

The Finale

I'm climbing over these broken down walls
I'm watchin as new roads
Are being built to new prisons
Schools doors are closing
Cells are opening.
You're standing there with a long blank stare
Wonderin why
We're fightin for tomorrow
And livin for today
Why we're standing here
Fightin for change
We need YOU
My soldiers of the revolution
Don't be discouraged
We're not fightin for nothing
Its nation wide change
Everyday,
I wake up to the same old story
Holdin my books,
Walkin to school
Metal detectors
Awaiting me to do my run through
"Put the bag down"
"Place it through the scanner"
"Now take a step forward"
Yep
This is the
Downgrading
Juvenile
Incriminating
Story of my life
3 green, 1 red
Uh-oh, uh-oh
Time to get scanned
Damn,
I got the cops in schools
Cops in the streets

When will I ever get peace
See,
I remember the days
When we walked the halls without fear
With out fear if
Today was the day that an SSA
Would slap on the cuffs
And permanently keep me in the police scene
The men in blue
The biggest gang in this city
Is the NYPD
Lockin us up left and right
Sentences that last until the end of time
While half the time
Punishments don't fit the crime
We're beaten with batons
We're shot at with guns
And I can't express my right to bare arms
So I have to fight with bare palms
Forced to take the load
Forced to take the blows
If po'po don't make their quote of the day
We're turned around
Kicked in the ass
And told to have a nice day
We're forced to be protected by the ones we hate
Forced to be inferior like dogs in a cage
If you open up your eyes
And take a good look
Soon you'll come to see
That we're prisoners and fugitives of the state
As if it ain't enough
That we livin in a world that hates,
That belittles,
In a world that
Separates race from race
Now we gotta think about
Losin our hood,
The block,
Our culture

To these gringos who can afford more
We suffer with high rent as it is
Only to deal with
Rats, roaches, and other infestations
And now that everythings chanin
We're booted out
Cause we don't meet their expectations
You say the neighborhoods are comin up
They're getting betta
But do you understand
The man's great master plan
How many of us our middle class
How many of us will grovel
Become beggers in the street
Because the rent goes up and,
Mommy and daddy can't make ends meet
Did you actually think
That we were here to stay?
That we would be given a chance
To my fallen revolutionaries
To my revolutionary
Brothers and sisters in this room
This is why we fight,
This is why we're standin here
Breakin our backs for change
It's time to take a stand and say
"No longer will the black,
The brown,
The oppressed
Continue to take the blame
Every time a kid goes postal in the suburbs"
"No longer will we pay the price
For their past mistakes"
"No longer will we allow
To a means of entertainment"
"No longer will we allow
This epidemic to continue,
It's over,
It end here,
It ends now"

2009 Freedom in Expression Contest

ENTRY FORM

Entry Type: Essay Poetry Multimedia Drawing Music Other

Title of Entry: The Finale

STUDENT INFORMATION

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Who told you about the contest/how did you hear about it?(Please put his/her contact info below)
Sarah Landes & My college Advisor
(917) 474-5405

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name: Bushwick School for Social Justice
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Phone: (718) 389-7000 Ext 5005 Fax or Email: (718) 418-0192
Organization/School Contact (Teacher, Organization Leader):
Ms. Riley, Senior Advisor

I certify that I am submitting my original work. I acknowledge that all work submitted cannot be returned.

Signature

Jaritra A. Gelgel

Date

05/05/09

Check this box if you would like to receive a free NYCLU student membership.
(Note: This will not affect the decision of the judges in any way.)

Please send completed forms and entries by May 22, 2009 to:

NYCLU Contest

125 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004 or YouthWorkingGroup@nyclu.org

Questions? Phone: 212.607.3361 | Fax: 212.607.3329

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