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Ms METRAUX Beatrice  
Mr HILDBRAND Pierre-Antoine

Lausanne, 10 November 2021

*In copy:*

- *State council of Vaud*
- *Municipality of Lausanne*

Concerning: Police violence, murder of Mike Ben Peter, demands
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Ms Métraux, Mr Hildebrand,

On 23 July 2020, our collective and twelve<sup>1</sup> others sent you the following four demands:

1. The immediate suspension of the six policemen involved in the arrest and the death of Mike Ben Peter.
2. The ban of the “prone restraint position” technique and other dangerous or humiliating practices in Lausanne.
3. The establishment of an independent body that allows to file complaints against the police and monitors police practices in Lausanne.
4. The systematic distribution of receipts for each police check carried out by the police of Lausanne.

Ms Métraux, on 12 March 2021, eight months later, we received your response apologizing for the delay on the pretext of having wanted to consult various bodies to “*discuss*” our demands.

Mr Hildebrand, on 18 June 2021, eleven months later, we received your response claiming that most of the issues raised are under the responsibility of the Conseil d'État. In addition, you state that the suspension of the agents responsible for the death of Mike Ben Peter is subject to a court decision.

Three years after the murder of Mike Ben Peter by the Lausanne police forces, these conservative abjections reflect your persistent opinions as well as those of the only bodies with which you have

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<sup>1</sup> Collectif Jean Dutoit, Outrage Collectif, Allianz against Racial Profiling, Collectif A qui le tour?, Collectif Afro-Swiss, Collectif Droit de rester, Le Sleep-in, Collectif St. Martin, Grève du Climat-Vaud, Grève Féministe-Vaud, Solidarités-Vaud, Fourmi Rouge – POP Renens.

spoken to, namely the various police forces and certain state services.

On a contrary: neither the victims themselves and their relatives, nor the various associations and groups active on this topic were consulted. It is clear that the voices of many popular and international uprisings against racism and police violence following the assassination of George Perry Floyd Jr. in 2020 represent only an insignificant whisper to the cynics who are in power.

Madam la Conseillère d'État, how can you make us believe that the institution in charge of the police is able to consider our demands and moreover, agrees to be controlled? The position that you continue to defend, in Mike Ben Peter's case and in many other cases involving your department, seems to be increasingly clear: **the police directs you and not the other way around.**

The absolute protection that you are offering the police only reinforces its deadly power and that of the justice protecting it, guardians of the neocolonial order and of Swiss security – this is what we will remember from your supposedly left-wing mandate.

Mr Le Conseiller Municipal, you remained in complete silence for almost a year, only to grant us with a response on 18 June 2021 – pushed by our wake-up call with the rest of the Lausanne's municipality in copy. You again prove your political complicity with regard to these murders. By hiding behind declarations of principle, you are once again demonstrating your racist and security-oriented policy.

We are responding point by point and jointly to your two letters, these being perfectly similar in substance, despite your different political affiliations and parties.

**Demand 1: The immediate suspension of the six policemen involved in the arrest and the death of Mike Ben Peter.**

Regarding the suspension of the agents, Mr Hildbrand, you are saying that an *"administrative procedure has been opened against them"* but that *"currently, it is on hold"* until the legal proceedings will be concluded.

We remind you that the suspension of the Lausanne police officers is governed by the Police Regulations of the City of Lausanne, which stipulate in Article 37, that *"in case of emergency, the commander of the police force may pronounce the preventive suspension of a police officer. This decision must be brought as soon as possible to the attention of the ethics committee and has to be ratified by the Municipality"*. In no case is it mentioned that this decision should be coupled with a court ruling. On the contrary, the notion of urgency is precisely aimed at preventing or putting an immediate end to the dangerous actions of one or more police officers. In the case of Mike Ben Peter, six police officers caused the death of a non-opposing person. This is a more than sufficient basis to demand their suspension. Furthermore, we believe that the total lack of reaction to the police statement following Mike's death is intolerable. Knowingly, the institution you are in charge of, deliberately suggested that an overdose was the cause of death in a blatant attempt to protect its agents.

