

# 21st. Century Anti-Lynching Campaign Needed!

## Troy Davis: Murdered by the State

by Rob C-Dub

The word violence is often used to refer to criminal violence, which exists outside the boundaries of the law. However, violence committed by the state tends to be overlooked at times. During the past few years, certain events have led to the resurfacing of state-sanctioned violence into discussion. The death penalty, or the murder of a person convicted of a violent crime, has been controversial for a long period of time. If there is limited evidence to prove one's guilt, then the execution can be considered to be just as violent an act as the alleged act of the killer. The Troy Davis case has provided a catalyst to death penalty opponents over the course of the past few years. Troy Davis was charged with the murder of off-duty police officer Mark McPhail in 1989 and sentenced to death by lethal injection, despite a lack of physical evidence of Davis' guilt. State and federal courts maintained the guilty verdict even as the original testimonies from witnesses began to lose credibility. Davis was prevented from presenting evidence of his innocence, and the sentence had a violent emotional impact on Troy and his family. He was killed by the state of Georgia on the evening of September 21, 2011, after a request for a stay was denied.

Even with a limited amount of evidence to convict Davis of the murder, the state courts upheld his conviction. Although nine witnesses originally testified against Troy Davis, all but two of them recanted. Some witnesses stated that they were "...threatened and coerced into giving false testimony" (Rankin). This shows that there was verbal violence involved in obtaining the possibly incorrect testimonies of Troy Davis' guilt. One of the witnesses who did not recant was another suspect for the murder of which Davis was convicted. Davis' attorney, Stephen Marsh, described the evidence as "...incredibly flawed eyewitness testimony..." and stated that it "...should never be the basis for an execution..." (AP). The lack of evidence to convict Davis raises reasonable doubt of his guilt. However, state and federal courts continued to maintain the verdict, sending a man who was likely innocent to a cruel and sinister fate.

In addition, Troy Davis was prevented from presenting evidence of his innocence in federal courts. Due to the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, federal courts denied him a hearing on his evidence that he was innocent, saying that he should have presented the evidence in the state courts. However, at the state courts, he did not

have proper legal representation, as the Georgia Resource Center that represented him had "...funding trouble [which] prevented the center from presenting the evidence in state court...". The lack of legal representation in these trials harmed Troy Davis' ability to prove his innocence. The willingness of the court to withhold evidence that may have spared an innocent man from execution shows how cruel in nature the death penalty is.

The death sentence had a degrading emotional impact on Troy Davis and his family. In a letter to supporters in 2008, Troy Davis described the trauma of "...[facing] execution and the death chamber 3 times..." as being "...more punishment than most can bare...". His sister, Martina Correia, described the emotional effects of the sentence on her whole family in another message to supporters. She described how she envisioned her brother "...sitting in a room listening to people talk about why he should not be killed knowing another group of people was waiting to come in and say why he should be killed". She also described her own emotions as she looked at "...my mother who I knew was in turmoil, my son who for the first time was emotionally shaken". These vivid descriptions of the emotional harm caused by the sentencing and the execution fully illustrate the violent nature of the implementation of the death penalty.

The execution of Troy Davis has been used as an example of why the death penalty is wrong. The Troy Davis case has gained international attention, and has fueled the movement against the death penalty. During his years awaiting execution, he gained global public support up until the last minutes of his life. By becoming a vocal opponent of the death penalty in a struggle, not just for his own life, but for the lives of countless others who are executed each year by the state, Davis has inspired others to oppose violence by the state. Even after the death of Troy Davis, the struggle against the death penalty goes on.

## New Brunswick Community Unites to Demand Justice After Police "Murder"

Information in this article is taken from an interview with Alan Broughton, a Rutgers New Brunswick student who became active around the community outrage over the recent police shooting and killing of an unarmed African American man. Mr. Broughton is a member of Direct Action Coalition (DAC).

In the early morning of September 22, 2011, at 12:12 am, a New Brunswick resident Barry DeLoatch was gunned down by New Brunswick police. The killing has touched off a persistent set of protests around New Brunswick.

Mr. DeLoatch was on his porch when a police vehicle pulled up. Two officers exited the vehicle, with guns drawn. Mr. DeLoatch fled down an alley and was shot and killed. No weapon has been recovered and police claim he might have been armed with a stick.

In the days that followed, New Brunswick residents have held a series of protests, most of them starting at the site of the shooting which was at the corner of Throop Ave and Handy Streets in New Brunswick. Protests have been held daily, usually 4 pm, starting from the corner where the killing occurred. On several occasions the protesters have been in the streets and have snarled up traffic. Demonstrators have held signs, distributed pictures and fliers and called for justice through bull horns and chanting.

For many days, it seemed like the police took a watchful approach but they were not directly interfering with the protests. However, after about 10 days of protests, the police responded to a small demonstration on a sidewalk with about 30 officers in heavy protective gear. They placed the person who was speaking through a bullhorn under arrest as well as a young female Rutgers student who had joined the protesters from a group bike ride she had been on. It seemed as if orders were coming down to send a signal to discourage the continued efforts.

