

*Angry and Outraged Black Law Enforcement Professionals
Stand Up and Speak Out About the Murders of Black People by Police

“It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation. Not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people.” Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are a group of black, retired law enforcement professionals with decades of service in federal, state and municipal law enforcement systems with extensive experience in community policing and the criminal justice system. Although retired, we remain active and vocal personally and organizationally in national efforts of criminal justice reform to secure justice and equity for all Americans, but especially for those in marginalized, overpoliced communities of color.

We feel compelled to call out the horrific, unjustified and disproportionate murders, violence and abuse against black men, women and children by police. To say that we are shocked, appalled and disgusted is an understatement.

We can now add the murder of Ahmaud Arbery to the never-ending list of black men, women, and youth profiled, confronted, shot and killed by white men. Some by police officers on the job. Some by those who pose as police officers under the guise of “neighborhood watch” groups. Others, off duty or retired police officers making citizens’ arrests in the name of their type of criminal justice.

Not since the Jim Crow South have we seen the level of aggressive audacity that has been displayed by mostly white men against black citizens. Jim Crow was a list of ill-conceived racist laws—it was the playbook by which an entire race of people was discriminated against, abused, and killed. The murders of Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery all have the common thread not just that the victims were citizens of color in this country or that their lives were taken by white men—it is that in each case either the victims themselves or a loved one attempted to defend their lives. An underlying tenet of Jim Crow then and the new Jim Crow now, is for a black person to be seen as a criminal, deserving of death, less than human, and devoid of any of the rights the privileged white in America take for granted.

People of color remain disproportionately arrested and incarcerated for minor offenses. We are assaulted or murdered at an alarming rate with sometimes little or no investigative effort or arrests made. What is most troubling, is this has been the case for generations with no relief. What is most surprising, is that America has yet to realize the error of this dynamic. What destroys one will destroy us all.

Many across all races and ethnicities express their shock and revulsion at this heinous behavior at the hands of bad policing and an unjust system. It was not until someone shouted “Black Lives Matter” that America deemed to talk about injustice, albeit defensively and reluctantly.

And in response, America demonized the movement, even going so far as labeling them black radicals. They were vilified. Racism is America's sickness. It affects all American citizens.

There must be justice and accountability for the violence and murders of black men, women and children by police. The racial disparities and inequities in our country are no longer tolerable. We have watched atrocities occur and listened when told that things would be different. We have listened when told that arrests would be made and convictions would occur regardless of who was involved. And we have listened when told that in America, all men are created equal. Today, it is painfully clear that those are just words.

We are asking black law enforcement professionals nationwide to "Stand Up and Speak Out" against intolerable, racist, unjust and unlawful behavior. "Stand Up and Speak Out" about the institutions that excuse, enable and reward violent, murderous behavior especially on the part of those who are sworn to protect and serve.

We are committing ourselves to a "Call to Action".

We are sick and tired of being sick and tired. Enough is enough

We call on our neighbors, our legislators, our celebrities, our athletes to stand with us.

It is time to demand truth to equal justice under the law.

It is time for #equalforall!

***"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." —
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,***

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