Mr Hildbrand, your refusal to order such a measure testifies the priority, which you systematically give to the word and the reputation of the police officers, and this at the expense of the population's safety and especially its most vulnerable people.

Ms Métraux, you argue that you cannot *"take a stand on a decision which falls within the exclusive competence of the municipal authority"*. However, we remind you that according to Article 140 of the Constitution of the Canton of Vaud, *"the municipalities are subject to state surveillance, to ensure that their activities comply with the law."* Should local authorities fail to act upon serious matters concerning the public order of Vaud, you are entitled to intervene as part of your department's responsibility for the local authorities.

You say that you are *"powerless"* in the face of the problems we are denouncing. However, the Police Act of 2012 clearly states that cantonal and communal police are no longer completely autonomous entities from each other. The police, as well as their practices, are now coordinated through the Cantonal Security Council, of which you are the president and Mr Hildbrand one of the members. You therefore have all the institutional tools necessary to respond to the issues raised.

It is clear that in many other political issues, the cantonal authorities do not hesitate to intervene with the municipalities. When we observe how effectively the cantonal and municipal authorities are able to collaborate in suppressing marginalized populations<sup>2</sup> or political movements, we do not believe in your inability to question the Lausanne police forces. We remain convinced of your lack of political will.

Once again, we ask you to intervene with Mr Hildbrand in requesting the effective suspension of the six officers involved in the murder of Mike Ben Peter.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/organisation/dse/CCS/com-120625-ccs.pdf](https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/organisation/dse/CCS/com-120625-ccs.pdf)



**Demand 2: The ban of the “prone restraint position” technique and other dangerous or humiliating practices in Lausanne.**

In your respective letters, you say that you are incompetent to prohibit this practice. You defend this technique under the pretext that *"it is in force elsewhere in the country and in the world"*.

Given the scientific knowledge demonstrating the dangerousness of this technique, it is your responsibility to take immediate action.

In 2011, the scientific experts of the Swiss Medical Review demonstrated that:

*"Many cases of sudden and unexpected death resulting from physical restraint have been observed during police detentions (...)*

*A study has shown a significant increase in cases of sudden death in police custody from the 1980s until the early 2000s (...)*

*When confusion, fear and excitement increase, the patient may become more agitated, lose control of themselves, become aggressive and potentially dangerous to themselves or to others. ED (Excited Delirium Syndrome) is a psychiatric and medical emergency characterized by extreme agitation with hostility that can progress to death. (...)*

*Positional asphyxia (PA) is a forensic entity that must be known and recognized in the situation."*<sup>3</sup>

The prone restrain position has repeatedly led to the deaths of people arrested by the police: Amadou Koumé (France), Cédric Chouviat (France), Lamine Dieng (France), Abdelhakim Ajimi (France), Samson Chukwu (Switzerland), Adama Traoré (France), Mohamed Saoud (France), Mohamed Boukrourou (France), Mike Ben Peter (Switzerland), Georges Floyd (United States)...

How many more people will have to be killed before your authorities finally deign to react?

In the Swiss media<sup>4</sup>, the population learned in 2020 that some commanders and operational leaders proscribe the technique, considered too risky. However, many officers are systematically encouraged to use physical violence and coercion to prove their belonging and dedication to the police force. Police interventions in the face of non-white and/or people in precarious conditions become punitive expeditions motivated by racist zeal and the taste for domination.

The technique has been denounced on multiple occasions by numerous international organizations and associations, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in particular urges countries to prohibit this practice because many experts identified it as a likely cause for death by asphyxia.

