

ByDESIGN

An Online Journal of Exceptional Achievement



I Can't Breathe Black Lives Matter

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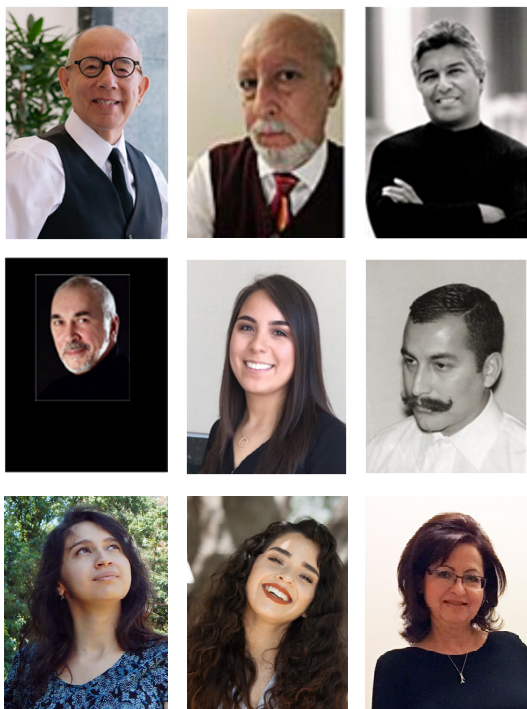
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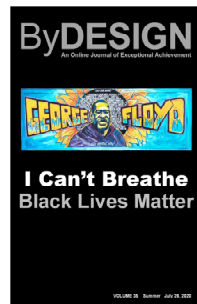
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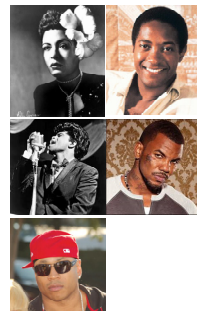
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ON THE COVER

The George Floyd Mural, Minneapolis, Minnesota May 31, 2020
The mural was painted by three artists/muralists: Xena Goldman, Greta McLain, and Cadex Herrera. In an interview, the muralists stated “We painted the mural on the wall of the Cup Foods grocery store to give the community a place to mourn.”

The predominantly yellow and blue mural with an image of Floyd surrounded by his name, has also been shared around the world and turned into a memorial site laden with flowers and signs. The mural shows George Floyd alongside rallying protesters with raised fists, a sunflower, a halo with the names of other black victims of police brutality, including Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and Philando Castile. The mural has become a national and international icon against police violence and killings.

Black Lives Matter!

Rogelio Roy Hernández



Anyone who has read ByDESIGN will note this issue is markedly different than previous issues. Whether we are architects, engineers, planners, artists or academicians, we all need to engage in the cause for justice. We are dedicating the entire e-zine in support of Black Lives Matter, and the invigorated movement for racial justice and human rights.

It is fair to say that most, if not all, people of color have experienced systematic and institutional discrimination. With the exception of Native Americans, none have suffered the abuse and wounds of institutional racism, social injustices and brutality as Black people. Why? This is a question I've been asking since May 3, 1963. I was 9 years old.

On that date, Theophilus Eugene "Bull" Connor, Commissioner of Public Safety for Birmingham, Alabama, directed the use of fire hoses and vicious police attack dogs on Black high school students and civil rights activists. I, my family, the nation, and the world, watched in horror and outrage as American institutional racism was put on full display on a relatively new technology: television. Prior to that, police brutality was generally exercised in the dark shadows of corrupt police departments or on isolated roads.

In this moment of inflection and reckoning, Americans of all colors should be asking "Why," followed by "Enough!" The horrific public murder of George Floyd has, once again, put police brutality on display for the nation and world to see on a relatively new technology: cell phones. This disgusting event, like countless others before it, resulted in a horrific collision of the brutal truth with an American Mythology, one that's been propagated for far too long.

American Mythology: The pledge of allegiance

I stopped saying the 'Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag' when I was in the 5th grade. I had an epiphany reading that, in 1965, a Black person could not marry a white person in more than a dozen states in the USA. When I got to the phrase, "with liberty and justice for all" I stopped. Saying the pledge was succumbing to a national delusion, a dangerous hypocrisy, and a deadly fairy tale for people of color. We've always known the truth, Black/Brown people have experienced it for generations.

As systemic racism and police brutality are examined, once again, we must understand and define the problem. As US Congressman Hakeem Jeffries recently stated: "Systemic racism has been in the American soil for 400 years." This problem has roots many miles deep. Resolving it will require uncomfortable conversations, action, and real systemic change instead of rhetoric.

We must bear witness -- which is to be honest -- when it comes to the reality of racism and police brutality: The myths of "liberty and justice for all" and "justice under the law" must be put to rest. The time has come to make them reality.

We pledge a commitment to equity, equality and justice for all

ByDESIGN is a strong proponent of social and racial equality -- and justice in all aspects of life. America must commit to the notion that no one should fear leaving their house, walking, driving, playing in a park, sleeping, wearing a hoodie, etc., for fear of being executed by those hired to protect and serve us. It is time to fulfill the words of the US Constitution: "establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity ...". After all, no justice results in no peace.

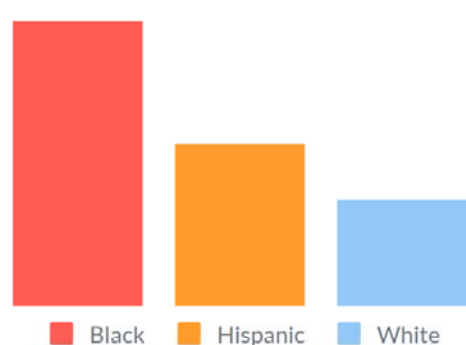
At this moment in time we grieve the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, David McAtee, George Floyd, Tony McDade, Elijah McLain, Sean Monterrosa; and women we rarely hear of, including: Eleanor Bumpurs, Atatiana Jefferson, Korryn Gaines, Shelley Grey, and many more whose names we'll never know. How many deaths could have been avoided because of a deplorable mental and moral deficiency called racism?

ByDesign supports the Black Lives Matter Movement. To our Black brothers and sisters we say: We see you, we hear you, and we support you because Black lives matter!



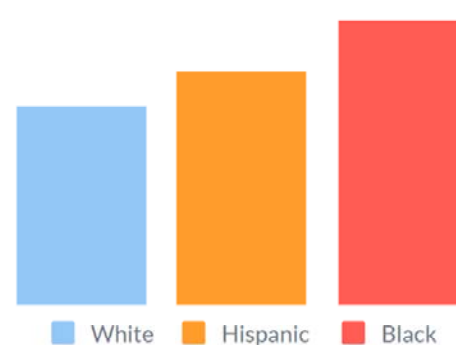
Black people are most likely to be killed by police

3X more likely to be killed by police than white people.



Police Killings per 1 million population

1.3X more likely to be **unarmed** compared to white people.



% Killed by Police Unarmed, 2013-19

Source: <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org>

Police Brutality: Tragedy, Loss & Sorrow

Killer Cop Phenomenon

The following pages present our readers with a small number of stories on those killed at the hands of police. But before that, I am compelled to share one example of police officers aspiring to kill African Americans, and an editorial I refer to as the “killer cop phenomenon.”

An old Chinese saying says: "Sometimes a full stomach can find it hard to believe that such a thing as hunger exists." For generations white America, enveloped in white privilege, found it hard to believe police officers brutalize and kill communities of color. Then George Floyd's murder happened, it struck a chord of seismic proportion.

Anyone who grew up in a predominantly Black/Brown neighborhood has known someone who suffered police harassment, brutality and/or killing. (Yours truly included.) For those in disbelief that white supremacists, with felonious intent, exist in police departments we offer the following quote from Officer Michael "Kevin" Piner, 22 year veteran at the Wilmington PD, North Carolina, which appeared in the Washington Post, on June 25, 2020:

"We are just going to go out and start slaughtering them *ucking n***,"** Piner said.

According to the Post's reporting, Officer Piner was venting his anger at BLM/George Floyd protesters. These comments were made in a candid conversation accidentally recorded between Piner, age 44 and two other racists officers, Cpl. Jesse E. Moore II, age 50, and Officer James "Brian" Gilmore, age 48, (23 years with WPD). The conversation, taped by accident on a patrol car camera and discovered later by a technician, caught officers comfortably expressing racist slurs deriding BLM protesters.

