

WEAR BLACK!

November 2001

The Newsletter of the National Office of the October 22nd Coalition for a National Day of Protest to STOP Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation

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OVERVIEW

October 22, 2001, the 6th annual National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation (NDP), represented a tremendous victory for our Coalition and for the movement to stop police brutality. Despite the increasing police attacks on protesters, including the attack on NDP 2000 in LA, despite the repressive atmosphere with the government enacting laws and policies that target immigrants and restrict rights, despite the climate being enforced that law enforcement should be considered immune from criticism and in the wake of the destruction of the World Trade Center and in the midst of the US bombing of Afghanistan, NDP 6 October 22nd, 2001 was marked by spirited and determined protests all across the US.

This year on October 22nd, many family members of police murder victims courageously took to the streets to indict the authorities for stealing the lives of their loved ones. Again this year, the youth poured into the streets to express their rage at being treated like criminals. Mumia's case was brought powerfully into the streets on October 22nd in many cities. And on October 22nd, as the government targeted immigrants for detention and other extra legal attacks and the US borders were being locked down, our coalition released the Spanish language version of Stolen Lives.

October 22, 2001, was marked by marches, rallies, vigils, cultural events, teach ins, speak outs and more. More than 5000 people participated in the events held around the country this year, and many of the reports emphasized how spirited and determined these events were. And the reports are still coming in.

The fact that we mounted a powerful, nationwide NDP in this situation is of tremendous significance. The atmosphere being created by the government has caused some protests planned for this period to be cancelled or postponed. Some of the reports on October 22nd activities noted that there was more heckling and hostile comments this year than in previous years. Some who know police brutality is a serious problem decided it was not the right time to march against police brutality because the police are now being praised as heroes. Police brutality as an issue of concern was being swept under the rug for others who don't experience it 24-7. The government has cynically used peoples' concern for security to reassert practices like racial profiling,

which had been widely discredited among many, many people.

Also in several cities, the authorities denied requests for permits for Oct 22nd events or delayed issuing them. A couple of times they cited the need for heightened security because of Sept. 11th as the reason for doing this. In Chicago and the San Francisco area battles against these denials of permits made it possible to unite even more forces into the mobilization for NDP and to get even more press coverage. At the same time, the fact that whether the events would have "legal" sanction was in question as October 22nd approached may have also held down turnout.

For all of these reasons, it took more determi-



Efia Nwangaza of the national executive committee of Oct 22nd and Dorothy Copp-Elliott, mother of Archie Elliot who was murdered by police in Maryland, participated in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa and distributed Oct 22nd materials there.



nation for people to come out on Oct. 22nd and be a part of taking on police brutality and the whole repressive atmosphere that is being enforced. By persevering in marking NDP 6, our coalition and everyone who took to the streets on that day gave heart to many other people who see how foul much of what is being done today is and want to fight it. We've let others know that it is possible to continue resisting. We have already seen that this message is hitting home to people. At NDP events in several cities, people reported being told by others that they were glad we did this. The impact of what was done on Oct. 22, 2001, will potentially be felt for years to come. This all shows that what we said in our national statement on the

events of Sept. 11th was right on time — October 22, 2001, was more important than ever!

Goals of NDP 6, Oct. 22nd, 2001

At its national meeting in Los Angeles, our coalition set a number of goals for October 22, 2001. Key among these were:

- 1** Continuing and building on the central roles that family members and youth have played at all the NDP's;
- 2** Giving more focus to dealing with Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, which are a part of what October 22nd was formed to take on,
- 3** Integrating dealing with brutality directed at immigrants more fully into the work of NDP and
- 4** Responding to the attack on NDP in LA last year. We also resolved to come out with a Spanish language edition of *Stolen Lives*, air our Public Service Announcements on Black Entertainment TV (BET) earlier this year, bring Mumia's case powerfully into the streets on October 22nd and involve more religious institutions and individuals in the NDP faith initiative.

At our summer meeting in Kansas City, we further developed the plans from the LA meeting and added to them a plan to send a delegation of family members and youth to the October 22nd event being planned by the newly formed Cincinnati Oct. 22nd local area as newly formed Oct. 22nd local area as a symbolic representation of the movement to stop police brutality standing with the people of Cincinnati who had risen in rebellion against police murders.

Accomplishments of NDP6, October 22nd, 2001

Some of the strengths of the mobilization for NDP6 and of the events which marked NDP6 included the following: The strong role played by family members and the ways in which the "Stolen Lives" were brought into the events. Family members of police murder victims were involved in the planning of a number of the NDP events and were leaders on the day itself. Many of them participated in the press conferences announcing NDP held in different cities. Also in a number of areas, participants in the events carried pictures of the "Stolen Lives," and names from the book were read off to shouts of "Presente."

The youth were again in the house on NDP all across the country. Just about all of the events reported that youth were a strong presence, and most of them said youth were a majority of who turned out. Hip-hop, spoken word and punk events were organized in some areas to build for NDP, and various forms of youth culture were a part of the events in several cities.

Blue triangles carrying the names and/or circumstances of immigrants whose lives were stolen by ins brutality were prominently worn at NDP events in several cities. Speakers addressed the attacks on immigrants, including both the stepped up targeting of Arabs, South Asians and Muslims generally (or those who appear to be part of those groups) that the government has

launched as part of its so-called "war on terrorism" and those attacks on immigrants that had been going on before Sept 11th.

In response to the attack on NDP 5 (October 22nd, 2000) in L.A., our coalition issued a national statement condemning this brutal and cowardly attack. This statement was circulated for endorsement. A law suit targeting the police attacks on Oct. 22, 2000, and several other demonstrations was filed. And most importantly, plans were made to mount a powerful protest in the streets on Oct 22, 2001.

NDP 6 in LA was very, very powerful. 1200-1400 people, most of them youth of all nationalities, took to the streets and marched defiantly to police headquarters. There they held a spirited rally right on the site where police fired rubber bullets at marchers last year in an unsuccessful attempt to break up and disperse NDP 5.

