

**Call for inputs for the preparation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/1 on the “Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers”**

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Violence at the hands of the Police has plagued Black communities for decades.

Both physical and psychological, this violence has produced generations of mistrust that leaves Black Communities and America less safe, not only from the Police but from those inside and outside the US borders seeking to exploit Divisions.

There are many stories, but limited data on Police Interactions. Outside of extreme beatings or murder, it seems the effect of hundreds of years of Police Violence in Black America isn't taken seriously. The Bureau of Justice Statistics tracks limited Police interactions by Surveys but doesn't show the Race of the victims<sup>1</sup>. Yet many Blacks, especially men, have more than one story of being frisked on their way to work, face down on vehicles or spread against a wall, yet never arrested or charged. According to the The Stanford Open Policing Project<sup>2</sup> “Some states don't collect the demographic information of the drivers that police pull over. States that do collect the information don't always release the data. Even when states do provide the information, the way they track and then process the data varies widely across the country, creating challenges for standardizing the information.”

Yet Mayor Baraka of Newark reflected:

“MY EARLIEST ENCOUNTER with the police happened at the age of ten. I watched my father being beaten by officers as my siblings and I sat in the back seat of a car. My parents had pulled over to have an argument. Before anyone knew it, my father was being dragged from the car. I had to testify in court and try to recollect if the police handcuffed my father with his hands in front or behind his back. I remember growing up listening to stories about the Newark Rebellion in 1967 and how my father was beaten over the head by the police; one of the officers had been a high-school classmate.”

“Growing up as a young black man in the city of Newark, New Jersey, I experienced being stopped, searched and even beaten by police. Some cops were notorious for violating people's rights and wore it like a badge of honour.”<sup>3</sup>

"An analysis by the NYCLU revealed that innocent New Yorkers have been subjected to police stops and street interrogations more than 5 million times since 2002, and that Black and Latinx communities continue to be the overwhelming target of these tactics. At the height of stop-and-frisk in 2011 under the Bloomberg administration, over 685,000 people were stopped. Nearly 9 out of 10 stopped-and-frisked New Yorkers have been completely innocent." <sup>4</sup>

While in 2013 the Miami Herald reported that “Earl Sampson, a 28-year-old Miami Gardens resident...has been stopped and questioned 258 times in four years, searched more than 100 times, and arrested and jailed 56 times. The worst offense he's been convicted of? Possession of marijuana.”

But the truly mind-blowing thing about the case is that Sampson has been arrested dozens of times for trespassing at the convenience store where he works.” <sup>5</sup>

And a video recorded at a pool party in Texas “showed an officer wrestling [a] 14-year-old girl [in a bikini] to the ground. In another part of the video, the officer pulls his gun on a group of teenagers.”<sup>6</sup>

Similar stories have been passed down through Black communities for generations. You could go to one of many Black towns and within minutes of a conversation learn about the problem police officer and warned to beware.

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Submitted by: Barbara Horne, Organizer, a Founding member of NB Coalition Against Police Brutality, United Nations Rep and Board for NGO Athletes United for Peace

It's only now through Technology, Activism and Brave Black voices that these stories are coming to the mainstream. Yet effective solutions to curtail the violence is nonexistent or barely in it's infancy.

The United Nations has the reach to collect and analyze data on Police interactions in Black communities worldwide. The OHCHR can bring to light the toll that Police Violence has taken on Black Communities after years upon years of abuse, as well as the fear felt from an arm of the government meant to protect and serve.

The United Nations can effectively escalate the risks posed to each Country's National Security to the Security Council, to stop Russia and other actors from targeting Blacks with disinformation that exploits the wounds of these violent acts, leaving all citizens less safe.

The United Nations can work with local politicians, NGOs and others to collect and aggregate data on police interactions, to not just prevent killings, but avoid another generation of Blacks living in fear and distrust like what exists today.

The hope is that the United Nations can push for policies, laws and resources that fosters public safety models that work for all.

1 Bureau of Justice

<https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=70>

2 The Stanford Open Policing Project

<https://openpolicing.stanford.edu/>

3 Ras Baraka on reforms to bring communities and police closer together The police beat my father. They beat me. Then I became mayor

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2020/07/06/ras-baraka-on-reforms-to-bring-communities-and-police-closer-together>

4 Annual Stop-and-Frisk Numbers:

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/stop-and-frisk-data>

5 A Horrifying Story of 'Stop and Frisk' Taken to Its Logical Extreme

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-11-22/a-horrifying-story-of-stop-and-frisk-taken-to-its-logical-extreme>

6 McKinney, Texas, Cop Placed on Leave After Pulling Gun on Teens at Pool Party

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/mckinney-texas-officer-leave-after-wild-pool-party-video-surfaces-n371281>

7 Why Russia will keep poking America's racial wounds <https://www.axios.com/russian-interference-2020-election-racial-injustice-7fa6a49b-03b4-4dc6-898d-fa589f9f0e6a.html>

Other Link(s)

I was stop-and-frisked by the NYPD more than 100 times

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/video/2013/sep/20/stop-and-frisk-nypd-video>

Ex-cop Daniel Holtzclaw was just sentenced to 263 years in prison for raping black women

<https://www.vox.com/2016/1/21/10810878/daniel-holtzclaw-sentenced-rape-black-women>