According to the Post, Piner continued on the recording: **"Wipe 'em off the *ucking map. That'll put 'em back about four or five generations."**

Is it difficult to envision that “police officers” with white supremacist beliefs, a badge, gun, and a license to kill, might end up murdering Black people? No. The only predicate to justifiable homicide are exculpatory statements such as: "I felt threatened." "It looked like he had a gun," "He made a sudden move toward me," or the common refrain, "It looked like he was pulling something from his waistband." The fact is the vast majority of African Americans killed by police are un-armed, according to mappingpoliceviolence.org (an NGO tracking police brutality), yet 99% of police homicides go unprosecuted.

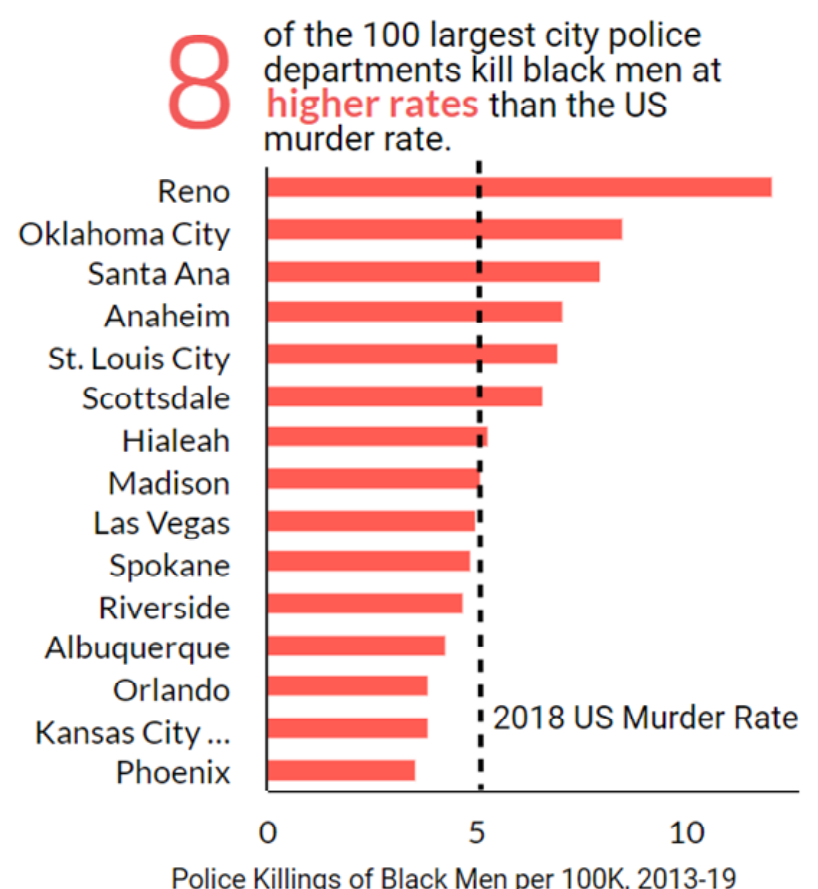
Was it Officer Piner's type of racist hatred of Black people, and other people of color, that resulted in the murder of Sean Monterrosa, (22) in Vallejo, CA on June 2, 2020, as reported in The San Francisco Chronicle on July 16, 2020. That killer cop shot Sean through the windshield from the back seat of his unmarked pick-up truck as it pulled up. He couldn't even wait to get out of his car to kill a BLM protester. Surprise: Monterrosa was unarmed.

As national statistics show, Officer Piner is not an isolated case. White supremacist police have been exposed in major cities across the US, for instance, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, where Sheriff's were members of white supremacist gangs that had infiltrated the department for years. (**"FBI investigating tattooed deputy gangs in Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department:** Los Angeles Times, July 11, 2019) There are 17,985 U.S. police agencies in the United States, including City Police Departments, County Sheriff's, State Police/ Highway Patrol and Federal law enforcement agencies. Officer Piner at the WPD is obviously not alone. This poses a national risk and eminent threat to all people of color, especially Black folks.

Americans (and the world) are awakening to a shocking reality about America: Black Americans are much more likely to be killed by police than white Americans, and police almost never face legal consequences. To be clear, the foregoing does not apply to all police officers, just those displaying the “killer cop phenomenon”; comparable to saying Ted Bundy was a vicious serial killer does not indict all white males.

It seems many officers are not concerned about accountability on the level of force used against African Americans/people of color, even when they are being videotaped. Undeterred by the presence of live television news crews and thousands of protesters with cell phones, bad cops recently felt comfortable brutalizing George Floyd protesters of all colors and ages -- just like the policeman who tortured and murdered George Floyd.

As hard as white America, and police departments themselves, find it difficult to believe, there are Killer Cops, they exist. It is a moral imperative to adopt policies, practices and procedures to ensure they never enter law enforcement agencies, before they kill; and when they do – prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.



Police Brutality: Tragedy, Loss & Sorrow

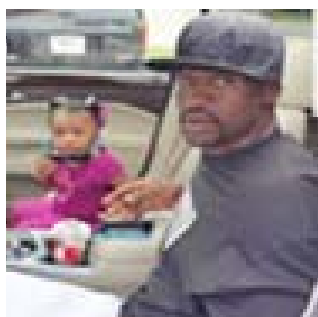
Say Their Names

The tragedy of police killing Black Americans is a deplorable phenomenon of extra-judicial executions. According to national statistics compiled by Mapping Police Violence, police killed 2,024 Black men and women in the US from 2013 to 2019. This represents three times as many Whites for the same period of time, even though African Americans only comprise 13.4% of the national population. Melina Abdullah, Ph.D. Professor, Chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and co-founder of LA Chapter of Black Live Matter notes that "601 people have been killed by police in LA County since December 2012."

The following pages provide a few examples of men and women killed by police; regrettably there are thousands more we will never hear about. The following was compiled from various sources, including: Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times, The Washington Post, The Daily Beast, VOX.com, Sentinel, Denver 7 ABC, BlackLivesMatter.com, MappingPoliceViolence.org, and snopes.com.

George Perry Floyd, Jr. (46)

May 25, 2020, Minneapolis, MN. Mr.



Floyd was a black man killed during an arrest after allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill in Minneapolis. A white police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on Floyd's neck for what was recently determined to have been 9 minutes and 27 seconds until his death.

The official autopsy report classified Floyd's death as a homicide attributed to cardiopulmonary arrest caused by subdual and restraint. A second autopsy, commissioned by Floyd's family, found that the "evidence is consistent with mechanical asphyxia as the cause" of death, with neck compression restricting blood flow to the brain, and back compression restricting breathing. Some experts have theorized positional asphyxia. After Floyd's death, protests were held against the use of excessive force by police officers against black suspects and lack of police accountability. Protests began in Minneapolis the day after his death and developed in over 400 cities throughout all 50 U.S. states and internationally. The national protests were of a scale, duration and intensity not seen since the 1960's Civil Rights marches and Anti-war movement of the 1970's. Rage turned into rebellion, prompting new legislative bills to prohibit the use of choke holds by police.

A transcript of the incident filed in District Court, for the State of Minnesota on July 7, 2020, documented the entire encounter. George Floyd's last words, captured on officer video cams, can be heard crying: "They'll kill me. They'll kill me. I can't breathe. I can't breathe."

Elijah McClain (23)

August 24, 2019, Aurora, CO



Aurora PD approached Elijah as he walked home from a convenience store where he had purchased iced tea for his brother. Elijah was a massage therapist who loved animals and taught himself to play the guitar and the violin.

A 911 caller had reported a "suspicious person" in a ski mask. McClain was not armed and had not committed any crime. In the 15 minutes that followed, the officers tackled McClain to the ground. One officer reported McClain reached for his gun, so he put him in a carotid hold, which restricts blood to the brain to render someone unconscious. He called first responders, who injected him with ketamine. Elijah had a heart attack on the way to the hospital, and died days later, after he was declared brain dead.

His last words were captured on police video cam:

"I can't breathe.

I have my ID right here. My name is Elijah McClain. That's my house. I was just going home. I'm an introvert. I'm just different. That's all. I'm so sorry. I have no gun. I don't do that stuff. I don't do any fighting. Why are you attacking me? I don't even kill flies! I don't eat meat! But I don't judge people, I don't judge people who do eat meat.

