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#MillionsMarchNYC Draws More than 50K to NYC Streets

NEW YORK, NY – Today, thousands of protestors marched in New York City and in cities across the country united against police brutality and the prevalent lack of accountability in America's criminal justice system. The Millions March NYC originally organized by Synead Nichols, 23, and Umaara Iynaas Elliott, 19, in New York City, rapidly turned into an international Day of Resistance with protestors of all ages and ethnicities marching in their communities demanding more accountability in deadly and racially biased police tactics while declaring that #BlackLivesMatter. It is estimated that protestors in New York City reached 70 thousand.

Family members of Mike Brown, Jordan Davis, Shantel Davis, Sean Bell, Emmitt Till, Alberta Spruill and Ramarley Graham, Kimani Gray led the New York City march from Washington Square Park to the New York Police Department headquarters. Coordinating organizations included the Million March NYC Coalition, Black Lives Matter, Justice League NYC, Ferguson Action, and Million Hoodies. Participating organizations included SEIU and Communications Workers of America, among many others.

"For over three hours we marched throughout Manhattan with the survivors of police brutality and homicide. We cried with them, yelled with them. They marched because their sons and daughters will never be able to march again," **said Synead Nichols, Millions March NYC founder**. "Together we peacefully demonstrated that NYC, and people in cities across the country, will not stand for a police system that shoots to kill with no accountability. This is only the beginning."

"Our work didn't begin here and it won't stop here. It will continue for as long as necessary. We are targeting policing practices and systemic problems that weren't created overnight and won't stop with one day of action," **said Umaara lynaas Elliott, Millions March NYC co-founder.** "However, there are immediate actions that can and should be taken, including the firing of Daniel Pantaleo. Given his illegal policing tactics

that resulted in the death of Eric Garner and ruled a homicide, we do not believe that he should be policing our communities."

"Democracy is about making our voices heard, and it requires that we speak louder when our so-called civic leaders and institutions are not listening," **said Dante Barry, director of Million Hoodies**. "There were thousands of every race and age today saying enough is enough. Today was about making our voices heard, and to let all who believe Black people – in fact all people - deserve better treatment in America, know they are not alone."

Communities participating in the National Day of Resistance included New York City, Washington, DC, Oakland, Chicago, Baltimore, Boston, St. Louis, and Los Angeles, among many others.

Organizers will continue to coordinate with national and local organizations to discuss next steps for action on the local, state and federal levels.

For photos of today's and future updates, visit <u>www.millionsmarchnyc.org</u> or follow the initiative on <u>Facebook</u>.