

What is State Violence?

State Violence: the policies and practices of repression and control used against us by government or legal institutions. That can mean the police, schools, courts, ICE, DCF, military and more.



Police: Getting pulled over or harassed on the street for no reason. Getting hit, beat up, or shot by an officer. In the U.S., every 28 hours a Black person is killed by law enforcement (MXGM, 2013).



ICE: Individuals are ripped away from their families and friends by raids that take place in their homes, workplaces and communities. Immigration and Customs Enforcement last year carried out more than 72,000 deportations of parents who said they had U.S.-born children.



Department of Children & Families: A mother has her children taken away from her rather than helping her resolve challenges she may be having in the home. In the past six years 477 children have died under the DCF's watch, while countless innocent people lost their parental rights. Without families, we have no communities.



Schools: A student is arrested at school for a minor infraction and has her entire future severely jeopardized. In 2010, African-American girls represented less than 17% of all female students, but represented 43% of girls who had experienced a school-related arrest.



The Courts: Black and Latino defendants are often given severe prison sentences for non-violent offenses. In 2012, 19 year old Miami youth Quartavious Davis was sentenced 162 consecutive years in prison for a robbery where no one was hurt. He had no prior criminal record.