

WEAR BLACK!

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



REPORTS ON OCTOBER 22ND EVENTS FROM LOCAL AREAS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Atlanta, Ga.,

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Several dozen protesters, rallied and listened to speeches against police brutality in Five Points Atlanta's Woodruff Park.



Mary Hines, grandson shot by police

The grandmother of Deion Stuediemyer was present at the rally as were family members of others believed to have been victims of police brutality. Deion Stuediemyer was fatally shot in August 2006 by an off-duty officer who said Stuediemyer was breaking into his home. Among those giving speeches were a family member of Kathryn Johnston, the 92 year old black woman who was fatally shot by Atlanta police while attempting to serve a no-knock warrant at the wrong address.

This rally was sponsored by Georgia State University student members of the Revolution Club as part of the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation.

OVERVIEW

Over twenty five cities in the U.S. and at least two in Canada observed the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation on October 22nd, 2008. This was a year of uncertainty and anxiety among people. The financial crisis and the elections almost eclipsed people's awareness of police brutality and repression. And yet, the killings continue, behind the scenes. The role of the October 22nd demonstrations is to drag these facts out into the open, expose why this is happening, and demand that it STOP. What follows is a description of the events in various places, to show the various ways that people organized and resisted.

Honorable Mention

My precious son, Asa B. Sullivan only 25 years old was killed by being shot 16 times on 06/06/06 by a few misguided SFPD and was mentioned in this years Oct. 22ND marches in three cities: Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Sonoma County per my request as I was unable to attend myself this year. Thank you.

Katleen Espinosa, Family, and Friends.

Chicago, IL.

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People marched to protest the surge in police killings in Chicago this summer. They gathered at 5 PM at Federal Plaza, and marched.

Cincinnati, Ohio

The General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World, the defense arm of the I.W.W. officially endorses the October 22nd Coalition and its call for a day against police brutality. The Ohio Valley I.W.W. along with members of the General Defense Committee hosted a video showing of the film, BUSTED - The Citizens Guide to Surviving Police Encounters. Created and narrated by retired American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) executive director Ira Glasser, BUSTED realistically depicts the pressure and confusion of common police encounters and the right and wrong ways to handle them. The video plays close attention to demonstrating how you, the viewer, can courteously and confidently refuse police searches.

Cleveland, OH

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65 people gathered at Luke Easter Park and marched on the city's 4th district police station. Chants of "No Justice, No Peace," and "take the fight to the streets" could be heard from half a mile away.

The 4th district police station is known throughout the city of Cleveland—a city with a long history of police murder,



brutality and aggression—as a particularly odious bastion of repression against the people. Its fort-like structure a constant reminder of the adversarial nature of the relationship between the people of that oppressed community and the paramilitary force that occupies, harasses and raids it. It is also the home base of Officers Habeeb and Kraynik, who entered the home of Brandan McCloud at five o'clock in the morning and pumped ten bullets into his 15 year old body; gunning the child down in his own bedroom.

Following a brief statement from the spokesperson of the local organizing committee, and in keeping with the tradition of

October 22nd rallies in Cleveland, the families of the victims of police murder climbed the steps of the station, and from that platform spoke up for the fallen. The words they spoke, in the plainest language, and in righteous indignation at the wanton killing of our youths, rang so true that no human being worthy of the name could have heard their exclamations and remained unmoved. Some of the hardest among us were at points on the verge of tears; others wept openly. Bill Swain (supporter of the Revolutionary Communist Party), and Abdul Qahar (Chairman of the Cleveland Chapter of the New Black Panther Party) also spoke to great effect.

The demonstration closed with a statement from the spokesperson of the local organizing committee, encouraging all participants to stay constant in their commitment to resist all abuses of the people by the forces of the state. The spirit of defiance and resistance remained strong throughout the demonstration.



Fresno, CA

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In Fresno, people met at 6 p.m. at the park at corner of "N" street and Mariposa St. commemorating victims of police brutality in a vigil.

The organizer says,

"Our event was small this year. I was busy on a trial that took us ten years to get to. A son reminded his father of attending. The son told me that no matter what he will always show up to honor his brother he will be there even if i don't organize it or show up. It made me feel strong .