Forgive me. All I was trying to do was become better. I will do it. I will do anything. Sacrifice my identity, I'll do it. You all are phenomenal. You are beautiful and I love you. Try to forgive me. I'm a mood Gemini.

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. Ow, that really hurt. You are all very strong. Teamwork makes the dream work.

Oh, I'm sorry I wasn't trying to do that. I just can't breathe correctly."

When McClain attempts to roll over to vomit, they shout at him to "stop fighting us."

"If you keep messing around, I'm going to bring my dog out here and he's going to bite you,"

McClain proceeds to vomit. "I can't fix myself," he says weakly.

McClain's body goes limp and he passes out.

Eventually one officer asks, "Are you OK?"

But he's not asking McClain. He's speaking to the officer on top of him. "Yeah, I'm good," the officer says shifting his weight.

snopes.com

The police were subsequently cleared of wrongdoing. McClain's case has attracted renewed scrutiny amid national protests against systemic racism and the deadly tactics against Black people. On June 25, Colorado governor Jared Polis signed an executive order to appoint the state's attorney general to investigate the case.

Police Brutality: Tragedy, Loss & Sorrow

Sean Monterrosa (22)

Vallejo, CA, On June 2, 2020



Sean, a Latino resident from San Francisco, was fatally shot by Vallejo PD. The San Francisco Chronicle has reported number of police versions of the incident.

The event sparked outrage in the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly in Vallejo, which has a long history of police violence, excessive force complaints, and high-profile killings, including the February 2019 shooting of Willie McCoy¹ found sleeping in a Taco Bell drive through. (He was shot 55 times by six police when he was startled from his sleep by yelling police and he grabbed a gun in his car.)

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the justification for this killing has changed over time. Police initially said Monterrosa was on his knees and raising his arms, "revealing what appeared to be the butt of a handgun," An officer sitting in the back seat of an unmarked truck fired five rounds through the windshield and shot Sean in the head.

The second week of June the story changed. VPD said Monterrosa was "turning towards the officers in a crouching down, half-kneeling position, as if in preparation to shoot." Detective at the scene saw Monterrosa "move his hands toward his waist area, and grab what appeared to be the butt of a handgun." The Vallejo PD chief told The San Francisco Chronicle that details about what led to the shooting changed because the previous "narrative was not accurate."

Most recently on July 16th, The San Francisco Chronicle published a story titled "**Vallejo officials confirm key evidence in killing of Sean Monterrosa was destroyed.**" The truck's windshield, a critical piece of crime scene evidence, was destroyed and no one in the police department knows who did it.

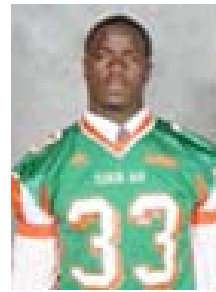
In an updated story posted on July 17, The Chronicle stated: "The officer - whose name has not been officially released - fired five rounds from a rifle through the windshield, one of which struck Monterrosa. The officer was later heard on body cam footage asking other officers, "What did he point at us?" before saying, "Hey, he pointed a gun at us." Police said the officer mistook a hammer in Monterrosa's sweatshirt as a firearm." But, as a matter fact, no gun was pointed at the police because there was no gun.

On Friday July 17th, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on the FBI to probe the killing and what appears to be a coverup.

1. From 2016–2019, five Vallejo police officers shot multiple people. At the time of McCoy's shooting, one of the officers who shot him was under a civil lawsuit for shooting and killing a man in February 2018.

Jonathan Ferrel (24)

September 14, 2013, Charlotte NC

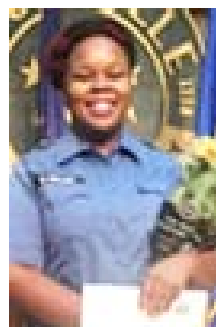


Jonathan, a former college football player at Florida A&M was shot and killed by police officer Randall "Wes" Kerrick. Ferrel crashed his car while giving a co-worker a ride home, went to a house in the Bradfield Farms neighborhood and knocked on the door. The resident, seeing a Black man, called the police and three officers arrived.

According to officers, "Ferrell then ran towards them," where an officer fired a taser at Ferrell and missed. Kerrick then opened fire and shot Ferrell twelve times, killing him. Ferrell was unarmed. A toxicology blood test showed a blood alcohol level within the legal limit for driving. Ferrel was charged with voluntary manslaughter, but was not convicted.

Breonna Taylor (26)

March 13, 2020, Louisville, KY



African American emergency medical technician was fatally shot by Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD). Three plainclothes LMPD officers broke into her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky executing a no-knock search warrant in the middle of the night. Kenneth Walker, Taylor's boyfriend, shot at what he believed were intruders, LMPD officers fired over twenty shots. Taylor was shot eight times and LMPD Sergeant Jonathan Mattingly was injured. Officers had gone to the wrong house.

Eric Garner (27)

July 17, 2014, New York City



Father of 6, died in Staten Island after Daniel Pantaleo, NYPD officer, put him in a chokehold while arresting him (despite chokeholds being banned in NYPD since 1993). Cell phone video of the incident generated national attention and raised questions related to law enforcement use of force.

Eric Garner was killed on suspicion of selling single cigarettes from packs without tax stamps. With multiple officers pinning him down, Garner repeated "I can't breathe" 11 times while lying face down on the sidewalk. The medical examiner ruled Garner's death a homicide. Pantaleo was fired on August 19, 2019, more than five years after Garner's death. The saying "I can't breathe" became a rallying cry used in anti-police brutality protests.

Police Brutality: Tragedy, Loss & Sorrow

Michael Brown (18)

August 9, 2014, Ferguson, MO



Michael was fatally shot by 28-year-old white FPD police officer Darren Wilson. According to Wilson, an altercation ensued "when Brown attacked Wilson in his police vehicle for control of Wilson's gun until it was fired."

Dorian Johnson, Brown's friend at the scene, claimed Wilson initiated a confrontation by "grabbing Brown by the neck through his car window, threatening him and then shooting at him." Brown fled and Officer Wilson pursued. Officer Wilson stated Brown stopped and charged him after a short pursuit. Johnson contradicted this account, stating that Brown turned around with his hands raised after Wilson shot at his back. According to Johnson, Wilson fired a total of twelve bullets and Michael Brown was struck six times, all in the front of his body.

The tragic event gave rise to the popular saying: "Hands up, don't shoot," igniting protests in Ferguson and the country. The trial against Officer Porter ended in mistrial, Officers Goodson and Rice were acquitted, the remaining charges against the officers were dropped on July 27, 2016.

Laquan McDonald (17)

October 20, 2014, Chicago, IL



Laquan was fatally shot by Chicago PD Officer Jason Van Dyke. Police had initially reported that McDonald was behaving erratically while walking down the street, refused to put down a knife he was carrying. Preliminary internal police reports described the incident the same way and ruled the shooting justified.

A court ordered police to release a dash cam video of the shooting thirteen months later, on November 24, 2015, it showed McDonald had been walking away from the police when he was shot. Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder that day. On October 5, 2018, Van Dyke was found guilty of second-degree murder, as well as 16 counts of aggravated battery with a firearm. Community protests ensued.

Freddie Gray (25)

April 12, 2015, Baltimore, MD



Freddie was arrested by Baltimore PD and subsequently charged for possessing a knife. While being transported in a police van, Gray fell into a coma and was taken to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center where he died on April 19, 2015; due to spinal cord injuries.

On April 21, 2015, pending an investigation of the incident, six Baltimore police officers were suspended. Eyewitness accounts, and viewing the cell phone video, clearly suggests officers used unnecessary force against Gray during the arrest. Mr. Gray was not secured inside the van while driving to the police station. The medical investigation found Gray had sustained the injuries in transport - ruling the death a homicide.

On May 1, 2015, the Baltimore City State's Attorney announced it filed charges against six police officers. But the prosecutor later dropped all charges.

Samuel DuBose (43)

July 19, 2015, Cincinnati OH



Samuel DuBose was an unarmed man fatally shot in the head by Ray Tensing, a white University of Cincinnati police officer during a traffic stop for a missing front license plate and a suspended driver's license. Tensing fired after DuBose started his car, stating that DuBose had begun to drive off and that he was being dragged because his arm was caught in the car.

However, Tensing's bodycam showed that he was not dragged. He had lied. A grand jury indicted him on charges of murder and voluntary manslaughter. He was then fired from the police department. He was released on bond before the trial. A November 2016 trial ended in mistrial after the jury became deadlocked. A retrial begun in May 2017 also ended in a hung jury. The charges against Tensing were later dismissed with prejudice.

