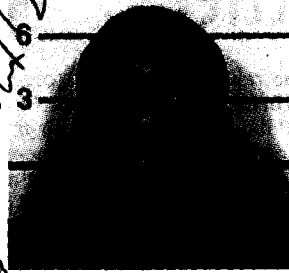


Black man dies resisting arrest

CINCINNATI (U.S.): Civil rights groups in this racially divided city has called for an investigation into how a black man died after a violent struggle with two white police officers — an incident caught on videotape and broadcast on national television. The incident comes just two and a half years after three nights of riots sparked when police shot dead a fleeing black teenager in another controversial event. Early on Sunday, police responded to a call about a disorderly man outside a restaurant. The two officers that responded believed the suspect might be mentally ill, and called for a specially trained officer for



help. But the suspect tried to punch one of the officers in the face. He missed, and the officers used their clubs to subdue the man, identified as Nathaniel Jones (*in the picture*). Jones was pronounced dead shortly after being taken to a hospital. An autopsy revealed that he had an enlarged heart consistent with hypertensive heart disease.
— AFP

THE HINDU

2008
8 DEC 2008

Black man dies resisting police arrest in Ohio

Cincinnati (Ohio): Civil rights groups in this racially divided city on Monday called for an investigation into how a black man died after a violent struggle with two white police officers— an incident caught on videotape and broadcast on national television.

The incident comes just two and a half years after three nights of riots sparked when police shot dead a fleeing black teenager in another controversial event.

Early Sunday, police responded to a call about a disorderly 159-kg man outside a restaurant in a largely black Cincinnati neighbourhood. The two officers that responded believed the suspect might be mentally ill, and called for a specially trained officer for help. But before the backup arrived the suspect tried to punch one of the officers in the face. He missed, and the offi-

cers then used their clubs and a chemical irritant in an attempt to subdue the man, identified as Nathaniel Jones, 41. Four more officers arrived soon after. Jones was pronounced dead shortly after being taken to a nearby hospital.

An autopsy revealed that he had an enlarged heart con-

sistent with hypertensive heart disease. Police Lieutenant Colonel Richard Janke told reporters the officers had to forcefully subdue Jones because he attacked the officers and disobeyed orders to put his hands behind his back to be handcuffed. "It was a violent assault by a very large

camel's back. Somehow the city of Cincinnati must find the will to end this nonsense of the death of African-American citizens in the process of and/or after being arrested," Mr Smith said. Mr Smith said that the NAACP has not pre-judged the case, but he said the videotape ap-



A video grab shows a man falling backwards while being struck with sticks by two Cincinnati policemen. The video was released by the Cincinnati police department on Monday.

man," and given the circumstances the officers acted "consistent with our training procedures," Janke said.

Calvert Smith, president of the Cincinnati chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), described Jones's death as "the proverbial straw that breaks the

appears to show "a defenceless Mr. Jones being repeatedly beaten by arresting officers."

The incident is being investigated by the police department's homicide unit, the department's internal affairs section, and the Citizen Complaint Authority, an independent review panel, as well as the NAACP. AFP

U.K.

police face racism probe

By Hasan Surroor

LONDON, NOV.1. A decade after an official inquiry found the British police "institutionally racist", another full-scale investigation into allegations of racism has been announced following a shocking BBC documentary which secretly filmed young police officers openly abusing Asians and blacks and boasting that they got a kick out of harassing them.

Trevor Phillips, Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), said confidence in the police had been "severely shaken" by the report, "The Secret Man", and the reve-

lations warranted an independent and 'transparent' inquiry.

Mr. Phillips dismissed assurances from senior police figures that the issue was being addressed and rejected the argument that it was simply a case of a "few bad apples", giving the entire police force a bad name. "We have been here before and we have made the same mistake before. The biggest is to suppose that this is a case of a few bad apples that will be solved by some dismissals and more or better training. It isn't," he said.

