



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.



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  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus