

**The Coalition for  
Justice and Fairness to  
Reform Law Enforcement**

**OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

(313) 347-2820

**Condolences to the Families of the  
Slain New York City Police Officers**

**DETROIT** -- The recent shooting deaths of two New York City police officers, Wenjain Liu and Rafael Ramos, leave us both with a sense of deep sorrow and sincere condolences to their families and friends. The killings of these police officers reportedly by Ismaaiyl Brinsley, in no way reflects the thinking or the purpose of any of us who are concerned about the ongoing relations between law enforcement and the communities in which they serve. We neither condone, support, excuse, nor encourage such actions. We do not believe that all police officers are bad nor do we subscribe to all protesters being good. While we condemn the actions of any who take the lives of innocent people, it is precisely why we must come together as people of goodwill to try and develop programs and strategies that bring us together as a community.

We are not at war with the police departments in this nation. Anyone who suggests this, is being irresponsible and is out of order. This kind of rhetoric is not in the best interest of law enforcement or the communities in which they serve. If one is to use the term "war" then please apply it in the sense that all people of goodwill are against injustice for police officers and for people who are not treated fairly by our system of justice. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it well:

***"An injustice to anyone anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere."***

We wish to make it very clear that our concern is for a peaceful, non-violent solution to these issues. No one should use this incident to suggest that people should not have a right to protest injustice. In addition, we must not use this situation to suggest that police officers should be encouraged to be more militaristic or aggressive in the discharge of their duties. It is clear that what occurred in New York has outraged all of us. This act was committed by what appeared to be an individual with a violent past, arrested 19 times, reportedly shot his own girlfriend in the abdomen and went on to commit suicide. This is evidence of one who was most troubled and is not reflective of the vast majority of the individuals who are concerned about justice.

Our hearts go out to the family of the fallen police officers. We pray God's continuous blessings upon them in this most holy of seasons, as we seek to be a people who must always become better and never, ever bitter.

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