

## National Day of Protest 2023: Fists Across America Unite to Fight against Police Violence and Terror



For this year's **National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation**, we call on everyone who is concerned about the continued surge in killings and brutality by law enforcement against people in the U.S. to join us on **October 22, 2023** for **Fists Across America: Unite to Fight against Police Violence and Terror**. As we witness this pandemic of police killings, the majority of victims receive neither justice nor mechanisms by which they can pursue justice for their loved ones. While there are many views on how justice will be won, we are united in the conviction that real change comes from the people, rising up together in our millions.

The killing of Mike Brown in 2014 kicked off the resurgence of a nationwide protest movement. Fed by the social media explosion of the early 2000s and the mass sharing of video evidence of police violence, cities and towns across the country saw protests against police brutality proliferating in ways not seen in decades. The possibilities for fundamental change began to seem more real and within our grasp than they had in a long time.

In the summer of 2020, following the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, we saw a mass uprising of outrage and action that spread nationwide quickly and caught the whole system off guard. For several exhilarating months, protests lit up big cities and even small towns, bringing together people from all walks of life into a powerful collective uprising. While the October 22nd Coalition has long said that no part of the country is unaffected by police violence, starting in the summer of 2020, no part of the country was unaffected by an explosion of all forms of protest. We never cease to be profoundly inspired by the possibilities for systemic change unleashed by these protests.

However, the protests did not happen without opposition. On the one hand, they were attacked by law enforcement as well as racist vigilante groups in emboldened ways we haven't seen in many years. On the other hand, the movement often found itself undermined, diverted and stalled by system-approved reforms that were never designed to stop daily police terror in the first place. What made 2020 so powerful was that for several inspiring months, the people's outrage at the built-in injustice of this system could not be contained.

The [systemic targeting of people by police](#) persists, and until there is a unified national front fighting against these conditions, the epidemic of police terror will continue to escalate. This system is unrelenting in developing means to [keep people from rising up TOGETHER](#), from building alliances across all social lines to bring about the end of police violence and the occupation-like police presence in Black and Brown and poor communities. From the Right, it mobilizes violent racist mobs like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, while from the Left, this system fragments our movements through funding and promises of access to power, none of which ever seems to stop the cops from killing. The system recognizes that its very end is contingent on a national organized movement, and that is exactly what we intend to bring forth.

We are witnessing sustained attacks on protesters:

- The outrageous criminal charges against the African People's Socialist Party
- The murder of the young activist Tortuguita at the Stop Cop City protests and the raid on the solidarity fund
- The threat of lengthy prison terms under RICO charges to those fighting against the proposed Cop City

We understand that Cop City is only designed to increase repression and violence against the people. If it is allowed to be built, it will give a green light to other law enforcement agencies across the country to use this model to keep its boot on the backs of oppressed communities and anyone who resists that oppression. Meanwhile, the system refuses to prosecute, convict and imprison killer cops.

We must prepare for the next uprising in ways that cannot so easily be contained, and forge networks of solidarity and struggle that stay focused on building people's strength at the grassroots level to resist the violence happening against us on a daily basis. This will take work and protracted struggle among all of us with various backgrounds and outlooks united in the demand to end police terror, state repression and criminalization of our communities. The powers-that-be are uneasy over the fact that many of us [see eye to eye](#) on how there is something rotten with this system. The National Day of Protest (NDP) is a crucial way to lay the groundwork for the grassroots struggle on a national scale.

To organize a sustainable long-term movement, we are asking you to join and support the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Coalition by:

1. Mobilizing a National Day of Protest 2023 [action](#) in your town (rallies, marches, educational sessions, speakouts, film screenings, live art, etc.)
2. [Joining](#) the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation to work toward building a National Emergency Response Network to oppose new law enforcement atrocities as they occur
3. Standing in solidarity with [Stolen Lives](#) families and loved ones to stop police murder once and for all.

This October 22<sup>nd</sup>, stand with thousands across the country to express our collective outrage, creativity, and resistance in response to the crimes of this system. Take part in the [Fists Across America project](#). Join us if there is already an NDP event in your area. Create one if you are in an area where there is currently no one organizing.

Hit the streets for NDP 2023! Raise your fists across America and unite and fight police violence and terror!

**COP CITY WILL NOT BE BUILT!**

**NO MORE STOLEN LIVES!**

**On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, WEAR BLACK, FIGHT BACK!**

For more information, see [october22.org](https://october22.org).

Email [oct22national@gmail.com](mailto:oct22national@gmail.com) to provide details of an action.



The [mission](#) of the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation is to mobilize those directly under the gun of police terror, alongside those who are relatively immune to state violence, to derail the atrocities of police brutality, mass incarceration, and political repression. Since 1996, this has been realized through organizing for a National Day of Protest every year on October 22nd.

In a time when we are witnessing a sharp return to open white supremacy, and a fascist movement both inside and outside of government, the Coalition is building a network to respond quickly across the country through protests and other actions, strengthening people's ability to resist, and creating better conditions for fundamental social change.