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INTERNATIONAL

**YOUR WORD
AGAINST
THEIRS?**



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

**JUSTICE
FOR ALL**

YOUR WORD AGAINST THEIRS?

Allegations of human rights violations by some police officers in France continue every year, including racist abuse, excessive use of force, beatings, and unlawful killings. If it happened to you, how would you seek justice?

Judges and prosecutors work with the police every day, so they are inclined to believe their testimony. When it comes to complaints of police ill-treatment, all too frequently they close the case without investigation. Individuals who bring a complaint often find themselves charged with defamation or insulting a police officer. Internal disciplinary investigations are not independent or impartial either. The odds are stacked against you.

Demand action now for a fairer system. Call for the CNDS or the future Defender of Rights, if it takes on this role, to have the necessary powers to ensure fair and effective investigations.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Sign the postcard below and send it to the French Minister of Justice.

Image: French riot police patrol on the Avenue des Champs Elysées in Paris, 9 July 2006. © AP/PA Photo/Baz Ratner

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JUSTICE FOR ALL

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Dear Minister,

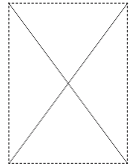
I wish to express my concern at the current system for investigating complaints against the police, which is institutionally biased in favour of police officers and against members of the public. It must be reformed to ensure equal treatment for both sides, in line with the requirements of international law.

I urge you to ensure that the CNDS or the office of the new Defender of Rights, if it takes on this role, is staffed by expert personnel who are independent of the police, prosecution, and judiciary and has the powers to: receive complaints directly from the victim; independently investigate all allegations of human rights violations; refer a case for criminal prosecution and to appeal any decision to close a prosecution; order disciplinary proceedings be instigated; and make binding recommendations on the police authorities.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Country: _____



**Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
13 Place Vendôme
75042 Paris CEDEX 01
France**

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Image: A student demonstrating in Toulouse, France, against the government's student job plans, 2006. © AP/PA Photo/Remy Gabalda
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