



Impact Statement of Kadiadou Diallo
Mother of Amadou Diallo
Oversight Hearing on Policing Practices
U.S. House Judiciary Committee
Thursday, September 19, 2019

My son Amadou Diallo was just 23 when his life was cut short by a hail of NYPD bullets, February 4, 1999 — shot 19 times. I remember that day as if it was yesterday.

The last time I heard his voice was January 31, 1999 calling me with good news, “mom I finally saved enough money for my dream”, I was so proud, so proud. I never imagined that a couple of days later, my son would be gone. When I heard this news I thought my life was ending, I didn't think I would recover. The trauma and pain I felt was complete agony, however I knew I had a responsibility to Amadou, and that was crossing the ocean from Guinea, Africa to speak for Amadou; to let America and the world know my son. This added intense trauma to the tragedy of the death of my son. I had to begin a new life. Losing a child in this circumstance and to move from my country and start a new life in a new land.

My first-born, Amadou's, life was cut short by police officers. According to the news plain-clothes officers fired 41 shots at my son outside of his Bronx apartment building because officers, who were part of a street crimes unit, mistook him for an armed rape suspect.

This should not happen.

Police and others in authority need to come up with a type of diversity or cultural training program. Even though we know police departments may not be under any obligation to train police officers on how to deal with racial or cultural minorities, I feel it is something that should be considered.

My son, Amadou, was one of the first police-involved shootings in NYC that sparked national outrage and conversations about race and police-relations. When Amadou was killed, it raised the consciousness of humanity to the cause I stand for today. More work must be done. When I see

police-involved shootings still happening across the country, I relive my tragedy and despair over the shooting of Amadou.

Today, I have transitioned from grieving to surviving, rebuilding my life, and honoring my son. It's important that we recognize the need to keep guns out of neighborhoods. So many kids and people lives have been taken. This is why I feel strongly about the need to improve police and community relations. I will continue to advocate for police reform and I thank Rev. Al Sharpton for his long time support of our cause.

Kadiadou Diallo