

October 1, 2015

Dear Friend,

After more than a year of being part of the movement for Black Lives, I think these are rough times. The injustices of police murder have certainly been brought more clearly into light. Young people are engaging around the struggle for progress/justice. These are very good things.

There are undoubtedly some other positive changes in the works, but around many of the most egregious cases of police murder across the country, there remains little justice. Here in Cleveland, we have yet to see one iota of justice for the wanton killing of people like Tamir Rice, Malissa Williams, Timothy Russell, Tanisha Anderson, Brandon Jones. In none of these cases has the cop who killed these innocent, unarmed, black people spent a day in jail. Only one has been charged. He was tried by a judge, and let off.

In order to see *not one more of these killings*, what can be done? Having very little faith in the criminal “justice” system, I continue to favor direct mass action. So, I have stepped up to help organize for a large demonstration in New York City on October 24. I am part of Puncture the Silence—Stop Mass Incarceration, which has endorsed the enclosed *Call for Rise Up October*, put out by Carl Dix and Cornel West of the national Stop Mass Incarceration Network.

Activists here are hoping to take buses to NYC, to be part of a large manifestation demanding an end to police murder. A bus costs roughly \$4,000. We hope to fill several buses. Many of the people most effected by the heavy hammer of police abuse cannot afford bus fare. I’m writing to ask you to make a contribution to help make sure that everyone who wants to attend the demonstration will be able to get there.

A year ago the rebellion of the people of Ferguson began a discussion that led many more people across the country to realize that racism is a serious problem. Without such actions, people are able to ignore such issues. Not everyone can march in the streets, but many who can’t are still able to contribute in their own ways, such as financially.

Please dig deep, and be part of continuing the struggle for justice around the ‘New Jim Crow’. Tax-deductible donations may be made to: “The First Unitarian Church of Cleveland”, with “Puncture the Silence” on the memo line, and sent to: First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Hts., OH 44122.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

