

## America's Hypocrisy of Law Enforcement and Protection

### America has never been no friend to me

By: Akeem Lloyd

Our country has a history of protecting white people and their wrongdoing. For years white people have valued the testimonies, the words, and the lies coming from other white people, while repeatedly ignoring the testimonies, and the words coming from people who look like me. Example: Roy Bryant and JW Milan told the court they took Emmett Till from his home, Emmett's uncle Moses Wright testified, and the all-white jury still found Emmett's murderers not guilty. How? Make it make sense; actually, don't make it make sense, how about we just don't let white people get away with wrongful doings, and how about we stop justifying their criminal actions. It is a fact, the numbers are disproportionate as it pertains to the increase in incarceration rates. It is a fact, there are videos showing the difference in how some police officers handle civilian interactions as it relates to BIPOC individuals, especially Black people, and individuals from marginalized identities and communities of color vs how some police interact with members of the white community. Members of my ethnic background and hue, receive the more aggressive police interaction, while members of the white community receive bottled water and access to the capitol building. It is a fact, more police patrols are located in the inner city than they are in the suburbs; Shall I proceed, Yes, indeed.

It is a fact, individuals living in communities of color have called police as a means to help de-escalate a situation, only to have law enforcement show up and kill who they say caused a threat or was causing a threat as a potential harm to others. Someone please share with me the number of white people who have gotten killed in this similar scenario; I'll wait. The history of America's hypocrisy of law enforcement and protection shows up century after century and decade after decade.

"We got them right where we want them", that is not my opinion, that is a historical representation of the historical proclamation and dedication white people swore to always uphold; this idea that their existence belongs at the top of human hierarchy, and those who look like me deserve everything there is at the bottom, as long as we always stay at the bottom. History teaches us, their assumptions of ethnic/race relations are why there are discrepancies on how black people are governed through law proceedings, hearings, and jail time, vs how people from the white community are protected and served. When BIPOC individuals get sentenced, they throw the book at us, yet allow for white people to step on the book and into their privilege like a stepping stool; where they are safe, where they have always been safe and always protected.

The war on drugs; America's hypocrisy of law enforcement, was never about a "war on drugs", the government never once talked about how it got here and how it became so big, because, you know, that would be like, snitching on yourself, but instead, they created a system that targeted the users, the sellers, and the communities they put them in. They created a task force, and laws that protected them and their actions but not the people and communities whom the drugs were impacting. Tell me, why and how a war on drugs, left the drugs in the community but managed to lock up and incarcerate over 100,000 black people for drug offenses; I'll wait. This weighted scale and lopsided approach to law enforcement and protection has resulted in the lives

of hundreds and thousands of black people, black communities, and communities of color being taken away from us; killed; incarcerated, and or burned down.

For anyone who may be questioning whether or not I hold enough titles or labels to speak on such a thing, let me share with you some examples just to name a few incidents:

The Greenwood District, known as Black Wall Street, in Tulsa Oklahoma was a thriving town populated by black people, serving as an example of what generational wealth in the black community could look like. The 35 city blocks were owned by black people. I will skip the history lesson and drive home the point. A black man was lied on, accused of raping a white woman, who, actually never made a report (hint, because it didn't happen), but this man was deemed a rapist by the white community. They hung this man, took his life, and then proceeded to burn down all 35 city blocks. Where was law enforcement and the protection of an innocent man?

Emmett Till, a young black boy who was accused of whistling at a white girl, who actually told the truth years later, and because of that, the white community, not the county jail, took it within their own hands and threw the book at Emmett. They hunted him down and killed the 14-year-old boy. Where was law enforcement and the protection for this young innocent black boy. As I write this, I am reminded of Trayvon Martin, a black boy who was also accused of being a threat, his murderer, like those who came before him, took him away from us too soon. A community member took matters into his own hands. Where was justice for Trayvon, why didn't the law protect his rights like it protected the killers...Like it protected Breonna's killer. Like it protected George Floyd's killer. The hypocrisy.

America has a history of failing to protect ALL Black people and people of color. Although the laws were never made to protect us, still, they failed to protect the black women who was raped during slavery; they failed to black men and women during Jim crow; they failed to protect black men and women during the time of lynching, and America continues to fail my community today. Some may say, actually Akeem, they have not failed, they have accomplished what they created their laws and systems to do, and in response I will say, you ain't never lie. Now I know not all white people participated in what has happened to us, but most white people have benefited from what has happened to us.

Our country has a history of protecting white people and their wrongdoing, because of the hypocrisy of law enforcement and protection in America.

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