



For Immediate Release:  
June 2, 2022

Contact: Janet Asante  
[janet@dignityandpowernow.org](mailto:janet@dignityandpowernow.org)  
(310) 722-1474

**“Natural Causes?” 59 Autopsies Prove Otherwise**  
***Press Conference and Rally***

In a first of its kind UCLA quantitative and qualitative report evaluating the autopsies of 59 deaths in Los Angeles County Jails, 2009-2019, analysis shows that the causes of death of young and otherwise healthy Black and Latinx men in Los Angeles County jails were deliberately misclassified as natural or undetermined. Data show that the majority of deaths of young Black men in jail are at the hands of their keepers through physical violence, mistreatment of the mentally ill, or appeared to be the result of medical negligence. The 59 autopsies definitively show that the majority suffered physical violence.

Dignity and Power Now, along with UCLA researchers, families who have lost their loved ones in the jails, and the Check the Sheriff Coalition, are hosting a press conference and rally **today, June 2nd at 4pm at the LA County Hall of Justice** to honor the many lives lost to LA County Jail conditions and violence, and to continue demand the closure of Men’s Central Jail. Speakers will include the directly impacted families and researchers involved in uncovering this tragedy.

- **What:** Press Conference and Rally Re: Bombshell Report
- **Where:** Hall of Justice, 211 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA, 90012
- **When:** Thursday, June 2nd, 2022 at 4PM

**Speakers will include:**

- Mark-Anthony Clayton Johnson - Executive Director, Dignity & Power NOW
- Helen Jones - Community Organizer, Dignity & Power NOW
- Terence D. Keel, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Founding Director, The BioCritical Studies Lab
- Nicholas Shapiro, D.Phil., Assistant Professor, Founding Director, Carceral Ecologies Lab
- Families who have lost loved ones in the county jails.

###

**About Dignity and Power Now:**

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.

**About Check The Sheriff:**

Check the Sheriff is a coalition working to end the violence of the LA Sheriff’s Department.