

Puncture the Silence - Stop Mass Incarceration

July 15, 2015

Friends,

In April, 2015, Cleveland, Ohio was in the throes of growing national controversy and protest against police brutality. Four cases of police murder – Timothy Russell & Malissa Williams (the 137 shots case), Tanisha Anderson (a mentally-ill woman), Tamir Rice (a 12-year old child playing with a toy gun), and Brandon Jones (an 18-year old who was killed after he allegedly stole from a corner store) – were in the national spotlight. All were Black. All were unarmed. Despite cries for justice, not one Cleveland police officer has been found guilty of a single crime.

The Department of Justice report on the CPD had been released. Its findings made clear that these cases were the tip of an iceberg. The murders were surrounded by systemic and systematic brutality, harassment, and racism, that was, in the words of a middle-aged Black woman, “everyday life in our occupied communities.”

Members of *Puncture the Silence*, a local organization active in the struggle against mass incarceration, police brutality, and criminalization of a generation, convened the first People’s Tribunal On Police Brutality in Cleveland on April 11, 2015.

Its purpose: to provide a safe venue for Cleveland residents to offer testimony about their personal experiences with the police.

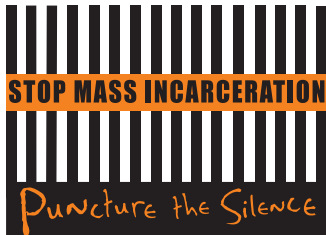
The tribunal was held at Cleveland State University. A panel of renowned community members was assembled to hear the testimony.

The panelists were: Shamariah Arki, Excellence Management Group; Rev. Leah Lewis, writer/activist; Ed Little, public policy consultant; Dr. Ed McKinney, CSU Social Work Professor Emeritus; Genevieve Mitchell, Director of the Black Women’s Center; Bobby Johnson, uncle of Oscar Grant, from the Bay Area; Bill Swain, reporter from *Revolution* Newspaper.

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Those who chose to testify were courageous in the face of possible retribution by police. Those who chose to testify told their stories to stunned panelists and audience members. The power of this testimony was underlined by the fact that these stories are part of a vastly longer narrative – the human dimension to the Department of Justice Report.

There are thousands of stolen lives – people who have been murdered by police. They are important human beings, whose families and loved ones have suffered terrible losses at the hands of America's law enforcement. The People's Tribunal began a sharing of the stories of people who have suffered under this injustice.

We hope this testimony contributes to humanizing the victims of police brutality and encourages resistance and struggle aimed at putting an end to this dehumanizing violence and the vilification of its targets.

In the Struggle for Justice,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol S. Steiner".

Carol S. Steiner
On behalf of the Puncture the Silence Steering Committee
216-932-3474

Steering Committee:

Laurie Albright, Hope Brustein, Molly Garfield, Ann Henderson, Carol Steiner, Keith Wilson

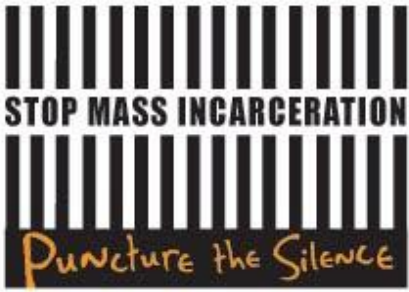
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Summary of the Testimony and Commentary at the People's Tribunal on Police Brutality

This Summary of the Testimony at the People's Tribunal on Police Brutality serves as a searing indictment of the "criminal justice" system in Cleveland, Ohio. An earlier draft of this summary was delivered to the office of the Mayor of the City of Cleveland on April 14, the National Shut Down Day that was called for by the Stop Mass Incarceration Network. On that day, people across the country took to the streets to say "NO MORE!" to giving a green light to killer cops.

The People's Tribunal on Police Brutality was held on Saturday, April 11 in Cleveland, Ohio. Organized by the local activist group Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration, the tribunal gave voice to courageous testifiers who refused to remain silent about their harrowing experiences with law enforcement officers and prison guards. These stories reveal the tip of the iceberg of the kind of outrageous treatment the people of Cleveland, particularly people of color, endure on a daily basis. The stories, which depict officers who feel justified in perpetrating crimes ranging everywhere from harassment and intimidation to torture and murder, lead inescapably to the conclusion that Cleveland's police force is a diseased entity infected by a culture of impunity. Meanwhile, we see the psychological damage that continues to be inflicted on the members of the Cleveland communities terrorized by the police.

Revisiting their traumatic encounters with Cleveland's system of law enforcement was highly emotional for the testifiers. Family members of people whose lives had been stolen delivered wrenching testimony. The father of 18-year old unarmed Brandon Jones, killed by police in Cleveland on March 19 after allegedly stealing a pack of cigarettes and some coins from a corner store, said through his anguish, "He shouldn't have stolen, but he wasn't bad... If all Black kids are bad, all cops are bad. My life will never be the same. I hurt. I hurt for my wife; I hurt for my kids." He told how the woman who called 911 was so remorseful that she regretted calling the police, saying that if she knew they were going to kill his son, she would have let him get away.

A black activist from the Stolen Lives Project said his sister should be here, instead of having been murdered in 1989. Stories of brutality and resistance ranged from the early seventies to this year. All agreed that to finally put an end to these atrocities, these stories must be amplified and resistance must be intensified.

Other family members told of a sister, a brother, and two more sons (one Black, one white) being killed by Cleveland police. A black woman who lost her son in 2007 said, "It's getting worse. You can't heal because of the pain when the killings are going on and on...I have to put on a disguise. When your child has been taken away, you can't watch the same things, eat the same things, cook the same things."

Other testifiers told of playing dead to get vicious beatings to stop, sustaining serious permanent physical damage, being menaced by armed threats, dealing with false allegations and charges, uncalled-for arrests, trials, jail-time, hospitalization, ongoing surgeries, PTSD, juveniles and low-level convicts put in prison with violent adult criminals, corruption, starvation, and torture. It was clear that those with mental problems get even worse treatment at the hands of the police. Testifiers expressed thanks, sometimes tearfully, for the opportunity to share their stories and their pain. Panelists and testifiers agreed that the telling of these stories was an empowering act, and that in order to heal these wounds and to resist persistent police terror, these stories must continue to be told and the protest movement must continue to grow. Some said that marching is beautiful, but we need some new solutions.

The panel that received the testimony was a powerhouse of people of conscience comprised of: Dr. Ed McKinney, Social Work Professor Emeritus, Cleveland State University; Writer/activist Rev. Leah Lewis; Shemariah Arki of Excellence Management Group; Cephus "Uncle Bobby" Johnson, Uncle of Oscar Grant; Edward Little, Public Policy Consultant and one of the Cleveland 8 working for Justice for Tamir Rice; Bill Swain, *Revolution* newspaper; and Genevieve Mitchell, Director of The Black Women's Center. As they listened to often excruciating detail of police assaults and murder, they offered support to help the victims cope with their pain, saying "We're here to lift you up." They expressed militancy in calling for resistance, participation in the "Shut Down" actions on April 14, the need for all to say, "No more!" and for the need to give voice to the unheard stories of those who have been killed. They stated that we are in a state of emergency and the time for action is now, if we are going to stop police murder.

One panelist stated he had been hearing similar stories for eighty years, and he didn't want the toddler in the audience to have this in her future. He and others called on those present to take things to another level, perhaps with higher risks. The young people present were called upon to become leaders in the movement for justice. One panelist made a plea to young people to win this struggle once and for all, "I'm sitting here fighting the same fight that my Dad was fighting. Do I want my children to fight the same fight?" Another panelist told young testifiers that, "It's critical that we hear your story, because you are the movement."

Panelists commented on the role of politicians, the media, the economy, mass incarceration, and confronting our history. "We need to get the truth out; these people are being brutalized and we do not know about it. The media is not telling the truth; the people are afraid to talk," said one. Another emphasized that "we have to educate [our children] on a few different things. We have to educate them on the system. We have to educate them on our history about who we are... We have to educate them on the capitalistic nature of American culture... The generation that came before them shielded them so much till they don't know... their history."

A panelist who had been incarcerated said that injustices are even worse behind bars. "If we are really serious about uncovering injustice and ending mass incarceration and standing up for right, we have to put a microscope on America's prisons. Because if you think the atrocities we see out here on these streets are bad, what they do behind prison walls where there are no cameras, where there are no witnesses, where everybody in there is considered to be, not to have credibility, you can not even imagine the atrocities that take place behind prison walls."

Panelists thanked the testifiers and Puncture the Silence for making the Tribunal happen, and suggested that more tribunals might be necessary. Panelists emphasized the importance of the testimonies and the courage of the testifiers to the movement to end police brutality. Said one panelist, "I'm proud of you for standing up and making your testimony and your stories known."

The People's Tribunal on Police Brutality

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio

Sponsored by Puncture the Silence—Stop Mass Incarceration

Alice Ragland, MC—“So, people are going to continue coming in to register but we’re going to go ahead and get started.

Alright..., hi, everybody; my name is Alice Ragland, and I want to welcome everybody to the People's Tribunal on Police Brutality. Thank you all for coming. Um, the purpose of this event is to highlight the experiences of those who have suffered in the hands of the criminal justice system. The stories told today will provide a powerful narrative to counter the justifications for injustice that people in power try to feed us. Too often individuals and institutions, such as the mainstream media, attempt to justify or make excuses for racism, police brutality or other instances of systemic oppression. Today we will hear the other side and decide for ourselves what the truth is.

The testimony that we hear today will be recorded and presented to Amnesty International, The United Nations' Human Rights Committee and The International Olympic Committee in order to expose these atrocities to the world. International attention and shame is often needed before The United States acts on its human rights violations. For example, when countless African Americans were being brutally beaten and lynched in an effort to keep them in their place after slavery, the lynching problem was not addressed by this nation until Ida B. Wells embarrassed the United States internationally by informing the world about its hypocrisy and brutality. The testimony will also be delivered to local government officials including Mayor Frank Jackson. This People's Tribunal aims to build momentum for National Shut-Down day which is this Tuesday, April 14th.

The National Stop Mass Incarceration Network has deemed April 14th a day of mass walkouts, demonstrations and other disruptive actions that symbolize stopping business as usual, the business of law enforcement officials killing unarmed black, brown and poor people with impunity. Join us for Shutdown Day this Tuesday, April 14th. We will be gathering at 3 p.m. on the Mall, at the northeast corner of Public Square. There will also be a teach-in outside of The Justice Center starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, which will include educational workshops about systemic oppression.

This event was put together by Puncture the Silence. The purpose of Puncture the Silence is to raise awareness in Northeast Ohio about mass incarceration and the New Jim Crow, to foment a movement to stop mass incarceration and the racially biased practices of the criminal justice system, and to plan actions and events that connect to other efforts of resistance to the New Jim Crow. In case you are not familiar with the term “the New Jim Crow”, it's a term coined by

Professor Michelle Alexander to describe the racist laws, policies and practices of the criminal justice system and the legal system to maintain a racial caste system that aims to keep African Americans in a permanently inferior place in society. Mass incarceration of African Americans for minor crimes, disproportionate policing and jailing of people of color, and racism in the courtrooms and also police brutality and poor communities and communities of color are all a part of the New Jim Crow. Today we will hear firsthand experiences from the testifiers about their experiences with the New Jim Crow.

Puncture the Silence was founded last April from a group of women in Cleveland Heights after reading The New Jim Crow and being inspired by the efforts around Trayvon Martin and the anti-stop-and-frisk policies in New York. It is an affiliate of the national Stop Mass Incarceration Network and it has put together film screenings, demonstrations and other actions in response to the police killings of unarmed poor people and people of color. Please stand if you are a member of Puncture the Silence. Let's give Puncture the Silence a hand for putting this together. (Applause)

Um, so I wanna thank Puncture the Silence for putting on this important event. Um, I also want to thank Cleveland State University, Dr. Mark [sic--Michael] Williams, Faheem Khabeer and the CSU Black Studies Department for making this event possible. Um, thank you to all of our panelists: Cephus Johnson, A.K.A "Uncle Bobby", Reverend Leah Lewis, Genevieve Mitchell, Ed McKinney, Ed Little and Shamariah Arki and Bill Swain. And, of course, I'm excited to thank all of you guys for coming, um, everybody in the audience, and of course, our testifiers. Um, this testimony is really important to get a different story out there, a story that's completely the reverse of what mainstream media and other institutions, such as law, tell us. So, everyone's attendance at this event is very much appreciated, and your attendance shows that you are taking a step in standing on the side of justice.

So, I would like to do some housekeeping before I introduce the panelists. (Alice then gives directions to the bathrooms. She talks about a break.) Also, please silence cell phones at this time. We want to be respectful for the people sharing their deep stories today. Alright, so we all have a paper that has the bios of myself and of the panelists. There's also ground rules at the bottom of that. And I just want to go through them very quickly. These ground rules were created just to maintain an atmosphere of respect. Um, so, number **one** is listen actively, respect others while they are talking. That includes keeping your personal conversations to a minimum while other people are talking, um, so that the room can be quiet. Also, when we do a Q. and A. at the end please speak from your own experiences and not generalize, such as using I statements, instead of we or they.

Also, um, don't be afraid to respectfully challenge somebody in the space, but please refrain from any personal attacks once we do open the floor up to the discussion part.

Number **four** is participate to the fullest of your ability. Community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice. So, we definitely want some participation, especially at the end when we do our Q. and A. **Five:** instead of invalidating someone else's story with your

own spin on their experience, share your own story and experience. Um, six: the goal is not to agree. It's about hearing and exploring divergent perspectives. Seven: be conscious of your body language and nonverbal responses; they can be as disrespectful as words, and like I said, most of these apply to the discussion piece toward the end. And, eight is: remember that we are all here for one purpose--we want justice.

So..., with that being said, I want to move on to the introduction of the panelists. As I call your name, you're welcome to give a brief spiel about yourself or about the work that you do, and yes, everybody does have a bio, so, I hope that you read through all of the bios of the panelists and I wanna give them an opportunity to talk a little bit about themselves. Um, so, I will start with Ed McKinney."

Dr. Ed McKinney—"I'm Ed McKinney, Professor Emeritus, Cleveland State University. Uh, I'm eighty years old (applause) and uh, and I say that to make a point. I was born in 1935 in Macon, Georgia. So, I want you to kind o' connect with that experience. Ya know we talk about profiling. I like to make the joke that I was profiled from the time I came out of my mother's womb. And uh, growing up in Georgia....the segregated schools; all black, all white, not only in elementary school, but also high school.

I remember the first time I was stopped by a cop, must 'a been ten years old. It was in Tatnall Square Park on the campus of Mercer University, on the edges of Tatnall Square Park. And the reason I was trespassing, and "trespassing" because the persons who had donated that park to the area had stipulated within the contract: for whites only. So, it was a nice way to get home after visiting my friends in another little part of town, another neighborhood. So I would take the shortcut through there, and uh, and so that was the first time I was kind o' profiled.

And the second time (and I call it a very significant profiling) in 1954 when I was arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, by the famous Bull Connor. We were doin' voter education and registration, obviously before 1958. This was before, as you know, all of the news media had arrived in that part of the world and to share the stories of what was really going on. What's interesting about that, once you got arrested in Birmingham or probably any of the other Southern cities, towns or whatever, uh., it followed you; because three months later there was a mass demonstration on the steps of the Montgomery State House, and the newspapers in my hometown of Macon, Georgia, my parents read that, uh, said, 'You just got arrested in Montgomery.' But at the time I was two hundred miles away. So, once you got on the list, you're talking about profiling.

So, I'm very, very, very happy that Puncture the Silence is doing this forum because here's an opportunity for people to share. We all have, ya know, have experienced being black in the United States. It doesn't matter, you know, at some point you have. If you're denying it, there's an issue we need to talk about. But uh, anyway I'm very, very happy for this to take place, and I've had the opportunity to meet some of the panelists, and it's just a thrill, you know. Thank you very much." (Applause)

Rev. Leah Lewis—“Greetings. I’m Reverend Leah Lewis. I’m going to keep it short and sweet. My history is that I have been a community organizer. I’m currently serving as a literary activist. I do a lot of writing on social issues for an on-line site called forharriet.com Uh, recently I wrote a piece on the Tamir Rice murder and the ways in which this country continues to devalue the lives of African Americans. I’m a graduate of Howard University School of Law and Yale Divinity School. So I’m coming to this afternoon with both my legal hat and my theological hat. I’m looking forward to hearing your stories and honoring your stories. God bless you all.” (Applause)

Shamariah Arki—“Good afternoon, I am Shamariah Arki. You can read about my business and my education here. Most importantly, I’m a mother. I’m a mother of two young black men, Solomon and Malcolm. They’re five and seven. I love them a lot and I will show you all pictures afterwards. For the last fifteen years I’ve been an educator. I’ve run out-of-school programs for young people all across the United States, and uh, my central question in my research today is: what’s the role of the education system and more specifically of teachers in the wake of Black Lives Matter? When our young men go to school and they don’t come in the next day. How does that affect the classroom? How does that affect the knowledge? How does that affect the pedagogy and the identity of the teachers and the students? So, that’s where my research is.” (Applause)

Uncle Bobby (Cephus Johnson)—“Hello everyone. I am affectionately known as Uncle Bobby. I am the uncle of Oscar Grant, the young man who was killed January 1st, 2009, in Oakland, California, in the Fruitvale BART station platform. Also, I am the family of the movie Fruitvale Station. How many of you have seen the movie Fruitvale Station? (Audience: “Yeah.”) Thank you for supporting the movie. It was done very well. It wasn’t a movie that was just developed because somebody felt like developing it. Brian spent many nights with the family. Before I tell you about me, I want to introduce my wife, Beatrice, who’s also here. Um, my dear wife, my lovely wife. (Applause) Thank you.

Of course, Oscar is my very first nephew. His mama is my baby sister. And, of course, I was very pained with his murder. And so, basically overnight, as you would hear Eric Garner’s daughter say, I became an activist. I’ve studied at San Francisco State under the Black Studies Program and had my own personal experiences. But what I bring today is the fact that I am a family member who has suffered this heinous act of police terrorism. And it’s from that propelled me to begin to speak to this very issue.

Though we knew it existed, it was the video that became very critical that I emphasize over and over for the past six years, as we’ve just seen with Walter Scott in the young man taking that video, how critical it is that we all take a moment out of our lives, stop, stand at a safe distance and videotape. Because we don’t know what that evidence can do for the family. And because of that video for Oscar, it was the first time in California history that we were able to secure a

charge, an arrest, conviction and send him to jail. It was a slap in the face, with the time he done, but it was historical.

And so, I say all that to say that it's you, the community that can bring about this real change because we all become our brother's keeper. So, from that has propelled me to deal with all the national families. I've connected the dots and let these families know that this is not an isolated issue. These tribunals that we have are critical for these families to share their story because it doesn't stop here. It does not stop here. We're goin' beyond just the issue of sharing it with the United States government. The world has to know that terrorism by the so-called police in our communities are at an attempt to destroy a generation of people. We have to be clear that we are at a state of emergency.

For all of you that are here today, thank you for coming. Because these stories that you're gonna hear, it's gonna sadden you, but alarm you to the state of emergency that we're in. And so I bring this personal experience on the pain that these families will share. I can directly relate to, 'cause I've spent many a days and nights with many of the families across the country. The Trayvon Martins, the Jordan Davises, the Ramarlee Grahams, the Michael Browns. I could just go on with the names and names and names. And all of us have a story to share, but it can't just stop in our neighborhood. It must go beyond that. So. thank you for doing this.” (Applause)

Ed Little—“Good afternoon, my name is Edward Little, and uh, it's an honor to be here before you today. Uh..., I am a public policy consultant. I do a lot a work, a lot a community activism in the community but I don't want a talk about my bio today. I am here today because I am Oscar Grant. I am Trayvon Martin. I am Walter Scott. Because I could be any one of those gentlemen, at any moment when I walk out that door, and as a result, I think it is imperative for us, not only as a community, but as a nation, to understand what's happening right now in this moment in this country. People of color and poor people have been victimized, brutalized and assaulted by law enforcement officials throughout the history of this country. And the popular media has tried to rationalize and silence our voices when we speak up about this issue. The time has come for us to stand up as one community and say, ‘No more. No more to police brutality. No more to assault on people who have done nothing.’

I come to you today as someone who has served 14 years of my life in America's gulags. And I raise that because it's important, because often times the people who are assaulted and killed by the police, once they find out that that individual has something in their background or something in their record, then whatever violence has been perpetrated upon them is justified. I don't care what a person has done, if that individual has not done anything at that moment in time, the police do not have the right to take your life. And, we have to understand as a community and as a nation, we have to be very clear that whether I'm armed, whether I'm unarmed, you do not the right to take my life because I'm not doing what you want me to do at that moment in time.

I see victims in this room and I am, I am passionate about hearing your testimony. I see mothers in this room who have grieved over the loss of their son, and the world needs to hear your story. The world needs to hear your testimony. And we are here to lift you up and to let you know that we support you, that we love you and that we are going to be here for you in this fight, for the long haul. And so I am honored to be on this panel amongst these folks who are passionate about these issues, and I am here to lift up the voices of those who are normally not heard, and not given a chance to share their message.

And, in closing, I will say one last thing. We cannot continue to follow a narrative where the victim who is deceased does not have the opportunity to share their story. You know people talk about what happened with Trayvon Martin. People talk about what happened with Michael Brown. But that's only one side of the story. These men are deceased! And so, we take whatever the individual that killed them said as fact. We have to give value to those who cannot speak for themselves, and we cannot continue to allow the narrative that's been out here for so long to continue to play out as if black lives don't matter. So, I thank you, and I look forward to hearing your testimony. And I'm excited to work with all of you. Thank you.” (Applause)

Bill Swain—“Yeah, I'm Bill Swain. I've been an activist, a writer and distributor of *Revolution Newspaper*. I think I'm here to say we have to be out there on April 14th to contribute to act in not slowing down the brutality and murder by the police, but stopping it. This is a system that actually, the rampant murder of black and brown people is part of the suppression of those people and we say, ‘No more!’ The whole damn system gives a green light to killer cops and beside the killings, the system and the media go after the victim who did nothing wrong when killed but then bring up other issues.

