group Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights was forcibly injected with a sedative after being arrested at an NBA playoff game. In July, the FBI launched coordinated raids against the African People's Socialist Party and its chairman Omali Yeshitela at the APSP offices in St. Petersburg, FL and Yeshitela's home in St. Louis, MO, in a move [condemned](#) by the October 22nd Coalition and many others as "brazen and hypocritical attacks on independent political organizing by a Black political organization in the US with a long history of activism around profound and historic grievances."

**Same Old Oppressive System with a New Brand:** Police departments may try (and sometimes fail) to put "Black and Brown faces in high places" in an attempt to rebrand themselves, but that doesn't change what

they are: an army of oppression, repression, and control. In the name of "fighting violent crime," big city mayors like New York City's Eric Adams are bringing back vicious street repression of Black and Brown youth in a repackaged version of the discredited "Stop and Frisk" program. In Fresno, CA, the forced removal of houseless people is carried out by a heartless police squad called "The HART Team." Look behind the PR, and you'd see the millions spent on "[copaganda](#)" to justify the same old brutality, with violent cops getting rewarded for their actions, like the NYPD cop who killed John Collado in 2011 being promoted to head the department's Financial Crimes Task Force. Meanwhile, even the slightest hint of reform, like review boards or the George Floyd Act, get killed off by opposition from Republican and Democratic elected officials alike.

**When the sustained protests waned, cops and politicians breathed a sigh of relief and got back to business as usual:** issuing no-knock warrants, feeding the school-to-prison pipeline, letting violent cops off the hook with "qualified immunity," shirking even their own established attempts at [accountability](#), without EVER intending to change the way they do business. In fact, this IS the way they do business! When they say they need more cops to fight violent crime, we look at the army of cops in [Uvalde](#) who didn't do a damn thing to stop the slaughter of innocent children, instead attacking their parents, and say, **What good will more cops do, when they don't give a damn about us anyway?**

## Standing United, We Can Turn It All Around BACK TO THE STREETS for the National Day of Protest 2022!

Remember how it felt when we were in the streets of every city and town, challenging this violence, racism and impunity down to the foundations? For the first time in years, the PEOPLE were setting the terms, and this system knew it and feared it! In response, the Republican establishment unleashed its fascist goons in and out of uniform, while the Democrats started doling out huge grants and corporate donations to groups that often only delivered infighting and toothless reforms. One thing should be clear from the upsurge of violence and repression by cops and fascist vigilantes in 2022: when we give up the streets, we lose ground. We've got to get back out there, calling forward people from all parts of society to visibly oppose this dangerous tide of violence and repression in united and diverse ways.

The October 22nd Coalition has always united broadly across races, nationalities, and religious and political viewpoints, but we have also insisted that the only movement that stands a chance at turning back police

violence is one that roots itself firmly among the people catching the most hell, mobilizes allies and collaborators throughout society, and remains independent of the powers that be. As we said in our [Position Paper](#) last year, we will work with and fight alongside those seeking reforms and electoral and policy changes who commit to stopping this genocide and escalating repression, as we build the kind of movement that keeps people mobilized and sees police violence and racist terror not as problems to be managed, but as ATROCITIES to be ENDED. At the core of our movement are the families and loved ones of the Stolen Lives, who know first-hand the devastation that unchecked police power brings. We stand with them resolutely and call on all justice-minded people to unite with Stolen Lives families nationwide, and take to the streets, the communities, the campuses and town squares to raise the demand, **"Stop Police Brutality! Stop the Repression! Stop the Criminalization! NO MORE STOLEN LIVES!"**

This October 22<sup>nd</sup>, stand with thousands across the country to express our collective outrage, creativity, and resistance in response to the crimes of this system. Take part in the [Fists Across America](#) project. Join us if there is already an NDP event in your area. Create one if you are in an area where there is currently no one organizing.

### On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, WEAR BLACK, FIGHT BACK!

To endorse this call, complete [this form](#). For more information, see [october22.org](#).

Email [oct22national@gmail.com](mailto:oct22national@gmail.com) to provide details of an action.



*The National Day of Protest aims to bring forward a powerful, visible, national protest against police brutality and the criminalization of a generation. It aims to expose the state's repressive program. It aims to bring forward those most directly under the gun of Police Brutality AND to also reach into all parts of the society--bringing forward others to stand in the fight against this official brutality. And the National Day of Protest aims to strengthen the peoples' organized capacity for resistance in a variety of ways.*

- [Mission Statement](#) of the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation, adopted Oct. 1996.