nypd-2

November 12, 2021

1 NYPD Civilian Complaints

2 Summary of Findings

2.0.1 Introduction

The dataset we chose to investigate in this project contains data about 12,000 civilian complaints against New York City police officers from September 1985 to January 2020. This dataset contains a lot of details about each complaint such as the officers ID, rank at the time of the complaint and present rank, category of alleged misconduct, and a description of the misconduct as well.

We had a look at the suggested questions provided and were drawn to the question concerning whether the complaints of women are more successful than men (for the same allegations). This dataset is perfect to answer this question since it contains all the information we need to come to a conclusion, like the gender of the complainant, allegation, and outcome. We decided that a successful complaint would be when the board_disposition outcome of the complaint is 'Substantiated'.

After having a look at the dataset, we came up with another question we were interested in: Are white-officers more likely to be exonerated or unsubstantiated? We were particularly interested in observing whether white-officers are more likely to get off the hook for a complaint. We simply observing whether there the chance of a white officer getting off the hook is more likely than officers of other ethnicities and not making any conclusions about the causes since we have no proof as to whether the complaint / allegation made is true or false.

2.0.2 Cleaning and EDA

Our initial approach was to first create a datetime column as mentioned in the instructions to find some pattern. We used getting_df function to do so. However, we quickly realised that our questions do not have any relationship with time, so we quickly moved on to clean the data in different way.

To answer the questions we shortlisted, we went to each column of interest and first identified whether there were null values present. We found that there was only one null value in the 'allegation' column and we dropped this row of complaints since it is difficult to classify it if the value is null. We conducted the same checks for the other columns like 'complainant_gender', 'mos_ethnicity' and 'board_disposition' and dropped the rows with null values present.

To further clean the dataset and better answer our questions, we decided to further clean up the 'allegation' column since there were a number of similar values with just a small difference in upper or lower case or slightly different wording. For example, we found that there were a number of allegations called 'Person Searched' and 'Search (of person)' which are the same thing. We designed

a helper method called allegation_cleaner to apply to the allegation column and clean it up and better categorise allegations that are similar. After applying this function, the number of unique values in the column went from 115 to 19. Since we are comparing the male and female complaint success rates for each allegation, it is important to have a larger group of complaints which fall under a specific allegation otherwise it can create a flawed method of comparison when conducting the permutation test. We created a similar method to clean up the 'board_disposition' column since there were many unique values which all fell under the category of 'Substantiated'.

To clean the data and answer our first question, we dropped all rows where the gender did not match 'Male' or 'Female' since our question is specifically investigating the difference in complaint success rates between males and females.

2.0.3 Assessment of Missingness

We conducted two permutation tests to assess the missingness of columns in our dataset. We were not able to find any columns which had thier missingness dependent on another column. Moreover, to answer our questions, we only needed 4 columns: complainant_gender, mos_ethnicity, allegation, and board_disposition.

We felt that the complainant_gender was MAR, and the other columns did not have enough missing values to successfully determine what type of missingness they are.

The first permutation test we conducted was to check whether the missingness of the complainant_gender column depended on board_disposition. We decided to conduct the test with a significance level of 0.05. Our test resulted in a p-value of 0, so we came to the conclusion that the missingness of complainant_gender is not dependent on board_disposition.

The second permutation test we conducted was to check whether the missingness of the complainant_gender column depended on mos_gender (officer's gender). We decided to conduct the test with a significance level of 0.05. Our test resulted in a p-value of 0.83, which is much larger than 0.05, so we came to the conclusion that the missingness of complainant_gender does depend on mos_gender (officer's gender). This could be because male officers might have made females uncomfortable and scared of adding thier gender on the complaint to prevent themselves from being identified.

2.0.4 Hypothesis Test

Question 1: Are the complaints of women more successful than men (for the same allegations)? We consider a complaint as successful when the board_disposition is 'Substantiated'.

- Null Hypothesis: Complaints of women have the same success rate as that of men.
- Alternative Hypothesis: Complaints of women are more successful (higher in proportion) than that of men.
- Test Statistic: We are summing the difference in proportions of substantiated complaints between men and women for each allegation

We are conducting the permutation test with a significance level of 0.05.

