

WEAR BLACK!

November 2002

The Newsletter of the National Office of the October 22nd Coalition for a National Day of Protest to STOP Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation

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Overview

October 22, 2002, the 7th National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation (NDP7) was a resounding success. In a

year when speaking out against police brutality had been ruled “out of order”, people in over 40 locations across the U.S., plus solidarity actions in the U.K. and Canada, came out solid and strong. Their courageous determination will have an impact in the years to come, encouraging others to speak out and take part. In the process of collecting the research on the number of people killed by law enforcement agents as part of our preparations for issuing the Call for the 7th National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation on October 22nd, 2002, we began to realize that the rate of people killed

nationally by law enforcement compared to past years had jumped alarmingly, while the reporting on these deaths had dropped drastically. It became strikingly clear that police brutality was an issue that people weren't supposed to be talking about. October 22nd coalition faced this challenge head on, developing its theme for the year, “Police Brutality Did Not Die on Sept. 11th”. The nationally televised videotaped beating of Donovan Jackson broke through the smothering silence in July, showing that “Brutal Cops are not Heroes.” The work of October 22nd

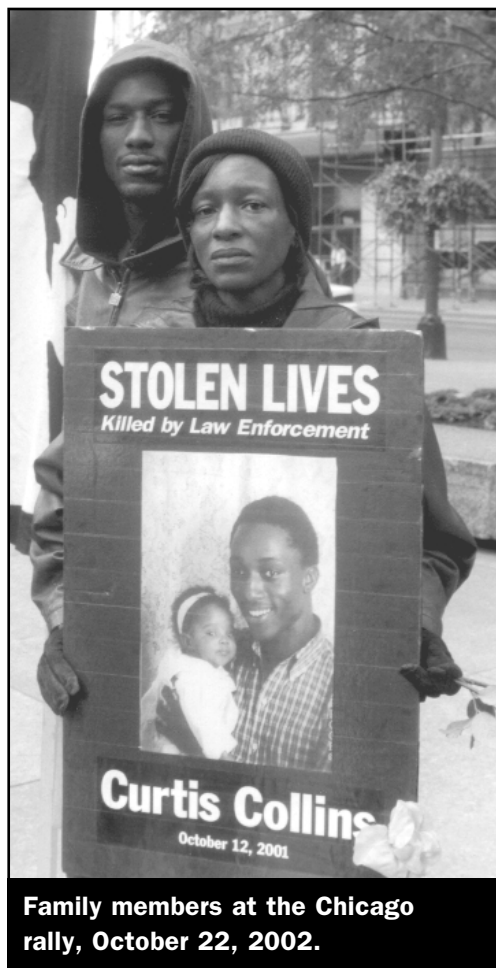
throughout the summer continued the struggle to push this issue back out into the open. Media coverage before the Day,

the Public Service Announcements (PSAs) airing on BET,

the broad distribution of the new poster, and October 22nd coalition speaking engagements in high schools and colleges, reached out to many people in the days leading up to October 22nd. In September and October, Norma Martinez from Los Angeles went to Argentina and distributed copies of *Vidas Robadas* (the Spanish edition of *Stolen Lives*) to media representatives and legal, human and civil rights associations including COFAVI and the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, the mothers of the disappeared. A youth organization in Vienna, Austria, reprinted the “Police Brutality Did not Die on September 11th” poster in their magazine, *Springerin*. October 22nd, NDP7 involved thousands nationally, and got many thousands more talking about the theme, “Police Brutality did Not Die on September 11th”.

Oakland, Chicago, New York, and other areas reported that many new families, some of them families of people listed on the new poster, played an active role in speaking at the rallies. Greensboro, North Carolina, reports that their group spoke at 11 different events in the month of October. Seattle, Minneapolis, Cleveland, and St. Louis, all had larger and stronger demonstrations than usual. The family of Carlos Martez Antonio Williams in Birmingham, Alabama, got in touch with October 22nd from seeing one of the PSAs run on BET, and distributed October 22nd literature

there. The energy of the new generation was definitely in evidence. Several areas reported that youth made up as much as 60 or 80% of the marches. In Los Angeles, where people had to walk through thickly assembled squads of police just to get to the march assembly point, Black Student Unions, MechAs, Asian Pacific student groups, and the Watts Drum Corps contributed their energy to the disciplined, courageous march of 1,000 people. In Oakland, students came out from the Thurgood Marshall high school in San Francisco, where just a few days earlier



Family members at the Chicago rally, October 22, 2002.

Photo: Dave Vance

police in full riot gear, coming in on a report of a routine school fight, beat and arrested students and teachers. The section of society who are the people “most directly under the gun of police brutality” formed a firm backbone to many of the marches. In some places, like Chicago, the youth were from the generation which has been criminalized, coming out from the projects and the neighborhoods.



Photo: Special to the OR/RW

In other areas, like Kent State, Ohio, the youth came from the recent anti-war struggles. These youth and families, together with the other sections of society out on that Day, represented powerfully for many thousands more who agreed with their message.

In Detroit, along with other areas, blue triangles were visible, representing the disappeared Muslim, Arab and South Asian people who have been subjects of racial profiling, secret arrests, detention and deportation. A speaker from the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee in Oakland said that seeing the pictures of people killed by the police reminded her of Palestine. The New York march stopped at the Federal Building, headquarters of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). As protesters stepped up one-by-one to the mic to read the names on the blue triangles, the people shouted back, “Presente!”

The big startling truth-speaking poster entitled, “Police Brutality Did not Die on September 11th”, which listed over 140 names of people killed by law enforcement, resonated with people’s life experience in many cities. Chicago reported seeing groups of people gathering around and reading the poster in areas where it was up on the walls. The National Office received calls from people whose loved ones were listed on the poster, asking how they could get involved in the fight to stop police brutality. Some of those people went on to speak at the October 22nd events in their area. All over the country, people glad-

ly gave donations for the poster, and took many copies to get it up in their schools, churches, organizations and neighborhoods.

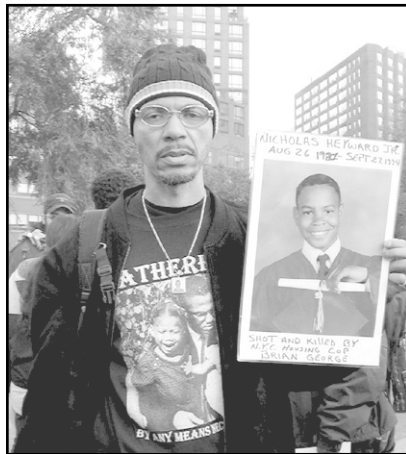
One thing we can say for sure—the authorities really don’t want this message getting out to the people!

In past years the struggle to hold October 22nd events has often been quite sharp. Various authorities have tried to stop October 22nd from connecting with even broader sections of people, such as in Los Angeles in 2000, when rubber bullets were fired at the protestors, or 1998 in New York, when city officials tried to shut down October 22nd by refusing a permit to march. This year, efforts to rule this topic “out of order” took the form of threats, intimidation and clampdown. In Chicago, seven people were arrested for crossing a crosswalk too slowly during the march. In El Paso, a student organization and several students have been suspended from the university for having a rally in an area which was not considered a “free speech zone.”

Minneapolis reported that the immigrant café that they were going to after the march received a threat that morning—“If you think this is police brutality, you haven’t seen nothing yet”. Greensboro reported unusual police presence, with videotaping cameras set up at the rally site, and police following them all during the march. Houston reported that when they went out to Festivals in the weeks before the march, people told them, “I agree with you, but I’m afraid to come out on that day.” Downtown Los Angeles looked like a police state that day, with unprecedented numbers of police lining the march route. However, the intimidation did not succeed in stopping people from stepping out and saying what they had come to say.

In many areas, media coverage before, during and after extended the reach of October 22nd to people who could not come out to the events. Sympathetic alternative, Black, Spanish and ethnic press media assisted October 22nd organizers in getting the word out. Indymedia.org websites reported on the Chicago, New York, Minneapolis, Portland, Maine, Portland, Oregon and Washington D.C. actions. The *Chicago Defender*, the major Black newspaper in Chicago, gave front page coverage to their Sept. 10th press conference, and carried photos of “Police Brutality did not die on Sept. 11th”. CBS 2, Noticias 34, KTLA5, Ch. 4, Noticiero T52, Fox 11 News ran clips of the Los Angeles demonstration all afternoon and evening, and it was also covered in the *LA Times* and *La Opinion*. The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Channel 43, Channel 3, and *Free Press* covered it in Cleveland. Channel 41, Channel 4 and the local paper reported on the Kansas City, Mo. event. Mainstream and alternative media reported on the

Minneapolis action. Manhattan Neighborhood Network (cable TV), Pacifica News (radio), and the *Village Voice* on-line ran news in advance in New York. *Caribbean Life*, the *Daily Challenge* (N.Y.'s only daily black newspaper), *Afro-Times* and 3 Chinese newspapers carried short descriptions afterwards. KPSA radio covered the Oakland event. In Seattle, all the major TV news covered it. Three of the public service announcements played on Black Entertainment Television (BET) in the days before October 22nd, resulting in people organizing actions in Birmingham, Alabama, Roxbury, Massachusetts, and other areas



Nicholas Heyward, New York City — 10/22/2002

Photo: Donna Lamb

sections of people not directly under the gun of police brutality, taking to them the Stolen Lives Project, speaking about the epidemic of police murder in classrooms, churches, community organizations and more. The Adopt-a-Spot program for the public service announcements illustrates an application of the mission—organizing house meetings between parents of victims of police brutality and people in other sections of society. We have also recently connected with a publisher who is interested in working with us on the 3rd edition of *Stolen Lives*, in English and Spanish, to possibly come out in October 2003. At our national meeting in January 2003 in Houston, we will thoroughly sum up the achievements of this year's NDP, and make plans for the year ahead.

Other Coalition Activities

Throughout the year, the October 22nd Coalition nationally played a role in other important events.

We participated in making the February 20th National Day of Solidarity with Arab, Muslim and South Asian immigrants a success, and took part in the April activities to support Mumia Abu Jamal. October 22nd distributed literature with its theme at the April 20th anti-war demonstrations. We produced and widely distributed a national poster listing over 140 names of people killed by law enforcement since Sept. 11th, 2001. We distributed 3,000 leaflets in the Reparations demonstration in Washington, D.C. We were very active in many local area police brutality issues. October 22nd took part in the October 6th Not In Our Name protests around the country, distributing hundreds of the "Police Brutality Did Not Die on Sept. 11th" posters.

What's Next?

What are the ways that we will build on the advances of NDP7, and continue to push out the exposure on police brutality, repression and the criminalization of a generation even more? The October 22nd Coalition makes two unique contributions to the fight to stop police brutality: (1) our powerful, determined national actions on the 22nd and (2) the Stolen Lives Project, in all its aspects—house meetings, commemorations, articles, research, the banners, the Website, the book—collecting, documenting and publicizing the extent of this epidemic. The mission statement of October 22nd says, "[NDP] aims to bring forward those most directly under the gun of police brutality AND to also reach into all parts of society." Going forward will require staying on our mission, continuing to reach out to

Reports from Local Areas

Akron, Ohio October 22nd activists got the Public Service Announcements run on a local cable TV show.

