



# **SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR CONFERENCE, INC.**

*With Vision...By Faith...Through Action*

*Strengthening Churches...Empowering Leaders...Transforming Communities*

**July 25, 2016**  
**The 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Emmett Till**

## **Enough is Enough: African Americans Demand Accountability and Justice**

We, the undersigned, demand that the United States make known and demonstrate its June 12, 2013, claim to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which states:

“Title VI 15 of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, authorizes the Attorney General to bring civil actions to eliminate patterns or practices of law enforcement misconduct, including racial discrimination. DOJ/CRT investigates police departments, prisons, jails, juvenile correction facilities, mental health facilities, and related institutions to ensure compliance with the law and brings lawsuits to enforce the laws, where necessary.”<sup>1</sup>

Hence our demand is for the United States government, the White House, as well as State and municipal governments to take immediate action to stop and prevent the impulsive shootings and killings of African American citizens by this nation’s law enforcement officers. We demand all governmental entities enact specific and strict policies and actions that protect the human, civil and social rights of all its citizens, including African Americans.

This demand is filled with, and fed by the awful agony of having to vicariously and repeatedly watch innocent and unarmed African American children, women and men beaten down or gunned down by law enforcement officers, usually “white,” and then watch in shock and dread as those officers, with rare exception, are declared innocent, and return to their jobs as victors.

Earlier this month, in North Miami, Florida, a video captured the horrific shooting of Charles Kinsey, a professional health care provider to youth, as he lay on the ground with his hands up! Even though by grace he and his client whom he was aiding survived, his shooting is egregious, ghastly and unconscionable. The video exhibits infallible evidence of the uncivil inhumane treatment African Americans are subject to at the hands of some law enforcement officers nationwide.

Invariably, we, and the public at large, are urged by local justice systems, the police establishment and the media to withhold forming an opinion about what such videos show “until all the facts are known.” Whose facts? We, having seen such scenarios over and over, cannot and will not accept that directive again. Our lives are in the balance. Our children with toy trucks, our youth while listening to music, our young girls driving their car or playing at a pool party, our homeless veterans seeking food, our men hustling single cigarettes or CD’s, our disabled elders crossing a street, and even adults with licensed guns, all have been unduly denied due process and violations of their human dignity and rights.

<sup>1</sup> Periodic Report Of The United States Of America To The United Nations Committee On The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination Concerning The International Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Racial Discrimination, June 12, 2013

We rightly reject the notion that all police are “bad.” The problem is law enforcement’s cultural conditioning as warriors, which justifies and protects those who by obfuscating truth, falsifying reports, withholding evidence of misconduct, and controlling the narrative, create an untenable divide between police and the community. This in turn fosters distrust and contributes to racial unrest and fear mongering. We are more than sympathetic and supportive of good African American officers who unjustifiably and often find themselves in the middle of defending their peers and their community.

We ask: Where is the will of police authorities, particularly police unions, to root out the minority of problematic police officers (and their enablers), the ones who are prone to be brutal and barbaric, and for whatever reason feel in their mind and heart the need to commit what are unjustified summary executions? How do we penetrate the “blue wall of silence?”

The faithful and impassioned marches of our frustrated young people have not yet worked; neither have the cries of families destroyed because of police barbarity. Hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements to survivors of family members killed by law enforcement, body cameras and implicit bias training are apparently insufficient to stem the tsunami of terror and trepidation our communities cope with daily. We must have transformative change!

Without question, the federal government has stepped in with remedies— from President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation Executive Order; to stepping in to outlaw convict leasing; to stepping in to outlaw discrimination in housing and employment; to stepping in to ensure the right to vote. The Federal government has had to lead by declaration. At the same time, depending on the administration, its various agencies have crafted policies and practices that undermine such positive policies, or support oppressive State policies and laws.

In this nation, structural and systemic institutional racism, deep-seated psycho-social racial biases, micro-traumas and responses of white denial have prevailed and fostered a chronic hostile stress environment. Thus, we also acknowledge our grave concern for the decline and lack of sufficient mental health services in this nation at a time in which proliferation of military style guns and open carry policies are expanding. This has special implications for returning war-trained veterans as law enforcement officers and civilians. We call upon all American citizens to help stop this madness. This demand seeks urgent and immediate attention by all those who call themselves humane and people of goodwill.

We the undersigned and those we represent are tired of our daily routines and lives being interrupted to repeatedly address state-sanctioned barbarity and the astounding renunciation of African Americans humanity; we are overwhelmed by the anxieties and sleep disruption our children are experiencing by racial profiling in schools and by witnessing these vile, real and virtual acts of injustice and inhumane behavior at the hands of law enforcement and the judicial system. Imagine how they are being setup for stress-vulnerability related illnesses.

As Fannie Lou Hamer proclaimed as she sought the right of black people in Mississippi to vote and to be properly represented in the political system, “*We are sick and tired of being sick and tired.*” Thus, this renunciation of African American humanity must stop now!

It is not about whose side one is on: This is a false choice. It is about the U.S. Justice Department and the Executive authority of President Barack Obama marshalling the will and their fullest constitutional powers to build trust and respect, to do justice and to live up to the claims put before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

We are respectfully expecting and requesting an acknowledgment and response to this declarative statement within the next seven days. We are inviting other interested parties to likewise join in this demand for urgent and transformative action.

**Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference**

Iva E. Carruthers, PhD, General Secretary  
Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, Board Chair

In affirmation with:

**Alabama New South-Selma Chapter  
Ancient Africa Enslavement Museum**

**Association of Black Psychologists**

Dr. Kevin Mwata Washington

**Black Belt Human Resources Development Center**

**Black Psychiatrists of America**

**Blacks in Law Enforcement of America**

Damon K. Jones, New York Representative

**Campaign for a New South**

**Community Healing Network, Inc.**

Atty. Enola Aird, President

**Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC)**

Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Board Chair

Dr. Jacqui L. Burton, President

**Families for Justice as Healing**

Atty. Andrea James, Executive Director

**Institute of the Black World 21st Century**

Dr. Ron Daniels, President

**International Association of Black Professional**

**Fire Fighters**

James F. Hill, II, President

**Mothers-in- Charge/Moms for Peace**

Dorothy Johnson-Speight, Executive Director

**National Assoc. of Blacks in Criminal Justice**

Carlyle Holder, President

**National Association of Black Social Workers**

Toni Oliver, M.S.W., President

**National Black Nurses Association, Inc.**

Dr. Eric J. Williams, DNP, RN, CNE, President

**National Black United Front**

Salim Adofo, Vice President

**National Conference of Black Lawyers**

Atty. Vickie Casanova Willis, President

**Royal Circle Foundation**

Patricia Newton, M.D., Executive Director

**Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race**

R. Drew Smith, PhD, Co-convenor

**Keith Beauchamp**

Filmmaker, "Untold Story of Emmett Lewis Till"

**Jessica Disu (F. M. Supreme)**

Chicago International Youth Peace Movement

**Joyce King, PhD**

Benjamin E. Mays Chair, Georgia State University

**The Honorable Hank Sanders**

Alabama State Senator, District 23

**Ron Hampton**

IBW Police Reform and Accountability Task Force Chair & Former Executive Director, National Black Police Association

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#NoEnd2RUnity

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