High Point, N.C.

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NDP 2008 in Guilford AKA "Guilty" County came on the heels of an especially brutal year in which seven people were killed by law enforcement. Families of a number of victims past and present really set a different kind of tone this year; despite the tough conditions, there was a powerful sense of support given to families and loved ones of the recent victims by people who have been going through the pain of losing loved ones for several years now. That brought a depth and a sense of an experienced movement in it for the long haul like we hadn't seen before.

Humboldt, CA

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The Days of Action events began at noon, Oct. 22 at the gazebo in Old Town Eureka, where attendees talked about police brutality, shared stories and listened to music and recordings of political prisoners. Later in the day, Cop Watch took a tour through Eureka to areas where they say police violence often occurs. At 6:00 p.m. there was a vigil at the city hall, where Verbena said the courts turn a blind eye to police violence.

October 22 is the 13th Annual National Day Against Police Brutality, followed by the second anniversary of 16-year-old Christopher Burgess' controversial death. Burgess was chased down and shot two times by Eureka Police Officer Terry Liles after brandishing a knife on Oct. 23, 2006. There were no witnesses.

On Thursday, Oct. 23, people met in Highland Park at 11:00 a.m. to walk through Chris Burgess' neighborhood and to the courthouse.

Kansas City, MO.

Contact: 816-483-4130

Organizers in Kansas City held a Teach-In at 5 PM at Blufeld Library, 31 and Prospect. They gave a presentation on "Know Your Rights" and showed the film, "Cointelpro: the FBI's War on Black America."

Lawrence, KA

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From 8 p.m. to 1030 p.m., people gathered for a vigil in the empty lot next to Lawrence Arts Center at 9th and New Hampshire.



The October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation has been mobilizing every year since 1996 for a National Day of Protest on October 22nd, bringing together those under the gun and those not under the gun as a powerful voice to expose the epidemic of police brutality.

Los Angeles, CAContact: aidge@aestheticscrew.com

Around 350 people met up in front of LAPigD Headquarters "Parker Center" in Downtown Los Angeles. From there, they marched, sang, chanted, and screamed for a fierce 3 miles to MacArthur Park, the site of

intense police attacks on last year's May Day march. Many youth from Belmont & Miguel Contreras High Schools joined the march as it passed their schools, and the march eventually grew to around 400. A rally was held at the amphi-theatre in the park, during which numerous family members of Stolen Lives told their stories of injustice & ensuing fights for justice, guests such as Cynthia McKinney (Green Party Presidential Candidate), Michael Slate (KPFK), and Alex Sanchez (Homies Unidos), among others spoke, and youth from all over let loose their rage at the crooked

police state they face daily. Musical performances by Pachamama and Sherman Austin capped off the rally, which was followed by a powerful 2nd Annual Candle Light Vigil & procession in honor of all Stolen Lives. It was once again a beautiful day in the city of Lost Angels.

Minneapolis, MNContact: mngresist@minn.net

Minneapolis held a march starting at 4:30 p.m. at Kellogg Park, Kellogg & Washaba, St. Paul. On Sunday, October 26 6:00p.m., at Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Avenue South, Minneapolis. They held a Stolen Lives Remembrance ceremony.

Newark, NJ.

<http://www.aclu-nj.org/news/aclunjholdsmarchforpolicea.htm>

Press conference and march through downtown Newark, organized by ACLU and People's Organization for Progress.

CHECKPOINT 1:

Stating of Demands for Reform 4:30 p.m.
The Governor's Offices in Newark
153 Halsey Street, Newark

CHECKPOINT 2:

Getting the Word Out 5:30 p.m. Distributing "Know Your Rights" cards at Newark Penn Station

CHECKPOINT 3:

Vigil for Victims of Police Misconduct 6:30 p.m.
To honor the victims of police abuse and the officers committed to accountability.