Baltimore, Maryland A photographic exhibit of several October 22nd events and anti-police brutality rallies was organized as part of October 22nd events. "Angry Black Man" is an ongoing historiographic series of Elvert Xavier Barnes. Protest & 'Writings On The Wall' focuses on the documentation of protests, rallies and vigils in connection with the black struggle.

Benjamin Cardozo Law School, New York: Law students tabled with the October 22nd Call and other literature The Stolen Lives book and Vidas Robadas was on display. They distributed 50 posters and 20 buttons. Some of the students then joined the October 22nd New York rally.

Birmingham, Alabama The family of Carlos Martez Antonio Williams called in after seeing the PSA on BET, and distributed Oct. 22 literature, plus sending in their information for the new Stolen Lives Project.

Chicago On Sunday, October 20, about 100 people gathered outside the Cook County Courthouse for a speakout and marched around the County Jail complex. People outside shouted in to the prisoners in the yard, chanting "no justice? no peace!" and "tear it down!". People on the inside waved and shouted back enthusiastically.

300 people took part in a rally and march on October 22nd. The recent police killing of Louis DecQuir on the southside of Chicago was highlighted, as his cousin David Bates from the Justice Coalition of Greater Chicago addressed the press about the recent murder demonstrating that "Police Brutality Did Not Die September 11th." Other speakers at the press conference included Rev. Calvin Morris, executive director of the Community Renewal Society, Rev. Paul

Jakes of the Christian Council on Urban Affairs, Robert Schultz speaking on behalf of the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Ruth Peña from *Comite Exigimos Justicia* (a Latino family group with sons unjustly incarcerated), Joan Parkin from the Campaign to End the Death Penalty addressing the issue of clemency in the case of death row inmates.

After the families spoke, people took off on a spirited march, “No Justice? No Peace!” Determined to not have the issue of police brutality buried, marchers tried many times to take State Street, the main thoroughfare in the Loop. Police refused to allow the marchers the street, forcing people at times to march single file on the sidewalk. When this caused the march to proceed slowly, police arrested 7 people, charging them with mob action. They claimed the march was deliberately “blocking traffic.” Police later alleged in the media that protesters sat down in the street, but anyone who was there knows that nobody sat down. Arrestees noted that while in the lock-up, they heard police talking about how this was a “dress rehearsal”



Chicago — 10/22/2002

Photo: Dave Vance

back. Then he went to his knees, and the cop backed up and kept shooting and shooting and shooting until Craig was dead.”

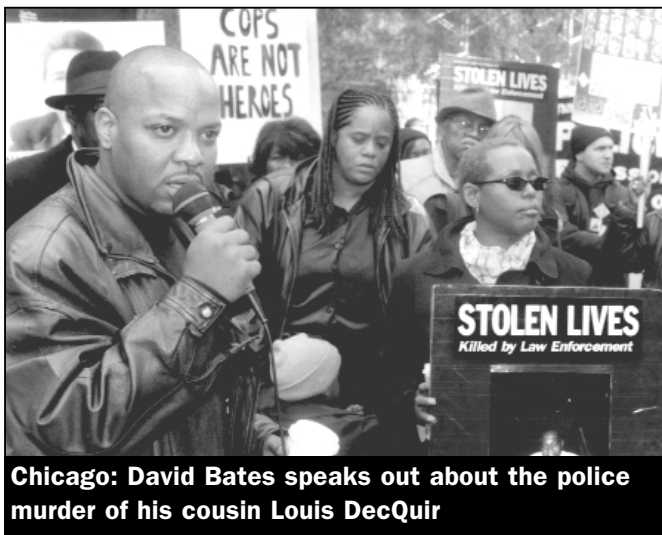
The protestors marched right up to the doors of the Justice Department. Family members and others slammed pictures of victims against the windows for cops inside to see.

Columbus, Ohio For the duration of the one hour rally, 4 out of 5 police cruisers that patrol the Ohio State campus were in attendance also. Speeches were received with support and love from area activists and passersby alike, which surprised and delighted the protestors in attendance. Most had prepared themselves for shouts and arguing and catcalls and heckling. Instead they found people who supported or just wanted to know what it was about, and most were receptive and genuinely interested.

Denver, Colorado 35 people turned out in cold, drizzly weather, the coldest day of the year to date. They marched to a major downtown intersection, where cards with the names of the 15 local people, who had been recently killed by the police, were distributed. The demonstrators had costumes and had made a huge “BAD COP” puppet. In front of police headquarters protestors read descriptions of those killed. The march culminated with the demand for the Denver police ‘spy files’ on Human Rights activists (specifically those on the activists for police accountability).

Detroit, Michigan A rally and picket at the 9th police precinct was attended by 76 people (28 of them youth). It was organized by a relative of a recently shot youth. At the rally, October 22nd organizers sold buttons, tshirts and the *Stolen Lives* book. Blue triangles, protesting the detention and disappearance of Muslims, Arabs and South Asians, were in evidence. After the march, the youth organized a speakout at a Baptist church.

Durham, North Carolina Civil rights attorney Al McSurely held a program for law students at North Carolina Central University, a historically Black institution. He focused mainly on the case of Gil Barber in Guilford County, but mentioned several other cases of police killings in the area. Over 60 students attended, and Al



Chicago: David Bates speaks out about the police murder of his cousin Louis DecQuir

Photo: Dave Vance

for the upcoming protests against the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) on November 7.

