

## **The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing**

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

The Newseum at 9:00am

Testimony by Carmen Perez

1. Carmen introduces herself, gives brief description of The Gathering for Justice and Justice League NYC
  2. Carmen talks a little about growing up in Oxnard, California in a Black and Latino community with strained relationships with law enforcement
  3. Carmen describes her professional history working inside prisons and with formerly and currently detained juveniles, along with her current work with Justice League
  4. Brief overview of Justice League's activities over the past month
  5. Outline Justice League "demands" that have federal implications (see below)
  6. End Testimony
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- We believe that transparency and accountability is key to reform. We the people have a right to the publication of data on police practices and police abuses including but not limited to data on deaths in police custody, cases of police brutality, data on policies like search and seizures, stops, arrests, and detention practices.
  - We believe that the appointment of a Special Prosecutor in cases of police brutality and excessive use of force, including deadly force, should be automatic. We can eliminate the politicization of these kinds of cases by creating a standard by which the SP appointment is guaranteed.
  - We believe that legislation should be drafted to clarify the rules of engagement between the police and the community and to make illegal the use of lethal force, including the chokehold, except to protect against serious, imminent physical injury to the officers or the public. Currently in counties like New York, the chokehold is against department policy, but it is not a criminal offense.
  - We believe there should be comprehensive new training programs implemented across the country for ALL officers – to include Crisis Intervention Training, Harm Reduction and Cultural Identity Training, and De-Escalation Skill Training – to eliminate racial bias and police brutality. In San Antonio, Texas, Crisis Intervention Training has been hugely successful, leading to serious reduction in incarceration rates, especially among mentally-ill individuals, who make up a large percentage of the current US prison population.
  - We are calling for an end to the criminalization of young people in the US school system. The "school-to-prison pipeline" targets primarily youth of color and has

created a generation of young people growing up incarcerated. Some important reforms in this area would include the removal of “resource officers” or “safety officers” from schools, which would significantly reduce the numbers of juveniles in detention.

- Further, we believe that Decentralization is an important key to repairing the trust between individuals and law enforcement in black and brown communities. When police officers serve in the communities in which they live, violence and abuses go down, public safety goes up, and trust is built.
- Finally, Carmen will outline her plans for a Federal Mandate on System-wide Accountability for Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems.