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**Michigan** **Citizen**
12-26-1998
Candlelight vigil held for victim of police killing

On Wednesday night, December 9, while Detroit's police, armed with machine guns, ransacked eastside neighborhoods searching for someone to arrest for the killing of one police officer and the wounding of two others, 25 or more people gathered on an island across from 1300 Lafayette, and held a candlelight vigil in memory of Jimmi Ratliff.

"She was killed by the police. Actually, they stole her life," said Eva Crowley, Ratliff's sister.

According to Crowley, on December 9, 1997, the manager of the apartment complex called the police and reported that Ratliff would not come out of her apartment.

Upon arrival the police were informed that there was a gun in the apartment.

"Jimmi (Ratliff) did not shoot at the police. They shot her without seeing her. Shot through two walls from out in the hallway, 12 feet away," said Crowley.

According to Regina Crowley, Eva Crowley's daughter, the police have not cooperated with them in trying to find out why her aunt was killed.

"We have not been able to get any of the details from the police," said Regina Crowley.

Marge Parson, a member the Coalition to Stop Police Brutality and the Stolen Lives Project said she was at the vigil to protest the killing and to remember the life of Jimmi Ratliff and all the other people murdered by the police.

Parson referring to the Public Hearing on Police Brutality held on Nov 30 before members of the Detroit City Council, Brenda Scott, Sheila Cockrel, Kenneth Cockrel, and Alberta Tinsley-Williams, noted that Detroit Police Chief, Benny Napoleon said, "We investigate all allegations of misuse of force."

"Well this is one where he is guilty of misuse of force. We have information that indicates he ordered the action which led to the murder of Jimmi Ratliff," Parson said.

She (Jimmi Ratliff) was a very quiet person who kept very much to herself, Eva Crowley said. "Very good with children," she added.

Gathering the people in a circle around a picture of Ratliff, Eva Crowley prayed that God would soften the heart of one of the police that he or she might come forth an tell the truth. She also prayed that the police would stop killing "our young men."

At the end of the vigil 48 black balloons were released. For those remembering her, Jimmi Ratliff would have been 48 years old. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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