

Statement from Revolutionary Communist Party, NY Branch on the Police Murder of Eric Garner: “IT STOPS TODAY”

Everyone has seen the video. Everyone has seen the police come up to Eric Garner and put him in a chokehold for the “crime” of selling cigarettes. Everyone has seen Eric say over and over, as they drive him to the ground, “I can’t breathe.” Everyone has seen the big man go down, unconscious. Everyone has seen the pigs just stand over his body, doing nothing. Everyone has seen the paramedics do the same. Not even making a show of *pretending* to save him. That’s how they see the lives of Black people.

This is everyday life for masses of Black people in America now. Today. 2014.

Do you remember Eric Garner’s last words before they put him in a chokehold?

“It stops today.”

It stops today.

The murder of Eric Garner is a dagger right in the gut of millions of people—but it is part of, it is the spearpoint, of a whole bigger program. It is tied in with the horrific mass incarceration of African-American, and other minority, peoples. It is tied in with the fact that they have no future for ordinary Black people like Eric Garner other than one where you are constantly hounded and then murdered if you raise a question against them.

Face it. **Right now this system is committing slow genocide against African Americans—and it is on track to commit fast genocide.**

Eric Garner’s words should ring in our ears and in our consciences: **this DOES have to stop today!**

People’s anger at this is righteous. People’s anger is ESSENTIAL. Anyone who tells people to “be cool” is dead wrong. This righteous rage at what was done to Eric Garner is the fuel we need to “stop this today.”

But how?

Not by electing new mayors or presidents who are Black or who are supposedly sympathetic to or “listen” to Black people. Didn’t people just do that? And what did it get? The same harassment, the same imprisonment, the same being treated like a criminal. And the same murder. Why do we keep expecting this ILLEGITIMATE system to do right—when it has taught us over and over that it cannot and will not?!

Not by videos—because how many videos have we seen? It’s okay and it can be important to take videos, but **the time for just taking videos has long since passed.**

Not by putting our faith in the Justice Department—because how many other times has the Justice Department investigated, and then the same basic shit keeps going on? This is the same IN-justice

Department that oversees the lockup of millions of our youth and that is part of this whole illegitimate thing—why should we expect it to do anything other than either a whitewash or a slap on the wrist?

Yes, by **fighting back**—by going up against these pigs and the whole murderous system whose laws and way of life they enforce, and demanding **justice** for Eric. FIGHTING BACK IS ESSENTIAL—but that fight **has to be part of something bigger**.

What we really need is a revolution. A real revolution. A total revolution. A revolution which actually **defeats and dismantles this system's tools of violent repression**: the armed force that this system wields against oppressed people here and all around the world—from Staten Island to the Gaza Strip. A revolution to change EVERYTHING. Changing the economy, changing the way people are treated and treat each other, changing the ideas and values that get promoted and fought for, and yes, changing the way that security is provided to people. And as the first basic and essential step to this: a revolution which brings in **a whole new system which leads the masses of people to exercise power and to remake the world**. A revolution which must and will lead people to **eliminate all the inequalities and disparities of this society—including the oppression of Black people and other oppressed nationalities by white supremacy and the oppression of women by men**. A revolution which must and will lead people to **struggle over and finally overcome all the rotten ideas that correspond to this system of exploitation**. A *communist* revolution—against capitalism and bringing in a whole new socialist system.

This is what we need, and this is possible. Now on one level, the time to totally jump this revolution off is not today. We would lose if we tried that. And we aim to win. The lives of millions and, ultimately, billions depend on that.

But in another way, the revolution DOES have to start today—there is plenty to do right now to get ready for this revolution, to hasten and bring closer the chance to make revolution and then win when that chance comes. That is what our Party is all about. Our slogan puts it out:

Prepare the ground, prepare the people, and prepare the vanguard—get ready for the time when millions can be led to go for revolution, all-out, with a real chance to win.

Get with this Party. Come to its website, revcom.us. Check out and get into our leader, Bob Avakian (BA), who has taken communism and revolution to a new level. Get BA's film *REVOLUTION—NOTHING LESS!* and his book *BASics*, the handbook of revolution. Meet BA by going online to youtube.com and searching “Yes, There Is a Conspiracy, to Get the Cops off.” Get with the Revolution Club, where you can **fight the power, and transform the people, for revolution**, right now.

Be in the streets with us fighting for justice for Eric Garner. **And join our Party and many others in getting ready for a massive month of resistance against mass incarceration, police terror, repression and the criminalization of a generation**. This has to be a massive effort, and many different people of all kinds of views are uniting to do this—but you are badly needed for it! Come to a kickoff rally and meeting to get down on planning this on **August 2 (12 noon-4pm, at St. Paul and St. Andrew Church, 263 West 86th St., New York, NY 10024)**.

It is up to us to make real Eric's words: **IT STOPS TODAY!!**

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