



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

July 12, 2024

K.P. Ashwini

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance  
Geneva, Switzerland

Barbara Reynolds

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent  
Geneva, Switzerland

Tlaleng Mofokeng

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health  
Geneva, Switzerland

Claudia Mahler

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons  
Geneva, Switzerland

Alice Jill Edwards

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Special Procedures Mandate Holders,

Please find enclosed the U.S. response to communication AL USA 7/2024 dated May 20, 2024. It is always a pleasure to work with you and we thank you for your dedication to human rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michèle Taylor', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ambassador Michèle Taylor  
Permanent Representative to the  
UN Human Rights Council

## U.S. response to communication AL USA 7/2024

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2024, regarding the alleged use of torture by Chicago law enforcement.

In January 2017, the Department of Justice (“Department”) released the findings of an investigation of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and the city’s Independent Police Review Authority.

In its investigation, the Department found reasonable cause to believe that the CPD engaged in a pattern or practice of using force, including deadly force, in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. The Department found that CPD officers’ practices unnecessarily endangered themselves and resulted in unnecessary and avoidable uses of force. The pattern or practice resulted from systemic deficiencies in training and accountability, including the failure to train officers in de-escalation and the failure to conduct meaningful investigations of uses of force.

The Department found that CPD’s pattern or practice of unconstitutional force was largely attributable to deficiencies in its accountability systems and in how it investigates uses of force, responds to allegations of misconduct, trains and supervises officers, and collects and reports data on officer use of force. The Department also found that the lack of effective community-oriented policing strategies and insufficient support for officer wellness and safety contributed to the pattern or practice of unconstitutional force.

In addition, the Department identified serious concerns about the prevalence of racially discriminatory conduct by some CPD officers and the degree to which that conduct was tolerated and, in some respects, caused by deficiencies in CPD’s systems of training, supervision and accountability. The Department’s findings further noted that the impact of CPD’s pattern or practice of unreasonable force falls heaviest on predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods, such that restoring police-community trust will require remedies addressing both discriminatory conduct and the disproportionality of illegal and unconstitutional patterns of force on minority communities.

After the investigative findings were released, the City of Chicago and Department of Justice entered into an [agreement in principle](#) in which they agreed that compliance with an eventual court-enforceable settlement agreement to remedy the identified legal violations would be reviewed by an independent monitor.