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# No Justice — No Peace

"Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice."

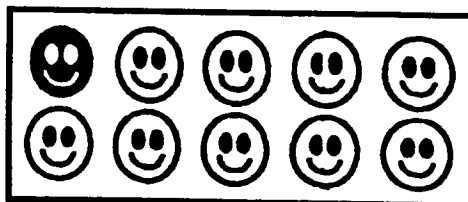
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

## *An Absence of Justice*

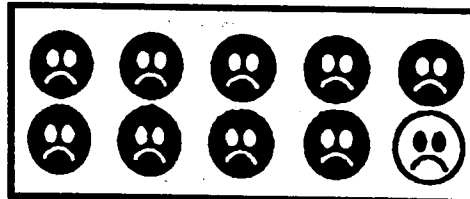
The verdict in Simi Valley acquitting four Los Angeles police officers of their assault against Rodney King simply ratified what many people already knew: in this country, the police can illegally beat and even kill African Americans and other people of color — and get away with it. For many of us, the verdict provided as little surprise as it did justice. It should probably not surprise anyone, either, that for some of those who demonstrated here in San Francisco against the verdict in Simi Valley, there is still no justice.

Charges have already been dropped against thousands who took to the streets here in the days following the verdict. Some of those arrested for blocking Interstate 280 and the Bay Bridge do still face infraction charges. Most of these people are white. However, of the 105 demon-

*Those arrested protesting the acquittals:*



*The protestors the D.A. is charging with felonies:*



strators facing felony charges for property crimes, according to District Attorney Arlo Smith, **at least 90 percent are African American.**

Over 60 percent of these people are also first-time offenders who have had no prior contact with the criminal justice system. The actions with which they are charged amount to first-time shoplifting. **The D.A. is initially seeking terms of 16 months to three years in the state penitentiary for all those charged with felonies.**

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"No Justice No Peace," excerpt from a brochure published by the No Justice No Peace Legal Defense Committee formed to support African American youth charged with felonies after protesting in solidarity with the Los Angeles uprising. SF 1992. (Organization no longer exist.)