

Subway killing stuns, divides New Yorkers: New York Times

People's Daily Online - English

May 6, 2023 Saturday

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Length: 210 words

Body

NEW YORK, May 5 (Xinhua) -- For many New Yorkers, the choking of the 30-year-old homeless man, Jordan Neely, was a heinous act of public violence to be swiftly prosecuted, and represented a failure by the city to care for people with serious mental illness, reported The New York Times on Friday.

Many others who lamented the killing nonetheless saw it as a reaction to fears about public safety in New York, the most populous city in the United States, and the subway system in particular, noted the report.

As prosecutors continue to investigate the circumstances of Neely's death, the case has become a political Rorschach test, dividing the city along long-simmering fault lines, said the report.

Mayor Eric Adams and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, two of the city's most prominent Democrats, criticized each other's response in an uncommonly tense exchange, it added.

Meanwhile, the debate over how best to help people with mental illness is taking place in cities across the nation and has been particularly vexing in liberal cities like New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, where homelessness and mental illness soared during the pandemic and people in dire need are often in plain sight on park benches and subway trains, according to the report.

Load-Date: May 7, 2023

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

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

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/ymPkfXlgOc

— 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.

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Load-Date: May 5, 2023

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A Fierce Debate Erupting Here In New York City, Where An Erratic- Acting Homeless Man Died After Being Held In A Choke Hold By A Fellow Passenger On The Subway

A Fierce Debate Erupting Here In New York City, Where An Erratic- Acting Homeless Man Died After Being Held In A Choke Hold By A Fellow Passenger On The Subway

CBS News Transcripts CBS EVENING NEWS 6:30 PM EST

May 4, 2023 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Domestic

Length: 527 words

Byline: Norah O'Donnell, Lilia Luciano

Highlight: This shocking video shows 30-year-old Jordan Neely in a choke hold, with three New York City subway riders holding him down for several minutes. Witnesses say Neely was acting erratically and making verbal threats, when a 24-year-old Marine veteran stepped in and held Neely in a choke hold. He doesn't let go until his body goes limp. A Marine knows how to subdue somebody without choking them out.

Body

NORAH O'DONNELL: We want to turn now to the growing outrage over the death of a man on a New York City subway. The 30-year-old with a history of mental illness died Monday after being placed in a choke hold after witnesses say he was threatening other passengers.

CBS' Lilia Luciano reports the medical examiner has ruled the death a homicide.

(Begin VT)

LILIA LUCIANO (voice-over): This shocking video shows 30-year-old Jordan Neely in a choke hold, with three New York City subway riders holding him down for several minutes.

Witnesses say Neely was acting erratically and making verbal threats, when a 24-year-old Marine veteran stepped in and held Neely in a choke hold. He doesn't let go until his body goes limp.

Former Manhattan DA Michael Bachner:

Can someone see someone acting erratically and hold them in a choke hold?

MICHAEL BACHNER (Former Manhattan District Attorney): Under New York state law, a person can only use the level of force necessary, reasonably necessary, to stop the conduct.

LILIA LUCIANO: Bachner says a self-defense claim may not be as simple for a trained Marine.

MICHAEL BACHNER: A Marine knows how to subdue somebody without choking them out. They're taught battle technique.

PROTESTER: What do we want?

A Fierce Debate Erupting Here In New York City, Where An Erratic- Acting Homeless Man Died After Being Held In A Choke Hold By A Fellow Passenger On The Subway

PROTESTERS: Justice!

LILIA LUCIANO: Neely's death has sparked outrage and protest, including officials like New York Congresswoman Alexander Ocasio-Cortez, who posted this tweet, saying Neely was murdered.

Mayor Eric Adams pushed back.

ERIC ADAMS (D-Mayor of New York): And I don't think that's very responsible at the time where we're still investigating the situation.

LARRY SMITH (Friend of Jordan Neely): We grew up together in foster care.

LILIA LUCIANO: Larry Smith says he remembers his friend as a talented Michael Jackson impersonator who battled homelessness and the trauma of his mother's murder when he was a teen.

LARRY SMITH: Jordan did not deserve this. He did not deserve to get choked out in America. His mental health came from autism. It came from depression. It came from sadness, but it really came from abandonment.

(End VT)

LILIA LUCIANO: The Manhattan DA's Office said they are carrying out a rigorous investigation.

That includes reviewing the medical examiner's report, which concluded it was the choke hold that killed Neely, as well as the video, any other images and testimonies from witnesses who were there, in order to decide whether or not to press charges -- Norah.

NORAH O'DONNELL: Lilia Luciano, thank you.

Tonight, there are new ethics questions swirling around Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his ties to billionaire Republican megadonor Harlan Crow. ProPublica reports that Crow more than a decade ago paid thousands of dollars in private boarding school tuition for Justice Thomas' great-nephew.

Thomas has had legal custody of that relative since he was 6 years old. The payments topping \$6,000 a month were never reported as gifts, which Democrats say was required by law. Thomas' defenders say the payments didn't have to be reported because they did not involve a biological child or stepchild.

It was previously reported that Crow paid for Thomas' luxury trips and purchased his mother's home.

