Police Violence in Illinois

Assignment 1: Position Paper One – Media and Society

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During the last presidential elections, the current president Donald Trump campaigned on the idea that he would make America great again. However, since he became president, he and his republican politicians have only succeeded in achieving the contrary. America seems to be getting worse in issues that already existed before the presidency of Trump began, and the state of Illinois is not any different from the rest of the country. One of the issues that still affect Illinois is police violence and corruption that has led to unfair trials as well as the loss of life and property of the people of the state. The police must be tamed to restore justice among the diverse residents of Chicago because violence leads to racial violence, the lack of trust in the justice department, and the inability of people to get justice.

For a long time, the name of Chicago has been tainted by the collective police violence. The residents of Chicago are unable to live in peace because any time could be a time when a loved one would be lost or be hurt by the police who according to several sources such as the Huffington Post and others. A recent scandal involving the Chicago police where the police were caught on camera dragging a female teenage student down the stairs before holding her down and punching her (Antonia, 1). Of course, as usual, the police department covered the incident up and claimed that the young lady attacked the police first. However, the video evidence says otherwise. The question remains whether there will be action against the culprits or the issue will go unsolved as usual. The rate of violence against young people and racial minorities in the city is becoming alarming; hence, it is the duty of the government officials to step in and create policies that will aim at reducing the violence against people, whether innocent or guilty.

Another reason why police violence should be curbed in the city is the fact that it has resulted in the low confidence among the people on the security forces of the state and the city of Chicago (Rod et al., 4). Chicago has a very high crime rate despite the police seeming to be very vigilant. For instance, by the end of September 2019, there have been already more than 382 reported cases of shootings in Chicago alone (Fan, 2). There are many more shootings that were not reported primarily in the slums that house the law income populations where crime rates are usually even higher. Cleaning the police force will improve the security of the city because then people will develop more trust in the police and be more willing to report crimes before they spiral out of control. For instance, in the case that involved the 16-year-old who was drugged by the police, the police covered the story by claiming that she attacked them and charged her with three counts of battery (1). Such cases make people lose trust in the police and fear approaching them when instances of actual crime happen.

The current high rates of police violence are also responsible for the racial violence in the city against minority populations. According to The Intercept, an online news agency that covers Chicago, the city police show racial bias because they have a likelihood of shooting black people that is 14 times higher than that of shooting white people (3). Illinois is a very diverse place with the minority populations favoring the city over other places. Therefore, the state must become safe for every person. Violence should not be left to continue, even if there are many racial minorities in the state.

The police and their sympathizers have always defended the use of too much force by the police, saying that the nature of the work by the police force dictates that they use lots of force. However, there have been many cases of shootings and beatings of unarmed people and people who were not threats to officers. Therefore, the law should be respected (3). The police should not use the necessary force. People implicated should be held responsible for their behaviors by being jailed and not just being sacked. It is vital that the police departments in Illinois, such as the Chicago PD, be forced to be accountable for the behaviors of their officers.

In conclusion, the state of Illinois is among the most diverse states in the country. Sadly, police violence and corruption is also rampant in the state. The city of Chicago is extraordinarily synonymous with police violence and racial discrimination. Therefore, the political class must strive to make policies that will restrain the police from using excessive violence among the people. The violence leads o people fearing the police and losing trust in the departments. Also, police violence encourages racial discrimination against minority groups in the state. Therefore, the police should be forced to take responsibility for the behaviors of its officers to safeguard the lives and belongings of the residents of Chicago and Illinois State in general.

Sources

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