Think about the inhumanity of a system that throws Tamir's sister down on the ground, throws her in the police car and tells the mother, ‘If you don't go away, we're gonna arrest you too!’ The inhumanity of the system whose enforcers do nothing but this again and again, get away with murdering black and Latino people. That's bad in its own right, but it's a concentration of the repression and suppression of a whole people. From the days when black people were brought over in slave chains from Africa till the present, the ugly truth of what goes on in this country, and this is the truth of what we're gonna hear today. The victims of this oppression on the day-to-day.

I wanna say that the system is un-reformable. It has proven it over and over again. I don't care how many consent decrees they do. I don't care how many cameras they use to stop us. No review boards will stop them. Only the people in the streets will stop the killing and the brutality. We need to get back in the streets on April 14th. We need to build our resistance back on the Ferguson track, and we need to make revolution to get rid of the system of capitalism that causes all this suffering. Check out Bob Avakian, the chairman of The Revolutionary Communist Party. Fight the power. Transform the people for revolution.

I'm looking forward to hearing these harrowing stories of the day-to-day brutality. We were in the projects yesterday. I don't think she made it, but she said that when she was, I don't know, 20 years old, they asked where her boyfriend was. She said, 'I don't know where he is.' and they shot, just took that gun and shot her right in the leg. This is the day-to-day brutality that goes on against black and Latino people.

You know, people, it needs to stop, and only the people are gonna stop it. Only the people can stop it. We can go to all the meetings we want and all the police chiefs and all that is, is a way to try to cool everybody down to say, 'I guess we just have to live with it.' No, we are not gonna live with it. And we say, 'These are our people. These are our youth, whether we're black, white, purple, whatever.' These are our people and we have to be out in the streets to say, 'No more.' And we need to be, some of us, actually bringing forward a revolutionary movement to say, 'We're gonna sweep this, so this will be no more!'

When the police forces of the socialist, uh..., state come upon a problem, like Taisha Miller in California who was having a seizure, no, they're not gonna shoot her down; they're gonna actually deal with it. They're not gonna shoot down Brandon Jones because he took something out of a store. They're gonna actually never do that, but actually have some justice. So, that's why I think we need to actually establish and make revolution when we can, and establish a vision of a society where this would be no more. Thank you." (Applause)

Genevieve Mitchell—"My name is Genevieve Mitchell, and um..., let me just briefly begin by saying, 'Thank you.' to Carol Steiner, Bill Swain and Puncture the Silence for convening a panel on these very important issues and for allowing the community to come forward and speak out loud about the nature of state-sponsored terror and violence. To this esteemed panel, um... doctors, lawyers and friends.... and audience, welcome and thank you.

The parasitically incestuous nature of the United States' privatized corporate prison industrial complex, and the skewed relationship that exists between the institutional political players, law enforcement, the judiciary, citizen/victims and the system's shareholder/benefactors is profound. Millions of black, brown, and poor white, mentally-ill youth, feeble and homeless provide the foundational base of this skewed economic network. A slavery-for-profit system via a prison Ponzi scheme. Slavery, you see, is transformative. Be it overseers, posses, lynch mobs, Klan, paddy rollers, gulag, and by extension, law enforcement, the precursors who provide the steam engine for the racial criminalization and incarceration of multitudes of millions for profit, profit attached to privatized corporate wealth from which there is no viable compunction to cease and desist.

The end of these systems, veiled as law and order, will have to be dismantled by people of good conscience who clearly understand the nature of institutional social violence and racism, and the economic implications of organized judicial terror and state-sponsored violence. That's why we're here today, and we wait hearing your testimony. Thank you very much."

Alice Ragland—“Thank you to all the panelists. So, my name is Alice. So, you guys can read my bio and everything. But I guess my most memorable moment in the struggle that told me that something was seriously, seriously messed up with the system was Trayvon Martin, not, after he didn’t get arrested; I was very annoyed by that. I was hurt by that. I was disappointed. You know, when they finally took George Zimmerman into the courtroom, you know, I was like okay, this trial's going on, it looks like, you know, some bumps in the road in the trial but it seemed very clear to me that he killed a boy for no reason. Um..., but the moment that really stuck with me was when the jury didn't see that.... So, um..., that really threw me. Ya know, I was in, I think, my second or third year in college, and ya know, I was expecting everybody to see that it was obvious that he wasn't doing anything and he didn't deserve to be shot. But after that jury said otherwise, I was just done. I was, like, this is not okay; there's something seriously wrong with this system.

Um..., you know, the fact that people are not getting even indicted or taken into a courtroom at all for doing the exact same thing kills me. Um..., but even if they do, there might be a jury full of people who don't see “race”. You know, you might have a jury full of racists. And that's what's happening with a lot of these grand juries. So, it's just on so many different levels that people go unpunished for their murder, their senseless murder of black, brown and poor people. Um..., so, that is really, like; that was my jump off point. I was, like, no more; this isn't gonna happen.

So, I just delved straight into the movement, even though I had a huge focus on social justice before; that was my catalyst into going straight into this particular cause. So, since then I've organized with a lot of different groups. One group that I organized with, called Ohio Student Association, after the murder of John Crawford. If you're not familiar with the case, it took place in Dayton, Beaver Creek, specifically. He had seen a BB gun or some fake gun in a Walmart and he was in there talking on the phone to his girlfriend, about to go to a cookout, and he picks up the gun and he's just toying around with it. So, a 911 caller called in and said, ‘There's a man with a gun in here.’ Um, so, the police came and immediately took him out. They shot him right as soon as they saw him. This is a gun that was out in Walmart. It's not a real [sic] gun. It's not, you know, harmful to anybody, and they just immediately shot him and then they harassed his girlfriend afterward; harassed her; brought her to tears before they let her know that he was dead.

So, in response to that, one of my activist groups, like I said, Ohio Student Association, we went and slept over at the Beaver Creek police station for three days; camped out, full-fledged. We had so much support. We literally had a giant sleepover in the police station until, uh, we got a meeting with the police chief. Um, so, we had people bringing in food. We had people coming and stopping in, bringing in their Wi-Fi networks ‘cause they cut off the Wi-Fi. At one point they cut off the electricity, so we couldn't charge anything. So, we had people bringing from extension cords to backup generators as soon as we tweeted, ‘We need this. We need food.’ Ya know, they brought it immediately. We had so much food that we had to give some food away. You know, we had dinner for days.

Um, so, anyway, we had the meeting with the police chief, a couple of representatives from OSA, and they ended up saying that... It was three police officers including the police chief. And they ended up saying that they didn't think that race played a role in this. So, you know, that was kind of what we expected, but I guess my point in all this is there are still people who don't think that race matters in this.

Um, and like I said in the introduction, um, people try to come up with a justification all the time for murder and for systemic racism and oppression and they don't even wanna acknowledge that it exists. So, um, in all this I'm extremely frustrated that this continues to happen. But the fact that there are people who still deny it and even outwardly support it; the amount of support that George Zimmerman has gotten financially and that other people who have committed murders like this have gotten? It was one cop; he ended up thinking that he was going to have to go to trial, so people raised millions of dollars for him after he murdered somebody. And then he got to pocket the money, 'cause he didn't even get indicted.

So, these things are just, they really hit me hard. Um, especially, you know, growing up in an area of education where it's supposed to be post-racial. I never believed that, of course, but, you know, I guess just the disbelief and the outward racism that remains unacknowledged, um, and not talked about, is what really what affects me very deeply. So, that's why I think this event is so important today. The stories that are shared are gonna counter the dominant narrative. The stories that are told today are going to provide a voice for the people who are silenced all of the time. So, I just want to thank everybody who came today. Before I make my final little statement, I want to let you know how this is gonna work.

Raise your hand if you're testifying. Okay, so we have a lot of people testifying. So, basically, I'm gonna call your name in a specific order. Some people have to leave early so I will call your name. If you need to leave early, just let Hope and Molly over there know. When I call your name, you can come up here. You have about five minutes to share your story. Laurie, over here, will be giving you a one-minute warning when the time is up. So, please pay attention to Laurie. This is just in the interest of time. If there's time at the end we might be able to have you speak again or something like that. But we just wanna make sure that everybody is able to tell their story today. Um, so, please just be conscious of time. Remember to say important details and stuff like that. So, after you're done, I'm gonna ask the panelists if they have any responses, if they have any questions for you; and that's just gonna be a couple of minutes.

Not every panelist is going to speak after every person. We need to once again act in the interests of time. That's basically it. Then we'll have the break. We'll have Q and A. We'll have more testimony after the break. Alright, so, as she comes down I just want to say, one of my favorite sayings is that, 'if you are not part of the problem you are part of the solution'[sic], and I think that all of your presence here shows that you are one step in the direction of becoming part of the solution. I know a lot of you guys are part of the solution, so, I want to thank everybody who has been involved in this movement and everybody who's in the room. I

hope that this tribunal will push everybody to be a part of the solution. Alright, with that being said, um, I would like to introduce our first testifier, and it's gonna be Reverend Pamela Pinkney Butts. (Applause)

Rev. Pinkney Butts—“Please forgive me. Um, I would apologize but I really cannot apologize if I'm not bubbly and smiley and giggly. But I want to acknowledge my Savior, Jesus Christ, because it's because of Jesus Christ that I'm alive. And I, too, Reverend Leah K. Lewis, represent not only religion, but law, because I've had to represent myself legally through this process. (Sings: ‘Breathe on me, Holy Spirit, won't you breath on me.’)

I would talk about the past in my five minutes. The past is still relevant. But I wanna talk about the present because I'm still victimized by the Cleveland Police, Cuyahoga County Sherriff's Department, United States Department of Justice, as well as other law enforcement officers and the courts. I still do not have a safe place to live. And I took a very great risk coming here today, because my home where I live is broken into every day, if I don't have someone monitoring it. What I have here is documentation that's still relevant today. I did a police report because a Baptist preacher, who is the father of two of my children, sodomized and raped my children, and did some things to me as well, raped me, locked me in his Christian bookstore, did some other things to me. And I ended up with four children; two by two different Baptist preachers, both who have raped me, both who have disrespected me. And the police have gotten behind in this process, and so has the legal system to justify it, condone it, and to try to make me disappear.

I've also been silenced because of a Muslim person stated that it's the will of Allah that we be poor and broken down, and, therefore, the media and other people decided to silence me. Well, the Cleveland Police have not only altered my police reports, but I have, as you see, this stack of police reports. Some of 'em are police reports in here. And then I also have a list of police reports that have never been responded to. I stand here now because when my son's father kicked my body parts out of my body, the prosecutor refused to do anything for me. And I stand here because I'm blessed to be able to stand here. I don't even know why I'm standing here, because on October 10th, 2002, after I reported our being abused and I fled from Cleveland, Ohio, which is my hometown, to Indianapolis, Indiana, to be safe, the police went into a school, with the social workers, stole my children, told them I gave them away, put 'em up for adoption, and knew they were being taken, told lies about me, submitted it in the court, made me homeless.

Ultimately I got shipped back here to Cleveland, Ohio. My parents had to come to Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2006 to get me because they had locked me up in Methodist Hospital against my will and my rights. I signed an interstate compact to get out of Indiana alive, to come back here to Cleveland, Ohio, my hometown.

October of 2008, October 7th, I went to the Justice Center to see about a neighbor's child, was beat up, tortured, thrown in the county jail, given a suicide blanket, and told to kill myself--

where I have the documentation here in this pile of papers to show where they not only altered my birthday to make me disappear, but put on here, “race unknown.”

October of 2012, when I was also a presidential candidate for this country, one week before the presidential election I was forced to sign a document by law enforcement officers, Cuyahoga County, with the aid of Cleveland Police, where it was false allegations, where I was told that if I didn't sign, I was gonna be banned from all government buildings.

October of 2013, I got beat up outside of my home by the Cleveland Police, where they said they heard I was mentally ill, so they were beatin' me up, draggin' me all over the ground--five men. Last month my home was broken into again. The reason I don't want the person who came with me here to come down here on this camera, is 'cause I don't want my children and my children's children to be target of this mess.

I've been to Washington DC, I've been to City Hall, I've been to the county, and, yes, racism is a part o' this. But religion is too. I stand because I'm tired of people oppressing me as a woman, because I'm a woman preacher. And I'm a single mother, who doesn't accept the fact that I'm not a nigger, born to serve men,...where I was abused by the courts, where Judge James Payne of Indianapolis, Indiana, ordered a hit on me from his bench, because I told him I am not a nigger, born to serve men, and neither are my children.

My time is gonna run out right now for this five minutes. But if something happens to me, I'm asking each one of you in this room, when I leave this room, if something happens to me today, find me! Because these people made me disappear. They locked me up in a hospital, Richmond Heights Hospital, and made me disappear, and banned me from phone calls, lawyers, preachers and everything else. Find me! 'Cause this is real. Thank you.” (Applause)

Alice Ragland—“So, Art has to go, so I'm gonna, um, skip the questions and just go straight to Art McKoy. And also... Art and Alvin are gonna testify together, really briefly.” (Applause)

Art McKoy--“Greeting friends. I, uh, come here today in regret that I cannot stay and listen to the rest of the testimonies, because, to me, these are the most important testimonies that could be given, because the country and the city cannot heal as long as individuals have pain and sorrow in their bodies that have not been expressed. And as long as this pain and sorrow from police brutality and police murder continue to fester in their body, there can never be a change.

And that's why I stand here before you today as one of those victims who were beat in the 5th District police station, worse than Rodney King. I thought they was gonna kill me in there. The beating that I took, and the way my face and body looked, you would not believe! And this happened in the late seventies. So, think that all these years I have had to carry that pain within me! ...As so many of you others have had to carry that pain within you! Because at that time it was not acceptable that the police department could do these brutal

things to an individual. It just was not acceptable. So, today I stand here before you almost shouting to say, ‘Thank God the day have finally come, when the reality of what happened to me in the ‘60s, and the ‘70s, and the reality that what has happened to so many of us brothers and sisters who have been brutalized, but our voices were not heard because it was unacceptable; today it is acceptable!’ (Applause) And I stand before you today to share that the beating that I took in the 5th District Police Department is the worst beating that I’ve ever had in my life! And it came from the Cleveland Police Department, in the 5th District.

I stand before you today; I’m not gonna give you that story. If I gave you that story today, all of you all would be crying today. I’m not gonna give it to you today because of time restraints. I’m gonna turn this over to my brother! Brother Brooks, who has a similar story to share. But I will end by saying this. After they beat me almost to death, as I laid on the 5th District floor, kicking and stomping, the only way I could stop them from killing me, was to play dead! Have you ever tried to play dead when people try to kill you?! Then that’s what I had in order to be saved by the Cleveland Police Department from killing me. Then after they did all that, they threw me in a cell, and guess what? A few minutes later they came by and I saw this mist comin’ over my head. And it was mace. And this mace tore into my body and I cried out, ‘Oh!’ And I had to roll over to that toilet and try to drench myself, that dirty toilet. Drench myself from the pain. Oh, I’m not gonna give you anymore. Because you have to hear from Brooks.” (Applause)

Alvin Brooks—“Thank you, everyone. Uh, I wanna first raise praise to the Lord Almighty God. And, uh, thank the panel in here, Puncture the Silence, all the organizers for making this happen. Because, you know, it’s something that’s very well needed. We have a moral, human rights to be protected by the law, not the law enforcement take issues into their own hands.

But I’m gonna try to make my story brief. Back in 19..., well it was the early ‘70s. I was at this place on Shaker Square, and some commotion started. The police came. It was about a parking ticket. But, um..., it ended up escalating out a control, where these two police officers called a paddy wagon and a bunch of other law enforcement. It was about seven, eight cars, a paddy wagon and all. And uh, they commenced to beatin’ me in the face with the flashlights. They already had me in the handcuffs. They had me handcuffed from the front. They end up picking me up and throwing me in the paddy wagon. My brother happened to come out during the time and he wanted to know what was going on, and there was an officer that told them to put him in the paddy wagon too.

But, we finally get to the police station after they done knocked me almost unconscious. So, once we get to the 4th District police station (it was the old 4th District police station, not the one that’s on 93rd and Kinsman right now). But anyway, once we got to the police station, they let my brother out, then they pulled me out. One of the officers pulled out his gun and told the other one, ‘We oughtta kill this one.’ Now I’m really, I’m scared to death ‘cause I’m thinking they actually gonna do it. I’m already busted up already. So, once we get in the police station, um.., about seven or eight of ‘em are behind me, and at the old district there was a levitation on

the front desk. And so I'm up there, you know, trying to really hold myself up so these..., the sergeant behind the desk grabbed the cuffs and snatched me over. And soon as he did that, then the other ones pulled out their blackjacks and everything else and just get to commencing to just beating me even more. They end up ripping my pants off, where I was basically half naked in the police station, and after all this done happened I'm really, I'm really messed up. All of a sudden, one of the officers says, 'Look what we have here.' Had a joint. They end up lighting that joint up. Passing it all around to one another, and the last one who took a puff put it out on my face. (Audience: Gasps)

And they end up taking me back to the cell block. But even something that was more dramatic than that, like, when they had me bent over the desk, one of the officers took a nightstick and do I have to tell you what they tried to do? So you know, that sort of leadership, policing..., that's not police business. See, once I was handcuffed, I was never a threat in the first place. You know, I did my little wiggling because beating me, but far as really gettin', ya know, like, ya know, some smack-down, I wasn't into that. But, ya know, they really did me some bodily harm and charged me for assaulting a police officer, charged me for marijuana, charged me for inciting a riot, 'cause there was good three, four hundred people outside, once things got intense.

So, I share this story to let y'all know that we have to project our experiences and let people know that this thing has been going on for years! I'm talkin' this is the early seventies. You know, and we have to stop ignoring that the police is always right. Sometimes they're wrong and we can't be saying they're right all the time, 'cause they're not. You know, Tamir Rice, Malissa and... that wasn't right; it wasn't right. But yet, they try to convince us to believe that. I encourage everyone to, you know, ... be involved! We have moral, we have legal rights, and we not being protected by those rights. Thank you all." (Applause)

Alice Ragland—"So, next we're gonna have a statement from William Clarence Marshall. Switched the format a little bit because some people do have to go. Instead of interjecting each time and having questions from the panel, every couple of people or every few people, we're going to do that. After William will be Doc. Doc's, um, yes. So William Clarence Marshall and then Doc.

William Marshall—"Good afternoon. (Audience: "Good afternoon.") We cannot allow the ocean of complacency and violence, economic oppression and racism and apathetic social injustice to drown us before we reach the shoreline of freedom, justice and equality. The oars of American justice row arduously as the raft of humanity traverses the dark murky cold waters of racial violence and social indignation, indignation which seeks to drown the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting to exhale from the anchored weight of racial oppression. This nation's ship has run aground. Its moral compass cracked and off kilter. Its crew in a political abyss, moving the American people toward a choppy political trajectory of uncharted racial waters, economic trepidation and ominous social division. The predators are discrimination and sexism, poverty and police brutality, homophobia and miseducation, criminalization,

homelessness, hunger and racism. It is through these dark, shark-infested waters the nation's poor must navigate in a rudderless vacuum of human want, without sanctuary, as carnivorous predators metastasize in a feeding frenzy of parasitic greed. Doctor King said, 'Always be mindful of how the least of us are treated, for therein lies the fate of us all.' The solution to America's drowning then, is rooted in each and every one of us making a conscientious effort to row towards the shores of hope, swim towards the lighthouse of racial justice and paddle to the shoreline of human equality. Therein lies the city's social redemption. In that trajectory lay this state's moral salvation and through that portal hangs America's life-jacket, waiting to save this nation's tattered soul. God Bless You." (This was a statement written by Genevieve Mitchell 3/2015.) (Applause)

Alice Ragland—"So next we have Doc Woods, followed by Dennis Ficker and Bernie Rolen."

Doc Woods—"Okay, um... My grandmama told me, she said, 'Before you listen to anybody tell you anything you're gonna use for your benefit, you first need to ask yourself, 'Who is that sucker, and why should they know something that's gonna benefit you?'' So, I'm going to give you about sixty seconds of who is that sucker and why should I know something that'll benefit you. I'm strange, I'm the strangest person you ever met; if you live to be two hundred, you will never meet anybody stranger than me. There's a whole lot a reasons I could tell you why that is. But most of those who know me know for a fact, I'm strange. Okay! Doc Woods. They call me that 'cause I'm a doctor, M.D. I'm also an R.N. I also have degrees in biology, psychology, nursing medicine, music and I'm working on my second master's in education. Not bad for a high school dropout. I told you I'm strange. I am a high school dropout.

I was a prison doc in Maryland. Uh huh. Awful, awful place, awful thing. I'm not going to tell you anything about that at all. Five years ago in Cleveland I was thrown down on the ground with the rest of the members of Global Entertainment, and we were threatened to have, if you pardon the expression, 'your goddamn brains blowed out' by a little short white cop who had his pistol drawn, and he was serious as a heart attack. Four other policemen came approximately one minute later after one of our crew, M.C. Fame, refused to get down on the ground and they told him, 'We got this, we got this, you go ahead.' So, he got in the police car and peeled off. And then the other policeman told us, 'You need to report this sucker, 'cause he done this stuff time and time again, and y'all need to do something about it.' And then directed us where to go and what to say. We did that. Nothing happened.

I came to Cleveland 15 years ago from a place called Ferguson, Missouri. (Audience: um...) Yeah! About one block from where Mike Brown was killed, that's where my sister lived. That's where I lived before I came to Cleveland. Uh..., the problems have been stated and will be stated. I don't like to spend a whole lot of time on problems. I'm a solution-oriented guy. I you want to read about the problems, read The New Jim Crow, excellent explanation of the problem. If you don't wanna do that, go get a videotape by a guy named Na'im

Akbar. Na'im did a thing called 'Transcendent Images for Black Manhood', that actually explains the whole history of the problem.

