

# Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony



Organized by families of those killed by law enforcement and October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation

## THE STOLEN LIVES INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Stolen Lives [Induction Ceremony](#) is a solemn, yet empowering occasion at which recent and past victims of police killings are formally inducted into the roster of the [Stolen Lives Project](#). 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 those in attendance.

Since 1997, thirteen Stolen Lives Induction Ceremonies have taken place in New York City, and over half a dozen ceremonies have been held in other cities around the country, in community spaces, schools, and churches. In December 2020, both in consideration of and in taking advantage of the safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the first national and [virtual ceremony](#) was organized, becoming the first of an annual livestream since. Families and other loved ones of about a hundred 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 below) by all in attendance, as a (re)affirmation of our commitment to the struggle.

Those who would like to participate, help build for the event, or contribute in any way to any upcoming Stolen Lives Induction Ceremonies, please contact [stolenlivesprojectonline@gmail.com](mailto:stolenlivesprojectonline@gmail.com).

## THE STOLEN LIVES PLEDGE

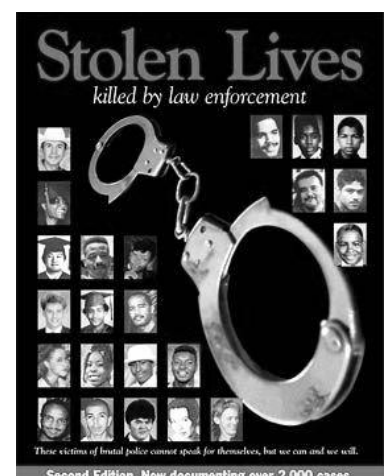


I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge that the life and the humanity of these Stolen Lives will not be forgotten. I pledge that their highest hopes and aspirations will live on in us, and that I will seek justice for these and all Stolen Lives. In this way I pledge that their memory will stay alive and will inspire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

## THE STOLEN LIVES PROJECT

The mission of the [Stolen Lives Project](#) is to assemble a national list of people killed by U.S. law enforcement agents from 1990 to the present. Through grassroots efforts, over 2000 cases were documented in the second edition of the Stolen Lives [book](#), 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 370 people have been killed by NYPD. According to [Victims of U.S. Police](#), over 2,000 people have died through an encounter with law enforcement in 2020 alone.



# 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](mailto:stolenlivesprojectonline@gmail.com).

To contribute financially, purchase some tracks from our 2011 mixtape, [Voices Against Police Brutality](#) (please note that contact information on the Bandcamp page is outdated) or contribute to our most recent [GoFundMe](#).

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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)

“[Newark Activist Among Speakers At 'Stolen Lives' Ceremony](#)” in *Patch* (2020)

