

JUSTICE FOR THE JENA 6



Drop All Charges Now!!!

**Statewide Protest Meeting
Saturday, October 13, 2007
1–4pm, Mpls. Urban League**

**2100 Plymouth Ave N in North Minneapolis
(on corner of Plymouth and Penn Avenues)**

The protests across the country in solidarity with the Jena Six have captured the attention of the world and exposed the ongoing reality of institutional racism in the U.S. before the eyes of world public opinion.

The fight of the Six and their families resonates widely because millions of people of color and working people – through their own experience – are all too familiar of the inequality

and discrimination of the U.S. “justice” system.

What makes the Jena Six case different is that thousands of ordinary people from around the country have responded to this injustice with active solidarity. In addition to the thousands of who marched in Jena there have been over 33 solidarity actions across the country.

Come join with others from across

the state to raise our voices to say no to injustice and demand that all the charges against the Jena Six be dropped now!!!

For more information call: Cheryl Morgan Spencer – Mpls. Urban League at 612-302-3100, Cheryl Wilson – Organizing Project of African-American Congregations at 612-871-8980 ext 104, or Chris Nisan at 651-387-4388.

Sponsored by: Ad Hoc Twin Cities Jena Six Solidarity Action Group

Initial Endorsers: Organizing Project of African-American Congregations; Minneapolis Urban League; Minneapolis NAACP; MN State Conference NAACP; St. Paul NAACP; Rose Brewer, Professor African-American Studies – U of MN; Department of African-American/African Studies – U of MN; Communities United Against Police Brutality; Black Liberation Affairs Committee – Macalester College; United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 789; Association of Black Collegians – Minneapolis Community and Technical College; Council on American Islamic Relation – MN; Socialist Workers Party; Young Socialists.

Important Facts About the Jena Six Case

As of 10/5/07

Last fall, when two black high school students sat under the “white” tree on their campus, some white students responded by hanging a noose on the tree. When black students protested the light punishment given the noose hangers, District Attorney Reed Walters came to the school and issued a threat to black students.



Marchers at a rally held in Jena, LA on September 20, 2007.

Several racist attacks against black students occurred and the District attorney did nothing. However, when a white student – who had been a vocal supporter of students who hung the noose – called a black student a “nigger” and was beaten up by six black students, the six were charged with second degree attempted murder. While the conviction of Mychal Bell – the first of the Six to be tried – was overturned on appeal, he and the five other defendants will be prosecuted as juveniles.

- District Attorney Walters came to Jena High School and addressed a school assembly where, by custom, white students sat on one side of the hall and black students on the other. Walters turned to the black students and threatened that he could, “With a stroke of [his] pen make [their] lives disappear.”
- The white student, who was beaten up in the school yard shortly after the noon hour, was taken to a near by hospital by ambulance. The hospital personnel determined that the young man’s injuries were not severe and released him. No bones had been broken, no ribs had been cracked, no teeth were missing, and there were not cuts that required stitches. Later that evening, the student that had been beaten up attended the school dance, looking like a kid who had been in a school fight.
- At a community dance one of the six – Robert Bailey – was punched in the jaw by a 22-year-old white man. Seconds later, a gang of white students joined the attack. Robert was kicked, punched, and hit over the head with a beer bottle. The man who punched Robert was charged with misdemeanor battery only – **NO ONE ELSE WAS CHARGED!**
- The next morning, when leaving a corner store, Robert Bailey was threatened with a pistol grip pump action shotgun by one of the white men who beat him the night before. Robert and Theo Shaw wrestled the gun from the man and, not knowing what to do, ran away. Robert, Theo and another student Ryan Simmons were charged with assault and theft. Their gun wielding attacker **WASN’T CHARGED WITH ANYTHING!**

The Jena case is about a district attorney making good on his threat to destroy the lives of six talented young black men. First, he created the conditions that would lead to racist violence. Then, through a process of selective prosecution, Walters attempted to make an example of the students we call the Jena 6!