

Defending Survivors and **Ending the Criminalization of** Survival

Mariame Kaba

Survived and Punished *SurvivedAndPunished.org*

Joan Little **Inez Garcia** Marissa Alexander **Ky Peterson** Tewkunzi Green Nan-Hui Jo **Patrice Smith** Kelly Ann Savage Naomi Freeman CeCe McDonald Nikki Addimando Cyntoia Brown Tracy McCarter **Bresha Meadows**

Celia

It is domestic violence, but also the violence of the market, of debt, of capitalist property relations, and of the state; the violence of discriminatory policies against lesbian, trans and queer people; the violence of state criminalization of migratory movements; the violence of mass incarceration; and the institutional violence against people's bodies through abortion bans and lack of access to free healthcare and free abortion.





CELIA

Celecia slave, belonging to Robert Newson say that she Kelled her moster on thoright of the 250 day of James 1855 - about two hours after dans by strikling hima twee on the head with a stull, and then put his levely on the five and but to nearly who then took who the oshes in the morning after day light, after breakfast, the boxes were not entuely burnt up. 2 tooks. Look up the ashes one tones out of the for place in my sabin where & bunt the body and empred them on the right hand side of the path leading from my cabin to The stable Celia to Swent to & Tubsented & before us thes 25 days of June 1855 -. smarket J.P.

"to take any woman unlawfully against her will and by force, menace, or duress, compel her to be defiled."

"if they ... believe from the testimony, that the said Newsom at the time of said killing, attempted to compel her against her will to sexual intercourse with him, they will not find her guilty of murder in the first degree."

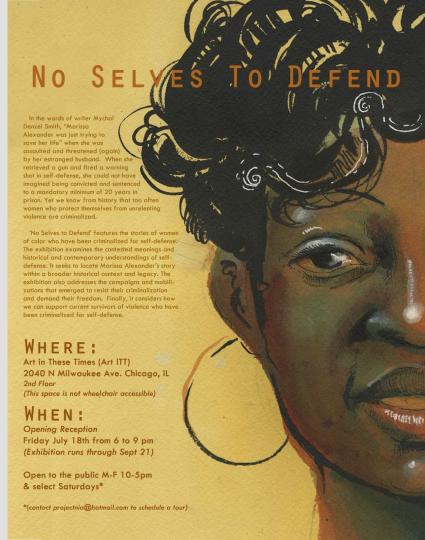
"hanged by the neck until dead on the sixteenth day of November 1855."

HANGING A NEGRESS.—CELIA, a negress, who has been under sentence of death since the 14th of October, for the murder of her master, Robt. NEWsome, in June last, was executed near this place on the 21st ult. The evening previous to her execution, and while under the gallows, she made what she said was a full confession of the crime. She has, at various times, implicated several persons; but. by her dying confession, all of them are exonerated from any participation in the murder. She said that on the evening of the occurrence she procured a large, stout stick, (much larger and heavier than that before described by her.) and took a position behind the door, leaving it slightly ajar; that her master came to the cabin, pushed the door open and entered; as soon as he entered she struck him with the stick, felling him to the ground. She did not, at first, intend to kill him, but she said, "as soon as I struck him the Devil got into me, and I struck him with the stick until he was dead, and then rolled him in the fire and burnt him up." She denied that any one assisted her, or aided or abetted in any way. . She was hung at 21/2 o'clock, on Friday. 21st of December last. Thus has closed one of the most borrible tragedies ever enacted in our county. -Fulton (Mo.) Telegraph, Jan. 4.

The New York Times

Published: January 16, 1856 Copyright © The New York Times "As soon as I struck him the Devil got into me, and I struck him with the stick until he was dead, and then rolled him in the fire and burnt him up."

"No Self to Defend."



2

#FreeBresha:

Anatomy of a Participatory Defense Campaign "FYI. so horrible.

noticed the gofundme was taken down, because gofundme is a piece of shit.

anyone know organizers or DV people in Cleveland, Ohio?"



NEWS CLOSINGS SEEN ON TV

AM SHOW

NEW DAY

SPORTS

CONTESTS

JOBS ☑

WEATHER

14-year-old accused of killing father, family says girl is 'hero who saved them all'

POSTED 5:56 PM, AUGUST 4, 2016, BY PEGGY GALLEK





TWITTER



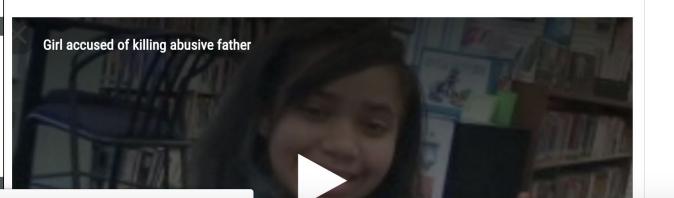
PINTEREST



in LINKEDIN



This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated. Please look at the time stamp on the story to see when it was last updated.





SPONSORED CONTENT



of girls in juvenile detention have experienced family violence prior to incarceration. Additionally, 31% experience sexual abuse, 41% experience physical abuse, and 39% experience emotional abuse.

