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Injustice in Tennessee

CBTU Statement on the Expulsion of Tennessee

Tennessee lawmakers have proven that when their people need them most, they will fail the call time and time again. On March 28th, there was a horrific shooting of kids and adults at a Catholic School. The immediate response from elected officials was that their only action would be inaction. In response, the citizens of Tennessee responded with a protest on March 30th. The people demanded their voices be heard over the gun lobby and were joined by their representatives. On April 6th, Republican lawmakers voted to expel 2 of the 3 representatives who joined their constituents on the 30th. The 2 expelled were Black. The one they didn't expel is white. Per the spared Rep. Johnson herself: "It might have to do with the color of our skin."

This is the consequence of white nationalism taking over our government. On January 6th, our government was attacked by insurrectionists. Documents have shown the collaboration between insurrections and elected officials. Videos show elected officials giving private tours the day before. Yet none of those individuals have faced expulsion like the Tennessee lawmakers. This is the blatant hypocrisy of American Conservatism. As Wilhoit's Law states: "Conservatism consists of exactly one proposition, to wit: There must be in-groups whom the law protects but does not bind, alongside out-groups whom the law binds but does not protect."

In the wake of another shooting our voice is being silenced. The victims are being silenced. Justice is being silenced. Our democracy is dying in this silence. American mass shootings are both about the guns and the consequences of White Nationalism. White Nationalism breeds fear, violence and contempt. It dehumanizes people and endorses oppression. Our government, both local and national have been overrun by these racists. They are backed by the billionaires who profit off this conflict with deregulation, tax cuts and cheap labor. Tennessee is the shot across the bow. Republicans have their model to replicate. The question is how will we respond? CBTU, we will respond, and we call on all allies to enter this fight.