Solutions, peace, P-E-A-C-E, proper education always corrects error. Why do we have these things tossed at us on a daily basis by this culture? Because they are ignorant. They don't know who we are. And they have been specifically made ignorant by segregation and racism. It wasn't to hold us down. It was to keep them from learning who the hell we were. And they don't know who the hell we are. And so, I can blow your brains out, if I don't know who the hell you are. I can kill you quite frivolously, if I don't know... oh, I'm sorry, you were the people who started math education, science, medicine and all that stuff?! Huh! I didn't know that! The ignorance that is forced on the white people of this country is amazing! You are the most ignorant people on this f--king planet. And you consider yourself to be among the blessed. No, you're not! You're just arrogant...with your ignorance. Most of the black people sitting there, look at 'em grinning, 'cause they know all this stuff I'm saying. Y'all don't! (Audience: Giggles) And the whole press of this culture is to keep you just as ignorant as you are! And as long as I keep policemen ignorant of you, your history, what you done and what your people have done; oh yeah, I can blow you away. I can abuse you up one side and down the other.

Now, proper education—unfortunately, we do not have an education system. We never have had an education system. What we have is a training system. That system is to train people to work for other folks. It ain't no secret. George Bush, when he said, 'No child left behind', (one more minute, okay)... When he said 'No child left behind', the standards in 'No child left behind' are those standards that employers want in their employees. We don't have an education system which is to tell you what you are, who you are, where you are and when you are, so you can discover why you are. They don't want that. That would upset the apple cart. I'm trying any way to do this.

I gotta leave here because Humble G. and the Afropeans, (if y'all want to read about us, the *Call and Post* has a nice little insert all about us down at the King Arts center in Columbus) we're performing over at the Rock Hall, and I got to go 'cause we start at two o'clock. But, we have started ten years ago, something called Edutainment, in which we teach you, and we remove at least some of these ignorances through entertainment, which is the sneaky way to inform white people who the hell we are. Peace.” (Applause)

Alice Ragland—“Thank you. So, next we have Dennis Ficker and Bernie Rolen, and after that, and after that is going to be Cory Kouns.”

Bernie Rolen—“Good afternoon. (Audience: “Good afternoon.”) I just want to thank Carol for inviting us here today to give you our testimony about our son, Daniel Ficker, who's pictured on my shirt, who was killed at the age of 27 on July 4th, 2011, by the Cleveland Police Department. The story starts by, well, let me give you a little background. My son was with his high school sweetheart for ten years. Her name is Tiffany Urbach. They have two children

together and they reside in, she still does live in, Parma with the two children. On 4th of July they were going to a family party. Tiffany's cousin is married to a Cleveland police officer. They go to the party on July 3rd in the afternoon with their children. They leave about 5 o'clock. For some reason Tiffany's cousin does not like my son. She hasn't liked him, but they go because they're family. So they go to this party. They leave the party. They go to Tiffany's parents' house in Strongsville, finish out the rest of the July 3rd afternoon, leave the children there; then they go home. They stop at a bar, have a drink or two; then they go home.

When they get home there are two police officers from Cleveland parked in front of their house in Parma, waiting for them to get home. While they were at their parents' house, apparently some jewelry came up missing, which today we know is a lie, because there was no jewelry, and there was no jewelry missing. So, Tiffany's cousin, Kim Mindeck, makes a phone call to her husband, Dave Mindeck, who is an officer at the 4th District, and says, 'Someone stole the jewelry from our house, and I think it was Dan.' Right off the bat. Didn't see him do anything. Nobody saw anything. And today I can tell you there's no fingerprints, no DNA, nothing, anywhere where that jewelry was supposed to be. So, what does Dave Mindeck do? He leaves work, gets off work from the Police Department, calls his buddy from the 2nd District on the cell phone, doesn't make a police report like a normal citizen, like you or I would do. He calls his buddy on his cell phone. He meets him at his house. When they get there, they disrupt the crime scene, so-called crime scene, which is not proper protocol. I mean I could tell you one thousand things that those two officers did wrong. We'd be here all day, but anyway they..., so, Dave Mindeck gets in the car with Officer Matthew Kraska. Matthew Kraska is on the clock. Dave Mindeck is off the clock now.

They get in their patrol car. Kraska calls his supervisor, Daley. Officer Daley was one of the officers that let one of those 63 cars go to the 137 bullets shooting. (Audience: "Wow.") Yes. One of the same officers. So anyway, he doesn't tell him Mindeck's in the car with him. He just says he's going to check something out in Parma. That's about all the information he gave Daley. So, like I said, they take matters into their own hands. They go there. They wait for my son and Tiffany to arrive home at their home. No warrants, no arrests, nothing. They just wanna question him, so they say. Like I said, my son had a couple drinks and he was not driving, okay? Tiffany was driving the car. So, of course, like, you guys have said prior to me that they want to try to twist everything around and, you know, saying that my son's driving while he was drinking. He wasn't even driving. She was driving.

They pull in. The two officers come up to him and say, 'We want to talk to you.' No lights on, no warrant, nothing. And Tiffany and my son, they lock arms and they say, 'No, we have nothing to say to you.' First they say, 'What are you doing here?' Um, anyway... They try to get in their house. And Officer Kraska pulls my son, unlocks his arm from Tiffany's arm, pulls him, throws him up against the police car and pretty much starts beating him. My son is screaming for help. He's screaming to the neighbors, 'Somebody help me! Dawn! Somebody, somebody, please help me!' Tiffany's calling the Parma police because what is she gonna

do?! She can't do anything. These are two police officers supposed to help, but they're not helping.

Anyway, a fight ensues. Um, because my son can't... he's not gonna get beat for something he didn't do. And he knows the officers are not acting within their jurisdiction. They're not acting as police officers. So he's protecting himself and his life. They get in an altercation. They're rolling on the ground. Tiffany's trying to call the police, and within minutes, I would say, Officer Kraska was tired of fighting with my son. My son was unarmed, by the way. He had nothing on him but a pocket knife, which they took out, threw it on the ground. Just a pocket knife he carried every day. And basically, um, he pulled out his gun and he fired it at my son and he killed him right at his doorstep, (Audience: Groans) right when he was trying to get into his house. (Breaking down) All because he was tired of fighting with my son. And Officer Mindeck stood there and watched the whole thing happen and nothing. He did nothing.

Anyway, of course, the grand jury doesn't indict him because it's a justifiable shooting, of course. Even though my son's unarmed, and doesn't have to talk to them. He doesn't have to go with them. They have no search warrant. He didn't have to do anything! His civil rights were totally and completely violated. So, we have a civil suit now, trying to do something to get justice somewhere, seeing that the Cuyahoga County prosecutor won't do anything. The Cleveland Police Department didn't even discipline them because they said they're waiting for the discipline till after our civil suit. How could you wait to discipline somebody until a civil suit? It's almost four years! Well, guess what! ...The two officers I believe have now since got disability retirement. They're not even working as police officers, so they will never be disciplined. So, we're just looking for justice. Just real quick, my husband, my ex-husband, Dennis, which is my son's father, he suffered a stroke a couple months ago. He's been in this with me from the beginning. We've been doing this together. He's been speaking, but we had a little setback, but he's here right now...thank you. (Applause) (to Dennis: "You wanna say anything?") So, thank you very much for having us here." (Applause continue)

Alice Ragland—"Cory Kouns."

Cory Kouns—"Good afternoon, everybody. My name's Cory Kouns, and, um, members of the panel, Carol, thank you for having me. All our guests and Puncture the Silence. Well, I mean my story's a little different. I, ya know, I've battled hard with a lot of different things. I was raised a little differently than most people in here. I can tell already. But, uh, ya know, I was the type of person that was told by police at 16 years old that, 'Man, Cory, we can't wait till you turn 18, 'cause when you turn 18, we're going, ya know, we wanna get you in the adult system.' 'Cause I was the type of person that was just a very, very dangerous, like, social agitator and antagonizer. Even when I was a little kid. The Crips, the Bloods, I mean the Hells Angels, because I come from a background of Jewish descent, German and African American descent, so when, you know, when you are dealing with a lot a different groups like this, it becomes a little bit, you know, tricky and challenging to get new leadership.

But, um, I'm from the generation X. So, the generation Xers were the 'why me?' generation, the nowhere generation, the generation that tried to fix what the 1960's had broken. Our motto was we would never join a certain brand. Well, I took after my ancestors. I did not have a father to raise me. I was raised with my single parent and four of my other brothers. So, um, I forgot what I was gonna say. So, I basically tell people that I've come from a divine madness, and the divine madness is of the spiritual world, but of the supernatural communication. Because I believe today that, we, as multiracial Americans, fail to make connection that acting-out-of-control behavior, substance abuse, rejection, the lack of acceptance, pride, ego bitterness, resentment, self-hatred are all a result of a troubled world desperately trying to assert itself to be known and seen in the wrong way.

And, um, (Just what I was gonna say, thank you, God) um, just like my ancestors, I chose to rebel. I chose to take after my ancestors, which were rule breakers, sort o' like these ladies and gentleman here and all you guys. In the process of doing that, I usually don't share this like I'm about to now, but I feel that God is already going to be using me in the future, so, I'm comfortable with it, somewhat.

I've been arrested over 65 times. I have 12 years of prison. I have 5 prison numbers. In 1996 I was evaluated by Dr. Phillip Resnick, who studies why women kill their babies, and the use and misuse of the insanity plea. I was the type of person that would be in prison. When I was in prison, even at a young age, the first time I went to prison I was falsely accused for three counts of aggravated assault on correction officers. Because the community hated me and just spited my mom back in where I lived at the time, it was predominantly white. I was the only biracial. There was one other biracial in the community. There wasn't many African Americans in the community.

So, we came from East Cleveland. We were, ya know, from East Cleveland, so that rose another issue for me. Back when I was only ten or eleven years old I got caught from stealing some shoes at a department store. Well, when I got to the city jail the Captain came in there. I was with another gentleman about your complexion. He told me he says, uh, he comes in there; it's going on second shift. There's cops all over the place. He comes in there and he says, he goes, he hems me up like this, he grabs me by my collar and he says, 'Why don't you get out a here, you niggers, and go somewhere else?!' That was the first time I experienced racism at its full potential and full degree. I'm a little kid; I'm only twelve years old. It's the first time I've ever heard that. So, it was like after that I began... I was just a person who wanted to become more aligned, more comfortable with my culture, history, mentality and intellect, just like anybody else.

So, um, today, ya know, I'm a mental health advocate; I do a lot of things in the community. I'll be successfully completing my international school of ministry degree, preparing leaders biblically, strategically, creatively and globally. But, yeah, like, I was a person who would go to prison and I write CO's up if I had a problem with them, or they shook me down or sump'n like that. I had learned the system, so I had learned the system well. But before I got into the

adult prison system, just before that, like 18 years old, when I told you they would arrest me on the street? I would only be looking at 120 days sometimes. The 120 days would turn into like 180 days because the CO's would come in my cell, like four deep. The cell's only so big, and hit me on my shoulder, and say, 'Man, did you assault me, Mr. Kouns?' And I'm like, 'Man, you know I didn't hit you.' But would falsely accuse me and I would have to see the judge. Again! So, that would get me more time.

So, this stuff, I just want to remind everybody that it's getting... we're in the spiritual warfare right now. And, you know, we need to wake up and smell the concrete, for real! Now, I was the type; you know, I grew up on hip-hop and all that, um, I used to, like, Cypress Hill. There was a couple lyrics in there that I loved because it said, 'I see the soldiers, coming from out the shadows. Ain't tryin' to hit a blibblabble, ready for battle.' And that's basically what we're doing right now. And I'm preparing myself at fully-loaded. And I'm gonna be representing the multi-racial American community. And, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, with that, hey, thanks for having me, it's been a great time." (Applause)

Alice Ragland—"Ok, so, now we're going to go to our panel. We've heard a lot of different stories; a lot of them speak to race and class in particular. These things would not happen in middle class white communities.

So, I just want whoever feels compelled to do so to address the role of poverty and economics in the struggle for justice, and the role of poverty and economics in the problems that we've been talking about today, regarding the criminal justice system."

Ed Little—"The role of poverty and economics is central to the entire system in this country. When we look at the capitalistic roots of slavery and oppression, you cannot separate the two. And the reason why we incarcerate more people than any other country in the world is directly tied to poverty and economic injustice. People who have the resources, who have the wealth, who have the connections, who have the ability to pay a lawyer, can get so-called justice. But if you do not have money, if you are black and brown in this country, you do not get justice. When we look at how poor communities are policed, when we look at how black and brown communities are policed all across this country, there is a separate degree of justice for poor and brown communities all across this country.

But when you look at how more affluent communities are policed, they don't have to deal with the issues that we have to deal with. They don't have to deal with the issues of oppression and police brutality. When I hear the story, particularly the story that Dan's mom just gave us, I am reminded of the fact that these people operate with impunity. Here it is, you have two law enforcement officials, who are outside of their jurisdiction, but they're going to enforce the law the way they see fit, and they don't have to answer to anyone. And, the fact that you can go into an entire different city and assault, brutalize and inevitably kill someone without any accountability, says something about so-called justice in this community and justice in this country.

So, here we are, we have a mother who grieves the loss of her son because we have police who do exactly what they want to do. And then the same, some of the same people who are involved in this are involved in one of the worst atrocities this city has ever seen.

When we look at 137 shots, when we think about the fact that you can go into the poorest community in this, probably in this state, in East Cleveland, and assassinate two unarmed people, and shoot 'em 137 times in a schoolyard. And, when you ask the question about poverty and economics, how many of those children received counseling? Or therapy? None of them. But yet, two people have just been assassinated in their schoolyard. Now imagine having to go to school each and every day at a place where one of the most heinous crimes in this country has ever been committed, at your school, and no one is there to talk to you about it. No one is there to ask you how you feel. No one is there to give you any help or counseling or therapy. But beyond that, consider the degree of violence that these folks see, that these children see each and every day in their community, at the hands of the police, at the hands of this oppressive system.

When we consider the environment in East Cleveland, the majority of the houses in foreclosure; many of the streets don't even have lights. The fact that there were three women that came up missing in that city that they didn't even look for. Because of poverty, and because of being just as connected with poverty, people who live in poor communities are considered throwaways, particularly, particularly, women of color.

When we consider Anthony Sowell and the atrocities that he committed against women of color and the police didn't want to look for these women. (Authorities ignored women's complaints against Anthony Sowell until 11 bodies were discovered buried in his yard.) Why? Because of poverty and because of race, and because of injustice. When we consider the sister that was killed on I-90, was sitting on the side of the road, and the police drove past her and said she looked like a deer. They thought she was a deer. Is this what we've come to? Or is this where we've always been?! Where people see us as animals. (Audience: Agreeing) This is where we've always been. And when you overlay race and when you overlay economic injustice, what does that do? That magnifies a problem that has been here for over four hundred years.

When we consider the issues we have in this country, we have to puncture the silence. We have to puncture the silence because the silence is going to kill us all. We can sit back if we want to and look at other people and their suffering and act as though it won't get to us. I'm here to tell you: whether you are black, whether you are white in this country, once you give a certain group of people so much power that they feel as if they don't have to answer to anyone at all?..... One day it will be you or one of your loved ones, and then, we all will have our day of reckoning. So, let us listen closely to what people are saying here today, and take these testimonies very serious, because this is our time to act as one people, and address these issues, and lift these issues up as they should be lifted up. Because the time is now. The time is now. We cannot continue to sit back and watch people suffer and people die and do nothing because it didn't happen to us or it didn't happen to one of our loved ones.” (Applause)

Genevieve Mitchell—“Yes, I agree with that. I think that there is an absolutely direct correlation between poverty and the escalation of this violence and the criminalization. There's an overwhelming relationship between poverty and economics and prison criminalization. And it's increasingly becoming racialized and gender-specific. Um, I have some books here that were given out at the last prison conference they had. I think it was the very same room. Khalid Samad was good enough to put that on with Art McKoy. And, um, the conditions of women who are mentally ill, women and men, being picked up because they're homeless, because they're mentally ill, because they got into some kind of a drug incursion through the courts or whatever. It's profound.

And now they're bringing back debtor's prison. Women, once they are adjudicated and funneled through these, um, multinational prison industrial complex systems, are being taken care of by primarily male guards, who watch them in all of their intimate activities as they're bathing or using the restroom. Which, ya know, people are, the general public is not aware of. These women are being raped. Some are being impregnated. Some are being beaten. They're being denied medical care. The commentary in these publications is just unbelievable, and it's not getting out to the public.

In addition to the ACLU's book on prisons here, I looked over this morning, which said that just the cost of it, the taxpayers are funneling to these prisons.... it says, ‘As of October, 2009, Ohio taxpayers spent an average of \$25,254.00 per year for each inmate housed in Ohio prisons. In June of that year the Ohio prison system held a total of 51,113 inmates.’ By my projection, and I multiplied those factors together, I don't know if my math is correct, but that came to one trillion [sic: billion] two hundred ninety million, eight hundred seven thousand, seven hundred and two dollars per year that the public in the state of Ohio alone is expending, while our schools go down the tubes, our road infrastructure is terrible. We don't have street lights in some communities. There are traffic lights that are flashing. You have a foreclosure crisis that is just...ya know, to the exponential power, that has not been addressed through these agencies and services that are out here. And these prisons are categorically, uh, have been privatized.

There is a move to continue to privatize these prisons. And it is inextricably linked to wealthy people and corporate interests who are shareholders in these prisons, who are lobbying to make sure that each and every one of these beds is continually filled. And once they get into the privatized prison systems, what they're not doing is any kind of rehabilitative training or education. They're hiring guards that have less training and experience and they're experiencing greater amounts of violence and rape, and all kinds of just horrendous activities are happening inside these prison systems. And all of this has been developed and designed and signed off on by the benefactors, who are the shareholders of CCA, which is Corrections Corporation of America and what have you.

These cases are being routinely adjudicated through the courts, and primarily because of low-level, you know, drug offenses or low level economic crimes. And these individuals, they're saying, could have been rehabilitated in much better fashion had they went to a diversion

programs, which some of the courts are seeking to set up. It is absolutely unbelievable what is happening. People need to first educate themselves, be made aware, and then we need to develop a plan and act because this cannot go on. If the taxpayers think that expending over a billion dollars a year for prisons is the way to go, you know, I beg to differ. It's horrendous. (Applause) I stand corrected, that is a billion."

Bill Swain—"Yeah, I wanted to say, look, what people are saying is very good. The testimony is very sharp. I think what we wanna say is this: This cannot go on, and what we need to do, we need to look at Ferguson. Ferguson set a model that they said, 'No more.' and they went to the streets. They were thrown tear gas, rubber bullets, the whole works, and they stayed in the streets. They did not allow the people that run this country and the police and Eric Holder and all the rest, to slow that down. It's been slowed down, and that's what we have to get back on track. Because actually, we need to do much more than we did on the 137 shots. That, like you said, that was an assassination. That was a lynching. And yet our response wasn't what it needs to be.

We have to go over the top just like Ferguson did. When Ferguson came here, they stepped us up. And people said, 'Oh no, we didn't need them.' Oh, we did need them, and uh, we don't necessarily need them, but we need a movement that really says, 'No more!' And takes risks, steps over the line and uh, that's what I want to say, 'cause we can go out a here and say, 'Well, we know all the things that are wrong, but how are you ever gonna stop it?' It's a formidable task. Don't get me wrong. You think it's easy to stop a ruling class from genocide when they've been doing this from the minute Africans came on this shore?! For the slave catchers, for, after slavery, it was the new Jim Crow. The New Jim Crow, et cetera.

Uh, but I think it can be done. But it's gonna take a lot of thinking and a lot o' action that's actually much more radical than it is at this point. We have to get back to a Ferguson-type model. Then I do think for those... I think it will take a revolution, because I don't wanna..., I won't be here in 50 years. But I don't want other people in this room that are younger to be here in 50 years doing the same thing. And it will happen over and over again, whether it's Tamir, whether it's Tanisha, um, this man with the screwdriver, uh, Scott, Mr. Scott. This will go on because of a genocidal attack on black and brown people. That's the oppression. That's the suppression.

The..., look, one last thing--in the '60s, black people shook this country to its foundation. Not just The Black Panthers, but they were really in the forefront. And they're afraid of that. They know these youth (a lot of them are killing each other, and we need to work on that) but they know if that stops, they're gonna be the enemy. It's not gonna be Jerome. It's not gonna be Delonte. It's gonna be the people up at the top, in the government and the ruling class and that's what they're afraid of. So when people say, 'Well, black people don't have it together, and we don't have it together, none of us have it together.' Uh, well, we need and we're getting it together. But I think that's...that we really need to have our sights on. Uh, what type of things do we have to do, and what's our strategy. And that's it for now." (Applause)

Uncle Bobby—“So the question was, ‘How does the criminal justice system play within poverty and economics?’ Did I hear that correct? I jotted down a couple of thoughts that I had. And I'm a try to tie this to what we're here for today. So, of course, we know definitely that poverty and economics plays tremendously in this. But what about a family that has been affected by, uh, police terror or has been incarcerated for a period of time? How does that affect? One good book that we all can read, if you haven't read it, is Michelle Alexander's book, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of Colorblindness. So, if you haven't read that book, that'll help bring clarity to that particular question.

But how I'm gonna try to tie this is a few examples from experience. One, I'm gonna talk about Robbie Tolan's case. Robbie Tolan was a young man that was killed.... uh, well, he wasn't killed, but he was shot on the same night Oscar was shot, as well as Adolph Grimes, who's out of New Orleans. But Robbie Tolan's son, Bobby Tolan, who was a famous baseball player for the St. Louis Cardinals, and they lived in a well-to-do neighborhood. So, first we have to be clear that you don't just have to be poor to be killed by the police. Obama could be killed by the police simply walking down the street ‘cause he's black. We've been killed not because of economic standing. We're being killed because of the color of our skin. So, we have to be clear about that.