Marchers returned to Federal Plaza to continue the rally. They were able to raise hundreds of dollars of bail money for the arrestees while the “Looney Bins” a hip hop group from Stateway Gardens performed a piece on life in the projects.

Cleveland, Ohio A diverse crowd—Black, white, Native American—of over 150 people rallied. The families of victims spoke, and there was good press coverage: Cleveland Plain Dealer, Channel 43, channel 3.

Serena Miranda, aunt of Joe Finley, a young Native American killed in June of this year, told the crowd, “Joey was only 20 years old and he was shot while lying on the ground. Twelve times. I feel for every family here who has lots a loved one to a murder like this.” Brenda Bickerstaff said, “They shot my brother five times in the

reported that he has since gotten several calls from students who want to help do legal work in the Gil Barber case.

El Paso, Texas There was a 30-person rally in which students were sitting quietly on grass listening to a speaker talk about his son. For this, several students were suspended from the University because the rally hadn't been conducted in a "free speech zone", even though they were in the exact spot they had been the year before with no trouble. The ACLU of Texas came to the students' defense and got them reinstated.

Fresno, California Forty or more people rallied, joining the national October 22 movement, exposing police brutality all over. They called for creating a civilian review board as the only way to get truth on police abuses. They called on people to evoke courage to challenge the deaths of our brothers and sisters, and said, "We must stand together and defend each other; nobody else will."

Hawai'i About 45 black-clad people—mostly youth—responded to a call put out by Refuse & Resist!-Hawai'i to protest police brutality in Waikiki. Carrying banners reading "Police Brutality Did Not End on 9/11", "Free Mumia", "We Will Not be Silenced by Fear", and "Stop Police Brutality, they marched to the Waikiki police substation where they held a short rally, and then proceeded through the central tourist area to stop at two malls to agitate. The march was spirited and noisy, and none of the thousands of people on the streets could miss the message. About 500 copies of the Call were distributed along the march. Earlier in the day both Refuse & Resist! and Revolution Books set up tables and displays against police brutality, and the Call was distributed. On Saturday night, October 19th, three local punk bands held a concert to speak out against police brutality. R&R! decorated the venue with lots of banners and people spoke out against police brutality. R&R! also made "Stop Police Brutality" patches with the October 22nd logo.

Houston, Texas Even though it was very bad weather, rainy and stormy, 146 people came out to rally and march. The youth turnout was strong. Several family members of victims of police brutality spoke, along with the NAACP, and representatives from the October 22nd Coalition.

Greensboro/High Point, NC Guilford County, or, "Guilty County" as we call it, was extremely busy during the weeks leading up to the National Day of Protest (NDP). October 22 representatives were invited to be speakers at 7 events between the last

week in September and the National Day Protest (NDP) itself. These included a couple of forums, a punk concert, an anti-war rally, a "peace potluck", with heavy participation from three of the area's five colleges. Between all these events and through setting up information tables, we reached probably a thousand people.

The NDP event itself was small, but intense. About 30 people, mostly youth, marched from the Civil Rights Museum where the original lunch counter sit-ins took place, to the bus stop to take our message to downtown workers. When the transit authority rent-a-cops tried to make us leave, people there, riders and bus drivers alike, got in their face. We left with twice as many people as we started with. There was heavy police surveillance—sheriff's department and Greensboro Police Department not-so-undercover officers followed the whole march, videotaping it. After marching on the Sheriff's department to challenge the cover-up of facts in the killing of Gil Barber, we finished up with speakers and the Stolen Lives Pledge at the Police Plaza. Around 70 people total participated. One man and woman drove all the way from Virginia Beach (about 5 hours) for the rally after reading about it on the website. Later that night, Gil's parents and two other O22 activists spoke

at NC A&T State University to about 40 students. The A&T sophomore class presented the speakers a certificate of appreciation, warmly capping off an intense month of struggle.

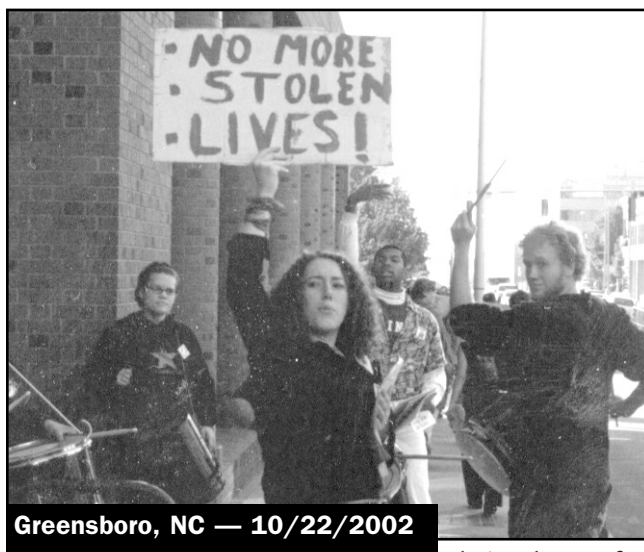
Greenville, S.C. The annual 7 a.m. "Wake up Greenville!" march to the courthouse took place. People leafletted flyers from Copwatch and an article from the *Revolutionary Worker*.

Kansas City, MO Eleven people rallied at the Freedom Fountain,

playing the tape from the Bruderhof which has people reading the Stolen Lives names, and holding up signs. Although it was fewer people than last year, the action got a lot of local media coverage. Channel 41, Channel 4 and local paper It's a very busy area, and many motorists honked horns in support as they drove by.

