

Daniel Gwynn Blog Update  
Date: 12/15/14  
Subject: "Ain't Nothing New"

Ain't nothing new about police brutality in the Hood--cops terrorizing & killing unarmed men/women unjustly. I grew up in the streets of Philadelphia during the 70's thru 90's, and was taught not to trust the police. I use to hear the grown folks talking about how bad "The System" was; and of how the "Man" was keeping us down. Look at the poor quality of education; the hostile drug infested environments; the poor employment prospects & wages; the concentration of police; the high incarceration rates; and the unfair legal system. When America sees a black man, they (The Government) sees a menace to society, not a citizen or human being. Even the U.S. Constitution fails to acknowledge non-whites as human beings entitled to the equal protections of the law.

"The Man" isn't just killing us on the streets, we're also being trapped in a criminal justice system that disenfranchises & incarcerates us at an alarming rate. A criminal record ostracizes--diminishing social & economical opportunities--and hinders our right to vote. Incarceration not only takes away my freedom, but it also destroys families. (I haven't seen my family in over 10 years, and barely receive any mail.) The system has a high number of wrongfully convicted & sentenced they fail to acknowledge.

I can recall numerous not so friendly police encounters where, despite fully cooperating, myself and/or others were harassed, robbed, beaten, falsely arrested, and/or dumped into a hostile neighborhood. In court, they stated that my being illegally stopped by the police was in preservation of the status quo.

Late one evening in 1995, I was stopped by a patrol officer, interrogated, handcuffed, searched then locked in the police car while he checked my ID. He didn't have cause to stop me and admitted as much in court. The officer didn't see me do anything wrong, yet this illegal action was excused because he found I had a bench warrant for failing to appear in court.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Gwynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the text.

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Subject: "Ain't Nothing New" (cont.)

I thank God that I wasn't gunned down like Mike Brown & Tamir Rice, and so many others. Albeit, 20 years of my life has been stolen by this government. Cooperating with the police doesn't guarantee that an innocent man won't get beaten, shot or wrongfully incarcerated. The bad police will lie to cover up their misconduct or close a case, and the system will back them up. People who haven't been oppressed or harassed by the police don't get it and often say that if we'd only comply we'd be fine. This isn't the case in my experience, where cops get us to sell their drugs & guns, or we're targeted by a corrupt system (profiling). Of course, a few make it through like Oprah, Samuel Jackson, Ving Rhames, or Jay-Z. The system lets a few slip through the cracks so to say that there's nothing wrong. Yet they keep those who are left behind under their control. This isn't just a black problem.

There ain't nothing new about what you are hearing today about police brutality. Marvin Gaye (What's Going On) sang about it. NWA (F-The Police); Public Enemy (Fight The Power); Ice T (Colors; Cop Killer); KRS-One (Black Cop); Flava Flav (911 A Joke) all rapped about it. Spike Lee & John Singleton wrote stories about it. And the Media reported it. But no one seemed to care but us. The difference today is that the police brutality has been caught on video and the cops aren't punished--getting away with murder. The world has taken to the streets after seeing first hand the corrupt system at work. Every cop is not bad, but the system allows the bad ones to continue to contaminate the police force. When they face us, they stand together as a giant blue wall. The system is broken, the damage is done, and the trust is lost. We need to heal the relationship between the police & the community. The government can start by conducting fair & transparent investigations of police misconduct, and punish the bad cops. Talk to the communities and get to know us, and stop discriminative profiling. Earn back our trust.