But there are some issues behind the economic aspect. And what Robbie Tolan, being that his family lived in a well-to-do neighborhood and was shot, of course, the officer was found justifiable in the shooting. Ya know that's a whole other story, but I'm gonna talk about the civil aspect. They filed a lawsuit and the lawsuit was throwed out. They appealed it. Most families don't have the ability to appeal, because we don't have the economics to move forward. But they appealed that case, and the judge reprimanded the family for wasting the court's time for appealing it!

Now remember, they sold their home! You have to hear this. They sold their home because they believed that their son was wrongfully shot and that they were entitled to some form of redress. And they pursued it and the judge made the family pay the officer! For shooting their son. (Audience: “Oh, no.”) They had to spend seven thousand dollars to pay this officer for shooting their son and then they alleged him for wasting the court's time. But being that they had a little money, they was able appeal it to the 5th Circuit of Appeal, and the 5th Circuit of Appeal basically granted them the right to pursue the case.

Anyway, I'm gonna make a long story short. Behind that, they ended up going to the U.S Supreme Court. All nine justices ruled in their favor. And they brought it back down to the lower court; so, they still in court, but to make a long story short, uh, because we don't have the finances to move forward with cases becomes the issue that the system knows that is real. ‘Cause our own personal experience with the fact that they threw out the gun enhancement,... the judge threw out the gun enhancement, we asked the district attorney to move forward on the case, and he would not because he said that economically the district attorney did not have the money to pursue a case on our behalf. No, so, this is real, and most cases when it's a state crime

like that, you can't move on your own to charge an officer for murder. It's really held by the district attorney, so, I'm saying economics plays in this in all aspect when it comes to us.

A couple other points that I'll share really quick... is the um...inability... I said most of it, but the point that I'm getting at is that this movement is actually going to come from the grass root. What we're doing today is not built off of the fact that we have money to actually put this event on. This is a community of grass root organizations that's doing their best to highlight the issues of what we're experiencing today in our community, so that we as a community can see this and respond to it in a way to bring about change in our community. So, we have to be clear that it really doesn't matter how much...

Henry Louis Gates, I don't know, how many of you remember the story? When he tried to go in his own home, he was accosted by the police. See what I'm sayin', and even President Obama called the police officer stupid, but he had to retract his words because of the police officers' union. A prison guard union came after him then he made a national apology for calling officers stupid, and said that 'Ya know what, we all can get along. We'll have a beer on this. Come to the White house.' You see what I'm saying?

So, what I'm getting at is that it really doesn't matter how much money you have when it comes to dealing with the police, 'cause economically that doesn't matter when they first come up on you. Tamir Rice didn't have no criminal record. Andy Lopez did not have a criminal record. Nicholas Heyward did not have a criminal record. These children that I'm naming are 12 and 13-year-olds that have been killed by the police. Not because they had any kind of record, but because of the color of their skin. And we have to be clear that economics, only comes in part, when a family's suffering, and then the system says, 'Well, let's give them \$50,000 for taking their son's life.' Which is nothing. You know, and they do that on a regular basis because of our economic status. And also, the other piece of it on the economic side that we don't know about is what happened to these bodies when they're in the custody of the police department.

How many of you know, actually, that the body parts of our loved ones are being stolen? While they're sitting on the morgue in the police department custody because they're trying to determine whether they was under some influence. And they taking the body parts. There's a national investigation going on about body parts being stolen. And it happens when our bodies lay up in the morgue for a period of time, because usually the police department don't want to release it soon, because they claim they're trying to derive evidence.

Ya know my wife was just doing her fingers because we know from experience how many families have questions. Just a quick example, Kendrick Johnson out of Valdosta, Georgia--the young man that was rolled up in a wrestling mat. The family buried their son. But then they decided they wanted to exhume him, and discovered that all his internal organs was missing. His body was stuffed with newspaper. Somebody benefited from his internal organs.

(Audience: “Oh”) This is happening all over this country today. And that's not the first family that we know about personally. But the mass media's not talking about it.

So, beside the criminal justice system guaranteeing these investors that they going to keep the prisons 92% full so that they can get some kind of real profit from their investment, that is real. Economics plays tremendously in this and when it comes to the black skin and the brown skin. That's all I wanted to share.” (Applause)

Rev. Leah Lewis—“You know, I agree with everything that has been said by my colleagues on this panel, but one thing I want to interject is: more than economics, our challenge is apathy. Apathy. Uncle Bobby has lifted up a number of issues that involve our political system, a number of issues that involve people we have elected into office. And those people who are elected into office appoint individuals. The city of Cleveland really is no different from Ferguson, Missouri. (Audience: "You can say that.") Right? We know that in Ferguson it is a majority African American community. So is the city of Cleveland. We're what's called a majority-minority city.

That said, why don't more of our elected officials and our appointed officials not just look like the majority, but have the concerns and the interest of the majority citizens at heart? We need to begin... (Audience: Agreeing, applauding) Right? ...And I say this to you as an elected official in my small little village. We have people in office in this city who have been sold out to the corporate interests. And until we stop electing them to positions, we will continue to have these systemic abuses. We will continue to have people who pay us lip-service. And I want the people of Cleveland and the people of this nation to get over themselves. And what I mean by that is--lay your apathy down. (Applause) It is time to take responsibility for the society that we have cultivated. We are the ones who are either voting people into office, or we are the ones who fail to vote. And when we fail to vote, guess what? You're still voting them into office, by not exercising a right that is free.

Now, we understand there are people blocking access to the ballot box, but again, if we get the right people in office, that's a non-issue. It's a non-issue. So, in addition to apathy, the other issue is ignorance. Right? We have to become more educated, more informed, and we cannot rely on other people to educate us. We must do it ourselves, right? (Applause) So apathy, ignorance. What we need to begin to exercise is our human agency. Anybody who is disaffected or disinterested by the story of Timothy Russell, Malissa Williams, Tamir Rice, the list goes on and on, your humanity is lost, and you need to become in touch once more with your own humanity. So all of the things that I've lifted up don't cost any money. Just some time and an investment.” (Applause)

Ed McKinney—“I shared with you during the introductions; I took you back to the 1930's. Most of you don't remember, can't recall. I guess I may be the most senior in this group. But, you know, as I sit here and listen to the testimonies, and I listen to the response of my colleagues here on the panel, and I'm thinking, I've been hearing this for 80

years. (Audience: Agreeing) Nothing's changed! We have just had the visit (they're still here) the Department of Justice. They're here. They're here investigating... they're coming up with recommendations and so forth and so on. Now, let's not forget that the Department of Justice came to this city in 2004. Same routine. Less than a year later the young 15-year old was shot in his bedroom on the east side of Cleveland, less than a year after all of the DOJ discussions and so forth and so on.

We have incredible challenges, and we do need to talk about new solutions, because something isn't working. This is not a growin' up in Macon, Georgia, thing. I mean, when I was a teenager, it was like, 'Gee, I want to go to the North, because, I'll be free. They don't have that stuff up there.' But, I think you're worse off than we were growin' up! Nothin' changed. So, what it says is that there's a need for some new solutions, some high-risk solutions. And that is so important, because I would hate to see...There's a little girl running around here in this room; you mean to tell me (Child vocalizes)...she gets the message. You mean to tell me that 80 years from now, and she will live to be that old because you know we got the civil tsunami goin' on and people are livin' longer and so forth and so on. Is she gonna be sitting here years from now listening to the same thing?

We need to think about new challenges, new solutions. We need to do that. And sometimes...I remember when I was a student in the South, we went through training. You know the non-violent training and all o' that. And I do remember my classmates. I remember one evening we were sitting down before we were about to go on a march, and we were actually committing ourselves to dying if necessary. Yeah. We need to think of more solutions that are goin' to do what we have not been able to do over the last century. We need to think seriously about new solutions, and we may have to take some risks that we have not been willing to take in the past. We may have to. My classmates in Georgia, Alabama, they made commitments. We may have to do that, because I'm so afraid that this is just gonna continue, and that is very frightening.

Shemariah Arki—"So, real quickly, in summary of what we've heard from the folks who have blessed us with their stories, have empowered us to work towards change, and from our fellow panelists, it sounds like there, it sounds like a different relationship between mass incarceration and economics. It seems like mass incarceration wouldn't be possible without the capitalistic economic system of the United States. And we talk about 80 years from now, so I'm sittin' here, afraid, sittin' on this panel, and if I said my Dad's name, you guys would probably know my Dad. Some people in the room know my Dad. My dad died on New Year's Eve. And he was 74, right?

And so, now I'm sitting here fighting the same fight that my Dad was fighting. Do I want my children to fight the same fight? (Dr. McKinney: "Hell, no.") So, we have to educate them, but what are we educating them on? We have to educate them on a few different things. We have to educate them on the system. We have to educate them on our history about who we are. But we also have to educate them on the intricacies and fallacies of how all of these things work together to create this perfect storm. We have to educate them on the capitalistic nature of

American culture. That's what our young people; that's how they are so disconnected. They're disconnected because the generation that came before them shielded them so much till they don't know, they don't know their history. They don't understand that spending all day here (signing, on a device), disconnects from the humanity of their fellow people whom they are in community with every day. They don't understand those things.

So, those are the things that we need to educate our young people on. And once they're educated, the agitation that we're all feeling because we're here, it'll click for them. But we have to reach them in ways that matter to them. We have to meet young people where they are. It's Saturday; it's sunny; it's beautiful. We need to be here talkin' about this, but we need some young people in this room. We need some soldiers. 'Cause I'm a young person, kind of, a little bit. (Audience: Laughing) But my time is winding down; I can't do what I used to do. I can't go for 3 days. At about a day and a half, I'm tired, my back hurt. Laughing. I can't do those things anymore. So, we need our frontline soldiers, but in order to get those soldiers on our team, we have to go to goad them on our frontline." (Applause)

Genevieve Mitchell—"Just really quick, I just wanted to add, 'cause I so agree, ditto to everything. You know? (Carol Steiner: "Genevieve, I'm so sorry, can it wait?") I just wanted to add this right in real quick, just 3 questions: Are people willing, to get to where we need to go, as black people, brown people, marginalized people, willing to exercise our constitutional right to vote *en masse*, even as a perfunctory gesture, to indicate that you have an opinion about how this country is run? To politically divest and clean house of the people who are not functioning to help this democracy excel and move in a different direction? Are those of like minds willing to actively participate on A14? That's a question that I have. And, is the American public willing to economically boycott and financially cripple the benefactors of this economic terrorism and the prison industrial complex?

Because that's where it has to go. We don't like to say the word boycott, but...my Black History professor, Wilbert Nichols, God rest his soul, said, nothing hurts these people more. He said you get mad at these people, he said, 'You don't kill their dog or, you know, rape their wife or go fight them.' He said, 'You keep your damn money in your pocket.' That's the only thing they understand. That's the only thing they understand. Until there is a massive outcry—stop buying lottery tickets, stop buying liquor, I know that's hard for some people. (Audience: Laughter) But hey, you know these things will make you drink.

Stop buying...Mr. Nichols said, 'Don't buy any unnecessary commodity. Long as you got your toilet paper and some flour in your cupboard, some sugar, you got your basic furniture, shop at your thrift shop, keep your dollars in your community, put your money back in your pocket. That's the only thing that they understand.' (Applause) We are suffering from lack of jobs, housing, what have you. We're not gonna have it until we exercise and flex our financial muscle. Thank you."

Carol Steiner--“There are lots of ways that people can fight back, and I think the question of coming out on April 14th and trying to do something radical may address also what Dr. McKinney was referring to. We are way off schedule. Sorry. And, we do have a number of people who want to testify. I’m going to very quickly say that putting this on takes funds. There is a red box over here for donations. Please, put whatever you can in that to assist us with the room rental and other expenses. And now, we are also going to dispense with the break. So, as individuals if you could get up and go to the facilities or get some food, please do that. We are going to continue.”

Alice Ragland—“And once again if you are a testifier and you need to leave early, please go down to the registration table and let Hope know, so that I can call you earlier. If you’re not in a rush, then please stay. So, is Kipp Holloway here? Ok, Kipp Holloway.

Kathy Wray Coleman—“Well, I'll wait till everybody sits down. Okay, ‘cause I do wanna say some things that they might wanna keep quiet, so I'm a wait till everybody gets quiet. Well, I'm waiting till everybody sits down. When they get quiet, I'll be ready to go. ‘Cause there's certain things we think we need to put on record. Could you all please have a seat so we could get started? Thank you. Everybody have a seat please. Everybody, thank you.

I want to say thank you for this event. I know there are some things that we don't want to put on record. But I'm here to put certain things on record. That's why I came out here today. My name is Kathy Wray Coleman. I'm a community activist and I publish the most-read on-line black newspaper in the state--ClevelandUrbanNews.com. I'm a former biology teacher for the Cleveland schools. I worked for *The Call and Post* for many years, covered the democratic election. And our newspaper deals with disenfranchisement. There are a number of people that don't want me to say what I have to say here today. I also lead The Imperial Women, and the reason they're talking while I'm talking is ‘cause I'm black. If I was white, they'd be sitting down, being quiet. And we ask that same respect of black women that others get.

Uh, I heard Bernie and her ex-husband speak. It's terrible that those cops could go across lines to Parma and kill her child and not even get anything done to them because the black leaders don't wanna speak up! They need to speak up too. They need to speak up.

Mr. Ficker and, Marva, can I finish please? Could y'all have a seat please? ‘Cause I'm the one that asked them to call Daniel Ficker and get he and his ex-wife in here. I put out the publicity on this, and we don't expect to be disrespected ‘cause you wanna cover up certain things.

And let me tell you what we're not gonna cover up. We're not gonna cover up the fact that, relative to the 137 shots, it was prosecutor, Tim McGinty, that lobbied to the grand jury that they not be indicted! And while you runnin’ around going after everybody else, because he's white and the county prosecutor, you don't wanna bother him, including some of these people on these panels. You're not gonna hear them mention him! And that's an indictment against the black community. For a white prosecutor to lobby against 12 officers, that gunned down two

unarmed blacks, and activists don't wanna hear it! But they'll get the Mayor, 'cause he's black! But they're not gonna bother that white man 'cause he's white, and we've had enough of it! We've had enough of the selective targeting by officials and by these activists! He oughtta be called out! He should have been picketed. And because he knew he could get away with that, what do you think he's going to do with Tamir Rice? And guess what?! We ... the NAACP letting McGinty get away with everything! He allegedly told him, I'm not gonna get the twelve officers. I have them in my pocket. Because of jobs! Because of favors! And we're tired of it.

Now, I lead The Imperial Women Coalition. It was founded around the murders of eleven black women. And they let a serial killer go! They let him go! They had him in custody. After eight women, they had him in custody. Was five of 'em. And you know what? They went to the house on Imperial Avenue where Sowell lived. They smelled blood, smelled death, saw blood, and guess what they did. They let him go! And then Chief McGrath got on TV and demeaned those women. And we picketed the Mayor's house at the time, partly because at the time the mayor had no blacks as law directors, safety director, chief of police, chief prosecutor, EMS commissioner, chief of staff over the school, and the list goes on in a black city, and that is an indictment.

Now we have a black chief, and we fought for him, but we're not gonna let him be excused for saying there are no systemic problems. Let me say this. We are glad that Obama, President Obama and Eric Holder found systemic problems in the Cleveland Police Department. And in Ferguson. And in New York. But we ask that they go further, that they deal with these 34 predominately white judges that are sending black people to jail and their white counterpart's home, led by chief Judge John Russo. His predecessors did the same thing. Nancy Fuerst, Nancy McDonnell.

They are stealing your homes, lead by Judge O'Donnell, the chief trial judge in the Michael Brelo case. Why do you think the lawyers for Michael Brelo in the 137 shots filed an affidavit of prejudice against the judge? It was denied by the Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice. 'Cause that's who hears them. And now he wants the Judge to hear the case!?! That's odd! I don't trust Judge O'Donnell. I have documentation that he's a crook. He is corrupt. And you watch him. He has stolen homes for Chase Mortgage Company. He has harassed black people. And ask the question, 'Why now do they want Judge O'Donnell to hear the case, after asking him to get off the case?' Did he cut a deal?

And the reason they're after Angela Stokes, and won't bother white judges, is 'cause she's black. Judge O'Donnell, in my opinion, through research, is as corrupt as they come. Look what Gaul did to this woman's niece, put her in jail. He was supposed to be disbarred. He's still sitting on that 34-member, predominantly white court, and these police in these surrounding communities are denying blacks counsel. I'm gonna tell you where--Cleveland Heights, they're denyin' 'em, Berea, all across; and then they go to the, we went to the NAACP. They would not

do nothin'. You wanna know why? Because they too busy getting favors. This is what they wanna keep quiet. (Applause)

And I'll tell ya, you should a picketed McGinty a long time ago, because it makes sense that all 13 of those people are not on there. And you know why you didn't picket 'em, 'cause they're too many activists in his pocket. I love you activists, but quit playin' games. And in terms of the Mayor, I don't have a position on the recall. But one thing that I was taught as a reporter--you don't go after black people and leave white people alone, 'cause you feel inferior. And you know what that's called? It's called intragroup hostility. It's a byproduct of racism, where you'll get a black mayor and let a county prosecutor go. You're not gonna picket McGinty, 'cause he's white. You should a picketed O'Donnell. He's white.

Stop the racism. Stop the sexism. We want those 12 officers prosecuted under federal law. We want 'em prosecuted. (Applause) We want the officer that killed Tanisha Anderson prosecuted. We want the officers that killed this woman's son, a lone white man. We want them prosecuted. We want the officer that killed all o' these black people to be prosecuted. Now, try to keep that off a record. Thank you." (Applause)

Alice Ragland--"Marva...Patterson?"

Marva Patterson--"Well, good evening. (Audience: "Good Evening.") You know that this is a great thing that we are all here, and this event is taking place. We truly need to hear these stories, and understand these stories, and know exactly what's going on. And it is corruption. It's corruption in the judiciaries; it's corruption all the way to the top. And, I am here today to speak on 2 cases, and I will try to get through as quickly as possible.

There's a case, Robert Starks III. How many of you know who he is? (Audience: Silence) That's a problem. Robert Starks III in 2010 was arrested, convicted. The grand jury found him guilty of assault on a minor, (it was a 10-year old case.) assault on a minor, kidnapping. Robert Starks III served 30 years; I'm sorry, 30 days in jail for a crime he did not commit. Because of a lot of complaints, activists stepping up to the plate, and our refusal to stop supporting Robert Starks, and the fact that he was at one point able to get an attorney, he was released.

But 30 days in jail for a crime that this man did not commit. The grand jury knew. There was evidence to prove within the report. There were two Robert Starks. They added this Robert Starks onto the case, just to close it, because they couldn't find the other Robert Starks. The name was synonymous. Robert Starks III and Robert Starks. So, what I am saying is that if a grand jury can find an innocent man guilty, what can happen? What else? So, we need to attack the system. We need to move towards some kind of force, some type of a judicial force, to force these judiciaries to do the right thing. This is Robert Stark's story. And I do have, uh, it's one sheet, and I would like for the panel to also receive the sheet.

The second case is Rebecca Whitby, daughter, 23 years old, college student, and Rebecca Whitby, mother. She was, the mother worked for an insurance company. The daughter, Rebecca Whitby, in 2009, was arrested. We're tryin' to figure out, ok, why did Rebecca get arrested? Anyone know the case? (Audience: Silence) Again, a problem. In 2009, Rebecca Whitby was a college student; she attended Tri-C. It was finals. She was just about, to just celebrate her life, a beginning of a young, beautiful life. Rebecca Whitby had gone out to dinner with a friend. She had a little too much to drink. She went home that evening. Her parents didn't want her to drive after she decided she wanted to leave, because she was embarrassed, that her 2-year old nephew witnessed her being intoxicated, because the household is not one that tolerates alcohol within the home. Which all of us have that right.

After a beautiful dinner date... Her dad decides to call 911 and ask for a mediator. The police did send officers to the house, 2 brutal cops. The officers approached the house, knocked on the door. The father answered the door. He said everything was ok. The officers wanted to see Rebecca Whitby. The dad just said, 'Well, she's upstairs in the bathroom with her mom.' They were just talking about things. The cops brushed past the dad, went up to the second floor, knocked on the door once. The mother answered. She said everything was fine.

The officers knocked a second time. She opened the door. They said, 'We're goin' to arrest Rebecca.' What's the charge, people? Anyone have an answer? What's the arrest for? So, if you don't have an answer, we're in 2009. Come 2011, 2 years later, there was still no answer, why they arrested Rebecca. So, the bottom line, that night, those officers struck Rebecca, beat her, threw her to the ground, punched her repeatedly. Rebecca had an asthma attack. Had had asthma since she was a child. Her mother, fearing for her daughter, decided to lay her body on her daughter. Officer said, 'Get back, or we'll punch you.'

The mother and daughter, can you imagine this in the household? What was going on? Blood was everywhere. But when these officers were beating Rebecca, vomit came out of Rebecca onto the officer's clothing. He's very upset. Needless to say, I will roll through this. They eventually put the handcuffs on her, dragged her down her stairs, threw her onto her porch, where 12 other Caucasian officers were. How did these officers arrive on this house? At this house? No one to today can really say. They stomped her; they threw her on her porch, as her father said, 'like a sack of potatoes.' Witnesses saw this. The neighbors came out. They stomped Rebecca. Then they took her, threw her into a cruiser, where someone tased her. She's kicking; she don't know why she's kicking. Electricity was going through her body; she was afraid.

