



Special Report: June 30, 2021

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: “The status quo is untenable.” Mothers Against Police Brutality welcomes new United Nations report urging “immediate, transformative action” to end systemic racism and police violence against Black people in the U.S.

[Full report here.](#)

“The release of this United Nations report is historic, and I am hopeful it will become a beacon of light for other countries to unite and stand against the egregious extrajudicial killings at the hands of U.S. law enforcement,” said Collette Flanagan, who founded Mothers Against Police Brutality (MAPB) in 2013 after Dallas police killed her unarmed son, Clinton Allen, a 25-year-old Black father of twin sons. “We must hold America accountable for its shameful history of police brutality.”

Collette and MAPB worked with the ACLU Human Rights Program, the U.S. Human Rights Network, and others in a global coalition calling on the United Nations Human Rights Council to follow the Commissioner’s report with an effective accountability mechanism to provide ongoing investigation of systemic racism in policing in the U.S. and globally, especially among former colonial powers and countries involved in the Transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans.

“This historic report provides a blueprint for the United States and other countries to begin reckoning with the long history of systemic racism that permeates policing and other state violence and structural racism against Black people,” said Jamil Dakwar, director of the ACLU Human Rights Program.

The U.N Human Rights Council last summer provided an important opportunity to enable those affected directly by human rights violations to speak to the Council through NGO video statements. After Collette’s statement, the Council [reported](#), “Collette Flanagan, Founder of Mothers against Police Brutality, also delivered a powerful [video statement](#) at the Council explaining the reality of racist policing in the United States of America. We fully support victims’ families’ appeals to the Council for accountability.”

Collette appeared as an expert witness before The International Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence against People of African Descent in the United States. [Watch Collette’s testimony.](#) The full report of the International Commission, featuring numerous cases of MAPB families, is [here.](#)

In May of this year, Ms. Flanagan organized 171 families that have lost a loved one to fatal police violence to sign a [letter to Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), along with ACLU, MAPB, and 270 NGOs from around the world, calling for an independent commission, under the auspices of the U.N. Human Rights Council, to investigate police killings of Black people in the United States and the violent conduct of law enforcement toward protests against police brutality. MAPB submitted written [proposals](#) to OHCHR report.

The report states that the worldwide mobilization of people calling for racial justice has forced a long-delayed reckoning with racism and shifted debates towards a focus on the systemic nature of racism and the institutions that perpetrate it.

“The status quo is untenable,” High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet said in releasing the report. [“I am calling on all States to stop denying, and start dismantling, racism;](#) to end impunity and build trust; to listen to the voices of people of African descent; and to confront past legacies and deliver redress.”

[Full report here.](#)