

## WHY DID WE PROTEST IN FEDERAL PLAZA LAST NIGHT

Frank Chapman, Field Organizer, CAARPR

On December 10, 2015 International Human Rights Day, we (the Chicago Alliance) staged a protest and march from the Federal Plaza to the City Hall. What do we want and why?:

- We want to call attention to fact that we (the Alliance and the survivors/victims of police crimes of murder and torture here in Chicago) delivered a letter/complaint to the U.S. Department of Justice. This letter offered detailed, factual allegations made by over fifty signatories to the letter who were and are victims of police crimes and torture. They (the survivor/victims) also filed formal complaints individually in order to further demonstrate to the DOJ that there is a pattern and practice of racial discrimination when it comes to law enforcement in the City of Chicago.
- We want to call attention to the overriding fact that the DOJ has consistently been complicit in police crimes in Chicago and that their role in the cover up of the murder of Laquan McDonald is just the latest example of their complicity.
- We want to give a human face to police crimes by having a rally where the families whose children have been murdered and tortured could speak out, share their pain and suffering and demand justice. And what is justice? Well it could begin with federal indictments of all those public officials involved in covering up police crimes and the operation of the torture chamber at Homan Square.
- We also want to give a human face to our demand for an all elected Civilian Police Accountability Council. The people must be empowered to hold the police accountable. And we (the people) must have the decisive and final voice in how our communities are policed.
- Finally we demand the Federal Government, pursuant to present civil and criminal laws, to investigate, indict and prosecute Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former Superintendent Garry McCarthy, Prosecutor Anita Alvarez and all public officials involved in covering up the Laquan McDonald murder, the murder of Ronald "Ronnieman" Johnson, the murder of Flint Farmer and others illegally murdered by the Chicago Police Department. We also demand that the "black site" Homan Square be closed and that all victims of police torture, past and present, be immediately released from the jails and prisons.

It was only about 12 hours ago when over 500 of us went marching and shutting down streets in the Central Business District of Chicago. The DOJ is coming to our town but they are not coming to give us justice unless we demand it and fight for it. We may not get all we fight for but we must fight for all we get.