

Outrage grows across New York as black homeless man dies after being placed in a chokehold by former US marine on NYC Subway

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MailOnline

May 5, 2023 Friday 2:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS; Version:2

**Length:** 393 words

**Byline:** Bill Bowkett

### Body

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- A 24-year-old former marine pulled one arm tightly around Jordan Neely's neck
- When police arrived, Mr Neely was found unconsciousness and unresponsive

Anger is growing in **New York** after a black **homeless** man was **choked** to death on a Subway train, reportedly by a former **US** marine.

The altercation has grim parallels to the killing of George Floyd and has sparked protests in the city.

Jordan Neely, 30, was said to have been shouting at passengers in the carriage in Manhattan and trying to tell them he was thirsty and hungry.

Witnesses said Mr Neely was then tackled by passengers and restrained by at least three people, including the ex-marine. The 24-year-old from Long Island, whose identity is unknown, pulled one arm tightly around Mr Neely's neck during the scuffle on Monday.

Mr Neely struggled to break free from the chokehold, but a second rider held down his shoulders while a third pinned his arms.

Onlookers watched as Mr Neely lost consciousness. When officers arrived at the scene he was unresponsive.

Mr Neely was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The death has sparked outrage in **New York**. Protests were said to have grown in areas across the city, with chants of 'Black Lives Matter,' 'justice for Jordan Neely,' and 'the **homeless** matter' being heard, according to **New York** news website Gothamist.

The city's mayor Eric Adams has declined to comment directly on Mr Neely's death. But his office later said that the police's initial response represented the 'double standard black people and other people of colour continue to face'.

## Outrage grows across New York as black homeless man dies after being placed in a chokehold by former US marine on NYC Subway

A video of the altercation, filmed by journalist Juan Alberto Vazquez, showed the man lying beneath Mr Neely, holding him in a headlock position for several minutes.

His death has been likened to the murder of George Floyd, who was killed by a Minneapolis police officer who knelt on him in 2020 while the victim complained 'I can't breathe', triggering a summer of riots.

The veteran who restrained Mr Neely was taken into custody but was released without charge.

However, the Office of Chief Medical Examiner of the City of **New York** has ruled Mr Neely's death as a 'homicide' caused by compression of the neck.

A decision on whether to charge the marine will now be made by the Manhattan District Attorney. He has been described as a 'decorated' sergeant who was an active service member until two years ago.

**Load-Date:** May 6, 2023

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## Killing of homeless Black man Jordan Neely in New York by white man leads to outcry

Press TV

May 5, 2023 Friday

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Length: 962 words

### Body

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The death of a 30-year-old homeless Black man, who was killed when a white man put him in a chokehold on the New York City subway, led to widespread outcry and protests in the United States.

On Friday, New York City was reeling from the death of Jordan Neely, who was choked to death on May 1 as he complained about being homeless, hungry, and thirsty.

Neely was confronted by a 24-year-old white man, reportedly a US marine veteran, who placed him in a chokehold for 15 minutes for speaking loudly.

The New York City's medical examiner classified the death as a homicide, due to "compression of neck (chokehold)".

Authorities by Thursday evening had not named the suspect and no charges had been filed against him.

Police reportedly spoke with the white man and then let him go.

The New York Post reported on Friday that the suspect has retained a lawyer.

"This is a solemn and serious matter that ended in the tragic loss of Jordan Neely's life," a representative for Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement.

The office has begun a "rigorous ongoing investigation" by "senior, experienced prosecutors."

Neely was described as a kind and talented person by those who knew him. He was known as a performer who impersonated Michael Jackson, gaining the adoration of tourists and locals alike.

He had amassed a following within New York City and beyond, with thousands online admiring the man's aptitude for dance.