From the permutation test we conducted, we found a p-value of 0.291, so we fail to reject the null hypothesis and cannot conclude that there is a significant difference in success rates between men and women for each allegation.

Question 2: Are white-officers more likely to be exonerated or unsubstantiated?

- Null Hypothesis: White officers are equally likely to be exonerated or unsubstantiated.
- Alternative Hypothesis: White officers more likely to be exonerated or unsubstantiated.
- Test Statistic: Average difference between white officers exonerated/unsubstantiated and nonwhite officers exonerated/unsubstantiated

We are conducting the permutation test with a significance level of 0.05.

Our permutation test resulted in a p-value of 0, so we can confidently reject the null hypothesis that white-officers are equally likely to be exonerated or unsubstantiated. This could suggest that the board may be biased towards white-officers when deciding if the allegation is true or not. There could also be some confounding factors that we are not aware of.

3 Code

```
[1]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import os
import pandas as pd
import seaborn as sns
%matplotlib inline
%config InlineBackend.figure_format = 'retina' # Higher resolution figures
```

3.0.1 Cleaning and EDA

```
[2]: # Reading the dataset on civilian complaints from csv to pandas Dataframe.
nypd = pd.read_csv('allegations_202007271729.csv')
# Renaming 'unique_mos_id' to 'officer_id' for better readability
nypd.rename(columns={'unique_mos_id': 'officer_id'}, inplace=True)
```

```
[3]: # Getting summary of data nypd.describe()
```

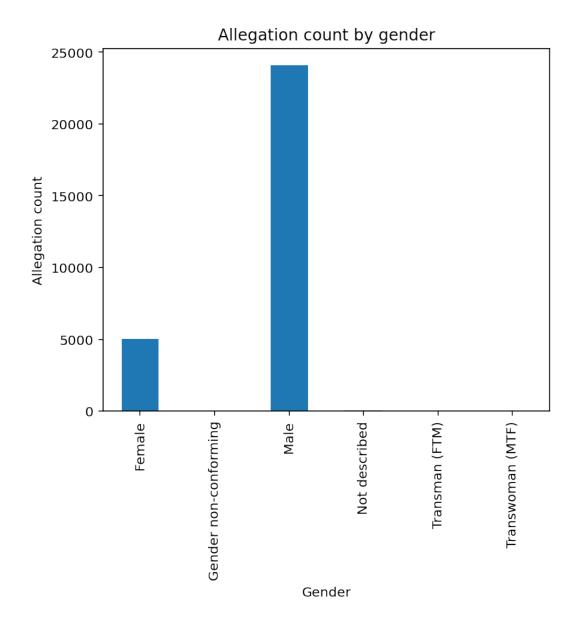
```
[3]:
                                         complaint_id
                                                        month_received
              officer_id
                              {\tt shield\_no}
            33358.000000
                           33358.000000
                                         33358.000000
                                                          33358.000000
     count
     mean
            18169.912495
                            6451.608819
                                         23905.058217
                                                              6.323551
     std
             9566.316896
                            7945.641596
                                         11954.434138
                                                              3.362951
    min
                2.000000
                               0.000000
                                            517.000000
                                                              1.000000
     25%
             9671.000000
                            1089.000000
                                         13684.750000
                                                              3.000000
     50%
            19215.000000
                            3691.000000
                                         25132.000000
                                                              6.000000
     75%
            25412.000000
                            7155.000000
                                         34252.000000
                                                              9.000000
            36374.000000
                           31977.000000
                                         43703.000000
                                                              12.000000
     max
            year_received month_closed
                                           year_closed
                                                         mos_age_incident
             33358.000000
                            33358.000000
                                          33358.000000
                                                              33358.000000
     count
              2010.726782
                                6.470772
                                            2011.525661
                                                                 32.346873
     mean
```

```
std
                 6.034725
                               3.343372
                                              6.085907
                                                                 6.040944
              1985.000000
                                1.000000
                                           1985.000000
                                                                20.000000
     min
     25%
              2007.000000
                               4.000000
                                           2008.000000
                                                                28.000000
     50%
              2012.000000
                               6.000000
                                           2013.000000
                                                                31.000000
     75%
              2016.000000
                               9.000000
                                           2016.000000
                                                                36,000000
              2020.000000
                               12.000000
                                           2020.000000
                                                                60.000000
    max
            complainant_age_incident
                                           precinct
                        28546.000000 33334.000000
     count
                           32.484201
                                          64.365213
     mean
     std
                           28.408963
                                          31.451592
    min
                        -4301.000000
                                           0.000000
     25%
                           23.000000
                                          43.000000
     50%
                           30.000000
                                          67.000000
     75%
                           41.000000
                                          81.000000
     max
                          101.000000
                                        1000.000000
[4]: # Created function to get the range from month received to month closed
     #Can be useful for time-series exploration
     def getting_tf(df):
         month = 12
         received = month - df['month_received']
         closed = df['month_closed']
         year_diff = (df['year_closed'] - df['year_received']) * 12
         df['Date Time (Month)'] = year_diff + received + closed
[5]: # Checking how many allegations were made by each gender
     nypd.groupby('complainant_gender').count()['allegation']
[5]: complainant_gender
     Female
                               5021
     Gender non-conforming
                                   2
     Male
                               24058
     Not described
                                  57
     Transman (FTM)
                                   5
     Transwoman (MTF)
                                  20
     Name: allegation, dtype: int64
[6]: # Plotting the difference in number of allegations by different genders
     dfg = nypd.groupby(['complainant_gender'])['allegation'].count()
     dfg.plot(kind='bar', title='Allegation count by gender', ylabel='Allegation_

    count¹,

              xlabel='Gender', figsize=(6, 5))
[6]: <AxesSubplot:title={'center':'Allegation count by gender'}, xlabel='Gender',
```

