

OPINION



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Effective
May 1, 2014**

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Residential &
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Minimum Service CHG.
\$45.00
A small distance/travel
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CARPET CLEANING
2 Cleaning Areas or
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Pre-Spray Traffic Areas
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1 Cleaning Area (only)
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Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area
(Hallway Extra)

**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With
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Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool):
\$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area:
Additional \$10.00 each area
(Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

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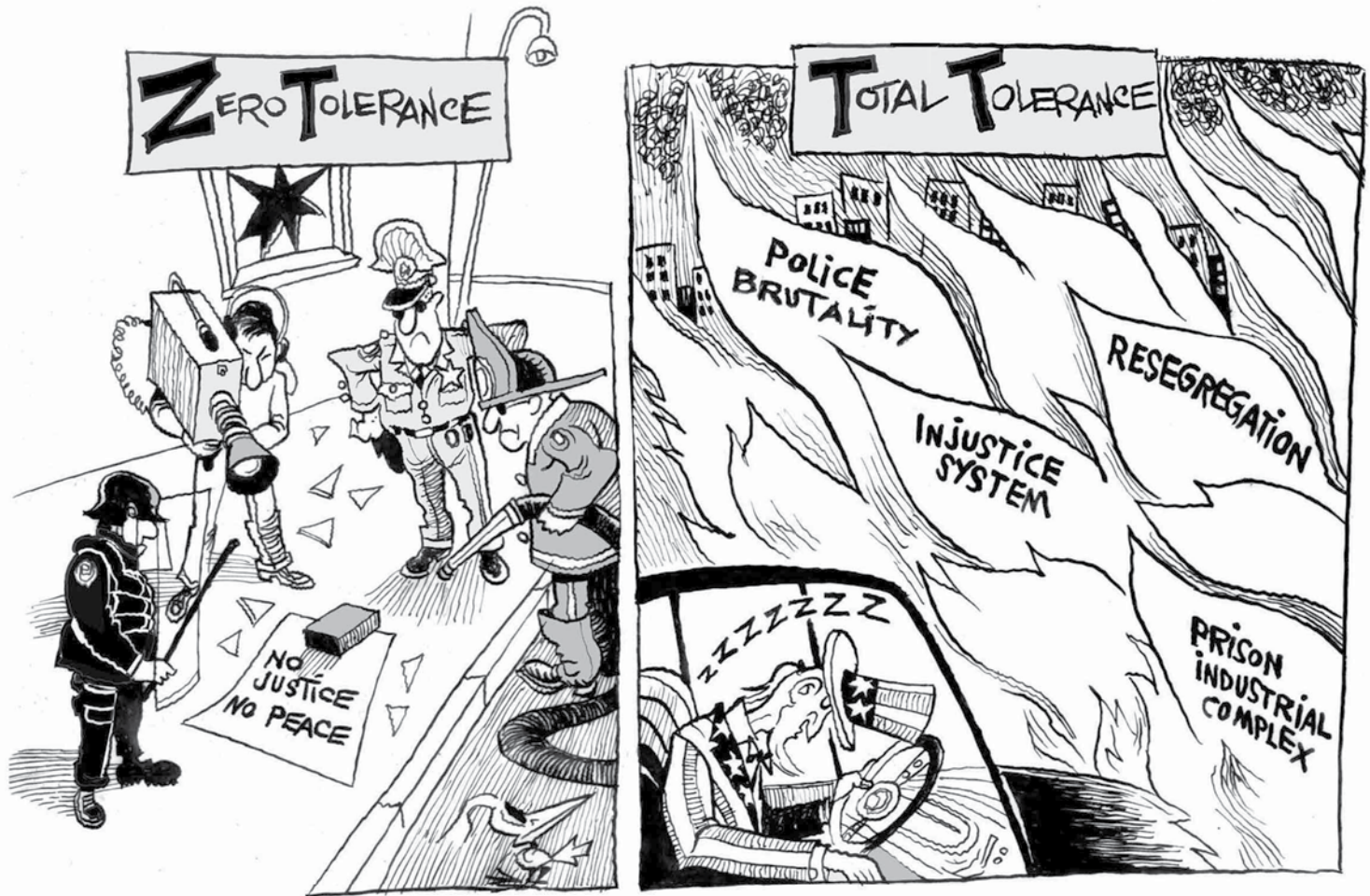
Sofa: \$69.00
Loveseat: \$49.00
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You Need Context to Understand Baltimore Unrest If violence isn't the answer, somebody should tell the police

BY NATHALIE BAPTISTE
FERGUSON, NEW
YORK, BALTIMORE.



As cities erupt after decades of oppression and violence at the hands of police, calls for nonviolence can be deafening. "Violence isn't the answer," the moralists chide when protesters throw rocks and clash with police.

They're right. But they're telling the wrong people. On April 12, Baltimore resident Freddie Gray made eye contact with a police officer and ran. Sometime after the police detained him, his spine was severed. He died a short time later.

After days of large, peaceful protests that the mainstream media largely ignored, Baltimore erupted. Police donned riot gear as buildings and cars burned.

Maryland's state attorney has since announced a range of charges — from false imprisonment to second-degree murder — against the six police officers involved in Gray's death, who'd had the gall to claim that the handcuffed Gray inflicted his injury on himself.

Upon the news, some Bal-

timore residents cers on Staten Island. stopped protesting and started celebrating. But some damage can't be undone: A 25-year-old man is dead.

And for what? Making eye contact?

Gray joins the infuriatingly long — and ever-growing — list of black people killed by police.

Seven-year-old Aiyana

Why are the killers of a sleeping child or an innocent man in his own apartment building not condemned as murderers when rock-throwing teenagers are castigated as violent thugs?

Garner's gruesome choking death, which a bystander caught on video, didn't elicit calls by mainstream America for nonviolence. But when a few angry people in Balti-

armed white person to be killed by police.

And in at least 17 major U.S. cities, black men have a higher chance of being killed by cops than the average American has of being killed by anyone.

Each death leaves the black community and its allies a little bit sadder, but united nonetheless. Marches, rallies, and protests have reverberated in every major city — most of them peaceful, but a few resulting in the destruction of property and violence.

Nobody wants to see people hurt, businesses burned, or innocent lives disrupted by violence in their communities. But you can't understand Baltimore's unrest in isolation from the violence its residents face at the hands of their own government.

They threw rocks and burned cars because of their unbelievable anguish at seeing their brothers, sisters, and neighbors slain by those who are supposed to serve and protect.

Yes, violence isn't the answer. Maybe somebody should tell the police.

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"Nobody wants to see people hurt, businesses burned, or innocent lives disrupted by violence in their communities. But you can't understand Baltimore's unrest in isolation from the violence its residents face at the hands of their own government."

Stanley-Jones was sleeping when Detroit police broke into her house and shot her in the head. Akai Gurley was just taking the stairs in his New York apartment building when a startled cop shot him dead. The unarmed and unresisting Eric Garner was gruesomely choked to death by police offi-

more burned a CVS, critics unleashed a landslide of Martin Luther King Jr. quotes, sanitized for white consumption.

These aren't isolated cases. Last year, for instance, police killed more than 100 unarmed people. Nationally, an unarmed black person is almost six times more likely than an