

# From Selma to Ferguson...

## Nonviolence Resistance and Civil Disobedience

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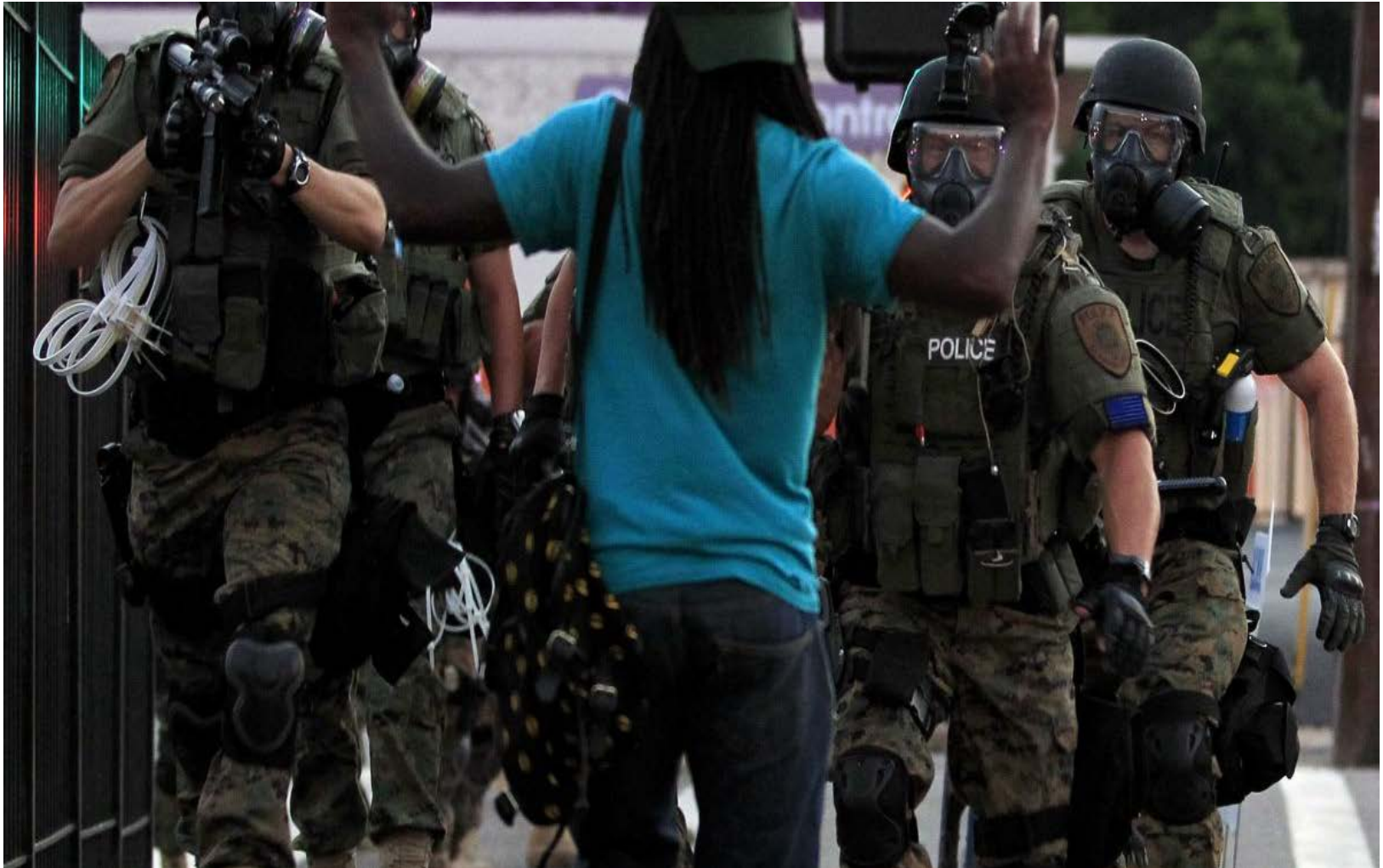
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# **Interactive National Map Police Shootings 2000-2014**

**4,285 police killings nationwide**

**<http://www.killedbycops.org/>**

# *The Rise of Warrior Cops and the Crisis of Police Brutality*



# Ten Reasons for Police Violence

- Lack of training in nonviolent solutions and skills
- Militarized with weapons from Iraq and Afghan wars
- Blacks and Latinos criminalized in public's mind, unfairly stereotyped in media. Police succumb too
- 84% of police see widespread misconduct, but afraid to report fellow officers
- Definition of what is brutality varies widely (1985 & 1995 Supreme Court rulings gave wide discretion)
- No consequences when cops abuse; prosecutions rare
- Cost of misconduct law suits paid by taxpayers
- Fallout from Central American wars in 1980s give rise to gangs coming across border to U.S. cities.
- Police feel under siege from so many guns on U.S. streets. Domestic internal arms race
- Deflection of deeper responsibility about U.S. history