Warning: Viewer Discretion is Advised

## Killing of homeless Black man Jordan Neely in New York by white man leads to outcry

Shocking video shows NYC subway passengers pinning down a Black man, before **choking** him to death.  
pic.twitter.com/ymPkfXIgOc

— PressTV Extra (@PresstvExtra) May 5, 2023

Lennon Edwards, a lawyer representing Neely's family, said: "Fifteen minutes is too long to go without help, intervention and without air. Passengers are not supposed to die on the floor of our subways."

Neely's death has led to conversations over racism in the **US**, violence against Black people, and support for the people who are **homeless** and struggling with mental illness.

"We have people being killed for ringing the wrong doorbell, pulling in the wrong driveway and screaming out in desperation on the subway," lawyer Donte Mills said, in reference to recent deadly incidents in the **US**.

"We cannot let that stand," he added.

Rights activist Jen White-Johnson wrote on Twitter that the "unhoused people are twice as likely to be victims of violent crimes as perpetrators. They're less likely to be believed when they try to report a crime."

There is a reason we're spreading #JordanNeely joyful photos and videos around the ether. It's because unhoused people are twice as likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators. They're less likely to be believed when they try to report a crime. #JusticeForJordanNeely pic.twitter.com/Br53SWqr23

— Jen White-Johnson (@jtknoxroxs) May 5, 2023

Neely has suffered **homelessness** and mental illness after losing his mother in a strangulation murder at the age of 14, according to media reports.

The incident of Neely led to protests in **New York** City on Thursday. More protests were planned for Friday.

#BREAKING Protest breaks out in the middle of Brooklyn streets, protesters demanding justice for Jordan Neely. Marching from Barclays Center headed towards Brooklyn Bridge #nyc #JordanNeely @News12BK @News12BX pic.twitter.com/1rTH4mHq0v

— Mary-Lyn Buckley (@ml\_buckley) May 5, 2023

Fatal police shootings and other forms of violence against African Americans by white police officers have sparked massive protests across the **US** in recent years.

The disproportionately high rate at which unarmed Black people die at the hands of white police officers in the **United States** has a corrosive impact on the mental health of Black Americans, according to researchers.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd died after being pinned down by a white officer despite yelling: "I cannot breathe."

Floyd's killing drew comparisons to Eric Garner, an unarmed African American who died in 2014 after being placed in a chokehold by **New York** City police and pleading: "I can't breathe."

The white Minneapolis police officer pinned him down with his knee in the **US** state of Minnesota, which led to his death.

Journalist: Blacks subjected to brutality for the **US** ruling class An African American journalist and political analyst said since the inception of the police in the **United States** African people have been "subjected to brutality and death in the interests of the ruling class."

African American journalist and political analyst Abayomi Azikiwe has said since the inception of the police in the **United States** African people have been "subjected to brutality and death in the interests of the ruling class."

Killing of homeless Black man Jordan Neely in New York by white man leads to outcry

Democrat Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez slammed the Biden administration over the brutal killing of the homeless Black man.

I have yet to hear a real explanation from any official hesitating to condemn the killing of Jordan Neely about what makes condemning this violence so "complicated."

Killing is wrong. Killing the poor is wrong. Killing the mentally ill is wrong. Why is that so hard to say?

— Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC) May 4, 2023

"I have yet to hear a real explanation from any official hesitating to condemn the killing of Jordan Neely about what makes condemning this violence so 'complicated.' Killing is wrong. Killing the poor is wrong. Killing the mentally ill is wrong. Why is that so hard to say?" she asked.

"Neely's last words were literally about how going to jail was easier than accessing the social safety net support to get back on his feet and lead a life. Yet leaders want to raise his record as if that warrants a public execution on the subway? What have we come to?" she stated.

Press TV's website can also be accessed at the following alternate addresses:

[www.presstv.ir](http://www.presstv.ir)

[www.presstv.co.uk](http://www.presstv.co.uk)

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2023

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## Outrage in New York after the killing of Jordan Neely on a subway train

The Guardian (London)

May 4, 2023 Thursday 1:40 AM GMT

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**Section:** US NEWS; Version:4

**Length:** 1086 words

**Byline:** Edward Helmore in New York

**Highlight:** The attack on Monday has been called a semi-sanctioned vigilante response to homelessness and the mental health crisis

### Body

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A protest on a downtown Manhattan subway platform over the death of a man suffering an apparent mental health episode aboard a train turned into an angry confrontation over policing and social welfare priorities in New York City on Wednesday.