The Spanish translation of the 2nd edition of



It is also noteworthy that, during the mobilization for NDP 6, Efia Nwangaza of the national executive committee of Oct 22nd participated in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in Sept. By bringing the story of the nationwide epidemic of police brutality and police murder to this historic conference, they helped to internationalize the fight to stop police brutality. Among other O22 materials, they distributed copies of the new CD format of *Stolen Lives*.

Stolen Lives was unveiled on Oct. 22 at many of the rallies and other events. In several areas, Spanish

media was drawn to the NDP events off of releases about the publication of *Stolen Lives* in Spanish.

Five PSA's were aired on BET, starting more than 2 weeks before Oct 22, which was earlier than we were able to air them in most previous years.

Mumia Abu Jamal's case was focused on at many of the Oct 22nd events. Speakers addressed his case, and marchers carried placards and banners with his picture on them and did chants calling for his freedom. In several areas, Mumia's words on police brutality, police murder and racial profiling were read from the stage.

NDP was marked in Cincinnati with a powerful protest of 200 people. (Much props to the Cincinnati NDP.) Sheila Olvera from North Carolina--whose husband, Rigo Olvera, was murdered by the police--read statements from Houston and LA sent to NDP in Cincinnati and gave a moving personal statement of how the authorities stole her husband's life.

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22nd and Dorothy Copp-Elliot, mother of Archie Elliot who was murdered by police in Maryland, participated in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in Sept. By bringing the story of the nationwide epidemic of police brutality and police murder to this historic conference, they helped to internationalize the fight to stop police brutality. Among other O22 materials, they distributed copies of the new CD format of Stolen Lives.

Also, we must give props to the National Office (NO) staff for the way it persevered in the face of a difficult situation. For a while after Sept. 11th, the NO was virtually out of commission. It was in the area where access was restricted after the collapse of the World Trade Towers, so the staff couldn't even get to it for a few days. Then for almost two weeks, its phones were out of order, so it was difficult to be in touch with people organizing for NDP around the country. All of this occurred in the midst of what was a disorienting situation for many people, including people working to build for NDP 6. And it was in what is usually our kick off period for the NDP mobilizations. So the NO staff did a tremendous job of keeping things together and helping to pull off a successful NDP 6.

And we must also recognize the tremendous job done by New York NDP folk. It fell to them to shoulder the responsibility of organizing an NDP event in what was ground zero both for the tremendous impact of the loss of life on Sept 11th and for the government campaign to anoint the police as heroes who were above criticism. This was underscored by the attacks on NDP that ran in the pages of the right wing tabloid, the NY Post, that condemned our coalition for even thinking about protesting police brutality. So props to NY NDP as well.

Finally, we need to assess where things stand in the movement to stop police brutality and what needs to be and can be done to carry this important fight forward. We must take note of the fact that fewer areas marked NDP this year than in previous years and that there were fewer people in the streets on Oct. 22nd. More importantly, we must take note of the rapid imposition of repressive measures by the government in the wake of Sept. 11th. In the days after Oct. 22nd, a bill was passed by Congress approving detention without charges for immigrants, expanded government surveillance and other restrictions on civil liberties. Racial profiling is being touted as a sensible and necessary way to deal with the threat of terrorism. Racial profiling of Blacks and Latinos was also given a legal stamp by the Supreme Court recently when it refused to review a case where every male Black student at a college was treated as a suspect when police received a report that a Black student had committed a crime in a nearby city! And the government is cynically manipulating the grief people feel off of Sept 11th to rule police brutality to be an issue that should not even be considered now.

The tremendous victory achieved on Oct 22, 2001, has made clear that our coalition isn't going to fold up its banners and quit in the face of all this. Now we need to put our heads together and figure out how to bring new forces into this fight for justice, and how to bring some of those who have stepped back in the face of the hostile atmosphere back into the fight. We should take up these questions as we summarize the victory won on Oct 22, 2001, with many other people. And we should

take them up in future national meetings.

Reports from Local Areas

ALBANY, GEORGIA On 10/20, a cultural event and teach in was held. Turn out was small, only about 13 people but there was discussion, African drumming and dance. The group decided to repeat this Wednesday evening at the same place when there is usually a larger crowd. A major topic of discussion here centered around the call by the FBI to make citizens part of this whole police state atmosphere and gives two examples of innocent people in Atlanta that were harassed due to the statements that are being put out.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO About 20 people held a meeting at the University of New Mexico bookstore. They discussed the current situation in the country about the war, discussed various anti-war demonstrations that had happened or were coming up. They also discussed what to do about the Police Oversight Commission in Albuquerque, which has no power to do anything to correct the situation of police brutality.

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA Asheville North Carolina held a rally downtown at Prichard Park with about 45 - 50 people in attendance, the majority wearing black. Two cops showed up to "keep the peace" and stood around with some guy in a tan suit and sunglasses. At the event there were a few signs such as "who will police the police?" and one with a picture of a donut with a bite taken out of it that said "More Eaten', Less Beatn.'" The rally had 5 speakers: Cicada Browkow from the Western North Carolina Peace Coalition spoke about the connection between anti-terrorism measures and police brutality; a speaker from the Oldenwilde Traditional Wiccan Coven spoke about the passage of the Anti-Terrorist Act and its effect on our rights; John Hayes, President of the Asheville NAACP spoke about Racial Profiling and related problems in Asheville; and Tim McMullen spoke about federal agents storming his family's farm in Georgia in the 1970's and shooting and killing his father, later finding they had the wrong farm. The local newspaper, The Asheville Citizen-Times, ran a article on the front page of the Mountain section. The local television news station was there and also the weekly newspaper, The Mountain Express.

