

SOME OF OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YESTERDAY...

Here we are, watching on high definition tv the images that demonstrate what we have been saying for centuries.

White supremacy is a tenant of this country: you might call what took place yesterday an attempted coup. The main problem with this language is that the “coup” yesterday was sanctioned by police officers on site, was sanctioned and encouraged by some politicians in power, and was fueled by the sitting President of the country. What we all witnessed yesterday was white supremacy national terrorists trying to remain in power.

BIPOC communities are seen, treated, and experienced by those in power (white supremacists) as a threat, as terrorists, as a menace against the government when we assemble and peacefully protest. We have known that for generations. We experienced that here in Fort Collins, when the FBI visited one of our founders, prior to one of our peaceful protests in 2020, because they were “tipped off” and were concerned for public safety.

The terrorist attack yesterday was announced many days in advance. It was televised, escorted, sanctioned. The white-nationalist terrorist walked from the White House to the Capitol and NO ONE stopped them! NO ONE tear gassed them until much later. No one shot rubber bullets. We have seen the video footage of a police officer on site opening the gates for them to enter; of one police officer taking selfies with one of the terrorists while entering the Capitol. We didn't see any footage of the National Guard in front of the Capitol building, unlike when Black Lives Matter protests took place last year.

The Police showed us yesterday that they can engage with threats, with armed agitators, without brutality! Imagine that. We have heard over and over that police brutality comes from lack of training on how to de-escalate, lack of ability to assess a proper response when faced with armed individuals, real or made up threats. Again, see the footage yesterday. Police can interact with people without using excessive force and brutality. So, it is not training - it is anti-Blackness, anti-Brownness, anti-LGBTQI. It is police upholding colonial violence, like at Standing Rock. Call it what it is.

It is okay to call out the discrepancies we witnessed from those in power, it is okay to feel seemingly conflicting feelings. For example: Yes, not all police officers are bad AND anti-Blackness in the form of police brutality is real. Call what you witnessed what it is. Don't let the absolutes take over.

We keep hearing, “Imagine if it was BIPOC people.” We don’t have to use our imagination - we know, without a doubt, we would have been obliterated, killed, vanished, arrested, and mistreated just by peacefully protesting. That has already happened. We have experienced it - no imagination required. We know white people get treated as if they are the highest standard of humanity at any given time in this country, even when they commit acts of treason; when they commit terrorist acts against our government.

What we saw yesterday was not a mob mentality: This was a planned, organized, tactical move by white supremacists. Period.

74,223,744 people voted for Trump, a person who represents white supremacy, patriarchy, misogyny, capitalism, sexism, and ableism: That’s a clear indication that this is not a “few uneducated people” who support these horrific oppressions, but rather millions of people that have bought into and are willing to defend these violences. We have been telling you, collectively, that white supremacy, colonization, and patriarchy have been running through the veins of this country from its inception.

So, we have no illusions about everything changing once Biden becomes the president. We don’t think things will change overnight on January 20th, and we know the foundations of this racist system must be torn down. We must intentionally keep working against anti-Blackness, racism, discrimination.

Call to Action:

As always, if you are not BIPOC, before taking space check to see if BIPOC led organizations are already working on any of these actions and SUPPORT them. Don’t take over.

No more electoral college: The time to organize around this is NOW. Not six months before the next election. The idea that some votes weigh more or less depending on geographic location is unfair, makes no sense, and allows for white supremacy to remain in place.

Hold Police accountable: This is not a once or twice per year thing. Engage with grassroots organizations that are working on different ways to redirect funds, defund, or hold police departments accountable.

Educate the kids! See our post from one of our members on how to talk to kids about what happened yesterday.

Donate: Invest in BIPOC-led organizations. Search for which organizations are doing work where you live and donate, right now. It can be five dollars. Just do it.

Organize around elections: What we witnessed across the nation with the turnout of voters is the result of organized community work, from incredible leaders and organizers like Stacy Abrams. If you live in Fort Collins, we will feature throughout the year local BIPOC community organizers and leaders. Follow their lead and strategies.

Take care of yourself: Pay attention to how receiving this information and experiencing these traumatic events impacts you. Have in place ideas to take care of yourself: take a walk, listen to music, take a nap. We can all be exhausted and react out of trauma. It does not work. It claims the lives of BIPOC bodies every day.

Support BIPOC for elected office, to be in positions of power: If you feel public office is not where you can best leverage your talents and resources, then start with where you work, the places you make purchases from, the schools you take your kids to, the books you read. There are multiple ways and spaces where you can support BIPOC people.

Demand elected officials, like Senator Cruz and Senator Hawley, to be held responsible for their contributions to the national terrorist attack that took place.

Contact local officials and ask them to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office.

Demand arrests of those that participated in the terrorist attacks. There are pictures, there is footage, there must be consequences.