Five young police officers have resigned and three have been suspended since the

The report provoked shock from the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, downwards. The Home Secretary, David Blunkett, who accused the BBC of staging a "stunt to get attention", has been forced to acknowledge it as an eye-opener.

One senior police officer said he felt "physically sick" after seeing the programme.

One recruit was seen wearing an improvised Ku Klux Klan hood and simulating an attack on an Asian colleague. He gleefully boasted how he routinely stopped and searched Asians and blacks, handing them on-the-spot fines and penalties while letting off whites for the

same offences. Mr. Blair said that "anyone, including any police officer, with the best interests of the police service will have been shocked and appalled at some of the scenes we have witnessed".

The chief of metropolitan police, John Stevens, said he was "absolutely appalled" and promised a more rigorous screening process.

Mr. Phillips said the inquiry would cover 43 police forces in England and Wales and would be held partly in public. It would focus on recruitment, training and vetting procedures which the BBC programme has shown to be inadequate.

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528
2/10

BRITISH BOBBY

'Institutional racism', says BBC

THE BBC has exposed what most Asian and Afro-Caribbean immigrants living in Britain already knew — the British police force is racist. Cases like the Bradford five and the Stephen Lawrence murder has established the blatant racism within the force. The Macpherson inquiry into the murder of black teenager, Lawrence by a gang of racist thugs had unequivocally said there was 'institutional racism' in the force which needed to be rooted out. Senior officers are shocked by the BBC reporter's sting operation and appalled at what they heard being said by recruits at a training centre. The Metropolitan and regional forces have always stressed that there were measures in place to check any racist behaviour, but obviously they are not enough.

Britain in the last 50 years has seen largescale immigration, much of it from Asian and Afro-Caribbean countries, so much so that it is now a multi-cultural society with ethnic minorities crowding several cities. To their credit the police have felt the need to recruit men and women from these minorities in the hope to making the force representative of the community; even a special cell has been set up. But the response from the Asian community has been poor. One reasons is lack of entry at senior levels, rather like the IPS in India. If this lacuna can be plugged, it may help recruit educated youth from minorities and go a long way towards educating the force on integration. Home secretary David Blunkett has promised integrity tests to weed out racist applicants. This may help. Ethnic groups need to do their part by entering the force. The media can also help by getting rid of stereotypical caricatures of communities. Black youths are stereotyped as unemployed, dropout, drug dealer; Asian youths as illegal immigrant, living off the dole, potential terrorist. While Britain tackles these problems, it is entitled to credit for its sincerity. No questions should be asked about the tactics employed by the BBC. It is clear that if the story cannot be got any other way, subterfuge is legitimate.

THE STATESMAN

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Shobna's plight

Racist attack on TV star in Britain 5/6

racism *23/5*

Shobna Gulati, an Asian origin TV star in Britain has found out what thousands of British-Asians always knew - you may face racism on the streets of the United Kingdom at anytime. Shobna has been one of the success stories of the British-Asian society. She is a second-generation immigrant, her parents having migrated to Britain in the 1960s from India. Her father a doctor chose to live in the Midlands city of Oldham because of the reputation of its hospital. Once an industrial hub Oldham attracted many immigrants, but over the years the mills have closed and unemployment has soared. The inner city has begun to decay and with a high population of British-Asians and a hotbed for the activities of the racist British National Party, Oldham became the scene of Britain's worst race riots two years ago. Shobna, an actress who grew up in Oldham, has managed to land a role in Britain's oldest and most popular soap opera, almost an institution — Coronation Street. It reflects life in a small, north England, working class town and has been running for over 50 years. Until the 90s Coronation Street only had white characters, not reflecting the real nature of northern society, which has a large percentage of both brown and black faces. Shobna's character Sunita Parekh is one of the first non-white faces on the soap — a big achievement in itself.