Kent State Fifty students from Kent State Anti-War committee rallied to protest police brutality. Afterwards, they continued with preparations to go down to the Washington D.C. Oct. 26 antiwar march.

Los Angeles The mainly youthful protesters came deep—1,000 strong, multinational, and wearing Black. College students from Pasadena CC, Occidental, Cal State Northridge, USC, Riverside CC, Santa Monica CC, Cerritos CC, UCLA and other colleges joined high school students from across the Southland in the march. People of all ethnicities and backgrounds joined together against the epidemic of police brutality that has intensified in So Cal and across the country since September 11th, 2001.



Greensboro, NC — 10/22/2002



Photo: Jennifer Brennan

Los Angeles—10/22/2002

The march up Broadway to LAPD Headquarters/Parker Center (and the march back down after the rally) was spirited, uplifting and defiant. Bilingual chants, music, spoken word kept the march “on message”—“No More Stolen Lives!”, “Brutal Cops Are Not Heroes!” Thousands of immigrants lined the streets of the downtown garment and retail areas watching the march. The protest earned major LA media coverage exposing to many more the existence of this movement to expose the truth that Police Brutality Did Not Die on September 11th—and that we are determined to put a stop to it.

During the event, downtown LA looked like a police state. Hundreds of LAPD personnel shut down sections of downtown in an apparent effort to prevent protestors from reaching the march site. The numbers the LAPD mobilized were unprecedented for a National Day of Protest in LA (which is saying a lot given both heavy police presence and the LAPD attacks on our demonstration in years past), but they were unsuccessful in their efforts to suppress or disrupt our event.

Rev. Richard “Meri Ka Ra” Byrd and a representative from the Youth/Student Network MC’d the rally and introduced speakers addressing the critical themes of the demonstration this year. The Watts Committee to Stop Police Brutality spoke of building Black and Brown unity throughout Watts by wearing ribbons to protest the beating of Donovan Jackson-Chavis and the murder of Gonzalo Martinez and all those brutalized by police. Several families of those killed by brutal police were in the house: Gonzalo Martinez, Danny Ray Smith and John Jordan. Pastor Andrew Robinson Gaither and Pastor Imaryie Smith of October 22nd’s “Faith Initiative” took the stage to claim the spiritual righteousness of our struggle.

Angelica Salas of CHIRLA spoke about immigrants trying to survive in post 9/11 America—and told of the human cost of “Operation Tarmac”, the post 9/11 clampdown of workers at U.S. airports. Hamid Khan of the South Asian Network spoke about the detention of Arabs, Muslims and South Asians since 9/11. Jim Lafferty of the National Lawyers Guild told the crowd about dra-

matic legal changes affecting the rights of the people like the USA PATRIOT Act. The very right to public protest is now under attack as shown by the thousands of LAPD riot police positioned throughout the downtown area.

The October 22nd Coalition Youth Student Network exposed the history of new LAPD Chief William Bratton. They spoke of the implications of Bratton’s recent comments about how the youth are “a disease”—and pointed to the youth as a key force in stepping up the struggle to fight back against Bratton’s promised repression in L.A. The RCYB spoke of the 24/7 police brutality in Watts, the importance of multinational unity in the struggle to stop PB and repression, and the significance of standing up together and fighting back in today’s climate. Sherman Austin of *Raise the Fist* spoke about the heavy police repression directed at radical and anarchist youth in many parts of Southern California.

Members of the band Ozomatli took the stage and thanked the crowd for giving them the power to create their culture and music. One high point of the Day came when Dwight Triple sang a rendition of Billie Holliday’s song Strange Fruit, speaking to lynchings of African-Americans. As Dwight sang the tune a capella, photos of those killed by law enforcement were hung on trees in front of LAPD headquarters. No words can describe that moment.

Minneapolis Over 200 people rallied at Peavey Park on the corner of Chicago and Franklin Avenues South at 4:30pm. Signs read “Fight Police Brutality,” “End Code 4,” “Stop the criminalization of our communities,” “Fire all racist cops,” and more. One man wore a (Star Wars) Storm Trooper mask and wielded a homemade truncheon along with a sign that read “Police State.” Families of victims of police brutality spoke, along with other speakers, including local spoken word artist Truth Maze, who was attacked by undercover police officers on Saturday October 12th while he and some friends were flyer-ing for this very rally. Then the crowd loudly sang out, “Police brutality is a reality! Stop Killer Cops!” and “Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Police brutality has got to go!” “Cops here, bombs there. US out of everywhere!”

Following the rally, possibly up to 300 people participated in a march. During the rally, one speaker explained that the march would take place in the streets, rather than on the sidewalk, to show “how serious we are about this issue.” Moving along Chicago Avenue in the southward lanes, the march often spilled into the northbound

lanes as well. On Chicago, the march proceeded to Lake Street where it circled in the intersection for about three minutes, blocking traffic from all four directions. At Lake Street the march began moving westbound from Chicago to Nicollet Avenue, where it circled again before moving southbound on Nicollet one block to 31st Street and the Fifth Precinct Station of the Minneapolis Police Department. Spirited folks approached the station and walked right up to its doors while chanting loudly. There was a peaceful rally at the station for more than a half hour, during which the protestors recalled the lost lives of many local residents. “Tycl Nelson, we remember you.” “Abu Kassim Jeilani, we remember you.” The circumstances of the deaths of these men—and many others killed at the hands of Minneapolis and St. Paul police officers—were read over a megaphone by a woman speaker. Following the protest there was an event at the Babylon International Café and Art Gallery with local hip hop and spoken word artists performing.