In 2013 and in response to police violence, the European Court of Human Rights condemned Switzerland for non-compliance with Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) prohibiting torture and any other form of inhuman or degrading treatment.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Revue Médicale Suisse, SCHRAG B., DE FROIDMONT S., DEL MAR LESTA M., Asphyxie positionnelle : une cause de décès insuffisamment connue, 7, 1511-4, 2011

<sup>4</sup> Le Temps, Le plaquage ventral aussi dénoncé en Suisse, REVELLO S. 15.06.2020

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.humanrights.ch/fr/pfi/jurisprudence-recommandations/credh/cas-expliques/violence-policiere-a-geneve-credh-condamne-suisse>

Although considered "necessary" by your authority, the use of the prone restraint position is prohibited, in particular in Los Angeles, New York and in Norway. These examples show that this dangerous and unnecessary police practice can be easily banned.

As you know, the Federal Law on the Use of Coercion clearly states that:

*"The use of coercion and police measures must be proportionate to the circumstances; in particular, the age, sex and state of health of the persons concerned must be taken into account. It must not cause disproportionate harm or inconvenience to the intended purpose. Cruel, degrading or humiliating treatment is prohibited. (...) Techniques for the use of physical force likely to cause significant damage to the health of the persons concerned are prohibited, in particular techniques which could obstruct the respiratory tract."*<sup>6</sup>

For Mike Ben Peter and many others, due to their background, social status and race, none of these prerogatives were respected.

Mr Hildbrand, concerning this method, you barely acknowledge that these practices *"fall under the responsibility of the authorities in charge of the police doctrine"*.

Ms Métraux, for your part, you are taking refuge behind the decisions of the Latin Conference of Heads of Justice and Police Departments (CLDJP) and the Cantonal Security Council (CCS).

Regarding the meetings<sup>7</sup> of the Cantonal Security Council (CCS), you mention that the members considered *"the ventral tackle as necessary in certain cases"*. However, you fail to specify on what bases and arguments this judgment is based. To this end, please send us all the minutes of these sessions electronically. Making these reports available to the population is a matter of public utility. In your words, this technique *"would limit potentially serious injuries. Once the handcuffs are in place, the person must be relieved without delay."* Such assurance in your speech seems totally inappropriate to us, knowing that these practices continue to claim victims.

By refusing to seriously consider this issue, you are also denying the expertise of those working in the field within your own department, who have testified on numerous occasions in the media and within the institution. In view of the many videos and testimonials that have reached us concerning the use of this practice in Lausanne and in the Canton of Vaud, it clearly appears that the precise conditions in which such techniques are applied are not known and that their use is based all too often on unfounded reasons.

Madam la Conseillère d'État, in your letter, you specify that during police training, aspirants are *"made aware of the risks of death"*. *"Awareness"* is insufficient. A law enforcement intervention should in no way constitute a risk of death.

Who will finally have the political courage to ban a police practice widely demonstrated as lethal?

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<sup>6</sup> RO 2008 5463 Loi sur l'usage de la contrainte et de mesures policières dans les domaines relevant de la compétence de la Confédération. Alinéas 2,3,4 de l'Article 9 ainsi que l'Article 13 de la Loi fédérale sur l'usage de la contrainte, LUSC (RO 2008 5463)

<sup>7</sup> 9 July 2020 and 17 September 2020



**Demand 3: The establishment of an independent body that allows to file complaints against the police and monitors police practices in Lausanne.**

Ms Métraux, concerning the question of the creation of an independent commission in charge of investigating alleged cases of police violence and receiving complaints from victims, your answer indicates a worrying lack of knowledge of human rights.

It has been 28 years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the "*Paris Principles*". These recognize that state bodies, both administrative and judicial, do not possess sufficient independence to deal effectively with human rights violations committed by state agents, primarily the police.

In fact, no agent involved in the murders of black people in recent years has suffered disciplinary sanctions or criminal convictions in the Canton of Vaud. This is particularly shocking, considering the multiplication of cases, including those leading to the deaths of Mike Ben Peter, Hervé Mandundu, Lamin Fatty and more recently Roger (Nzoy). This complete impunity demonstrates the presence of an *esprit de corps* within the police and complicity between the justice system and the police, which together prevail over the victims' right to justice.