ATLANTA GEORGIA 60 people attended a forum called Homeland Security: No More Repression! sponsored by Oct.22nd Coalition and Refuse & Resist! The speakers included Brooks Franklin, criminal attorney, who spoke on the repressive bills going through congress/senate ie:Patriot/USA bills Sunita Patel, RAKSHA(a local organization that organizes and supports the South Asian community) who spoke on the attacks on South Asians and others since 9/11 and before; Adelina, Oct.22nd Coalition Atlanta, who spoke on the militarization of the border and the attacks on Latino immigrants; and Anita Beaty, Exec. Director, Taskforce for the Homeless, who spoke on the brutality and harassment of homeless people and the city

ordinances that make survival illegal. The forum was held at the Auburn Ave. Research Library on African-American Culture and History, downtown Atlanta. The Atlanta Daily World, a weekly black newspaper in Atlanta, covered the event.

AUSTIN TEXAS A speak-out was held on the West Mall. Members of the Asian American Relations Group, African Americans for Radical Organizing, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and Queer People of Color decried the recent racial profiling of terrorist suspects, the "harassment of brown and black people" nationwide by police officers, the bias of public education and the prison industry. "There's a huge race issue here. You can see it by walking across I-35," said Joao Vargas, an anthropology professor at the Center for African and African American Studies, referring to the racial profiling and police brutality in predominantly minority neighborhoods in East Austin. Zafar Shah, a Plan II Honors senior and the prominent speaker at the event, said that police brutality occurs frequently in Austin, citing last spring's campus protest of Justice For All's anti-abortion demonstration in which Mia Carter, an English professor, was injured in a scuffle with police over a bullhorn.

BONSEBOUR, ALABAMA A person who was inspired by participating in October 22nd in Eugene, Oregon last year became an organizer for October 22nd in Alabama this year. She passed out leaflets and talked to people about police brutality.

CAL STATE, NORTHRIDGE (near LA): Students held an event.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN 10 people held a candlelight vigil for Stolen Lives victims.

CHICAGO, IL Two weeks before NDP, the Youth-Student Network co-sponsored a hip-hop and spoken word benefit with the National Coalition to Free the Angola 3. About 300 people attended. Everyone had a great time, and much-needed funds were raised for the October 22nd rally and the speaking tour of Robert King Wilkerson, who was recently released from prison.

In early October, the General Services Administration (GSA) declared all events planned for the Federal Plaza "cancelled" through the end of the year, which effectively revoked the permit obtained for October 22nd back in August. October 22nd Coalition along with other groups filed a federal lawsuit demanding a temporary restraining order against the policy and a ruling that the ban on permits is unconstitutional, contending that the "security concerns" of the GSA coming off of the events of September 11th were unfounded and a dangerous first step toward outlawing dissent. Several anti-war rallies had taken place on the Plaza since the ban with no problems. Judge Holderman denied the Temporary Restraining Order. There was a lot of media coverage of this battle for a permit, including in the mainstream newspapers and on talk radio shows. One radio show promoted October 22nd for several

days leading up to it. The permit battle garnered fresh support from people who haven't been reached before. On October 22nd, 300 people gathered at noon on the Federal Plaza (Adams & Dearborn) in defiance of the GSA's policy. There was a strong turnout of families of the unjustly incarcerated from Comité Exigimos Justicia (We Demand Justice Committee) and families of Stolen Lives. The march was sharp and spirited, and took the streets for the entire route. At one point, it made a U-turn on State Street (a busy shopping area), blocking traffic. The march renamed the streets, taping up signs with names of Stolen Lives and death row inmates over the existing street signs. October 22nd took a strong stand, taking the plaza with no permit, and marching in the streets. Many people expressed that they had been afraid to do this, but were ecstatic to see it happen. Proving that the GSA's and Judge Holderman's "security concerns" are fraudulent, October 22nd's press release noted that "no terrorists used the rally as cover to launch any sort of attack, no one was infected with anthrax, and there were no arrests." The day after the rally, the front page of the Chicago Tribune's Metro section had a large color photo of the march with the headline "Protesters Defy U.S. Ban". October 22nd Coalition, along with the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network, the Chicago Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Refuse & Resist! plan to reopen the lawsuit and continue to fight the ban on permits at the Plaza.

CINCINNATI About 200 people attended the October 22nd speakout held at Fountain Square. Approximately 1/2 the crowd was youth, mainly students from Kenyon College, Antioch, University of Cincinnati, and Xavier, as well as youth from Cincinnati. There was music and speakers. People from Chicago, Cleveland, Antioch, Detroit, and Louisville, Kentucky came to be part of the event in Cincinnati. Sheila Olvera, from Hendersonville, NC, read the solidarity statements sent from October 22 Los Angeles and Oct22 Houston, and then gave a moving speech which was well received. Essie Hertz, the mother of Ricky Moore, also spoke, along with several reverends. There was media coverage.

CLEVELAND, OHIO About 40 people marched to the 4th District Police Station, which is responsible for many murders. The march was very lively, with lots of banners and Stolen Lives photos. Many of the demonstrators were students from Kent State, who also had their own march and rally the next night. There were also victims of police brutality, a drum corps, members of Lesbian Avengers, Anarchists, folks from Revolution Books and a rep from Food Not Bombs who brought food. Protesters marched right up to the front door of the 4th district, then rallied on the lawn of 4th District, and pounded stakes into the ground with the names of the over 40 people killed in Cleveland. While the rally was going on, people driving down the street were constantly honking their horns in support, and people leafletted the cars throughout the entire event. Mr. Horton, whose son Stephen was hung in 4th District, sent a statement (he couldn't attend due to surgery). Gary Collvard, whose beating by police was caught on tape by a local news station, spoke. A Black woman spoke about

**Greensboro, NC —
Protestors decorate a
police statue with
Stolen Lives crosses.**

the abuse of women in jail. There were messages of support read by Kent Anti-Racist Action, the Northeast Ohio Radical Action Network, Revolutionary Communist Party, and others. Everyone lit candles as the names of people in Cincinnati were read, finishing with the reading of the names in Cleveland. When the march left the 4th District, it was dark outside, and the candles people held in memory of those killed by the police, lit up the sky.



**CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL,
RESEDA, CA**

About 10 students at Cleveland High school in Reseda, California, did a performance art protest on October 22nd. One person was on the ground while the other was beating him to show what police brutality looks like. They had signs that said "National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality" and "Stop Attacks Against Arabs and Muslims." They were harassed by the administration who took their signs away and when one student resisted, the Dean threatened him with suspension and expulsion. The administration accused them of being "anti-cop" and that they could cause an "uprising at school." They got a lot of support from the other students.

DALLAS, TX Someone distributed several thousand copies of the Call on October 22nd.

DENVER, COLORADO Fifty people rallied inside a City Council meeting and listened to three people read statements condemning the police attacks on a peace demonstration held September 29th. Three members of the City Council spoke to the Police Chief, and promised to hold a special investigation into the incident.

DETROIT About 40 people attended a rally and vigil at the Circuit Court and Police Headquarters. People were carrying big beautiful portraits of the faces from Stolen Lives. Someone made a statue of the Blue Wall of Silence, and people wrote the names of victims of police brutality and murder all over it. Family members spoke, as did members of NORML, Triangle Foundation, Pan African students, Revolutionary Communist Party, anarchist youth, and others. An evening program drew about 25 people. Rappers came down from Battle Creek, Michigan, and people from the Green Party and National Lawyers Guild attended. Speeches spoke to the link between the war on drugs and the criminalization of a generation. Channel 7, Channel 50, and the Michigan Citizen newspaper covered it. The Michigan Citizen ran an ad for it the week before.

EL PASO, TEXAS Five people held a meeting to discuss how to stop police brutality.

EUGENE, OREGON 20 people came to a forum about repression held at the Fir Room at the University of Oregon.

EVERGREEN JUNIOR COLLEGE (San Jose area) Students invited a speaker on police brutality and held a rally.

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA About 40 people participated in a rally, a speak out, and a march to the jail, where a prayer and more speakout took place. No police presence was visible. Three family members of victims participated. Matilda Rangel, whose son Raul got killed in

1985, explained about how she was asking for help when they killed her son. Young single mom Carol, whose husband Delfino got killed last year around this time, was there with her baby. Oct 22 is Delfino's birthday, and protesters sang happy birthday to him in front of the jail. The family of Julian BOO BOO Celaya who was killed in August was present, along with an 83 year old woman from Reedely, Ca. One of the brothers burned the flag, which was received with mixed feelings from the people who participated. Organizers stated that although not everyone there agreed with him, he is entitled to free speech.

**GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
Triad Area (Greensboro/High Point/Winston Salem)**

In the past five months, sheriffs in three counties were on a rampage, with the killings of Gilbert Barber and Gerald Abney, and the near-fatal beating of Nakia Glenn. The Triad Area responded with the October 22nd events. Over 200 people attended the third Youth Against the Police State event on Saturday, a day-long festival of music, poetry, art, and RESISTANCE! There was all kinds of music, from punk to hard folk to hip-hop. Mumia supporters, an anti-war committee, and a group that does an after-school program set up information tables. On Sunday, October 21, a memorial service for the Stolen Lives was sponsored by students at North Carolina A&T State University. About 30 people attended. An A&T professor active in civil rights struggles since the 60s gave the invocation. A mother of a young man killed by a sheriff's deputy spoke on fighting to prevent any more lives being stolen. A student from Cincinnati talked about the killing of Timothy Thomas and the struggle that followed. The mothers of two young Black men killed by law enforcement connected police murders to the terrorist attacks, one of them calling police brutality "domestic ter-

rorism". Another A&T professor introduced the Spanish-language edition of the Stolen Lives book, *Vidas Robadas*.

Around 75 people came to the October 22nd (NDP) demonstration at Police Plaza. The crowd was roughly 50/50 Black and White, with Latino and Asian-American representation as well. This year saw a sizeable contingent of students from A&T and the return of the marchers from UNC-Greensboro/Amnesty International. The mostly young crowd was joined by some veterans of the struggle in their 60s. The wife of a North Carolina man killed in 1999 sent a statement, since she was with the O22 delegation in Cincinnati. While numbers were down from last year, there was a much stronger working class character to this year's demonstration, due largely to the leadership of the families. Speakers connected the struggle against police brutality with the anti-war movement and political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Charleston 5. The thirteen-year-old cousin of one victim spoke with a knowledgeable voice that belied his young age. "Black, White, they'll kill you, it don't matter to them...these cops are out here beating people and killing people. We've got to keep on fighting!" That young man's uncle closed the program with the Stolen Lives pledge. The event ended with the chant, "Pigs here! Bombs there! U.S. Out of EVERYWHERE!"

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA Seven people (relatives of Cory Harris, Wafflehouse 2) walked, with noise makers, from the court to the jail and laid a wreath. Two people from Charleston, SC came up, but weren't able to connect with the march. Efia Nwangaza spoke at a Death Penalty Abolition seminar sponsored by AIUSA Furman University, GVL. Wearing black and the October 22 logo Tshirted, she asserted AI's organizational prerogative to point out that the DP is a part of a continuum of violence of which police brutality is a part. Many of the students appreciated this and applauded.

HAMPTON ROADS, Virginia

18 oct @ Old Dominion University in Norfolk, "Pigs in Space, Part I" poetry slam. (47 attended)

20 oct @ Motton Community Theatre in Newport News, "Shielding Yourself Against the War on Some Drugs" conference. (63 attended)

21 oct @ Lafayette Park in Norfolk, Protest Rally & March. (13 attended)

21 oct @ Norfolk State University, "Pigs in Space, Part II" poetry slam. (32 attended)

22 oct @ Virginia Institute of Contemporary Arts in Virginia Beach, "Facial Recognition Technology in Law Enforcement" panel discussion. (52 attended)

22 oct @ Christopher Newport University in Newport News, "The Importance of Jury Nullification in Combatting Police Misconduct" panel discussion (93 attended)

24 oct @ Old Dominion University, "Fuck Tha Police" rally & "Stolen Lives" candlelight vigil. (72 attended)

24 oct @ Old Dominion University, "Do It Yourself L.A.W.