Office of the Brazilian Voice newspaper.
412 Chestnut Street, the Ironbound

New York, NY

Contact: 917-543-9906

About seventy people participated this year in New York's October 22nd march and speakout. Margarita Rosario and Juanita Young, mothers of sons killed by NYPD, made opening remarks to gather the crowd for the march followed by Kathryn Lee of

the October 22nd national office and Carl Dix, spokesperson from the RCP, one of the founders of October 22nd. The march started off promptly at 5, went west to Lenox, then up to 135th Street, then back to the Harlem State Office Building. One thousand leaflets were passed out during the march. People on the streets responded to the pictures of people whose lives had been stolen by police, telling marchers that it was important to be there. At the speakout which followed the march, Jean Griffins, whose brother David was tasered to death by police in Long Island spoke out strongly against tasers. Elaine Brower from World Can't Wait spoke and introduced a veteran from Iraq who was brutalized by police at the debate held before the Election. The Bushwick Youth who had been arrested by police while walking together to attend their friend's wake, the Ya Ya Network, Gwen from the Mumia coalition, Ronnique Hawkins of the Anti Lynching Movement, and Carol Taylor of the Little Black book, all participated in the speakout after the march.



Olympia, WA

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From 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, organizers held an anti-cop rally at 4th Avenue Bridge. Then they held the National Night Out Against Police Brutality (and training day for the Olympia Police) and Downtown Olympia Annual Copwatch Tour! They called on people to join them for an informal tour of Olympia's downtown, guided by local Copwatch Organizer Drew Hendricks. It began at 6 p.m. at Sylvester Park. They asked people to Wear Black and consider masks, because last year the cops took photos of people participating.

Pasadena City College

M.E.Ch.A. held its annual demonstration against police brutality in front of the C Building on Tuesday. Along with members of Students for Social Justice, the Chicano advocates protested against police corruption in America with chants of "No justice, No peace."

"Even if there are good cops, the system allows for



racial profiling to be embedded within their departments," said Mayra Jaimes, officer of M.E.Ch.A.'s Internal Affairs and organizer of the rally. This year's police brutality demonstration featured several speakers including Allegra Padilla, former PCC student and member of the O22 Coalition, who spoke about several victims of police brutality.

"Let us not forget Javier Quezada Jr.," said Padilla. Pasadena police shot Quezada Jr., a former PCC student, 15 times in front of his parents at Las Encinas hospital after allegedly charging an officer with a pair of round-tipped scissors. "Our country has deep, historical roots of white men being encouraged to join a service to catch runaway or undocumented slaves," said Jose Lopez, the director of community relations for M.E.Ch.A. "Never forget, past is prelude."

M.E.Ch.A members also promoted a book titled *Stolen Lives: Killed by Law Enforcement*, an encyclopedia of over 2,000 documented cases of police brutality throughout the nation.

"The only way to stop [police brutality] is through multi-racial unity and awareness," said Norma Delgado, a SSJ member.

Phoenix, Arizona

Contact: 602-232-5884

From 8 a.m. to 12 noon, people rallied at 7th Avenue and Washington Police Station.

Pittsburgh, PA

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October 21 - 1:30 PM
televised city council hearing

about codification of the federal consent decree imposed on the Pittsburgh PD, City Council will be urged to strengthen our Civilian Police Review Board.

Following the taser killing of Andre Thomas on August 5 in Swissvale PA, our District Attorney set up a "Taser Committee." On September 2, members of the Pittsburgh

October 22 Coalition, and others, presented a list of concerns for and about the taser committee to the DA. At the first public meeting of

the Taser Committee the issues we had raised were ignored as a DA spokesperson asserted that no public comments or questions had been received.

The annual October 22 rally at Freedom Corner was suspended so that members of our coalition could attend an "Emergency Meeting" called by the Community Empowerment Association who are trying to frame violence within our communities as a "public health" issue and demanding funding for direct intervention programs.

San Antonio, TX

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San Diego, CA

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Seattle, WA

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*Seattle Central Community College
South Plaza (off Broad-way and E.
Pine Street)*

Rally at 4 p.m. March at 5:30 p.m.

Seattle's contribution to the 13th Annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality was encouraging, both in size and in defiantly resisting police attempts to restrict our march.

