

## **Al-Hassan Kanu Releases Statement on the Derek Chauvin Guilty Verdict and Ohio Shootings**

*The following is a statement by Community Advocate Al-Hassan Kanu on the Derek Chauvin guilty verdict following his murder of George Floyd and on the shooting of Ma'khia Bryant in Columbus, Ohio.*

“We learned justice was done in terms of a verdict; let’s recall justice remains denied for George Floyd. We did see police officers drawing a line and standing against gross misconduct by one of their own; I welcome that. We must not lose the moment; we need to come together in common cause to build true police – community relations built on strong foundations of proper recruitment and hiring, training, supervision and tactics.”

The tragic killing of sixteen year old Ma'khia Bryant – reportedly shot four times – shortly before the Chauvin verdict makes clear the need for serious and systemic reform around the country. This shooting death must be investigated, including all circumstances surrounding it.

Moving forward, Kanu who had worked with justice advocate Erica Ford, creator of Life Camp, shared his view on systemic reform of the NYPD: “I support police reform and oversight, this includes reforms in recruitment, hiring and training. It means re-engineering the CCRB as fully empowered NYPD oversight entity with subpoena power, prosecutorial oversight over NYPD discipline, resourcing it automatically based on a percent of the NYPD budget, and empowering it to prosecute all instances of police misconduct. This will inject true accountability.”

As a co-Founder of the South East Queens U.P. FRONT Organization, giving young professionals an opportunity to directly help the community, Kanu further described the reforms he advocates: “We need a true community policing model which includes the use of non-police resources to engage both in partnership with police and where those resources provide the better response. I also support civilianization to make the NYPD much more cost-effective. The City needs to revise the existing racial profile ban to conform with the original 2001 version of the legislation with its training and reporting requirements.”

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