ylabel='Allegation count'>



```
[7]: # Checking proportion of male successful complaints

nypd[(nypd['complainant_gender'] == 'Male') & (nypd['board_disposition'] == 

→'Substantiated')].shape[0] / nypd[nypd['complainant_gender'] == 'Male'].

→shape[0]
```

[7]: 0.0

```
[8]: # Checking proportion of female successful complaints

nypd[(nypd['complainant_gender'] == 'Female') & (nypd['board_disposition'] == 

→'Substantiated')].shape[0] / nypd[nypd['complainant_gender'] == 'Female'].

→shape[0]
```

[8]: 0.0

The fact that females have a lower proportion of complaints successful overall compared to men does not signify anything because our question is asking whether there is a difference in success rates for each allegation.

```
[9]: # Getting number of nan values in allegation column
      nypd['allegation'].isna().value_counts()
 [9]: False
               33357
      True
                   1
      Name: allegation, dtype: int64
[10]: # Getting number of nan values in complainant gender column
      nypd['complainant_gender'].isna().value_counts()
[10]: False
               29163
                4195
      True
      Name: complainant_gender, dtype: int64
[11]: # Getting number of nan values in board_disposition column
      nypd['board_disposition'].isna().value_counts()
[11]: False
               33358
      Name: board_disposition, dtype: int64
[12]: # Getting number of nan values in mos_ethnicity column
      nypd['mos_ethnicity'].isna().value_counts()
[12]: False
               33358
      Name: mos_ethnicity, dtype: int64
```

Cleaning up the data and removing all rows where data in the columns we are interested in are missing / null:

```
[13]: # Removing rows where complainant gender is missing (Nan)
    # Removing rows where allegation is missing (Nan)
    # Removing rows where board_disposition is missing (Nan)
    # Removing rows where mos_ethnicity is missing (Nan)

nypd = nypd[nypd['complainant_gender'].notna()]
nypd = nypd[nypd['allegation'].notna()]
nypd = nypd[nypd['board_disposition'].notna()]
nypd = nypd[nypd['mos_ethnicity'].notna()]
```

