



Know their names

BLACK PEOPLE KILLED
BY THE POLICE IN THE US

By Alia Chughtai / [Al Jazeera](#)

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Year: 2021

What he was doing: Driving with his girlfriend

How he was killed: Wright was stopped by officers for a traffic violation. Police tried to detain him for an outstanding warrant. Brooklyn Center police officer Kim Potter shot him as he was trying to get back into his car. The police chief says it was an accident - that Potter mistook her gun for her Taser.

Action taken: Police Chief Tim Gannon and Officer Kim Potter both resigned. Potter has been charged with second-degree manslaughter.

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Year: 2020

What he was doing: Emerged from a garage and holding up a cellphone in his left hand

How he was killed: Officer Adam Coy shot Andre Hill and handcuffed him. He lay on the ground for five minutes and 11 seconds till he died.

Action taken: Columbus police officer Adam Coy was fired hours after a hearing was held to determine his employment. Criminal investigation is pending.

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Year: 2020

What he was doing: Walking home from a convenience store.

How he was killed: Officer slammed the patrol car door into him, knocking him down. Tacoma Police Department officers Christopher Burbank and Matthew Collins tackled and struck Ellis multiple times.

Action taken: Attorney General Ferguson charged Christopher Burbank and Matthew Collins of second-degree and first-degree manslaughter against Timothy Rankine.

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Year: 2020

What he was doing: He fell asleep in his car, blocking the drive-through lane at a fast-food restaurant.

How he was killed: Police body cameras showed former officers Garrett Rolfe and Devin Brosnan speaking to Brooks for more than 40 minutes after complaints that the 27-year-old Black man had fallen asleep in his car. The officers told Brooks he had had too much to drink to drive and attempted to restrain him, a struggle ensued, and Brooks fled. He was shot twice in the back, according to the autopsy.

Action taken: Rolfe was fired; he faces 11 charges, including felony murder. Brosnan faces a number of charges including aggravated assault.

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Year: 2020

What he was doing: He had run onto the street, naked, while experiencing a 'mental health episode'

How he was killed: Prude was initially compliant when emergency services found him at 3am, though he became agitated. Police placed a "spit hood" on his head. Officer Mark Vaughn used

his body weight to force Prude's head against the pavement as others restrained him. Prude said police were "trying to kill" him as he was restrained for over three minutes. An autopsy found he died of "complications of asphyxia" due to the restraint, as well as acute intoxication.

Action taken: New York Attorney General Letitia James says Prude's death is being investigated. Seven police officers involved were suspended on September 4, 2020.

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Year: 2020

What he was doing: Allegedly tried to use a counterfeit \$20 bill.

How he was killed: Floyd was handcuffed on the ground as Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds - as Floyd pleaded with the four officers present and repeatedly told them that he could not breathe. Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck even when he became unresponsive. Two autopsy reports listed Floyd's death as homicide, although they gave different causes.

Action taken: All four officers were fired. Chauvin was arrested, charged and convicted April 20, 2021 of second and third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. On June 25, 2021 Chauvin was sentenced to 22.5 years in prison. Three other officers have been charged with aiding and abetting murder and manslaughter and are scheduled to be tried in March, 2022. Minneapolis agreed to pay \$27m to Floyd's family to settle a civil lawsuit.

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Year: 2020

What she was doing: Asleep at home.

How she was killed: Taylor and her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, were sleeping when three plainclothes officers arrived at their apartment to execute a search warrant in a drug case. They believed it was a break-in and Walker called 911 and fired his licensed firearm. Taylor, who was unarmed, was shot eight times.

Action taken: Officers involved in the incident were reassigned pending the results of an investigation. Former Louisville police detective Brett Hankison was fired and charged with three counts of wanton endangerment for firing into the home of Taylor's neighbors. No charges were brought for Taylor's shooting and death. Louisville agreed to pay Taylor's family \$12m to settle a wrongful death lawsuit and agreed to a series of police reforms.

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Year: 2019

What she was doing: At home.

How she was killed: A police officer shot and killed Jefferson through the window of her home in the presence of her eight-year-old nephew. The police were responding to a call from a neighbour who reported that Jefferson's front door had been left open.

Action taken: Officer Aaron Dean resigned. He was later indicted on murder charges.

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Year: 2014

What she was doing: At home.

How she was killed: Rosser's boyfriend, Victor Stephens, called 911 to ask the police to escort her out of the house because of an altercation. The official report says that when the officers entered the home, Rosser was holding a knife and refused to drop it. Officer Mark Raab used his taser. Officer David Ried fired a single shot that killed her.

