

Black men increasingly feel under siege in America



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We are experiencing times of extreme difficulty in the interaction of men of color and the American police force. More young African American men are being killed with deadly force by police officers with frequent audacity during current times than at any time dating back to the post-civil war era. Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Laquan Wilson, Eric Garner, Anthony Hill, Walter Scott, Samuel Dubose, Jamar O'Neal Clark to name a few provide concrete examples that black men are being killed by police at a disproportionate rate and with more frequency than any other racial group in America.

The statistics and facts also show that in many cases these victims were either unarmed and or non-threatening to the police officer involved in the incident. There is a clear lack of trust between the Black community, the police force and the justice system designated to protect them. This feeling of marginalization, disrespect, and powerlessness, fueled by anger and outrage reverberates throughout the African American community. There must be a higher degree of accountability for police officers based on a reassessment of policies and procedures governing how police deal with these incidents and the use of deadly force to subdue the actor.

The use of deadly force policies not only address the question of whether the use of deadly force is justified, but also such issues relating to reasonable time frames for investigating these incidents, determining the scope of the investigation, public disclosure of the investigation and legal access to the findings, specific facts and evidence uncovered or considered by the investigative agency.

Much is expected of those who are given the authority to protect us. Until there is a change in the training officers receive and the current procedures that deal with these situations we will continue to see much of the same. There is an epidemic of these types of incidents brewing in our nation. "Black Lives Matter" it is time for a momentous and meaningful change to this problem.

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