They put the mother in the cruiser, threatening to arrest her, put handcuffs on the mother while she's in her nightgown, with no shoes. And, the father's standing there, helpless with his 2-year old grandson. While she's in the cruiser, the officer's tryin' to close her legs up in the cruiser, slamming the door. He couldn't do it. So he just pushed them in. After that, they put the mom in the cruiser. The officer started shining lights, calling them everything but the child of

God. And I cannot say the names that they called these 2 women. The father begged the officer to please take the mom out of the car. He said, 'No, she's goin' to jail too.' For what?

Finally the officer did. He changed his mind. After that, they let me get her some clothing. They took the mom out o' the cruiser, took the handcuffs off. Meantime, they are begging me to take the daughter to the hospital. The officer said, 'She's a nigga. Oh, she'll be alright.' And the other officer say, you know, 'Take her around the corner so I can kick her teeth in.' These are statements from witnesses. I don't say that word. This is the second time in my life I have used that word. Once was to the Office of Professional Standards, who called me to try and find out what's goin' on with the case, and 2 is tonight. I don't choose to use that word again.

Rebecca's life was turned upside down because of these, these officers. And what I do have here, and I will hand to the panelists, is reports to show Rebecca was issued a 'no bill'. This is the bottom page of page 4 in the packet that I will be giving you. When she filed her report, her complaint, they issued a warrant for her arrest, stating she was armed and dangerous. Said she robbed them, she abused them. Went to court; the judge stated, 'You're goin' to jail because this is your punishment.' We all entered that date the hearing was held; that jury found her 'not guilty' of all charges. They levied over 11 charges against these 2. Thank you." (Applause)

Alice Ragland--"Um, Kipp Holloway? Followed by Dwayne Castleberry."

Kipp Holloway--"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. (Audience: "Good afternoon.") Uh, (panelist: "Talk louder.") My name is Kipp Holloway. I'm speakin' for Malissa Williams, Timothy Russell, Tamir Rice, Tanisha Anderson, you know, Michael Brown, Oscar Grant, and the rest of 'em that can't speak.

On May 21st, I had hitched a ride from 2 friends that I knew. From that point, uh, I noticed that we was bein' followed by a vehicle. Which I was noticin' that, I asked the driver why I was bein' followed. He told me that he tried to break into a building and I guess the security was following them, they didn't know. From that point, we got into a high-speed chase. And, um, we crashed. We almost smacked a 18 Willard, the driver did. So, when the car crashed, the 2 males got out the car and ran. At that point in my life, you know what I'm sayin', I was really scared; I didn't want to get profiled; I didn't want nothin' to do with anything. That's not even to mention that my son was gonna be born in 2 days.

Um, I was scared. I had changed my life; now I'm back in some stuff which I didn't have nothin' to do with. I ran. I ran into a garage. I lay down, you know? At that time I hear walkie-talkies and stuff goin' on, and then I see a foot come inside o' the garage. At that point, I said, 'Officer, my name is Kipp Holloway; I'm an African American male; I'm unarmed; my arms is above my head; it's reached out on the ground.' He said, 'Where you at, Buddy?' I'm goin', 'I'm right here.' As soon as he seen me, he fired. (Audience: Groans) On the ground, with my hands up.

He put his pistol in my mouth and asked me, 'Where's my boys? Why you goin' make me chase you, nigga?' This comin' from a Cleveland Police sergeant. Um, at that moment another sergeant come in. He like, 'Where is the gun? It ain't no gun goin' on? Where is the gun?' I'm on the ground; I'm bleeding. That's not even to mention that I got the bullet that went through my chest too. And, they was gettin' they story together, right in front of me. And, 2 sergeants, and there was 2 other officers by the door, which was blockin' other officers from comin' in. So, at that point they put the handcuffs on me, and they brought me out and they dropped me on this lady's porch, blood goin' everywhere.

So, as we was about to get into an ambulance, one of the officers that was inside the garage blocking the door from other people from comin' in, was like, they get into an argument with the EMS. This happened on 126th & Shaw. University Hospital is around the corner. He get into a argument, stating that we need to take him to Metro. 'He, like, he probably ain't gonna make it by then. Take him to Metro.' The other EMS was like, 'No, I got a order to take him to University Hospital.' They're just goin' back and forth for, like, 3 minutes. So, when we get to University Hospital, they started, 'No', they like, you know what I'm sayin', they like, 'We thought he had a gunshot wound to his arm, come to find out it's a gunshot wound to his chest too.' So, they tryin' to be, like, nonchalant. The other officers come in; they mockin' me, not even to mention that while I was in the EMS truck, the same officer that got into the argument with the EMS, talkin' 'bout he gonna blow my brains out. ... Like, why would you tell me you gonna blow my brains out? I'm not no harm; I got handcuffs on; and I'm bleeding.

From that point, they take me to Metro. I had uh, got uh, compartment syndrome, damage, my middle nerve is completely done with. I don't have no function in 2 of, 3 of my fingers; I still have a bullet lodged in my chest. I had 3 surgeries so far. I am disformed by the Cleveland Police. By Sergeant Timothy Peck. That's not even to mention the bullet wound that's still in my chest.

Um, my son is 4 years old. I remember when I was a kid we used to run and be like, 'Man, can we get a badge, can we get a badge?' Now my son is like, 'Daddy, there go the police.' A 4-year old shouldn't be scared of a police officer. (Audience or panelist: "All black children are scared of the police.") They threw me in jail for 5 months, with...knowin' that I didn't have anything to do with that crime. I went to trial and got acquitted. To this day, I'm still harassed, and followed.

Um, what I believe is we have to come up with a solution. You say we have to take a higher risk as far as the solution. At the same time, you fightin' against a culture which goes all the way up to the judge and the prosecutors. My life is never gonna be the same; I can't even hold my son (showing his deformed hand); he's 11 months. I got a possible 2 more surgeries. I have nightmares every night from the same incident. They had a...it was a...I stay on 131st, and, it's like, it's gunshots go on, off and on throughout my neighborhood. Every time I hear a gunshot, it automatically reminds me of that day.

Like, this is not the first time the DOJ came here. It's not the second time; it's not the third time; it's not the fourth. They do whatever they wanna do, ya know. They got a pattern, they got a practice of shootin' people, shoot 'em first, and ask questions last, ya know." (Applause)

Genevieve Mitchell--"Excuse me, sir, what is your name? Sir? What is your name? (Kipp Holloway: "My name is Kipp Holloway.") Kipp Holloway, I just want to say to you, God bless you for comin' forward and giving your testimony today. It is profound. Uh, you know, to sit here and to listen to that narrative, it is so stark in terms of what is really happening out there to people. It's shameful. It's shameful. And the police department, not only in this city, but in every city across this country, where those actors, and they know who they are, are operating outside of what is constitutionally correct should be ashamed of themselves, and the politicians as well, for, and anyone who knows this is going on and is allowing this to happen to black people and poor white people, and whomever, women, children, over and over and over again. It is an absolute, unforgivable shame that that happened to you and should happen to anyone. And, so, I just, I just commend you for standing up and telling us this."

Kipp Holloway--"It's like, I had this goin' on May 21st, 2014. We haven't had one piece of paper yet. Not one investigation, not nothin' sayin' what happened or like, what has been done.

R.A.Vernon had a roundtable. This was a few months ago. And he had Dr. Jawanza Colvin, R. A. Vernon, and the Mayor was there and the Chief of Police was there. So, you know, I wait till everybody get done talkin' and, you know, I go up and I talk to the Mayor. And he knew who I was before I even said anything to him. He knew who I was. All he could do was just say, 'I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Kipp. (Audience: "He ain't got no power.") I'm sorry, Kipp.' He say, 'Go talk to my Chief.' So, I go talk to the Chief. I'm in line; it's about 6 people. And, you know, people are tryin' to talk to him, express their concerns and whatever, and he just stopped talkin', and just automatically locked eyes on me. So, when I finally did talk to him, he tell me, 'What do you want me to do?' (Audience: Laughter. "Now who is this?") The Chief of Police. (Audience: "Yes, he's my nephew, but if he's wrong, he's wrong." People talking over each other.) Chief Calvin Johnson, Calvin Williams. (Audience: "That's my nephew. Yes.") He tell me that, he said, 'What do you want me to do?' And he just pretty much expressed his concerns and said, 'I'm sorry.' And then I said, 'You need to express this concern, this issue as if I was your son.' And all he could do, was just, his eyes watered up, you know what I mean, like, it touched him; it's the truth; it's the truth. 'If you're wrong, you're wrong, if you're right, you're right. They was wrong.'" (Applause)

Uncle Bobby--"Can I respond, really quick?"

Alice Ragland--"Well, real quick, Dwayne Castleberry, you're next, if you want to head down. But, do we have somebody named Havard Sunez? Or Harvard Sunez? I couldn't read the handwriting. Um, LC Woods? (Carol Steiner: "He's gone.") OK."

Uncle Bobby--"Ok, uh, brother Kipp, brother Kipp, just, you know, as a panelist and as a family member that have, uh, uh, you know, lost a nephew, uh, in the way that you did, uh, it's a blessing that you're still here to share this story. The world don't know about it, and this testimony here that you have provided will help give some insight in to the heinous act the police officers here in the state of Ohio, specifically here in the city of Cleveland. Uh, but it's critical that you don't expect people like this Chief or others to really do anything about your pain. Today, the work is going to come from you. You're a young man. Young people need to hear your story. (Audience: "Yes.") What you could a said to that chief that day is?? what do you want me to do? Well, anytime you can have an opportunity to speak on a platform to youth concerning what happened to you is a critical move, because it continues to bring to reality this heinous act of what happened to you. Only we can tell our stories. And if we fail to tell them stories, they'll never be told.

What happened to the man in San Bernardino, just recently, 2 days ago. I don't know if you know the story yet. Is an example; he happened to live, but it is an example of what happened to you, layin' down, hands up, in a complete surrender state, and still openly we have a police officer that tried to take your life. You know, but yet, we cannot expect people to tell that story. I'm thankin' God that you were able to tell that story, like the Robbie Tolan family, he's able to tell his story; he has become an ac-ti-vist. We need people like you, as this sister was sharing, fillin' up this room with young people, (Audience and panelists: "That's right.") 'cause young people need to hear that. That's the only way we're gonna equip and get people involved by them seein' and hearin' you. We, older, have had our experiences, but as the Dr. said, or I'm sorry, McKinney said, and you repeated it, it takes a new method today. You have an opportunity to lead that movement in sharing your story, in creatin' this new method to bring about this change.

So, I take my hat off to you; I thank you for sharin' that, but I want you to know how critical it is that you don't stop here. Continue to tell that story every opportunity you get, at every event, like this, because we need to hear it over and over and over to get rid of that apathy that we heard and so we can develop the empathy that we need to walk in your shoes to really understand what happened, but thank you." (Applause)

Ed Little--"Brother King [sic]? I just want to just say one or 2 things to you. Yesterday I was at an event where the Chief spoke, and it was a couple of chiefs of police from different areas; one was from Chicago; another one was from Detroit. They were from different places, and a number of them were from here. And, one of the chiefs stood up and said, 'No police officer gets up in the morning and makes up his mind that he's going to shoot somebody.' And we hear that narrative over, and over, and over, again. But the reality is there are people, who wear a badge, who get up, with they mind made up that they're going to kill somebody today, with every intention on doin' that.

We as a society, we have to stop defending the police. There's a couple groups of people that can't be touched. And that's teachers. You can't say nothin' bad about a teacher; and you look

at the conditions of our schools. You can't say nothin' bad about a police; but every day we hear about a police doin' somethin', see them on camera doin' somethin' that is totally against the law. You can't say nothin' about a soldier; but yet, we see all the unjust wars goin' on around this world, sponsored by this government. We have to have the strength and the courage as a people to say, "What is wrong, is wrong." no matter, no matter if everybody else is sayin' that it's ok. We have to have the courage to stand up for what's right.

Brother, I commend you for comin' here today, and sharing your story, and I hope that I can work with you, brother, to lift up what happened with you, as the brother stated, to share with other people, so that we become aware in this community of how real this really is. Because your story brought home how real this really is. And we have to stand with you, brother. You are not alone. We stand with you. So, if you can just hold on and just stay here a little while longer after this is over so we can get together with you brother and figure out a plan and a strategy, as Mr. McKinney said, takin' this to the next level. Thank you."

Alice Ragland—"Dwayne Castleberry."

Dwayne Castleberry—"I want everybody..., thank you for having me. It's not exactly easy to come up here. So, I was up there thinkin' I kind o' didn't even know where to even start. Like, um. But, I grew up on 136 & Miles. Uh, we dealt with like a lot of negative police. Police would come up and beat up a lot of the older cats, and it's like wow, what we see growing up. But as I got a little older, we moved to Slavic Village, and over there it was like a completely different world. We moved over there, and we had people who'd drive by and call us niggers. This was in '91 and '92. We would just get harassed chasing home from school, everything, like the police would do nothin'. Well, they should do somethin', but it wasn't....We just went thru a long trail of dealin' with the police, especially my brother.

My brother, DeShawn Castleberry. It just seemed like it was a regular normal thing to kinda, you know, if you get caught alone by the police, you just know that you gonna get harassed. You know you probably gonna get beat up. They were so bad over there, especially like around 93rd, 93rd & Harvard, Miles. They used to actually drive by and like point their guns at us while they drive by, and shout little stuff out the window, 'This is the police.'

It's so many incidents to talk about, I'll try to focus on a few. Like I remember one time being smacked in the back of the head, called a fag, 'cause I had a pink pic, being pulled over by the police. I didn't have anything. They didn't charge me with anything. Nothin', just the fact that it's this constant bully mentality that they have in these poor neighborhoods against the young black men and black women. I remember one time we get pulled over. It's a group of guys, like 10 guys, and you know this one girl. So, they check us and everything, but they make the girl take her bra off, and like she had a big chest, and make her bend over and shake her chest to make sure she didn't have any drugs on her.

Um, (Sighs). Another time I remember, (Sighs, choking back tears) (Female panelist: 'Take your time, take a minute.')

(Crying) I'm sorry, you just get fed up. This has just been my whole life, as far as I can remember. I remember one of my friends getting' into a fight, um, he wound up fightin' with a white guy. This is on 78th & Harvard. Fights with the white guy; the white guy's mother comes out, she's just throwing stuff, yellin', 'Get away from my son, nigger.' Even though it's a one-on-one fight, we break it up, separate, like, we were cool with both sides. So, we finally break it up and we take my guy back home, and we walk back. And the white mother, she sees us, and we like, 'We had nothin' to do with it.' She points to us and says, 'There they go, right there.' So, we basically get on our knees. We knew what it was. I get on my knees and the next thing I know I just remember gettin' grabbed on the back of my neck and the back of my pants and like lifted up, and slammed on my chest. I just remember blackin' out. I had a bruised rib, and they just didn't ask anything. They had us in the car, talkin' to the lady, and she finally admitted to them that we weren't involved. So they just like let us go, like it was nothin'.

Keep in mind this is my personal behavior. My brother, he has mental issues, so his altercations with the police were way more than mine. And, this is all through the years. Basically, they knew him by first name, they knew him by name. This is how much they had these altercations with each other. So, recently, last year, my brother rescued 2 dogs. One of the dogs was about to get put to sleep, they were 2 pit bull terriers. And my brother has always had a passion for dogs, so he rescues the dogs, but he doesn't know that the one dog, even though around humans it's real submissive, real meek, around other animals it would turn into a different dog. So, one day the dog got loose and it attacked another dog in our front yard. And they had a fight. So, this kind o' turned the neighbors against us, to where, my brother, he has fits where he gets loud, stuff like that, like we would get the police called on us like every other day. You know it was just routine. So they would call the police every other day, so we'd keep havin' these altercations.

The police would come in the house; they would literally like beat my brother, you know, tase him, stuff like that. Even one time they gave him a sedative, and a lot of this stuff just wouldn't be on record, we couldn't find none o' this stuff on record. They would just beat him up and just let him go. Lot o' times they would arrest him and let him go. This lead to, my brother; he was a bit paranoid. We stay in Slavic Village, which is a very bad neighborhood. And, you know people are always getting' shot. Matter of fact, day before yesterday, I haven't even seen it on the news, I couldn't go to sleep 'cause there was a shootout on, uh. (Female Panelist: 'What street?')

This was Ottawa off 71st, right off 71st & Harvard. But the police, they come to the house to serve a warrant about the dog. And it's like 4 in the mornin', and they call, they don't announce themselves. So, they just call out, 'DeShawn Castleberry.' So my brother, he gets out, he gets out with a gun. He doesn't get to point at anything. The police just start firing, from, I was upstairs, from what I heard there was like 2 clips unloaded, and my brother shot once back, in response. Fortunately, they didn't kill my brother, they shot up a van with 4 people in it, by the grace of God, none of them got killed or hurt. My brother ran out through the backyard.

After they ran through the back yard, they came into my house. We got interrogated for probably about an hour or 2, probably about an hour. They come down, they interrogate me over and over again. They tell me to call for a ride. When I call for a ride, I was sittin' in the car because it was 4 in the morning, I didn't have any shoes on. So, they tell me to sit in the car, waitin' on my ride. My ride shows up; it's my sister-in-law, so I'm tellin' the officer to let me out the car. The officer says he can't let me out the car; so I asked him, I came here willingly to call, waitin' on my ride, but he wouldn't let me out the car. So, an hour passed, and I'm still askin' him, me and another guy, I keep askin' him like, 'why can't we get out the car?' So, they don't tell us nothin', they say, 'we're sittin' here just like you are.' So, another hour passed. They finally catch my brother. So, I been in the car for 2 hours at this point.

They catch my brother, so I ask him, 'like, you all caught him, can I get left out?' Like, I want to know what's goin' on. So, another hour passed; at this point I'm in the car for, like, 3 and a half hours. You know they haven't told me anything; they haven't read me any rights or anything. I have a panic attack. I literally have a panic attack, but they wouldn't let me out. They wouldn't let me out the car; I get to kickin' the back of the car, tryin' to hit everything to get out, until somebody on the street finally sees me. And they say, 'What's wrong with him?' They finally let me out the back.

They finally called EMS; so, to speed things up, I go to the hospital. They follow us into the hospital. My brother, my other brother just got off work. They snatch him out the room; they interrogate him and his friend. They got nothin' to do with anything. We just get harassed the whole time in the hospital. So, I finally get released. I come home. My house is tore up, top to bottom. They went through my whole house. My brother stay in the downstairs apartment. I stay in the upstairs apartment. They came in and tore my house up, top to bottom.

Since then we been gettin' harassed by the police. We been gettin' housing violations out of nowhere. We've even, I've even gotten a ticket in the middle of a blizzard for walkin' on the side of the street. I got a ticket. I knew what it was, 'cause I was found guilty and the other guy I was with was found not guilty. It's like I've been targeted since then and it's so much more to it, I wish I had more time to like, tell you more. It's still an ongoing thing. He goes to court on the 20th. We've been gettin' blackballed out of any information. It's basically hell right now. We're tryin' to find out what we can do legally, whatever, to get this harassment off of us, to get legal help, or whatever, I don't even know. I thank you for allowing me to tell my testimony about my family and what we're goin' through right now."

Genevieve Mitchell—"Young man, young brother, again, thank you for your testimony just real quick. I want to say to Carol that this is so highly important; we need to hold tribunals all year long, a series of them all around the City of Cleveland, around the county if necessary to get the truth out about what is going on, what is being covered up. We need to get the truth out; these people are being brutalized and we do not know about it. The media is not telling the truth; the

people are afraid to talk. You've given them an opportunity to come forward; we need to keep this going, a series needs to continue all year long.”

Carol Steiner-- “I'm wondering also if we need to be at court for some of these cases.”(Several panelists: “Yes, yes...”)

Bill Swain—“I just want to thank you. That was beautiful, Dwayne. And actually the politicians, I don't even give a shit if they do hear it because the main thing is the people need to hear it. (Audience: “I love it!”) The politicians, all they want to do is smooth the shit over. Otherwise, they know some of it is going on, but they do nothing but cover it up. (Audience: “Oh, I love it!”) Thank you.”

Rev. Pinkney Butts—“I need you to come to court too, Carol. 'Cause I'm still bein' victimized. I ...Cleveland police.”

Ed Little—“Dwayne, if I could talk to you afterward, too. I know a number of attorneys that litigate these kind of cases on a regular basis. I'm sure somebody would definitely be willing to take your case on and see what they could do for you and your family. You and Kipp.” (Audience: “I love that kind of talk.”) (Rev. Pinkney Butts: “I need a lawyer too; I've been fighting mine for over 12 years.”)

Alice Ragland—“Alicia Kirkland--We have some people who have lost family members. Brenda Bickerstaff and Clarence Jones will be after.”

Uncle Bobby—“Right before Alicia talks I just want to say especially to Dwayne, as well as Kipp, it's critical that we hear your story, because you are the movement. You're the leaders of this movement, and as my sister said, this room should be full of young people. And as my brother that shared that we definitely would like to meet with you because we could share with you some of the things that you could do to make the next Tribunal a full house. It is critical, this is really not even about you today. It's about your babies--that baby that you can't hold? If you fail to stand up today, to represent that baby, or these children. Think about the kind of life they will have. If you have shared your experience with us, and know what's goin' on, and fail to stand up and speak on their behalf, think about what kind of life they will have. (Audience: “We love you, Uncle Bobby!”) That's critical. (“We love you Uncle, Bobby! Tell Alisha I said hello.”) OK.”