Action taken: Ried did not face any charges over Rosser's death. The police department and city implemented reforms, including equipping officers with body cameras.

Correction - 3/3/2021: A previous version of this profile showed an incorrect image for Aura Rosser. That illustration has been replaced with a new sketch.

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Year: 2018

What he was doing: Standing in his grandmother's back yard.

How he was killed: Officers said they believed Clark was holding a gun as they shot at him more than 20 times. Clark was only holding a mobile phone.

Action taken: The district attorney declined to file criminal charges. Clark's family reached a \$2.4m settlement with the city of Sacramento.

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Year: 2018

What he was doing: Seated on his sofa at home, eating ice cream.

How he was killed: Jean was shot by off-duty police officer Amber Guyger after she entered his apartment believing, she said, that it was hers and he was a dangerous intruder.

Action taken: Guyger was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 10 years in prison. The maximum sentence available was 99 years. Prosecutors had asked that she be sentenced to 28 years. Jean's brother, Brandt Jean, hugged Guyger in court and told her he forgave her.

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Year: 2016

What he was doing: Pulled over for a traffic stop.

How he was killed: Police dashcam video of a traffic stop shows a police officer shooting Castile seconds after he informed him that he had a legal firearm. Castile's girlfriend, Diamond

Reynolds, who was in the car, along with her four-year-old daughter, captured the aftermath on Facebook Live.

Action taken: Officer Jeronimo Yanez was acquitted of second-degree manslaughter. The city agreed to a \$3m settlement with Castile's mother.



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Year: 2016

What he was doing: Selling CDs and DVDs.

How he was killed: Sterling was shot by Officer Blane Salamoni, one of two officers who confronted him outside a shop. He was tasered and pinned to the ground before being shot six times. In video footage, Salamoni can be heard threatening to shoot Sterling in the head and then, after the shooting, repeatedly calling him "a stupid m*****".

Action taken: Salamoni was fired. Howie Lake II, the other officer involved, was suspended for three days. No charges were filed.

Freddie Gray, 25



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Year: 2015

What he was doing: In a police van.

How he was killed: Gray had been arrested and placed in the back of a police van. He was found dead 45 minutes later, his spinal cord nearly severed. His hands and feet had been shackled and without a seatbelt he could not protect himself as he was tossed around inside the vehicle.

Action taken: Six officers were charged in connection with Gray's death. Three were acquitted and three had their cases dropped. The city reached a \$6.4m settlement with Gray's family.

Janisha Fonville, 20



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Year: 2015

What she was doing: At home.

How she was killed: Officers Anthony Holzhauser and Shon Sheffield answered a distress call to take Fonville to a mental health facility. According to Fonville's partner, Korneshia Banks, Fonville had a knife earlier and she was worried she might harm herself. Holzhauser shot Fonville. The official account says Fonville lunged at the officers with a knife. Banks says she did not see a knife in Fonville's hand when she was shot.

Action taken: Holzhauser was not charged.

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Year: 2014

What he was doing: Allegedly selling loose cigarettes.

How he was killed: Officer Daniel Pantaleo held Eric in a chokehold that he did not release in spite of Garner saying "I can't breathe" 11 times.

Action taken: A grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo. He was placed on desk duty after the incident. He was fired in 2019. The city reached a settlement with the Garner family for \$5.9m.

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Year: 2014

What she was doing: At home.

How she was killed: Four police officers arrived to serve a court-ordered transport to an inpatient mental health facility. Possibly confused, Cusseaux had an exchange with the officers, who decided to remove her security door. They said she charged towards them with a hammer. Sergeant Percy Dupra fired a single shot. Cusseaux died shortly after.

Action taken: Dupra was demoted.

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Year: 2014

What he was doing: Walking down the stairs in the building where he lived.

How he was killed: Police officer Peter Liang and his partner were conducting a "vertical patrol" in a housing project. Liang entered an unlit stairwell, and fired his weapon. The bullet bounced off a wall and killed Gurley.

Action taken: Liang was fired. He was convicted of manslaughter and official misconduct in 2016. He was sentenced to five years probation and community service.

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Year: 2014

What she was doing: Driving.

How she was killed: When officers asked Nevarez to pull over she rammed into a patrol car. The police officers opened fire on her car.

Action taken: At least two officers were put on administrative leave.

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Year: 2014

What he was doing: Playing with a toy gun in a park.

