

**Open Letter from the Justice Studies Association (JSA) to News Corporations,
the American, and Global Public regarding Glenn Beck's attacks against
Dr. Frances Fox Piven**

January 27, 2011

For the past year, Glenn Beck has directed unwarranted and unprovoked attacks against Dr. Frances Fox Piven, an esteemed, and well-respected public scholar and intellectual. Professor Dr. Piven is also the former president of both the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) and the American Sociological Association (ASA). Glenn Beck has elected to mischaracterize her work, and the work of her late husband, Richard Cloward, and by so doing has placed her life in grave danger through death threats from individuals who simply follow Mr. Beck's unfounded accusations. We urge News Corporations, responsible Americans, as well as well meaning global citizens to ask Mr. Beck to refrain from his calculated unfounded attack which specifically threatens Professor Dr. Piven's safety while undermining responsible, free, and honest exchange of ideas.

We, the members of the Justice Studies Association (JSA) continue to be alarmed at the fast pace in which the tradition of the responsible freedom of expression is being eroded by those who choose not to acknowledge the impact of their emotive instigations. Responsible freedom of expression remains the United States of America's most admirable character and if this gives way to violent language which ends up manipulating citizens who are very much vulnerable to Mr. Beck's type of unfounded assertions, then we would have lost the very reason why we exist as a nation. We are always in search of a civil society, and we cannot disintegrate into conditions much like what occurs in those parts of the world where expressions are monolithic, dictatorial, punitive, and imprisoning. We have always insisted to those parts of the world that it is always better to choose hope, democracy, respectful freedom, rights, and responsibilities. The recent tragic event in Tucson, AZ is enough reminder of how irresponsible and manipulative emotivism can lead to violence. Mr. Beck's unfounded and unreasoned propositions must not be allowed to undermine the nation's engagement in multiple conversations to sustain the civility that keeps all of us safe. Mr. Beck's mocking of the threats made on Dr. Piven's life and other attacks posted on the internet and sent to her via e-mail is certainly not in keeping with our tradition of civility.

Dr. Piven enjoys spirited and civil debates, especially ones that are honest, responsible, free from personal attacks, and directed at social cohesion. In following the Fox News claim of "fair and balanced," Mr. Glenn Beck should dedicate his media pulpit to aim for the same level of dignity and national cohesion.

T.Y. Okosun, J.S.A. President

On Behalf of All JSA Members