4

Alicia Kirkman--“My name is Alicia Kirkman. My son was Angelo Miller. He got killed 8 years ago. It's hard for me to like do this. You know it's been like 8 years, but it seem like the longer it is, the worse it's gettin'. He was 17 years old. He was out doin' things that some kids do. You know, we all have not did right growin' up. You know, so, he broke in a car. So, him and his friends got away, so Angelo comes back home. He gets his car, thinkin', you know, he could go get the radio he stole out the car. But it didn't happen like that. When he was pullin' up, it was a off-duty police officer. I really don't know how this went, because I wasn't

there. But what I do know is when they told me that my son tried to run the police officer over, every mother knows they child, the good and the bad. I knew my son didn't try to run a police officer over. So, the guy on one tape came and you heard the one officer sayin', (breaking down crying), you heard the officer sayin', 'Put your hands up; put your hands up'. You heard my baby sayin', 'My hands are up; I swear to God I don't have nothin', ain't doin' nothin'' All of a sudden the phone went dead. (Audience: Groans)

My son's car was shot up 8 times. It don't take a rocket scientist, to figure out, if my son was tryin' to, run him over, why wasn't the front windshield shot out? Why wasn't the back windshield shot out? All the shots came from the side of the car. A bullet went in, you know, ricocheted, hit my son in the back. (Groans from the audience) And, you know, I had a lawyer; a lawyer came for me; it's not about no money. What's goin' happen to this police officer? (Audience: "That's right.") You know the 911 tape is lettin' you know my son said, 'my hands are up, I swear I ain't doin' nothin', don't got nothin'.' But it's just a mystery. You hear your son sayin' his hands are up, but how did the car still move. You know if your child said, 'My hands are up.' the car gotta be stopped, you know.

But, as usual, with the City of Cleveland, what they do when they know they are wrong, they will settle. They will settle. Me, I don't want your money. You know, I want this police officer to be charged. (Panelist: "What's his name?") John Lundy. So, I wanted to take it to trial. Couldn't take it to trial, because I didn't have \$20,000, to take it to trial. So, I end up settling for the simple fact that my child had 2 boys. So, when his boys get older, if they want to go to college, they will be able to go to college, because they have something. (His kids was only 1.) They have somethin' from their father. You know, but it get worse and it get worse, like, every time you're watchin' the news, you know ever since my son got killed, it seem like it's gettin' worse, and you know, it's like you can't heal because the pain when you see that, like when I saw that young man runnin' for his life, and he got...they shot 8 times. (Audience: "Yeah.") How can a parent ever heal?

I mean somebody asked me something before, and I told them, it's like I put on a disguise, 'cause I have to go to the workforce; I have to deal with the public; I have kids and grandkids; I have to put on a disguise, because when your child is taken away from you, your life will never, ever be the same. (Audience: "That's right.") Some things you can't listen to no more; some things you can't watch no more; some things you can't cook no more; some things you can't eat no more. That's how sickening it is. It's a pain that we deal with. We can't explain. You know, you have to be that parent that lose that child. That's it." (Applause)

Genevieve Mitchell-- "Madam, madam, let me just thank you for your testimony as well. When you're talking about you don't understand and why, you know, that happened there's a historic rubric for that. And it's like the slaves that used to see the whipping or the lynching in the barnyard and they did that for power and control to contain their behaviors and to make them submissive so that they would not get out of line. And as we see with the exacerbation of these extrajudicial killings by police officers, it's very much the same.

One of the things that they're not dealing with, is, they're not dealing with the psychological trauma that is endured by black people and white people, people that are marginalized and feel a sense of powerlessness because of that, who are constantly bombarded with images of people like themselves who are being shot down, who are being beaten down, who are being handcuffed, who are being suppressed and jailed. And the psychological imagery that we're watching in videos over and over again on the internet, as well as what we're seeing on television and hearing about on radio, that is...Nobody's even dealing with the psychological impact of how that's affecting the black community and the brown community or white community. No one is dealing with that, and it is having a profound effect/impact...ah, the gentleman, the young man said that even his 4-year old son sits up there, and when he sees a police officer now, which, typically, when I was young and growing up these kind of things weren't quite as prevalent for that period. You know, children would say hi to the police officers, whatever, but now for a 4-year old child to say, oh, there goes a police...that is horrible.

It is a horrible commentary on where we have come and where the situation is. So, I'm proud of the people; I'm proud of you for standing up and making your testimony and your stories known. It is important; it's vitally important and this has to continue.”

Leah Lewis—“Related to Genevieve's initial point and the flip side of it, we have to accept that some of these police officers, who are committing these wanton murders are sociopaths. (Audience: “Yes they are.”) And we have to have a zero-tolerance policy for sociopaths on the police force. (Audience: “That's right.”) You know that, until, I know Bill said, ‘We don't care about the politicians.’ but I'm tryin' to get you all to understand you're elected officials have a role to play in this process, right? As a people, whether we are African-American, whether we are Latino, Hispanic, poor, whatever, we need to apply pressure on every front. On every front, including the political front.

There are 2 police departments that I want you all to begin to research--the Seattle Police Department and the Portland, OR, Police Department. They are taking some radical steps towards improving the cultural competency of their police force. In one of those municipalities, they are now demanding that 50% of the police force look like the community they are policing.

Now, I know just because someone is African-American doesn't mean they are on our side. I believe it was Zora Neal Hurston who said, "All my skin-folk ain't my kin-folk." Ok, we're clear on that. But when you have a particular understanding and appreciation for the community that you serve, you have an opportunity to develop and enhance your empathy. Your empathy, having empathy means you are not a sociopath. So we need police officers that are empathetic.

We also, I want to deal with the issue of economics here. The question was posed earlier, since 9/11 the police force in this nation has become a militarized police force. If you drive by my little community, you're going to see a tank. And we are a community of less than 1,000

people. (Audience: “Oh, wow.”) Why do we need a tank? It was given to us by the federal government, as they began to get rid of the surplus of military equipment, right? So, we need to get back to a day and age in which our police force becomes a force of peace officers. This militarized issue is really doing us in. So, I dealt with the issue of race, I'm dealing with the issues of economics.

Now, in the City of Cleveland...Angelo's mom, wherever she is, she lifted up the fact that when Cleveland knows that they are wrong, they settle. Right? That's a problem, ya'll. These police officers still need to be held accountable. And giving somebody \$50,000 is unacceptable. And until our elected officials, and our appointed officials, understand like, for example, the county prosecutor? Ya'll know we elect him. Ya'll do know that, right? (Audience/panelist: “The black church.”) Right. We put him in office. That's a problem, OK? Because who is that prosecutor? The prosecutor represents law enforcement. The prosecutor does not represent the people. He should. But he represents law enforcement. So, we have got to begin to deal with this issue on every front, including the political front. A revolution, a comprehensive revolution is what is called for.”

Shemariah Arki--“Just briefly, to just bring a little bit of theory and another lens into this conversation again. What Genevieve was talkin' about is a phenomenon that has been studied. And a scholar by the name of Dr. Joy Degruy has written a book on it, and it is called Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome. (Genevieve: “That's right.”) And this syndrome is passed down from mother to child in the mitochondrial DNA. So, we need some scientists on our team too. (Audience: “That's right.”) We need them here. Because this has been proven, the stress that comes when a mother is carrying a child is passed on to that child. And this is one of the, one of the reasons, right? There are lots of reasons, but this is one of the reasons why our men can go from zero to sixty like that (A snap of her fingers). ‘You stepped on my shoe, I'm going to shoot you.’ Because is trauma after trauma, after trauma, after trauma. So we need to understand that while race is a social construct and we're talkin' about these social identifiers, that the government has created to put us in boxes, it now has a biological effect on us. And so, we have to address that as well.” (Applause)

Alice Ragland—“Can I have Clarence Jones, followed by Brenda Bickerstaff?” (Child crying)

Clarence Jones—“How's everybody doin'?” (Audience: “Alright.”) I'm Clarence Jones. Brandon Jones was my son. (Pause, breaking down) I don't even know what to say. (Audience: “Go ahead, tell it, brother.”) (Carol Steiner: “Tell the panel.”) I miss my boy. I had some run-ins (Coughing, Panelists: “We can't hear you, sir. Speak a little louder, please.”)

7

They've jumped on me, they've beaten me, kicked me in the head, maced me, I been through it all, you know. Like the lady said, our son, we know our kids. We know they good; we know they bad. I did my best; I raised my son. I never been... He really wasn't a bad kid, you know? He was 18. (Child crying) He didn't start gettin' in trouble till he was 16. You know

what I'm sayin'? He was a kid when he died. He was still a kid. He didn't get a chance to turn over from a boy to a man. But he was in that stage; and he was tryin'. (Audience: "Go 'head; get it off...") My son had been through a lot. You all need to know... (Audience: "Go 'head.") He'd been shot 4 times. He'd been shot in the head. Almost dead. This has been a year. He had been through a lot in a year. You know your kid; I knew mine. You taught them well; I taught mine well. They don't listen all the time. They don't. They do something bad, first thing. Why they do it? We don't know that. All we know is what we taught them. You see what I'm sayin'? And they didn't get a chance to use it. He was a good kid, you know what I'm sayin'? And I'm still sayin' there's a lot of things I can't do no more, except weep for my son, who got killed.

We went out and did some shoppin'. We got these little...from Popeye's, they're still sittin' in my freezer. (Weeping) And every time I look at it I cry. I don't want nobody to touch it. You know? That's my guy. You know what I'm sayin'? My son, he had been arrested before. He had a little Juvenile record. He know not to fight with the police. I tell him, you know?

Week before he got shot, yeah, week before he got shot, they tried to tow my car. It was parked on the street. Good plates on it, tires full. Plates good. My other son got a car, so we basically drivin' his car around. You know? They come tow my car; I'm out doin' somethin'. My son called me, 'Police out here, fixin' to tow the car.' I asked him to go out there and ask them if they could hold up a minute; I'm fixin' to come and move the car; I'm on my way. He say he go out there talk to 'em. First thing the police say, 'Get away from the car, or we're gonna take you to jail. Get back up on the sidewalk. Get away from the car. We're takin' the car. Now nothing you all can do?' You know what I'm sayin'? I tell my son, 'Don't worry about it'. And I make it there before they took my car.

I'm tryin' to show my son, different things. I'm out there, 'Please, officer, don't take my car. Give me 2 minutes; let me move my car, push it in my driveway.' 'No, we ain't doin' nothin'. They sittin' over here talkin' all crazy.' 'What they got to do with me? I'm beggin' you'; you know what I'm sayin', I'm pleadin' in front of my son, tryin' to show him another way. Show him, say, talk to police officer, makin' good. They didn't want to hear shit I had to say, excuse me. (Panelist/ audience: "That's ok.") They didn't want to hear nothin' I had to say. 'Don't worry about it; we're takin' your car, because they was talkin' smart to us, 'cause they was sayin' this.' I'm on the phone... talk to the officer. He's on the phone; I hear him say, 'I ain't givin' you nothin'.' 'Hey, officer, my nephew he's not arguin' with the man, he's not talkin' crazy with the man.' You know what I'm sayin'?

So, I finally pulled up; I go talk to the officer; he rolled up the window. I see another car. 'I wasn't the one who put the ticket on it.' 'There's no ticket on my car; where's the ticket?' 'Well, we came up here the other day and marked on the car.' 'Where's the markin' at?' He said we mark it on the tire. They'd marked on my tire. You couldn't a just put that on my tire; where's it's worn? You barely see what it says; you can't even see what it really sayin', you know what I'm sayin'? 'What did you write on there? You put number? You put date? You can't even see

it.' I'm steadily pleadin', I'm pleadin'. My son, 'Dad, ain't got to bag 'em; they gonna take the car anyway; they gonna do what they wanna do.' 'Boy, shut up, let me handle this, let me do my do.' You know what I'm sayin'? 'Alright, Daddy.'

I'm standin' out there pleadin' with em, 'Please, please, please, don't take my car.' ... I'm talkin' to the lieutenant, the sergeant rather, I'm talkin' to him, 'It's out of my hands.' 'Come on man, just let me move the car.' You know what I'm sayin'? He says, 'I'll tell you what, if you can get a tow truck here and get the car and move, you can have the car.' I said, 'Hold on a minute, your tow truck on the way; your tow truck was on the way before I got here, so what you tryin' to do to me? What're you feedin' me?' This is some bull crap you're feedin' me. If I get a tow truck, it's gonna take me 30-45 minutes to get my tow truck here; yours on the way; yours be pullin' up, soon as, before I can get it on the bump.' And sure enough, soon as I get on the phone to call my tow truck, here comes the tow truck down the street. I said, 'What type crap is this?' You know what I'm sayin'? Another cop was sayin' that, 'Well, your son they said they was tellin' off an officer.' 'Was you here when I was talkin' to him?' 'No I wasn't here, but I believe my officer.' 'So, ... a prayer book now?' ... prayer book?'

I said, 'That's why people don't like ya'll. Ya'll have no compassion. Ya'll have no understanding.' You know what I'm sayin'? 'We like us.' 'Well, I don't.' (Audience: Laughs) With that I said, 'Ya'll be ..., ya'll towin' my car; ya'll can be in my face; I'm gone.' You know what I'm sayin'? He lookin' at me smilin' and laughin', and I turned back, 'It ain't no joke; this is serious; you think ya'll have to tow my car.' You know what I'm sayin'? ..., that's why we don't like 'em now. I say, 'I feel you, man, but you don't got to be like that towards them like that all the time.' You know what I'm sayin'?

I used to feel that there's some good officers out here, but now today? Hell, no, I don't believe it. I could never look at another cop and say, he might be good. (Audience/panelist: "That's right.") I could never say that. It's just like they look at all these little black kids runnin' around these poor neighborhoods, they all bad. All cops are bad. (Audience/panelists: "That's right!") All these kids out here, what they doin'. You sayin' ain't no good ones out here, then all you cops out here killin' these people, beatin' these people, doin' us, there ain't no good cops. There ain't no good cops. I can't believe there are good cops, because one cop see a cop doin' bad, he's not goin' step up and say, 'No, don't do it.' He goin' stand here and watch it. He goin' watch it, you understand?

I feel what she said, my life ain't goin' never be the same. Yeah, I'm hurtin' 8 times. Every time I see my wife, I see her cryin' for my son, I hurt 'cause she hurt. I see my kids; I see them cryin' cause they want they brother. (Crying) That's another pain on me, you know what I'm sayin'? I'm already hurtin' for my son, now I hurt because my kids hurt, because they big brother gone. He was a good brother to them. He made sure they didn't get in no trouble. He made sure they did what they was supposed to do. He... he wasn't bad, you know? Nobody sit there and say, 'No, he shouldn't 'a did what he did.' He shouldn't 'a did what he did. It's a lot of things we shouldn't do, but we do. I been wrong; ... I'm 42 years old; I still make bad

decisions. You know what I'm sayin'? I still make bad decisions. But we learn, you know what I'm sayin'? My son can't learn no more. He learned all he gonna learn. You know what I'm sayin'? (Audience/panelist: "Could you tell your story about your son, because we..., for the people that's in the room that don't know your story?")

Well, Brandon Jones, he was shot on Parkwood, comin' out of the store. He broke into the store. He was comin' out of the store with 2 bags in his hands. The same lady that called 911, and told them that my son was breakin' in the store, witnessed the whole thing. She say she watched the whole thing from the time she called to the time they shot my son. They came up to him; they grabbed a hold to him; both of 'em grabbed a hold of him. She said they talked with him for 4-5 minutes with a gun in his throat, talkin' to him. My son was sayin' something back to him, and the gun went off, and they dropped my son to the ground. One of them checked for a pulse, told another one there's no pulse. He called back-up; then he called 911. Said they came, got my son, didn't do CPR on him on the ground, didn't do no CPR or nothin' on him, got him in the Cleveland ambulance, took him. You see that's all they did, you know what I'm sayin'?

And I told the lady, 'What you did, you called the police, don't feel bad about that. Don't feel bad about that; you was right; you did what you're supposed to do.' She said, 'I didn't have no idea they was goin' to kill your son.' She said, 'If I'd 'a knew they was goin' to kill your son, I would 'a let him got away.' She said, 'I feel bad, because I feel like his death was on me.' And I told her, 'No, his death is not on you, it's on the man that shot my son. That's who his death is on—the man who shot my son.' (Audience: "And who was that?") I don't know the police officer's name. (Audience: "Ain't that a blip!?") I don't know his name; I don't know his badge number; I don't know nothin'; they haven't made a statement on what happened to my son. (Audience or panelist: "Was it written up?") I don't know, no, nothin's been written up. There's no statement from the police... (Brenda Bickerstaff: "Excuse me, I can speak on that because I'm a private investigator workin' on that. I can't give out too much information.") OK. ("But you know it's goin' through the court system.") Yes, I understand. ("Your lawyers do have the name of the perpetrator. And I did interview the young lady who called the police. So, the names, they do have them.") OK. ("So, you can talk to your lawyer; they got it.") OK.

Fine, but like I'm sayin', my son was shot at 2:30 in the mornin'; I didn't find out till 5. And when they came, this is what they told me, 'Your son been shot by Cleveland Police. I don't know no more, I wasn't there, I don't know nothin' else, he's just dead.' They walked off. And we called around; and the guy that was supposed to be investigatin' it; he was on vacation for 2 days. We had to wait 2 days for him to come back, and when he finally came back, someone else came to talk to us. He came to my door and he said the same thing, 'He got into it with the police; there was a little scuffle; he dead; we don't know no more. All we got to do is wait for everything to come back, and then we gonna check it for you.' With that, that's all I got to say, you know." (Panelists/others: "Thank you. Thank you." Applause)

Carol Steiner--“I’d just like to thank Mr. Jones (Breaking down), because it’s been such a recent time since Brandon was killed.”

Uncle Bobby--“Right before, I do want to share this. This is for Brandon senior. Brandon, you know, I’m Oscar Grant’s Uncle Bobby and one of the things I’ve been doin’ is building this community of men that have suffered this harm. So, Brandon, to you, I want you to know, Brandon? (Carol Steiner: “It’s Clarence.”) Oh, I’m sorry, Clarence, your son’s name is Brandon; I was just callin’ you Brandon senior, but I meant Clarence. I’m definitely goin’ to share this with Tracy Martin, Ron Davis, is the father of Jordan Davis with loud music, Kendrick Johnson, father of Kenneth Johnson, who is the father of the young man who was rolled up in the wrestling mat.

My point is this, is that I’ve made contact with all the fathers, possibly all the fathers that I could make contact with. And you bein’ a new father to this, we want to be able to support you, and speak with you, and help guide you with some of the stuff that you’re gonna go through. And also, be host to, to bring clarity and understanding of what it’s gonna take on your part to not only just to stand and speak on behalf of your other sons that are still living, but for Brandon himself whose life was taken. So, I definitely would like to speak to you after this tribunal, and get your information, and bring you into this fatherhood. You’re not alone. I just want you to know that. You’re not alone in this. We’ve been through this; we understand the pain and the anger, and how easy it is for us to become real reckless with that anger. You understand what I’m sayin’? (Clarence Jones: “I understand.”) OK? So, definitely let me speak to you before you leave.”

Leah Lewis—“Because this is being videotaped, I want to say something that is very obvious to virtually all of us who are here. If Brandon had been white, he’d be alive right now. (Applause and hollering) Only because he was committing an economic crime, right? Technically, even if he had killed somebody, he would still be alive. (Audience: “Right.”) We had the mass murderer that took place in Colorado. I know that man injured 127 people, but he is a live today. (Audience: “That’s right.”) And soon, we guess, he will stand trial. But they are killing black and brown and poor people, male and female, young and old (Panelist: “Amen, sister.”) with impunity, as everyone is sayin’. But if you’re a white person, and you commit a crime in a particular community, you will have the benefit of being arrested, you will have the benefit of all of your rights being honored, and if you are convicted, you might have the blessing of a diversion program. (Audience and panelists: “Yes, unh-huh.”) Right? You might not even have to go to jail, you might not even have to pay a fine. (Audience: “That’s right.”) But if you are black, brown, poor, you don’t even get the benefit of a trial. It’s a horrific dynamic. (Audience: “A bullet in you.”)

This is a country that wants to take other nations to task for human rights violations? But the United States of America is supporting domestic terrorism against its own people. (Audience/others: “That’s right.”) And we are hypocrites. We are hypocrites. We, are, hypocrites. So, America, until you begin to deal with your own vile actions (Audience: “That’s

right!") You need to keep your nose out of other nations' business." (Applause and commenting).

Rev. Pinkney Butts—"I've heard you all talk of helping these men, and I have not heard one of you at that table say you gonna help me when I leave this room. And I talk and I don't have a safe place to live. I jeopardized my safety comin' here. And I've heard a male agenda since I've been here. And I'm concerned about that, because ...

Carol Steiner—"Reverend Butts, please..." 11

Alice Ragland—"We're going to have a discussion at the end..."

Genevieve Mitchell—"Minister Pamela Butts, this gentleman right here, Mr. Little, responded to you. Maybe you did not hear him, but when you talked about lawyers, he said that he would help you."

Rev. Pinkney Butts—"Ok, I want somebody to make sure that I get home safely when I leave here today, too."

Alice Ragland—"Thank you, Genevieve. Ok, so, is Brenda Bickerstaff here? (Brenda Bickerstaff: "I'm right here.") And followed by Art Blakey? There are a couple more after that; we are runnin' low on time; we are going to try to continue with a discussion with the panelists. Technically, we gonna have to leave the room at 4:30, but we may stay until somebody comes to kick us out. I'm sure that the testimony won't last that long, 'cause there are only 3 or 4 more people. So, but if you want guys want to continue the discussion and we happen to have to leave this room, we can continue it in the lounge with the panel. You can stay with in the lounge out in the hall. (Audience: "Thank you, sister." Carol Steiner: "We'll stay here as long as we can.")

Brenda Bickerstaff—"My name is Brenda Bickerstaff; I'm a private investigator; I have an investigation business. But before then, I have 2 stories; I'm goin' make it brief. My brother Craig Lamont Bickerstaff, was murdered by police back in 2002. So when I saw the incident that happened in North [sic] Carolina, when the boy was runnin', pow, pow, pow, and they shot him 8 times in the back, it brought back memories, because my younger brother was shot 5 times in the back. And what was amazing when I saw North [sic] Carolina, he took his taser and brought it over and dropped it down by the guy's body, but he didn't know that the gentleman, somebody, was video-recording it, and I was just so happy about that.

