



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1929-1968

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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Press Release:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.

Condemns the Incitement of Violence by President Donald J. Trump and the Domestic Terrorism at the United States Capitol and Call for a Thorough Investigation of All Insurrectionists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 11, 2021-----

----- On January 6, 2021, the Congress of the United States met to certify the results of the November 3, 2020 election for the President of the United States. Their sole purpose was to submit to the Vice President the Electoral College votes counted from

each state. What happened during their meeting will go down in history as one of our darkest days to overthrow the United States government.

Prior to that date the President of the United States had urged his supporters to come to Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021 to protest the results of the recent election and promised via Twitter that there would be a “very big” and “wild” protest.

After directly addressing the gathering, The President urged the crowd to go to the Capitol Building where the Congress was meeting and voice their protest directly to them and disrupt the validation process of the recent election, which he lost. He told the crowd not be weak, be strong in order to get our Country back. As a result, the mob eventually stormed and took over the Capitol Building causing much damage, loss of lives and damage to the Country’s credibility as a democracy both home and abroad. The sitting President of the United States instigated and exacerbated a violent attempt to overthrow the United States government.

The Capitol Police officers’ involvement in this shameful and outrageous attack on our democracy must be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The Capitol Police with the proper intent were grossly outnumbered and proved to be ineffective. They were overwhelmed by the mob and subsequently major injuries occurred, including the loss of life by one of the officers and a rioter. Some officers took “selfies” with the crowds. What a difference the reactions to this protest than when the Black Lives Matter protested in the same city. The same police department had no

trouble just a few months ago, attacking and gassing “peaceful” Black Lives Matter protesters.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc., a 501 (C) (3) volunteer organization, stand behind those in Congress who are considering all options available to hold the President accountable under the law, including invoking the 25th Amendment of the Constitution. It states that the president can be removed from office by the president’s Cabinet with a majority yes vote by the office holders, if directed by the vice-president. The amendment is designed to protect the country if the president is incapacitated or found unfit to continue in the office.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force President, Tracey Payne-Tellis stated: “The Dr. Martin Luther King Task Force must express our position to the attempted overthrow of our government which occurred on Wednesday, January 6, 2021: We urge the authorities to hold the rioters accountable for their actions on that date and the people responsible, including the President for exacerbating the situation. Everyone involved in the rioting must be held accountable.”

Barbara Purifoy Seldon, MLK Treasurer, stated the organization’s theme for 2021 is “Justice Now”: quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” “Our nation must step up and provide the justice needed in this case, “ Seldon added.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is an all-volunteer grassroots civic organization. Its purpose is to communicate to others in the local community the importance of celebrating the National Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. was established in 1985 and is comprised of local residents, private and public organizations and local government representatives. The first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk was in Southfield, Michigan on January 20, 1986, thus commemorating the first observance of the national holiday for Dr. King. The Task Force's Founder, former Councilwoman, Barbara Talley stated that "On January 18, 2021, the Task Force will celebrate its 36th Peace Walk celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There were violent actions that occurred which included breaking into the premises of our Capitol building and desecrating the halls of the Peoples' House and Senate. These actions are a threat to justice everywhere."

"We must condemn these egregious actions perpetrated on our lawmakers who were carrying out their lawful constitutional duties in certifying the will of the American people, otherwise the actions will be remain a threat to our democracy," Talley commented.

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