Police Brutality: Tragedy, Loss & Sorrow

Sandra Bland (28)

July 13, 2015, Waller County, TX.



Bland was pulled over for a minor traffic violation on July 10, 2015, by State Trooper Brian Encinia. The exchange escalated, resulting in Bland's arrest and a charge for assaulting a police officer. The arrest was partially recorded by Encinia's dashcam, a bystander's cell phone, and Bland's own cell phone showing a disrespectful Encinia.

Encinia was placed on administrative leave for failing to follow proper traffic stop procedures. Ms. Bland was found hanged in a jail cell in Waller County on July 13, 2015. Her mysterious death was ruled a suicide, but was found suspect by people of color. Sandra Bland's death while in police custody was followed by protests, disputing the cause of death and alleging racial violence.

Alton Sterling (37)

July 5, 2016, Baton Rouge LA.



Alton was shot dead at close range by two white Baton Rouge Police Department officers. Police said the officers were "attempting to control Sterling's arms, and they shot Sterling." Police were responding to a report that a man in a red shirt was selling CDs and that he had used a gun to threaten a man outside a convenience store.

The owner of the store where the shooting occurred said Sterling had started carrying a gun a few days prior to the event as other CD vendors had been recently robbed. He also said Sterling was "not the one causing trouble" during the situation that led to the police being called. The shooting was recorded by multiple bystanders.

The shooting led to protests in Baton Rouge and a request for a civil rights investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. The DOJ investigated, but in May 2017 decided not to file criminal charges. In response, Louisiana's attorney general, Jeff Landry, said the state of Louisiana would open an investigation once the DOJ released the physical evidence. In March 2018, Landry's office announced it would not bring charges against the officers stating they acted in a "reasonable and justifiable manner."

Terence Crutcher (40)

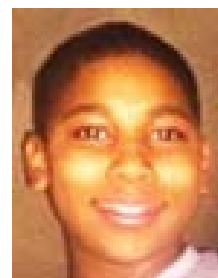
Tulsa, OK, September 16, 2016



Terence was shot and killed by police officer Betty Jo Shelby in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was unarmed during the encounter, in which he was standing near his vehicle in the middle of a street. The shooting led to protests in Tulsa. On September 22th, the Tulsa County District Attorney charged Shelby with first-degree manslaughter after the shooting was labeled a homicide. On May 17, 2017, a jury found her not guilty of first-degree manslaughter.

Tamir Rice (12)

November 27, 2014, Cleveland OH



Tamir was killed in less than two seconds after Cleveland PD arrived at a park where the 12-year-old was playing with a toy gun.

The grand jury declined to indict the white officers. The killers, Timothy Loehmann, was fired for inaccurate details on a job application and the second officer was suspended for violating tactical rule while driving to scene. Neither were fired for killing the 12-year-old boy.

The Grand Jury decided not to prosecute. Cleveland's prosecutors "called it a tragedy but not a crime."

How Many Black Lives

In researching this article, we attempted to identify the number of people killed by police, we found out statistics on people of color killed by police are not easy to come by, most government agencies do not track this data.

However, we were fortunate to find a rich source of data, MappingPoliceViolence.org, a non-profit which has compiled a comprehensive and highly detailed national database of killings from 2013 to 2019. According to their website, the data has been meticulously sourced from the three largest, most comprehensive and impartial crowdsourced databases on police killings in the country, they are:

- FatalEncounters.org, U.S. Police Shootings Database
- KilledbyPolice.net
- Original research from social media, obituaries, criminal records databases, police reports and other sources

Police Brutality: Tragedy, Loss & Sorrow

Volume 35

July 26, 2020

Determining the numbers is difficult, even when looking at available data, primarily because of how deaths are classified, in particular: "Unclear" and "Allegedly Armed" are open to interpretation. An example of this is the story published in the SFGate regarding the killing of a mother on July 13, 2003 by San Jose PD police as she stood in her kitchen holding a long vegetable peeler.

As reported in the SFGate: "Within seconds after entering Tran's home, San Jose Police Officer Chad Marshall opened fire, hitting Tran, an immigrant who spoke little English, in the heart. Marshall testified at a rare public grand jury hearing that he believed she was about to throw the peeler, which he called a "cleaver." Would a 4-foot-9-inch Vietnamese woman with a vegetable peeler be classified as armed, allegedly armed, or unclear?

Accordingly, we limited our list to those categorized as "Unarmed/Did Not Have an Actual Weapon." The number of persons on this list is still gravely disturbing. From 2013 to 2019, **149** people of **all colors** were killed by police in Canada, however, in the US, **2,075 African Americans** were killed in the same period of time, as illustrated below:

Unarmed/Did Not Have an Actual Weapon	352
Unclear	158
Allegedly Armed	1,402
Vehicle	163
Total African Americans Killed	2,075

The following is a list of names for 352 unarmed African Americans killed by police in the US. Say their names.

NAME	AGE	AGENCY
George "Big Floyd" Floyd	46 M	Minneapolis Police Dept.
Maurice S. Gordon	28 M	New Jersey State Police
Rayshard Scales	30 M	Houston Police Department
Shaun Lee Fuhr	24 M	Seattle Police Department
Joshua Johnson	35 M	Harris County Sheriff's Office
Joel Acevedo	25 M	Milwaukee Police Department
Kanisha Nicole Fuller	43 F	Birmingham Police Dept.
Tommy Dale McGlothen Jr.	44 M	Shreveport Police Department
Mycael Johnson	31 M	Tallahassee Police Dept.
Breonna Taylor	26 F	Louisville Metro Police Dept.
Donnie Sanders	47 M	Kansas City Police Dept.
Barry Gedeus	27 M	Fort Lauderdale Police Dept.
Manuel "Manny" Elijah Ellis	33 M	Tacoma Police Department
Keith Dutree Collins	52 M	Raleigh Police Department
William Howard Green Jr.	43 M	Prince George's Cty. PD.
Gamel Antonio Brown	30 M	Baltimore County Police Dept.
Tina Marie Davis	53 F	Spring Valley Police Dept.
Michael Lorenzo Dean	28 M	Temple Police Department
Eric Reason	38 M	Richmond Police Department
Christopher McCorvey	36 M	Mobile Police/County Sheriff
Christopher Whitfield	31 M	E Feliciana Parish Sheriff's
Atatiana Jefferson	28 F	Fort Worth Police Department
Maurice Holly	55 M	Sacramento County Sheriff's
Elijah McClain	23 M	Aurora Police Department
Jordan Michael Griffin	18 M	Long Beach Police Dept.
Nicholas Walker	31 M	Arlington Police Department
Bennie Branch	24 M	Tacoma Police Department
Byron Williams	50 M	Las Vegas Metro Police Dept
Arthur Walton Jr.	33 M	Melrose Park Police Dept.
Channara Tom Pheap	33 M	Knoxville Police Department
Patricia Spivey	52 F	Harris County Sheriff's Office
Stephen Murray	52 M	Stanislaus County Sheriff's
DeWayne Watkins	74 M	Syracuse Police Department
Ryan Twyman	24 M	LA County Sheriff's Dept.
Dominique Clayton	32 F	Oxford Police Department
Isaiah Lewis	17 M	Edmond Police Department

