



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burlington-Alamance NAACP statement regarding the Capitol Building Riot on January 6

The Alamance Branch of the NAACP condemns, in the strongest manner, the storming of the United States Capitol Building by Trump supporters and white supremacists. Their egregious activities are in direct conflict with our core values as civil rights activists committed to nonviolent social change. The mob's actions tore at the very fabric of our 244-year-old democracy. All those who participated in this appalling attack on the United State Capitol have on their hands the blood of the people who lost their lives. Our hearts go out to their families and to the traumatized survivors of this senseless act of terrorism. We call on law enforcement to identify and arrest all those involved on charges of treason, up to and including Donald J. Trump. We implore our entire Congressional delegation to uphold their oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States by seeking the removal of the president who incited this violent attack on democracy and encouraged this attempted coupe.

Many of the members of this branch have been arrested for peacefully protesting. I myself am currently awaiting trial for peacefully protesting the Confederate monument that stands in front of the Historic Courthouse in Graham, NC. In another instance, my fellow advocates were marching with permission from local officials when they were pepper sprayed and arrested. All across the country, black and brown people have been treated harshly, met with violence, and killed at the hands of law enforcement. To watch a mostly white armed mob attack and demolish our very citadel of democracy, with a shocking lack of response from law enforcement, was an affront to every one of us who has tried to appeal to the government with prayerful hearts and under a banner of peace. Had the rioters not been overwhelmingly white, that insurrection would have been put down swiftly and aggressively.

The lies and misinformation spread by the president fanned the flames of violence. But the lies that started the fire have been smoldering in America's hearth since before the Civil War. These are the lies of white supremacy, that black people are suited to slavery and native people are disposable, and they have led to a history of systematic racism in this country. This legacy persists to this day because people in power refuse to tell the truth and defend the lies of the past to protect their own privileged status. The lie that the election was stolen from Trump is

founded on the lie that white people are superior. Anyone who promotes or defends these lies, in whole or in part, is complicit in the act of sedition that engulfed the Capitol and transfixed the world. Any legislator or local official who denounces the events at the Capitol yet defends Confederate monuments in public spaces is a hypocrite. The pandemonium we saw at the People's House is the result of a nation continuing to venerate and celebrate violent rebellion in the United States, and the sight of Confederate flags once again in the hands of people in violent rebellion against the United States is history repeating itself.

We call for the removal of Confederate monuments and flags from public spaces. We call on elected officials, people of power and conscience, to remove these totems of white supremacy from the public square. There is room in the country for reform. Every citizen should strive to make this a more perfect union. The right to peacefully assemble for the purpose of making redress to the government is the centerpiece of our democracy. But the overthrow of the government is a high crime, and the symbols that represent rebellion ought not to be allowed in places where we the people symbolically seek justice.

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President

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