

Chapter 6

Say Their Names

ABSTRACT

A list of names of the most famous and recent cases of Black deaths by the police will be listed and some of those cases will be fleshed out. Overall, this chapter focuses on the myriad of cases of police brutality that have led to brutal rapes and deaths in the United States amongst the African American population. It will primarily focus on cases such as those of George Floyd, which was one of the most recent cases that was finally successfully adjudicated; Amadou Diallo, i.e., a personal case that I assisted on, et al. The resolve of this chapter is to remember the wounded and the fallen. Like war, many African Americans feel like they live within a battlefield. For many of the names that will be listed, they were merely minding their own business doing the everyday activities that go unnoticed.

“We’ve got to unify or you and I soon will die, People will text us and there will be no reply...”-Neelam, Ride on Our Enemies (2020)

“You just a black man in this world, You just a barcode, ayy

You just a black man in this world, Drivin’ expensive foreigners, ayy

You just a big dawg, yeah, I kenneled him in the backyard

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No probably ain't life to a dog, For a big dog"

- (Childish Gambino, 2018)

INTRODUCTION

James Baldwin stated the following: "The story of the Negro in America is the story of America. It is not a pretty story" (Magnolia Pictures, 2017, [0:27]. Indeed, the story of many of the ancestors of Black or African American people who came to America was not a pretty story. And yet, their stories were the tapestry that built America to be the nation that she is now. However, when we say their names, we are bringing attention to the poverty of man's soul that has led to the death of either innocent people who are citizens of the United States or those who were not able to stand their day in court because the police used excessive force, which led to their premature deaths. The African American community and institutions that stand with said community has asked the world to remember and "Say Their Names."

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