



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Dream Defenders Organize #STANDWITHIBEY Speakout
Speaking out in Solidarity against School Officer Assault and Arrest of 15-year-old

February 6, 2017 (Sunrise, FL) Ibey Palmer, 15, of Piper High School, Sunrise, FL, was arrested today with undue force by a school resource police officer. Cellphone footage of the incident clearly shows Officer Franklin slamming the young black woman to the ground. On Friday, February 10th, at 4 pm, outside Piper High School, the WarDD, Broward County’s Dream Defenders squad, is hosting a #StandWithIbey Speakout in solidarity with Ibey Palmer, her family and friends, and the affected community.

Dream Defenders wants to expose how Ibey Palmer’s arrest is an example of systemic discrimination against the poor and people of color. The organization’s current #NoChildLeftBehindBars effort aims to end youth arrests in Florida by 2020. This incident highlights local law enforcement’s excessive use of force and unnecessary arrests.

Ibey’s arrest followed an altercation she had with another student during lunch hour. Ibey was released soon after being held in custody, but she now faces charges of assault while Officer Franklin returns to work at the school. A cellphone video of the event has circulated the internet and caused many to call for justice. The other student has since been suspended.

“Although incidents like Ibey’s arrest are not a new issue in communities of color, the #StandWithIbey Speakout at Piper High School comes at a time when race-motivated police brutality and discriminatory incarceration policies have garnered long-overdue attention,” said Alana Greer, attorney and Dream Defenders Advisory Board member. “Friday’s #StandWithIbey outside Piper High is just the beginning.”



Thanks to direct action by groups like Dream Defenders and #BlackLivesMatter following the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner, the movement against state violence and systemic racism has gained traction. In light of the recent election of Donald Trump, Dream Defenders plans to double-down on its guiding principle—to empower communities to develop their own systems of love, peace, safety, and justice.

ABOUT DREAM DEFENDERS

Dream Defenders (<http://www.dreamdefenders.org>) is a Florida building community **power** in Black, Latinx and immigrant communities. Our families—especially our youth—are being torn apart by poverty, policing, and prisons. We believe that our children belong in our communities, not locked in cages.

Our organizational **mission** is to end the over-policing and incarceration of our families in Florida, and replace it with a system that respects the humanity and dignity of all people. Our **vision** is a state that puts the needs of its people and its land above corporations and the wealthy. Our first step is to **end the arrest of Florida youth by 2022**.

We are doing this by building a powerful, deep, local, organization and movement of youth, adults and elders who are educated about the true nature of our society and trained to resist and develop alternatives that prioritize the health, safety and well-being of those that we currently ignore.

WHY NOW?

- More Black people were killed by police in Florida than anywhere else in the US in 2015.
- Florida is home to two of the country's largest private prison corporations.
- Florida spends 3x more on youth incarceration than it does on education.
- Florida leads the nation in school arrests and 100% of the youth prison industry is for-profit.

The **guiding principle** of our work is that *we* can transform our communities through the development of our own systems of love, peace, safety and justice.

Through our work, communities will experience a shift in their understanding of justice, love, safety and their own potential as human beings. There will be a **decrease** in youth arrests, overall arrests, community violence, school suspensions and expulsions, and police funding as well as an **increase** in the number of safe spaces, uses of restorative justice and funding for community based programs.

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