

For Immediate Release
Monday, April 6, 2015

Press Conference to Announce the People's Tribunal on Police Brutality

Noon, Tuesday, April 7, 2015

In Front of the Main Classroom Bldg.
Cleveland State University
2121 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH

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

The local activist group Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration will be hosting a **People's Tribunal on Police Brutality from 12-4pm on Saturday, April 11, in room 201 of the Main Classroom Building at Cleveland State University. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.**

Victims of police abuse will be telling their stories to a distinguished panel, including: Oscar Grant's Uncle Bobby Johnson from the Bay Area; Ed McKinney, CSU Social Work Professor Emeritus; Genevieve Mitchell, director of The Black Women's Center; Ed Little, public policy consultant; writer/activist, Rev. Leah Lewis; Bill Swain from *Revolution* Newspaper; and Shemariah Arki of the Excellence Mgmt. Group.

The Tribunal is an integral component of a larger movement to Stop Mass Incarceration, Police Brutality and the Criminalization of a Generation. It is part of answering the call made by the Stop Mass Incarceration Network to “Stop Business As Usual” on April 14, in response to police murder of Black and Brown people across America.

Stories of injustice fuel any movement for justice. When stories of injustice are left untold, patterns of injustice go unrecognized and unopposed, and we cannot move forward as a society.

Historically People's Tribunals have been called to allow for the voices of those who have suffered abuses to be heard by respected members of the community. This is fundamentally different from the “listening tours” or hearings conducted by those in authority. A People's Tribunal allows those seeking justice to decide what to do with the testimony. It also shows people that there is a movement that wants to hear their stories and use them to advance the struggle for justice.

Puncture the Silence plans to present the testimony and the panel's findings to the Mayor of Cleveland, the Human Rights Commission of the UN, Amnesty International, and the Olympic Committee, giving evidence that, like most cities across the U.S., Cleveland is unsafe for Black athletes.

While walk-ins will be permitted to testify, those who would like to testify are encouraged to leave your name and number with the group ahead of time, by calling 216-396-8329 or emailing PunctureTheSilenceCLE@gmail.com.

Long-time local anti-police brutality activist, Art McKoy, has called the People's Tribunal on Police Brutality “one of the MOST important things happening today”. He feels those who have been brutalized need an opportunity to tell their stories to an audience who cares about what happened to them.

Contact:
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Puncture the Silence--Stop Mass Incarceration