NAME	AGE	AGENCY
Kevin Leroy Beasley Jr.	23 M	Westminster Police Dept.
Julius "Jules" Graves	43 M	St. Louis Metro Police
Dept Marcus McVae	34 M	Texas Dept of Public Safety
Marzues Scott	35 M	Blytheville Police Department
Bishar Hassan	31 M	Anchorage Police Dept.
Kevin Bruce Mason	57 M	Baltimore Police Department
Mario Clark	31 M	Jackson Police Department
Jimmy Atchison	21 M	Atlanta Police Department
D'etrick Griffin	18 M	Atlanta Police Department
George Robinson	62 M	Jackson Police Department
Andre Horton	42 M	Memphis Police Department
Jesse Jesus Quinton	35 M	Idaho State Police
Mahlon Edward Summerour	63 M	Monroe Police Department
Charles D. Roundtree Jr.	18 M	San Antonio Police Dept.
Chinedu Valentine Okobi	36 M	San Mateo County Sheriff's
Antone G. Black Jr.	19 M	Greensboro MD Police Dept.
Darell Richards	19 M	Sacramento Police Dept.
Botham Shem Jean	26 M	Dallas Police Department
James Leatherwood	23 M	Hollywood Police Department
Joshua Wayne Harvey	25 M	Tulsa Police Department
Christopher Alexander Okamoto	21 M	Bakersfield Police Dept.
Cynthia Fields	60 F	Savannah Police Department
Rashaun Washington	37 M	Vineland Police Department
Anthony "Punch" Marcell Green	33 M	Kingsland Police Department
Antwon Michael Rose II	17 M	East Pittsburgh Police Dept.
Robert Lawrence White	41 M	Montgomery County PD
Marcus-David L. Peters	24 M	Richmond Police Department
Juan Markee Jones	25 M	Danville Police Department
Danny Ray Thomas	34 M	Harris County Sheriff's Office
Stephon Clark	23 M	Sacramento Police Dept.
Trey Ta'Quan Pringle Sr.	24 M	Beaufort County Sheriff's
Ronell Foster	32 M	Vallejo Police Department
Name withheld by police	Unknown	Atlanta Police Department
Corey Mobley	38 M	Manatee County Sheriff's
Arther McAfee Jr.	61 M	Harrison County Sheriff's
Geraldine Townsend	72 F	Bartlesville Police Dept.
Warren Ragudo	34 M	Daly City Police Department
Thomas Yatsko	21 M	Cleveland Division of Police
Dennis Plowden	25 M	Philadelphia Police Dept.
Jean Pedro Pierre	42 M	Broward County Sheriff's
Keita O'Neil	42 M	San Francisco Police Dept.
Lawrence Hawkins	56 M	Prichard Police Department
Calvin Toney	24 M	Baton Rouge Police Dept.
Armando Frank	42 M	Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's
Dewboy Lister	55 M	Corpus Christi Police Dept.
Stephen Gayle	40 M	Temple Police Department
Name withheld by police	40s	Oakland Police Department
Name withheld by police	25 M	Chicago Police Department
William Matthew Holmes	24 M	McPherson County Sheriff's
Anthony Antonio Ford	27 M	Miami-Dade Police Dept.
Devin Howell	30 M	Cobb County Police Dept.
Charles David Robinson	47 M	Greene County Sheriff's
Herbert Gilbert	37 M	Thomas County Sheriff's
Thomas Williams	34 M	Fort Lauderdale Police Dept.
Aries Clark	16 M	Marion Police Department
Antonio Garcia Jr.	47 M	Leavenworth Police Dept.
Euree Lee Martin	58 M	Washington County Sheriff's
Brian Easley	33 M	Cobb County Police Dept.
DeJuan Guillory	27 M	Evangeline Parish Sheriff's
Aaron Bailey	45 M	Indianapolis Metro PD
Joshua Terrell Crawford	25 M	Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's
Marc Brandon Davis	34 M	Petal Police Department
Adam Trammell	22 M	West Milwaukee Police Dept.
DeRicco Devante Holden	24 M	Converse Police Department
Jimmie Montel Sanders	33 M	Appleton Police Department
Mark Roshawn Adkins	54 M	San Diego County Sheriff's
Tashii S. Brown	40 M	Las Vegas Metro Police Dept
Jordan Edwards	15 M	Balch Springs Police Dept.
Roderick Ronall Taylor	42 M	Houston Police Department
Kenneth Johnson	25 M	Reading Police Department
Christopher Wade	39 M	Columbus Division of Police
Alteria Woods	21 F	Indian River County Sheriff's
Sherida Davis	38 F	Milwaukee Police Department
Lorenzo Antoine Cruz	23 M	Rocklin Police Department
Chance David Baker	22 M	Portland Police Department
Raynard Burton	19 M	Detroit Police Department
Quanice Derrick Hayes	17 M	Portland Police Bureau
Chad Robertson	25 M	Amtrak Police Department
Jerome Keith Allen	22 M	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

