

Justice for...

I am Black. My skin color, being a crime, serves as a cautionary tale to warn authorities that a possible killer, thief and rapist is approaching. I am required to walk and talk in a manner that does not send out a signal that I could be a dangerous threat to the police, even when I am unarmed. Countless of my people who have slipped and forgotten this rule have perished through a bullet, a knee to the neck or a brutal beating.

I am, from the bottom of my heart, tired. I am exhausted. The American justice system is heavily and incredibly racially-influenced. My people's lives are consequently reduced to endless hashtags in the quest for seeking justice. When one hashtag dies down, another one is created following yet another heinous murder of our own by law enforcers. Had it not been for the graphic and yet helpful filming of these murders, most would not even get investigated or looked into and autopsies would have been tampered with. Justice now depends on the impeccable timing of spectators who have camera phones.

In South Africa, our legal system criminalizes hate speech influenced by racism. Many a racist slurs such as blatantly calling Black folk kaffir, nigga, monkey or gorilla have faced the part might of the law through jail time and fines. These of course have only been prosecuted because of video evidence and only a fraction of real racism gets prosecuted, and believe me, a lot goes on unfiled behind closed doors. We have not had a white president since the end of Apartheid and racism here is passive aggressive and only jumps out when white people are angry or "just joking". As incompetent as our police enforcement is, our justice system is not blind to racially-influenced crimes. One thing that ties South Africa's racial injustices to America's is the white privilege that accompanies sentencing and prosecution is often not initiated and carried out irrespective of the intensity of the crimes committed.

A group of white men who pissed in their Black domestic worker's food and coerced her to eat it whilst throwing all sorts of racial slurs at her go off with an affordable fine. Two farmers who put a Black passerby in a coffin and threw death threats at him over a false theft accusation go off with only being called out by Black twitter and being a subject of cancel culture. Two white farmers who brutally killed a teenage Black boy for allegedly stealing a sunflower by tying him to the back of a truck and speeding off, dragging him

through tar road before untying his corpse and driving off were granted affordable bail to spend Christmas with their families. A white man who shot and killed a boy was charged with culpable homicide (unintentional killing of someone) instead of murder after he said he mistook him for a monkey. Here, white people kill us, but in America, the one system that is supposed to protect their people, kills them. There is definitely a global massacre of Black people and I am sick of it.

In all honesty, although I can relate to being a victim to racial crimes, I cannot imagine what it is like to be Black in America. It saddens and infuriates me that the one system that is tasked with protecting people is the same one that is killing them purely based on their race. I have seen terrorists and mass shooters get arrested peacefully whilst a Black man accused of using a fake \$20 bill gets violently detained irrespective of his co-operation and subsequently killed by suffocation of his neck regardless of his many cries of not being able to breathe. Having to remind the same indifferent system that Black lives matter highlights the gruesome fact that Black lives never really mattered to begin with to them.

Police brutality is synonymous with crimes against humanity. This is because it only gets experienced by one racial group. What Black people have done to intimidate and scare police officers to a point where they immediately get their killer senses tingled by the sight of us is beyond me. Brieonna Taylor, Philandro Castille, Sandra Bland, George Floyd_ These crimes are way too similar to not be classified as hate crimes. Should white people be rejected the chance to apply for police enforcement positions? Should there be a screening of racism in potential employees? What does a racist even look like? This is all so tiring and too much to do for something that is clearly not preventable because racism does not have a face. In a country that is governed by a man who said, on national TV, that five Black teenagers who were wrongfully charged on rape charges deserve to be sentenced to death, fighting police brutality will be to no use.

We can go on and on to fight racial injustices by police officers but stopping police brutality will not be achieved until they themselves decide to stop killing. No justice-seeking mechanism will ever be big and fair enough to avenge and replace a human life. Our lives are worth so much more than hashtags. Our lives matter.