The New Brunswick community continues to demand justice in the killing of Barry DeLoatch, at council meetings and street protests. Recently when the mayor met with the community to try to calm anger, community members ended up walking out in disgust when honest answers were not offered. While many community members have offered support, organizations that have been involved in the protest include New Brunswick NAACP, Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War and many others. We offered support by creating a Spanish translation flier and using our website as a serving site for those who wanted to print the fliers. The following is from a brief interview with Alan Broughton:

**YO: Have there been any specific accomplishments of the protests?**

They are paying for the funeral. They are re-evaluating all incidents (of complaint) against police officers. They are going to have folks at meetings every two weeks with anyone who feels there has been injustice in the community. **YO! What do you think of the show of force in riot gear when the two protesters were arrested?**

I look at it as a fear tactic to get people to stop protesting. It was unnecessary and a little too much.

**YO! What is the signal or message that is sent if the officers are not held accountable?**

It sends the message that the police officers are above the law. It tells the people that the system is necessarily what is written down on paper. It will lower the trust of people in the police force and government in general.

**YO! What do you hope to come out of this from an organizational or community standpoint . . . aside from the demands for justice?**

More involvement and awareness. From this effort we have formed the Direct Action Coalition of community members to stay on top of events like this so it never has to get to this level again. Also for people to learn their rights and how to protect themselves.

**YO! What are the sorts of things communities can do to get control of issues like police brutality and other abuse?**

Forming coalitions that are active in local government. Keep communication lines open. Education is the biggest thing. People are not aware and don't know how to go about protecting themselves.



Ida B. Wells led anti-lynching campaign of late 19th., early 20th. century



**Our banners have history . . .**

On April 9, 2011, we had the audacity to unfurl our banner on the way to the NYC anti-war protest and we apparently had violated a law against "blocking" which means to unfurl a banner on a street without a permit on the way to a permitted protest. The banner was temporarily confiscated but eventually returned. We did not learn about such laws in social studies!

### Immigrant Support Organizations / Organizaciones de Apoyo de Inmigrantes

**AFSC Immigrant Rights Program**, (973) 643-1924, 89 Market St, Fl 6, Newark, NJ 07102

**Casa Esperanza**, PO Box 2693, Plainfield, NJ 07060, 213 West Union Ave., Bound Brook, NJ 08805 732-748-1111 Fax: 732-748-1121 [casaesperanzanj@yahoo.com](mailto:casaesperanzanj@yahoo.com)

**Casa Freehold** <http://www.casafreehold.org>, 65 South St. Freehold, NJ Tel: 732-409-3111 Fax: 732-409-3188, [casafreehold@yahoo.com](mailto:casafreehold@yahoo.com)

**IRATE & First Friends**, 321 South Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, 908-965-0455, [firstfriends2@juno.com](mailto:firstfriends2@juno.com), [irateadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:irateadvocacy@gmail.com) <http://www.irate-firstfriends.org/index.html>

**NJ Dream Act Coalition** <http://www.njdac.org/info@njfac.org>

**Latin American Legal Defense & Education Fund (LALDEF)**, PO Box 80, Princeton NJ 08542, (877) 452-5333 [charoj@msn.com](mailto:charoj@msn.com)

**New Labor**, 103 Bayard St, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (2nd Floor) | 732-246-2900

**Pax Christi NJ**, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org), 973-610-1684, [kolearypcnj@gmail.com](mailto:kolearypcnj@gmail.com)

**Unidad Latina en Acción NJ**, [www.ulanj.webs.com](http://www.ulanj.webs.com) [ulaccionnj@hotmail.com](mailto:ulaccionnj@hotmail.com) 203-278-2729

**Wind of the Spirit - Immigrant Resource Center**, 19 Market St, Morristown, NJ 07960 | 973-538-2035

### CIA - NYPD Targets NJ's Islamic Community

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gatherings, in case of uprisings or "extremist ideals."

Not only do they want Arabs and other Muslims to pay heavy penalties, but they use many of them as informants, to capture other "suspects." Anything deemed "anti-American" or "anti-government" could be used against them - "debriefing program." I could be arrested for writing this article, even though I AM protected by freedom of speech. Yet their department doesn't respect any constitutional rights. "Documents about the program operations have reportedly been destroyed to prevent disclosure to the courts." In fact it is against the law for the FBI to enter a house of worship without having some sort of warrant. It is also illegal for the CIA to spy on American citizens instead of foreigners, but yet again they use the excuse of "terrorism."

"The idea troubled senior FBI officials, in which undercover officers regularly break the laws of governments."

Other cities have scrapped Cohen's fear tactics, including Los Angeles and Boston. And that's exactly what it is - spreading fear. Do they honestly think that all Arabs and the Middle East "resent" America? I don't resent living here, but when an organization limits my rights, I become concerned.

I guess it makes sense to them, since they target the most unpopular group at the moment. Think Native-Americans 1700-1800's, Japanese-Americans during 1941-1945, Russian-Americans 1945-1991, African-Americans pre 1964, Vietnamese-Americans 1960-1975. They were considered the "enemies," or "traitors" of their times. But what do you think of them now? So what group will be the next target?

**CIA NYPD OUT OF NJ!**