

Kenosha Protests Last Evening

August 26, 2020

The refusal to deal honestly and actionably with the needs of the community of Kenosha in their anti-racist protests has led to yet more death, violence, and destruction. Three individuals were shot last evening by a member of a self-styled citizen militia—two of whom have died from their injuries.

With condolences to the families of those individuals who are grieving in this moment, I ask our State leaders who have decided to defer the situation to an increased National Guard and police presence : Without the ability to meet social protest against state violence with curfews, pepper-spray, tear-gas and rubber bullets, what options are there instead to genuinely approach the situation in good faith and listen to the communities who have been marginalized by systemic violence?

At what point are peoples' voices determined to be valid enough to not be brushed away in arguments about property damage, and sentiments that diminish that this situation is based around anything less than the costs incurred on actual human lives? At what point will people be given the solidarity they deserve, instead of being told to go home or be met with yet more violence?

When will state politicians and lawmakers take on their real responsibility as leaders, and at what point do we determine that the government's lack of action or meaningful progress on behalf of its constituents means that the state is leaving the situation to deteriorate into an outright police state because they lack the collective fortitude to take on this difficult situation?

Before we continue down a path of denigration and desensitization of human life, why not make attempts to listen to the masses of people who are calling for an END to systemic violence.

Peacefully and without a continued toll on the communities who are asking for it to be addressed in earnest.