The Café had received a threatening call from police in the morning, which said, “If you think this is police brutality, you ain’t seen nothing yet.” A person who appeared to be an undercover cop videotaped the event from his car videotaped the rally from a distance through his windshield in a parked car with no lights on. This individual got very upset when someone approached him and tried to get his picture.

Nagadoches, Texas Students for Peace tabled and distributed literature. They downloaded the October 22nd Call from our web site.

They downloaded a copy of the poster, enlarged it at a copy shop, and displayed it behind their table. They talked to a lot of people and raised some money for the coalition. People came by the table and told their stories about police brutality that had happened to them.

New Haven, Conn. Several groups in New Haven CT held a March and Forum. As it happened, this was also the day that the directors of the November Coalition, an anti-drug war organization, were making a stop in New Haven on their nationwide “Journey for Justice”. Encounters with police being the beginning of the trail of injustice”, our group decided to walk from Police Headquarters to the Courthouse to the Jail, and follow this March with a Forum on the drug war. We include in police “brutality” the targeting and mistreatment of youth of color in the cities in the war on drugs.

People Against Injustice (a grassroots community group), Yale Student Legal Action Movement, Efficacy (anti-drug war organization), October 22 Coalition, Columbia Action CT, and other interested individuals joined together for the rousing March through New Haven. During the March, people on the street, and some who came out of buildings to see what was going on, were greeted with lively chants, a multitude of signs, and a leaflet about the issues. A spokesperson at each stop talked about the injustices happening there. Nora Callahan and Chuck Armsbury from November Coalition were the featured speakers at the Forum, along with New Haven activist John Lugo of Columbia Action CT.

The group of about 60 were young and old, black and white, and very energetic. Our leaflet made the connections between the failed drug war, police targeting certain communities, racist sentencing, prison overcrowding, inhumane treatment, and other injustices. Some of the signs were: Stop Police Brutality, Repression And The Criminalization Of A Generation; There Is No Justice In The War On Drugs; The War On Drugs Is A War On People; Stop Trying To Solve Social Problems By Putting Our Youth In Prison; and the Oct. 22 poster showing photos of individuals killed by police since 9/11

Perhaps the most striking moment of the day occurred unexpectedly. As the march approached the Jail, we had encountered a youth group of African-American middle school boys with their leaders. They joined us, and then came to the Forum as well. Before



Bay Area—10/22/2002

the Forum speakers began, the moderator went around the whole circle of attendees, asking each person to “say your name and how the drug war has affected you”. The first boy was shy, but was finally convinced to begin. With the exception of one, each of these boys told of a family member who had been or is currently in prison because of drugs. Talk about repression and the criminalization of a generation!

New York About 400 people stepped out for the National Day of Protest in New York City this year. There were many families of Stolen Lives, who were flanked by a Youth Honor Guard, which made up a small portion of the huge numbers of youth that turned out.

Emceeding the event were Abellard Louis-jeune, sister of Georgy Louisgene who was killed by NYPD in Brooklyn at the beginning of this year; Maya, a member of South Asians Against Police Brutality and Racism and an organizer of Not In Our Name, and King Downing, the National Coordinator for the ACLU Campaign Against Racial Profiling. At Union Square, the rally was kicked off by the Mahina Movement, a woman of color performance ensemble who sang about police brutality, war, and worldwide oppression. Also performing throughout the rally were Ngoma, performance poet and multi-instrumentalist and reg e. gaines, the Tony-

award winning librettist and also contributor to a number of our PSAs. The African drumming troupe, Sisters in the Spirit set the beat for and throughout the march. Families who spoke included Juanita Young and James Ferguson for Malcolm Ferguson, Nicholas Heyward, Sr. for Nicholas Heyward, Jr., Margarita Rosario for Anthony Rosario and Hilton Vega, Andree Smith for Justin Smith, Netanya Ullman for Gidone Busch, Ricky Gordan for Ronald Gordan, Abellard and Soledad Louis-jeune for Georgy Louisgene, and Christine Blaisdell for Jason Remillard.

Also speaking were Roger Wareham of the December 12th Movement, who is also one of the lead attorneys for the Central Park 5, as well as Gregory Perry for the December 12th Movement. Carl Dix, a member of the October 22 Coalition's National Coordinating Committee, also spoke for the Revolutionary Communist Party, and Araby Carlier spoke for the Executive Committee of Refuse & Resist! Other speakers included: Monami Maulik for Desis Rising Up and Moving, Jessica Sanclemente and Richie Perez for the Justice Committee of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, as



Minneapolis—10/22/2002

well as for Third World Within, Sarah Husain for the 911 Coalition for Constitutional and Human Rights, Ernest Banatte for the Haitian Coalition for Justice, Miles Solay for the Not In Our Name Project, Orinthal Lumumba for the Mumia Coalition, Daniel Vila for the Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti, and Carlos Rovira for the Vieques Support Campaign. Two Latino high school teachers, Dennis Flores and Raybblin Vargas, spoke on their experience of having witnessed an incident of police brutality, and then having the brutality turned on them when they began to take photos.

The march down to City Hall (made it to “ground zero” this year!) was spirited and solid, with drums and chants propelled mostly from the youth-laden crowd.

A stop was made at 26 Federal Plaza, the INS building, where the Blue Triangle Network was introduced to everyone and some names of those detained were read out loud. At City Hall, the day was wrapped up with a calling out of the 36 names of Stolen Lives of the New York and New Jersey area since September 11th of last year, each with the response of “PRESENTE!”