Jordan Neely, a 30-year-old unhoused man who had at one time earned a living in the city as a skilled Michael Jackson impersonator who performed in Times Square, died on Monday afternoon after a confrontation with a fellow passenger.

According to police officials and video, Neely had been harassing passengers on the subway and making threats when he was placed in a minutes-long headlock by a 24-year-old former US marine.

By the time the train pulled into Broadway-Lafayette, a stop that borders the SoHo and NoLiTa neighborhoods, Neely was no longer conscious. He was later pronounced dead in hospital. The city's medical examiner is investigating the cause of death.

Juan Alberto Vazquez, the reporter who captured the incident, told the New York Post that Neely was screaming "in an aggressive manner" and complained of hunger and thirst but had not physically attacked anyone.

Vazquez said the 24-year-old man approached Neely after he threw his jacket to the ground. When the video starts Neely was already on the subway car's floor, with the man's left arm around Neely's neck. A second man holds his arms and a third held down his shoulder. After briefly trying to free himself he eventually goes limp.

Forty-eight hours later, Neely's death, and the response to it, threatens to become a flash-point highlighting what some say is a semi-sanctioned vigilante response to homelessness and the mental health crisis, with others defending the actions of the Marine who had asked fellow passengers to call 911.

## Outrage in New York after the killing of Jordan Neely on a subway train

But as about 30 people gathered for a platform vigil where a support column had been daubed with “Who killed Jordan Neely?” those tensions soon turned into hostility toward **New York**’s policy towards the unhoused and transit authority police.

“This was a horrible lynching – the **murder** of someone needing help,” said student Shifa Rahman. “He was at a point of desperation and a citizen, acting in racial bias, acted to suppress that.”

King James, 47, said he had been on the F train in a separate subway car when the incident occurred. James said the station, which is warm and spacious, was a gathering place for panhandlers like himself.

“It was a long time that he was in the headlock,” he said. “He put him a hold that you can only apply from behind,” James said. “The white guy did it out of aggression to a **homeless** person, and he [Neely] had no chance of defending himself.

“This is not one-time thing – numerous things happen on the subway,” he added. “This is where the mental health patients are.”

Minister Ray Tarvin said he knew Neely as a man in need. “He was a nice person, not aggressive or violent. Everyone who knew him knows that. He’d accept anything you had – many of the **homeless** down here are sober. They’re needing food or shelter or clothing, not strung out and shooting up dope.”

The former marine involved in the headlock has not been named. The death has been reportedly ruled a homicide by the **New York** medical examiner.

Neely’s father, Andre Zachery, told the Daily News that Jordan’s mother, Christie Neely, had died at the hands of another person when her son was 14 years old.

Christie Neely was found dead in a suitcase at age 36 on the side of a Bronx roadway in 2007. Jordan testified in the **murder** trial against her lover, Shawn Southerland, who was convicted in 2012 and sentenced to 30 years in jail.

“His mother perished; she also got killed. And him now? Her boyfriend fatally shot her. And he now? By another person?” Zachery said. He remarked how well his son impersonated Michael Jackson but had not seen him for four years.

One of Neely’s neighbors told the Daily News that his King of Pop impersonation had helped him to deal with his mental issues. “He used to get tough. He knew how to move. A moonwalk. He was always pleased doing it. He would do it while he was getting ready to go to work. He used to be fantastic.”

The city’s financial chief, or comptroller, Brad Lander, warned that **New York** “must not become a city where a mentally ill human being can be **choked** to death by a vigilante without consequence.”

**New York**’s governor, Kathy Hochul, called the attack “deeply disturbing”. The **New York** congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called Neely’s death a “disgusting” situation. “Jordan was houseless and crying for food in a time when the city is raising rents and stripping services to militarize itself,” she tweeted.