The spectrum of racist acts committed by the police is wide and is characterized, together with physical violence and murder, by verbal humiliation and administrative hindrances against vulnerable non-white people. The case of passports tagged and rendered unusable by the police in 2018<sup>8</sup>, which led to the conviction of the police officer concerned and his dismissal, is only one example. The judicial ruling on the police officer's acts however, which remains an exception, proves once again that a single person cannot file a complaint against the police: to be helped, the complainant had to approach an association in Vaud defending the rights of homeless people.

We also refer you to the chapter "*Seven obstacles to justice, seven reasons for impunity*"<sup>9</sup> by the Collectif Jean Dutoit (2017).

As a reminder, the Paris Principles recommend the creation of a "National Human Rights Institution" in each country: independent from the government but endowed with a mandate and the means to guarantee its operationality. To date, 123 countries have such an organization, but not Switzerland. This lack of political will earned Switzerland recurring criticism from the Commission on Human Rights and from the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2001, 2009 and 2013.

Here are some quotes from UN reports:

*"The Committee is concerned about reports of police brutality against persons under arrest or detention, in particular asylum seekers and migrants. It remains concerned that most cantons do not have an independent mechanism to investigate complaints against the police. On this matter, the Committee reaffirms that the possibility of filing a complaint*

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.20min.ch/fr/story/policier-raciste-juge-coupable-d-abus-d-autorite-832922901349>

<sup>9</sup> Report of Collectif Jean Dutoit, "Rapport pour les droits et la mobilité des personnes migrantes noires africaines en Suisse et en Europe", November 2017.

*in court should not prevent the creation of such mechanisms in parallel."*<sup>10</sup>

*"(Switzerland should) establish in all its cantons an independent mechanism with the mandate to investigate complaints of excessive use of force, cruel treatment or any other abuse perpetrated by the police forces."*<sup>11</sup>

The Federal Council finally drafted a bill in 2019 to establish a National Human Rights Institution at the national level with the particular mandate *"to observe and document the human rights situation in Switzerland."*<sup>12</sup> The project was accepted by Parliament in September 2021.

However, so as not to encroach on cantonal prerogatives, the Council of States' foreign policy commission specified that this institution would not have a supervisory mandate, and that this task remains in the cantonal responsibility.

*"For the CPE-E, it is important not to extend the power of this institution, in particular to preserve those of the cantons. In the view of the committee, cantonal powers will not be affected, as the new NHRI should not assume any oversight function."*<sup>13</sup>

As demonstrated by the various comparative analyses<sup>14</sup> of national human rights institutions set up in various European countries, it is crucial that this type of structure be fully independent from the state to be able to build a relationship of trust with the victims. Examples such as Poland, Georgia or Slovakia illustrate the risk that these committees will become paper tigers, for lack of a clear mandate and sufficient resources. Another state or parastatal structure under direct political control does not represent a credible solution. We recommend that such an institution be entirely composed of members from civil society (association, NGO, foundation, etc.) and made up of people known for their commitment and their credibility.

It is therefore up to the cantons and municipalities of large cities to develop their own commission outside state structures. They should have a clear mandate to investigate cases of police violence, offer assistance to victims and carry out an analysis of the phenomenon for the public and the authorities. As a reminder, various postulates in favour of the creation of such a commission at the Vaud and Lausanne level have been systematically swept aside, for lack of a majority in the legislature, but also of support from the executive.

Due to the seriousness of the acts alleged against the police in the Canton of Vaud (homicides, racketeering, racial profiling, discrimination, etc.), your allusion to the Vaud Police Ethics Commission as a real solution to "citizen discontent" testifies a deep disconnection with reality. You thus express a clear contempt for those killed and for the dramatic medical, psychological and social consequences for the victims and their loved ones.

