



Police Brutality: A Sign of the Hour The Killing of George Floyd Hassan Somali

In Islam, police brutality is a grave offense; it is a crime so serious that it is considered to be a major sin. Police officers do not have the right to brutalize or kill civilians, regardless of the color of their skin, simply because they wear a badge. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) stripped them of this sense of immunity, which is currently an underlying reason for the endemic abuse and violence that is regularly being captured on our streets. The most recent being the murder of George Floyd whose pleas for his life – “I can’t breathe” – were ignored by a group of heartless officers.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“At the end of time there will appear men from this nation with whips like the tails of cattle. They will go out in the morning under the wrath of Allāh, and they return in the evening under the anger of Allāh.”¹

The Prophet (ﷺ) also said:

“Soon, if you live long, you will see a people who have something in their hands like the tails of cattle. They will

¹ Collected by Imām Ahmad in his *Musnad* (5/250) and others. This *Ḥadīth* was graded authentic by Shaykh Albānī in *al-Ṣaḥīḥah* (no. 1893).

go out in the morning under the anger of Allāh and they return in the evening under the wrath² of Allāh.”³

The object which they carry in their hands that resembles the tails of cattle is referring to a whip, which they use to tyrannically beat the people.⁴ If this is true for a whip, then what about a gun?

So, those who abuse their power in this fashion to oppress the vulnerable continuously fall under Allāh’s wrath and anger.

Al-Ḥāfiẓ al-Nawawī (d. 676H/1277) said:

“They are those appointed as the police.”⁵ This is referring to the oppressive police officers.⁶

In one *Ḥadīth*, the Prophet (ﷺ) stated:

“There are two types of people from the dwellers of Hell that I have not yet seen: Men with whips like the tails of cattle with which they strike the people...”⁷

The renowned scholar, Shaykh Muḥammad b. Ṣāliḥ ‘Uthaymīn (d. 1421H/2001) commented on this *Ḥadīth* saying:

“[These are] the oppressive police officers who beat the people without justification. They are from the dwellers of Hell because whoever aids an oppressor shall receive a portion of their sin that he deserves.”⁸

² In one wording of this narration in *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: “They return in the evening under the curse of Allāh.”

³ Muslim (no. 2857).

⁴ Refer to *Mirqāt al-Mafātīḥ Sharḥ Mishkāh al-Maṣābih* (11/94).

⁵ *Sharḥ Muslim* of Nawawī (17/277).

⁶ *Al-Baḥr al-Muḥīṭ al-Thajjāj Fī Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Imām Muslim* (43/780).

⁷ Muslim (no. 2128).

⁸ <http://binothaimen.net/content/11902>