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NAME	AGE	AGENCY	NAME	AGE	AGENCY
Nana Adomako	45 M	Fremont Police Department	Darrius Stewart	19 M	Memphis Police Department
Marquez Warren	19 M	Contra Costa County Sheriff's	Salvado Ellswood	36 M	Plantation Police Department
Deandre Phillips	24 M	Atlanta Police Department	George Mann	53 M	Gwinnett County Police Department
Sabin Marcus Jones	45 M	Mecklenburg County Sheriff's	Freddie Blue	20 M	Newton County Sheriff's Office
Darrion M. Barnhill	23 M	Henderson County Sheriff's	Jonathan Sanders	39 M	Stonewall Police Department
JR Williams	38 M	Phoenix Police Department	Victo Larosa III	23 M	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Muhammad Abdul Muhaymin	43 M	Phoenix Police Department	Spencer McCain	41 M	Baltimore County Police Department
Marlon Lewis	37 M	Badin Police Department	Kevin Bajoie	32 M	Baton Rouge Police Department
Ritchie Lee Harbison	62 M	Henderson County Sheriff's	Kris Jackson	22 M	South Lake Tahoe Police Dept.
Lamont Perry	32 M	N. Carolina Dept. Public Safety	Kevin Higgenbotham	47 M	Trenton Police Department
Roy Lee Richards	46 M	Little Rock Police Department	Ross Anthony	25 M	Dallas Police Department
Alfred Olango	38 M	El Cajon Police Department	Richard Gregory Davis	50 M	Rochester Police Department
Tawon Boyd	21 M	Baltimore County Police Dept.	D'Angelo Reyes Stallworth	28 M	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Terence Crutcher	40 M	Tulsa Police Department	Dajuan Graham	40 M	Montgomery County Police Dept.
Tyre King	13 M	Columbus Division of Police	Brendon Glenn	29 M	Los Angeles Police Department
Levonja Riggins	22 M	Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office	Reginald L. Moore Sr.	44 M	Greenville Police Department
Kendrick Brown	18 M	Monticello Police Department	David Felix	24 M	New York Police Department
Donnell Thompson Jr.	27 M	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.	William Chapman	18 M	Portsmouth Police Department
Dalvin Hollins	19 M	Tempe Police Department	Norman Cooper	33 M	San Antonio Police Department
Delrawn Small	37 M	New York Police Department	Darrell Lawrence Brown	31 M	Hagerstown Police Department
Sherman Evans	63 M	DC Metropolitan Police Department	Frank Shephard III	41 M	Harris County Sheriff's Office
Deravis Rogers	22 M	Atlanta Police Department	Walter Scott	50 M	North Charleston Police Department
Antwun Shumpert	37 M	Tupelo Police Department	Eric Courtney Harris	44 M	Tulsa County Sheriff's Office
Ollie Lee Brooks	64 M	Tulsa Police Department	Donald "Dontay" Ivy	39 M	City of Albany Police Department
Vernell Bing Jr	22 M	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office	Phillip White	32 M	Vineland Police Department
Michael Eugene Wilson Jr.	27 M	Hallandale Beach Police Department	Jason Moland	29 M	Ceres Police Department
Jessica Williams	29 F	San Francisco Police Department	Denzel Brown	21 M	Suffolk County Police Department
Arthur R. Williams Jr.	33 M	El Paso Police Department	Brandon Jones	18 M	Cleveland Division of Police
Lionel Gibson	21 M	Long Beach Police Department	Askari Roberts	35 M	Floyd County Sheriff's Office
Charlin Charles	25 M	Orlando Police Department	Bobby Gross	35 M	DC Metro Transit Police
Kevin Hicks	44 M	Indianapolis Metro Police Dept.	Terrance Moxley	29 M	Mansfield Police Department
Dominique "Nonny" Silva	24 M	Pawtucket Police Department	Anthony Hill	27 M	DeKalb County Police Department
Robert Dentmond	16 M	Alachua Cty. Sheriff's/Gainesville PD	Naeschylus Vinzant	37 M	Aurora Police Department Tony Terrell
India M. Beaty	25 F	Norfolk Police Department	Robinson	19 M	Madison Police Department
Torrey Lamar Robinson	35 M	Parco County Sheriff's Office	Charly Leundeu Keunang	43 M	Los Angeles Police Department
Peter William Gaines	37 M	Houston Police Department	Darrell "Hubbard" Gatewood	47 M	Oklahoma City Police Department
Arteair Porter	22 M	Reno Police Department	DeOntre L. Dorsey	32 M	Charles County Sheriff's Office
Kionte DeShaun Spencer	18 M	Roanoke County Police Department	Thomas Allen Jr.	34 M	Wellston Police Department
Christopher J. Davis	21 M	Walworth County Sheriff's Office	Calvon A. Reid	39 M	Coconut Creek Police Department
Thomas Lane	37 M	Connecticut State Police	Terry Price	41 M	Osage County Sheriff's Office
Paul Gaston	37 M	Cincinnati Police Department	Lavall Hall	25 M	Miami Gardens Police Department
Calin Devante Roquemore	24 M	Texas Department of Public Safety	Natasha McKenna	37 F	Fairfax County Sheriff's Office
Dyzhawn L. Perkins	19 M	Buckingham County Sheriff's Dept.	Jeremy Lett	28 M	Tallahassee Police Department
David Joseph	17 M	Austin Police Department	Tiano Meton	25 M	U.S. Border Patrol
Wendell Celestine Jr.	37 M	Antioch Police Department	Artago Damon Howard	36 M	Union County Sheriff's Office
Antronie Scott	36 M	San Antonio Police Department	Andre Larone Murphy Sr.	42 M	Norfolk NE Police Department
Peter John	36 M	DC Metropolitan Police Department	Leslie Sapp III	47 M	U.S. Marshals Service
Keith Childress	23 M	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.	Brian Pickett	26 M	Los Angeles County Sheriff's
Bettie Jones	55 F	Chicago Police Department	Jerame C. Reid	36 M	Bridgeton Police Department
Kevin Matthews	35 M	Dearborn Police Department	David Andre Scott	28 M	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Michael Noel	32 M	St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office	Dennis Grisgby	35 M	Texarkana Police Department
Leroy Browning	30 M	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept.	Rumain Brisbon	34 M	Phoenix Police Department
Miguel Espinal	36 M	New York Police Department	Eric Ricks	30 M	Balch Springs Police Department
Nathaniel Pickett	29 M	San Bernardino County Sheriff's	Tamir E. Rice	12 M	Cleveland Division of Police
Cornelius Brown	25 M	Opa-locka Police Department	Akai Gurley	28 M	New York Police Department
Tiara Thomas	30 F	Hammond Police Department	Keara Crowder	29 F	Memphis Police Department
Richard Perkins	39 M	Oakland Police Department	Tanisha N. Anderson	37 F	Cleveland Division of Police
Jamar Clark	24 M	Minneapolis Police Department	Raphael Thomas	29 M	Akron County Police Department
Alonzo Smith	27 M	Special police, Washington DC	John T. Wilson III	22 M	Nevada Highway Patrol
Anthony Ashford	29 M	San Diego Harbor Police Dept.	Kaldrick Donald	24 M	Gretna Police Department
Dominic Hutchinson	30 M	Cathedral City Police Department	Michael Ricardo Minor	38 M	Prince Georges Sheriff's Office
Lamontez Jones	39 M	San Diego Police Department	Adam Ardett Madison	28 M	Warrior Police Department
Paterson Brown Jr.	18 M	Richmond Police Department	Iretha Lilly	37 F	McLennan County Sheriff's Office
Rayshaun Cole	30 M	U.S. Immigration/Customs Enfor.	Balantine Mbegbu	65 M	Phoenix Police Department
Junior Prosper	31 M	Miami-Dade Police Department	Lashano J. Gilbert	31 M	New London Police Department
Keith Harrison McLeod	19 M	Baltimore County Police Department	Oliver Jarrod Gregoire	26 M	Chambers County Sheriff's Office
Wayne Wheeler	41 M	Lathrup Village Police Department	Eugene Williams	38 M	Kansas City Police Department
Lavante Biggs	21 M	Durham Police Department	Cameron Tillman	14 M	Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Department
India Kager	28 F	Virginia Beach Police Department	Ricky Deangelo Hinkle	47 M	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
James Carney III	48 M	Cincinnati Police Department	Darrien Nathaniel Hunt	22 M	Saratoga Springs Police
Felix Kumi	61 M	New York Police Department	Cortez Washington	32 M	Omaha Police Department
Asshams Manley	30 M	Prince George's Police Department	Vernicia Woodard	26 F	Atlanta Police Department
Christian Taylor	19 M	Arlington Police Department	Arvel Douglas Williams	30 M	Baltimore County Police Department
Troy Robinson	32 M	DeKalb County Police Department	Levon Leroy Love	44 M	San Antonio Police Department
Brian Day	36 M	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.	Corey Levert Tanner	24 M	U.S. Marshals Service
Samuel Dubose	43 M	University of Cincinnati Police Dept.	Dante Parker	36 M	Victorville Police Department
Albert Davis	23 M	Orlando Police Department	Dustin Keith Glover	27 M	Port Arthur Police Department

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NAME	AGE	AGENCY	NAME	AGE	AGENCY
Ezell Ford	25 M	Los Angeles Police Department	Reginald Williams Jr.	29 M	Cleveland Division of Police
Michael Brown	18 M	Ferguson Police Department	Elijah Glay	39 M	Prince George's County Police
John H. Crawford III	22 M	Beavercreek Police Department	Alexander Jamar "A.J." Marion	19 M	Asheville Police Department
Cedric Stanley	35 M	Miami-Dade Police Department	Jonathan A. Ferrell	24 M	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police
Jeremey Lake	19 M	Tulsa Police Department	Marlon Horton	28 M	Chicago Police Department
Jacorey Calhoun	23 M	Alameda County Sheriff's Office	Ronnie Ledesma Jr.	39 M	Kern County Sheriff's Office
Briatay McDuffie	19 M	Baltimore County Police Dept.	Montrell Moss	23 M	Cook County Sheriff's Office
Eric Garner	43 M	New York Police Department	Jeffery B. Lilly Jr.	22 M	Indianapolis Metropolitan Police
Charles K. Goodridge	53 M	Harris County Constable Precinct 4	Jermaine McBean	33 M	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Christopher Jones	30 M	Pine Lawn Police Department	Allen Desdunes	37 M	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Jerry Brown	41 M	Pasco County Sheriff's Office	Ryan L. Stokes	24 M	Kansas City Police Department
Lavon King	20 M	Jersey City Police Department	Larry Eugene Jackson Jr.	32 M	Austin Police Department
Juan May	45 M	Arlington Police Department	Dainell Simmons	29 M	Suffolk County Police Department
Emanuel Jean-Baptiste	29 M	Moss Point Police Department	Deomain Hayman	28 M	Wilmington Police Department
Mark Anthony Blocker	20 M	Prince George's County Police	Tyrone West	44 M	Baltimore Police Department
Montez Dewayne Hambric	26 M	Winston-Salem Police Department	Daryll Blair	19 M	San Antonio Police Department
Tommy J. Yancy Jr.	32 M	California Highway Patrol	Antonio Johnson	40 M	Hazelwood Police Department
Howard Wallace Bowe Jr.	34 M	Hallandale Beach Police Dept.	George Harvey	39 M	Richmond County Sheriff's Office
George V. King	19 M	Baltimore Police Department	Micah Anthony Key	24 M	San Angelo Police Department
Dominique Franklin Jr.	23 M	Chicago Police Department	Lana Morris	46 F	New York Police Department
Justin Griffin	25 M	Hinds County Sheriff's Department	Bill Jackson	59 M	Selma Police Department
Tyrone Davis	43 M	Adams County Sheriff's Office	Keoshia L. Hill	28 F	Selma Police Department
Gregory Lewis Towns Jr	24 M	East Point Police Department	Julian Dawkins	22 M	Arlington County Sheriff's Office
DeAndre Lloyd Starks	27 M	Tulsa Police Department	Jermaine Darden	34 M	Fort Worth Police Department
Willie Neall Harden	25 M	Phoenix Police Department	Marlon Brown	38 M	DeLand Police Department
Hallis Kinsey	26 M	Houston Police Department	Kendra Diggs	37 F	Baltimore Police Department
Treon "Tree" Johnson	27 M	Hialeah Police Department	Deion Fludd	17 M	New York Police Department
Yvette Smith	47 F	Bastrop County Sheriff's Office	Clifton Armstrong	38 M	Oklahoma City Police Department
Anthony Bartley	21 M	Nassau County Sheriff's Office	Fred Bradford Jr.	51 M	Dallas Police Department
Ernest Satterwhite	68 M	North Augusta Dept. Public Safety	Craig Demps	22 M	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Willie James Sams	21 M	Miami-Dade Police Department	Dason Peters	33 M	New York Police Department
Anesson Joseph	28 M	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office	Dylan Samuel-Peters	1 M	New York Police Department
Jordan Baker	26 M	Houston Police Department	Willie Lee Bingham Jr.	20 M	Bolivar County Sheriff's Office
Jeffrey Ragland	50 M	New York Police Department	Clinton Roebexar Allen	25 M	Dallas Police Department
Kendall Alexander	34 M	St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office	Charles A. Baker Jr.	30 M	Jamestown Police Department
Cimarron Lamar Lamb	33 M	Phenix City Police Department	Anthony Dwayne Harris	38 M	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Ervin Edwards	38 M	West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's	Donovan Thomas	22 M	St. Louis Metropolitan Police
Willie James Williams	27 M	Columbus GA Police Department	Jayvis Benjamin	20 M	Avondale Estates Police
Abdul Kamal	30 M	Irvington Police Department	Quintine Barksdale	43 M	Arizona Department of Trans.
William Alfred Harvey III	57 M	Los Angeles County Sheriff's	Cedrick Chatman	17 M	Chicago Police Department
Tracy Clyde	42 M	Leesburg Police Department	Xavier Tyrell Johnson	31 M	Miami-Dade Police Department
William Taylor	32 M	Lorain Police Department	Darrell Banks	47 M	Philadelphia Police Department

