## Let's go into streets, not mayor's office

was shocked and hurt to read in The Star that 20 of our most respected ministers from the African-American community made a visit to the mayor's office in hopes of receiving \$25 million to "mend the tattered social fabric of our community and . . . address the social disintegration and racial divisions that threaten all of

us." This was done as an effort to stop the senseless crime, killing and drugs among our

and drugs among our black youth in Indianapolis.

We, as well as many other citizens, were hurt by the tremendous increase of murders and crime in general taking place in our community. However, we do not see that

as a legitimate

reason to seek a

quid pro quo from the mayor's office. The problem did not take place in the mayor's office or the City- County Building and the solution will not be found there.

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imam from In-

dianapolis and

People's in-

convener of the

quest, a grass-

roots, interdenominational

group organized in 1987 in

response to a

police shooting.

The problem we face as leaders in this city is first in the conscience of those who would call themselves leaders. They must ask themselves: Are we willing to sacrifice and suffer for our city, our community, the family and friends that we claim to love? If the answer is yes, we must then step forward and commit ourselves in unity with our fellow citizens to do whatever it takes within the law to bring about a solution to this problem.

It is our responsibility to take our struggle directly to our community; to the streets and homes of our brothers and sisters, and until and unless we take our fight and concern to those areas we will not be successful. What effect would we have if we just saturated our communities with G-d-fearing people every day, evening and night befriending and encouraging those who have



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no guidance and encouragement?

The negative behavior of our children is telling us that we must do more than talk about the great works of Jesus; we must live those works as individuals and congregations daily in our own blood-soaked communities.

Those committing crime in our community are not aliens; they are our family and friends. So why do we have to go downtown to the mayor's office to address a problem that we have a direct connection to in our own home, neighborhood, church or mosque?

President Lyndon Johnson spent more money on our internal problem then our esteemed mayor could ever dream of spending; and has the problem subsided? No. So money is not the solution. Faith is the solution.

The Scriptures say, "If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed you can say to the mountains be moved and they will move."

The time is out for preaching one thing and living another. Our cities, our country, our world is suffering serious problems and the time has come for those who would accept the mantel of leadership in artificially controlled environments called church, mosque or synagogue to step forward and to demonstrate that leadership in the real world called troubled streets.

We, The People's Inquest, will be meeting continuously in some troubled neighborhood within our city to address this issue. Any support or help from the mayor is always welcome, but he will have to initiate that help. We will never be the ones coming to him in search of money to save our children; he will have to come and find us in the 'hood, using our own resources working desperately daily - night and day seeking and praying to G-d to help us find a way and a solution to save our communities and our children from total annihilation due to our own neglect.