



BLACK LIVES MATTER

# THE WORLD IS WATCHING

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

## STATEMENT DENOUNCING DOMESTIC TERRORIST INSURRECTION OF THE US CAPITOL

January 6, 2021

As an international organization that fosters solidarity among the Black Lives Matter and racial justice movement, we are deeply alarmed and outraged at today's occupation of Capitol Hill and the National Mall by white nationalists intentionally inciting violence. Earlier today, hundreds of agitators, faced off with DC police, broke into the multiple congressional members offices, stormed the House and Senate chambers, disrespected historical statues, and forced elected officials to evacuate. Most did not wear masks and further risk the spread COVID-19 amidst the worst wave of the pandemic we have yet seen. Individuals brazenly carried the Confederate flag through the halls of Congress and hung empty nooses on the lawn outside, disrupting the certification of the fair election of the first Black and Asian Vice President, who won with the organizing and support of countless people of color. **This is bigotry, racism, and white supremacy at its very worst.**

The Constitution was written by predominantly white, slave-holding men. Generations of Americans have spilled blood to change it, demanding emancipation, equal treatment, and the right to vote. Yet today's white nationalist agitators, faced with one fairly held election that does not go their way, are willing to burn it.

**Beyond the outrage of this moment, we are dismayed by the deep hypocrisy in how protesters are treated by police and other armed parts of the state.** Peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstrations were met across the nation with tear gas, rubber bullets, riot shields, and police violence. Earlier this year, President Trump ordered tear gas on a peaceful crowd gathered in front of the White House in order to cross the street



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for a photo op. Now that he has lost re-election, Trump actively incites violence and chaos with those who have now occupied another branch of the government at his beckoning. Any elected political official who remains silent as our government is stormed is complicit in the racist and violent erosion of our democracy perpetuation of violence and racially motivated acts plaguing our country.

**Hundreds of Black people have been shot to death for the suspicion of carrying weapons that white nationalists openly brandished today against elected officials.** Protesters asking not to be murdered or systematically incarcerated are met with violence, regardless of their behavior. Yet, white nationalists demanding minority rule against constitutional norms are permitted to loot the office of the Speaker of the House.

History will look on this moment with disgust, as many conscientious Americans already do. But as with every movement to humanize and support Black people and people of color, *we will win*. Today's white nationalist rampage represents the most ugly and violent parts of our nation's past. **We are building the future.**

**Black Lives Matter. The World Is Watching.**