

It's Right to Protest Murder by Police!

Demand Criminal Charges Targeting April 14 Protestors be Dropped

Call Mike Feuer (213-978-8100), L.A. City Attorney

On April 14, 2015, 1000 people in Los Angeles protested to STOP murder by police. At LAPD headquarters, a broad range of speakers, and hundreds of high school students, exposed the epidemic of police murder and called for it to stop, now! ~ and then took the streets. Business as usual was shut down in downtown Los Angeles that day. The march went to the site of Brother Africa's murder by the LAPD on skid row and culminated on Washington Blvd, where protestors rightfully took the intersection of Washington and Main and Washington and Broadway. The MTA train was stopped. There was major media coverage of the event. The protest occurred in conjunction with 30 other cities in the U.S. on April 14: #ShutDownA14 ~ Stop Murder by Police!

There was an LA Police Commission permit for this April 14 protest and march and for the culminating rally on Washington Blvd. The LAPD, stung by this "retaking of the political offensive" and the largest protest in LA since late 2014, arrested 15 people *before* the permit "disband time" of 6pm. 13 were charged with "trespassing on railroad property" (the Metro railway), "refusing to comply with an order by police" and "malicious obstruction of the free movement of people on a street or public place." Outrageously, 3 were convicted in late 2014 in a trial where the judge worked hand-in-glove with the prosecution to convict the defendants. Seven others face trial April 5, 2016.

The arrests, charges and prosecution of these protestors is part of an operation by the authorities, in Los Angeles and nationwide, to criminalize and derail protests determined to STOP murder by police - the national upsurge since Ferguson - and to intimidate and criminalize the people and organizations that have been steadfast in their opposition to the genocidal onslaught of police murders here and around the country.

Nationwide: Eric Garner... Michael Brown...Freddie Gray... Rekia Boyd... Andy Lopez...Tamir Rice.... One after another — and so many others, precious Black and Brown lives — victims of police murder. We think of their faces, and furiously ache for justice. Over 1000 people a year killed by police — yet since 2005, less than 60 indictments, less than 25 convictions. Federal prosecutors have declined to bring charges against law enforcement officers facing allegations of civil rights violations in 96% of such cases between 1995 and 2015. ***And in LA County, since the year 2000, police have shot more than 1300 people! Yet, since 2000, not one single criminal prosecution has been brought by L.A. County "prosecutors" against the police for these shootings.***

Yet here... people consciously organizing and protesting to stop these police shootings and murders in Los Angeles and thousands more nationwide are criminally targeted and face up to 1.5 years in jail if convicted at trial. This cannot be allowed to happen. And you are needed! Call Mike Feuer at 213-978-8100. Mike Feuer is the Los Angeles City Attorney. Demand charges be immediately dropped on the April 14 protestors. Express yourself on the 1300 shootings by police in LA County, and thousands more nationwide, and the outrage of prosecuting the April 14 defendants and all those fighting to stop these murders by police while police who murder walk off scot-free, time after time....

Also, in the lead-up to trial, the LA City Attorney's office is withholding relevant material (discovery) that would show an unconstitutional bias driving efforts to criminalize protests and protestors who have been acting to expose and stop murder by police, especially since Ferguson, including the A14 defendants. The prosecution is refusing to hand over documentation of unconstitutional surveillance and spying on protestors. The L.A. City Attorney, LAPD and other law enforcement agencies need to turn over that material. And the City of Los Angeles prosecutors must drop the charges on the April 14 protestors. **On Tuesday, April 5 at 8:30am, be in court with the defendants. Trial begins April 5, Court 56, 7th Floor, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple, Los Angeles, CA 90012.**

Sign and spread the statement "It's Right To Protest Murder by Police."
http://www.stoppoliceterror.org/its_right_to_protest_murder_by_police
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