

# WEAR BLACK!

November 2005

**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**

**Mail:** P.O. Box 2627, New York, New York 10009

**Email:** [office@October22.org](mailto:office@October22.org)

**Website:** [www.October22.ORG](http://www.October22.ORG)



## Overview

On October 22, 2005, events took place in over 25 cities. Tucson, Fresno, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jose, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, Kansas City, St. Louis, Albuquerque, New York, Greensboro, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Olympia, Seattle, Washington D.C., Milwaukee, Atlanta, Newark and more took to the streets to protest police brutality, repression and the criminalization of a generation.

Police brutality and killings by law enforcement did not start with the Bush administration, but it has escalated dramatically under their

rule. We have been witnessing with horror and statistical proof from our continuing *Stolen Lives* documentation what happens when the government raises up law enforcement as an authority with unlimited powers, that cannot be questioned, all under the name of "fighting terrorism". Searches and seizures, racial profiling, attacks on people of Arab, South Asian and Muslim descent, military personnel in the transportation centers, and police terror raids in certain neighborhoods are now the order of the day.

NDP 2005 rallies and marches speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves.

In the "Presente" tradition, we call out the names of those killed by law enforcement. Those in attendance respond with "Presente", saying that those killed are not forgotten and that we pledge to fight for justice for them. Some

of the names and cases remembered this year were:

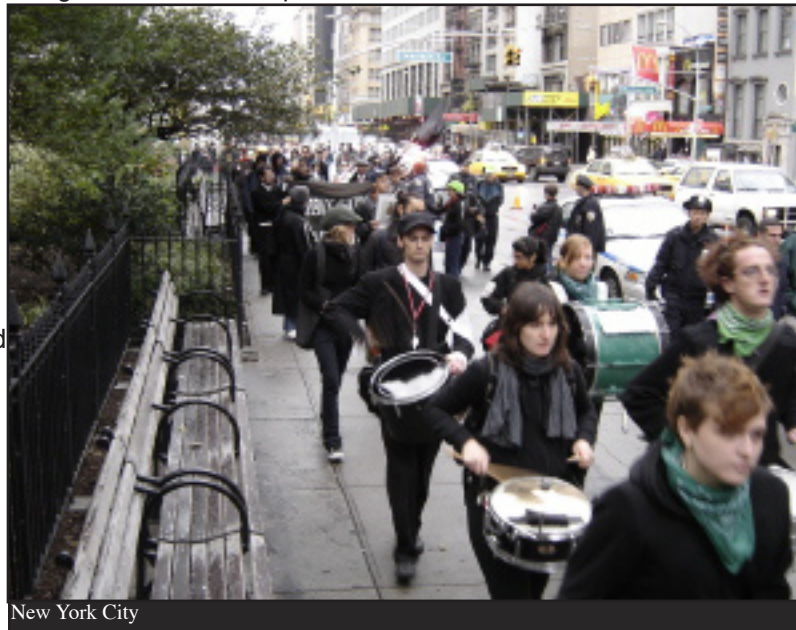
18 month old Suzy Pena, shot in her father's arms during a raid in Los Angeles; Brandon McCloud, 15 years old, shot by Cleveland police;

Cau Bich Tran, a 25 year old Vietnamese mother of two who was shot by San Jose police while she was standing in her own kitchen holding a vegetable peeler; Devon Brown, 13 years old, killed by Los Angeles police; Timothy Stansbury, 17 years old, killed by New York police for opening the roof door onto his apartment building; Chago Villaneuva, New Jersey, killed for the crime of speaking Spanish and having an epileptic fit; Samson Bounthisane, an 18 year old Laotian youth, shot and killed by Seattle police, David Baker, shot by Greensboro police for the crime of being deaf, Michael Ellerbe, 12, killed by Pittsburgh police, and so many

others. The Stolen Lives Project continues to document and drag out into the light of day the national epidemic of people killed by law enforcement.

The Call for a National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and The Criminalization of a Generation on October 22, 2005 states: "We resist so that we will not to be crushed." Juanita Young writes, "You can't give in. They will try to make an example out of you, try to break your spirit. If you don't resist and keep on fighting, they will be able to get away with what they're trying to do to us."

The following reports are on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> resistance in various areas.