Jordan Neely was **murdered**. But bc Jordan was houseless and crying for food in a time when the city is raising rents and stripping services to militarize itself while many in power demonize the poor, the **murderer** gets protected w/ passive headlines + no charges. It’s disgusting. <https://t.co/YJeQp9bbgE> — Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC) May 3, 2023

Social justice campaigners said the attack revealed stark inequalities, which some depicted as a wrongful act of vigilantism and noted that the former marine was questioned by police but released without charges while an investigation continues.

## Outrage in New York after the killing of Jordan Neely on a subway train

“People experiencing homelessness, mental illness, hunger and frustration need and deserve compassion and trauma-informed care,” said the NYC council member Tiffany Cabán in a statement on Twitter. “Officials and media outlets have instead told us that they are threats to be contained by force.”

“Jordan Neely’s murder is the inevitable result,” Cabán added.

The Rev Al Sharpton weighed in with a statement demanding that Neely’s death be investigated as a potential case of manslaughter. Sharpton referenced the Bernhard Goetz case in 1984, in which a white gunman was convicted of a weapons offense after he shot four Black men on a subway train.

“We cannot end up back to a place where vigilantism is tolerable. It wasn’t acceptable then and it cannot be acceptable now,” Sharpton said.

At Broadway-Lafayette, activist Alice O’Malley said the ex-marine should have known how to restrain someone, if it was needed, without killing him.

“He was weak, he said he hadn’t eaten or had a drink. He was at the end of his wits. He had three men over him. You’re telling me those three men couldn’t have restrained him ’til the next stop? It’s New York, get off the train,” O’Malley said.

This article was amended on 4 May 2023. Jordan Neely was 14 when his mother was killed, not 18 as an earlier version said.

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2023

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## Subway death of homeless man sparks protests

i-news

May 5, 2023

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 28

**Length:** 238 words

**Byline:** Taz Ali

### Body

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Protests have been held in **New York** City after a **homeless** black man with mental health issues died when he was restrained and put in a chokehold on a subway train.

Authorities said Jordan Neely, 30, was tackled by fellow passengers after he screamed at them and paced back and forth on board a train on Monday night.

A passenger, said to be a 24-yearold **US** Marine Corps veteran, wrapped his arms around Mr Neely's neck and head and held him for several minutes until he went limp.

Mr Neely had been yelling that he was hungry and ready to die, The **New York** Times reported. The Marine veteran who **choked** Mr Neely was taken into custody but released without charge, pending further investigation. They have not been identified.

Mr Neely's death has now been ruled a homicide caused by compression of the neck. The incident has sparked outrage in **New York**, where Mr Neely was a Michael Jackson impersonator who regularly danced in

Times Square. Protesters have since been held at the station where he died.

Kyle Ishmael, 38, from Harlem, said a video of the incident left him feeling "disgusted". "I couldn't believe this was happening in [the] city I grew up in," he added.

Dave Giffen, of the Coalition for the **Homeless**, said: "The fact someone who took the life of a distressed, mentally ill human being could be set free without facing any consequences is shocking. This is an absolute travesty that must be investigated immediately."

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2023

## Subway death of homeless man sparks protests

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New York subway rider chokes poor street dancer to death, video shows he held black man's neck for 3 mins

## New York subway rider chokes poor street dancer to death, video shows he held black man's neck for 3 mins

India Today Online

May 4, 2023 Thursday 08:57 AM GMT

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Length: 710 words

### Body

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A homeless black man, suffering an apparent mental health episode, was choked to death after fellow riders tackled him and one put him in a chokehold aboard a New York City subway train on Monday. The act, captured on camera, drew sharp reactions from netizens, who called the act "disgusting". The victim, identified as Jordan Neely, died from compression of the neck, the city's medical examiner determined Wednesday. So according to a Facebook page, THIS is the FULL video of the Hobo Floyd incident. And would you look at that, it turns out there were MULTIPLE people restraining Jordan Neely down while waiting for police. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE LEFTISTS DEIFYING THAT BUM CAN EAT SHIT.

