

Akron Police Anti-Brutality Committee
c/o 513 W. Exchange Street
Akron, OH 44302



PRESS RELEASE

Across the country the epidemic of police brutality continues to intensify. From Los Angeles to New York, police and other law enforcement agents are not held accountable by the courts for acts committed against civilians. In too many cases, politicians cover up this official brutality -- or even applaud and encourage it. The publication of the monumental work, "Stolen Lives Killed by Law Enforcement", lists the over 2,000 people killed by U.S. law enforcement officers. Ohio and Akron are represented in that text. In Akron, the number of unsolved murders of African-American men increases as part of this national trend.

The unsolved nature of these crimes negatively affects the larger African-American community especially the young. Age profiling and brutality at the hands of the authorities extends to them as they are stopped, searched, and questioned often without probable cause. Anti-gang (anti-loitering) legislation is has been reviewed because of near- violations of the First and Fourth Amendments. The jails and prisons of Akron are filled with young men and women—often criminalized because of their race, are subject to further scrutiny if they hang out, or associate in numbers greater than the anti-loitering legislation allows.

This criminalization has reached those who previously one would think the Constitution protects—journalists, and media producers. Most recently, since April 1st, the police have handled the case of Anthony Hudson in a suspect way—denial of basic human rights. Mr. Hudson has been beaten, drugged, and declared insane while under the authority of the Akron Police Department and Summit County Court system. While his level of reported insanity is being assessed, there are questions about the actions of the law enforcement authorities.

The Akron Anti-Police Brutality Committee (AAPBC) is organizing a vigil and community forum to lift up the necessity to further inspect unsolved murders in Akron, generally, and to investigate irregularities in the case of Anthony Hudson; all for the purpose of calling for the establishment of the Police Auditor position, as called for by the Akron City Council in late 2004. The AAPBC is open to wanting a Police Auditor that is accountable to an elected civilian review board. It is only with objective monitoring (without Police exclusivity) that such Auditor can identify, assess and correct allegations of police brutality and human and civil rights violations.

The vigil will be held Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at 11:30 AM in front of the Akron Police Department at 217 S. High Street for one hour.

The companion community forum will be held Wednesday, June 8th, 2005 at 6:30 PM at the Akron-Summit County Library, Main Downtown branch at 60 S. High Street, Akron, OH

Both events are free and open to the public
For more information on these events, please contact the AAPBC / AFSC at 330-253-7204, or email at NEOAFSCAL@aol.com.

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