To all the families who have lost loved ones to police violence, we extend out deepest and sincerest condolences. All of the above were much more than a name on a list, a hashtag or a statistic -- they were fathers, mothers, sons and daughters with people who loved them and those they loved, many who were children orphaned by these tragedies.

The folks above were a valuable part of a rich social fabric and community, they were people that should have been afforded rudimentary humanity. More than anything else, they had fundamental human value.

Furthermore, as far as human and civil rights go, they should have benefited from the same liberty and justice afforded to all people in the USA, as articulated in the 4th Amendment of the Bill of Rights:

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

Being black does not constitute probable cause. Say their names, Black lives matter!

Protest music, soundtrack of the movement for racial justice

Music is often called the soundtrack of our lives, and nowhere is that more evident than songs written about racial discrimination, injustice and police brutality perpetrated on the Black community.

For those who have not listened to these songs, they offer an insight to the pain of a people who began their American experience as property 401 years ago, and have been fighting for equality ever since. In the 20th century, music became a vehicle to express anguish and protest, for instance, Marvin Gaye's antiwar hymn "What's Goin' On" (1974). Likewise, in the late 1980/1990's, with the advent of rap, music moved to open protest and rebellion, for instance NWA's anti-police brutality rap "Fuck the Police" (1988), to Public Enemy's anti-racism anthem "Fight the Power" (1989).

The following songs represent a collection of music spanning 80 years, chronicling social injustice and systemic racism. Some led to enhanced social conscientiousness and others to political change related to the Black Experience.

Billie Holiday



Billie Holiday was a remarkable American singer. She began her 26-year career in 1935, bringing an innovative influence to jazz and pop music. Unfortunately, the brilliant Holiday had personal troubles with drugs and alcohol. Arrested by police, she died handcuffed to a hospital bed at the age of 44. Billie Holiday was inducted into the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame in 2017. 'Strange Fruit' poignantly depicts the brutality of Black lynching's in elegant metaphor.

Strange Fruit, April 20, 1939

*Southern trees bear a strange fruit.
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root.
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze.
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.*

*Pastoral scene of the gallant South.
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth.
Scent of magnolia, sweet and fresh.
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh.*

*Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck.
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck.
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop.
Here is a strange and bitter crop.*

Sam Cooke

Sam Cooke was an American singer, songwriter, civil-rights activist and entrepreneur. He was a soul music pioneer with a smooth and effortless delivery.



Sam Cooke was barred from a hotel on October 9, 1963 in Shreveport LA because he was Black. He was arrested for objecting to the racial discrimination common at the time.

Moved by that experience, and Martin Luther King's marches, Sam Cooke wrote "A change is going to come." On December 11, 1964, at the age of 33, he was shot and killed by Bertha Franklin, the manager of the Hacienda Motel in Los Angeles, after being robbed the night he stayed there. (The circumstances for his killing have always been called into question.) The song exudes an optimistic mood for social justice and change.

A change is going to come, 1963

*I was born by the river in a little tent
Oh and just like the river I've been running ev'r since
It's been a long time, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will*

*It's been too hard living, but I'm afraid to die
'Cause I don't know what's up there, beyond the sky
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will*

*I go to the movie and I go downtown
Somebody keep tellin' me don't hang around
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will*

*Then I go to my brother
And I say brother help me please
But he winds up knockin' me
Back down on my knees, oh*

*There have been times that I thought I couldn't last for long
But now I think I'm able to carry on
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change is gonna come, oh yes it will*

Songwriters: Sam Cooke
A Change Is Gonna Come Lyrics © Abkco Music, Inc

Protest music, soundtrack of the movement for Racial Justice

James Brown



James Brown was an American singer, songwriter, dancer, musician, record producer, bandleader and entrepreneur. A progenitor of soul/funk music and a major figure of 20th century music. Brown is known by several nicknames: "The Godfather" and "Soul Brother No. 1".

'Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud' was inspired by the East LA Walkouts (Chicano Blowouts) in 1968. Flying into Los Angeles, Brown saw the rebellion and was inspired to pen the song. He contacted a local Church who rounded up about 30 children from the Watts and Compton areas, and recorded the song in the middle of the night. It is hard to imagine today, but the phrase **"Say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud"** was revolutionary. White America was shocked, and thought it both audacious and outrageous. For the first time in 349 years since slave traders landed on the shores of the US, a song ushered in Black Pride, and with it - Afros, Dashikis and Pan Africanism. The song was ranked number 305 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest songs of all time in 2004.

Say it Loud, 1968

*Uh! Your bad self!
Say it loud! I'm black and I'm proud.
Say it louder! I'm black and I'm proud.
Look a-here!*

*Some people say we got a lot of malice, some say it's a lotta nerve,
but I say we won't quit movin' until we get what we deserve.*

*We've been buked and we've been scoured,
we've been treated bad, talked about as sure as you're born.*

*But just as sure as it take two eyes to make a pair, huh!
Brother we can't quit until we get our share.*

*I've worked on jobs with my feet and my hands,
but all the work I did was for the other man.
And now we demands a chance to do things for ourselves.*

*We tired of beatin' our head against the wall
an' workin' for someone else,*

*Say it loud! I'm black and I'm proud.
Say it loud! I'm black and I'm proud, oh!*

*Ooh-wee, you're killin' me.
Alright, uh, you're out of sight!
Alright, so tough you're tough enough!
Ooh-wee uh! you're killin' me! oow!*

*Now we demand a chance to do things for ourselves
We tired of beatin' our heads against the wall
and workin' for someone else.
There's one thing more I got to say right here.
Now, now we're people, we're like the birds and the bees.*

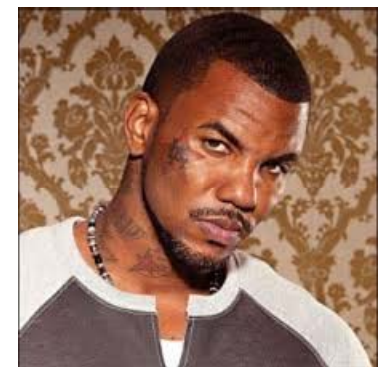
We rather die on our feet than keep livin' on our knees.

*Say it loud, I'm black and I'm proud huh!
Say it loud, I'm black and I'm proud. Lord-a, Lord-a,
Lord-a
Uh! alright now, good God.*

Songwriters: James Brown / Alfred James Ellis
Say It Loud - I'm Black And I'm Proud
© Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Warner Chappell Music Inc

The Game

Jayceon Terrell Taylor, better known by his stage name "The Game," recruited an all-star cast to speak out against the violence and injustice in Ferguson, Mo. The song covers injustice, Emmet Till, the relationship between people of color and the police, and the increasing militarization of police. It speaks to Mike Brown's tragic death, shot six times by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson - although he was unarmed with his hands up.



