Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony

Livestreamed on December 5, 2020 at youtube.com/october22nyc



These victims of brutal police cannot speak for themselves, but we can and we will

THE STOLEN LIVES INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Stolen Lives <u>Induction Ceremony</u> is a solemn, yet empowering occasion at which recent and past victims of police killings are formally inducted into the roster of the <u>Stolen Lives Project</u>. The Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony is both an affirmation of life and a call to action. It allows the Stolen Life, demonized by the powers-that-be, to be remembered the way they *should* be remembered: by those who love them – and for that truth to be shared with all

Since 1997, thirteen Stolen Lives Induction Ceremonies have taken place in New York City and a half dozen ceremonies have taken place in other cities around the country, in community spaces, schools, and churches. Families and other loved ones of over sixty Stolen Lives, locally and from other parts of the country, have taken part and received certificates that marked the formal induction. At these ceremonies, families speak of their loved ones and their struggles for justice, their voices joined by community organizers and others in the fight against police violence, as well as artists who contribute their art and performance for healing, for strength, for empowerment. The ceremonies end with a pledge (see last page) by all in attendance, as a (re)affirmation of our commitment to the struggle.

This Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony is the first to take place entirely online, both in consideration of and in taking advantage of the current safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the first virtual induction ceremony, this is also our first *national* induction ceremony, with the participation of families in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

THE PROGRAM

- Welcome from Families of Stolen Lives
- Libations by **spiritchild**
- Tribute to Nicholas Heyward, Sr. and other families of Stolen Lives
- Induction Ceremony
- Reading of the Stolen Lives Pledge
- Cultural performances throughout by:

Jendog & Yalini
Kahlil Khan
Kongo
Lu Aya and Lumi of the Peace Poets
Zayid Muhammad

Emcee: spiritchild

• Livestream Curator: Lumi

Guest Presenters and Speakers:

- Pam Africa, Minister of Confrontation, co-founder of October 22 Coalition, head of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and member of the MOVE Organization
- Carl Dix, co-founder of October 22 Coalition, spokesperson for Revolutionary Communist Party-USA
- King Downing, lawyer, organizer with October 22
 Coalition, producer and host of Good Morning Nueva York WBAI
- Reverend Dr. Mary Foulke of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Harlem
- Ingrid Hill, Vice Chair of Internal Affairs/ Corresponding Secretary of People's Organization for Progress, National Family Coalition for Justice
- Ralph Poynter, co-founder of New Abolitionist Movement, member of Black is Back Coalition and Jericho Movement to Free All Political Prisoners

PARTICIPATING FAMILIES OF STOLEN LIVES

Families of the below inductees:

- Alan Blueford, who was killed by Oakland, CA police on May 6, 2012
 - Receiving certificate: mother Jeralynn Blueford
- Caesar Cruz, who was killed by Anaheim, CA police on December 11, 2009
 - Receiving certificate: mother Theresa Smith
- Ernest Duenez, Jr., who was killed by Manteca, CA police on June 8, 2011
 - Receiving certificate: mother Rosemary Duenez
- Allan Feliz, who was killed by NYPD on October 17, 2019
 - Receiving certificate: brother Samy Feliz
- JaQuill Fields, who was killed by Paterson, NJ police on June 16, 2015
 - Receiving certificate: mother Naomi Peaches Simmons
- Darryl "DeRose" Laqua Fuqua, who was killed by Bridgeton, NJ police on February 10, 2017
 - Receiving certificate: mother **Gwen Byrd Benson**
- Eric Garner, who was killed by NYPD on July 17, 2014
 - Receiving certificate: mother of Eric Garner's youngest daughter Legacy Garner, Jewel Miller
- Oscar Grant, who was killed by BART police officer on January 1, 2009
 - Receiving certificate: mother Wanda Johnson
- William Lemmon, who was killed by Akron, OH police on September 25, 2015
 - Receiving certificate: sister Ashlee Thomas
- Jonathan Maldonado, who was killed by Greenburgh, NY police on November 29, 2017
 - Receiving certificate: mother Nancy Khader-Maldonado and aunt Lauren Khader
- Earl Shaleek Pinckney, who was killed by Harrisburg, PA police on August 7, 2016
 - Receiving certificate: mother **Kim Thomas**
- Juston Root, who was killed by Boston police and a State Trooper in Brookline, MA on February 7, 2020
 - Receiving certificate: father Evan Root and sister Jennifer Root Bannon
- Delrawn "Fu" Small, who was killed by NYPD on July 4, 2016
 - Receiving certificate: sister Victoria Davis
- Saheed Vassell, who was killed by NYPD on April 4, 2018
 - Receiving certificate: father Eric Vassell

Supporting families:

