

# I WANT A COUNTRY

NATALIE FRANCE

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I do not want a country  
where residing in prison  
is more permanent than a home,

nor a country  
where minorities are easier to hose down  
than wildfires

I do not want a country  
where bodies are as disposable  
as plastic bottles, piling up  
in urban streets

I do not want a country  
where getting richer  
is the only means  
of getting ahead

I do not want a country  
where shortcuts are taken  
for big corporations,  
leaving destitute lives forsaken.

I want a new country  
where we won't have to be reminded  
that *anyone's* lives matter.

I want a new country  
where headlines of black names  
are for the Nobel Peace Prize,  
not about the irreversible death toll rise.