

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

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SL: What does it mean to “defund the police”?

Ending State Violence: Resources from Leaders in the Struggle

Last week, we shared [Win Without War's perspective](#) on the recent uprisings against police brutality: our support for the demands of Black-led organizations; our disgust at the deployment of the U.S. military to suppress dissent; and an in-depth look at the white supremacist violence that forms a shared [foundation](#) for policing and militarism both at home and abroad.

This week, we want to move back and highlight the voices of those who are, and for decades have been, at the forefront of this struggle. As we continue down the path of self-education, we've found the following works — although an incomplete list — to be sources of both learning and inspiration. We hope you will too:

Defund the Police

What does it mean to “defund the police”? Minneapolis-based MPD150 [explains](#). More of a visual learner? Try [this zine](#) from the For The People Artists Collective.

Last week, a list of eight demands for police reform — “8 Can't Wait” — went viral. While not all of the demands were wrong *per se*, abolitionists feel that their focus ultimately serves to *reinforce* the prevailing logic of policing (not to mention, their statistical analysis was [faulty](#)). The alternative? [8 to Abolition](#).

Still not sure which policies advance the process of police abolition and which uphold the status quo? Here's a [handy guide](#). (For the record, “community policing” is [the latter](#).)

Black Trans Lives Matter

While George Floyd and Breonna Taylor have become household names, there are far too few who would recognize that of Tony McDade — a Black trans man shot and killed by Tallahassee police the very same week as George Floyd. McDade's murder highlights a tragic fact: state violence falls [especially hard](#) on transgender, queer, intersex, and gender non-conforming people. [The Trans Obituaries Project](#) collects their stories, as well as trans women like Nina Pop and Monika Diamond who were killed by civilians.

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In a WNYC interview, founder and creator of TransLash media Imara Jones [says more](#). “You have to find your own way to strike back” says Black trans elder and legendary activist [Miss Major Griffin-Gracy](#) in describing how everyday personal acts fuel her political activism.

And in celebration of Pride Month, Benji Hart [invites](#) the LGBTQ movement to invoke the abolitionist legacies of the Stonewall riots in living up to the principles of Pride, “may we fight with every fiber of our being to abolish the police and prison systems, making the true safety our communities deserve possible.”

A World Without Prisons

As the movement to defund police opens our imaginations to alternative approaches to safety, violence, and justice, we are also called to reimagine the entire logic of the carceral system. And who better to learn from than legendary scholar and activist Angela Davis? Davis’s book *Are Prisons Obsolete?* is available for free [here](#).

Don’t have the time for a full book? Read the Next System Project’s [interview](#) with activist, organizer, and author Mariame Kaba. Prefer your prison abolitionism in podcast form? Try this interview with leading prison abolitionist [Ruth Wilson Gilmore](#).

What is Justice?

Police and prisons don’t bring us justice. What does? Read [Ejeris Dixon](#) on the concepts of community accountability and transformative justice, and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha on the topic of [healing justice](#). If you’ve had enough of reading, watch the Barnard Center for Research on Women’s video series on [community accountability](#), [transformative justice](#), and [how no one is disposable](#), featuring thinkers and practitioners like Tourmaline Gossett and Kiyomi Fujikawa.

Abolition and #MeToo

As the past few years have seen growing movements for accountability for perpetrators of sexual assault, many have asked whether justice for survivors can be reconciled with movements for police and prison abolition. There’s no doubt that the issue is fraught — and can be particularly painful for survivors. But as Victoria Law explains, the two [are not at odds](#).

Also, check out CeCe McDonald-narrated [video series](#) on the fight to free criminalized survivors of violence.

The Movement Must Be Decolonial

White supremacy, police brutality, and incarceration are global — intricately tied to historical and ongoing systems of imperialism and colonization. The struggle against police violence is also:

- A struggle for [indigenous](#) liberation.
- A struggle for [Palestinian](#) liberation.

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- A struggle for [Kashmiri](#) liberation.

