



SOCHUM



**Topic:** Tackling the issue of severe police force bias following several police brutality incidents against certain ethnic and religious groups in society

**Committee:** GA3 - Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

**Name:** Naz Koçak

**Position:** President Chair

### **A. Introduction to the Committee**

The Sochum Committee, the third committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, prioritizes mostly human affairs. Its main topics consist of human rights, Humanitarian affairs, and social matters. At the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee considered 51 draft resolutions, around half of which were submitted under the human rights agenda item alone. As in previous sessions, an important part of the work of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council which was established in 2006. The Committee will hear and interact with special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairs of treaty bodies and working groups as mandated by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly

### **B. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

This year, in KMUN'24, delegates will be tasked with another crucial social matter: police force bias due to brutalities against certain ethnic and religious groups as we saw in the past and today. While this also makes people unsafe, it also demotivates police forces. This problem reached its peak tension back in 2020, as many of us have seen the incident of George Floyd. Through social media platforms police forces have received immense amounts of threats which endangered the safety of the society. This agenda item focuses on how to find an attainable and efficient solution for police forces and society. In this complex problem, delegates must find a way that will restore the trust of society in police forces while ensuring that the function of police forces will be undamaged. In other words delegates must find solutions that will ensure the future safety of society and eliminate the risk of another incident like George Floyd's will ever happen.

### C. Key Terms

**Police Force:** People who are responsible for the safety of society, by dealing with crimes ongoing

**Police Brutality:** The use of excessive force, typically physical, by police officers

**Stop and Frisk:** A practice by which a police officer stops a person on the street and searches them without a warrant.

**Bias Training:** Programs designed to help officers recognize and mitigate their implicit biases.

**Excessive Force:** Overuse of the power by the police officers that they were given by the law. Mostly excessive force leads to physical damage in person and sometimes causing the death of the person.

### D. General Overview

Police forces, which play a crucial role in the safety of society, have lately been accused of abusing their power towards certain groups which is called excessive force. Due to this excessive force, most of the people today from certain groups are now frightened of the people who are supposed to protect them. Even though some concrete solutions have been taken from the United Nations, people still believe excessive force will continue no matter what. This problem, which evidently concerns society, started in the late 1990s in the United States when another innocent person was exposed to excessive force which led to several injuries in his body. These events in the United States, even though decreased, continue.

As for other countries, similar events were happening in the same time period. In Europe, especially in France and in the United Kingdom, several protests have been gathered for the people that were hurt by the excessive force. Moreover, similar events were seen in India, with a man being killed by excessive force, which has brought an immense amount of protests. In 2015 Australia has also had some conflicts with its own police force due to a man named David Dungay Jr was killed by excessive force.

Due to these events and other similar events that happened in the past, society's trust in police forces has naturally declined. Today we continue to see the impacts of the damaged trust of society on police forces as we see numerous disagreements between both sides. Delegates at this conference must cooperate between themselves in order to overcome the problem. They have to eliminate the risk that any kind of excessive force shall never be used again by the police. Countries meanwhile, have different policies on this problem, and through communication a regulation that will set the risk of excessive force to zero can be found. As we have also mentioned in our "possible solutions" part, multiple attempts such as training, law enforcement, and education programs can be tried to overcome this surmounting problem. Also to find effective solutions, delegates are advised to learn the past steps that were taken by various organizations such as U.N., Human Rights Council and so on.

Besides the United Nations, there are non-governmental organizations that works for the prevention of excessive use of force. Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization found in the United States has been gathering meetings and conducting educational propaganda globally in order to address the abuse of power. Furthermore they have been calling countries to regulate their police force frequently.

To conclude, the problem that the delegates will face in this year KMUN'24 is one of the most crucial problems they have to find an efficient answer to. They first have to identify the roots of the problems, then evaluate the past attempts of the major parties involved to solve this problem, and come up with new ideas that will restore the trust of people on police forces. Delegates must collaborate and merge their countries's policies on this situation so that they can find the best solution possible.

## E. Timeline of Key Events

<b>1984</b>	Adoption of CAT(Convention Against Torture) which aimed to reduce inhuman actions internationally
<b>1991</b>	Rodney King incident, which brought protests for the first time
<b>2013</b>	The Black Lives Matter movement began, following the acquittal of George Zimmerman, a police officer who was responsible for the killing of Trayvon Martin
<b>2014</b>	Michael Brown shooting occurs in Ferguson, Missouri bringing international attention for the African-Americans
<b>2020</b>	George Floyd, a young black person in The United States is choked to death by a police officer.
<b>2021</b>	OHCHR publishes a report on systemic racism, emphasizing the impact of racial discrimination

## F. Recent Cases

**Rodney King Incident:** Rodney Glen King was an African American who was a victim of excessive force. On March 3, 1991, he was pulled over for speeding by the Los Angeles Police Force(LAPD). During his arrest for speeding, he was severely beaten in many parts of his body. On his release, King spoke to reporters from his wheelchair, with his injuries evident: a broken right leg in a cast, his face badly cut and swollen, bruises on his body, and a burn area to his chest where he had been jolted with a stun gun.

**Ferguson Unrest:** The Ferguson unrest, which is sometimes also called the Ferguson Uprising was a series of protests started in 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri. The protests began after the

fatal shooting of a young black person named Michael Brown by an FPD(Ferguson Police Department) officer. The Incident took international attention as news channels reported daily for the protests of hundreds of people every day for the violated right of living of Michael Brown. At least 7 people got arrested in these protests.

