

Press Release: Saturday, May 6, 2006 - Toronto, ON

2nd major rally, controversial inquest begins on Monday

The Justice for Jeffrey Reodica Coalition (J4J) will host a peace march and rally today on Saturday, May 6th, 2006 to welcome the start of the Coroners Inquest into the killing of 17-year-old Jeffrey Reodica by a plainclothes Toronto Police officer.

Participants will gather at Nathan Phillips Square (100 Queens St W) at 1:00pm. They will head north on Yonge Street by foot and bicycle towards the province's Coroners Courts (15 Grosvenor St) near Yonge & College. At approximately 2:00pm a rally will take place in front of the Coroners Courts with community groups, local artists, and family members speaking out. J4J is relying on the inquest to expose the truth and today's event is to call on Toronto community's support and attendance at the courts during the inquest.

On May 21, 2004, several teens as young as 14, witnessed Jeffrey Reodica get shot 3 times in the back by a plainclothes officer. Several witnesses attest that Jeffrey was not armed.

Now all eyes will be focused on the Coroners Inquest set to begin on Monday, May 8th, 2006 9am, Courtroom #A which will look further into what exactly happened, why plainclothes officers responded to 911 calls and why Jeffrey had to be shot 3 times in the back.

This may be one of the most controversial inquests looking into police brutality to ever take place in Ontario.

Jeffrey was an altar boy, a marching band member, and part-time employee at Krispy Kreme Donuts. He was never arrested or charged by police nor was he part of a gang. On the contrary, family members received reports of the shooting officer's excessive use of force and pending police complaints.

The Chief Coroner of Ontario announced that an Inquest would take place following the conclusion of a highly contentious Special Investigations Unit decision to clear the shooting officer in September 2004.

Over the past two years the community has been demanding justice and it's about time the truth comes out.

Coroners Inquests are intensive proceedings taking place daily, Monday to Friday, with this particular case expected to last at least two full months. The inquest is open to the public and J4J encourages all to attend and scrutinize the proceedings.

The inquest is expected to expose to the world the truth about systemic racism, racial profiling and police brutality.

The family is also looking forward to recommendations that may result from the proceedings and believes they will serve to prevent similar deaths and the suffering of other families.

J4J is a grass roots organization consisting of concerned parents, concerned youth, local activists, as well as Jeffrey's family members, all of whom are advocating for police accountability, civilian oversight, and better police practices when dealing with children and young people throughout the province. The J4J campaign also struggles against systemic racism, youth violence, police brutality, and racial profiling. Faith in our justice system and policing system is desperately needed.

Today's event is being hosted by J4J in cooperation with several other partnering ethnic, social justice and youth organizations including CASJ - Community Alliance for Social Justice, BADC - Black Action Defense Committee, UKPC/FCYA - Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance, TPAC - Toronto Police Accountability Coalition, TYC - Toronto Youth Cabinet (City of Toronto), GYC - Grassroots Youth Collaborative, OCAP - Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, PNJP - Philippine Network for Justice and Peace, PJW - Prisoners Justice Week, SIKLAB, PJAC - Prisoners Justice Action Committee, WAR - Words Action Resistance, MINERVA RECORDS, CCNC - Chinese Canadian National Council

May 6 also marks Jeffrey's birthday - he would have turned 19.

The Coroners Inquest begins Monday May 8th, 2006 at 9am
Courtroom #A
Coroners Courts Building
15 Grosvenor Street, Toronto
Near of Yonge and College Streets
(visit website for details)

View Flash E-Vite for today's event here:
<http://reodica.com/jeff/j4jrally-evite.html>

For event and inquest details please visit Jeffrey's Memorial Website at:
www.reodica.com/jeff

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