# **Nonviolent Strategies to Counter Police Brutality**

- **Discuss the legacy of slavery in the U.S. Acknowledge racism**
- **Nonviolence trainings to respond to conflict with skills**
- **Bias awareness across all institutions, particularly mass media**
- **Neighborhood dialogues/teach-ins examining White Privilege; “Courageous Conversations” to reverse bias in all of society**
- **Civil resistance training for defense of minority communities**
- **Truth telling hearings and speak-outs to document abuse**
- **Unified, national database of police misconduct**
- **No transfer of military equipment to domestic life**
- **Greater citizen oversight and review boards of police, including body cameras**
- **Abusive cops pay direct penalties and costs of law suits**
- **Define what constitutes brutality; close Supreme Court loop-holes**
- **Separate prosecutors from cozy relationship with cops**
- **Stronger gun laws to stop the spread of weapons on U.S. streets, so cops don’t feel so besieged and “out-gunned”**

# Two Americas

- Current Policing Practices Policing reflects the will of American Society
- Police conflate protesting with being anti-police
- Police protect citizens
- Police protect private property
- System of winners and losers
- Criminalized population justifies losing

# Internal Logic of Policing/Militarism

- Goes beyond the desire of American Public
- American Police- resemble standing armies
- War on drugs/poverty – don't do what it claims to do, i.e. reduce crime ( Brennan Report on Prisons, 2014; Thompson, 2015)
- Is the role of policing to maintain its institution & reinforce status quo?
- Violence



# A Growing Movement



- Vision of Protesters
- Demands
- Strategies
- Successes and Failures
- Road Map
- Maintaining Non – Violent Discipline



# The Vision

From Here



To Here



# Protester Demands

\*[thedemands.org](http://thedemands.org)

**Demand #1 -- Political Accountability for the Death of Michael Brown, Jr.**

**Demand #2 -- Special Prosecutor for All Deadly Force Cases**

**Demand #3 -- Police Held Accountable for Use of Deadly Force**

**Demand #4 -- End Over-policing and the Criminalization of Poverty**

**Demand #5 -- Representative Police Force and Intentional Officer Training**

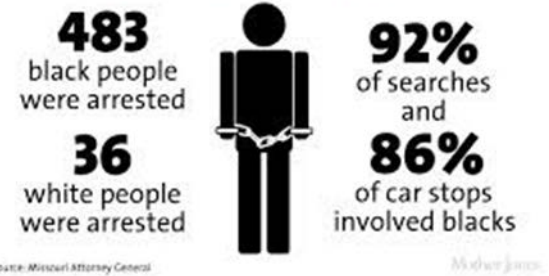
**Demand #6 -- End Funding for Discriminatory Police Forces**

**Demand #7 -- Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Structural and Systemic Inequalities in Missouri**

**Demand #8 -- The Right to Protest**

**Demand #9 -- Pass the National "End Racial Profiling" Legislation**

## In 2013 in Ferguson:





# Strategies



# Successes: Boycotts

## Ferguson Wal-Mart Boycott

- Reached over 100,000 people in one weekend
- Over 300 cars turned away
- An estimated 40% profit reportedly was lost



## Black-Out Black Friday

- Projected Black Friday sales expected to be 3% over 2013 sales
- Sales plunged 11% compared to 2013, representing a dollar drop off of nearly \$7 billion

# Failures: No Study Preparation

- Did not make our own narrative
- Allowed media to exploit the people of Ferguson
- Allowed unsafe situations for protesters
- Initially unaware of infiltrators and provocateurs
- Didn't hold fast to our agenda at all times
- Ignorant to available resources



# Maintaining Non – Violent Discipline: Strategies

- ❖ Protester Meetings
- ❖ Protester Family Dinners
- ❖ Community Outreach- food pantries, clothing drives, voter registration drives, counseling services, youth programs
- ❖ Host Community Empowerment Events- economics workshops
- ❖ Offer Trainings on Understanding Your Government/Laws/Duties of Elected Officials
- ❖ Prayer Meetings- Understanding we are change

# Not your parents movement



# Continuation of the Movement: From Selma to Ferguson



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- From Selma to St. Louis
- History of Selma
- Waging Nonviolent Civil Disobedience
- Selma Today
- Continuation of the Movement



# Truth-telling

- Reconciliation not possible until
  - Resetting oppressive relationships
  - Structural change is underway
- Stories from the ground up have the possibility to direct change
- Acknowledgement of tragedy
- Healing
- Part of the Moral Inventory Necessary for Reconciliation ( Scott, 2014)
- Community transformation
  - Ground up shifts toward from procedural/punitive toward restorative justice
  - All ethics and morality come from the lived experience (Aristotle, Ragland, 2012; Walzer, 1987)
- Self determination



# Truth-telling

- Might lead to Legislative Fixes
  - Local ordinances changed based on human rights (ford foundation, 2005)
- Community Initiative development
- Connections with other communities
- Stories present history from the communities perspective
- Educational for emerging generation to see
- Work toward change is heal and self-empowering
- Reconciliation becomes more possible



# Possibilities

- Relationship between Police and Community
  - Sao Paulo Brazil
  - Richmond, CA
  - Not Presidential Task Force on Policing/Sweet Tea

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