

How do we imagine a world without police militarization? What are transformational demands? Oct 29, 2014

I'm glad to know the history of police forces emerging out of slave patrols, because typically I would approach this question by asking, "Well, what are the problems police are intended to solve and how can communities address those problems without murderous state agents involved?" Now that I know the original purpose that police served – to enforce slavery – that question isn't as useful. Police were never meant to assist with the issues that arise out of a people organizing themselves into some kind of governed society. Police are enforcers of exploitative labor arrangements that are stratified by race, class, and gender. To demilitarize police, and de-police people, we have to undo those stratifications and take over control of the conditions of our labor and meet those enforcers head-on as they try to stop us every step of the way.

In my opinion they are just here presently to evoke fear and terror based upon past and current events on how they decide to handle situations. There is just not enough of the proper pressure on police departments as there should be on how they handle everyday citizens or people of color.

As I begin to unpack and process our conversations around militarized police, I have to face my own internalized fear of the police. I've had very few interactions with the police, however I still have a fear. And I realize that fear is a tactic. IF people fear you, they are more likely to let you control them. And I can't ignore the fear because if I want to organize to transform and deconstruct the system I have to work through that fear and find ways to process it and use it to my advantage.

All of our conversations included surveillance and violence. So much of state violence just intimidates us. Organizers tend to fear surveillance even when it is not present

Transformational demands

I look to the restorative justice & prison/police abolitionist movements for guidance on how to begin the process of dismantling the violent police state we're living in at the local level. Also, the leadership of currently & formerly incarcerated movements.

"Thinking of the criminalization of brown bodies paired with a cultural education of how to interact within an environment of enemy vs hero. ...Reflecting on strategies to convince others that the treatment isn't normal or humane without tiring or becoming bitter... Also, the concept of progression being stuck on a treadmill as we tell story after story of the activist who tried. These things being woven into the lifestyles of brown people is a disheartening reality. No answer yet."

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I think that its perspective each person has a different outlook on police. My view is a smaller army of thugs policing people in poverty to maintain control. Others may see them as protecting them and their families. Until everyone sees the same thing when an unarmed black teen is show down it won't change. Due to terrorism they will justify tanks on your streets. Black and Brown are used to being policed by whites ones used to being protected.

How do we imagine a world without police? Uprooting the 500 years of social control that colonialism requires is deeper than challenging the police as we know them today. To "Meet sophistication with sophistication" (As Willie Baptist says) will be to arrange our own power in ways that protect & create safety for all, that address the fears within us & the perceptions of this thing. We will have to rise to the challenge of how to transform even those who have been trained to see us as enemies, suspicious, nothings, disposable, its, protesters, agitators, trouble. How to transform the function of not individuals but a whole apparatus that decreases our safety and protects only assets, only whiteness.

The historical context about the role of the police as agents of the oppressive state and perpetrators of violations of the rights of those without power was helpful. I thing that remembering and being clear about the role of the police in maintain privilege and power is important. IT helps in understanding the tactics/ policies that seems so contradictory and offensive. For the most part police "acting out" is not a mistake but intended to advance the objectives of whose which that entity perceives as the authority- the ruling class.

How do we imagine a world without police or militarized state violence? Well I feel that a daily cultivation of our imaginations is absolutely important, so that when we're witnesses to movements of rupture were, were prepared to offer our ideas to the discussion. Imaginations= both literal and political. Also I think that the left needs to immediately sharpen our critique of the police on the left. Specifically in relation to the history of the police.

Not living/not knowing anything other than a police state makes it difficult to truly think beyond life as its been served but being in a space that intentionally challenges the definitions of police is important to my own rethinking and structuring/ Police should be defined more clearly as should the police state, there should be a more public calling out in media of police as a historically institute that was made to keep racism/ oppressive regimes standing.

I think of the peace that could flourish inside each of us. For black, brown, queer, women, trans, immigrant, poor, gender queer, day laborers, small farmers, factory workers, and other oppressed peoples to live in a world that reflects that our lives are valuable, that our basic needs should be met without any guidelines or requirements, that our families can stay together.

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The transformative demands:

- ➔ Abolish all prisons
- ➔ No police/ policing in our communities
- ➔ No laws criminalizing street-based workers (sex workers etc) economies
- ➔ Local, place based control of our own security
 - Create community security networks that address violence against women and queers.