This is a helper method to clean the allegation colum and reduce the number of unique values to better answer our question (q1). Reduces number of unique values in allegation column from 115 to 19.

```
[14]: def allegation_cleaner(x):
        →'hispanic', 'mexican', 'indian', 'jewish', 'racial', 'immigration', 'gay',
      physical_force_words = ['force', 'mace', 'club', 'restricted', 'slap', __
      if 'sex' in str(x).lower():
            return 'Sexual Misconduct'
        elif any([force_word in str(x).lower() for force_word in_
      →physical_force_words]):
            return 'Unnecessary Physical Force'
        elif any([word in str(x).lower() for word in racial_words]):
            return 'Discrimination / Bias'
        elif ('drawn' in str(x).lower()) or ('pointed' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Gun Pointed'
        elif ('threat of force' in str(x).lower()) or ('threat' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Threat of Force (verbal or physical)'
        elif ('threat of force' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Threat of Force (verbal or physical)'
        elif ('threat of force' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Threat of Force (verbal or physical)'
        elif ('word' in str(x).lower()) or ('curse' in str(x).lower()) or ('abuse'
      →in str(x).lower()) or ('question' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Verbal Abuse'
        elif ('frisk' in str(x).lower()) or ('search (of person)' in str(x).
      →lower()) or ('person searched' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Frisk'
        elif ('vehicle' in str(x).lower()) or ('stop' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Vehicle (Search or Stop)'
        elif ('premise' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Premises entered and/or searched'
        elif ('fired' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Gun Fired'
        elif ('demeanor' in str(x).lower()) or ('gesture' in str(x).lower()) or__
      →('action' in str(x).lower()) or ('discourtesy' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Discourtesy / Rude'
        elif ('refusal' in str(x).lower()) or ('deletion' in str(x).lower()) or__
      →('interference' in str(x).lower()) or ('retaliatory' in str(x).lower()) or___
      →('dissemination' in str(x).lower()) or ('rtka' in str(x).lower()) or (
      return 'Rules for arrest not followed'
        elif ('strip' in str(x).lower()) or ('cavity' in str(x).lower()):
            return 'Strip-searched'
        else:
            return x
```

```
nypd['allegation'] = nypd['allegation'].apply(allegation_cleaner)
```

```
[16]: # Checking number of different board_disposotion outcomes for each gender after

cleaning up board_disposition column

nypd.pivot_table(index='complainant_gender', columns='board_disposition',

aggfunc='size')
```

[16]:	board_disposition	Exonerated	Substantiated	Unubstantiated
	${\tt complainant_gender}$			
	Female	1415.0	1032.0	2574.0
	Gender non-conforming	NaN	2.0	NaN
	Male	6571.0	6151.0	11336.0
	Not described	21.0	14.0	22.0
	Transman (FTM)	NaN	2.0	3.0
	Transwoman (MTF)	4.0	11.0	5.0

Creating new dataframe with complaints only from men and women to help us answer the question regarding male and female complaint success rates.

3.0.2 Assessment of Missingness

We checked our columns of interest (gender, allegation, ethnicity, and board_disposition for missingness in the Data Cleaning section and dropped all rows with NaN values.

```
[18]: # Getting sum of NaN values in each column
nypd.isnull().sum(axis = 0)
```

```
[18]: officer_id
                                    0
     first_name
                                    0
      last name
                                    0
      command_now
                                    0
      shield no
                                    0
      complaint_id
                                    0
      month_received
                                    0
      year_received
                                    0
     month_closed
                                    0
      year_closed
                                    0
      command_at_incident
                                   142
      rank_abbrev_incident
                                    0
      rank_abbrev_now
                                    0
      rank_now
                                     0
      rank_incident
                                     0
     mos_ethnicity
                                    0
     mos_gender
                                    0
     mos_age_incident
                                    0
      complainant_ethnicity
                                  288
      complainant_gender
                                    0
      complainant_age_incident
                                  680
      fado type
                                    0
      allegation
                                    0
      precinct
                                   19
      contact_reason
                                  140
      outcome_description
                                   45
      board_disposition
                                    0
      dtype: int64
```

Conducting a permutation test to assess whether the missingness of the gender column is dependent on board_disposition:

```
[19]: mcar_nypd = nypd[['complainant_gender', 'board_disposition', 'allegation']]
    distr = (
        mcar_nypd
        .assign(is_null=mcar_nypd['complainant_gender'].isnull())
        .pivot_table(index='is_null', columns='board_disposition', aggfunc='size')
)
    distr = (distr.T / distr.sum(axis=1)).T

    n_repetitions = 100

tvds = []
for _ in range(n_repetitions):

# shuffle the board_disposition column
    shuffled_col = (
```

```
mcar_nypd['board_disposition']
        .sample(replace=False, frac=1)
        .reset_index(drop=True)
    )
    # put them in a table
    shuffled = (
       mcar_nypd
        .assign(**{
            'board_disposition': shuffled_col,
            'is_null': mcar_nypd['complainant_gender'].isnull()
        })
    )
    # compute the tvd
    shuffled = (
        shuffled
        .pivot_table(index='is_null', columns='board_disposition',__
 →aggfunc='size')
        .apply(lambda x:x / x.sum(), axis=1)
    )
    tvd = shuffled.diff().iloc[-1].abs().sum() / 2
    # add it to the list of results
    tvds.append(tvd)
obs = distr.diff().iloc[-1].abs().sum() / 2
# Calculating pvalue
pval = np.mean(tvds > obs)
pval
```

