

Puncture the Silence Releases Summary of Findings and Transcript from the People’s Tribunal on Police Brutality

“You must let suffering speak, if you want to hear the truth.” - Dr. Cornel West

Puncture the Silence—Stop Mass Incarceration has released the transcript of the testimony and commentary from its People’s Tribunal on Police Brutality, hosted on April 11 at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. [The entire packet along with audio and video can be accessed online here.](https://t.co/n3A67XPm92) (<https://t.co/n3A67XPm92>)

The Tribunal provided a platform for courageous testifiers who refused to remain silent about their traumatic encounters with cops and prison guards. Outrage over the acquittal of Officer Michael Brelo in the “137 shots” case and the police killings of other black Clevelanders such as Tanisha Anderson, Tamir Rice, and Brandon Jones (whose father gave passionate and detailed testimony at the Tribunal) have made Cleveland a focal point of the growing national movement for racial justice. The stories being released provide a fuller picture of how Cleveland’s toxic police and “justice” systems have affected lives and communities.

The Tribunal’s panel was comprised of distinguished people of conscience, including: **Oscar Grant’s “Uncle Bobby” Johnson** from the Bay Area; **Ed McKinney**, CSU Social Work Professor Emeritus; **Genevieve Mitchell**, director of The Black Women’s Center; **Ed Little**, public policy consultant; writer/activist **Rev. Leah Lewis**; **Bill Swain** from *Revolution* Newspaper; and **Shemariah Arki** of the Excellence Management Group.

To bring testifiers’ stories to international attention and to fuel the ongoing racial justice movement, Puncture the Silence has submitted the documents to the **Human Rights Committee of the UN, Amnesty International, the International Criminal Court/Human Rights Watch, and the International Olympic Committee.**

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