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<sup>10</sup> Comité des droits de l'homme Quatre-vingt-dix-septième session Genève, 2009

<sup>11</sup> Rapport d'Examen périodique Universelle de la Suisse du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme de l'ONU de 2013

<sup>12</sup> Message of the Conseil Fédéral, 13 December 2019

<sup>13</sup> Press release of the CPE-E, 16 April 2021

<sup>14</sup> See primarily: <http://ennhri.org/rule-of-law-report-2021/overview-of-trends-and-challenges/>



**Demand 4: The systematic distribution of receipts for each police check carried out by the police of Lausanne.**

Ms Métraux, you asked the cantonal police to learn more about and to analyse a pilot project ran by the Zurich police aimed at reducing racial profiling; however, this Zurich "pilot project" was limited to merely reinforcing the directives given to the police and setting up a system for recording controls, without people receiving any trace of the controls<sup>15</sup>; and this despite the recommendations made by the Swiss Centre for Human Rights in its report<sup>16</sup>.

In addition, the analysis of this Zurich trial was carried out by the Vaud police authorities, whereas it should have been carried out by independent structures able to provide objective expertise. Organizations have worked at length on measures to prevent racial and ethnic profiling during police checks (Alliance Against Racial Profiling and Humanrights.ch, to name a few).

The arguments in favour of the introduction of the receipt during each control are as follows:

- Prevention of facial control;
- Provision of official support in the event of a dispute, especially with respect to a legal recourse;
- Allowing the inspected person to have the professional identification of the agent without having to ask him/her;
- Allowing the population to control the actions of the police;
- Taking control out of trivialization by formalizing it and holding responsible the policeman responsible for the control.

The obvious conditions for considering such a system are the anonymity of the person controlled in the processing of the data as well as the ability to lodge a complaint later against a police officer, without having to ask for the latter's identification. You inform us that for the moment this practice is not envisaged in the Canton of Vaud. We are shocked to see that the subject of the distribution of a receipt, which has been the subject of claims and postulates in Switzerland and abroad for many years by various bodies, is dismissed on such weak bases.

We cannot take the use of bodycams as an answer. Bodycams (or pedestrian cameras) were only designed to protect police officers, and not to prevent violence committed by them. This system presents, moreover, an important drift towards a logic of mass surveillance.

The evaluation report carried out by the gendarmerie, the Lausanne police and the University of Lausanne<sup>17</sup> is explicit: *"The choice of manual activation based on the assessment of the situation confirms the bodycam as a tool at the service of the police officer, in favour of his/her safety, his protection and the accomplishment of the job."*

While the recording is triggered manually and freely by the police officer, how could the pedestrian cameras have any influence on the facial checks? In France<sup>18</sup>, bodycams generally help

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<sup>15</sup> <https://lecourrier.ch/2017/11/21/la-police-veut-eviter-le-delit-de-facies-2/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.skmr.ch/cms/upload/pdf/2020/200220\\_Resume\\_de\\_letude\\_newformat.pdf](https://www.skmr.ch/cms/upload/pdf/2020/200220_Resume_de_letude_newformat.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/organisation/dse/polcant/fichiers\\_pdf/2020/Polcant/Rapport\\_d\\_%C3%A9valuation\\_bodycams\\_.pdf](https://www.vd.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/organisation/dse/polcant/fichiers_pdf/2020/Polcant/Rapport_d_%C3%A9valuation_bodycams_.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/france/280217/en-france-des-cameras-pietons-au-service-des-policiers-plus-que-des-citoyens?page\\_article=3](https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/france/280217/en-france-des-cameras-pietons-au-service-des-policiers-plus-que-des-citoyens?page_article=3)



police officers to support their complaints of contempt of officer and to facilitate the identification of people, a use presumed in Switzerland as well.<sup>19</sup>

On the other hand, it is utopian to believe that the civilians whose images have been captured will have access to it without facing dissuasive mechanisms, in the same way as for any accusation against the police. In the meantime, the only reliable audio-visual tool remains the possibility for civilians to film police interventions with their smartphones, a practice that the police themselves continue to hamper.

