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Rob Robinson's Commentary on September 30, 2021, *New York Times* Article:
[“More Than Half of Police Killings Are Mislabeled, New Study Says”](#)¹

Why is the study discussed in the topic *New York Times* article, prepared by Tim Arango and Shaila Dewan, so shocking? Because Black scholars failed to apply our intellectual heft to develop such studies 10, 15, or 20 years ago. This results from being trained at predominately White institutions of higher learning and, in essence, accepting the training/education (indoctrination and propaganda) in order to comply with White professors' and colleagues' standards. In addition, Black think tanks and organizations, such as the NAACP, Urban League, National Council of Negro Women, Congressional Black Caucus, etc., have not recognized the importance of such studies.

Right now, at an Historically Black College or University, there should be a School or Institute for the Study of American Racism. If such a school or institution existed, then it would have rendered this type of study years ago.

When Black America musters the intellectual vigor to put forward findings such as those reported in the study, we will not point the way out as creating a national database so that we can track these numbers more accurately. Rather, we should indicate that the way out is

to design and force the implementation of practices and procedures that will eliminate police killings.

That's right! The problem is not a failure to report the killings as the study and article suggest. No, no! The problem is White police killings of young Black men and women who pose no threat to them whatsoever.

Remember, the police represent a paramilitary organization at every level. All we need to do is change the rules of engagement and codify strict discipline—punishment—for violations.

Here are a few examples of procedural, process changes to mitigate and eliminate the problem:

- Any officer discharging his weapon except in response to lethal force directed toward him or members of the public will be prohibited from carrying a firearm while performing duties as a police officer.
- Any officer found to have committed any act of unjustified use of force will thereafter be required to either

¹ The economic implications of this commentary are transparent. The premature loss of Black lives results in a loss of production, income, and wealth for Black areas of influence. The preservation of Black lives generates a reverse result.

execute his duties without a firearm or accept duty in areas not involving patrolling—to include community outreach or investigative functions.

- Excessive use of force of any kind will not be tolerated: There is no three-strikes rule. The first and only violation will result in a 90-day suspension without pay. Police offenders of these provisions will not be permitted to carry guns again at any future point in their line of duty.

What needs to happen here is to not allow Black legislators and policymakers to line up behind the study's findings and the directions that the study attempts to manipulate us toward. Rather, Black intellectuals, think-tankers, and activists of all stripes should understand that this is fake news.

Who did not already know that police authorities and medical examiners have been cooking the numbers all along? Who did not know that organs have been taken from young Black men and women involved in police incidents to give to rich persons in need? Who could not determine that body cameras were not going to diminish police crimes—only mint money for experts to testify how the videos show that the police were justified because "their lives were under threat?" Oh, and we are not going to even mention the money made by the manufacturers of body cameras and related technology.

Identifying every single police killing because the law now states that the family of the deceased is entitled to an independent coroner examining the corpse and circumstances surrounding the death right

alongside the county medical examiner will not stop police from killing young Black men and women. And that is the problem!

Yes, a 55 percent deficit in reporting police killings is unacceptable and ridiculous, but we already know that the devil is a liar.

Do not become distracted by the undercount. No! Be transformed into action against the police exercising acts of war against young Black men and women. Do not let it rest until every measure that can contribute to the complete elimination of this dastardly death-by-police terrorism is implemented.

Black America should be ashamed for thinking that "giving the talk" to our sons and daughters is going to prevent police terrorism and police murders.

Despite the recent failure of the Congressional Police Reform Bill (the so-called George Floyd Justice in Policing Act), now is a time for ACTION.²

When it comes to police reform, Malcolm X gave us an appropriate metaphor in his speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet" nearly 60 years ago.³ In fighting for police reform, (paraphrasing) "It should be liberty, or it should be death." Black America should reach the point where we conclude: There must be proper and humane policing for everyone, not just for White America.

Lindsey "Rob" Robinson
10/01/21

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² See Richard Cowan (2021), "[U.S. congressional negotiations on police reforms fail.](#)" Reuters News Service. September 22nd. (Ret. 10/01/21)

³ "[The Ballot or the Bullet](#)" speech was delivered on April 3, 1964 in Cleveland, Ohio. (Ret. 10/01/21)