How he was killed: Within two seconds of arriving at the park, Officer Timothy Loehmann had fatally shot Rice. Police then tackled his 14-year-old sister, Tajai, to the ground, handcuffed her and put her in the back of a police car. It took four minutes for officers to administer first aid to Rice. He died in hospital the following day.

Action taken: Loehmann and Officer Frank Garmbark, who was with him, were not indicted. Garmbark was suspended for 10 days. The city of Cleveland agreed to pay Rice's family \$6m to settle a civil lawsuit. Loehmann was later fired for discrepancies on his job application.

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Year: 2014

What he was doing: Walking with a friend.

How he was killed: A white police officer confronted Brown and his friend. A scuffle ensued and the officer - Darren Wilson - shot and killed Brown. Wilson said he acted in self-defence.

Action taken: No charges were brought. Wilson resigned from the Ferguson Police Department.

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Year: 2014

What she was doing: Family called 911 for help because Tanisha, who was bipolar, was restless and trying to leave the house.

How she was killed: Officers Scott Aldridge and Bryan Myers convinced Anderson to return to a mental-health facility. They walked her to their vehicle, but what followed is disputed. The officers said she fell to the ground, while her family said she was slammed down. Investigators estimate that she was handcuffed on the ground for about 21 minutes before paramedics arrived.

Action taken: Aldridge was suspended for 10 days without pay. Myers was issued with a written warning. The city settled a \$2.25m wrongful death lawsuit.

These are just a few of the Black Americans killed by police. There are many, many more.

Produced by:

Alia Chughtai

Illustrations by:

Christian Mugarura Mafigiri

For @AJLabs

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU EXPERIENCE POLICE BRUTAILITY

Who is going to believe your word over the word of a police officer? Is there any way to make a fair recovery when it was a law enforcement official who caused your injury? These may be some of the questions running through your mind after you've been the victim of police brutality.

The truth is that it can be difficult to get a fair recovery when you are hurt by a police officer's use of excessive force. However, you do have legal rights. Police brutality is against the law, and there are certain things that you can do to protect your right to a fair recovery.

Get Medical Help After Being Hurt by the Police

Police officers have a duty to get injured people medical care as long as doing so does not put them in danger of being hurt. This includes people that they have hurt by using excessive force. The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution requires that adequate medical care be provided to people in police custody. The failure to provide reasonable medical care may be cruel and unusual punishment.

Unfortunately, police do not always get medical care for people in their custody. If you are in police custody after being hurt by the police and the police do not provide first aid, call 911, or get you to a doctor quickly after you have been injured then you should request to see a doctor. If possible, make a note of the time that you made the request and the name of the officer to whom you made the request. You may make repeated requests, and document them all, if you are not provided medical care quickly.

If you are not in custody then you should go to the emergency room or your doctor as soon as possible. Prompt medical care is important to your physical recovery and will also provide important evidence in your case. In order to make a police brutality recovery you need to prove not only that the police acted with excessive and unreasonable force, but also that you were hurt because of that force. Your medical record will be important evidence about the cause of and the extent of your injuries.

Document Everything After a Police Brutality Incident

For the reasons described above, it is important to see a doctor and to build your medical record as soon as possible. However, that is not the only documentation that will be important to your police brutality case. Additionally, you should also document:

- The name, badge number, and police department of the officer who hurt you.
- The name, badge number, and police department of any officers who witnessed the incident.
- The name and contact information of any people who witnessed the incident.
- The date, time, and location of the incident.
- Your injuries by taking photos.

Other evidence may also be available from other sources such video recorded by the police and nearby homes or businesses.

Make Sure That All Evidence of the Police Brutality Incident Is Preserved

Video surveillance may have captured what happened to you. This video may have been taken by cameras in the police cruiser, by video cameras in the police station, by body cameras on the police officers, or by surveillance videos that happen to be on nearby homes or businesses. These videos may be very strong evidence in your claim against the police.

However, you do not have immediate control over them. Instead, you will need to take legal action to prevent the police department or property owner from deleting the video. Your attorney can provide all relevant parties with the required notice that will legally prevent them from destroying the videos or other evidence.

Call an Experienced Police Brutality Lawyer as Soon as Possible

Our attorneys can make sure that all relevant evidence is properly maintained and that your legal rights are protected.

REFLECT AND KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE IN THAT SITUATION.

Your Rights

- You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.
- You have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car or your home.
- If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly leave.
- You have the right to a lawyer if you are arrested. Ask for one immediately.

- Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights.

