

**EXTERNAL**

**AMR51/123/95**

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (OHIO): AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SEEKS  
INFORMATION ON BEATING OF BLACK YOUTH BY POLICE OFFICERS IN  
CINCINNATI**

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that a black 18-year-old youth was beaten by police officers in Cincinnati, Ohio, earlier this year, and may have suffered cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

According to press reports, a passing television news crew captured the ill-treatment of the youth by police officers on videotape. The film reportedly shows the youth in the custody of police officers on a busy Cincinnati street on 25 April 1995. One officer is shown spraying mace (used for subduing purposes) on the youth, then four or five officers wrestle him to the ground, and one is seen kicking and punching him several times with his fist. The incident, which was shown on local television, has angered black leaders, although the police department has said it was shown out of context.

The officer responsible for kicking and punching the youth, who is white, was moved to another job following the incident.

Amnesty International is seeking further information on investigations being carried out by the Cincinnati police department and the city authorities, and is urging them to take steps to ensure that similar incidents do not occur in future.