(Legal Action Workshops). (9 attended)

HAWAII On Saturday night, October 20th, a punk music promoter (Otto), along with Refuse & Resist!, sponsored an anti-police brutality show at a local club. Six bands (punk, ska and reggae) played to about 100 youth. The venue was covered with banners, and the pictures of victims of police brutality were displayed at the entrance.

On Sunday, October 21st, Refuse & Resist! had a beautiful booth focused on police brutality at an outdoor music festival. Several thousand leaflets against police brutality were distributed. On Monday, October 22nd, Revolution Books Club set up a display of 100 pictures of victims of police brutality, along with their stories, at the University of Hawaii Campus Center. Hundreds of students and faculty studied the stories intently. At noon there was a speak-out against police brutality.

On Monday evening, October 22nd, about 65 people, mostly youth, and dressed in Black, joined a noisy march through Waikiki (Honolulu's tourist area) that was organized by Refuse & Resist! Taking up October 22nd was much more controversial this year than in past years. There were debates over whether it was right to call attention to police brutality. Outraged marines attacked and threw over one of the literature tables at the concert, a man toting a U.S. Marines flag came out to harass the march (claiming that anti-police brutality protesters were an "organized conspiracy against democracy), and debates broke out on the U.H. campus around whether the issue of police brutality should even be raised. In the end it was the youth, who are facing an escalation of harassment, who really stepped forward to hold our ground in the struggle against police brutality.

HOUSTON, TX Over 150 people turned out for the march and rally. Signs decorated with stenciled images of gas masks communicated a concern among those who gathered that police might attack protesters here like they have at other mass gatherings around the country, but the words on the signs and banners – "no more stolen lives" and "we demand accountability" sent the message that the threat of official violence can be overcome by the even stronger struggle for justice. Also clearly visible was the La Resistencia contingent – in which everyone wore shirts with bright blue triangles that said "illegal." These same triangles were passed out as stickers for people to wear, and had names of people on them who had either died or been killed while attempting to cross the US-Mexico border. As a short list of some of the names of people killed by the Houston Police Department was read, voices in the crowd shouted out the names others who should not be forgotten, such as Jose Campos Torres – truly the voices of the voiceless. "No justice, no peace! No murdering police!" was the chant as protesters headed out of the park and down to the main headquarters of HPD. This turned to shouts of "liars!" at the offices of the city's major newspaper, the Houston Chronicle, where marchers called them out for their lack of investigative reporting in cases of people who died or were brutalized at the hands of the police. The case of a young black man named Mark Dawson was mentioned as an example of their lazy reporting. When Mark was

recently killed while in custody of HPD, the Chronicle just reported that he was "naked" and even put this fact in the story's headline, but failed to mention witness descriptions of how Mark was brutally beaten while cuffed and pinned to the ground. The Chronicle simply repeated the police reports that "no significant" trauma to Mark's body was found during the city's autopsy.

Participants and speakers at the rally and march included: Lawrence Sampson of the American Indian Movement, Anarchist Black Cross, Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, Amnesty International, supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Workers World Party, people who had been members of the Justice for Pedro Oregon Coalition, Houston Independent Media Center, animal rights activists, the Black Bloc, Food not Bombs, supporters of the local chapter of the Black Panther Party, members of the Harris County Green Party, Radical Cheerleaders, Houstonians United for Mumia and others. Travis Morales of La Resistencia, spoke about the militarization of the border. A statement was read from Claudia Navarro, the mother of Pedro Oregon, a unarmed young man who was shot to death by HPD in 1997 on a bogus drug raid. She had sent the same statement to the people fighting police brutality in Cincinnati in the wake of the police shootings of Timothy Thomas and fourteen other unarmed young black men in just five years. Another family member, John, spoke of his father who was killed by police last year. Other family members sent their regards, but some declined to attend the demonstration out of fear of being depicted as un-American by the media. After the speakers, demonstrators had an opportunity to express their rage on the bullhorn.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA A woman and her friend distributed copies of the Call on a street corner.

KANSAS CITY, MO Forty-seven people rallied at the Freedom Fountain. Speakers included a rap group and a representative from NCOBRA. No police presence was visible. Organizers put October 22nd T-shirts on poles, and taped them high on lightpoles so that cars driving by the demonstration could see them.

KENT, OHIO Several students came up to Cleveland for the protest on the 22nd. On October 23, at Kent State University in Ohio, despite the pouring rain, 40 students, mainly dressed in black, marched at 8pm from the student center to downtown. A stop was made at the Kent police station where a student played taps for all the people's whose lives have been stolen by the police. Marchers then continued to a park downtown where many students testified about run-ins with the police, including some activists who went to the Sept. 29-30 protests in DC. One student was stopped in his car, and the police asked if they could make a search. He said no, and they searched anyway, finding flyers from "Homes, Not Jails." They threw him on the ground and asked if he was a "terrorist." The student, from Israel, has a slight accent. An incredible poem about Cincinnati was read by the head of Black United Students. People also spoke about the racial pro-

filing against Arabs, the police "handling" of sexual assault, and the increased repression in the wake of Sept. 11, including a visit by the FBI to a member of the campus Muslim Student Association.

The march was very lively and bold, with excellent chants: "Street by street, block by block, police brutality's got to stop," "Timothy Thomas, Abu-Jamal, Stop the killings, stop them all," and "Cincinnati, Kent State, No more police state."

