



For Immediate Release  
October 1, 2018

**Dignity and Power Now Statement on the Wrongful Accusation  
and False Arrest of Cherie Townsend for Murder**

Los Angeles, Calif. - The following statement is from Dignity and Power Now regarding the wrongful accusation and false arrest of Cherie Townsend by the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Jim McDonnell:

What happened to Cherie Townsend is exactly why Dignity and Power Now exists--to fight for the dignity and power of all incarcerated people, their families, and communities while remaining rooted in community power with the goal of achieving transformative justice and healing justice.

We #StandwithCherie in demanding a public apology from L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell for wrongfully and very publicly accusing this single mother--who was minding her own business--of murder.

The damage caused by the pain and humiliation suffered by Ms. Townsend and her children when Sheriff McDonnell and Sheriff's Department investigators--who we believe targeted Ms. Townsend simply for the color of her skin and for being in a community where Blacks apparently don't belong--cannot be understated.

A public apology from Sheriff McDonnell is a necessary first step in the restorative justice process and toward making Ms. Townsend and her family whole.

We call on the Civilian Oversight Commission, the FBI and the County Board of Supervisors to investigate whether or not the targeting to Ms. Townsend by the Sheriff's Department was racially motivated and qualified as a hate crime.

We call on the community at large to #StandWithCherie with the understanding that what happened to her, could happen to any one of us simply for being the wrong color and in spaces that are anti-people of color.

*Dignity and Power Now (DPN) is a Los Angeles based grassroots organization founded in 2012 that fights for the dignity and power of all incarcerated people, their families, and communities. Our mission is to build a Black and Brown led abolitionist movement rooted in community power towards the goal of achieving transformative justice and healing justice for all incarcerated people, their families, and communities. More at [www.DignityandPowerNow.org](http://www.DignityandPowerNow.org)*

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Townsend 10/1/2018 press conference -  
<https://www.facebook.com/jasmyne/videos/10216023386710996/>