Between 1972 and 1991, over 100 African-American men and women were tortured in Chicago

by police detectives under the direction of Police Commander Jon Burge at Area 2 and 3 Police Headquarters on Chicago's South Side. The torture included electric shock, sexual abuse, suffocation and beatings. Those tortured were also subjected to racial epithets and death treats. Coerced confessions resulted in scores of convictions and long prison terms and 11 sentences of death. Many of the survivors have since been exonerated and released and all those sentenced to death have either been freed or removed from death row.

Today, over 20 known survivors of this police torture remain incarcerated.

In 2010, **30 years** after the first reported acts of brutality, Burge was convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice for denying the torture he and others committed. He was sentenced to four and a half years in prison. Except for this single federal conviction, no other Chicago police officer, state's attorney or city official has been held accountable or apologized.

Monuments to state-sanctioned crimes, abuses of power, and systemic injustices are rare, particularly in the United States. But there are times when nations or communities find it right to recall, mourn and honor those who have been victimized. The Chicago Torture Justice Memorials Project continues a two decade long struggle to bring this torture to light.

Each proposal in its own way will memorialize the decades of police torture and its consequences. We hope that collectively these proposals will encourage **action** and begin a process of revival and renewal. Our goal is to build a social movement strong enough to deter all acts of torture and to begin a process of **transformative justice.**

Chicago Torture Justice Memorials Project formed to honor the survivors of torture, their family members and the African-American communities affected by the torture.

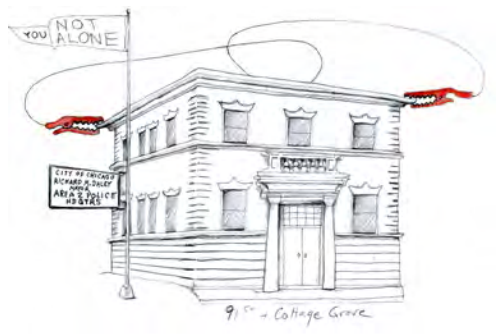
We seek proposal submissions that reckon with police torture in Chicago and join the struggle for justice. Proposals can take any form: collages, posters, songs, maps, narratives, poems, quilt designs, billboards, videos, performances, sculptures, banners, parades or cultural interventions of any kind.

All proposals will be exhibited in community and cultural centers throughout Chicagoland and at www.chicagotorture.org

Here are several proposals for a Justice Memorial. We ask that you contribute your own.

Proposal:
An annual walking tour beginning at the old Area 2 Police Headquarters on 91st and Cottage Grove and ending on the Chicago State campus with a community meal and discussion of the police torture scandal.

Proposal:
Add a fifth star to the City of Chicago flag as both a commemoration of the strength and collective power of the survivors and a warning to city agencies and citizens alike against ever repeating this iniquity.



Proposal:
Replica of alligator clips from the "shock box" used by Burge to torture detainees into confessing, cast in bronze and mounted on the roof of the old Area 2 Police Headquarters.

We invite artists and those who seek justice of all kinds to submit proposals for a monument to memorialize the Chicago Police torture cases.