

# THE FUTURE OF BLACK JUSTICE

Demarre Johnson

Im from texas  
the place where juneteenth was started  
I'm from america  
where justice for the killing of unarmed black individuals is least regarded  
I'm from the south  
where slaves were not even freed by the emancipation proclamation  
Not even a government signed document could save my people from this oppressive nation  
400 years after slavery and the oppressive side effect are still there  
My people still suffer  
My voice is still suppressed  
My history is gentrified  
But this a country that believe in liberty and justice  
For all  
But What about us?  
Our people had our last names erased  
our children displaced  
and our land misplaced.  
There are people who live slums  
and eat off crumbs  
Then there are people who charter jets  
and imperialize whatever nation is next  
*What is justice?*  
Is justice the senseless killing of an unarmed black man?  
Or is justice profiting off of black oppression when stuff hits the fan?  
*What is justice and what does it look like for you and me?*  
It took for a general to go screaming through texas on june 19th  
Fast forward 155 years and we now "celebrate" the end of slavery  
but somehow exploiting black labor in private prisons still a thing  
These prisoners Work day in and day out  
No freedom beyond concrete walls and barbed wire  
Unjust sentences and uniform attire  
Work for free in these four walls  
Run up their profits  
and best of all  
You don't touch a dime  
Prison labor is modern day slavery  
Black people are brought to "justice" on a daily basis  
*Justice* which lands them in a modern-day-slavery-prison-labor-construct  
A system in a country where there is "liberty and justice for all"  
But there is no justice

in these unjust sentences  
I have brothers locked up for years for the same things america has turned into a businesses  
Business is what makes moguls rich  
The same resources to start a business  
is something not commonly found in low income communities  
The places where you find people like me  
People never given an opportunity  
*And then* starts the cycle that's left blacks at a disadvantage for centuries  
A gap of wealth  
and a cycle of poverty  
A cycle that's lasted since slavery  
creating the oppressive institutional system we experience today  
The cycle of poverty an everlasting cycle  
That's why they call the trap the trap  
That's why the first resort is try and rap  
That's why young black men always ride with a "strap"  
That's why most young black men never learn to build an app  
There's a lot the we don't learn  
Not because we don't want to  
But because weren't taught  
All our lives we have fought  
for what know as free we live in a country  
of justice for all  
but at the starting line my white colleagues have access to far more resources than me  
That's why freedom for you  
is different than freedom for me  
For you:  
free might being able to go where you want  
when you want  
without economic or racial limitations  
For me:  
Free is being followed around stores  
And Facing constant discrimination  
in predominantly white spaces  
Way back in texas "freed slaves" couldn't celebrate their freedom in public spaces  
Fast forward 155 years  
and my siblings can't even discuss critical race theory in their educational places  
We can't just pick and choose  
what to teach me and you  
where the justice in that?  
Where is justice at all in fact?  
The future of justice for people like me lies in acceptance growth and reform  
We say black excellence not to undermine others  
But to create the sense of unity that was stripped away from us during slavery  
To rally the sense of pride in our people that was stripped from us blatantly  
I'm not delivering the speech to make a scene  
I'm here to tell you the truth  
About the things that never plagued people like you  
If you think slavery still doesnt affect me: ask me who my ancetsors are  
If you think slavery still doesnt affect me: come to where I from

If you think slavery still doesn't affect me you're wrong  
It's not enough to put a bandaid over 400 years of disbanding  
abuse ethnic cleansing and oppression  
You can act like it didn't happen and proceed as is  
Or you can take a stand and teach your kids  
The future of black justice starts with the people of today.  
Because Now kids can't have these convos in school  
Places like Texas are making white supremacy cool  
Black justice is divesting from prison labor  
Black justice penalizing cops who who killed unarmed black people  
Black justice is providing equitable resources to lower income communities  
Black justice starts with us  
Sign a petition to block a bill  
Check your friends who incite racist jokes  
Because racism is a battle that goes uphill  
If you were offended by anything I said  
my speech was to you  
not for you  
My people are fighting for freedom to no avail  
The wealth gaps tells the story of it all  
As my people work as modern day slaves in a place that we call jail  
But through it all  
we stand tall  
Through the stormy weather  
We will seek out black justice  
And we'll do it together