New York City

## Reports from Local Areas

**Atlanta, Georgia** The Black Student Alliance (BSA) and Tighter Grip held a demonstration in the plaza during the 12:15 break on October 22nd. "It is a day of recognition. Several of our members have been affected in some way by police brutality," said H. Rashad Gibson, president of BSA.

**Fresno, California** People came from up and down the San Joaquin Valley and beyond with stories about their family members encounters with the Police. The rally remembered many whose lives were stolen by Police, such as Everado "Lalo" Torres whose life was taken by a Madera police officer when she supposedly mistook her glock for her taser.



**Greensboro, North Carolina** People leafleted at the bus terminals and were well received. The next day they held a film showing at the college that was attended by 35-40 people. The film was "Bullets in the Head" about Timothy Standsbury, the New York youth who was shot by a housing patrol cop who was startled when Timothy opened the door to the rooftop and stepped out onto the roof, a common route between buildings.

**Kansas City, Missouri** Seven people gathered with signs, in the rain, at Freedom Fountain, 47th and Swope Parkway. Cars going by honked in support.

**Los Angeles, California** Six hundred people gathered in Downtown Los Angeles and marched through the garment district. The South Central farmers marched in solidarity with family members and friends whose lives have been stolen by the police. High school students marched with their arms locked. As people held up pictures of their loved ones including Suzie Peña--an 18-month-old baby who was killed by an LAPD bullet--they lifted up their fists and said "No mas!" "No more!"

Even when police and the fire department stopped the march because there was a "suspicious package" at

the rally site--people remained determined to hold the rally and allow the families of those murdered and brutalized to speak in front of Parker Center.

Joe Veale, the L.A. spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party electrified the crowd when he said, "When the police beat up Rodney King, if the people had not done anything it would have made things worse. The police would have been given a green light to do even more shit to people and the people would have felt powerless and degraded. But there was resistance and because of that not only did those cops have to do time, but there was a whole new attitude amongst people. There was a new spirit of resistance and that spread all over this country, even around the world. That's the spirit we need to fight police brutality! That's the spirit we need on Nov. the 2nd. That's the spirit we need to drive out the Bush regime. Stop police brutality, repression and the criminalization of a generation! The world can't wait, drive out the Bush regime--revolution is the hope of the hopeless!"

**Minneapolis, MN** Our October 22 event this year was smaller than ever. Only about 50-60 people participated. This was probably due to very cold weather, an environmental conference for people of color that was happening at the same time, and the fact that we have not had any high-profile police incidents in the last few months. However, the people who participated were a highly diverse group of students, people affected by police brutality, passersby who joined in, and even two city council candidates. After a spirited rally, which included a presentation by a police brutality survivor who is also a gifted poet and hip-hop artist, we took off on a march, led by a youth drum corps. The march proceeded down Franklin Avenue to Nicollet Avenue, where we took over this major intersection for several minutes. People around the intersection were very supportive and folks from a nearby bus shelter joined us. We finished up the march with a reading of the all-too-many Stolen Lives of this area.

**New York** Despite the exhaustive acrobatics in yet another round of The Battle for Permits and the forecast for a torrential downpour, about a hundred people from New York and New Jersey stepped out to the streets to mark the 10th Annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation in New York City. A rainy rally at Madison Square Park, dotted with open umbrellas and raincoats, featured families of those killed by law enforcement, individuals and organizations that work for social justice, and local artists adding creative beats to the protest.

Emceeding the rally was Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson (killed by Street Crimes Unit cop March 1, 2000), who had a month earlier won a victory in court after a two-year-old bogus charge of "criminal trespassing" in her own home when she and her children were illegally evicted. Besides speaking on her son's case, having worked with many families of Stolen Lives, Juanita also shared with the participants updates on other cases,





repression and brutality. Kathryn Lee from the National Office of October 22 Coalition, in her first appearance at a National Day of Protest (for the last nine years she has been confined in the office fielding calls from around the country) provided a national picture of the 10th Annual National Day of Protest.

Panama Alba from the Justice Committee-

including the conviction the day before of the cop who killed Ousmane Zongo two years ago. Also emceeding and speaking at the rally was a representative from the Almighty Latin King & Queen Nation of New Jersey, which came out full force and made up about a third of the protest.