Over 120 people attended our opening rally outside a centrally-located community college, which was the most number of participants in Seattle since our 2002 event. A wide range of speakers made contributions: a local activist lawyer reported on the police repression he witnessed outside the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN; Ophelia Randall Ealy, mother of Michael Randall Ealy, killed by Seattle police in 1998, and Althea Bradford, cousin of Demetrius DuBose, killed by San Diego police in 1999 and from Seattle, represented Stolen Lives family members; an October 22nd Coalition activist spoke about the Stolen Lives Project; activists from World Can't Wait and the Revolutionary Communist Party, Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist (VVAW-AI) also spoke. We had a speaker from LELO, Code Pink, Raging

Grannies, Larry the peoples poet, Tony and the Revolutionary Band News coverage included front page coverage in Capitol Hill Times and large (free) notices in Real Change newspaper and Seattle Gay News.

An activist from SHARE/WHEEL spoke about Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' policy of ordering police sweeps of open spaces used by homeless campers and the confiscation of their few possessions. This policy has spawned the creation of a tent city of homeless people, who call it Nickelsville in "honor" of Seattle's mayor. The most emotional speech was given by an African American woman who tearfully described being groped by a laughing male officer after she repeatedly asked that she be searched, after an unnecessary arrest, by a female officer. She originally was unsure whether she could compose herself enough to speak, and she even pointed out the male officer in the police "escort" of our event.

Yet again, police attempted - this time unsuccessfully - to restrict our march. Ten minutes before the march was to start, they informed Oct. 22 organizers that we had not met the conditions of their vaguely-worded permit ("If the number of participants is fewer than 100-200 to safely occupy the street, they may be required to use the sidewalks") and thus they would force us to march on the sidewalk. One October 22nd activist responded to this by firing up the crowd, telling them if police were so concerned for our safety they should make sure no cops rammed their bicycles

into protesters, as they did during our 2003 march. The crowd was totally down for the streets, the cops backed off, and we took over the streets in an electrifying march. One of the most popular chants was "Sean Bell, 50 shots, why should we respect the cops?"

Our march was our largest and most spirited since 2002, and cut through the heart of Seattle's central business district at rush hour. Despite the permit stating we would be restricted to one lane if we were allowed to march in the street, we often spanned the entire street. Getting the message of our march out to the many onlookers was greatly aided by "service learning" student volunteers from a local community college who passed out hundreds of our "Who Will Police the Police?" flyers. Our march paused outside the county jail, with some speakers giving descriptions of their experiences inside. Humorous-ly, near the end of our march all the participants held an impromptu "die-in" by laying down in the middle of the street to represent people killed by police; in the dead silence, we could hear police in the background saying "This wasn't on the program!" and discussing among themselves how/when they would have to respond. The die-in lasted about one minute, although it must have seemed like an eternity to our police "escort." Our march ended with a candlelight vigil at Seattle's main downtown park.

All in all, October 22, 2008 was a very encouraging day in raising awareness in Seattle about police brutality and murder nationwide.

Sonoma County, CA

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At 5 p.m. people met at South-west Community Park;
At 6 p.m., they rallied at Old Court-house Square.

St. Louis, MO

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People rallied from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. At Poelker Park, Tucker and Market across from City Hall.

CANADA: Montreal, QC

Contact: cobp@hotmail.com

514-342-2111

COBP: <http://cobp-mtl.ath.cx>

ANAS: www.justicepouranas.org

On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 2008 – the national day of protest to “Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation” in the United States – over 40 people attended a picket organised by the Justice for Anas Coalition at the offices of the Montreal Police Brotherhood. The purpose of the picket was two-fold: to denounce the legal proceedings initiated by the Brotherhood to cancel the coroner’s inquiry ordered last June into the circumstances surrounding Anas’ death and to reiterate the Coalition’s demand for a full, public and independent inquiry into the death of Anas Bennis, supported by over 30 organisations. As a reminder, Anas was killed on the morning of December 1st, 2005, in the neighbourhood of Côte-des-Neiges, after being shot twice by police officer Yannick Bernier of the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM).