Norfolk, Virginia. Students at the University of Virginia assembled and drove 5 hours to be part of the demonstration in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Oakland A group of corrupt cops called the Oakland Riders are currently on trial, so marching in Oakland rather than San Francisco had special significance. The march started at 14th and Broadway at 4pm. The crowd was made up largely of high school students, most of them dressed in black. After marching through Oakland, protesters went to Frank Ogawa Plaza, to a rally to remember friends and family who have been killed by the police. Against the backdrop of the Stolen Lives walls, family members read the names of victims of police brutality since Sept. 11th. Family members present were: Cornelius Hall, the Hooper family from S.F., Jervis Muwakkill, Meesha Irizarry, Frank Rosenberg, Glen Hull, Richard Allard, The Garcia Family from Gilroy, Cora and Peggy from the North Bay, Danny Garcia, Gary Woods from San Jose, and the Amaya Family from Union City. Two performances, one by a hip hop group called *Real Hard*, with Boots Riley from *The Coup* on the turntables, and another by a local Oakland rock and roll band called *the Flesbies*, were part of the rally. Spirits were high in the crowd of 400–500 people, and the sense of unity was “awesome”. A former Black Panther member from the 60’s commented that this was the best demonstration he’d been at in years.

Phoenix, Arizona The Arizona Black United Fund, Stop Police Brutality Organization, and Copwatch sponsored the event. We rallied at three police stations in Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler. 15 people participated in the march and another 10 maybe in the rally. We also worked again with Copwatch on October 23rd in a community forum to address the issue of police brutality.

Portland, Maine People gathered at 4pm at Monument Square and listened to speakers. The police abuse which had happened at the September 26th anti-war rally was discussed.

Portland, Oregon A march and rally for police accountability, against racial profiling and to end discrimination in social services was held on Saturday, October 19th. Communities United to Uphold the 14th Amendment, the NAACP and the Police Accountability Campaign, sponsored a rally which began at 11am at the Mallory Avenue Church, 126 N.E. Alberta. The march began at noon and ended at Irving Park at 7th & Fremont. The closing rally at 1pm featured speakers, food, music and an open mic. After our return to the South Park Blocks we headed to Pioneer Square and made some noise, and finished off the evening by invading Pioneer Place. Eventually the mall was evacuated and locked up, with guards at every door. Although I can’t confirm this, apparently the drums were confiscated. At one point some protesters re-entered the mall through an employee entrance

Pittsburgh, Pa. The National Council for Urban Peace and Justice collaborated with other groups to put on a community dis-

cussion at the public library. The featured speaker was an Ethiopian activist who was profiled in the post-9/11 repression and beaten up in a local jail. Approximately 20 people attended, including 15 from the youth group VISIONS, and most were dressed in black.

Rock Island, IL Activists held a press conference at the criminal justice center. They distributed Oct. 22 literature that they had downloaded from the Website. Several students wore black to high school that day.

Roxbury, Mass. A woman who called from seeing the PSA ad on BET took leaflets and distributed them in her housing project.

San Diego, California Over 50 San Diego activists, representing a wide variety of organizations and tendencies, marched against the continued abuses from San Diego-area law enforcement agencies, including beatings and shootings of unarmed people, assaults on innocent civilians and the continued refusal of San Diego County District Attorney Paul Pfingst to prosecute any local law enforcement officers for killing or attacking civilians. Groups represented ranged from the Committee Against Police Brutality to the Anarchist Freethink Network, International Action Center, Raza Rights Coalition and many others.

After the march a group of participants tried to enter the building to see Pfingst in his office, but police and sheriff's deputies barred their way and, when two delegates finally were admitted, Pfingst had gone home for the day.

Smith College, Mass Posters came too late for O22, but yesterday there was a celebration for the first black student who graduated from Smith College, and there were events throughout the day discussing racial profiling and detentions, etc. They tabled and distributed posters to about 100 people. People took flyers (The Call, "Stop the Execution of Mumia" and order forms for Stolen Lives books). Some people also took flyers to volunteer for the National Office.

People were very excited about the posters. It was good to have tabled at this event as opposed to tabling at any random location as originally planned, because there were lots of people from different parts of the country and around the world and a lot of people of color, so people were happy to see the issue of PB being addressed. People wanted to hang them up at home, faculty wanted to distribute them in class, etc. The poster had a powerful effect, especially with the faces. The response was really positive.

St. Louis, MO. St. Louis held a most successful O22 March. Approximately 200 people participated, and our attendance represented broad support from community groups, students, and individual citizens. Speakers included representatives from Peabody

Housing Complex, survivors and families affected by police brutality, labor representatives, and members of the organizing group, the Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression. The focus of this year's march was the need to pass Board Bill 16 for a Civilian Oversight Board. In our Board of Aldermen the votes are split along

sharp racial lines with all black alderpersons and no whites supporting it. As a result we announced on O22 the beginning of a boycott of conventions and entertainers coming to St. Louis. We are giving groups coming after May 1, 2003 notice to change their venue or be picketed and otherwise disrupted. The time delay (from now till May) is so that groups have time to decide and make new plans.

Springfield, IL Anti-war peace groups there hung up the poster in their office at the community center, and made the Call available on their literature table. Several people wore black armbands throughout

the day.

St. Martinsville, Louisiana Portia Evans of KFXZ interviewed Juanita Young from New York and Kathryn Lee from the National Office on her radio show. A TV cable show—Cadiana Open Channel Cable Company, Country Grit—which reaches students from the University of Louisiana—featured the "Police Brutality Did not Die on Sept. 11th" poster and the reading of the names.