Armed with your privileges linked to your social status and your race, you obviously choose to ignore the daily realities of a precarious and/or non-white person in Switzerland. You despise the reality of systematic identity checks, at all hours of the day or night and in the most diverse places. Many testimonies collected by our collective and by other organizations<sup>20</sup> describe these checks on the way to the commissions, during the Sunday walk, in the evening with friends, or during jogging: each time a control, intrusive questions, insinuations, racist remarks. This perpetual harassment normalized by racist policies has resulted in many people avoiding entire areas of Lausanne, unless accompanied by a white person.

As recounted by numerous testimonies<sup>21</sup> of black men arrested, harassed and brutalized, the Lausanne police continue to kill, torture and lock up with the complicity of the political and judicial authorities. Black men are systematically assimilated into street dealing, an activity targeted by racist and populist Swiss politicians, under the pretext of fighting the drug market. Neither large-scale drug trafficking nor the white buyer-consumer seem to be pointed out by this security and repressive masquerade implemented in recent years by the municipality in the streets of Lausanne, and which continues to use black people and migrant as scapegoats.

Racist police violence is an expression of migration policies responsible in particular for thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean, but also for the exploitation of the countries of the South by the North. With an asylum policy which treats non-white people like criminals for their sole presence in Switzerland and which deprives them of access to the labour market, selling drugs or other precarious occupations deemed illegal represent the few economic opportunities available. The repression vis-à-vis this problem does nothing other than stigmatize people who are already a minority, provokes their social exclusion and legitimizes racist behaviour and discourse in Switzerland. Various police testimonies indicate the impossibility of denouncing the harmful actions of their colleagues.<sup>22</sup> The police force does not allow police officers to denounce their peers because of internal pressure<sup>23</sup>, fear of reprisals, or even that it hinders their careers.

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<sup>19</sup> Il est clairement soulevé dans le rapport d'évaluation vaudois que « *la possibilité pour les policier-ère-s d'accéder aux vidéos filmées par bodycam constitue un développement possible et logique du recours à des outils de captation audiovisuelle* » pour notamment « *compléter le rapport circonstancié de l'événement* ».

<sup>20</sup> Collectif Jean Dutoit, Collectif À qui le tour, Allianz Gegen Racial Profiling, Collectif Afro-Swiss, Outrage Collectif, Collectif lutte des MNA, and others.

<sup>21</sup> Voix de la Rue, « Témoignages de victimes du nouveau concept sécuritaire contre les personnes noires à Lausanne », June 2019.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.rts.ch/info/suisse/11379580-un-expolicier-temoigne-du-delit-de-facies-au-quotidien-aussi-en-suisse.html>, time 00:09:41; In France: <https://www.nouvelobs.com/justice/20210720.OBS46732/27-coups-de-taser-trois-policiers-mis-en-examen-pour-violences-sur-un-jeune-de-19-ans.html> : « J'aurais dû intervenir mais vous devez comprendre, c'est compliqué de dire stop pour la suite de ma carrière, et surtout pour mes relations avec mes collègues de brigade. » ; Devenirs policiers ; Une socialisation professionnelle en contrastes, David Pichonnaz (2017)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.letemps.ch/suisse/plaquage-ventral-denonce-suisse> :

Therefore, the practice of facies offense remains in force. As the authorities continue to be deaf to the victims' testimonies, a receipt system distributed during each police check could help to demonstrate this situation.

Ms Métraux, you describe our demands as "*administrative artifices*" and invoke police training as "*the best way to fight against discrimination*".

The willingness to invest in training reinforces the myth that police violence stems from a lack of training - when it is inherent in law enforcement. According to the press,

*"The police officers arrested in the death of George Floyd had received training on implicit (racial) biases, on de-escalation techniques, on mindful meditation (...). They wore go-pro and they were required to intervene in case of improper use of force (of their colleagues). All of this made no difference."*<sup>24</sup>

Pedestrian cameras and police training only extend the power of the police, increasing the tools, resources and technologies they already possess overwhelmingly compared to other sectors. For us, investing these resources in vital areas such as health, social work, education and housing is a priority. This would make it possible, while reducing the criminality resulting from precariousness, to give resources to necessary professions, which are nevertheless constantly undermined by neoliberal policies. The latter are better able to respond to certain problems (drug addiction, emotional and psychological disorders, domestic violence, conflicts requiring a de-escalation of violence), placed in the hands of the police, who are incompetent in the face of these situations.