LOS ANGELES, CA October 22 NDP in Los Angeles was the people's day! Directly in the face of an outrageous show of police force, 1200-1400 people, nearly all wearing black, took over Broadway and marched through the downtown L.A. garment district to Parker Center, LAPD Headquarters. Broadway was thick with on-lookers lining the march route, and immigrant garment workers shouted support and pumped fists from the windows of the sweatshops above. The march through downtown L.A. was youthful, spirited, determined and rebellious. Aztec Dancers led the way, followed by a beautiful Stolen Lives Project Truck decorated with large pictures honoring the people who have been unjustly killed by law enforcement. A contingent of families of victims of police murder was then followed by over a thousand mainly youth and students from dozens of high schools and colleges throughout Southern California. It was especially "their day", as youth and students led the chants, spoke in English and Spanish from the bed of the SLP Truck, and lent the march an organized and militant character. Anarchist youth with homemade shields guarded the rear, protecting protesters from the police. MEChA clubs brought student groups from all over L.A. A contingent of Refuse & Resist youth came with large pictures demanding freedom for Mumia Abu Jamal. The Youth Student Network (YSN) made over 100 different color flags painted by stencils saying "Stop Police Brutality," "No More Stolen Lives," and "Danger-- Police in Area." The rally in front of Parker Center featured the Watts Drum Corps and families of the Stolen Lives Project fighting for justice. There was poetry by Jerry Quickly. The speaker for the Youth Student Network of October 22 saluted the youth for coming back and not backing down in the face of last year's police attack and the attempts to criminalize protest. The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) exposed the new, domestic repression since 9/11, and students condemned the legalized racial profiling and government attacks on Muslims, Arab-Americans and all immigrants. Jim Lafferty spoke for the National Lawyers Guild and called for advancing the movement to Stop the Execution of Mumia in today's situation. In the face of hundreds of riot police surrounding Police Headquarters – the entire rally marched around Parker Center, delivering the message that our movement will not back down in the face of the LAPD, who shot rubber bullets and other



Protester draws chalk outline of a body.

"specialty impact munitions" into the protest last year and attacked the march with mounted units and batons it started around Parker Center. This year, led by youth in a "call and response" -- Presente!-- that named and honored many killed by brutal police, the march went all the way around Parker Center. As marchers arrived back in front of Parker Center, Rage Against the Machine blasted from the sound truck. A mosh pit broke out and multinational youth danced together in the streets in front of what many call the LAPD's "Torture Center." At the end, many hundreds took off for an intense march back through downtown. Cops on foot, bicycles, motorcycles, in cars and trucks, messed with protesters the whole way back, hit people with batons and dragged marchers to the ground, and brutalized a number of young protesters, one who was defending a woman with a baby carriage. One youth was arrested after the march was over while sitting on a bus bench and initially held on \$50,000 bail.

LOUISVILLE, KY Several people from Louisville, KY went to join the protest in Cincinnati on Oct. 22.

MIAMI, FLORIDA On October 25th, a meeting of the campus group of Amnesty International made plans to take up activity to stop police brutality.

MINNEAPOLIS /TWIN CITIES The Twin Cities held two events this year to mark O22: Sunday, October 21, 25 people attended a vigil for the Victims of Police Brutality at the Grace Community Church in St. Paul. This was a very solemn, beautiful event, starting with a processional of stolen lives boards with a reading of the names, dates and circumstances of death, followed by gospel singing, a sermon, speeches from family members, poetry reading, and lighting of the candles for the stolen lives. After the vigil, there was a reception for the family members and others in attendance.

On Monday, October 22, seventy-five people took part in a rally and march in downtown Minneapolis. People joined in along the way. This was an exciting, vibrant event, starting with a reading of the stolen lives names and continuing with speeches by family members, survivors and members of various groups. In a spirited march, protesters held the stolen lives boards for all to see and flyered people along the way. Many people got excited to see the protest marching through downtown and joined in spontaneously, thanking October 22nd for being there and expressing their outrage at police brutality. Five squads and an arrest van trailed the march the whole time. Family members helped plan both events, MCed the vigil, sang at the vigil and spoke at both events. Youth were the main people in attendance at the rally and march. Two youth members MCed the rally and led the march.

NEW HAVEN, CT Six people from the New Haven Free Mumia Coalition rallied, leafletted, and

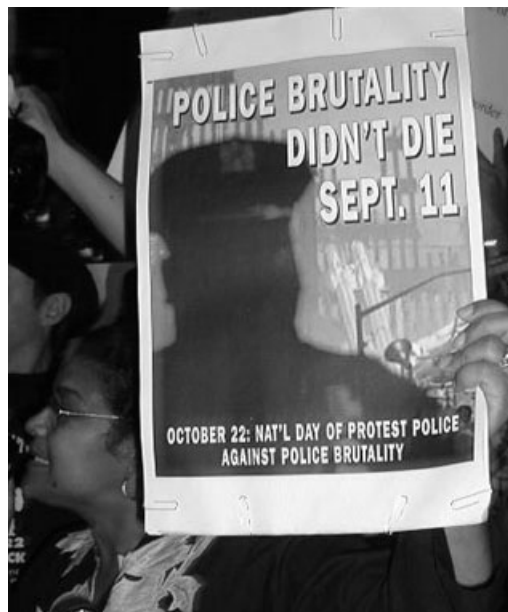
held signs and banners from 3:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon. A big focus of attention was the war in Afghanistan.

An evening gathering and vigil of 16-17 people was held by the MALIK Organization, honoring Malik Jones, who was killed in 1997 by East Haven, CT. police. Speakers at this event spoke to the connections between the war, police brutality and repression.

NEW YORK Nearly 400 people, mainly youth, rallied at Union Square South and then took to the streets in a highly spirited and determined march to Times Square. New York's march was a great victory in the face of many obstacles created by the dramatic events of September 11th. The intimidating political climate generated by government and media, reversing the common knowledge of the past few years and suddenly proclaiming Mayor Guiliani and the NYPD as heroes who could not be criticized at all, caused confusion among many long time supporters and friends of October 22nd.

