

Surreal

December 6, 2014; Berkeley P.D. v. Me

By Moni T. Law

I feel
Betrayed
Dismayed
I feel hurt and sad
Outraged and mad
I feel pain in my back
But also pain in my heart
WHY did he hit me in the back?

As I stood peacefully with my back to the officer
A sudden blow, and pain
I turned to find the officer had lunged forward
Out of formation
with his baton tightly held
In both hands, to strike me
Hard
In the back
I turned to look him in the eye through his military style helmet
I attempted to connect, but saw empty and cold eyes staring back
And I asked him, why did you hit me?
I see you, Badge #60 I said, and I'm reporting you. That was unjustified, wrong
I pleaded for sanity, no reply
I received a dead and nonresponsive glare
He looked agitated and indifferent, he didn't care
I felt the officer hired to serve and protect all, didn't care about me
I felt very alone, very targeted, very black
Against a wall of primarily white police
In a war formation
But I came to advance the cause of justice
I came to protest police brutality in NY, Ferguson, and elsewhere
I came as a peacekeeper in Berkeley, the town I love
But I was treated as an enemy
By Berkeley Police Dept Officer #60