Your Responsibilities

- Stay calm and be polite.
- Remember the details of the encounter.
- File a written complaint if you believe your rights have been violated.
- Do not interfere with or obstruct the police.
- Do not lie or give false documents.

If You Are Stopped for Questioning

- **Stay calm.** Don't run. Don't argue, resist or obstruct the police, even if you are innocent or police are violating your rights. Keep your hands where police can see them.
- **Ask if you are free to leave.** If the officer says yes, calmly and silently walk away. If you are under arrest, you have a right to know why.
- **You have the right to remain silent** and cannot be punished for refusing to answer questions. If you wish to remain silent, tell the officer out loud. In some states, you must give your name if asked to identify yourself.
- **You do not have to consent to a search** of yourself or your belongings, but police may "pat down" your clothing if they suspect a weapon. You should not physically resist, but you have the right to refuse consent for any further search. If you do consent, it can affect you later in court.

If You Are Stopped in Your Car

- **Stop the car in a safe place as quickly as possible.** Turn off the car, turn on the internal light, open the window part way and place your hands on the wheel.
- Upon request, **show police your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.**
- If an officer or immigration agent asks to look inside your car, you can refuse to consent to the search. But if police believe your car contains evidence of a crime, your car can be searched without your consent.
- **Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent.** If you are a passenger, you can ask if you are free to leave. If the officer says yes, sit silently or calmly leave. Even if the officer says no, you have the right to remain silent.

If You Are Questioned About Your Immigration Status

- You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police, immigration agents or any

other officials. You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you are a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country. (Separate rules apply at international borders and airports, and for individuals on certain nonimmigrant visas, including tourists and business travelers.)

- If you are not a U.S. citizen and an immigration agent requests your immigration papers, you must show them if you have them with you. If you are over 18, be sure to have a copy of your documents with you at all times. If you do not have immigration papers, say you want to remain silent.
- Do not lie about your citizenship status or provide fake documents.

If the Police or Immigration Agents Come to Your Home

- If the police or immigration agents come to your home, **you do not have to let them in unless they have certain kinds of warrants.**
- **Ask the officer to slip the warrant under the door or hold it up to the window so you can inspect it.** A search warrant allows police to enter the address listed on the warrant, but officers can only search the areas and for the items listed. An arrest warrant allows police to enter the home of the person listed on the warrant if they believe the person is inside. A warrant of removal/deportation (ICE warrant) does not allow officers to enter a home without consent.
- Even if officers have a warrant, **you have the right to remain silent.** If you choose to speak to the officers, **step outside and close the door.**

If You Are Arrested

- **Do not resist arrest**, even if you believe the arrest is unfair.
- **Say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately.** Don't give any explanations or excuses. If you can't pay for a lawyer, you have the right to a free one. Don't say anything, sign anything or make any decisions without a lawyer.
- **You have the right to make a local phone call.** The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer.
- **Prepare yourself and your family.** Memorize the phone numbers of your family and your lawyer. Make emergency plans if you have children or take medication.
- Ask your lawyer about the **effect of a criminal conviction or plea on your immigration status.**
- **Don't discuss your immigration status** with anyone but your lawyer.
- While you are in jail, an immigration agent may visit you. **Do not answer questions or sign anything before talking to a lawyer.**

- Read all papers fully. If you do not understand or cannot read the papers, **tell the officer you need the documents translated.**

If You Are Taken Into Immigration (Or "ICE") Custody

- **You have the right to a lawyer, but the government does not have to provide one for you.** If you do not have a lawyer, ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services.
- You have the right to **contact your consulate** or have an officer inform the consulate of your arrest.
- **Tell the ICE agent you wish to remain silent.** Do not discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer.
- **Do not sign anything**, such as a voluntary departure or stipulated removal, without talking to a lawyer. If you sign, you may be giving up your opportunity to try to stay in the U.S.
- **Keep a copy of your immigration documents with someone you trust.**

If You Believe Your Rights Have Been Violated

- **Remember: police misconduct cannot be challenged on the street.** Don't physically resist officers or threaten to file a complaint.
- **Write down everything you remember**, including officers' badge and patrol car numbers, which agency the officers were from, and any other details. Get contact information for witnesses. If you are injured, take photographs of your injuries (but seek medical attention first).
- **File a written complaint** with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board. In most cases, you can file a complaint anonymously if you wish.

MAKE SURE TO SPREAD THE NEWS, TOGETHER WE CAN ERADICATE POLICE BRUTALITY ONE STEP AT A TIME!