

WEAR BLACK!

November 2006

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

The theme of October 22, 2006 was: Homeland Security = More Stolen Lives. The theme emerged from the research done by the Stolen Lives Project, which shows that since law enforcement agents and border patrols have been given a free hand to do whatever they want, under the name of fighting terrorism, that the result has been more people harassed, beaten, and killed. "Homeland Security" is used to justify sweeps on street youth in Los Angeles, naming everyone as "gang" members; racial profiling of Arab, South Asian and Muslim immigrants; increased repression of immigrants along the border; and increased presence of police and military in transportation centers and public places. The result has been an increase in the climate of fear and repression, and more deaths at the hands of law enforcement agents.

Events took place in around 20 locations this year, including New York, Los Angeles, Bay Area, Seattle, San Diego, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, Fresno, Albuquerque, Olympia, and more. The events took different forms - some areas had marches and rallies, others candlelight vigils, and some did film showings and talks on police brutality. For the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, the national October 22nd Coalition published an update booklet for Stolen Lives containing information on cases since 2000, which was used in several areas as part of the "Presente" tradition of October 22nd, where people call out the names of those whose lives have been stolen from us by law enforcement and the audience answers, "Presente" to say that they will be remembered. This updated booklet will soon be available on the website, www.october22.org, and can be ordered from the October 22nd Coalition, P.O. Box 2627, N.Y., N.Y., 10009, for \$4.00.

Local Area Reports

Albuquerque, New Mexico:

People held a rally in front of city hall.

Atlanta, Georgia:

Students at the University of Georgia tabled and passed out flyers on the Thursday before October 22nd.

Baltimore, Maryland:

People leafleted at a busy intersection.

Chicago, Illinois:

People marched in Chicago.



Chicago, IL. (photo: Revolution)

Fresno, California:

On Oct 21 This year we established a tent city at the steps of City Hall to support the Homeless people who have been harassed by the Fresno police Department who are enforcing the new "quality of life crimes" established at their request by the Fresno City Council.



Fresno, CA. (photo: Mike Rhodes)

In their attempt to take a bite out of crime, they have demolished tent city, taken filled shopping carts and dump them in garbage truck without allowing the homeless people to remove their personal belongings. ACLU has a temporary injunction pending against the city.



Fresno, CA. (photo: Mike Rhodes)

The sleep in began with a prayer circle of many people participating. Many people slept at the stairs of city hall in an attempt to build solidarity with the homeless people and to get the dialogue about who and why are people homeless. On Oct 22 we began a march from the justice corner, "C" and Fresno streets in west Fresno, with several of the families of victims marching toward downtown. We walked thru the Fulton Mall, where many other joined us. We then march thru courtyard park, where Food Not Bombs, was feeding the homeless and the hungry and ended up at the Oct 22 park. This is where we have our ceremony each year. We listen to the stories from families, of how their children died. Ms. Pena spoke about her son David David Grajiola, who was shot by the California Highway Patrol, and that a year later on the anniversary of her son's death, her second son took his life. Others spoke of their children being beaten by cops.

Greensboro/High Point, North Carolina:

People passed out leaflets at the bus depot downtown.

Kansas City, Kansas:

People held a showing of the film, "Urban Warriors" at the public library, and had a discussion on police brutality.

Los Angeles, California:

About 450 people, family members of victims of police brutality, activists from organizations, and many young people marched down Broadway to the LAPD headquarters at the Parker Center where a rally was held.



Los Angeles, CA.

The organizations included hommies unidos, brown berets, youth justice coalition, answer coalition, RCP, copwatch, and a hip hop group.



Los Angeles, CA. (photo: Marcus)

Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Minneapolis marked the 11th annual October 22 National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality, Oppression and the Criminalization of Youth (and others) with two events. On October 21st, people gathered at the new jail in downtown Minneapolis for a walking tour of the criminal injustice system, including the downtown police station (the mouth of the beast), the courthouse (the heart of the beast) and the jail (the belly of the beast). The tour was followed by copwatch at downtown clubs that have been the scene of serious police brutality incidents.

On Sunday, October 22, people gathered at Walker church for a Stolen Lives Memorial Ceremony. Poetry was presented and the stories of 56 people who had lost their lives through encounters with law enforcement agencies were read as candles were lit. The ceremony ended with the singing of "We Shall Overcome." A reception followed and people expressed their surprise and sadness at the sheer numbers of people who have lost their lives and the fact that so many of the people were either mentally ill or were involved in simple traffic stops. The event was a poignant reminder of why we work every day of the year to end police brutality, misconduct and abuse of authority.

