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Civil Rights Organizations Threaten to Sue if de Blasio Extends Curfew

NEW YORK -- Today, the New York Civil Liberties Union, The Legal Aid Society, the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center, and the Center for Constitutional Rights announced their intention to sue Mayor Bill de Blasio if he extends New York City’s curfew. The curfew, which is set to expire Monday morning, has effectively prohibited New Yorkers from safely being outside between the hours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. The following is a joint statement from the four organizations.

“While New Yorkers continue to protest police violence against Black people, mourn for lives lost, and demand justice, the curfew has only put people in further danger. In addition to curtailing the right to First Amendment protected protest, the NYPD has used the curfew as justification for their brutal attacks. We have seen too many demonstrators, journalists, lawmakers, protest monitors, essential workers, and bystanders who have been callously beaten, threatened, and unlawfully arrested, all under the guise of enforcing the curfew.

Mayor de Blasio, New Yorkers are under attack from your police department and we are ready to take legal action. If you extend the curfew, we’ll see you in court.”

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The Center for Constitutional Rights works with communities under threat to fight for justice and liberation through litigation, advocacy, and strategic communications. Since 1966, the Center for Constitutional Rights has taken on oppressive systems of power, including structural racism, gender oppression, economic inequity, and governmental overreach. Learn more at ccrjustice.org.

The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities.

www.legalaidnyc.org

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) is one of the nation's foremost defenders of civil liberties and civil rights. Founded in 1951 as the New York affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, we are a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization with eight chapters and regional offices and more than 160,000 members across the state. Our mission is to fight for the rights of all New

Yorkers. www.nyclu.org

The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center is Howard University's flagship institutional setting for the study and practice of civil rights, human rights, and racial justice law and advocacy. We seek to use law, organizing, and engaged research to uplift community-led movements fighting for racial justice. <http://law.howard.edu/content/thurgood-marshall-civil-rights-center>