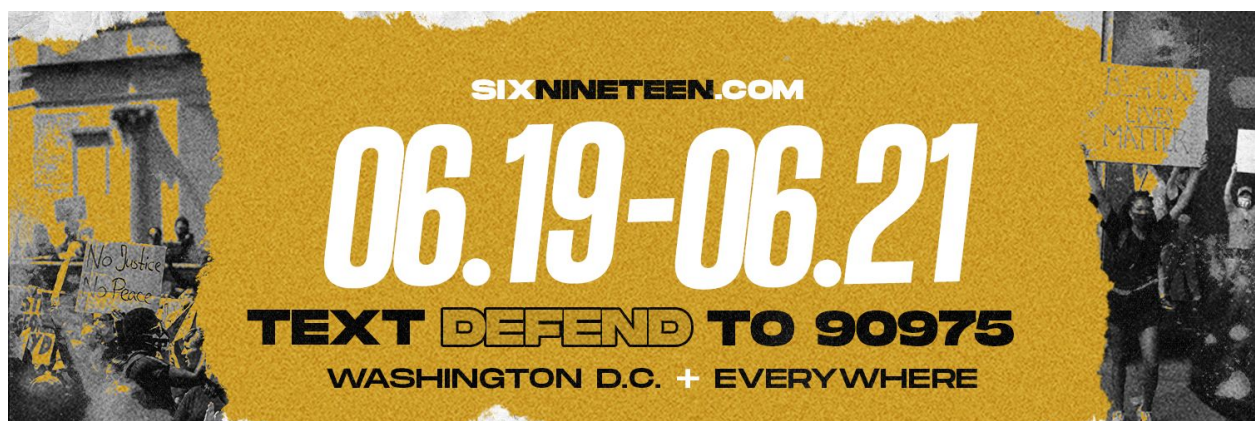
In Kenyan-based newspaper *The Elephant*, celebrities from across Africa share what the protests in the United States protests [mean to them](#). In *Afropunk*, Teju Adisa-Farrar [considers this moment](#) in the context of the Black European experience. Plus, scholars and activists from around the world — from Indigenous organizer Nick Estes to Indian activist Aruna Roy — joined together in a [statement of solidarity](#).

A Call to Action

The world is changing before our eyes. From the Minneapolis City Council's [decision](#) to disband the municipal police department, to Los Angeles and New York police department [budget cuts](#), to the [mainstreaming](#) of once-fringe demands for police abolition, the recent uprisings have already won [victories](#) that would have been unthinkable mere weeks ago — all made possible by the visionary leadership of the activists and organizations cited here.

But the fight is far from over. Protesters continue to face [violence](#) at the hands of the police. As politicians seek to assuage demands for change through tepid reforms and insulting [PR stunts](#), it's essential that we *keep up the pressure*. That's why **the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) has called for a [nationwide mobilization](#) on Juneteenth — Friday, June 19**. Armed with the knowledge shared by veterans of this struggle, and following the leadership of organizations like M4BL, we will be out in the streets fighting for a world without police, without prisons, and without white supremacy.

We hope to see you there.



A Reading List Reading List

Can't get enough? Here are more reading lists from the frontlines:

- [Prisons, Police, & Abolition](#) from #BecauseWe'veRead

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- [Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect](#) from *Truthout*
 - [Introduction to Abolition](#) from Abolitionist Futures
 - [The Abolitionist Toolkit](#) from Critical Resistance
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BURIED LEDES

[Kate Kizer explains](#) that **the violent subjugation and dehumanization of non-white peoples has been the bedrock of American domestic and foreign policy** since the founding of the United States. Tactics used in Fallujah and Kandahar are echoed against protesters at home.

COVID-19 continues to have [far-reaching consequences](#). **One potentially positive outcome is oil companies looking into alternative energy sources** in response to decreased demand.

Thirteen years after **the ICC issued a warrant for his arrest, Ali Kushayb — who is accused of committing war crimes in Sudan —** [will stand trial](#) at the Hague...

Meanwhile, Trump is doing his best to undermine the court (and justice) by announcing [sanctions](#) on staff involved in ICC efforts to hold **Americans accountable for atrocities committed abroad**.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and (notably) his sister Kim Yo Jong severed all communications with South Korea, most likely [responding to](#) the attempts of South Korean hardliners to inflame tensions.

Protests against anti-Black police brutality in the U.S. have [provoked](#) **a national conversation on the rights of people of African descent in Iraq**.

In [a victory](#) for Palestine solidarity and anti-police brutality activists alike, **Durham, NC banned its police force from training with the Israeli military**. As parts of the U.S. question their cooperation with the Israeli government...

...**thousands in Israel held protests against annexation of the West Bank**, drawing connections between police brutality against Black people in the U.S. and systematic state violence against Palestinians.

And finally, apparently the movie National Treasure wasn't far off? **A treasure chest with over \$1 million worth of jewels and gold was found in the Rocky Mountains!**