

# News

## National Newspaper Publishers Association Calls for Appointment of a Special Federal Prosecutor on Racially Motivated Police Killings in the US

WASHINGTON—The nation's largest trade association of African American owned newspapers and media companies, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), today issued an urgent call and demand that President Barack H. Obama and U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch appoint a Special Federal Prosecutor in the wake of the police killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minnesota.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. President & CEO of the NNPA stated, "The kill-



Benjamin Chavis, Jr.  
NNPA President  
and CEO

federal intervention to both investigate and to prosecute police officers who continue to commit these wanton racially motivated killings."

"We, therefore, demand that a Special Federal Prosecutor be immediately appointed by the United States Department of Justice. To date, unfortunately, local

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ings of African Americans in Louisiana and Minnesota during the past 72 hours represent an escalating national pattern of fatal police killings that appear to be racially motivated. These incidents are not isolated local tragedies, but are the terrible growing manifestations of a deadly national system of racism in the criminal justice system that needs to be effectively challenged and changed. There are today too many African American families and communities that continue to endure police brutality and violence across the United States. This is a national crisis that demands immediate

investigations and prosecutions have been ineffective and have not insured equal justice. We have heard from many of our NNPA member publishers throughout the nation who all expressed profound disgust and moral outrage about these brutalities. We will not be silent in the face of these injustices. We demand action by the federal government now."

*The NNPA represents 209 African American owned newspapers based in 32 states and known as the "Voice of Black America" that reaches 20.1 million readers per week with national offices located in Washington, DC.*

## Local groups and the ACLU of Louisiana Sue Baton Rouge Police for First Amendment Violations

By the ACLU of Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. — Local organizing groups and the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana filed a lawsuit today against the Baton Rouge Police Department for violating the First Amendment rights of demonstrators who were protesting peacefully against the killing of Alton Sterling. The case is co-counseled by Sima Atri, staff attorney at the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice and cooperating counsel Ron Wilson on behalf of on behalf of Black Youth Project 100 and the Louisiana chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

The lawsuit alleges that the police used excessive force, physical and verbal abuse, and wrongful arrests to disperse protestors who were gathered peacefully to speak out against the police killing of Alton Sterling. Eyewitness accounts recorded by plaintiffs in the suit show police in full riot gear with assault rifles, lunging and grabbing at peacefully assembled people and throwing them to the ground.

"[The police response] made me afraid to protest. Seeing the way the police were manhandling folks caused me to hide, scream out of fear, and finally flee for my safety. I had to run. A peaceful demonstration should never be like that," expressed Crystal Williams, local resident and organizer with North Baton Rouge Matters, "I feel like speech is my most powerful tool to ensure my community and my family are safe. But now I feel totally silenced."

"I witnessed firsthand as peaceful protestors were violently attacked and arrested, assault weapons pointed at them with fingers on the triggers, some dragged across the cement, their clothes ripped off of them," said Louisiana Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild President and a Catholic nun Alison Renee McCrary "What I saw happening was an immediate threat to life. My and other demonstrators' speech was chilled because of this event."

Counsel also filed for a temporary restraining order against the defendants to prevent them from interfering with people's constitutionally protected right to gather peacefully moving forward.

"The police didn't do their job in Baton Rouge, again. They are bound to protect us from harm, to keep us safe, to do everything possible before throwing someone to the ground or pulling the trigger. Yet Alton Sterling is on the long list of Black people killed needlessly by our nation's police, and protests in his honor have turned into circuses of violence where the First Amendment is tossed aside," said ACLU of Louisiana Executive Director Marjorie Esman. "We can't bring Alton Sterling back but at minimum, the police can stop blocking our right to protest in his name."

A copy of the lawsuit can be found at: [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_document/160713\\_filed\\_complaint\\_doc\\_1.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/160713_filed_complaint_doc_1.pdf)

## Law Enforcement, Activists to Meet with Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will quickly return to the delicate balancing act of supporting law enforcement while addressing concerns of bias from some of the communities they serve.

Obama is meeting Wednesday with police officers at the White House — the second such session this week. This time it will be expanded to include mayors, academics and civil rights activists.

"We'll share solutions from communities that have already found ways to build trust and reduce disparities," Obama said on Facebook.

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden

met with representatives from eight police organizations Monday before flying the next day to Dallas to lead a memorial for five police officers killed by a suspect who said he wanted to kill whites, particularly white officers. The officers were working at rally in which protesters gathered to voice complaints about the shooting deaths of two black men by police officers, one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the other in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Going forward, I want to hear ideas from even more Americans about how we can address these challenges together as one nation. That means you," Obama said.

## RECIPE: Quick Peach Cobbler

A tasty dessert that can be enjoyed on its own or with added fruit.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 can sliced peaches, packed in juice (16 ounce)
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon margarine (softened)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Open the can of peaches. Pour the peaches and their juice into the casserole dish. Heat them on the stove-top until they bubble.
3. Slightly beat 1 egg.
4. In a mixing bowl, mix the egg, sugar, flour, baking powder, salt, and margarine.



5. Drop spoonfuls of this mixture on top of the hot, bubbling peaches.
6. Use pot holders to carefully remove the casserole dish from the stove.
7. Put the casserole dish in the oven. Bake for about 30-40 minutes.

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