Load-Date: May 5, 2023

A New York Subway Confrontation Turns Deadly: The Chaotic Moments And Lethal Choke Hold

NBC News NBC NIGHTLY NEWS 7:00 PM EST

May 4, 2023 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Domestic

Length: 426 words

Byline: Lester Holt, Stephanie Gosk

Highlight: Tonight, there is growing pressure on the Manhattan District Attorney to bring criminal charges after a man was choked to death on the subway Monday. Jordan Neely ended up on the floor of the train in a headlock after police say an argument turned into a violent confrontation. When it was over, Neely was unconscious. EMS attempts to revive the 30- year-old, failed.

Body

LESTER HOLT: In New York, demands for criminal charges tonight after a deadly confrontation in the subway, a man dying after another passenger put him in a chokehold. We get details now from Stephanie Gosk. And I have to warn you, some of the video in this story is disturbing.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

STEPHANIE GOSK, NBC NEWS CORRESPONDENT (voiceover): Tonight, there is growing pressure on the Manhattan District Attorney to bring criminal charges after a man was choked to death on the subway Monday.

[19:05:03]

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He could not breathe.

GOSK: Jordan Neely ended up on the floor of the train in a headlock after police say an argument turned into a violent confrontation. When it was over, Neely was unconscious. EMS attempts to revive the 30-year-old, failed. The medical examiner ruled his death a homicide by chokehold. So far, there are no criminal charges.

The 24-year-old who held Neely in a headlock was taken into custody and then released according to police. The video obtained by NBC New York shows Neely in a chokehold for nearly three minutes. The witness who took it says Neely got on the subway and was acting aggressively. Telling riders he was hungry, he was thirsty, that he didn't care about anything. He didn't care about going to jail. He didn't care that he gets a big life sentence.

Today, New York's governor called the chokehold a quote, extreme response.

A New York Subway Confrontation Turns Deadly: The Chaotic Moments And Lethal Choke Hold

GOV. KATHY HOCHUL (D-NY): There had to be consequences, and so we'll see how this unfolds, but his family deserves justice.

GOSK: The DA's office is asking people to come forward. The central question is whether force was justified. Were people on the train threatened? Was it self-defense?

Mayor Eric Adams saying he won't rush to judgment.

ERIC ADAMS, MAYOR, NEW YORK CITY: I have a responsibility for this entire city, and I have faith in the criminal justice system, and I'm going to let the process take its place.

GOSK: Neely was a known street performer who was homeless according to the NYPD. The Manhattan Borough president says the mental health system failed him. The city is battling both of mental health and homeless crisis, with numbers at shelters at their highest since the Great Depression. Those who don't go to shelters often end up on the subway.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HOLT: Stephanie, have we heard from Neely's family?

GOSK: You know, Lester, we've heard from his aunt. She set up a GoFundMe page on it. She says she loved her nephew. She described him as a talented man, a dancer. She says the family wants justice for him. Lester?

HOLT: Stephanie Gosk, thank you.

Load-Date: May 5, 2023

NYC subway choking of Black man, lack of arrest draw outrage

The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington)

May 5, 2023 Friday

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Section: NATION; Pg. A4

Length: 444 words

Byline: JAKE OFFENHARTZ and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

Highlight: PAUL MARTINKA

New York police officers administer CPR to a man Monday at the scene where a fight was reported on a subway train in New York.

Body

Officials promise investigation into death of passenger

NEW YORK - The choking death of a man at the hands of another New York subway rider was setting off powerful reactions Thursday, with some calling it a criminal, racist act even as authorities reserved judgment on the killing.

New York has become one of the nation's safest large cities, but the emotional responses recalled the metropolis of decades ago, when residents felt besieged by crime and fatal vigilantism made national headlines.

Manhattan prosecutors promised a "rigorous" investigation into whether to bring charges in the death of the Black man, who was tackled by fellow passengers and put in the chokehold by a white Marine veteran.

The medical examiner's office ruled Wednesday night that Jordan Neely, 30, died in a homicide caused by compression of the neck but the office said that any determination about criminal culpability would be left to the legal system.

Regardless, many New Yorkers saw the choking as the latest in a long history of attacks on Black city residents.

"We're like animals in white people's backyards. They want to get rid of us," said Diango Cici, a 53-year-old Manhattan resident.

Neely, who in the past had earned money imitating Michael Jackson, died Monday after an early-afternoon confrontation aboard a train beneath Manhattan. Neely, who had been homeless at points, according to people who knew him, had been shouting at fellow passengers when another rider wrapped his arm around his neck and pinned him on the floor. Two other passengers also helped restrain Neely.

Marine recruits are routinely taught about executing and defending against chokeholds, which can render someone unconscious in as few as eight seconds, according to a military manual revised in 2020.

The lethal risks of chokeholds led New York City to ban police officers from using them. An officer was fired for using a chokehold on Eric Garner, a Black New Yorker whose dying words "I can't breathe" became a chant in protests against racial injustice.

A U.S. Department of Justice website called chokeholds "inherently dangerous" and said that they have "too often led to tragedy."

No one has been arrested but the Manhattan district attorney's office said late Wednesday it would review autopsy reports, as well as "assess all available video and photo footage, identify and interview as many witnesses as possible, and obtain additional medical records."

NYC subway choking of Black man, lack of arrest draw outrage

Police questioned the 24-year-old who the video showed holding Neely in a headlock for at least 3 minutes - perhaps longer - but released him without charges. The following fields overflowed: REFERENCE = 05-05 A4 Subway-Restraint-Death_A04

Load-Date: September 21, 2023

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