

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Item 9: General Debate



Systemic Racism and Radical policing in the United States

Madam President,

Months after George Floyd's murder, a majority of Americans say racism and police violence are serious problems facing the nation.

Important steps are being put in place to address the issue such as guilty verdict in George Floyd case, however, for countless other victims of African descent and their families, in the US and the world, the fight for justice goes on.

Gallup's 2021 update on minority rights and relations found that an increasing percentage of U.S. adults believe racism against Black people is widespread. Relatedly, Americans' satisfaction with the treatment of Black people remains near its historical low.¹

A commission of human rights experts from 11 countries in a report hold the US accountable for what they say is a long history of violations of international law that rise in some cases to the level of crimes against humanity. It accuses the US of violating its international human rights obligations, both in terms of laws governing policing and in the practices of law enforcement officers targeting Black people and race-based stop and frisk.²

Madam President,

ODVV calls on the US Government to adopt wide ranging reforms to put an end to police violence, and vigorously address systemic racism and racial discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities.

ODVV asks the US Government to end the impunity for crimes and human rights violations by law enforcement officers, to see robust measures to prevent further arbitrary killings.

¹. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/26/us-police-killings-black-americans-crimes-against-humanity>

². <https://news.gallup.com/poll/352544/larger-majority-says-racism-against-black-people-widespread.aspx>