

# JAIL THE KILLER COPS

## JUSTICE FOR CHARLEENA LYLES!

Philando Castille was gunned down by a police officer in July last year in Minneapolis, and his killer was acquitted on June 16. Within days of the announcement of this injustice, Charleena Lyles, a pregnant black woman was killed by Seattle police in front of her children after calling the police about a burglary.

The excuse: Two male officers felt threatened by two knives held by a woman who weighs less than 100 pounds. After years of “reforming” the Seattle Police Department under a federal consent decree, these killings are still justified by the SPD’s policies and procedures.

This racism has to stop. We need to build a stronger grassroots movement from below to end this oppression, to make Black Lives Matter.

Despite 3 years of continual protests, police continue to murder black people and avoid jail time. In addition to police brutality, the black community faces disproportionate levels of unemployment, less access to services, and lower wages. The racist police murders and acquittals are part of a systemic problem that needs to be addressed with a mass movement and clear demands for justice.

In order to get justice for Charleena, we can’t allow the police to investigate themselves or put trust in a political establishment that covers up for killer cops. We support the call from Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant for an independent investigation, including a hearing where community members can confront the police chief and other top cops in full

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### SEATTLE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE AND COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT DEMAND:

**Jail the Killer Cops!** For an independent public investigation carried out by civil rights, social justice, and labor organizations as a step towards a community oversight board with full powers over the police, including department policies, procedures, budgets, and investigations.

**Black Lives Matter!** Change Washington State law to stop allowing police brutality.

**No new Youth Jail!** For socialist policies that prioritize housing over bunkers, education over jails, and people over profit. For a society based on social justice and solidarity, not racism and exploitation.

**For Economic Justice!** Tax the rich and big business to provide high-quality free education, jobs and healthcare for all. For a democratically-controlled economy that works for the many, not the few billionaires.

**For a United Movement Against Racism, Trump and the Billionaire Class!** All struggles against Trump should support the movement for racial justice with mass rallies and democratic decision-making. For an all-out struggle from below to drive out the racist Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Trump!

**We Need a New Party of the 99%!** Build an independent political voice for working people, people of color, and young people that fights the injustices of capitalism, refuses corporate cash and bases itself on the demands and power of movements from below.

- We demand an independent investigation into the killing of Charleena
- We need a democratically elected community oversight board with full powers over the police
- Repeal WA state “malice” law protecting police from prosecution
- No new Youth Jail!





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view of the public. This could lay the basis for establishing an elected community oversight board with representatives from grassroots community groups with full power over the police.

Charleena lived in the north Seattle police precinct where the political establishment wanted to build the most expensive police station in the country. This proposed police station - in reality a militarized bunker - was stopped by community campaigning, direct action, and the involvement of Socialist City Councilmember Kshama Sawant. At the same time the plans to build a new youth jail are still ongoing. We need money for education, jobs, and housing - not for police bunkers and mass incarceration.

### United Struggle and Independent Politics

The victory against the police bunker in Seattle shows that grassroots movements can overcome racial injustice, but we need to do more than just protest the latest outrage. We need to organize sustained coalitions that build community support around concrete issues that people face every day like rising housing costs and health care access as well as police brutality. The entire movement against Trump needs to unite with the struggle against racist policing. From Pride parades to union rallies and women's rights protests, we must link up our struggles to defeat Trump and the racist, bigoted agenda of the billionaire class.

Political candidates are starting to emerge throughout the country out of the Black Lives Matter movement and the civil rights movement. We need elected representatives that help build our grassroots movements and are independent of the corporate establishment that protects killer cops. We need more independent candidates like Nikkita Oliver who is a lawyer, a teacher, and a Black Lives Matter activist running for Mayor in Seattle and refuses corporate cash, builds grassroots movements and has a platform to dramatically improve the lives of working people. All Seattle citizens need to vote by August 1st for Nikkita Oliver as well as independent socialist city council candidate Jon Grant who is a long-standing housing justice activist. Socialist Alternative activist Ginger Jentzen is another great example of an independent candidate for City Council



in Minneapolis who immediately reacted to the acquittal of Philando's killer with a call to protest.

We have to stop the racist agenda of billionaire president Trump and the Republican party. Many anti-racist activists are running for office throughout the country with good demands, but most are running as Democrats. However, in every major city throughout the country, institutional racism runs rampant, and the corporate-controlled Democrats who are in charge of those cities and have not taken the action needed to change the systematic police and economic oppression. We need a discussion in our movements about the need for an independent force - a new party of the 99% - that helps build a determined struggle against racism, economic injustice, and the capitalist system that is ultimately the root cause of these problems.

### Capitalism and Socialism

Racism, sexism, poverty, and environmental destruction are all built into the very foundation of capitalism, a system that is based on the rule of a tiny elite, the 0.1% at the top of corporate America who control both major parties and the media. In housing, healthcare and other aspects of our daily lives, it is clear that the "free market" system has failed. Instead, we need public ownership and democratic control over the top

500 corporations in order to meet the needs of everyone instead of the wealthy few.

Working people have the potential power to challenge and end this rotten system with systematic grassroots organizing, mass mobilizations, and strikes. Join Socialist Alternative in the struggle against racism and capitalism!

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