
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: BLACK STUDENTS FOR REVOLUTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN CONDEMN WHITE RACIST ATTACKS ON CAMPUS AND CALL FOR BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZING

Urbana-Champaign (November 20, 2015): We, Black Students for Revolution, are a collective of black radical student activists who have joined in solidarity to organize the black student masses to end racial oppression against black people and other oppressed groups at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Above all else, this organization was born of the fact that black people are inherently valuable and that our liberation is foundational to the liberation of all oppressed peoples. Our ideology is rooted in anti-capitalist and anti-colonialist intercommunalism, black power radicalism, black feminism and intersectionality.

America is a white supremacist, imperialist empire whose existence is predicated on the oppression of people of color, particularly black people. The black community in the United States is one of many colonized communities across the globe dominated by the American empire; thus, our struggle to survive as a community is tied directly to other liberation struggles across the globe. We believe revolution is the only means to end racial oppression because black people will not be free or have equal access to material needs until we are able to determine our own destiny. Revolution means to exercise self-determination, or to use collective, grassroots action to restructure an oppressive system so that all people have equal distribution, rights, and opportunities to material wealth, health, and safety at the University of Illinois and other campuses across the American empire.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's administration has demonstrated a pattern of perverse neglect for the needs, safety, and overall quality of life for black people on its campus. Following our kickoff Black Student Solidarity Rally, white supremacists at the university launched racist attacks at black people on the campus through the "Illini White Student Union" facebook group and Yik Yak. As the white supremacists called us "chimps" and threatened our safety by telling whites on campus to take our photos and get our names, the university administration's first response was to warn the white supremacist group that they were violating a trademark copyright. This "Illini White Student Union" has adopted the same racial terrorist tactics that groups like the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens' Council utilized to intimidate and kill black people during the Civil Rights Movement. However, the university positioned black student safety at the periphery as it has done many times before.

The university administration response provides a clear reason why black people on campus cannot expect to develop a working relationship within this system. The university administration completely disregarded black lives as they have done so repeatedly. They have promoted the decline of black student population on the campus through pricing us out with skyrocketing tuition that is solely seized for profit. As a result, black undergraduate and graduate

student population stands slightly above five percent at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They have promoted a racially toxic climate as thirty nine percent of people of color reported through the 2015 Racial Microaggressions Report of feeling uncomfortable on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus because of their race. The University of Illinois administration completely dismissed the racist allegations of black women basketball players against the coaching staff.

This is why we, as black students at the university, must take it upon ourselves as a collective to create our own destiny. We cannot rely on, nor do we expect the university administration to do the right thing and expel the white supremacists who started the hate group that threatens our safety. We must organize ourselves into a United Black Front and use our power as a collective force. As the #ConcernedStudent1950 Movement demonstrated at the University of Missouri, black people possess a great wealth of social capital that can produce structural change to our social conditions. Once we as black people are joined in solidarity with other oppressed groups, we become an unstoppable juggernaut.

Black Students for Revolution condemn the actions, words, and existence of the “Illini White Student Union” group as a white supremacist hate group that has the intent to terrorize black people at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We call upon all students and student organizations to join us in solidarity and condemn the Illini White Student Union and other racist organizations, symbols, and traditions on the campus. The university administration will not guarantee it, so we will have to make the campus safe for all people ourselves. This is only the beginning as we are dedicated to organizing black students and other oppressed groups to end racial oppression at the University of Illinois through radical means.

To the black students of UIUC, your revolutionary spirit, on display at the black Student Solidarity Rally, has shaken this community to its core and lit a flame that will never be extinguished. Please do not get discouraged by the explicit racism on the campus today. We as black people, are historically strong to the core while white racists have always been historically weak. We will be constructing our demands as a black student collective in solidarity with you very soon. After that task is completed, we will issue our demands to the university administration and see to it that they are fulfilled. At this point in the semester, with finals and winter break around the corner, it is strategic to begin our demand making process this semester, but to see it through to its successful completion in the Spring. We will not be meeting or communicating with administration until we, as a black student community, have constructed concrete and fair demands. If you are interested in restructuring, then your voice and brilliance is encouraged to be a part of that process. Enjoy this Fall break, and expect to hear soon about the next step we'll be taking the first week in December.

Power to the People.

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