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## **Blackout for Human Rights Presents: #JUSTICEFORFLINT**

*A Free Concert in Solidarity with the City of Flint and all those affected by the Water Crisis;  
Featured Performances and Appearances by Janelle Monae, Ledisi, Robert Glasper, Musiq  
Soulchild, and More; With Host Hannibal Buress*

### **For Immediate Release**

February 23, 2016 -- New York, NY -- As the serious impacts of the Flint Water Crisis continue to gain national awareness, [Blackout for Human Rights](#) today announced #JUSTICEFORFLINT, a special event taking place at **The Whiting Auditorium (1241 E. Kearsley St.)** in Flint, Michigan on **Sunday, February 28th at 5:30 p.m. EST** to promote solidarity and support for communities affected by the water crisis. [REVOLT TV](#) will serve as principal media sponsor for the event.

Using the power of the arts to shed light on the situation in Flint, and to raise donations to help remedy the crisis, #JUSTICEFORFLINT will feature live musical performances with today's leading artists. The event will also include presentations and open dialogue with the local community, with the goal being to help build and support the durable infrastructure needed to assist the citizens of Flint.

#JUSTICEFORFLINT will include performances and appearances by **Grammy-Nominated Artists Janelle Monae, Ledisi, Andra Day and Musiq Soulchild, Grammy-Winning Artist Robert Glasper, Actor/Activist and Blackout Member Jesse Williams, "Empire" Star and Activist Jussie Smollett, Hip-Hop Artist and Activist Jasiri X, Hip Hop Artist Mysonne, Hip Hop Artist Vic Mensa, Hip Hop Artists/Producers and Detroit natives Royce da 5'9 and Denaun Porter, Flint native Jon Connor, and more. Comedian Hannibal Buress will serve as event host.**

Local sponsoring organizations include [Michigan Faith In Action](#) and the **Flint Democracy Defense League**. National sponsoring individuals and organizations include the [Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Color of Change, All Def Digital, ARRAY, Sankofa.org, NY Justice League, M.A.D.E. The Solomon Group](#), and **Clarence Thomas, past Secretary-Treasurer ILWU Local 10.**

Nearly 100,000 residents of Flint have been consuming water contaminated with [dangerous levels of lead](#). The long-term consequences for public health, community infrastructure and finances are immeasurable. As the United Nations recognizes, "The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights." The events in Flint -- whose residents are disproportionately poor and of color, and who have been battling this issue for nearly two years -- call for mobilization and action to address this state sponsored human rights violation.

"The primary goal and mission behind Blackout is to utilize the collective voice and influence of our members to raise awareness and bring an end to the state sponsored human rights violations happening across the country," **said Ryan Coogler, Filmmaker and Founding Member of Blackout for Human Rights.** "With the

#JusticeForFlint benefit event we will give a voice to the members of the community who were the victims of the choices of people in power who are paid to protect them, as well as provide them with a night of entertainment, unity, and emotional healing. Through the livestream we will also give a chance for people around the world to participate, and to donate funds to programs for Flint's youth."

"We are building power in the streets to sustain the protracted struggle to repair our homes, infrastructure, and bodies," **said Nayyirah Shariff from the Flint Democracy Defense League** "This human rights violation occurred because of Michigan's PA 436 (Emergency Manager Law) which stripped Flint's democratic rights. Flint residents have no trust in the state, who is continuing to abuse our community."

"As artists and activists with a public platform, we at Blackout strive to shed light on issues of justice and dignity related to disenfranchised, underrepresented and marginalized communities," **said Ava DuVernay, Filmmaker and Founding Member of Blackout for Human Rights.** "The poisoning that is happening in Flint is one of the most egregious human rights violations in American history. Blackout for Human Rights stands with all those affected by the water crisis, and is committed to supporting efforts on the ground to find sustainable, long-term solutions and, most importantly, achieve justice for the people of Flint."

"The people of Flint say thank you so much to Blackout for Human Rights for organizing Sunday's event," **said Rick Carter, Executive Director of Michigan Faith in Action.** "The proceeds will help so many of our families and children who are traumatized by this disastrous nightmare. We are a resilient community and these gifts of love and concern by so many artists will continue to encourage us for the struggles ahead."

"Water is life, it is a human right to have access to clean drinkable water and it is all of our responsibility to come together and provide some sense of healing to the Flint community," **said REVOLT CEO Keith Clinkscales.** "REVOLT is honored to partner with Ava, Ryan, and Blackout to raise awareness regarding the crisis in Flint."

#JUSTICEFORFLINT will be free and open to the public – [REGISTER HERE](#). **Doors open at 4:00 p.m. ET and the show is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. ET.** The event will also be broadcast online via livestream. **Donations will be collected during the livestream broadcast on Revolt.tv, for which viewers will be able to donate funds via text, courtesy of Revolution Messaging (message and data rates may apply).** Blackout has partnered with the [TIDES Foundation](#) to ensure that all funds will be used to benefit the residents of Flint impacted by the water crisis.

**\*\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTE\*\*\*\***

On **Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. EST**, Blackout will join with the [National Black Programming Consortium](#) to host a live online chat about the issues impacting the city of Flint. Moderated by political activist, author and commentator [Van Jones](#), the chat will feature members of Blackout and local leaders and community members based in Flint. More details, including panelists, are forthcoming later this week.

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### **About Blackout For Human Rights**

BLACKOUT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS is a collective of filmmakers, artists, activists and concerned citizens devoting their resources to address the staggering number of human rights violations in the United States. The collective was founded by filmmaker Ryan Coogler and comprises both high visibility and everyday citizens. Members include Coogler, Michael B. Jordan, Charles King, Ava DuVernay, Jesse Williams, Nate Parker, John

Burris, Donald "Childish Gambino" Glover, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Rosa Clemente, Scott Budnick, David Oyelowo, Michael McBride and many others.

Blackout has hosted national protest actions, donation drives, and special events including the recent [#MLKNOW](#) event celebrating MLK Day at Riverside Church in Harlem, which drew over 2,200 attendees and nearly half a million views online. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/BlackOutforHumanRights](http://www.facebook.com/BlackOutforHumanRights) and follow @UnitedBlackout on social media.

### **About REVOLT MEDIA & TV**

REVOLT is the #1 name in music. Focused on expertly curating the best of the best in music and engaging youth in social conversation, the multi-genre, multi-platform network offers breaking music news, videos, artist interviews, exclusive performances, and original programming. Attracting over 50 million young adults through television, digital properties, social and mobile, REVOLT is accessible 24/7 – anytime, anywhere, any screen. Launched in broadcast on October 2013, REVOLT is available nationally on DIRECTV, AT&T U-verse TV, Time Warner Cable, Comcast, Verizon FiOS, CenturyLink Prism TV and Suddenlink. REVOLT is also available internationally in the Bahamas on Cable Bahamas, the Cayman Islands on Westel, in Jamaica on Digicel, and in Trinidad on Digicel and Massy Communications.