General Assembly

Confronting the escalation of the unlawful use of violence by law enforcement agencies
Research Report by Elia Merola

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1.   Key Terms

Police brutality: Police brutality is defined as the use of excessive physical assault or verbal assault during police procedures, such as apprehending or interrogating a suspect. Deadly force is not always excessive force. However, when deadly force exceeds the force that is necessary to create a safe environment, it is considered police brutality.

LAPD: The Los Angeles Police Department, officially the City of Los Angeles Police Department, is the police department of Los Angeles, California.

Police accountability: Police accountability involves holding both individual police officers, as well as law enforcement agencies responsible for effectively delivering basic services of crime control and maintaining order, while treating individuals fairly and within the bounds of law.

Human Rights Committee: The Human Rights Committee is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by its State parties.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by its State parties.

2.   Introduction

Unlawful use of violence by law enforcement is briefly and more commonly known as police brutality. It happens when police use inappropriate and illegal behaviors such as violence, repression, abuse of power, corruption, sexual abuse, excessive use of force, racial profiling, intimidation, and can lead to death, injury, and devastation. In 2020, the year when George Floyd was killed, police brutality became a hotly debated topic in the public scene.
This behavior is caused by an excessive seizure of power, authority and repression and it is often excused as the only way to uphold the law.
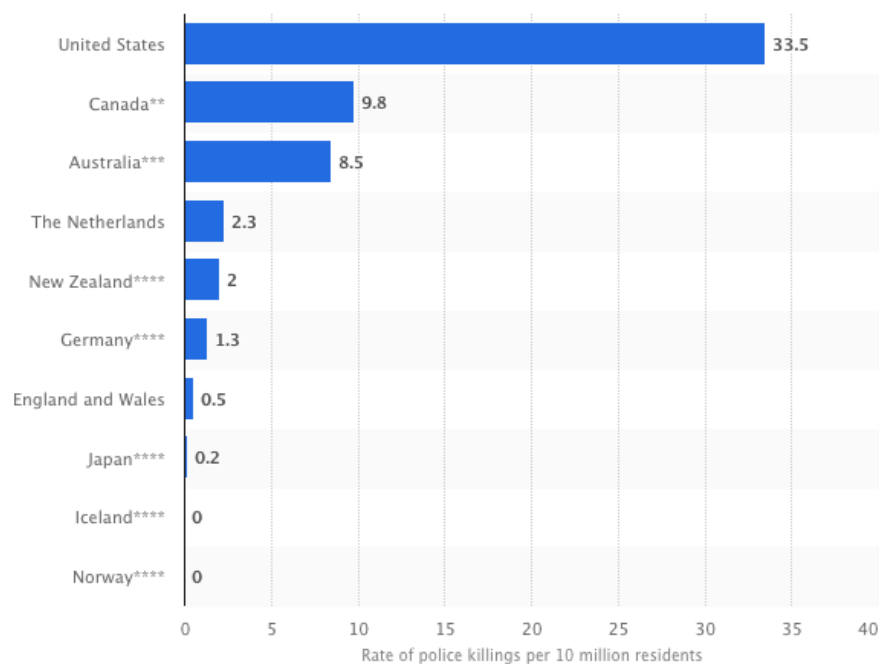
3.   Background information

Despite being a worldwide issue, police brutality is particularly concerning in the United States of America where it started happening around 1877 with the increase of labour strikes. In its early days, it was perpetrated on citizens who challenged large industries. Police brutality was also a frequent phenomenon throughout the civil rights era.
The consequences of police-perpetrated violence are not as just as one would expect, and the world has recently seen several instances of violent conduct go unpunished. This potential lack of justice might contribute to further undeterred instances of police brutality.

4.   Major Countries involved

Even if Police Brutality is worldwide issue, it appears to happen more frequently in the US

5.   Major Parties involved

- •   U.N.
- •   U.N Human Rights Council

6.   UN Involvement

The U.N. Human Rights Council held an urgent debate on police brutality and racism after the killing of George Floyd.

Then, during the Geneva forum, the U.N review record on U.S. human rights was criticized by major powers and allies for the use of the death sentence, the separation of migrant children from their families, and police brutality against African Americans.

7.   Previous attempts to solve the issue

There are several worldwide activities trying to handle this problem. During 2020, the world has experienced many protests, in the name of George Floyd. Some were peaceful, some weren't. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz called for a special session of the state legislature to address police abuses.

In Atlanta, Georgia, two police officers were fired in June 2020 because of the violence they used against two protesters during a May 30th protest.

The mayor of the city of Buffalo, New York state, announced a major reform of the local police force. Among other things, the mayor promised a new police unit to be used exclusively to ensure the safety of peaceful demonstrations.

Other consequences of the protests are in part the result of a major change in U.S. public opinion on racial issues.

After being harshly criticized for his comments on Floyd's death, the founder and head of the fitness company CrossFit resigned. The previous week, the editor of the New York Times opinion section resigned.

The National Football League (NFL), America's top professional football league, had admitted that it had erred in not listening to its players who had repeatedly complained about widespread racism in the United States. The U.S. Soccer Federation announced that it had rescinded a rule that prevented female players from kneeling during the national anthem before games.

NASCAR, which organizes some of the most famous car races in the United States (many of them in the southern states), announced that it will ban the use of the Confederate flag during its events.

Amazon announced that it will no longer allow police to use its facial recognition systems for a year, explaining that it will wait for new laws to better regulate their use.

During a meeting with constituents on the topic of systemic racism, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden also spoke about the need to reform U.S. law enforcement agencies to make them more transparent and less violent.

8.   Useful links

https://www.un.org/en/

https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cerd/pages/cerdindex.aspx

https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/ccpr/pages/ccprindex.aspx

https://www.britannica.com/topic/Police-Brutality-in-the-United-States-2064580

https://www.justiceforbigfloyd.com

9.   Bibliography

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brutalità_poliziesca#Cause

https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/police-brutality/

https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/the-history-of-police-brutality-and-what-it-means-for-you-40344

https://www.npr.org/sections/live-updates-protests-for-racial-justice/2020/06/15/877299937/u-n-human-rights-council-to-hold-urgent-debate-on-police-brutality-racism

https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/20/un-condemns-systemic-racism-police-violence-0#