

Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony

Tune in to the livestream on July 13, 2024 at 4PM ET at youtube.com/watch?v=FTdZ2D4I89U



Omar Ali



Kevin L. Cooper



Eric Garner



Vedo Hall



Jonathan Victor

These victims of brutal police cannot speak for themselves, but we can and we will

THE STOLEN LIVES INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Stolen Lives [Induction Ceremony](#) is a solemn, yet empowering occasion at which recent and past victims of police killings are formally inducted into the roster of the [Stolen Lives Project](#). The Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony is both an affirmation of life and a call to action. It allows the Stolen Life, demonized by the powers-that-be, to be remembered the way they *should* be remembered: by those who love them – and for that truth to be shared with all those in attendance.

Since 1997, thirteen Stolen Lives Induction Ceremonies have taken place in New York City and over half a dozen ceremonies have taken place in other cities around the country, in community spaces, schools, and churches. In December 2020, both in consideration of and in taking advantage of the safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the first national and [virtual ceremony](#) was organized, becoming the first of an annual livestream since. Families and other loved ones of over a hundred Stolen Lives have taken part and received certificates that marked the formal induction. At these ceremonies, families speak of their loved ones and their struggles for justice, their voices joined by community organizers and others in the fight against police violence, as well as artists who contribute their work for healing, for strength, for empowerment. The ceremonies end with a pledge (see last page) by all in attendance, as a (re)affirmation of our commitment to the struggle.

This Stolen Lives Induction Ceremony is the fifth to take place entirely online, with the participation of families in Maryland, New Jersey, New Orleans, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington DC.

THE PROGRAM

- Welcome from emcee **spiritchild**, freedom singer, Maroon Party for Liberation, Urban Art Beat
- Libations by **Mshairi Siyanda**, Atlanta native, educator, activist, organizer, creative, nurturer and liberator
- Welcome from **Juanita Young**, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, who was killed by NYPD on March 1, 2000, and **Carl Dix**, co-founder of October 22 Coalition and spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party-USA
- *Induction Ceremony*
- *Reading of the Stolen Lives Pledge* led by **Kimberlee Vaughn**, former wife of Mohammad Isaifan, who was killed by Akron (OH) police on December 15, 2019
- *Cultural performances* throughout by:
 - Art Blakey II**, oldest brother of Kiana Nicole Blakey, who was killed by a Cleveland off-duty police officer on August 19, 1989
 - The Last Emcee**, Peace Poet
 - Jendog Lonewolf**, BlackNative Two Spirit Truth Hip Hop MC, cultural worker, and photographer
 - Zayid Muhammad**, Black Panther Party cub, founding press officer of NY's Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, NCAP, poet

Livestream Producer: **Lumi**, Peace Poet, filmmaker and educator

ASL Interpreter: **Rashidah Shariff**

INDUCTEES

- **Omar Ali**, who was shot by Akron (OH) police on September 21, 2015, and died from the gunshot wound October 5, 2015
 - ♦ Receiving certificate: brother **Ghalib Ali**
- **Kevin L. Cooper**, who was killed by Baltimore City (MD) police on August 12, 2006
 - ♦ Receiving certificate: mother **Greta Willis**
- **Eric Garner**, who was killed by NYPD on July 17, 2014
 - ♦ Receiving certificate: mother of Eric's youngest daughter **Jewel Miller**
- **Vedo Hall**, who was killed by D.C. police on May 24, 2021
 - ♦ Receiving certificate: mother **Gail Hall**, son **Messiah Hall**, and Messiah's mother **Racquel Waltower**
- **Jonathan Victor**, who was killed by Baldwin County (AL) Sheriff's Office on May 13, 2017
 - ♦ Receiving certificate: mother **Donna Chisesi**

SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF STOLEN LIVES



Gilbert A. Barber



Kiana Nicole
Blakey



Malcolm
Ferguson



JaQuill Fields



Nicholas
Heyward, Jr



Mohammad
Isaifan



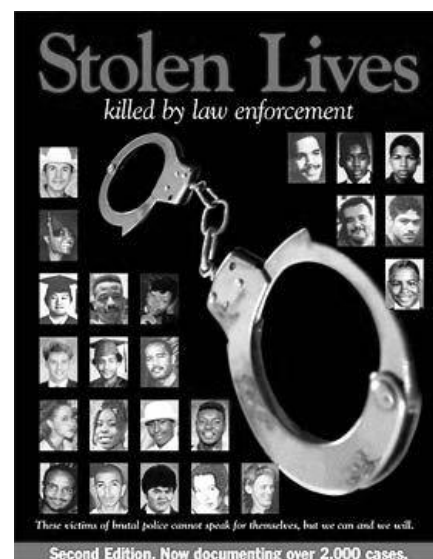
Terrol Micquail
Massey

- **Calvert Butch Stewart**, father of **Gilbert A. Barber**, who was killed by Guilford County sheriff's deputy on May 18, 2001
- **Arthur Blakey II**, oldest brother of **Kiana Nicole Blakey**, who was killed by a Cleveland off-duty police officer on August 19, 1989
- **Juanita Young**, mother of **Malcolm Ferguson**, who was killed by NYPD on March 1, 2000
- **Naomi Peaches Simmons**, mother of **JaQuill Fields**, who was killed by Paterson (NJ) police on June 16, 2015
- **Yasmine Lancaster**, second cousin of **Nicholas Heyward, Jr**, who was killed by NYPD on September 27, 1994
- **Kimberlee Vaughn**, former wife of **Mohammad Isaifan**, who was killed by Akron (OH) police on December 15, 2019
- **Nora Massey**, mother of **Terrol Micquail Massey**, who died from unknown injuries while incarcerated in Southport Correctional Facility in NY on January 3, 2022

THE STOLEN LIVES PROJECT

The mission of the [Stolen Lives Project](#) is to assemble a national list of people killed by law enforcement agents from 1990 to the present. Through grassroots efforts, over 2000 cases were documented in the second edition of the Stolen Lives [book](#), which was published in 1999. Although just the tip of the iceberg, these 2000+ were evidence of a horrifying national epidemic of police brutality. The victims of police violence were part of our society, but rarely are their lives or names publicized, or the real circumstances surrounding their deaths investigated and made known. The Stolen Lives Project aims to restore some dignity to the lives lost. Though their lives have been stolen from us, we will not allow them to be forgotten.

Since Amadou Diallo was killed in February 1999, over 380 people have been killed by NYPD. According to [Victims of U.S. Police](#), over 2,000 people have died through an encounter with law enforcement in 2020 alone. To help with the documentation of the Stolen Lives Project, email stolenlivesprojectonline@gmail.com.



THE STOLEN LIVES PLEDGE



I, _____, pledge that the life and the humanity of these Stolen Lives will not be forgotten. I pledge that their highest hopes and aspirations will live on in us, and that I will seek justice for these and all Stolen Lives. In this way I pledge that their memory will stay alive and will inspire us to fight for justice and a better world.

OCTOBER 22 COALITION



The October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, has been mobilizing every year since 1996 for a [National Day of Protest](#) on October 22nd, bringing together those under the gun and those not under the gun as a powerful voice to expose the epidemic of police brutality. The Coalition also works on the [Stolen Lives Project](#) and jointly produced the second edition of [Stolen Lives: Killed by Law Enforcement](#) with the Anthony Baez Foundation and the [National Lawyers Guild](#).

WEBSITES FOR STOLEN LIVES

Kevin L. Cooper ♦ kevinlcooperfoundation.org

Eric Garner ♦ facebook.com/LegacyGarner

Mohammad Isaifan ♦
change.org/JusticeForMohammadLoveki

Jonathan Victor ♦
facebook.com/JusticeForJonathanVictor

THE ARTISTS

Art Blakey II ♦ IG@crazyartpost

Jendog Lonewolf ♦ ilovejendog.com

Lumi ♦ FB@Lumi.NYC

Zayid Muhammad ♦ allpoliticsrlocal.com

The Peace Poets ♦ thepeacepoets.com

Emma Schmidt ♦ schmidte.space

spiritchild ♦ xspiritmental.com

To contribute financially, give however much you would like for our 2011 mixtape, [Voices Against Police Brutality](#) (please note that contact information on the Bandcamp page is outdated) or to the [GoFundMe](#) set up for the Stolen Lives Induction Ceremonies.

#nomorestolenlives