The New York coalition faced many new challenges in a very short period: getting out to friends and supporters to explain why it was more important than ever to march this year; changing the march route from City Hall near Ground Zero, and getting the word out broadly; holding a press conference to denounce repression and racial profiling, even though organizers did not have press work experience; combating the vicious lies and slander from the New York Post article; and in general, trying to do outreach in a very unfavorable climate with limited people and resources. Despite all of this, a very successful march and rally took place. Nicholas Heyward, Sr., father of Nicholas, Jr, co-emcee'd with Miguel Maldonado from the Immigrant Rights Association, Lakeasha from the Manhattan Neighborhood Network Youth Channel, and Flaco from the October 22nd Coalition. Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, led the candlelight prayer vigil to open the rally. During the rally, Nicholas Heyward Sr. explained that many families were expected, but many did not show up because many feared police retaliation and counter-demonstrators in the post-September 11th

political climate. Nicholas said that those family members who were there represented for all of them and their murdered loved ones. Jonsi Smith, sister of Justin Smith, spoke, as did two unexpected family members, Ricky Gordan and James Ferguson, Sr., Malcolm's father. Andree Smith, mother of Justin Smith, joined the rally at 42nd Street, where she made clear that "Police brutality did not die on September 11th." During the rally, a representative of the ACLU Racial Profiling Project highlighted racial



profiling by the police. A member of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund explained that since September 11th, racially motivated violence and profiling by police and civilians has now concentrated on Arab, South Asian and other immigrant communities. The new Spanish language edition of the Stolen Lives book was announced to applause. Visually prevalent throughout the rally and the march were faces of Stolen Lives that were on posters, and blue triangles with the names of immigrants who were killed or died trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, worn as stickers by protesters. Families members led the march from Union Square South where it ended with a brief but very focused and spirited rally at 42nd Street. Names of Stolen Lives were called out, some read off the placards that were worn, each receiving the ardent response of "Presente!"

OAKLAND, CA A few days before the day, a benefit for Oct22 was organized at a punk youth club--\$450 was raised for Oct22. Many of the punk youth joined up for the march and rally. On Sunday, Oct. 21st, at an anarchist-oriented warehouse, they showed the 27 minute video from last year's SF Oct22 as part of their weekly "movie nite"—about 30 people attended.

On October 22nd, 500 people rallied and marched with a Sound Truck which had Stolen Lives Walls mounted on it. Police initially ticketed and impounded the sound truck, and later tried to pull the plug on the electricity for the rally. The march went by Alameda County Court House, BART (rapid transit) administration building, Oakland Police Department, State Building, Fed Building, ending with a Rally in front of City Hall. Women drummers, Asian high school age break dancers, family singers, Puerto Rican hip hop rapper, intense poets, contributed to the day. Placards in different languages: Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese, were carried. Immigrant activists distributed the blue triangle stickers to many at the rally and march. When passing the jail, the Head Chanters called out names of Stolen Lives individually from the sound truck. Youth formed an honor guard for the family for the march. They went to the flower market in SF early in the morning, and made bouquets for each family member. The majority of the demonstrators were youth. Oakland High youth made their own banner. PUEBLO youth brought their own banner — Youth of Oakland United. As the march passed the Alameda Courthouse, youth chalked the sidewalks with the names of victims of police brutality and anti-police brutality slogans on the walls. Some chants were, "Get it up, get down, no more dirty pigs in this town!" "No more handcuffs, no more mace, no more killings based on race," "No Justice, no peace, no murderous police." At the rallies, many different kinds of people spoke out, including family members and activist groups. Many family members of people killed by law enforcement agents were present: Jamil Wheatfall's family (13 people attended); Carol Livingston, who spoke about her experience reaching out and supporting a Sikh temple in her area; La Tonya Dykes, who gave a statement of unity with Cincinnati from families; Alade, National Chair of FAMLE; Rashidah Grinage; Cornelius Hall; Frank Rosenberg, Meshia Monge-Irizarry Peggy Ferre, Richie Allard, Cora Lee Simmons

from North Bay, Vicky Moon, Robina Jackson; Jose Silva; and the Amayas. There were lots of efforts on the part of government to silence the October 22 message — from the initial denial of permit, to the cops sequestering the van that pulled up to unload the sound equipment at the first rally, to arresting one demonstrator for allegedly chalking "Stop Police Brutality" slogans either on street or Courthouse exterior wall, to City Hall officials insisting the march didn't have a sound permit, to them pulling the electricity on the rally and only finally granting a sound permit at around 5:30! The legal liaison said that the official reason they gave for pulling the plug on the electricity was that "this is a city building and we don't support demonstrations that are critical of the city." The event was covered extensively by the media, possibly as a result of all the publicity generated during the battle for the permit: WB20, Oakland Tribune, Ch. 5, Ch. 7, Univision - Ch. 14, Channel 11, Telemundo - Ch. 48, Revolutionary Worker, SF State University, KPFA, freelance photographers and TV crews, SF Indy Media - freelance, UC Berkeley Journalism Grad Student, another UC Berkeley Journalism Grad Student called in to get phone interviews, Oakland Post, Outlook school newspaper from Sierra Junior College, Poor Magazine

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA The Junior Class President of Ontario High School and 15 of his classmates wore BLACK on October 22nd to school. He made a flyer using information from the October 22 website to let students know about the National Day of Protest.

