

The Oscar Grant Committee

Against Police Brutality and State Repression

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September 22, 2015

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
askdoj@usdoj.gov

OPEN LETTER TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Attorney General Lynch,

We understand you will be visiting Richmond, California on September 25, 2015, as part of your effort “to alleviate an epidemic of mistrust between citizens and law enforcement.”

We hope that you will look into the case of Richard “Pedie” Perez, an unarmed young man who was shot dead by Richmond Police Officer Wallace Jensen on September 14, 2014. Although the Contra Costa County District Attorney has called this a “justifiable homicide,” it is clear that evidence and witnesses were ignored in reaching this conclusion. It is also clear that the police and DA’s office are withholding evidence and denying the facts.

The Perez family appealed to the Richmond Police Commission for an independent investigation, but the City Attorney denied this appeal in an edict described by the former Chair of the Police Commission as follows:

“This edict is not only out of order, it’s absolutely reprehensible for the City Attorney to suggest that investigations into police shootings by the District Attorney and police department render independent citizen review unnecessary, especially in a city that established a board specifically for that purpose.” (see attached)

This denial of justice to the Perez family has contributed to a growing sense of distrust of the police in Richmond and surrounding Bay Area communities.

We are enclosing some background material on the Pedie Perez case so that you may form a clearer picture of this miscarriage of justice in the City of Richmond.

Sincerely,

The Oscar Grant Committee Against
Police Brutality and State Repression

ATTACHED: Background Materials available at Oscar Grant Website
www.oscargrantcommittee.org