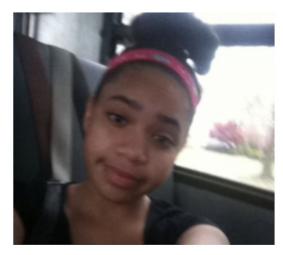
Defense Committees/Campaigns

A defense committee or campaign is a grassroots effort to secure the freedom of a person targeted for criminalization through community organizing, political pressure, community education, legal & media advocacy and other strategies.

To: Trumbull County, Ohio Prosecutor, Dennis Watkins

Free Bresha Meadows





Drop all charges against Bresha Meadows & release her immediately!

30,190 of 35,000 signatures Sign the petition First Name * Last Name * Email * Phone Number ZIP * SIGN

We created a petition to drop the charges against her. -

We organized mass letter-writing to the prosecutor to release her immediately.



We solicited media attention



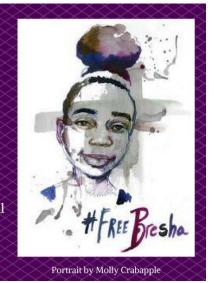
Groups and individuals around the country have a message for Trumbull County prosecutors tomorrow:

For as long as the state denies Bresha Meadows her safety and her future, and her right to defend both,

For as long as a barely 15 year old Bresha suffers pre-trial detention, punished for taking the only action left to her to ensure she and her family were safe,

We will rally in the streets, on the page and all over social media until Bresha is free. No justice, no peace.

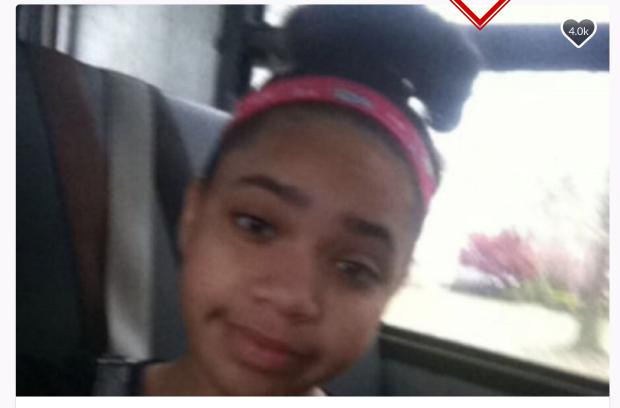
#FREEBRESHANOW



We invited supporters to send postcards, letters and books to Bresha.

We promoted book drives and delivered thousands of books by women of color to girls in cages nationwide.





Bresha Meadows(Latessa family)

f Share Tweet

5.5k shares **24**

\$157,660 of \$150,000 goal

Raised by 3,934 people in 31 months

We raised money for legal experts and emergency family support.









We raised awareness about the abuse to prison pipeline for Black girls and women by producing a curriculum that was used at teach-ins and events across the country.









We solicited and circulated powerful artwork.

BREAK: 10 minutes



SURVIVED & PUNISHED

| End the Criminalization of Survival |

S&P organizes to de-criminalize efforts to survive domestic and sexual violence, support and free criminalized survivors, and abolish gender violence, policing, prisons, and deportations.

politics found their expression in collective defense (a term coined by historian Emily Hobson)

"My feminism does not drive me into the arms of the state but even further from it."

Susan Saxe

They are also necessary for popular education to strengthen our movements: both by informing and improving overall movement strategies, and by educating to challenge false and damaging binaries that we use to describe incarcerated people, like violent/non-violent and innocent/guilty. Defense campaigns can create new forms of learning and practice necessary for abolition.



Participatory Defense

We believe that creating participatory defense campaigns to support the people made most vulnerable to criminalization is essential for educating the public, including prison reformers and abolitionists, about the racial and gendered terror of criminalization and incarceration

Securing Freedom

We know that campaigns which uplift and defend Black women charged with violent acts, like Marissa and Bresha, are often the only means for securing their freedom.

New Forms of Abolition

Defense campaigns can create new forms of learning and practice necessary for abolition.

Exceptionalist Model

- Pro-carceral premise
- Only survivors of domestic/sexual violence deserve to be released
- Narrow view of "survivors" in terms of gender, citizenship, defensible survival actions, etc

Structural Web of Violence Model

- Anti-carceral, abolitionist premise
- Comprehensive analysis of how carceral institutions are integrated into a structural web of gendered violence
- Criminalization of survivors is one of many ways domestic & sexual violence is reinforced, facilitated, and state-sanctioned by detention centers, prisons, police, immigration enforcement, prosecution, and other criminalizing institutions
 - De-carceral organizing strategies (weakening structure):
 - making it easier for more people to get out of prison & detention centers
 - feminist divestment strategies (i.e. community accountability, community support, legal support)
 - organizing to close prisons/detention centers down

Abolition feminism is a liberatory vision of a world free from all forms of violence, including those produced by carceral logics and systems of surveillance, policing, punishment, colonial erasure, and global militarism.

How do we create safety outside of carceral logics?



Resources

Defend Survivors - https://www.defendsurvivorsnow.org

No Selves to Defend - https://noselves2defend.wordpress.com

Survived and Punished -- http://www.survivedandpunished.org