



FOR ALL INCARCERATED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Baca's Sentencing is Not the End, It's a Beginning

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Los Angeles, CA – The conviction and sentencing of Former Sheriff Lee Baca for charges of false statements marks an important moment in the history of violence and brutality that has characterized the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for decades. The conviction of the most powerful official who brutally ran the largest jail system in the world is a historical victory not only for those who have been incarcerated in the county jails and for their loved ones, but for everyone who desires an end to state violence. **However, Lee Baca's conviction should not turn the page on corruption and misconduct in the sheriff's department – instead it should continue to inform how the current sheriff, the county supervisors, and the yet to be functional Civilian Oversight Commission should pursue justice and transparency in the department.**

These days when someone searches the news for "Los Angeles County Jail" they are bombarded with articles not only about Baca's conviction, but about racist emails from a top sheriff's official, deputies being convicted of assault, Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka's conviction of obstruction of justice, and the unnecessary and negligent deaths of Matrice Richardson and Wakiesha Wilson. **And while Baca's sentencing today is historic, the Los Angeles County Jail system has seen a 40% increase in use of force in 2015.**

Dignity and Power Now and the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence spent three years fighting for and winning a civilian oversight commission to ensure that all those involved in jail operations in the post Baca era of the department uphold the human rights of our incarcerated loved ones. An enduring act of justice for Black and Brown Los Angeles residents, who make up the majority of the jail population, will require the reforms that have been won in the last three years to result in longterm changes for the department. Empowering the Civilian Oversight Commission of the sheriff's department with subpoena power will give the commission the legal reach and access it needs to continue to shed light on conditions inside the jails which is necessary to ensure that Baca's conviction is part of a meaningful trajectory.

"Dignity and Power Now and the Coalition to End Sheriff Violence call on the supervisors to ensure that the commissioners appointed to sit on the commission are representative of the community," says Mark-Anthony Johnson, Director of Wellness at Dignity and Power Now, "including those who have been incarcerated and have known long before the Department of Justice the intricacies of sheriff violence and misconduct."

The LA County Board of Supervisors is slated to begin the nominee process within the next month.

For more information, please visit dignityandpowernow.org.