
CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, PHD

Open Letter to the President

Doing The Wrong Thing Is Worse

June 12, 2020

Mr. President:

The people most affected by police violence know the difference between a policy that helps them resolve this as an issue versus one that is suggested merely to put a fig leaf over a very ugly and naked reality. The picture of the knee on the neck is now seared into the global mind. This is your moment to “go big” and solve the problem—refusing to take a “swampy,” Deep State approach. *Politico* reports that you are considering adding social workers to police departments. This is a failed experiment proven to not change illegal behavior. The very fact that this has been a sordid practice in the Pentagon to add psychologists to its torture program gives us an indication that to get rid of torture one must get rid of torture—not add another layer of complicity to an illegal and unethical policy. Thus, to get rid of criminal police behavior and prosecutorial misconduct, one needs to do that and refrain from the application of Deep State failed fig leaves.

Mr. President, you are not the only one who will have to live with your policy proposal; I encourage you to have the courage to resolve—once and for all—the recurring issue of criminal police behavior and prosecutorial misconduct

If you were to issue an Executive Order on June 19, 2020, that pardons both Native American and Black Panther leaders still in jail for defending their communities from government assault; and also create a National Police Safety Board (NPSB) able to respond to police incidents with the same degree of speed and competence displayed by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); and simultaneously declare that the police will be de-militarized, subject to the rule of law when they abuse their armed force, and that they will no longer receive training from foreign powers, I believe you will find a surge of support from previously-apathetic communities that did not vote in 2016.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ann McKinney, PhD