



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The People's Tribunal on Police Violence and Structural Racism kicks off April 2**

[The People's Power Assemblies](#) of New York City announce the Opening Session of The People's Tribunal on Police Violence and Structural Racism, to be held April 2, 2015 at the National Black Theatre in Harlem. Doors will open at 5:30pm and the event will begin at 6. The event is free and open to the public. A press conference will be held April 1 at 7pm at the Solidarity Center at 147 W. 24th St, 2nd Floor, Manhattan.

Over the coming months, at community hearings throughout the region, the People's Tribunal on Police Violence and Structural Racism will hear testimony from the victims of police violence, raising and amplifying the voices of those most affected. Testimony will cover the full range of police offenses, from everyday harassment to summary executions, and will include the insights of activists and community groups. Testimony will also address related issues, including but not limited to mass incarceration, the militarization of schools, the War on Drugs, economic oppression and domestic violence in order to illustrate the connection between police brutality and the larger system of state violence and structural racism.

As People's Power Assemblies member Larry Holmes declared at a February 9, 2015 demonstration, "We are going to sponsor our own court, our own people's tribunal" with "our own jurors, our own experts, and there are plenty of witnesses."

The April 2 session will be the first of many. This event will serve as an introduction to the tribunal, and as a call to groups and individuals to help organize hearings. The event will open with brief remarks from:

Larry Hales- activist, People's Power Assemblies

Jonathan McCrory- director of programming at the National Black Theatre

Family members of those lost to police violence

Kamal Muhammad- youth activist

Prince Akeem- Shut It Down NYC, organizer of weekly protests at Grand Central

Monica Moorehead- managing editor of Workers World newspaper, co-coordinator of the International Working Women's Coalition

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The main portion of the event will be a town hall. The assembled audience will speak about it's experiences with the police, and discuss how police violence can be eliminated from our society. The audience will then split into breakout groups to continue the discussion and shape upcoming Tribunal events. The opening session will conclude with brief remarks from veteran social justice activist Larry Holmes. Please join us April 2 to amplify the voices of victims of police brutality and hold the police accountable for their crimes.

The People's Power Assemblies is an organization of community activists and organizers who work to empower workers and oppressed people to demand jobs, education and healthcare while fighting against racism, sexism & LGBT bigotry. We have been a strong force in the Black Lives Matter events and protests, spearheading and participating in such events as the [Emergency Response Protests Against Racist Police Brutality from Ferguson to NYC](#), the [Peoples Power Strike Against Racism](#), the [4 Mile March on MLK Day](#), and the commemoration at Grand Central Terminal of the [6th month anniversary of Michael Brown's murder](#).

The Tribunal is organized by the People's Power Assemblies and endorsed by:

Cop Watch NYC

Ya-Ya Network

Peoples Organization for Progress

Right to the City

Shut It Down NYC

Holy Week of Resistance

All in the Red

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Groups and organizations interested in helping organize or participating in the Tribunal should contact Colin Ashley at the above email address. Additional information can be found at [peopletribunal.info](mailto:peopletribunal.info) and [facebook.com/peopletribunal](https://facebook.com/peopletribunal).