PHILADELPHIA, PA About 40 to 60 mainly youth, very multi-national, marched up Broad Street. It was very defiant and took the streets for about a mile to Temple Univ. The march began at Broad and Spring Garden, known for its "Honk for Mumia" events. One banner, "Stop Anti-Arab and Muslim Violence" got a lot of attention. The Oct. 22nd banner led the march and the Free Mumia banner brought up the end of the march so traffic behind could see it. Friends and Family of Mumia spoke at different points. Oct22 leaflets got passed out to all the youth getting off from school in the area. Youth Against State Killing, a group of youth who work with the Pa. Abolitionists Against the Death Penalty, brought their banner. Temple students in the Coalition organized a video showing of Voice of the Voiceless about Mumia at Temple after the march. The Daily News featured the next day a half page picture of the march under the headline "Capturing Everyday Life Through the Lens of JM"

PHOENIX, ARIZONA One hundred people, mostly youth, rallied at a park in downtown Phoenix, then marched to the jail, police headquarters, and a plaza named after Cesar Chavez.

PITTSBURGH, PA Family members and friends gathered for a Tribute to Mrs. Ina Jackson (Mother of Jerry Jackson), who recently passed away, which was held at Freedom Unlimited--next door to the NAACP office at 2201 Wylie Ave. People gathered at 7pm to view the 35min. video of Mrs. Jackson that was

made possible by the efforts of Vincent Eirene, Rich Fishkin-PeaceTV and Celeste Taylor. The interview takes place in her home one week prior to Mrs. Jackson passing away. In her own words she talks of her life and the fight for justice in the death of her son who was killed by Police Officer John Charmo.

POTSDAM, NEW YORK At the University of Potsdam, New York, copies of the Call and the National statement from October 22nd on Sept. 11 were distributed.

SAN DIEGO, CA This year's demonstration and rally was held in Downtown San Diego. Seventy-five to one hundred people gathered in front of the Federal Building for a short rally. Using a bullhorn, speakers from the International Action Centre, City College MeChA, and the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee kicked off October 22nd, 2001! MeChistas from at least three different college campuses, Peace and Freedom and Libertarian Party activists, Raza Rights and Peace and Justice Coalition members, La Resistencia, and SLAP are just a few of the activist and grassroots organizations that took to the streets, blocking Broadway and 2nd Avenue and walking to the San Diego City Administration Building. The walk was short and spirited with chants and noise-makers! Once everyone arrived on the steps of the City Administration Building (in front of the trolley tracks), the October 22nd group acknowledged the working-class sisters and brothers leaving the many businesses buildings (and riding the trolleys). Chicana Activist and Poet Jackie Lopez performed and political and social activists fused the National Police Brutality with the overseas brutality of our sisters and brothers in Afghanistan. Issues of local police brutality, Operation Gatekeeper, and the need of an Independent Elected Police Review Board were highlights from guest speakers. Organizers spoke of the Berkeley City Council Resolution passed last week and that it was a small step in breaking the cycle of institutionalized violence. Organizers encouraged participants to go up to Council Chambers and present the City Council Members with a copy of the Berkeley City Council Resolution with the hopes that the San Diego City Council would look into passing their own Resolution. At that time, organizers were informed that the City Council Chambers had been shut down at 4:25, but that the City Council offices were open. In the face of a heavy police presence and Wackenhut security metal detectors thirty to 50 people went up to present the Berkeley Resolution in hopes of speaking with City Council members. One City Council member and at least one aide came out to speak with the group. Though the building closed at 5:00, the last group of sisters and brothers came out at 5:35. A debriefing period and a commitment by a dozen activists to follow-up on the Resolution Process closed the rally. **AND WE DID THIS WITHOUT A PERMIT!**

ST. LOUIS, MO. One hundred twenty people took part in a 50 car caravan that drove through St. Louis and stopped at 4 sites where people had been killed by law enforcement agents. The caravan was called, "The Killing Fields". At each site, a cross was set

up and decorated with flowers, and a family member of the victim spoke.

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LOUISIANA October 22nd was mentioned on a radio show, "Freedom Files", simulcast KJCB 770Am or KFMV 105.5FM

SEATTLE, WA One hundred twenty-five people participated in two rallies and a march. The first rally started at the street corner where Aaron Roberts was murdered by police. Seven family members of people murdered by police spoke out: Ophelia Ealy, mother of Michael Ealy; Eric Roberts, brother of Aaron Roberts; Howard Walker, brother of David John Walker; Ivan Morgan, father of Joshua Morgan; Althea Bradford, cousin of Demetrius Dubose (murdered by San Diego police); Anthony Boyd, father of Kenneth Boyd (shot by Tacoma, Washington police); Loretta Weilmom, daughter of Robert Reese. The group marched from Seattle's Central Area to Westlake Center, holding a short rally in front of the Police Department's East Precinct, where names from the Stolen Lives book were called out. At the second rally, Beverly, a cousin of Anthony Lee, an actor murdered by LAPD, spoke out. Other speakers included a youth beaten at the Reclaim the Streets rally, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party, speakers from the People's Coalition for Justice, Freedom Socialist Party, Refuse and Resist!, People's Union for Economic Justice, and other youth who did poems. Jim Page, a legendary local folksinger, sang two songs he had written about police brutality. There was a high level of unity between youth and the families of police murder victims. The attendees included people from the Black community, youth from the anarchist black block, older peace activists and more. People were very defiant about the need to speak out against repression and many youth from the anti-globalization movement spoke about police terror here and U.S. terror around the world. Family members spoke out about police acting as judge, jury and executioners. Channel 5 TV was present at the rally, but reporters told October 22nd organizers later that management would not allow them to run the footage. Media coverage was: Seattle Times, PI, KVON-NPR affiliate.

SPELLMAN COLLEGE At Spellman College (an all Black Women's college in Atlanta), some students woke up very early on Mon. morning and chalk outlined bodies and wrote the names (from the Stolen Lives book) of those killed by police inside the outline in a very busy quad area. They even outlined entire families who were killed by cops who were the husband and father of the victims. They also drew the Move house with all the people who were murdered by Philly cops and wrote all the names inside the house.

STANFORD COLLEGE, CA. Students held an event.

UNIV. of S.C., L.A. Students held an event.

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, New Haven, CT. Students organized a benefit concert for October 22nd. Three hundred students attended, and the organizers raised \$150.00.