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## **The People's Spotlight Protest of Boston Globe Spotlight Series that Demonizes "Mental Illness"**

**Boston, August 1, 2016** – Shouting "End the Force! End the Violence! End the Fear!" protesters from across Massachusetts will gather Monday at 3:00 PM in front of the Boston Globe. People with experience of trauma and mental health diagnosis and their allies will bring memorial cards and flowers to honor the victims of violence. They will demand that the Globe publish the names and pictures of those labelled with "mental illness" who have been murdered.

Protesters will carry placards with pictures of individuals who have been murdered. Hundreds of memorial cards and flowers will be delivered to the Globe.

People who have been confined in a psychiatric institution are six times more likely to be murdered than the general population. They are eleven times more likely to be victims of violent crime.

"These basic facts are ignored in the Globe's Spotlight Series" said Ruthie Poole, one of the protest organizers. "By demonizing us as murderers," she continued "the Globe has chosen to create public hysteria that leaves us even more vulnerable. We are here to fight back. Our voices will be heard!"

"People who have received mental health services have a unique perspective on how to improve the mental health system," protester Tara McNeely said, "but our voices go largely ignored and unheard."

Protesters are demanding that the Globe retract its recent editorial supporting involuntary outpatient commitment. Current law already allows force to be used when someone is a danger to themselves or others. The Globe supports changing the law to allow force to be used as a form of "treatment" (Assisted Outpatient Treatment).

"Force is never treatment!" protester Justin Brown said, "Healing comes through collaboration, not coercion."

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