And, I'm goin' say this, my dad was a cop; my sister's a commander in Pittsburgh; and I have another brother took... here in Cleveland, and I'm goin' to tell you this. My father was on the force for 33 years and he never murdered nobody. I'm just keepin' it real. He never murdered nobody. And this is my legacy that my father, even though he's deceased, would like to have left for the community and the citizens in Cleveland and anywhere across the country. Because my father was the type of officer, if you had a problem, you could come up and talk to him. He

did not have an arrogant attitude like these officers today. I just want to say that. And I'm not just sayin' it because it's my dad. There are some good ones out there; but the ones that are horrible, they need to go.

Now, my second story, is, I was out workin' on a case to try to get a young man out of jail. Now this particular detective, Vincent Lucarelli, was sleepin' with the victim. So, what he did, he put a false indictment on me back in 2012. We pulled his text messages and found out he was sleepin' with the victim, not only in this case, but he had been sleepin' with the victims since 2009. We had 30,000 text messages. I filed a complaint; he was fired; but 2 days ago, they reinstated his job--2 days ago, a judge, John D. Sutula. What happened was, he went through the arbitration; arbitration gave him his job back, then the City appealed it, to this judge, and the judge reinstated him 2 days ago. So, I'm lettin' you know, Vincent Lucarelli. And I'm goin' tell you somethin' that was so odd about this. When we were goin' through the court system, and we're still goin' through it now. My lawyer questioned him on a deposition and what he said was, his boss who was a black commander, Dennis Hill, of the 5th District, knew that he was textin' and sleepin' with these victims. So, if Dennis Hill, would a took care of his business back in 2012 when another lawyer called and complained about another client, I wouldn't a got indicted.

See, everybody don't know the system like me. Everybody didn't know how to get out the system like me, and get an indictment out from under you and pull records and get text messages. They don't, people don't know how to do that. My clients, they seen...on TV, said, Bickerstaff, we wouldn't a known to do that. We wouldn't a known how to do that. We don't have money to do that, and we run across this every single day. And anybody that's familiar with the court system knows, you don't have no help. And it's sad to say; I hate to say it, but it's true. And I want you to understand too, just like this young lady said, being black is not always right. Cause you have a black man who's a commander, in a white shirt, who's lettin' a detective run loose and do what he want to do, in the black community.

But, wait a minute, Dennis Hill told the public he live on Nathaniel Avenue. He got a big house out there in Remindersville, in Twinsburg. He does not live in Cleveland. So, when you run into Dennis Hill, ask him this question, do you pay attention to what your officers do in your district? And my next question is: why in the hell is he still a commander?? I could be in the penitentiary right now for 5 years, for nothin'. 5 years, for nothin'. He put an intimidation case on me, for what? I'm out here doin' my job. So, it's just not regular citizens; it's people like me too. It happened to me. So, I can speak on this.

So, all the marchin' and everything is beautiful. Just like this gentleman here, Uncle Bob? We have to take this to a next level. My brother, Craig, I went to visit his grave yesterday. And, I said, "Brother, your big sister still fightin' for ya." He has 2 daughters, Kenisha and Aravia, who sometimes cry out because they miss they father. They was 4 and 5 when he was murdered. They're grown now, graduated from high school; they're in college. They still hurt in pain from the loss of their dad. Now, to the police, he might have been a thug, but to them,

that's my daddy. And to me, that's my brother. Thug is not on his birth certificate; it says Craig Lamont Bickerstaff. (Genevieve Mitchell: "Question to you, Brenda, I'd like to ask you a question, what do you think, what's your idea of what the next level is, you and Uncle Bobby?")

I would like to talk about, and I'm so glad to meet you; I read your article, and I would like to talk to you when this is over too. And, don't get me wrong, through the years I've met some amazing people. I met this young lady, who spoke about her son, and the young lady up..., Bernadette, is that your name? Bernadette about Dan Fiegler [sic--Ficker]. I would like all of us to stay in touch. And we fell out a touch. We were all stayin' in touch; Bill know this. Now we are out a touch. I want us to all stay back in touch.

Now just like she just said not too long ago, we need some of you down in them courtrooms, to see what's really goin' on. Because I'm goin' tell you how I got indicted. He wrote the complaint; he passed it to Alicia McDuffy; he put a sticker on it sayin', 'Don't indict this if you don't want to, I'm not worried about it.' Then they sent it over to Hill; Hill signed off on it without even findin' out any information. Next thing I know, I'm indicted. And then when he said that Hill knew all about what he does, and you're gonna tell me you're a lieutenant, a commander and you don't even know what goin' on in your district? But I'm puttin' this out here because I want you to know Dennis Hill. Do not forget that name. He is a commander of the 5th District on E. 152nd St. He's a black man with a white shirt. He's a black man in power, and he dogs his own people."

Bill Swain—"I want to say a few things. I want to say that April 14th is Tuesday, and everyone in this room, and their friends, etc., need to be out there. This Tribunal is a stepping stone; it doesn't exist in and of itself. We're doing, we're saying on April 14 across the country it's no business as usual, it's stop police murder, shut down, no school, no work, stop business as usual, we will not go back. That's the rallying cry, April 14. Everyone in this room should take cards and they should...It will begin... (Audience: "She said, what time?") by reading the names of people murdered by the police across this country. 3 o'clock, northeast corner of Public Square. (Audience question) what? 3 o'clock, and we'll read the names, and there'll be a huge banner of the stolen lives, people murdered by the police. These are our loved ones. These are our people. And we're gonna have a huge banner; we're gonna go through Public Square, that whole area and beyond. But I want to just call on people though, get these cards, get 'em out, get 'em to people, and be out there on April 14. That's the rallying cry right now to get us back into being in the streets, and actually no business as usual. The business as usual is what we've heard today. The business as usual is brutalizing and killing Black and Brown people. That's the business as usual. We can not have business as usual anymore in America. And April 14th is a very important stepping stone to say, "No more!" Thank you. And we got cards, and people should sign up, whatever you have to do, but mainly get cards, get to your people in church tomorrow; get those ministers to talk out about it and say, be down at April 14th."

Brenda Bickerstaff—“Ok, and I just want to say just one last thing, the young lady, I think your name is King. (Carol Steiner: “No, Rev. Lewis.”) Oh, Rev. Lewis, I'm sorry. (Rev. Lewis: “That's alright.”) Rev. Lewis was sayin' you may not think the politicians is held accountable-- yes, they are. Remember. I'm somebody's mother, somebody's sister. And all these people in here are too. And if they do me like that, they'll do you like that. Just don't get away from that. Just remember that. Dennis Hill. Thank you.” (Applause)

Alice Ragland—“So, we are going to have to leave very soon, so the last 3 people will be Art Blakey, Jeremy Brustein, and Faheem Khabeer, in that order, so, you can just come up. I'm not gonna announce, so...” (Carol Steiner: “Ok, come down.”)

Art Blakey—“Hello, my name is Art Blakey. And, yeah, I could sit up and talk about all the abuses of police brutality that I have went through in my life, and my family, but that would take much more than 5 minutes, so, I'm going to just harp on one incident with my sister. Her name was Nicole, Kiana Nicole Blakey. She was killed on August 18 in 1989. And there was a cop, a Cleveland cop, who was at that point, an off-duty cop, who was stalking my sister, wanting to meet her. But she was much younger than he was; she was only 19 years old. And, we heard that, we got a phone call, sayin' that my sister attempted suicide. And, she was found dead in the hallway of her apartment building, which was, you know, Longwood Apartments.

And, we... was tryin' to get more information, but we couldn't even get in contact with them on any part of the investigation or even get information about the body or anything else. We had to actually get a lawyer to actually have them release the body. And, another autopsy report was done and it was found that she was shot twice in the head, (Audience: “Oh, my.”) execution-style.

Since then the family had, my family had at one point received a \$9 million settlement from the City of Cleveland. And that money was gone away after taxes after lawyer fees and everything else; it was piddley compared to the life of a human being. (Audience: “That's right.”) Now, ...out there, this was my youngest sister. I mean I have 6 brothers and 9 sisters, so we are looked at as a gang. And my sister was destined to go to Ohio State University; she would be the only other person besides myself that went to college of my siblings. And she was going on a full scholarship. And she was supposed to leave that next week before she got murdered.

So, now the thing is, and why I maintain stands not just for me, 'cause I could tell like many stories of my own experiences with police brutality, and, with my brothers and I also have a son, who can also tell stories about police brutality. But, this is, and then this is a continuing problem, this needs to be feverishly called out on. And this is why we must get behind April 14 because that is the day that we need to stand up; we need to stand together and call out these atrocities that have been goin' on, you know with police murders, every time you turn around you hear about a police murder.

And, also I'm part of the Stolen Lives Project, which I am doing the list of people murdered by the police to be read on April 14th. So many names, going from Amadou Diallo to Walter Scott, since the turn of this century, and the list goes on, as none of these people on this poster deserved to die. So some might say there are some good cops out there...well, where are they at, and what are they doing? This needs to be called out or this will continue to escalate and April 14th is the day for all that had experienced police brutality and murder needs to stand together on that day, and to say, 'No more.' This can not stand and we can not accept this as business as usual, and we can not stand by and let this continue. This is not about your "line", and we might not agree. But this is bigger than that and ourselves, and on April 14th, that's where we must make our stand together despite the differences, and call this out vigorously and loudly. That's all I need to say. Thank you!"

Uncle Bobby—"Genevieve is back and the sister, the investigator, Brenda, had mentioned, what are the next levels, and there are actually several I just real quickly and briefly; I'll just throw out really quick, 'cause we definitely want to hear the testimony first and then have the discussion afterward. But definitely the next level is about education. In 1980 when the crack was dropped in our neighborhoods, many of our children today that are in the struggle don't know nothin' about their history, they are left dormant at that time period. And so, we have to understand that that is true and that we have to begin to educate our children; that's critical.

But also, Emmett Till, when he was killed, he was killed by Roy Bryant and his brother in law. They owned a grocery store. So we heard the word boycott, but what we have to understand is that black folks just here in the United States spend \$1.2 trillion/year. If we pull our money back, we have a powerful effect. (Applause) When the people in that community of Roy Bryant that killed Emmet Till pulled their money from that store, although they weren't convicted, they put them out of business. You hear what I'm sayin'? That was an economic hit, and that was just a couple of pieces.

But critically, and the other part of it is we can not be afraid to talk about the second amendment--the right to bear arms. Now, what I'm sayin' behind that is that we have a right to defend ourselves. There are coalitions right now that are training out here in various areas of even Cleveland on how to maneuver in a combat situation. But we are forgettin' that we need to begin to teach our babies on how to protect their families, how to become responsible enough to say, 'You know what? If you're gonna come to my house with a wrongful act, how do I respond?' And, the sister, Brenda, educating our children on understanding what law is, is critical. You know these are just a couple of things, but one of the ones we haven't tried yet, but to a degree it has been tried is understanding what our second amendment right is." (Applause)

Jeremy Brustein—"Yes, my name is Jeremy, and back in, Jeremy Brustein. Back in 1981 I was handcuffed in a police station and beaten brutally, and as people probably realize, it wasn't because I was black. So, let me tell the story in terms of what lead up to that. I was actually on a protest on Memorial Day, denouncing all the wars that the US had fought and the wars that they were preparing to fight. And, we organized a contingent to go into the patriotic contingent

they were having in opposition to glorifying these predatory wars that the U.S. has. And, we did it and it was tremendously successful. This was downtown and it really drew forward many, many people who actually agreed with this. And actually it shut down their protest.

I was on my own about a half a block away, selling the *Revolutionary Worker*, the predecessor to *Revolution* newspaper. And the cop, seeing me on my own, grabbed me, threw me in a police car. I had no idea why I was being arrested. I was driven by other policemen to the precinct when this motorcycle cop who arrested me then came in and had me hand-cuffed and beat me with his baton, while another cop kept on saying, 'Don't beat him; that's what he wants.' I had to have my head shaved and stitched; I had multiple breaks in my jaw; they had to pull out 4 teeth; they broke my hand, dislocated it, and even with all that this is nothing compared to many of the stories, of course, that have come down.

I had so many phone calls in the aftermath of that, all by younger black people that wanted to testify to me, because they heard about this; it was in the news about what they had witnessed. One of the things I know they brought up was the fact that like myself, while I was in jail, they were all brought to St. Vincent's Hospital. I don't know if this is still true today; but I was dismissed, being told there was no problem with me after I was brought to St. Vincent's. They all said that the people of St. Vincent's had an agreement with the cops in terms of covering over what was happening. Soon as I was released from jail and went to the hospital, they wouldn't even let me go home because of all the breaks that would get infected, you know, into the core of my bone, and that it could lead to something terrible, and I had to stay in the hospital in order to recover.

So, you know, this is the way things get played out. And then when I found out what I was charged with you can all guess. It was assaulting a police officer. (Audience: "What?") And you actually had a police officer there who witnessed this whole thing, on the stand, testifying that nothing happened. In order to counter, a very young man who was a teen who wanted to testify that while he was a prisoner he witnessed what happened to me. And, just real quick on this, he was very young, he was white, very poor, was on, had skipped parole, had all kinds of problems that made his life vulnerable, and he told me he could not come to court because if he did, he knew he would be put into jail. He showed up the day of my trial and said he couldn't live with himself if he didn't testify. And then these other cops were brought forward to counter his testimony saying nothing happened.

I just want to say in terms of this question of good cop, bad cop? I mean, actually if there's a cop wants to be a good cop, it's not a matter of not killing somebody. It's a matter of actually stepping out (Applause) and denouncing all the cops who are killing, exposing them and telling the world about the crimes that are happening. My experience, I think like anybody else's, it's even the cops who are standing there saying, 'Don't beat him, he wants that.' are the same cops who in the court basically testified that nothing actually happened.

And from my knowledge, the only cops who have ever done something like this, like the cop who stepped forward saying that the veteran cop in his car told him to shoot a black youth because it was a "freebie". This was in New York City because the black youth was running, and the cop told the new cop, 'Shoot him; he's a "freebie"', that he came forward and exposed this, and he had to leave the force. The only stories of cops who have actually come out and tried to be good, by denouncing this, and exposing this, have actually had to leave the force.

I just want to end by saying that back then, and also recently, because I was arrested for the protests against police brutality. You know, I've had folks come up to me, who have known me and then seen what happened to me and have questioned, like, is this wise? In terms of, you know, my family, and you know, the kinds of ways that this could actually put you in trouble? And, you know, when you think about the thing they are saying, the thing that is implicit in it is that 'because you're white, you can actually utilize the kind of privileges you have to just lay low and have none of this happen to you. Why would you step out and actually do something like that?'

And actually the way I want to answer this is by saying, by just relating a discussion I had in the neighborhood where Brandon was shot. But it was coming from a very different perspective, where I went up to one of the youth there, you know, to talk about April 14, and he was a youth like a lot of youth. He was kinds full of attitude and he kind of challenged me, 'What are you doing in this neighborhood? Have you ever been brutalized by the police?' And I understand that, where it comes from. When you live in a society where there's so much white supremacy and so much division, you can understand this question. And I said, 'Well, actually I have been brutalized by the police.' And I ran it down, and I said, 'Actually, though that means nothing because I would be here protesting even if I wasn't. Anybody who took any kind of moral stand, would have to come out and protest when they see a slow genocide happening to a people, when they see brutality and an injustice happening to a people you have to come out whether you've witnessed that yourself or not. And I think that that is profoundly true. And this is what I had brought to other people who are coming from a very different place than this black youth. They're coming from a place of how could you possibly make the sacrifice when in fact you can get by? And my answer really is how can you not? How can you possibly live with yourself in a world like this?'

So, I just want to conclude by saying that I think this is very wonderful that this is happening. I think it is very needed. I am a revolutionary communist. I very firmly believe we need a revolution to have a society where people can flourish in totally different relationships that get away from this, but I also believe that every single person, whether you agree with that or not agree with that, whether we argue about the question of what the goal is, we need to be out on the streets, protesting, having no business as usual, shutting things down, and struggling in every way we know to stop this injustice from happening.” (Applause)

Leah Lewis—“I want to invoke something quickly. I guess Alice is going to come forth; I want to thank you for your testimony. Because I know we often frame this as a black, brown, poor

issue, but as a minister, this is about the righteous versus the unrighteous. And we need to begin to identify people based on their moral character and behavior. Because it's going to take a multicultural army to deal with these issues. And if we alienate our brothers and sisters who are of European descent, we will be making a huge mistake. This gathering today is representative of multiculturalism. There are faces of every shade in this tribunal today. So, let us not be fooled basically into thinking this is a racial issue. It is on some level, but when we pierce the surface, if we puncture the perceptions, this is about the righteous who are willing to take on the unrighteous. Thank you.” (Applause)

Alice Ragland—“So, before our last person comes to testify, I want to make a few quick announcements: one, as we have been reminded, April 14 we're going to be meeting at the northeast corner of Public Square, where it's the Mall near the northeast corner of Public Square, and reading the names of people whose lives have been lost at the hands of the criminal justice system. There's a Teach-in that day. A lot of people are going to be doing workshops and presentations next to the Justice Center, starting at 9 am on April 14. Presentations about capitalism, racism, patriarchy, poverty, human rights, and that kind of thing. Most of the presenters are under 30. But we are going to be out there all day. Come and go as you please, if you can stop by, and then we are going to meet at Public Square, the northeast corner of Public Square at 3 o'clock for the rally.

And, also, we do have to leave this room, but if you do want to continue the discussion, I don't know which panelists are able to stay longer. Oh, OK, we don't have to leave the room, we just have to not use the mics. So, we'll probably just have an open discussion and everybody who's in the back will just come up, if you can't hear. And we'll just do, not necessarily a Q. and A., but just open discussion between yourselves and the panelists. Alright, now we're going to have Faheem, and this is the last person. Thank you all for coming.”

Faheem Khabeer—“How you all doin'”? I seen a lot of people been addressin' brutality, but a lot of people haven't been addressin' mass incarceration. Now, when I graduated from high school, I graduated from Banneker, which is across the street from Howard, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, French Honor Society, if they had a Honor Honor Society, I'd a been on that. So I end up gettin' caught up because I had to defend myself from someone that was tryin' to extort me. 'Cause I was in school, gettin' good grades and all o' that, but I still played around, you know. But still, you know, who doesn't? You know what I mean? Do a little somethin', this 'n that, and somebody tried to extort me. And they had just got released from prison from doin' 5 years for rapin' a friend o' mine when we were little kids. He said he had went in full body; his cousins had guns; they could kill and all this other stuff, you know, just came to me, like, just cold like he was goin' to man to manish me off, so I defended myself. But there is no self- defense law in D.C. period. No, none, point blank.

And so, went in front of 'em, instead of them givin' me the youth act, 'cause I had no charges, no previous, matter fact I was in the front page of the Metro section of the Washington Post, because the Children's Defense Fund had given me this prestigious award, called the Beat the

Odds award. Which is only given out, they only give it out, like 10 people in the whole country get it; it's just, it's just...um, way up there. But when they got me, they said, 'We got one, not gonna let him go.' They threw the whole book at me. Everything they could, they threw the whole thing, I didn't get no charges, I got the worst that they could give me, plus a year, you know? And that's where they messed up at.

Because when they put me inside of the prisons, it was like I hadn't seen that side of men before, you know what I mean? Because on the streets everybody was like this 'n that, but what I saw is that a lot of the dudes that was feared, a lot o' the dudes that was out there, they didn't know how to read; they didn't know how to write. And it's an epidemic.

So, people were talkin' about solutions, the solution is care. The solutions is gettin' back into these neighborhoods and showin' these kids, like, "Hey, man, we care about ya'll." Right now I got a youth media program. Now, first, let me tell you what happened. D.C. was closin' the prison down. So, they was closin' down Lorton; they sent everybody to Youngstown, Ohio. This was supposed to be a medium security prison, but they just so pressed for money, that's it. They just want the money. They sent, D.C. sent the people that were on 23 1/2-hour lock-down to the private prison in Youngstown, Ohio. I was on the second load. I was doin' 3-10. The dude next to me got life in Pennsylvania, 99 years in Maryland, 5-15 in D.C. It is no way in the world I'm supposed to be around this caliber of criminals.

Then, not only that, they had no trainin' in prison. They left all the cell doors open 24 hours a day in between all the pods. You could get anything you want. You could get a Play Station; you could get a TV. And this was people that just got off of 23 1/2 hour lock-down. People was gettin' guns in the, in the, in the, yeah, they stopped one, because guns, they sendin'...It got so reckless, people sendin' guns in peanut butter. You know what I mean, till they....

Then one big thing happened is one of the guards got to talkin' to dudes, they opened up...7 dudes escaped. Do ya'll remember when this happened? In Youngstown? I was up there. We got the largest class action lawsuit in the history of the world. The way we were tortured after that happened, was ridiculous. I mean I've never experienced anything like that. I knew slavery was real after I'd been through that. It was no question to me that slavery exists, 'cause I lived it for real. It's like, it's no games. It's like slavery? No! It is slavery, and I'm a survivor, of it, so I know. I was naked, shackled like this, with the shock shields behind me. I was, degraded like beyond..., I was, starved, they shut, they shut, they shut the water off for weeks. We were sittin' in there, like, havin' to smell our own defecation, and they fed us nothin' but cheese, and bread. This was like, can you imagine around the time of terrorism hit, 9/11, you, you can't get out, you know what I mean? You can't get out?