For a such a high-profile person, who is watched by millions on TV, to face racism on the streets of her hometown shows to what extent the disease has seeped into society. If this can happen to her, what chance do ordinary immigrants have? Hopefully with Shobna being a celebrity the police are taking the incident seriously and with the attendant publicity, steps will be taken by the authorities to curb racial attacks on other citizens also.

29 MAY 2003

THE STATESMAN

India can be put on the mat for discrimination: Dalit lobbyist *Rajin*

By R. Ilangovan

MADURAI, MARCH 3. "The Indian Government can be put to embarrassment on international fora over the prevalence of descent-based discrimination in the country, as the United Nations has recognised what it means to be a Dalit," said Peter Prove, convener, International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), Geneva.

Racial discrimination "is discrimination based on descent", he said interacting with a core group of Dalit activists on the implications of the recommendations of the UN Committee's Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) at the People's Watch-Tamil Nadu office here.

Mr. Prove was a strong lobbyist for the Indian Dalit groups at the U.N. Durban Conference against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance (WCAR). The Indian Government fiercely maintained there that caste discrimi-

nation could not be viewed as racial discrimination.

An active member of the Geneva-based Lutheran World Federation and considered "man in the know of the dynamics and functioning of the U.N.," Mr. Prove said: "The CERD, in its document, has provided a broader meaning to descent-based discrimination such as the discrimination based on caste, here Dalits. It was an eventful occasion for advocacy groups at Durban when the word 'caste' was referred to for the first time in the UN Human Rights Document which is considered extraordinary."

As a voluntary signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, India was obliged to submit status reports once in two years on the prevailing discriminatory practices of the caste system. "But it has not submitted its report since 1996. There is a challenge before civil society to submit

relevant materials to the CERD on the prevalence of the caste system."

The CERD has repeatedly affirmed caste as a form of descent-based discrimination, falling within the definition of racial discrimination under Article 1 of the International Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The U.N. Sub-Commission expert, R. K. W. Goonesekere, presented a report on work and descent-based discrimination to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

It is the first comprehensive U.N. study on caste-based discrimination.

"Though 'caste' has been mentioned in Para 73 of the Durban Racial Conference draft declaration, the word could not be included in the final declaration on the Programme of Action. Hence it is the need of the hour to keep the tempo up on international fora to mobilise

views on caste," Mr. Prove stressed. He asked non-governmental organisations and Dalit groups to keep the focus on the caste bias, which would build global pressure on the Government. India's attempt to prevent the initiation of a debate on caste brought bad repute to the country, he said.

"The Constitution, legislation and welfare schemes are enacted for Dalit uplift. But in reality, it is different. Promises are not kept."

After the Durban conference, the international community woke up to the problems of caste discrimination in India. The word 'Dalit' was visible among the international community.

"Civil society should utilise this opportunity to forge international solidarity, so that the Dalits can be prompted to rally," he said.

Walter Hahn, coordinator of the German Dalit Platform, participated in the discussion.

4 MAR 2002

Australian cricketer suspended for casting racial slur

*Rein
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ADELAIDE, JAN. 18. Australian batsman Darren Lehmann was today suspended for five one-day international cricket matches for making racial remarks during a one-day match against Sri Lanka. Lehmann was found guilty of breaching the International Cricket Council's (ICC) racial vilification code by ICC match referee Clive Lloyd during a three-hour

hearing here today.

He will miss four or five remaining matches in the triangular one-day series against Sri Lanka and England, along with possibly Australia's opening match at the World Cup, starting next month in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Lehmann is the first international cricketer to be suspended for breaching the ICC's racial code of conduct.

19/1

Lehmann reportedly referred to Sri Lankan players as "black" in a two-word obscenity shouted by him when entering the Australian dressing room after being marginally run out in a one-day game with Sri Lanka in Brisbane on Wednesday. He offered verbal and written apologies to the Sri Lankans which were immediately accepted. — AFP

THE HINDU

19 JAN 2003