

ANTONIO “TK” KENDRICK | *ENOUGH IS ENOUGH*

Look around you

Look at all of the Black faces

By what you see, it could be surmised

That crime is not committed by people of other races... right?

You see... This is all by design

This is the legacy of a historical, invisible, white hand

The hand of a people who fought savage-like for their own freedoms

While keeping people who look like me in chains

Because they didn't consider me a human

I am the descendant of a people

Who this country's forefathers wanted to keep under social control

So, they legislated their fear of us... slave codes

And enforced them through this country's first police force... Slave Patrols

Today, this country's forefathers' descendents

Still perpetuate their sins

You see... they're the ones who stormed the capitol building on January 06

And who wants to Make America Great Again

Make America Great Again? For who?

Certainly not for people who look like me

A people who are incarcerated in droves

And a people who their slave patrols still murder in the streets

Hands up don't shoot!

Let me tell you a story about me

When I went to trial, I presented irrefutable exculpatory evidence

But my all-white jury they still convicted me

Yet, in the face of overwhelming evidence

All-white juries acquitted Emmett Till's murderers

And they let... Kyle Rittenhouse go free

Now, I'm convinced more than ever

That this Black body doesn't mean anymore today

Than it did way back then

The United States Constitution still doesn't apply to me

And white people still criminalize my Black skin

My imprisonment is a continued false narrative
Put out there for the whole world to see
And it has lasted so long that if I don't guard my heart and my mind
I'll start believing my oppressors' false narrative that they put out there about me
Still my faith in God keeps me strong and it keeps me searching and looking
But what am I looking for? I'm looking for some allies
Specifically, I'm looking for some white privilege allies.
I'm looking for some white sisters and brothers
Who won't look at me and my sisters and brothers as others
I'm looking for some white sisters and brothers
Who won't confuse the collateral consequences of systematic racism
With generational Black poor choices

I'm looking for some white sisters and brothers
Who will stand with me in solidarity
And help me usher the message of racial equality into all white spaces
And help me articulate that message with clarity
I'm looking for some white sisters and brothers
Who are sick and tired of all the injustice
And who really want to be just
Those who can look at over 400 years of Black oppression and white supremacy
And say to themselves and to other people who look just like them
What? Enough is enough.

Antonio "TK" Kendrick is a graduate of NEIU and North Park University, a writer, poet, social entrepreneur, and activist.

TK has said that something you wouldn't know about him by looking at him is, "I'm super ghetto!"