New York, New York:

Around 300 people held a rally in Union Square and then marched to Washington Square Park. Speakers were:

- Martha Serrano, widow of Monserrat Borrero (killed by NYPD in 1985);
- Ariel Cruz, friend of Silverio Del Rios (died under questionable circumstances at Elmira Correctional Facility October 8, 2003);
- Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson (killed by NYPD March 1, 2000);
- Jean Griffin, sister of David Glowczenski (tasered to death by Southampton Village Police February 4, 2004);

- Nicholas Heyward, Sr., father of Nicholas Heyward, Jr. (killed by NYPD September 27, 1994);
- Jennifer Moore, mother of Jamil Moore (killed by NYPD September 1, 2002);
- Marion Ebron, mother of Maliki Raymond (killed by NYPD March 1, 2000);
- Charles Barron, City Councilman;
- Carl Dix, National Spokesperson for Revolutionary Communist Party-USA and National Coordinating Committee of October 22 Coalition;



New York, NY. Juanita Young (photo: Stanley Rogouski)

- Dawn Jones, Social Justice Committee of Convent Avenue Baptist Church;
- Omowale Clay, December 12 Movement;
- Subhash Kateel, Families for Freedom;
- King Downing, ACLU National Campaign Against Racial Profiling;
- Jessica Sanclamente, Justice Committee of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights;



New York, NY. Jean Griffin (photo: Stanley Rogouski)

- Shaka Shakur, New Black Panther Party;
- Gwen Debrow, NY Free Mumia Coalition;
- Panama Alba, NY United for Immigrants;
- Geoffrey Blank, No Police State Coalition;
- Jean Rice & Djoka Nikac, Picture the Homeless;
- Lourdes Hunter, Safe OUTside the System Collective (Audre Lorde Project);



New York, NY. Lynne Stewart (photo: Stanley Rogouski)

- Lynne Stewart, civil rights attorney, National Lawyers Guild;
- Peter Cobb, UN 16 Defendants;
- Debra Sweet, World Can't Wait;
- ARTISTS: Emanuel Xavier, Indigo, Joyce Jones, Kahlil "Shaik" Mustafa, Kongo, Ngoma Nzinga, Young Blaq Skolahz

Olympia, Washington:

People held a candlelight vigil to remember Stolen Lives.

Phoenix, Arizona:

People held a rally in a downtown park.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

On Oct.22, people gathered at Freedom Corner in the Hill District, the traditional civil rights meeting point in Pittsburgh.



Pittsburgh, PA. (photo: Marie)

Residents came out to remember Stoney Bey, Jerry Jackson, Jonny Gammage, Craig Guest, Maurice Hall, Lawrence Powell, Raynard Bloxson, Deron Grimmitt, Charles E. Lloyd Michael Platt, Thomasina Brown, James B. Lewis, Michael Hunter, Bernard Rodgers, Charles Dixon, Dion Hall,

Andrea Umphrey, Michael Ellerbe and so many more victims of police brutality.



Pittsburgh, PA. (photo: Marie)

Billy Jackson, director of "Enough is Enough: The Death of Jonny Gammage," spoke about the documentary which examines the criminal justice system and the procedural relationships among the law enforcement officers, the Coroner's office, the District Attorneys and the courts. Interwoven with the story line are interviews with prominent lawyers, politicians and activists such as Prof. Charles Ogle-tree of Harvard, Louis Farrakhan, Johnnie Cochran, Al Sharpton and many others. Jackson noted an exciting new addition to the project – narration is now provided by Danny Glover (<http://www.nom-productions.com>)!



Pittsburgh, PA. (photo: Marie)

Earlier that day, Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) and other area youth rallied and marched through Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield and East Liberty to raise these important issues in their local neighborhoods. Organizers said these areas have not received as much exposure to police brutality events

as downtown, the Hill District and areas outside the city but suffer from it nonetheless.

The group gathered in Friendship Park and ended up at the East Liberty Police Precinct with a stop along the way at the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation (BGC).

