

We express our heartfelt sympathy to you – Sandra’s many loved ones and friends and to the broader community grieving her loss. You have suffered unimaginable loss and grief for a death that should never have happened.

Yes, we are also angry. Sandra’s death is a great crime that cannot be accepted. It calls out for justice. Sandra was alive, well, happy and vibrant until she was followed, stopped and brutalized by that Texas cop, and found dead in the jail 3 days later. She never should have been stopped or arrested in the first place! There is no good reason for this to have happened, but there is a reason. The cop was enforcing the rules of a system that places no value on the lives of Black people, and Black women in particular; a system that reacts with vengeance and violence against people like Sandra who refuse to “know their place” as this system defines it.

The death of Sandra Bland is on the hands of the police and jail authorities – enforcers of this system, and those they actually “serve and protect” – the rulers of this system. Who killed Sandra? This damn system. Just since Sandra’s death, the police in this country have killed people at the rate of approximately 1 every 5 hours. This is a nationwide epidemic of police terror and murder that is causing immense suffering. Think about all of those families being devastated the way Sandra’s has been.

This is utterly intolerable. We refuse to live in a society that does this to African-Americans. Police terror must stop. We urge everyone who feels this way to act now so that no other family should have to experience such needless pain again. We hope everyone reading this will join with people all across the country in building for a “Rise Up October” protest against police terror October 24 in New York City. And those of us who are revolutionaries are urgently getting people organized for an actual revolution, which is what it will take to finally and fully uproot centuries of oppression Black people have faced, along with all the other crimes committed by this system here and around the world. We urge you to go to revcom.us to learn why revolution is necessary, why it’s possible, and what it’s all about. And to learn about Bob Avakian, a leader who has done the work on how we can bring into being a radically different and better world.

Once again, our hearts go out to you. Let’s turn the deep sorrow and outrage we feel today into a real force to end all this madness and suffering once and for all.

–Revolutionary Communist Party, Chicago Branch
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