Despite the fact that this picket was widely announced as a

family-friendly event, the SPVM went to great lengths to protect the Brotherhood, as well as to attempt to intimidate and alienate those attending the picket. Indeed, two of the St Joseph street exits of the Laurier metro (including the Gilford street exit, which faces the offices of the Montreal Police Brotherhood) were blocked; stops for five different bus lines were displaced (#14 Amherst, #27 St-Joseph, #46 Casgrain, #47 Masson and #51 Édouard-Montpetit); metal barricades were installed between the metro and Gilford street; police tape blocked off the streets in the perimeter surrounding the offices of the Brotherhood; dozens of police officers were present, including a van labelled cavalry, at least one police dog and officers on bikes! Two police officers, Julie Prince-Dagenais and Jean-Charles Leclerc, were part of a "mediation" team; meanwhile, at least two commanders, Line Blanchard et Stéphane Bélanger, from station 37 and 38, respectively, were also present. This was an exaggerated police response to say the least, and was reminiscent of the family-friendly demonstration held in Montreal-North last month (on October 11) to demand a public inquiry into the death of Fredy Villanueva, killed by bullets fired by SPVM officer Jean-Loup Lapointe on August 9, 2008.

In response to this massive and absurd police presence, we gathered in the small park at the corner of St Joseph and Berri streets. We categorically refused to allow ourselves to be enclosed in the small cordoned off area that the police had "reserved to demonstrate" on Gilford street, which would supposedly allow us

to "see" the offices of the Brotherhood. The police affirmed that by doing so, they were not impinging on our freedom of speech... These tactics of the police back-fired, as we were allowed to be more visible to the numerous cars that were passing by on a busy street like St Joseph during rush hour. Hundreds of flyers explaining our presence were passed out to passers-by, while the "Justice pour Anas" banner remained markedly visible throughout.

Members of the Justice for Anas Coalition spoke to remind those present that it will soon be three years that the Bennis family has been waiting to find out the truth of what happened that morning on December 1st, 2005. Anas’ father, Mohamed Bennis, phoned from Morocco, where he resides, to express appreciation for the on-going support of so many people and to denounce the Police Brotherhood’s attempts to suppress the truth from becoming public by taking legal action to cancel the coroner’s inquiry. A member of the grassroots group St-Michel Mothers and Grandmothers for Life and Justice, which formed in the wake of Fredy Villanueva’s death, spoke to express their support to the Bennis family and the Justice for Anas Coalition. A member of another grassroots group Montréal-Nord République, which also formed after the death of Fredy, spoke about the connections between what happened to Fredy Villanueva and Anas Bennis. The demands of this group include a public inquiry into the death of Fredy, as well as an end to racial profiling, police abuse and impunity.

CANADA: Montreal, QC *(Continued)*

On the eve of the picket, the Justice for Anas Coalition had organised a press conference which featured Alain Arsenault (the Bennis family lawyer), Robert-Philippe de Massy (a lawyer working with the Ligue des droits et libertés), Dan Philip of the Black Coalition of Quebec and a member of the Collective Opposed to Police Brutality (COBP). Arsenault denounced the "cronyism" and the "solidarity" between the different police forces. Indeed, as part of its now infamous legal action to cancel the coroner's inquiry based on the argument that it would be "useless", the Police Brotherhood filed a copy of the report of the Quebec City police and of the decision of the Crown prosecutor, James Rondeau, who had decided not to file criminal charges against officers Bernier and Jonathan Roy (both of whom were involved in Anas' death). Disturbingly, these documents were never made public in the past, nor were they fully disclosed to the Bennis family, under pretext that they were "confidential."

This brings up troubling questions: how did the Montreal Police Brotherhood obtain copies of these documents, in full, when their disclosure to the family

has been consistently refused. And, under what authority does the Brotherhood allow itself to now make the documents public, while the Quebec Ministries of Public Security and of Justice have always maintained that they had to remain confidential? Of note, the Quebec Minister of Public Security and of Justice, Jacques Dupuis, has never wanted to reply to the questions of the Bennis family, nor has he called for a public inquiry into this matter, which would have helped shed light about what really happened that morning.

The legal action of the Montreal Police Brotherhood will be heard in Superior Court on January 29, 2009, at 9AM, in room 216 at the Palais de Justice (1 Notre-Dame East, Champs de Mars metro).

The Justice for Anas Coalition has 3 main demands:

1. The immediate release of all reports, evidence and information concerning the death of Anas Bennis to the Bennis family and to the public;
2. A full, public and independent inquiry into the death of Anas Bennis;
3. An end to police brutality and impunity.

October 22nd Org.
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