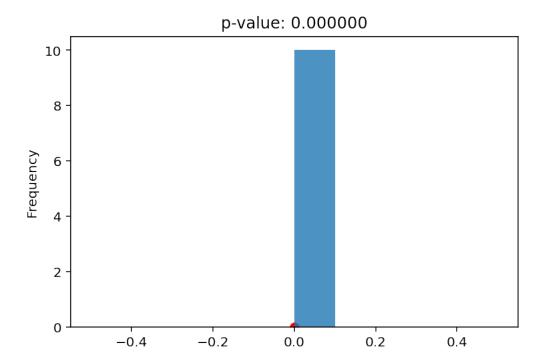
```
[19]: 0.0
```

```
[20]: # Plotting graph to visualize p-value

pd.Series(tvds).plot(kind='hist', density=True, alpha=0.8, title='p-value: %f'

→% pval)

plt.scatter(obs, 0, color='red', s=40);
```



Conclusion Since the p value we obtained is 0, we can conclude that the missingness of the complainant_gender column is not dependent on board_disposition.

Conducting a permutation test to assess whether the missingness of the gender column is dependent on the officers gender:

```
.sample(replace=False, frac=1)
        .reset_index(drop=True)
    )
    # put them in a table
    shuffled = (
        mcar2_nypd
        .assign(**{
            'mos_gender': shuffled_col,
            'is_null': mcar2_nypd['complainant_gender'].isnull()
        })
    )
    # compute the tvd
    shuffled = (
        shuffled
        .pivot_table(index='is null', columns='mos gender', aggfunc='size')
        .apply(lambda x:x / x.sum(), axis=1)
    )
    tvd = shuffled.diff().iloc[-1].abs().sum() / 2
    # add it to the list of results
    tvds.append(tvd)
obs = distr.diff().iloc[-1].abs().sum() / 2
# Calculating p-value
pval = np.mean(tvds > obs)
pval
```

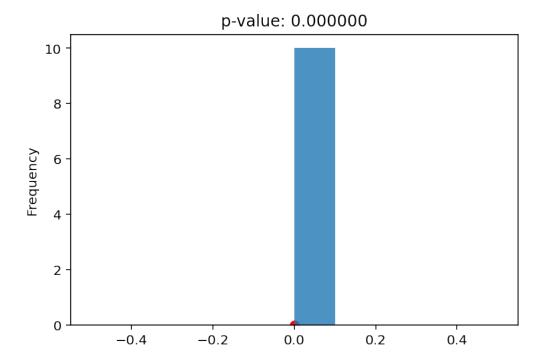
[21]: 0.0

```
[22]: # Plotting graph to visualize p-value

pd.Series(tvds).plot(kind='hist', density=True, alpha=0.8, title='p-value: %f'⊔

→% pval)

plt.scatter(obs, 0, color='red', s=40);
```



Conclusion Since the p value we obtained is again 0.83, we can conclude that the missingess of complainant_gender does depend on officer's gender. Some civilians who made a complaint may have chosen to left the gender column blank to avoid being identified.

3.0.3 Hypothesis Test

3.0.4 Question 1: Permutation test

Are the complaints of women more successful than men (for the same allegations)?

Conducting a permutation test to check if females have more successful complaint outcomes than men for each allegation. We decided on the test statistic which sums the difference in proportions because this made sense to us and we were able to group by each allegation and then compare the difference in proportions.

