



THE STOP MASS INCARCERATION NETWORK

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Dear Faith Partner,

In every generation a season comes that will challenge the faith community. This is that season. As young Black and Brown lives are being taken so suddenly by police in communities like Ferguson, Missouri, Beavercreek and Cleveland, Ohio, Staten Island, New York, Los Angeles, California and other places in our nation, our youth are fighting back in the only way they know how. They have done a tremendous job against insurmountable odds.

As a national activist, no matter where I travel I am faced with the same question, "Where is the church?!" In these troubled times our people need to hear from us as never before, and we must answer this call as the prophet's of old, "HERE AM I!" The faith community now has an opportunity to demonstrate to our youth and people all over the world that the church has not lost its relevancy.

On April 14, 2015 The Stop Mass Incarceration Network along with our faith partners, student activists and others will engage in national actions that will take our quest to end the new Jim Crow of mass incarceration and police murders to another level as we declare, "NO SCHOOL, NO WORK, AND NO BUSINESS AS USUAL! On April 14 thousands of high school and college students will walk out of class, people will leave their jobs, and in cities across America there will be marches, speak outs, protest of all kinds to express our refusal to continue with business as usual while people of color, including immigrants are unfairly targeted and attacked.

Our goals are clear, concise and direct: The murdering of Black & Latino people must cease at once; Justice, for those whose lives have been lost to police; The indictment and prosecution of police involved in these murders; and an insistence that the targeting of persons legally protesting cease and all charges against peaceful lawful protestors be dropped!

As a valued member of the faith community, we are asking you to help in several ways:

- Include in your weekly announcements efforts at both the national and local level to keep your members informed and encouraged to participate.
- Consider making your house of worship available as a safe haven and sanctuary for marchers and students who walkout so that they have a safe place to walk to, and in fact joining with us while wearing your cleric collar in an open display of unity and power.
- Consider lifting a special offering to assist our young people who may need to post bail, purchase buttons, T shirts and other needs.
- That your sermon on this powerful weekend focus on, "Black & Brown Lives Matter!"

For your convenience, faith packets with suggested responsive readings, litanies, and sermon topics are being made available for your use and can be obtained by requesting them via email. As a faith activist I also avail myself and/or members of our faith speakers team to come to you as guest minister at any time that fits your calendar.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and your continued commitment to the ongoing struggle for peace and justice!

Reverend Jerome McCorry

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