[pic.twitter.com/ymD0Amzlum](https://pic.twitter.com/ymD0Amzlum)

- Isaiah L. Carter, # 16,080 (@IsaiahLCarter)

May 4, 2023

As seen on the video, the hold lasted two minutes and 55 seconds before Neely was released, Guardian reported. This is Jordan Neely, a homeless Black man with a history of mental illness, being choked to death by an ex marine for allegedly yelling at passengers. NYPD let his killer go. Imagine a Black ex marine choking a homeless white man to death and police letting him walk away.

[pic.twitter.com/fm776Z6vEf](https://pic.twitter.com/fm776Z6vEf)

- Bishop Talbert Swan (@TalbertSwan)

May 4, 2023

Some New Yorkers had seen him impersonating Michael Jackson as he regularly danced in the Times Square transit hub, news agency Associated Press reported. Jordan Neely loved to dance and perform. On Tuesday, while suffering a mental health crisis, he was choked to death while people watched and cheered. Jordan needed care. Instead, he was brutally murdered. This is not who we are as New Yorkers.

[pic.twitter.com/F4TmtlDEQW](https://pic.twitter.com/F4TmtlDEQW)

New York subway rider chokes poor street dancer to death, video shows he held black man's neck for 3 mins

- **NY** Working Families Party (@NYWFP)

May 3, 2023

Thirty-year-old Neely was yelling and pacing back and forth on an F train in Manhattan on Monday, witnesses and police said, when he was restrained by at least three people, including a **US** Marine veteran who pulled one arm tightly around his neck. According to some witnesses, Neely was screaming that he was hungry, had no food and threw his jacket down on the train. This is when he was restrained by at least three people, including a **US** Marine veteran who pulled one arm tightly around his neck. Jordan Neely was a New Yorker. He was a person. When he began to suffer from mental illness the city's social safety net failed him, as it had failed countless others. When he exhibited signs of his mental illness in public he was murdered on the F train.

[pic.twitter.com/Ugyj1PONkR](https://pic.twitter.com/Ugyj1PONkR)

- Shabazz Stuart (@ShabazzStuart)

May 3, 2023

Video of the altercation posted online showed the man lying beneath Neely, holding him in a headlock position for several minutes as Neely tried and failed to break free. A second passenger pinned Neely's arms while a third person held down his shoulder. It was unclear why the group had moved to restrain him. Neely was pronounced dead at a Manhattan hospital shortly after. The 24-year-old Marine veteran, who appeared to be white, was taken into custody and released without charges. His name has not been released publicly. "As part of our rigorous ongoing investigation, we will review the Medical Examiner's report, assess all available video and photo footage, identify and interview as many witnesses as possible, and obtain additional medical records," read a statement from a spokesperson for the DA. As news of Neely's death spread online, video of the encounter evoked strong reactions from New Yorkers and officials. Some described the act as a lethal overreaction to a person in the throes of mental illness and others defended the Marine veteran's actions. I'm at the Broadway-Lafayette station, where a crowd of people is protesting the killing of Jordan Neely on an F train yesterday.

[pic.twitter.com/A0yp7p4pwQ](https://pic.twitter.com/A0yp7p4pwQ)

- Samantha Max (@samanthaellimax)

May 3, 2023

A group of protesters gathered Wednesday afternoon in the station where Neely died to call for an arrest. Kyle Ishmael, a 38-year-old Harlem resident, said the video of the incident left him feeling "disgusted." "I couldn't believe this was happening on my subway in my city that I grew up in," he said. Neely's death comes amid a period of heightened public attention to both **homelessness** and mental illness on **New York** City's streets and subways.

Link to Image

## Graphic

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**New York** subway rider **chokes** poor street dancer to death, video shows he held black man's neck for 3 mins

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2023