Other families of Stolen Lives who spoke at the rally were Milta Calderon, who spoke about her son Anibal "Junior" Carrasquillo, who was killed by NYPD on January 22, 1995; Jean Griffin, who spoke about her brother David Glowczenski, tasered to death by Southampton Village police February 4, 2004 (the medical examiner's office only just released their report – one year after David's death –and concluded that he died of "acute exhaustive mania" i.e. he scared himself to death); and Ariel Cruz, a friend of Silverio del Rios who died October 8, 2003 under suspicious circumstances while incarcerated upstate in Elmira. Ariel also spoke on the abuse that takes place in prisons, tying in also the 1997 case of Jose Santos, Jr., whom Rikers Island authorities claimed hanged himself from a chair even though there were no moveable furniture in his cell.

Civil rights attorney Lynne Stewart spoke on her case and the ongoing assault on civil liberties and dissent as well as the need to step up the fight to ensure that lawyers maintain the right to defend the rights of others. Adding to the point about criminalization of dissent was Geoffrey Blank of the No Police State Coalition, who, after multiple arrests for using a bullhorn during weekly speakouts against police brutality and war, faces a possible four-year sentence at his upcoming trial, and Udi Ofer, Program Director of the NYCLU's Bill of Rights Defense Campaign, who spoke on the Charge and Release Bill, which would ensure "that anyone arrested in New York City is arraigned within 24 hours of arrest." Udi also stated a point that reinforced what October 22 Coalition has been asserting since September 11, 2001, which was that police brutality used to make headlines and now it barely gets a mention despite the increased

National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights stressed the institutionalized racism embedded in law enforcement agencies in the U.S., while Martha Langmuir from Amnesty International OUTfront spoke on the homophobia that pervades law enforcement, as documented in the recently released AI national report, "Stonewalled: Police abuse and misconduct against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the U.S."

There were calls for people to take part in the World Can't Wait action on November 2nd: from Carl Dix (in a speech read by Steve Yip), national spokesperson of the Revolutionary Communist Party and a co-founder of the October 22nd Coalition and member of its national executive committee, who highlighted the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as revealing of the state of police brutality, repression and criminalization under the Bush administration; and from Patrick Harding from World Can't Wait as well as Izkra, an activist arrested at an October 19th protest at Hunter College against torture camps.

Def Poetry Jam's Emanuel Xavier and Spiritchild from Movement in Motion provided some powerful poetry, while the Rude Mechanical Orchestra (spontaneously reduced to the Rude Mechanical Drum Corps on account of the rain) kept a lively beat for the march to Times Square. Unfortunately, due to the numbers, the march was relegated to the sidewalk despite the approved parade permit; however, the skies cleared before the march began and the spirit of the march was fervent with righteous outrage as those along the route were saturated with thousands of Stolen Lives flyers, which documented at least 132 cases of police killings in New York and New Jersey since September 11, 2001.

**Pittsburgh, PA** 35 people showed up at Freedom Corner, Hill District, despite the rain and cold. Wearing rain ponchos and track shoes, they marched Downtown to the





especially meaningful because family members of victims were at the forefront in organizing this event, meeting up on weekends and after their work shifts to plan it out.

The rally began with a moment of silence under the hot sun, followed by family members speaking of their loved ones, sharing their stories and supporting each other, sprinkled in with some entertainment by local talent that reflected the messages of the day. To one side stood the black wall panels of the Stolen Lives Project with more than 2,000 names added to it since they were built in 1996. The walls serve as a way to memorialize those killed by law enforcement all across the United States. As family members spoke the names of

Allegheny County Courthouse to rally for justice, demand fair treatment and that police be held accountable for their actions.

The steady rain kept most participants under a large tent, as many made signs and ate light snacks. Brian Wright sang stirring gospel songs before the march began down Centre Ave. to the County Courthouse in Downtown Pittsburgh.

At the Courthouse, speakers included Minister Jasiri X of the NOI-Nation of Islam, local activist and victim of police violence Cecelia Wheeler, Justin Krane from Pittsburgh Organizing Group, Thomas Merton Center Board President Pete Shell, Industrial Worker of the World member Kenneth Miller, Titus North-Green Party Candidate for Mayor, Celeste Taylor-PittsburghOct. 22nd Coalition and Tim Stevens-B-PEP, Black Political Empowerment Project.

**San Jose, California** About 80 people gathered at Emma Prusch Farm Park on King and Story Roads in East San José, CA for a march and rally. People from as far away as Modesto, San Francisco, Redwood City, Oakland, joined folks from San Jose. Although the Bay Area event is usually held in San Francisco, it was held in East San José to draw attention to the escalation in deadly force that has been used by the San José Police Department in recent years. The day was

the recently lost were added to two new black panels to commemorate the loved ones of those who attended the rally.