Seattle Our event was decidedly larger, more spirited, and more diverse than last year, despite many obstacles described later. Youth were as usual well represented, but other groups had a larger presence than in past years—one group made buttons with pictures of Stolen Lives for us. A number of youth who witnessed the unjustified police killing of Shawn Maxwell participated in their new-found role as CopWatchers. About 150 people participated in our march (20% more than last year), and after some negotiations the police relented by allowing us to march in the street. We know, from searching the crowd for our invited speakers, that a number of people participated in the beginning rally but not the ending rally, and that a number of people participated in the ending rally but not the beginning rally. We also know that a number of people who participated in the beginning rally declined to march, due to the heavy police presence. We therefore estimate that the total number of people who participated in at least one of the rallies or the march was 200.

The most dramatic speaker was Ivan Morgan. Ivan's son Joshua was killed in April 2001, one year to the day before protesters "took the freeway" after the Robert Thomas, Sr. funeral—both being killed by King County police. Ivan has been very outspoken about his son's case, but discovered the dangers of doing so. Late in the evening of October 11th, Ivan was pulled over for "burning rubber" as a light turned green by six patrol cars. Officers pointed guns at him and told him to "stop getting your nose in where it doesn't belong"; he was then arrested and beaten. Because of this, he was strongly considering not participating in the National Day of Protest. However, Ivan



Photo: Donna Lamb

eventually decided to speak out at our event about his son's case, and made an impassioned denunciation of the police attempts to silence him—which took tremendous courage on his part.

There were a number of obstacles that we had to overcome to hold this march successfully. First, the permit we were given by the city & police department for our event stipulated that we would be forced to march on the sidewalk (instead of in the street) if we had less than 200 participants. This has drawn the ire and (we were advised) plans for a letter from our local ACLU directed to the city, since the “200” policy is nowhere written and appears to be quite arbitrary. It was also a cause for much concern on our part, since we know from participating in previous “Reclaim The Streets” and WTO anniversary events that Seattle police enforce the “sidewalk only” policy quite violently. Secondly, we appear to be one of a number of groups targeted for low-level, COINTELPRO-style attacks. A Palestinian solidarity group announced back in September that they had had been informed by their allies that blatantly racist eMail messages had been sent which were made to appear to be from the Palestinian solidarity group. Our own eMail account has been under almost daily attack since early August from a source which sends very large eMails designed to put us over our quota (and thus unable to receive further eMails), and which attempts to make it appear as though the eMails are from a number of progressive groups. We suspect that other groups may have received similar eMails that are made to appear to be from us. A couple of groups who we asked to be endorsers of the “Call” declined to endorse and were rumored to be concerned about the “potential for violence” at our event.

Curiously, on the morning of October 22nd we received an eMail from a so-called “supporter” who volunteered that s/he thought a few FBI agents “should have their faces slashed open”, and would be for starting a “riot” at the FBI offices in downtown Seattle.

Finally, during our beginning rally outside a local junior college, an uninvited person attempted to commandeer our microphone. This was while the invited speaker was talking about the controversial killing of Robert Thomas Sr., a 60 year old black man parked at the side of a road, by an off-duty plain-clothes white deputy who did not identify himself.

The intruder attempted to tell the crowd why the shooting was “not about race, but about safety” before he was quickly removed from the stage. The corporate TV cameramen who were there immediately sought close-ups of this “confrontation”; interestingly, the one local TV news program that showed film of our opening rally only showed moments in which we were agitatedly attempting to regain control of our microphone, *without* showing the person who had taken the microphone. The day afterward, someone posted on the Seattle IndyMedia website about “dissent silenced” at the Seattle October 22nd rally—the dissent of the “not about race” intruder!

Our Day of Protest ended with a very strong ending rally at Seattle's central plaza/park. A crowd significantly larger than last year stayed well into the night holding a candlelight vigil for the victims of police killings nationwide. Unlike in past years, a major representative of the NAACP chapter (a VP and prospective President) participated and spoke to the crowd.

Likely our biggest success was the increase in corporate media attention. Although our two newsprint dailies did not run articles on our event as in past years, the local TV network affiliates all gave it at least some coverage. The “highlight” of this was a TV editorial by Ken Schram of KOMO (ABC affiliate), who apparently felt compelled to dismiss (possibly libelously) us rather than ignore us. We hope this increased attention may have to do with our media blitz that includes sending “Anniversary announcement” eMails about Stolen Lives for the month and a half leading up to October 22nd. We will continue our work of attempting to focus the public's attention on this epidemic, to ensure that our cause is not ignored.

San Francisco State Students organized a hip-hop rally with music and speakers on the topic of police brutality. Afterwards, many of the students joined up with the march in Oakland.

U.C. Davis, California Students passed out approximately 50 fliers and 50 black ribbons on campus, and sent out an informative eMail to a local listserve of progressive or radical groups of color. Approximately 30 people wore black on the 22nd.

UK There was a vigil against deaths in police custody in US in front of US Embassy. Organizers were associated with the film “INJUSTICE” which toured the US. A solidarity statement from the October 22nd coalition was read.

Univ of Tampa, Fla. The organizer thought it went well. She sent out a global eMail to university students, asking them to please wear black, and many of them did.

Washington, D.C. TRIBE (Together Responsible Informed Black Empowered) organized 30 people to assemble outside the Wather T. Daniel library at 7th St. and Rhode Island Avenue. They marched down 7th with large banners, fervent chants and oncoming traffic honking in support.

Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C. The Socialist Student Union at Winthrop University at Rock Hill, S.C. held a forum about police brutality. A week earlier, they had invited Efia Nwangaza, from the National Coordinating Committee of the October 22nd Coalition, to speak about racial profiling at one of their events.