Don't Shoot

*Our Lord, grant us good in this world
And good in the life, to come keep us safe from the torment of the fire
As we keep our hands up high and scream for justice
Ferguson, rest in peace Mike Brown
And all the young soldiers out there
God help us*

*Time to take a stand and save our future
Like we all got shot, we all got shot
Throwing up our hands don't let them shoot us
'Cause we all we got, we all we got
God ain't put us on the Earth to get murdered, it's murder
God ain't put us on the Earth to get murdered, it's murder
Don't point your weapons at me*

Protest music, soundtrack of the movement for Racial Justice

Don't Shoot: continued

Seen the pictures, feel the pain, scandalous how they murder son

*Tired of them killing us, I'm on my way to Ferguson
Talked to TIP, I talked to Diddy, them my brothers walking with me*

Mothers crying "Stop the riots", we ain't got to chalk the city

*I seen Cole out there, felt I should go out there
They left that boy for hours in the cold out there
They killin' teens, they killin' dreams (It's murder)*

*Yo, come on we gotta stick together, we all we got
Police taking shots and I ain't talkin' 'bout Ciroc
I'm talking 'bout Emmett Till, I'm talking bout Ezell Ford
I'm talking 'bout Sean Bell, they never go to jail for
Trayvon over Skittles, Mike Brown Cigarillos
History keeps repeating itself, like a Biggie instrumental
America's a glass house and my revenge is mental
Rather use my brain than throw a cocktail through a window*

*I got the keys to the city still we left in the cold
Hands in the sky, still was left in the road
Ribbon in the sky, Michael Brown, another soul
Stole by the system, black men we pay the toll
The price is your life, Uncle Sam want a slice
Black dress code now we looting in the night
Now we throwing Molotovs in this holocaust
And I know they hate to hear me screaming, "I'm a Boss!"*

*Tired of the okie-dokie, lying you Pinocchio
Driving while black, tell me, where am I supposed to go?*

*Gun shots hit the car, now I got the holy ghost
If excessive force was a drug, then they overdosed
Got us tryin'a protest, it's a slow process
Heard it's a lot of rotten eggs in the crow's nest
People praying on they feet, police holding on they heat
Turned on the news and seen a tank rolling down the street (Yeah)*

*I seen a lot of ice water tossed, and I know it's for a cause
My only question is, what we doing for the loss
Of Mike Brown, 'cause right now, I challenge you to use your talents to
Speak up, and don't you ever let them silence you
'Cause action speaks louder than words, that's what I heard
Shot down with his hands up, that's what occurred
Man that sound absurd
Matter fact to me that sound like murder
We want justice*

Ay yo Game, I had a crib out there, I used to live out there

*So I know how niggas feel out there
People stressing, protesting, unity is a blessing
So it's time we come together, use our voice as a weapon*

*I am Michael Brown, 'cause I stand for what he stand for
News say we're looting, paint pictures like we some animals*

On my NWA CMG

Hollin' "Rest in peace Eazy and fuck the police"

Heard another brother slain up in St. Louis

Sure the mother feel the pain, but what you famous doing?

*I'm sure the general population trying to be more active
But when the light finally catches you, you ice challenge
Okay, and I support the ALS just like the rest of them
But you have yet to pay your debt, so you just flexing then*

'Cause everybody care for a minute, then stop

People only there for a minute, then stop

*And what's the point of giving if you ain't giving your all?
We never getting ahead, might as well give up your heart*

Where does it end?

I got my hands up, what else am supposed to do? (Rest in peace to Mike Brown)

Where does it end? (And all the other fallen soldiers)

Tell me, where's the love for everything we're going through? (That will not be on the news or televised, ah)

Mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy me

Hope that God can save us

Mercy, mercy, mercy, mercy me (As we lead in peace)

Martin Luther King had a dream!

But they ain't respecting Jesse up out here

And they don't really respect Obama out here

Lights out, go dark it's like a nightmare

How the fuck you play the game, but they ain't playing fair

It's going down, Armageddon right here

Right now, not on TV, but right here

Put your flags in the air if you don't really care (Wave it)

We need justice, yeah, we need justice here

I heard he surrendered but we all saw how they did him

Television broadcasts, a confused country

I'm a resident of a nation that don't want me

What's done is done, the town erupts in fury

And I'm already hearing 'bout this lopsided jury

Three faces like his, the rest another story

A lot of motherfuckers need to act more worried

Songwriters: Durrell Babbs / Elgin Baylor Lumpkin / Jason Martin / Jayceon Taylor / John David Jackson / Kasseem Dean / Khaled Khaled / Mario Mims / Olubowale Victor Akintimehin / Sean Combs / Shante Scott Franklin / Tauheed Epps / Tyrese Gibson / William Roberts II

Don't Shoot Lyrics © Reservoir Media Management Inc

Protest music, soundtrack of the movement for Racial Justice

LL Cool J



James Todd Smith, commonly known by his stage name "LL Cool J," is an American rapper, record producer, actor, author, and entrepreneur from Queens, New York.

LL Cool J, became an early hip-hop act resulting in his mainstream success along with Kurtis Blow and Run-D.M.C. LL Cool J has released 13 studio albums and two greatest hits compilations, has appeared in numerous films, and appears on the TV drama NCIS: Los Angeles.

In 2010, VH1 placed him on their "100 Greatest Artists of All Time" list. LL Cool J is a two-time Grammy Award winner, and in 2017 he became the first rapper to receive the Kennedy Center Honors.

George Floyd Freestyle Rap, 2020

*For 400 years you had your knees on our necks.
A garden of evil with no seeds of respect.
In America's mirror all she sees is regret.
Instead of letting blood live they begging for blood let.*

*Revenge is a dish that's served on platelets.
Transfusion, a confusion, abusing our intellect.
I can't be bought with a \$1,200 check even though
\$1,200 can make a meal stretch.
Mama wasn't rich but she earned my respect.
She made a little bit a money for a lot of blood, tears
and sweat.*

*Jumping up and down on police cars, I'm vexed.
After Chauvin killed George Floyd, we got necks.
Molotov cocktails anarchy on the set.
The rich took the loot so now we loot shit.*

*Feeling like a caged tiger that's whipped to do tricks.
That's why I started fires and yelled, and threw bricks.
They tried to run me over and arrest me and shit.
Tazed, pepper spray and a engaged with the kid.*

*They ran up in the state house with them AKs quick.
But let a nigga try and do that white boy shit.
Won't be no rubber bullets ricocheting off ribs.
But the white supremacist go in the cops face and spit.
Try to BarBQ? Becky called the cops on the kid.
Hoping and praying there'll be some Emit Till shit.*

*Sandra wasn't bland. They hated Mike 'cause he's
brown.
Trevon should have an Aston Martin laying around.
Amadou Diallo, it's way too many to follow.
Vato, how much of my pride I gotta swallow?*

*God only knows how deep this plan goes.
I was dealing with this shit as a teen in Kangols.
Harassed by cops, word to my ancestor's souls
And watching that man die slow left a hole.*

*He cried for his mama as the murder unfold.
If it wasn't for them phones Chauvin would be at home.
Feeling justified 'cause of George's skin tone.
I'm telling it to those with melanin, you're not alone.
The new Malcom, Martin and Marcus's is now grown.
America's a graveyard full of Black men's bones.
And I ain't got to tell that Breonna Taylor got slayed in
her own home.*

*Had they lived, Shawn could've rocked bells.
Eric could've garnered attention
beyond the T-shirts and obituary mentions.
Oscar could have been counting grants.
Tamir could've gone to Rice.
They owed them cops nothing, but all of them paid the
price*

*So, yea, you right.
We should protect our Second Amendment rights.
'Cause in a second, a dirty cop could kick the door in
the night.
A tooth for a tooth and a life for a life.
We refuse to live in hell while you living in paradise*

*Being Black in America is like rolling a pair of dice.
But the stakes are way higher, you gambling with my
life.*

Black lives matter, forever.

Rebellion Art

Expressions of Protest from the Streets of Downtown San Jose

In early June of this year, as occurred throughout the nation and around the globe, BLM protests were held in Downtown San Jose, CA. Shortly after the protests, murals appeared serving as mirrors to the political rebellion demanding social justice. The murals were painted on plywood sheets used to board up the windows of businesses in downtown San Jose.

Break the Cycle

© Guilty.Good



Long Live, Long Live, Brown Black Unity

Artist unknown

BLM

© Richard E Hoffman



Change Systemic Racism

© Lou Jim

"You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I'll rise. I'm a Black ocean, leaping and wide. Welling and swelling, I bear in the tide." - Maya Angelou

Artist unknown



Respect Each Other

© Stevie Dobetter

