

Response to Questionnaire from Dr. Abi Dymondⁱ, Professor Brian Rappert and Professor Stephen Skinner; University of Exeter, UK.

We note that ‘the Special Rapporteur would be interested in receiving information on: existing practices for data gathering, analysis and reporting of deaths in custody, including the use of statistics and the disaggregation of data... figures of deaths in custody documented in recent years... (and) measures in place, including policies and good practices for investigating, documenting and preventing deaths in custody’. We write this short submission to bring the attention of the Special Rapporteur and team to research, activities and publications arising from our Open Society Foundations funded projects, *Toward a Lethal Force Monitor: Enhancing State Accountability for Loss of Life in Law Enforcement* (conducted throughout 2020) and *A Lethal Force Monitor: Next Steps* (commencing in 2022 and currently funded until the end of 2023). These are collaborative projects involving colleagues at the University of Exeter and partners based at the University of Ghent, Belgium, the Police Academy of the Netherlands, the University of Pretoria, South Africa and the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil amongst others.

These projects aim to investigate the availability, types, bases and extent of data about deaths occurring following the use of force by law enforcement officers, as well as the extent to which lessons have been learnt in such contexts. They also aim to combine this analysis with work done by PolicingInfo.net on assessing national laws around the use of (lethal) force (available at <https://www.policinglaw.info/>) and with work done by Professor Ignacio Cano and colleagues on comparative indicators to evaluate the use and abuse of lethal force by State security agencies (available at <https://www.monitorfuerzaletal.com/reports>). Overall, we hope to support the production of detailed, reliable, and publicly accessible information for each individual death and deaths overall in a jurisdiction as a necessary step towards ensuring the accountability of law enforcement agencies and to enable meaningful comparisons between jurisdictions. We also aim to establish a *Global Network for Lethal Force Monitoring* that could serve as a basis for expertise to produce a globally relevant Lethal Force Monitor in the future, and are expanding the number of countries covered throughout 2023. Thus far this work has resulted in the following outputs:

- A website, <https://lethal-force-monitor.org/> due to undergo further development throughout the course of the project;
- A report entitled *Police Lethal Force and Accountability: Monitoring Deaths in Western Europe* (published in 2020 in English and French, and with a summary in Dutch), which assesses the frequency of deaths, and the availability and reliability of information regarding deaths, associated with the application of force by law enforcement agencies in four jurisdictions: Belgium, England & Wales, France and the Netherlands, available at <https://lethal-force-monitor.org/downloads/police-lethal-force-report.pdf>.
- A report entitled *Towards a Lethal Force Monitor* (published in 2021 in English), which extends coverage of the analysis to South Africa and Kenya, supported by a grant from the Oak Foundation and available at <https://lethal-force-monitor.org/downloads/toward-lethal-force-monitor.pdf>.
- An article in *Homicide Review*, *A Global Lethal Force Monitor: Comparative Opportunities and Challenges* (published 2023 in English) and available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/10887679221121146>.

We hope these resources will be of interest and look forward to engagement going forward.

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