Those in attendance included Bao Kim Tran and his two young children who lost their mother, Cau Thi Bich Tran. The petite, 25 year old woman was shot and killed by Chad Marshall of the San Jose Police while standing in her kitchen holding a vegetable peeler in March of 2003.

Regina Cardenas, one of the daughters of Rudy Cardenas informed the community that the State Narcotics agent, Michael Walker, who killed her father in February of 2004 is currently facing manslaughter charges in a historic



criminal trial as the first state agent charged for killing someone on duty.

One of the original founders of the “dream” as he called it, Danny Garcia, was present, helping to set up the walls that he helped build in 1996 after his own brother, Mark Garcia, was killed by law enforcement after being beaten, gagged, and hog tied. He addressed the group, saying that these “are not isolated incidents, but a nation wide epidemic.”

The parents and family of Julio Ayala, 26, who was beaten to death by police in South San Francisco took part of the rally and said that they have not gotten justice, only a slap in the face when they received a denial from the DA to prosecute the officers responsible a day before what would have been Julio’s 27 th birthday.

The sister of Samuel Martinez also addressed the crowd. Her brother, Samuel,34, was tasered and then shot and killed by a San Jose police officer after police were called during a domestic dispute in May of this year. The grand jury in the case found the officer not at fault. Despite of this news she thanked the group, saying that when this happened, “we didn’t know and all of you helped us, came to us.”

**Seattle, Washington** On 10/22 Westlake Park, in downtown Seattle, was beautifully decorated with pictures and names of brothers and sisters who have lost their lives to police brutality. There was a banner remembering the people of New Orleans and one honoring the legacy of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes who were murdered in Seattle in 1981 by agents of the Marcos regime. A friend of Samson Bounthisane who was murdered by King County police deejayed. Through the course of the day up to 100 people participated.

O22 activist Lynn Domingo, (sister of Silme and a staff organizer for LELO (A Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing)) and O22 activist Alton MacDonald (Action Network, Tacoma) emceed the rally. Speakers and artists at the rally included: Ophelia Ealy whose son Michael was murdered by Seattle police; Freedom, a teacher of Samson Bounthisane who was murdered by King County police; Larry, the peoples poet; Diana Esperas with the U.S. Women’s Cuba Collaboration speaking about the attacks on Assata Shakur; K.L. Shannon with the Peoples Coalition for Justice; Michael Tivana with Eastside FOR whose best friend was murdered by the police; Misty Lou Cooke with Mockingbird Times; Jose Molina who has been harassed by Seattle police; Wesley Hawkins, a community organizer with LELO; Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade; Leno Rose Avila with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; Ethiopian World Federation musicians; Anwar Peace, who has been repeatedly harassed by Seattle police for his activism; Theryn of CARA, Communities Against Rape and Abuse, a supporter of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Seattle Branch, an activist with World Can’t Wait, Drive out the Bush Regime, and Paul Richmond, activist attorney.

Following the speakers a very spirited march took

off through downtown Seattle to which the onlookers were riveted. Some of the chants were “Stop the Police State, No Justice, No Peace, No More Stolen Lives, Ain’t No Cops



Juanita Young, New York

in the whole wild world can stop the peoples power,” and chants about Bush: “Bush is a Torturer, Bush is a Terrorist, Bush is a Fascist, Stop Bush, World Can’t Wait, Drive Out the Bush Regime.”

The march went into Belltown where a notorious killer cop, Greg Neubert, has preyed on the neighborhood, jailing countless people in the area, especially black men. People called for jailing this cop who murdered Aaron Roberts. The march stopped at a location of police brutality where Paul Richmond, attorney, talked about winning a case for his client Ray Nix, a Native American man, who was horribly beaten by Seattle police. He pulled out a photo of Ray to show what the police had done to him. Belltown is terrorized constantly by Seattle police trying to gentrify an area known as an alternative artists area, which also has many homeless and low-income residents.

On October 7, the Seattle Affiliate of O22 also put on a teach in on police brutality at Seattle University; fifty people attended, including many students.

**Other Areas** Events were also held in Tucson, Santa Ana, San Bernardino, San Diego, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Albuquerque, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Olympia, Washington, D.C., Milwaukee, and other areas.