Calculating observed value for question 1:

```
[23]: # Calculating total diff in proportion of successful complaints for each

→allegation for males and females and summing the differences

observed_summed_proportion = 0

for allegation in list(only_m_and_f['allegation'].unique()):

df = only_m_and_f[only_m_and_f['allegation'] == allegation]

females = df[df['complainant_gender'] == 'Female']
```

[23]: 0.36695513209341596

Shuffling and conducting permutation test for question 1:

```
[24]: # Shuffling male and female labels and calculating total diff in proportions by
      \rightarrow conducting a permutation test
     N = 1000
     means = []
     shuffled = only_m_and_f.copy()[['officer_id','complaint_id',_
      shuffled_genders = shuffled['complainant_gender'].values
     for _ in range(N):
         # shuffle the genders
         shuffled_genders = np.random.permutation(shuffled_genders)
         shuffled['complainant_gender'] = shuffled_genders
         summed means = 0
         for allegation in list(shuffled['allegation'].unique()):
             df = shuffled[shuffled['allegation'] == allegation]
             females = df[df['complainant_gender'] == 'Female']
             males = df[df['complainant_gender'] == 'Male']
             # making sure there is at least 1 instance of this allegation in male_{f U}
      \rightarrow and female
             if (females.shape[0] > 0 ) and (males.shape[0] > 0 ):
```

```
[25]: # Calculating p-value for summed proportion differences compared to observed

pval_means = (means >= observed_summed_proportion).sum() / N
pval_means
```

[25]: 0.282

Conclusion: We fail to reject the null hypothesis at the significance level of 0.05 because the p-value is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we cannot conclude that there women are more likely to have a successful complaint than males. This might suggest that the board disposition is usually fair and not biased towards women.

3.0.5 Question 2: Permutation test

Are white-officers more likely to be exonerated or unsubstantiated?

Conducting a permutation test to check if white-officers are more likely to get off the hook (exonerated or unsubstantiated) We chose the test statistic which takes the difference in means into consideration because this would clearly highlight whether there is any real difference or not. We also chose this since we are summing the number of white officers and non white officers so our data is quantitative.

```
[26]: #Calculating Total Diff
nypd_white = nypd[nypd['mos_ethnicity'] == 'White']
nypd_non_white = nypd[nypd['mos_ethnicity'] != 'White']
```

```
[27]: # Calculating observed difference in proportions for non white officers who get ⊔ → off the hook

# and white officers who get off the hook

test = nypd_white.copy()

cnt = test.pivot_table(index='mos_ethnicity', columns='board_disposition', ⊔

→aggfunc='size')

distr = cnt/test.shape[0] #In proportion
```

[27]: 0.013362055475429568

Shuffling and conducting permutation test for question 2:

```
[28]: N = 100
     mean = []
     shuffle = nypd.copy()[['mos_ethnicity','board_disposition']]
     shuffle_ethnicity = shuffle['mos_ethnicity'].values
     for _ in range(N):
         #Shuffle the ethnicity
         shuffle_ethnicity = np.random.permutation(shuffle_ethnicity)
         shuffle['mos_ethnicity'] = shuffle_ethnicity
         nypd_white = shuffle[shuffle['mos_ethnicity'] == 'White']
         nypd_non_white = shuffle[shuffle['mos_ethnicity'] != 'White'] #this_|
      →includes nan filled with 0 and unknown
         nypd_white_mean = 1 - (nypd_white[nypd_white['board_disposition'] ==_
      → 'Substantiated'].shape[0] / nypd_white.shape[0])
         nypd_non_white_mean = 1 -__
      ⇒shape[0] / nypd_non_white.shape[0])
         diff = (nypd_white_mean - nypd_non_white_mean)
         mean.append(diff)
     mean = pd.Series(mean)
```

```
[29]: # P value
pval_mean = (mean >= observed_mean).sum() / N
pval_mean
```

[29]: 0.0

Conclusion: We strongly reject the null hypothesis because our p-value is lower than 0.05. We can conclude that there is a difference in the number of white-officers who get exonerated or unsubstantiated compared to the non white officers. This goes against are conclusion that the board is probably unbiased from the previous permutation test and suggests that there could be some amount of bias. On the other hand, it is still possible that there are other confounding factors which led us to this result. Moreover, there is also the strong possibility that the dispositions were correct and by coincidence, the white-officers did not do anything wrong and were wrongly accused.