February 13, 2023

Justice Mokgoro Chairperson of the Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Madam Chairperson:

Please find enclosed the U.S. response to your letter dated February 8 2023.

Sincerely,

Ant. Bilson

Kelly Billingsley Deputy Permanent Representative Human Rights

## Statement from President Joe Biden on Tyre Nichols

Like so many, I was outraged and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beating that resulted in Tyre Nichols' death. It is yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day.

My heart goes out to Tyre Nichols' family and to Americans in Memphis and across the country who are grieving this tremendously painful loss. The footage that was released this evening will leave people justifiably outraged. Those who seek justice should not resort to violence or destruction. Violence is never acceptable; it is illegal and destructive. I join Mr. Nichols' family in calling for peaceful protest.

I spoke with RowVaughn Wells and Rodney Wells, Mr. Nichols' mother and stepfather, this afternoon. There are no words to describe the heartbreak and grief of losing a beloved child and young father. Nothing can bring Mr. Nichols back to his family and the Memphis community. But Mr. and Mrs. Wells, Mr. Nichols' son, and his whole family deserve a swift, full, and transparent investigation.

We must do everything in our power to ensure our criminal justice system lives up to the promise of fair and impartial justice, equal treatment, and dignity for all. Real and lasting change will only come if we take action to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again. That is why I called on Congress to send the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to my desk. When Senate Republicans blocked that bill, I signed an executive order that mandated stricter use of force standards and accountability provisions for federal law enforcement, as well as measures to strengthen accountability at the state and local level.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/27/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-tyre-nichols/

## Statement from Vice President Harris on Tyre Nichols

Tyre Nichols should have made it home to his family. Yet, once again, America mourns the life of a son and father brutally cut short at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve. The footage and images released tonight will forever be seared in our memories, and they open wounds that will never fully heal.

The persistent issue of police misconduct and use of excessive force in America must end now.

I join President Biden in his call for accountability and transparency. We must build trust—not fear—within our communities.

Congress must act with urgency and pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. To truly honor Tyre Nichols' memory, and the memory of so many others before him, we must demand that our justice system lives up to its name.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/27/statement-from-vice-president-harris-on-tyre-nichols/