

African Union condemns killing of George Floyd

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The killing of George Floyd in the city of Minneapolis on May the 25th has reverberated across the world. Mr Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after a police officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes, even after he was pleading for air and then stopped moving. Days of rioting, looting and clashes with police followed as citizens vented their anger over the killing. The protests have escalated across America's major cities. There have also been protests outside U.S. embassies across the world. The killing of Mr Floyd led the African Union Commission to take the unprecedented step of condemning what it called "murder" and the "continuing discriminatory practices against black citizens".

Many U.S. embassies in Africa have taken the unusual step of issuing critical statements. The news publication "Foreign Policy" wrote: "Several U.S. diplomats said it is rare for U.S. embassies abroad to weigh in on domestic U.S. issues. But in this case, the embassies were compelled to respond after seeing how African leaders reacted to Floyd's death with anger and dismay." The U.S. ambassador to Congo wrote: "I am profoundly troubled by the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The Justice Department is conducting a full criminal investigation as a top priority. Security forces around the world should be held accountable. No one is above the law."

Sources:
abcnews.go.com / foreignpolicy.com / the-star.co.ke

Writing

It is true that no one in the world is above the law. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

city / handcuffed / police / pleading / rioting / looting / protests / unprecedented / embassies / Africa / news / publication / domestic / anger / dismay / investigation

True / False

- a) George Floyd was in handcuffs when he died. T / F
- b) The killing of George Floyd resulted in days of looting. T / F
- c) There have been protests outside U.S. embassies in the USA. T / F
- d) The African Union described the killing as "murder". T / F
- e) The article says African embassies in the U.S. have been very critical. T / F
- f) It is rare for U.S. embassies to comment on domestic issues. T / F
- g) The U.S. ambassador to Chad said he was angry and dismayed. T / F
- h) A U.S. ambassador said no one was above the law. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. reverberated | a. releasing |
| 2. pleading | b. prejudicial |
| 3. escalated | c. begging |
| 4. unprecedented | d. responsible |
| 5. discriminatory | e. unheard of |
| 6. issuing | f. carrying out |
| 7. compelled | g. echoed |
| 8. conducting | h. intensely |
| 9. profoundly | i. increased |
| 10. accountable | j. forced |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What news have you seen of this story?
- b) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- c) What should happen to the police officer?
- d) What can the police do to rectify this situation?
- e) What are police officers like in your country?
- f) What would make you protest?
- g) What do you think of the African Union's comments?
- h) What advice do you have for the protestors?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. reverberated across | a. escalated |
| 2. Days of rioting, looting | b. anger and dismay |
| 3. protests have | c. against black citizens |
| 4. take the unprecedented | d. by the tragic death |
| 5. the continuing discriminatory practices | e. a top priority |
| 6. weigh in | f. the world |
| 7. reacted to Floyd's death with | g. the law |
| 8. profoundly troubled | h. step |
| 9. a full criminal investigation as | i. on domestic U.S. issues |
| 10. No one is above | j. and clashes |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should embassies be critical of what happens in their country?
- How do you think the criminal investigation will go?
- How will George Floyd's killing affect society in the USA?
- What do you know about the Black Lives Matter movement??
- What is the best way of honoring George Floyd's death?
- Do you see people being above the law in today's world?
- What questions would you like to ask the protestors?

Spelling

- vrbrreaaetd across the world
- a anchfudfed black man
- he was epdaling for air
- The protests have clasaetd
- outside U.S. sbaesimes
- scidnmiaiotry practices
- issuing icitrcal statements
- Several U.S. polimdtas
- weigh in on smdeotic U.S. issues
- compelled to onpsred
- I am opfrodynlu troubled
- should be held aceotbncual

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. c	3. i	4. e	5. b
6. a	7. j	8. f	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Increased Tax

You think increased tax is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): government corruption, immigration or global warming.

Role B – Government Corruption

You think government corruption is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): increased tax, immigration or global warming.

Role C – Immigration

You think immigration is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): government corruption, increased tax or global warming.

Role D – Global Warming

You think global warming is the biggest reason to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't a good reason to protest. Also, tell the others which is the worst reason of these to protest (and why): government corruption, immigration or increased tax.

Speaking - Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to protest against at the top. Change partners often and share your ideas.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • taxes | • democracy |
| • corruption | • war |
| • equality | • immigration |
| • equal rights | • global warming |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.