

When people assemble publicly to share concerns about our society and demand changes, and especially when those demands are for the stop to state violence in the forms of austerity, poverty, policing and prosecution, a dispersal by law enforcement is inappropriate. As a community and a society, we should expect our leaders and decision-makers to listen thoughtfully to constituents rather than criminalize them to silence them. Rather than declaring an unlawful assembly, effective government should listen to the demands of people who are seeking safety and justice for all community members - which is, ostensibly, what law enforcement would be striving to provide.