**George Floyd:** George Perry Folyd Jr. was a black American who was murdered brutally after a stop-and-frisk investigation in Minnesota. During the arrest officer suspected that Floyd may have used a fake 20-dollar bill. Derek Chauvin, one of four police officers who arrived on the scene, knelt on Floyd's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, causing his death from a lack of oxygen.

**P. Jayaraj and Beniks:** On 19 June 2020, a man named P. Jayaraj and his son P. Beniks were taken into custody for allegedly not complying with the COVID-19 lockdown rules in India. While in custody, the 2 were assaulted and tortured to death by the local police officers. The death of the father and son sparked a massive outrage in the district “Thoothukudi”.

**Joao Pedro Patos Minto:** A teenager in Brazil was killed during a police operation which sparked nationwide protests in 2020.

## **G. Relevant U.N. Treaties, Resolutions and Events**

**Resolution 2106:** This resolution has adopted ICERD(International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination) which solely prioritizes on the promotion of understanding races. The convention addresses the obligation of states to prohibit and eliminate the racial discrimination through various ways,including law enforcement

**Resolution 45/24:** Adopted in 2020,this resolution was passed in the Human Rights Council in order to address Systemic Racism.It has also addressed the need for accountability for the victims of excessive force and find roots of this problem.

**Resolution 68/237:** This resolution has proclaimed the 2015-2024 decade as the International Decade of African Descent, following the Black Lives Matter movement

**Resolution 43/1:** Published in 2020, this resolution mainly focused on the excessive use of force towards African people and urged countries for new regulations on training guidelines of police force.

## **H. Previous Attempts to Resolve This Issue**

The United Nations and other international organizations have been constantly working and collaborating on how to address the situation and limit the use of excessive force. In recent years. One of the most famous ones was Black Lives Matter following the brutal death of George Floyd. As we have seen, this movement was one of the most effective as it has sparked global attention through various social media platforms.

Furthermore, Non-governmental Organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have been also working since the beginning of 2000s and they have also assisted numerous places in the limitation of the use of excessive force.

In 1990 United Nations have published principles that determines the limits of legal force that can be used by the police force under the name of “ UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials”. Though this has helped in the legal process of excessive force, the situation did not seem to change practically.

## **I. Major Parties Involved:**

**United Nations:** apart from the 2 resolutions shown above United Nations constantly tries to cope with this complex problem.

**Human Rights Council:** Cooperating with the United Nations, the Human Rights Council also holds a crucial part in this problem as they have attempted to find solutions to this problem multiple times.

**OHCHR:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights publishes reports on systemic racism, including the impacts of racial discrimination on society.

**Minority Groups:** Excessive force was mostly used against people from minorities. Therefore excessive force has the greatest impact on these people.

**Human Rights Watch:** Founded in the U.S., this non-governmental organization publishes reports on police violence globally, while also urging countries to conduct policy reforms on this topic

**International Association of Chiefs of Police(IACP):** This organization has played a huge role in urging countries to implement new law enforcements about excessive force and new regulations on police workers. Delegates are advised to look former solutions that were proposed by this organization

## **J. Possible Solutions**

As we have seen in the past this problem is something that society really concerned about. Therefore to solve this problem, collective work is required. One of the main solutions for solving the force bias comes from education. Through a comprehensive education to society, the concerns of people on police forces can be alleviated. Apart from that, Commissions can be appointed for this problem that can create a positive impact on society. Another solution that can be implemented is through law enforcement made internationally. Through collective work delegates must find one of these ways or another way that has not been mentioned above in order to repair the damaged function of police force in society.

**Policy Reforms:** As many Non-Governmental Organizations advice their governments about reform on the policy of excessive force, an international decision from the General Assembly regarding an amendment in the policy of the countries may help alleviate the abuse of power

**Law Enforcement:** Another solution that can be done is law enforcement. Punishments for the use of excessive force can be increased, which may deter the police force to use it. However, these kinds of law enforcement should be done without damaging the function of the police.

**Commissions:** New commissions can be appointed for the inspection of the police force. People in the police force can be background-checked or can be put in a test before joining the force.

## **K. Questions to Be Addressed**

- How can we find efficient ways to prevent the police force from using excessive force ever again?



- Are there any ways we can restore society's damaged trust in police forces?
- What possible law enforcement can we implement to avoid the past incidents?
- Should we increase the punishments of excessive force on minorities to protect them?

## **L. Further Reading**

Resolution 43/1 by Human Rights Council:

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g20/158/27/pdf/g2015827.pdf?token=y8HZdhBEdbA2n4qUgQ&fe=true>

Tragic Story of George Floyd:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Floyd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Floyd)

International Association of Chief of Police:

<https://www.theiacp.org/>

## **M. Bibliography**

United Nations Sochum Website: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/>

Office of Human Commissioner For Human Rights: [https://www.ohchr.org/en/ohchr\\_homepage](https://www.ohchr.org/en/ohchr_homepage)

Death of P Jayaraj and his son Bennicks:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Custodial\\_death\\_of\\_P\\_Jayaraj\\_and\\_Bennicks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Custodial_death_of_P_Jayaraj_and_Bennicks)

Resolution 45/24

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g20/264/29/pdf/g2026429.pdf?token=zSoGZpIvxzgJPIYsuu&fe=true>

Resolution 2106:

<https://www.un.org/shestandsforpeace/content/united-nations-security-council-resolution-2106-2013-sres21062013>

UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-use-force-and-firearms-law-enforcement#:~:text=Law%20enforcement%20officials%20shall%20not,a%20danger%20and%20resisting%20their>

Amnesty International

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/>