

Reflection on Mr. George Floyd's Case

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Since his death his name has been chanted by protesters around the world and his face has been honored on murals across the country.

George Floyd has become a symbol of struggle for victims of police brutality and racism in the United States. For people of Color, history shows that there is mortal risk and a hefty penalty in routine encounters with the police. Negative stereotypes, which falsely categorize Blacks as more violent, more criminal, and more aggressive, are materialized by fallacious representations in newspapers and entertainment media. However, racism and its consequences go deeper than the perceptions of the Black population as a threat. Their murders are considered by the justice system as a kind of revenge and this is verified when the murderers of Black people are acquitted, as if protecting them, as well as in the absence of federal parameters to control police behavior.

Police officers are defended by their departments and by the effects of the traditional justice system. Despite the records of several complaints of abuse of power, they are kept in their posts or transferred to others, without any actual punishment. Even retired police officers remain part of a brotherhood, which brings the issue of corporatism into vogue. And so we keep hearing about the cycle of threat, murder, and acquittal. Even if there is still a long way to go in the anti-racist issue, it is undeniable that the global mobilization after Mr. Floyd's murder promoted an advance in consciousness and opened the door for new ideas to be addressed.

An essential element that needs to be understood when discussing racism is its relationship to a historical process of devaluation of Black people. Modern society is racist and strongly hierarchical, with a racial order in which Blacks most often occupy the worst positions. Bringing into discussion the lethal character of racism is something of great importance.

There is a big problem in society which is the denial of racism. To say that racism is structural means not only to say that it is constitutive of the capitalist modernization process, but that it is also intrinsic to all social spheres. In other words, race is an element that has a strong influence on economic, political, social, and cultural processes. Although, in the biological sense of the term, races do not exist, it is undeniable that this prejudice materializes in the lives of black people, interfering with their trajectories and existence.