When I saw that thing that happened at Katrina, I felt so bad for those prisoners, 'cause I know all of them drowned, right there in them bars. I know they saw all the water comin' up; I know they saw they life slippin' away from them. And these things, man, are so painful; and, it's every day. It's happenin' right now. When I see that little boy that was on that leash, you

know what I'm sayin'? That was just on the paper like that? I know that's happenin' right over there on Quincy right now. These little kids do not belong in the same prison with grown seasoned criminals. That's wrong. You don't put little kids in no prison with no grown men. You don't do that. (Audience or panelist: "When was that?") When was what? The boy? ... that was in Georgia. The boy got in there in March. He wasn't in there but for about a few days and then they tried to jump him with a gang. 10 dudes jumped on top of him; he didn't want to join the Folks. So, they beat him, they beat him, beat him down, and then took a picture of it and it was on Facebook, with him, they got him on a leash, you know what I mean?

But these things, this is happenin' right now, you know what I'm sayin'? And the thing is my solution is, I got started a youth media program where I'm teachin' the kids how, how to use the photo equipment, video equipment, this 'n that, so that they can have their own voice, you know what I'm sayin'? I'm teachin' them, like, we see what recording devices are doin' now, you know what I mean? Now, imagine them really knowin' how to operate this to cut, put music with it, this 'n that. This is what I want them to do. I want them to learn how to use their video equipment to help another business. Look, this is how you help this business. Now, if you help this business make money, you know what I'm sayin'? Other people gonna say, 'Oh, he know how to help these businesses make money.' Your business can be like my business, which is to help other people get business, you know what I mean? So if we start teachin' them at a young age, start 'em off at a young age, showin' 'em that we care, that erases a lot o' that. It builds up a confidence.

I see these kids walkin' around, and like, dead in the eyes. I mean I don't even see, like, really no hope really there. I'm like, where's the bright, I don't see no bright eyes, you know what I mean? We need to put that bright eye back into the kids. They have to see hope. They have to see, oh, these people care. And then when you have a neighborhood like that? The police can't come into a place like that, when everybody knows each other.

The way that that Tamir thing was supposed to go down is the police was supposed to know who he was, and who his mother was, and pull up, and be like, 'Boy, what you out here playin' with them guns for, don't make me call your mother.' That's what it was supposed to be. 'Don't make me call your mother.' 'Oh, my fault, officer, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. You know, I just got carried away.' That's how it was supposed to be, you know what I mean? This stuff that's goin' on right now where people don't know each other, if they don't know nobody in the neighborhood, they don't belong policin' that neighborhood. That's how I feel. You don't belong in my neighborhood if you didn't know nobody in it, because you don't know nobody. You don't know nothin' about the neighborhood or the history or the culture or nothing. You don't belong there; that's just how I feel."

(Genevieve Mitchell: "Young brother Faheem, brother Faheem, I know your very brilliant mother, Berle Khabeer, by way of Brandeis and all o' that, and your Harvard-educated father is the bomb, and God bless you, and I know all about the cancer award you won when you graduated high school, that was given to you in Washington, D.C., by the Children's Defense

Fund. I just want to recognize you and say it's so good to meet you finally in person, and put the face with the name. God bless you.” (Applause))

Ed Little—“Brother Faheem, I just want to say a few words with regard to mass incarceration. As I stated earlier, I served 14 years in prison, and one of the things that people need to understand who are part of this movement is that the prison system in this country is the greatest purveyor of violence that goes unnoticed in this country. And so, if we are really serious about uncovering injustice and ending mass incarceration and standing up for right, we have to put a microscope on America's prisons. Because if you think the atrocities we see out here on these streets are bad, what they do behind prison walls where there are no cameras, where there are no witnesses, where everybody in there is considered to be, not to have credibility, you can not even imagine the atrocities that take place behind prison walls. And we have to organize as a community, as a nation, around unveiling and uncovering the injustices that take place in America's prison system. So along with dealing with the use of force and the police brutality out here, we have to deal with the police brutality that happens behind prison walls.”

Genevieve Mitchell—“It is absolutely true and it needs to be acknowledged and talked about for a very long time. When grown men in prison go to take showers and they find the head of another human being decapitated on the floor of the shower with his penis in his mouth and eyes cut out and his ears cut out and his nose cut out and his tongue cut out, and this is happening in America's prisons. It preceded Abu-Graib, and it is disgusting, it is a reality. Tax payers, you're payin' for it, and it needs to stop. It needs to stop. It's happening to women. Shame on them for putting our young children, under 17 years old in an adult prison. Shame on them.

You know, shame on these privatized prisons that are connected to these corporations that are having the prisoners sew the clothes we buy and the upholstery that goes in our airline, airplanes, and our cars, and shame on them for, you know, Kentucky Fried Chicken and the rest of them that are in collusion with CCA, and contribute to the campaigns of our congressmen and our senators. And allow them and their lobbyists to continue to fortify and hold up these prisons so that these shareholders can have black and poor white and poor Hispanic and any other fill these beds so that they can have money to send their children to college and for their chauffeur-driven limousines and for their trips overseas. Shame on these people. Shame on these people! You know, shame on them, because you know, this is what is happening every day in these prisons. People are being murdered. It's being covered up. Shame on them!”

Uncle Bobby--“I was gonna add, brother Faheem, I'm not sure if you were gonna say this. And maybe you were; or you said it and I just didn't hear it. But you said when you went in, one of the things you experienced was that these brothers that were locked up didn't have no education. They couldn't read; they couldn't write. And knowin' who you are now, right? Is that what you gave 'em? 'Cause when I heard the word care, I felt like that not only were you in there, but that you were providin' them somethin' that they needed, and that was the care of

understanding of how to learn to read, how to learn to write, how to learn to express yourself. So, just a quick question?”

Faheem Khabeer—“Yeah, yeah, yes, that's what basically I was doin'. I would read people they Korans, they Bibles, letters to they family, writing back, 'cause some people didn't know how to write. And then when the classrooms were set up, I was actually teaching it. And then when we got transferred to, what was it, Greenville, North Carolina? Greenville, South Carolina, something like that. We were supposed to be released. We got our pink slips, and usually you get released 3 months before. And they told me, ‘Oh, no, you can't be released because you got a violent charge.’ And I said, ‘Hold on, but the government, the people that told me, you know what I'm sayin', that's responsible for me being here said I could leave.’ They said, ‘No, we're not letting you leave, this institution.’ which was Wackenhut. And I said, ‘Hold on, that doesn't even make sense.’ So, what I did was, I picked up my pen and I wrote Eleanor Holmes Norton and I said, ‘They are keeping me here for an extra 90 days, so that's, every day was (I think it was) \$50 a day.’ I said, ‘Multiply this \$50 times the 90, and multiply that 90 times the 2000 inmates that's over here under this; that's how much they're milkin' ya'll for money.’ I was gone in 2 days, and I took 2000 people with me.” (Applause and laughter.)

Uncle Bobby—“See, and that's just plain. And that's just echoing what we need in our community, you know, and that's that love and that care that you spoke of, and it just really shows just how we can do it in our community, when we engage our young people, and that's why I truly believe, well, Frederick Douglass has a quote that I truly love, and that is, ‘It is easier to build strong children than it is to repair broken men.’ You know what I'm sayin'? So, what you're doin' is brilliant, thank you.

For the younger brothers that are in here, we have to take up leadership, because when Dr. McKinney said we have to take it to a different level, it has to be done by the young people, yourselves, and others like yourselves that have that experience to share with the world, the real history of what's goin' on. You know, and I believe my brother here had talked a little bit about it. What crimes have the United States committed? That has to be exposed. 'Cause many of us families, when we enter into the criminal justice system, right? We really come in thinkin' that we goin' to get some justice. We really do. And we be the first one that says, ‘Please, no violence; we're a non-violent family. No violence. Let us get our day in court so we can get this justice, 'cause it's clear that my nephew didn't do anything wrong.’ And then we get kicked in the face. And we come to a different political belief, and understanding on how the system works. Institutionalized racism in the criminal justice system is real.

This country is hemorrhaging on the criminal justice system, because it's still maintaining a slavery system in its full essence of its existence, and so we have to be clear about that. And though we didn't talk a lot about the prison industrial system, however, it's directly connected to this police brutality and terrorism that we see every day.”

Genevieve Mitchell—“Let me just say this really quick: Please get a copy of this book from the ACLU. This is going to give you a very succinct overview of the incestuous relationship, the parasitic relationship, between wealthy shareholders, CCA, and Wackenhut, that control most of the privatized prisons and are petitioning congressmen and senators to turn all of the prisons into privatized systems. There was one prison, I believe in New Mexico, with women and many of them ready to get out, because the shareholders insisted on getting a better return on their investment, they illegally increased the sentences of most of the women in the prison, so that those that were ready to get out had to stay 1 and 2 years additional because they need people in those beds. They need people in those beds so that they can get the reimbursements from the state through the taxpayers. Through the taxpayers; you're paying for this.”

Alice Ragland—“Ok, so we do have one more person, last minute sign-up. This is the last person, promise. We are going to continue the discussion with the panelists who can stay. And one more announcement that I forgot before, is that Uncle Bobby is going to be giving a talk at Oberlin tonight at 8:30, 126 Forest St. That's called the Afrikan Heritage House. So, if you're interested and don't mind going to Oberlin College, to hear him speak about his experiences more extensively, please join him at Oberlin tonight. Oh, and after she goes, you guys, if you want to stay for the discussion, please just move closer to the panel and we can continue it. But this is our last testifier.”

Josephine Smith—“My name is Josephine Smith and I hope I'm finding everyone doing well today, despite all the pain that we 've been through, regarding these matters, and, I don't really know where to start right now, because it has been, I have several instances of police harassment, not to mention attempted brutality. For one thing I would like to start, whereas to I was approached by RTA police, and this was in or about April, 2011, April 11, actually, 2011. And strangely enough, I know I'm meant to be here because this is the anniversary of that, the 4-year anniversary of when this first happened.

And what had happened, I had complained about RTA police approaching me in a typically a kind of violent way for no apparent reason, because now they stand around bus stations and harass people for no apparent reason. They check transfers and they give people tickets over being one minute late on their tickets, for example.

But to make a very long story short, I entered Tower City on that date, 4 years ago, and was having a little trouble finding my disabled bus pass at that time, and was approached by one of the police, whose badge number I do have. He remembered me from having complained about him before. And so, as I was looking for my bus pass, I wasn't moving fast enough for him, and so, he and approximately 6 other officers who remembered me from complaining before; I have witnesses to the fact. And began going through my bags, grabbing on my things, you know, trying to provoke me to anger so that they would have a reason to arrest me and go forth with brutality. And so, someone offered, because I only pay \$2.50 on the bus, a gentleman offered to the other \$2.50, because they wouldn't of course allow you to pay \$2.50 if you don't have your pass yet; they were rushing me so that I couldn't find it, because they were looking for a reason

to arrest me of course. And so they pushed this gentleman back that had offered to pay the additional \$2.50, which would be a regular fare, for anyone that's familiar, that rides the bus and train, and they ended up giving me a ticket, because of course I complained about them harassing me, knowing instinctively that it was harassment.

And ever since, actually prior to that, they have followed myself and my fiancé, before he was thrown in jail over an argument, and he is now in Grafton prison over an argument, no blows were passed, and has been there since October 10.

And so, the gist of it is that I have false charges behind my name now, per RTA. And, moving a little more expeditiously forward, because I know we're a little short on time, I also want to speak about an instance that happened 7606 New York Avenue, where I was renting. Called the police to try to stop what was going to be a physical attack against my person, knowing that I had these false charges behind my name. Once they get you in the system, they know who you are, of course, they have cameras everywhere now. And so, big brother's everywhere, and to make a very long story short, after having called them, they didn't show that time. But they did come about 2 weeks later, this is after a landlord, well, a would-be landlord had taken an amount of money and was just violating my rights all over the place, and just stealing from me and whatnot.

Ultimately when the police did come, I had to complain about them to the Office of Professional Standards, which, of course, didn't do much good. And so they again remembered me and assisted this would-be landlord in stealing all of my worldly possessions. I had a lot of things in the room, all new items, approximately 50 plus boxes of new merchandise, and I was planning to move from that location at 7606 New York Avenue. But when they came this particular evening, I can really relate to the gentleman that was thrown into St. Vincent Charity Hospital because what they do after they violated your rights, which is what they ultimately did, in telling me that I had to leave the property and leave all of my belongings there, unattended with this landlord, that I knew was going to take them, they then put me in the hospital, and this was November of 2011, so it was an eventful year. This is just to name a few.

I am absolutely am very concerned about my fiancé. At this particular point he again is in Grafton jail, over an argument, and has absolutely no business being there. And I feel that these instances are connected, from my own personal experience. For anyone that's ever been through these type of things, you know instinctively that you're not crazy. Your discernment is sharp. You know when you leave out your door as I have on many nights and you see RTA 2-ton trucks passing by slowly in the town home community that I live in, no matter what time I take my garbage out, it's the same truck. Forms of intimidation are still coming at myself and were coming at my fiancé before he was jailed, and wrongfully imprisoned. And this is just to name a few, mind you.

But a very popular thing by the police is to try to deem you crazy or psychologically unstable so that your, hopefully in their opinion, your future testimony and or

pursuit of justice against them will be nullified. Because they feel that when they can deem you crazy, they feel that people will not listen to you. But you know that you are not crazy; you know what you see, and just as in the case of Rodney King, and a nation was told that our eyes didn't see what they actually saw, this situation has played it itself out to be one in the same.

And I am absolutely not going to stop until justice is served, not just for myself, but my fiancé. 'Cause I am just very moved by the testimonies here today, and I am one person that does care. And I feel that we can join together. And we will change things if we stick together in this, people of all nationalities that have experienced this kind of injustice and brutality. And I am looking forward to positive change, and I will do everything in my power to help whenever I can.

I just wanted to give that testimony and just to shed a little light on what my fiancé and I are experiencing. (Panelist/audience: "What is he in prison for?") He had an argument with a relative over his monies that they were misusing. He had a payee and he'd expressed that he wanted her to be removed because she was stealing from him. (Audience: more questions) He didn't get a chance because what she did was she actually called the police on him. She planned it, called me, left a message and said, (Audience: continuing questions) well, she lied and said he did. Yes, absolutely, and then she left a message on my relative's voicemail, saying that he won't help you now, will he? So, yes, this is what has been going on.

And very briefly, this is also a cover-up because I was falsely accused by a store chain and I have instinctively, and do have witnesses to the fact that they have been harassing, you know, the people that I do have as a witness and he was a witness for me in that matter, and it was Target stores, just to name one. So, thank you all very much." (Applause)

Alice Ragland—"Thank you all so much for coming to the People's Tribunal on Police Brutality. If you are interested in engaging in a discussion, you're welcome to come up to the front. So, thank you so much for your presence here."

The End

The People's Tribunal on Police Brutality

12-4 pm, Saturday, April 11, 2015

Room 201, Main Classroom Bldg., Cleveland State University
Cleveland, Ohio

Introducing the Panelists:



Cephus "Uncle Bobby" Johnson is the Uncle of Oscar Grant. He is a community activist, social justice advocate, and community organizer. He was the founder of the Oscar Grant Foundation in 2010, and in July of 2014 he transferred leadership to Oscar Grant's mother, Wanda Johnson.

As a continuation of his work in the Oscar Grant Foundation, he co-founded the Love Not Blood Campaign in July 2014. The Love Not Blood Campaign is a grassroots, community advocacy organization for families of victims of police brutality, mass incarceration, and community violence.

Uncle Bobby has been a resource for families, such as those of Ramarley Graham, Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis, Alan Blueford, Michael Brown, and many, many more across this country. His advocacy work within the Bay Area community put the 1st Police Officer in California State history in jail.

Uncle Bobby was a key consultant in the production of the critically-acclaimed movie, "Fruitvale Station".

<https://twitter.com/lovenotblood1>

<http://www.lovenotbloodcampaign.com/>

<https://twitter.com/cephusjohnson?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/lovenotbloodcampaign.org>

Ed McKinney, Professor emeritus, was on the faculty of the School of Social Work at Cleveland State University from 1981 to 2012.

Dr. McKinney has contributed globally as an educator and scholar as a Fulbright professor in Botswana and Kenya. He was invited back to Botswana during the academic year 2008-2009 as a Senior Scholar in Residence, in the Department of Social Work. It was during this academic year that his current research, “Africa’s Response to a Growing Older Population: A Policy Perspective,” was conceptualized while teaching an aging seminar class.

Dr. McKinney has and continues to participate in a number of community organizations covering all age groups, many related specifically to the older population, such as, Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services, Western Reserve Area Agency Aging, and COOP (Council of Older Persons).



Leah C.K. Lewis, J.D., M.Div., is a minister, councilwoman, and writer with a history in social justice advocacy and community organizing. Follow her on Twitter @HumanStriving and on SoundCloud.com/Reverend-Leah-CK-Lewis.



Genevieve Mitchell is a public servant, community activist, social justice advocate and organizer. Mitchell is director of the Black Women's Center, a grassroots, community organization for Black women and families. She is author of the little book, *Africa: Messages to Black Women* (1992), Associate Producer of The Carl Stokes Forum (a cable TV broadcast), writes and publishes the Blackboard newsletter and the Brigade publication. Email: the_blackboard@yahoo.com



Edward Little is a public policy professional with 14 years of knowledge and experience. He is passionate about criminal justice policy reform, and bringing an end to the over-criminalization of communities of color.

Mr. Little has worked successfully to reverse long-standing racially disparate policies. He worked with other civil and human rights leaders to bring an end to a 23-year-old policy that unfairly saddled approximately 35,000 African American Cleveland residents with felony convictions for drug possession, instead of a misdemeanor for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Little is dedicated to being a strong advocate for change in communities of color that are negatively impacted by discriminatory policing policies and practices, as well as being a powerful voice for lasting reform long after the consent decree has been signed, executed and the DOJ has completed their work.



Bill Swain writes for and distributes Revolution newspaper, voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (RCP). He has been a revolutionary activist for decades, part of the movement to stop U.S. wars of aggression, to stop patriarchy, to stop attacks on immigrants, to stop the destruction of the environment and more. Bill organized days of protest with October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation since its founding in 1996. For decades he has stood with families of victims of police murder and abuse to say NO MORE! Over the past few years, he has helped in the campaign to get Bob Avakian (Chairman of the RCP) and his new synthesis of communism out far and wide for people to check out and dig into. Bill is working now on having a massive outpouring of "NO BUSINESS AS USUAL" resistance on April 14th to stop police killing of black and brown people.

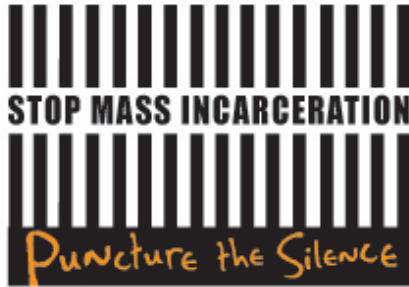


Shemariah Arki is an experienced education professional. She currently serves as co-founder of Excellence Management Group, a consultancy that helps clients achieve operational excellence. As a doctoral candidate in the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University, her dissertation focuses on teacher preparation in the wake of #blacklivesmatter. Shemariah is a mom of two boys, Solomon and Malcolm, and enjoys being the team mom for football, basketball, and soccer.

Introducing the MC:



Alice Ragland is an organizer with the Ohio Student Association and Puncture the Silence. She is passionate about ending the criminalization of people of color and challenging the dominant narrative that works to justify human rights violations against people of color. A two-time graduate of Ohio University, she has a Bachelor's Degree in Creative Writing & Journalism and a M.Ed. in Critical Studies in Education, with an emphasis on racial, gender and class inequality in the U.S. educational system. She has led cultural competency and anti-oppression workshops for students, and she plans to create more programs for youth based on personal identity development, environmental stewardship, and activism. When Alice is not working, you might catch her playing her flute in a jam session, performing her poetry, or spending time with her friends and family.



PTS-SMI Background

Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration was formed in April, 2014, by a small group of women in a living room in Cleveland Hts., Ohio. We had been very disgusted by the Trayvon Martin and other cases, and we had read The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. We had also been inspired by the Stop Stop and Frisk effort in NYC. Carl Dix, a Revolutionary Communist, and Cornel West, a Revolutionary Christian, led that movement and also formed the Stop Mass Incarceration Network (SMIN). At our first meeting we decided to become an affiliate of SMIN and we endorsed their Call for Mass Resistance to Mass Incarceration, Police Terror and the Criminalization of a Generation in October, 2014. We basically took up Alexander's mandate to help foment a movement to change "the social discourse" around race in this country.

We held film-showings, went out to festivals and concerts and distributed the Call and got contact info from people who embraced this idea. In August Michael Brown's murder, and the defiant and determined resistance of the people of Ferguson, MO, changed everything. The killings of Eric Garner, John Crawford, Tanisha Anderson and Tamir Rice also occurred. October 22 saw a spirited march from the Women's Reintegration Center on E. 30th St. to Public Square. In October area churches hung an orange ribbon and heard sermons on stopping mass incarceration and police terror, and we held a Stop Mass Incarceration Art Show at the Art Palace on Kinsman Rd.

On November 25, the day after Officer Darren Wilson was exonerated in the killing of Michael Brown, 3 days after Tamir was shot, we led 300-350 mainly young people (75 students from Oberlin College) in blocking the intersection of Ontario and Superior avenues, marching thru town down E. 9th St. onto Highway Rte. 2, which we blocked for about an hour before returning to Public Square. Those kinds of demonstrations continued and were seen as the most militant, substantial, youthful demonstrations in Cleveland since the 1960s. Puncture the Silence played a huge part in calling for and leading them under the main banner of "Black Lives Matter".

A massive resistance grew, inspiring millions, and a new generation. The powers-that-be have tried to push the movement onto the defensive, but we will have none of that. The movement is at a crossroads—how do we maintain, broaden and deepen the initiative in the struggle for justice? People are pursuing various strategies even as we protest continued police killings, such as that of Brandon Jones and others in Cleveland, Walter Scott and others across the country. The People's Tribunal on Police Brutality, organized by Puncture the Silence, is closely linked to the April 14, No Business as Usual Day, called for by The Stop Mass Incarceration Network, and endorsed by Puncture the Silence.