

Reference: AMR 51/3153/2020

Attorney General William Barr
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530
USA

6 October 2020

Dear Attorney General William Barr,

RE: ONE MILLION SIGNATURES CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD

On behalf of Amnesty International, I am writing to deliver a message signed by over one million people worldwide demanding justice for George Floyd, a Black man killed by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on 25 May 2020:

I am shocked to learn about the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, following an attempted arrest that turned deadly with police in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 25 May 2020. The actions taken by the police officers involved in this tragedy are unconscionable and reflect a wider pattern of excessive use of force against ethnic and racial minorities in the USA.

I call on you to ensure that those responsible for his killing do not enjoy impunity and that George's family receives justice. Police departments that have a pattern or practice of abusing human rights should be investigated with a view to urgent and systemic reforms.

The use of unnecessary, excessive, or otherwise unlawful force by the police in the USA, especially against racial and ethnic minorities, is deeply disturbing and must stop immediately. I urge you to take all necessary actions to send a clear message that the unlawful use of force by the police is unacceptable and will not be tolerated anymore. No one should fear for their lives, and the state must provide accountability when a person is arbitrarily deprived of their rights, let alone their right to life.

George Floyd should be alive today.

Amnesty International notes that George Floyd's death is just one of many acts of racist policing against Black Americans that illustrates astounding levels of violence and discrimination in the USA. We are deeply concerned that the police in the USA commit human rights violations at a shockingly frequent rate, particularly against racial and ethnic minorities, and especially Black Americans.

We echo the calls from George Floyd's family and community for all those responsible to be held accountable and for guarantees that this will not happen again.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Verhaar
Acting Secretary General