- Quentin Heyward and Yasmine Lancaster, brother and second cousin of Nicholas Heyward, Jr, who was killed by NYPD on September 27, 1994
- Andree Smith and Jonsi McGill, mother and sister of Justin Smith, who was killed by Tulsa, OK sheriffs on August 14, 1998
- Diane Hohen, sister of Kevin Cerbelli, who was killed by NYPD on October 25, 1998
- Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, who was killed by NYPD on March 1, 2000
- Butch Stewart, father of Gil Barber, who was killed by Guilford County, NC Sheriff's Deputy on May 18, 2001
- Therese Gallagher, mother of Travis Posselt, who was killed by Rock Springs, CO police on May 28, 2004
- Christine Eriksen, sister of Scott Eriksen, who was killed by Suffolk County police on June 12, 2005
- Joanne McGriff, mother of Corey Mickens, who was killed by NYPD on March 13, 2007
- Jennifer Gonzalez-Dioud, partner of Kenny Lazo, who was killed by Suffolk County police on April 12, 2008
- Joshua Lopez, nephew of John Collado, who was killed by NYPD on September 7, 2011
- Hawa Bah, mother of Mohamed Bah, who was killed by NYPD on September 25, 2012
- Melissa Kennedy, mother of Danielle Willard, who was killed by West Valley City, UT police on November 2, 2012
- Cecile Hepburn, grandmother of Kashad Ashford, who was killed by Lyndhurst/Rutherford, NJ and State police on September 16, 2014
- Fatima Rhynes, mother of Jarvis Hayes, who was killed by Myrtle Beach, SC police on September 8, 2017

THE STOLEN LIVES PLEDGE

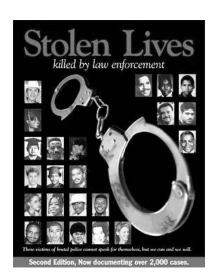


I, ______, pledge that the life and the humanity of these Stolen Lives will not be forgotten. I pledge that their highest hopes and aspirations will live on in us, and that I will seek justice for these and all Stolen Lives. In this way I pledge that their memory will stay alive and will inspire us to fight for justice and a better world.

THE STOLEN LIVES PROJECT

The mission of the <u>Stolen Lives Project</u> is to assemble a national list of people killed by law enforcement agents from 1990 to the present. Through grassroots efforts, over 2000 cases were documented in the second edition of the Stolen Lives <u>book</u>, which was published in 1999. Although just the tip of the iceberg, these 2000+ are evidence of a horrifying national epidemic of police brutality. The victims of police violence were part of our society, but rarely are their lives or names publicized, or the real circumstances surrounding their deaths investigated and made known. The Stolen Lives Project aims to restore some dignity to the lives lost. Though their lives have been stolen from us, we will not allow them to be forgotten.

Since Amadou Diallo was killed in February 1999, over 350 people have been killed by NYPD. According to *Victims of U.S. Police*, over 1,700 people have died through an encounter with law enforcement so far this year.



CONTINUING THE STOLEN LIVES PROJECT

The Stolen Lives Project aims to speak for victims of police brutality and murder, their families and loved ones, and for all of us who demand justice. The follow-up to the second edition of *Stolen Lives: Killed by Law Enforcement* will be online as a searchable database, and volunteers are needed to help with the research, writing, coding, and editing. For more information, visit the website http://stolenlives.org or the Facebook page, or email stolenlivesprojectonline@gmail.com.

To contribute financially, give however much you would like for our 2011 mixtape, *Voices Against Police Brutality* (please note that contact information on the Bandcamp page is outdated).

OCTOBER 22 COALITION



The October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, has been mobilizing every year since 1996 for a National Day of Protest on October 22nd, bringing together those under the gun and those not under the gun as a powerful voice to expose the epidemic of police brutality. The Coalition also works on the Stolen Lives Project and jointly produced the second edition of Stolen Lives: Killed by Law Enforcement with the Anthony Baez Foundation and the National Lawyers Guild.

COVERAGE OF PAST STOLEN LIVES INDUCTION CEREMONIES

- "Remembering Stolen Lives" in Revolutionary Worker (1999)
- "Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony" in Greenwich Village Gazette (2003)
- "The Stolen Lives Project" in Gotham Gazette (2004)
- "Activists Hold Police Brutality Ceremony" in Final Call (2006)
- "Stolen Lives Remembered" in The New York Amsterdam News (2006)
- "Stolen Lives Group Mourns Victims of Police Shootings at Pratt University" in NY Daily News (2009)
- "Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony Celebrates the Lives of Those Killed by Police and the Struggle for Justice" in Revolution (2010)
- "Stolen Lives Commemorated" in Workers World (2011)
- "On the 2011 NY Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony" in Revolution (2011)
- "Stolen Lives" in News & Record (2016)