

My name is Lateefah Ransom and I live in New Jersey. On Friday, April 17, 2020 at 3:20 pm, my younger brother Khalif T. Ransom was murdered in Newark New Jersey on West Runyon Street. The people who committed this senseless crime remain at large. Funeral homes are inundated as they attempt to provide services to the families impacted by the pandemic. As of today, April 29th, my family has not been able to make funeral arrangements for him, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Khalif's murder, I have not been able to sleep. I find myself wrestling with my thoughts and asking what I could have done to save my brother's life. The painful truth is there was nothing I could have done to save Khalif. During this time of grieving my mind continues to race non-stop. I keep asking myself how someone could have committed such a senseless act.

As a nation, we are all suffering during this COVID -19 pandemic. Many of us find ourselves isolated from our friends and family. The life we once knew is no longer the same and we don't know when we will see each other again.

The reason I am writing to you all is because I need your help. I want justice for the murder of my brother Khalif and for anyone else that was murdered. Individuals are out in the streets committing senseless acts during this COVID-19 crisis. We as a nation must hold these individuals accountable for their actions. They are exposing our first responders, doctors, nurses, and police force to the COVID -19 virus when they respond to emergencies such as murders, assaults and burglaries. This careless behavior needs to be put to an end. Individuals continue to behave in selfish ways while our nation is hurting. They are demonstrating a total disregard for the negative impact these senseless acts have on families during such a tumultuous time.

In remembrance of my brother Khalif T. Ransom, I would like to propose a COVID-19 Law. Under this law, whoever commits any violent crimes during a time of national crisis will be penalized beyond the customary sentencing practice. For example, if a person would be sentenced to 25 years for committing a crime ordinarily, under the COVID-19 law they would receive additional time due to committing the crime during a national crisis. Individuals have to be held accountable for the additional pain and suffering that is being imposed on family members during this very difficult time.

I am asking that we work together to pass this law to hold criminals accountable and to deter them from committing crimes especially during these times. We need to allow our first responders, doctors, nurses, and police force to continue to be the best and bravest without being unnecessarily exposed due to senseless violence.

Despite my grief due to the loss of my brother, I want to ask for your help in passing the COVID 19 Law. I am seeking your support during this difficult time.

Thank you in advance and I look forward to hearing from you. Please be safe.

Respectfully,

Lateefah Ransom