

STOP URBAN SHIELD

What is Urban Shield?

Urban Shield is a regional, national, and global weapons expo and SWAT training that takes place in the Bay Area, Boston, and Austin. It brings together law enforcement agencies and first responders from across the country and world in to share strategy and training that results in the repression, criminalization, and militarization our communities. Urban Shield was created by Alameda county Sheriff Gregory Ahern in 2007, and has been held in Alameda County every year since.

Where does the funding come from?

Alameda County receives federal funding from the Department of Homeland Security to host Urban Shield. The federal program is called the Urban Area Security Initiative, and is just one of the many disastrous law enforcement programs to emerge from the devastating "war on terror". Those who are investing in Urban Shield claim this war games and weapons expo is necessary to provide training for "public safety". However, we feel this is merely an excuse to expand the power of police and does not make our communities safe.

SWAT Stories: What has been the impact?

Maria Calvillo and her family are survivors of the police militarization that Urban Shield encourages. In 2015, when Maria was 13 years old, dozens of DHS officers raided her house. Officers pointed rifles at her and her family, including her three-month-old sister. Officers claimed that there might have been a weapon in the baby blanket wrapped around the small child. The Calvillo family were held for several hours in the unmarked police vans while their hands were zip-tied.

About the Stop Urban Shield Coalition:

- In 2014, communities were victorious kicking Urban Shield out of Oakland.
- In 2015, we converged on the Sheriff's office in downtown Oakland to let them know that Urban Shield is not welcome in Alameda County.
- And in 2016, we're taking it statewide and putting Urban Shield on notice that we don't want them in California, or anywhere else for that matter.

About the Campaign:

Stop Urban Shield is a broad coalition of community and social justice organizations that have united against Urban Shield, a SWAT teams training and weapons expo that brings together local, regional, and international police military-units- including those from the Apartheid State of Israel- to collaborate on and profit from new modes of surveillance, state repression, and state violence.

How to get Involved:

The fight against militarization, policing, and state violence requires a broad-based movements of different communities and organizations coming together to build power. Bringing an end to Urban Shield would be a tremendous victory in that struggle.

Get Involved, Here's what You Can do!

- Join us for our statewide mobilization 9/9, in Pleasanton, CA. 8am-12pm
For travel support contact the coalition
- Mobilize your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, organizations, and communities to join us on September 9th
- Organize an educational event about Urban Shield!
- Save the date for our town hall meeting on 8/26, and join our mailing list for updates

