June 19, 2017
For immediate release

**On the Murder of Charleena Lyles**

Grief and outrage are present today as API Chaya responds to the loss of Charleena Lyles, a black mother who was shot in her own home by two City of Seattle police officers after calling 911 for help. Ms. Lyles was pregnant and her 11, 4 and 1 year old children were present during this fatal encounter.

“We want to express our deep condolences to the children who survived this horrible day. We can only begin to imagine the pain and long-lasting impact of this tragic and traumatic event on this family,” shared Minal Ghassemieh, API Chaya’s Board Chair.

According to the Washington Post, Charleena Lyles is one of 112 black lives lost in 2017 at the hands of police officers. API Chaya is an organization committed to ending violence in our communities, including state violence. We know that new solutions for community safety and police accountability are urgently needed. We believe in the power, knowledge, and abundance of our communities to transform the conditions that allow this violence to happen.

There will be another vigil for Charleena Lyles on Tuesday at 6pm at 6850 62nd Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115. The community is invited to bring candles, food, and other tokens of support. There is an active gofundme campaign, organized by Monika Williams, Charleena Lyles’ sister. Please share and donate as you are able: https://www.gofundme.com/bdgbc8pg

To all our communities - know that we see you, and you matter. We will never stop fighting. Love and power to all people impacted by state and police violence. In the words of Assata Shakur, “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

Charleena Lyles. Say Her Name.