



August 22, 2016

Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook Headquarters
1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, 94025

Dear Mark Zuckerberg,

We were stunned and saddened to learn of August 1st's police-involved standoff that resulted in the death of Korryn Gaines and the injury of her five-year old son. We were even further shocked to learn that Facebook employees agreed to deactivate Korryn's account and remove videos she was broadcasting of the encounter on request from the Baltimore County police.

This is not an isolated incident. Just last month, the murder of Philando Castile at the hands of police was videotaped live on Facebook by fiancé Diamond Reynolds. Once the footage hit 1 million views, it was removed temporarily due to a "technical glitch" according to your spokespeople, but many media reports suggest otherwise.

In light of these recent events, now is a crucial moment to demonstrate that Facebook as an institution does not silence individuals at the request of the police.

Facebook broadcasting is one of the most powerful tools in the world for documenting police brutality and raising awareness of the scale and systemic nature of police misconduct.

Increasingly, this platform isn't just a place where news is shared within social networks, but a platform where news is broken. If your company agrees to censor people's accounts at the request of police - thereby allowing the police to control what the public sees on Facebook - then it is part of the problem.

We, the undersigned organizations, along with over 143,000 people, including 1502 Facebook shareholders, are calling on you to stop this dangerous precedent of censoring users at the request of the police and clarify your policy on censoring video and other content on request of the police.

Specifically, we demand that you:

1. Explain what happened that caused Facebook to shut down Korryn Gaines' account, and fully restore it.
2. Clarify Facebook's position on collaborating with police and law enforcement to censor data and video.



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3. Institute a policy regarding the censorship of content and video that protects individual civil liberties and is transparent and accountable to the public.

We know that you personally have taken a strong stand in support of the Movement for Black Lives. You asked thousands of Facebook employees to recognize that there are patterns of discrimination and racism alive in the United States today that need to be stopped when you explained why it was problematic to cross out “Black Lives Matter” and write “All Lives Matter” on company message boards. Just last month, you hung a massive #blacklivesmatter banner on Facebook’s campus. And we hope that you will ensure that Facebook implements an anti-censorship policy that honors and respects Black lives.

Sincerely,

SumOfUs

Color of Change

Center for Media Justice

Daily Kos

Presente.org

Demand Progress

Oakland Privacy Working Group

Media Alliance

UltraViolet

Million Hoodies Movement for Justice

18MillionRising

MoveOn.org

Kairos Fellowship

MPower Change

National LGBTQ Task Force

Showing up for Racial Justice

Generation Justice

Line Break Media

FREE! Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment

Voices for Racial Justice

Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center

Champaign Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice

May First/People Link

The People's Press Project

Women, Action, and the Media



Women's Media Center Speech Project
Media Mobilizing Project
Common Frequency
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
ClimateTruth.org
Social Transformation Project
Courage Campaign
CCTV Center for Media & Democracy
The Bully Project
CREDO
The Peoples Summit
BYP100
School for Designing a Society
Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California
Bill of Rights Defense Committee/ Defending Dissent Foundation
Free Press
Asian Americans Advancing Justice— Asian Law Caucus