It should be noted here that police training is one of the few lessons for which the pupils receive a substantial salary (in 1<sup>st</sup> year: approx. 4'000.- CHF gross/month + 13<sup>th</sup> salary<sup>25</sup>). It should be noted in passing that in view of this investment, it has been observed that everything is done to ensure that the apprentice passes his exams.<sup>26</sup>

Certain trainings given to the police officers thus generate little by little a deployment of their field of action, inciting the population to think that the police force is the solution to each encountered difficulty - the maintenance of order, violence and surveillance interfering then to more and more diverse spheres.

If police training represents the only solution for you, it seems important to us to recall the fundamental workings of a course in which you maintain that inserting a few periods on racism and migration would be a "*better way to fight against discrimination*". The Savatan Academy remains under the full control of the French-speaking police forces. The learning content is

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« la pression du groupe pousse, selon lui, à l'intervention, même lorsque ce n'est pas nécessaire. « Le policier a pourtant le droit de renoncer à une action s'il juge qu'il y a un risque de discrimination ou d'atteinte à l'intégrité physique, rappelle Frédéric Maillard. Or, ce pas de côté est rarement utilisé car peu valorisé par les hiérarchies. (...) Tous ces facteurs peuvent, à ses yeux, pousser certains policiers à s'obstiner dans une interpellation quitte à la voir dégénérer. »

<sup>24</sup> <https://novaramedia.com/2020/06/08/defund-disband-and-start-again-what-exactly-is-minneapolis-planning-to-do-with-its-police-force/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.policier.ch/menu/les-metiers>

<sup>26</sup> Devenirs policiers ; Une socialisation professionnelle en contrastes, David Pichonnaz (2017)



developed by the police as the latter drives the school. Finally, behind an allegedly progressive interest in police training, you unreservedly protect Colonel Alain Bergonzoli, who is leading the training in Savatan according to military principles, as several inquiries published in the media have revealed<sup>27</sup>. Mr Bergonzoli perpetuates the blind obedience and esprit de corps characteristic of police institutions, advocating a purely security and repressive response to the problems posed in the daily practice of officers. It is moreover through this operation and this teaching that the aspiring police officer comes to the conclusion that he will be covered by his colleagues and his superiors in the event of a problem, and that he will have to do the same if he finds "abuses" within the police force.

Improvements in police training therefore do not address the issues raised by our demands.

Madam la Conseillère d'État, you have been in charge of Security for seven years and four black men have since been killed in the canton. The latest victim fell under police bullets in Morges on 30 August 2021. Together with Mr Hildbrand, you continue to support this deadly institution without question.

The impunity granted to the police as well as the inconsistent response you sent to our collective illustrate this once again. Does your continued leadership of the Security Department still make sense when you turn your back on absolutely any demand from civil society?

The police are a repressive tool of the state that conducts institutionalized racist policies against migrants and / or non-white people. We believe that only a radical transformation of society will put an end to the neo-colonial violence perpetuated within and outside the ramparts of the Western world. In such a context, it is difficult for us to believe that institutional reforms are sufficient to put an end to state racism. Although we maintain a systemic view of police violence and the criminal justice system, we have addressed concrete demands to you in the hope that acts of such gravity will not go unpunished and that the bare minimum of justice will be served.

Consequently, your political cowardice with regard to our demands and the measures you propose shock us. They are an insult to the victims of police violence and a refusal to admit the suffering that the state causes against the most vulnerable populations. So you are showing us once again that one cannot expect justice from this system.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.rts.ch/info/regions/val-de-romandie/9508111-lesprit-trop-militaire-regnant-a-lacademie-de-police-de-savatan-irrite.html>