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His Name is Tyre Nichols

CBTU Statement on the Tennessee Police Arrests

His name is Tyre Nichols. On January 7, 2023, he was pulled over for reckless driving. He complied with what should have been a routine traffic stop. He was then violently beaten by 5 police officers, transferred to a hospital, and ultimately died from his injuries. He was 29 years old. He cried out for his mother as he lay beaten in the street. He was Black. The officers that beat him to death are also Black. 20 days later these officers were finally fired, arrested and charged with second degree murder.

His name is Tyre Nichols. He is one of the many Black men who have been violently killed by police for unjustifiable reasons. His death was not in self-defense or for the protection of officers. He is not dead because he was stopped while committing a violent crime. He is dead because he was another Black man driving. He is dead because we have a law enforcement culture that has made the abuse of citizens acceptable. He is dead because we, as a society, have failed to force the reforms we need. He is dead because this is a historic and centuries old problem this country has never remedied. He is dead because we did not do enough.

His name is Tyre Nichols. CBTU will add his name to other statements and comments we have made when innocent Black men die at the hands of law enforcement. We will continue to call for reforms. We continue to fight for change. We will continue to say the names of our brothers and sisters and family that continue to suffer, that continue to mourn, that continue to grieve. His name is Tyre Nichols and it is also Philando Castile and George Floyd and Michael Brown and Breanna Taylor. He is us and we are him. We are one traffic stop away from joining this list. CBTU will never give up the fight to ensure our people are protected and valued. We will not go quiet into this night.

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