"The BGC plays a major contributing publishing the names of residents arrested for drug and sex crimes and pursuing gentrifying development policies, they contribute to a massive cycle of displacement. As a supposedly community-based organization not only refraining from criticism of the police but in fact working hand-in-hand with them they provide much needed cover for police violence and the overall drug war locking up so many non-violent drug offenders." Organizers sought to make connections between the police department, the prison system, the legal system and the crackdown on dissent. role in furthering an unjust and violent criminal injustice system decimating local Pittsburgh communities," said Alex Bradley of POG. "In direct cooperation with the local police and federal agencies, they work to target people they deem to be 'undesirable' while seeking to bring in more affluent and upwardly mobile professionals. By working to flood neighborhoods with cops, working for the elimination of local payphones,

Portland, Oregon:

An indoor speakout about police brutality took place.

San Diego, California:

The Sagon Penn Chapter of Copwatch San Diego co-hosted a series of events in recognition of the 11th Annual National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality.

Friday night, the 20th of October along with the Peace and Freedom Party, a fundraising concert was held at the Arts and Entertainment Center at 3026 university Avenue in North Park. Local bands DropJoy, Ya Basta and Unified Division performed an All Ages Event.

On October 22nd, a demonstration at the home of Bonnie Dumanis located at 16630 San Salvador Court, San Diego, CA 92128 focused on three demands including:

- An Independent Elected Review Board
- Community Police Hiring Practices
- No Pay for Administrative Leave during a shooting investigation

Sunday at 5:00pm, a complaint form process teach-in and assistance was held at Voz Alta at 1544 Broadway in downtown San Diego. Later that evening at 7:00pm, the film Urban Warrior, documenting the militarization of large cities was shown followed by a Know Your Rights Teach-In with a local attorney.

San Francisco, California:



San Francisco, CA. (photo: Peter Maiden)

About 400 people took part in a rally at 2 p.m. at Haight and Stanyan. Hundreds marched to Jefferson Square Park for a second rally. Speakers were:

- MCs: (Calvin Gipson (Glide Memorial head of Security, ANSWER) & Danny Garcia);
- Rev. Ted Frazier Faith Based Coalition director;
- Gary Hodges Native American Activist;
- Marlon Crump Idriss Stelley Foundation client;
- PamPam (SF Peace makers director) and Colored Ink (Javier);



San Francisco, CA. (photo: Peter Maiden)

- Elvira Pollard mother of Gus Rugley;
- Marie Harrison, Green Action, AACPRB,
- co chair of Mothers with Murdered Children, Candidate for District 10 + Minister Christopher Muhammad (NOI, AACPRB president, Enough is Enough);

- Mirna Ayala mother of Julio Ayala;
- Tiny and Jewnbug (poor magazine);
- Danny Garcia Oct 22, "Families";
- D'andre Teeter, RCP;
- Idriss Stelley Foundation mesha mother of Idriss Stelley;



San Francisco, CA. (photo: Peter Maiden)

- ANSWER Chris Bank;
- PSL Silvio Rodriguez;
- Wendee Timbreza and Big Mike Lefti family of Oliver Lefti "BigO";
- Khalil Sullivan brother of ASA Sullivan;
- Willie Ratcliff SF Bayview National Black Newspaper publisher;
- Tommi and the Peacenicks tommi avicolti mecca, Diane Hartman, Bill Simpich (Civil Rights Attorney) Declaration of Peace;
- World Can't Wait, Rafael;
- Bessie, Charlie and Larry Idriss Stelley Foundation Clients + Homeless Coalition speaker Elihu Hernandez;
- Berkeley Copwatch (Andrea Pritchett)

San Jose, California:

People whose lives have been directly impacted by police use of force and repression spoke out at an indoor event in the late afternoon.

Seattle, Washington:



Seattle, WA.

About 40 participants took part in the march to Pratt Park. Escorting the marchers down Yesler Avenue were about 25 police officers, mostly on bicycles. Speaking at this year's event was Ophelia Ealy. She said her son Michael was killed by the police and by the neglect of the ambulance workers.



Seattle, WA.

"My son was murdered and he had not committed a crime. We pay these people [the police] to take care of us and to take care of our families and what do they do? They take the law into their own hands. And do whatever they want to do... There is never a day ... that I don't think about how [my son] must have felt being choked to death." It took 85 days to get an inquest. And when the inquest jury was finally convened, it consisted of five white men and one white woman. This was not representative of the community. The police were cleared of any wrong doing. At the rally, the sister of Eric Norman Garcia-Arcos described the events which took place several days ago, on October 19th, when the police arrived at a residence in West Seattle where Eric and friends were playing loud music. Eric went out to talk to them. There were about eight officers. One of them told Eric that he didn't like his attitude. Even after he told the officers that he was going to go home, they brutally attacked him. He is now in the hospital with multiple injuries.



Seattle, WA.