



SPEAK OUT NOW

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Indicted! – This Murderous System Must Go!

This system, the system of capitalism, we live under has indicted itself again. In the last two weeks it has freed two murderers and given the go-ahead to cops across the country to carry out their murderous activity. For some people the belief they might have had in the fairness of this system was shattered. First was the acquittal of Darren Wilson, the cop who gunned down Michael Brown. Then came the acquittal of Daniel Pantaleo, the New York City cop who suffocated Eric Garner using an illegal chokehold.

The complicity of those who maintain the order of this society – from the prosecutors and politicians to the police who maintain order on the streets – has been exposed. Their secret court system, known as grand juries, has been exposed as an official system of cover-ups used to acquit known murderers.

We have witnessed the use of the corporate media to try to distract people from the realities of the murder of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old Black youth who did not bow down to the authority of a white cop. Instead of being the victim of another racist police murder, Michael Brown was painted as the aggressor. He was portrayed as being a thief and a threat and responsible for his own death. And now Brown's stepfather is under investigation for his angry outburst following the announcement of this travesty of justice. The mask of justice was slipping.

With the acquittal of Daniel Pantaleo, the New York City cop who killed Eric Garner, the mask of justice was removed. This wasn't a matter of the orchestrated twisting of the facts that we saw in Mike Brown's case – challenging the statements or eyewitnesses and taking Wilson's pathetic whining as fact. The video of the murder of Eric Garner and his pleas for help, as he was being suffocated, were plain for all to see. And yet, in the secret court of the grand jury, Pantaleo was declared an innocent man. Even for some of those who deliver the news to us for their corporate masters, this was too much. They couldn't hide their disbelief and wondered out

loud how the murder of a man accused of selling cigarettes could not be a criminal act.

For many, the nature of this system, the racism that lies at the core of its functioning, comes as no surprise. But the open and blatant disregard for human life was more than many expected. The hundreds of thousands and millions who did not take to the streets contained their righteous anger. But wishing and hoping that officials who make promises to conduct investigations, provide cops with cameras and putting up healing centers will not change this reality.

Some people refused to be quiet and took to the streets across the country – in the hundreds and sometimes in the thousands. And, of course, out of frustration, some windows have been broken, stores looted and set on fire. The collateral damage is unfortunate. But, for many, the anger brought about by these state-sanctioned daylight lynchings burns hotter than fire.

The cops may slow down for a minute. But we know they will not stop. The system they are serving and protecting cannot allow this. The millions in prison, the millions imprisoned by a life of poverty, the millions who face the racism of this society in all its forms, the millions of young people whose future is being denied to them face an elite that places value on profits but not on human life. They are the same one percent that is in the process of destroying life on the planet. What more proof do we need?

The question we face now is what to do. These demonstrations are a start. We cannot hope for things to get better without actively forcing a change. The reality is that we can act and fight back. Workers do all the work to make the society run – we produce all the goods and provide all the services. We also have the power to make the system come to a halt, if we organize and use our power. Then it isn't any longer just a question of demonstrating from the outside – it is a question of stopping the monster system from the inside and putting something much better in its place.

The Police: To Serve and Protect Their System!

The militaristic response by the police to the rebellion in Ferguson and all over have shown the country and the world something all too familiar to poor and working class people – that the police are heavily armed and ready to use brutal force to put people down. The police are often represented as the good guys who only go after bad criminals who deserve any violence the police inflict on them. But during periods of social unrest the true nature of the police is revealed for all to see – they are an armed force serving the interests of those that rule this society. And today they are armed to the teeth.

Ever since 1990, a Department of Defense program (known as 1033) has been used to direct millions of dollars worth of military equipment to state and local police departments. This program started out giving away about one million dollars per year worth of equipment in 1990, but today it is over \$450 million per year – and increasing every year. In addition, after the 9/11 attacks, between 2002 and 2011, the Department of Homeland Security distributed over \$35 billion to state and local police forces throughout the U.S. Together these programs have equipped the police with state of the art killing machines, including grenade launchers, armed helicopters, machine guns, tanks, drones, explosive robots, full body armor and more.

Much of this new equipment has been used by growing SWAT teams. In 1980 SWAT teams across the U.S. were deployed only 3,000 times. Today there are over 50,000 deployments of SWAT teams per year – an increase of 1700 percent. Often they have been used to go after non-violent suspects, used to break up illegal poker games, a bar suspected of serving under-age drinkers, barber shops for operating without a license, and even used in raids on organized cockfights, once rolling a tank into the yard killing 100 birds. Even as violent crime rates have fallen in the U.S., the militarization of the police has only kept increasing.

The police are the ultimate line of defense for those who own the wealth of this society. Poverty, racism, fear, legal threats, the courts – when these are not enough to keep working people down, when we still find the strength and confidence to organize our own forces, then the role of the police is shown as clear as day.

There weren't always police on every street corner with the power to stop, search, and harass people in the name of the law. For most of human history, daily issues of society were settled by people themselves, in their communities. Police forces were first introduced by governments controlled by the wealthy, not to protect people but to protect the wealth and property of the rich from the threat of the masses of people.

There is a reason the militarization of the police is continuously increasing. No matter how much they train, the working class will always outnumber them. But we have to begin to organize our forces.



***No More Police Murder
We Are Right To Be Angry
We Are Right To Protest
Begin to Get Organized
Talk with your friends, family,
and co-workers.***

***Come Out Saturday
December 13th
2pm 14th /Broadway
Oscar Grant Plaza
Oakland***