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NAACP DC DEMANDS JUSTICE AND FULL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE WAVE OF BOMB THREATS TARGETING HBCUs AND DCPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The NAACP DC Branch demands justice through full accountability, arrests and prosecution of those individuals responsible for the recent bomb threats against Howard University, UDC, other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and several DC public schools over recent weeks. Ongoing investigations have identified white and Black juveniles behind these recent bomb threats.

There is a long history of bombing Black institutions from the Tulsa race massacre of 1921, killing over 300 Blacks, injuring over 800 Blacks and leaving over 10,000 homeless, to the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963 killing four young Black girls. Over the years, there have been countless racially motivated bombings of Black institutions inflicting violence to terrorize the Black community. Historically, HBCUs and public-school funding have been under attack. These recent bomb threats disrupt learning, place financial strain on institutions and cause psychological trauma to a new generation forced to relive the past. We encourage increased support of local HBCUs and DCPS by making donations and advocating for increased resources.

The NAACP advocates to ensure quality education and restore communities while pursuing justice and accountability. Justice requires prosecution of the individuals responsible for these bomb threats. This country has a double standard for criminal justice when racial-profiling and mandatory minimums target Black children, while young, whites are granted lighter sentences, community service and immunity from prosecution. Selective criminal justice enforcement is evident by our government's failure to deploy adequate troops to the January 6th riot led by white extremist, while aggressive tactics were deployed against peaceful Black protestors responding to the murder of George Floyd. Anyone that issues bomb threats against Black institutions should be held accountable, under the appropriate courts applicable to their age.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated "Black institutions are the foundation and source of Black empowerment. These spaces are intended to provide a safe, secure, sacred environment for enrichment and development. HBCUs and public-school systems are already underfunded and vulnerable to inadequate resources. These recent bomb threats are cowardly tactics designed to further intimidate and destabilize the safety and sanctity of institutions nurturing Black and Brown students. Threats against any Black life, especially our students, demands justice. We cannot allow the double standard of policing to target Black children, while whites go unprosecuted and unpunished."