

For the same period, however, Mr. Balogun's successor, Sunday Ehindero, reported much different statistics in a letter to the UN Special Rapporteur in July 2006. In this letter, Mr. Ehindero claimed that in the five years from 2000 to 2004, the Nigeria Police Force killed 2,402 and arrested another 20,314 "armed robbers,"¹⁸⁵ representing an inexplicable difference of 4,796 killings between Mr. Balogun's figures and Mr. Ehindero's. Mr. Ehindero's figures represent a kill-to-arrest ratio of 1:8.46 persons. In 2006, the police officially reported that it killed 329 robbery suspects, 100 of whom were killed in Lagos alone. This compares with the official 252 robbery suspects killed in 2005.¹⁸⁶

In November 2007, Human Rights Watch estimated that the number of persons killed by the NPF in the eight years since 2000 to be in excess of 10,000.¹⁸⁷ Evidence gathered in the preparation of this report suggests that this estimate may even undercount actual killings. In 2004 alone, the Legal Defence and Aid Project (LEDAP) documented 2,987 cases of extrajudicial executions by law enforcement agencies.¹⁸⁸ This is roughly consistent with the most recent official police claims and figures on the official rate of police encounter killings. In November 2007, Acting Inspector-General Mike Okiro reported that the police had killed 785 and arrested 1,628 "armed robbers" in his first one hundred days in the office of Inspector-General.¹⁸⁹ This translates into a daily killing rate of 7.85 persons, a kill-to-arrest ratio of 1:2.07, or, in comparison to statistics announced by former Inspector-General Ehindero, an increase of over 400 percent on the official Police statistics of encounter-related Police killings for the years 2000–2004.

The admitted statistics for Police killings in the three months preceding November 2007 exceed the annual figures for any of the seven years from 2000 to 2006 admitted by former Inspector-General Ehindero and are more than the combined total of admitted killings from 2001 to 2002 as well as from 2005 to 2006. These figures suggest either that the Police under-counted the number of killings in other years or that there is now an alarming escalation in Police killings. Whatever the explanation, extrajudicial executions appear to have become an acceptable tool of policing.

The daily execution rate of 7.85 persons admitted by Acting Inspector-General of Police Mike Okiro in November 2007 would produce an acknowledged annual killing rate of 2,865.25 killings from Police encounters alone.¹⁹⁰ By comparison, the 3,100 killings admitted by former Inspector-General, Tafa Balogun, in 2003, amounts a daily Police killing rate of 8.49 persons. It may be difficult to extrapolate on the basis of these figures. They do, however, indicate that Police killings are pervasive. As a cause of large scale deaths, especially among productive sectors of Nigeria's population, it is safe to suggest that Police killings constitute are more than merely law enforcement incident. Even more than this, Police killings are now also sources of major public health and economic problems.

Reports have shown that many detainees die outside of police custody from injuries sustained during Police torture. For instance, ex-detainee, Ifezina, died in late 2005, several days after being released from the Garki Police Station in Abuja, where he endured prolonged torture that included the repeated insertion of unsterilised needles into his urinary tract.¹⁹¹ NOPRIN researchers documented a similar story in Kano. Umar Hussaini, a commercial motorbike operator, was arrested and detained on or about March 21, 2007, by men of the Dala Police Division after the motorbike that he bought on hire-purchase (rent-to-own) went missing. When the family returned to the station with food for Hussaini the following day, the police informed them that he had vomited after drinking and that they had taken him to Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Kano. When the family located Umar in the emergency section of the hospital, the major bones in his upper limbs were all broken, he was in severe pain, drifting in and out of consciousness, and unable to speak. Umar died early on March 23 from his injuries. Other ex-detainees leave police detention with injuries that ensure that they are maimed for life or condemned to a life of physical destitution and ill-health. There is no way to estimate the numbers of these people.

5.4 No Resting Place: A Cover-Up Culture
Police personnel have developed elaborate protocols to cover up summary executions and other detainee deaths while in custody. Staff of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital informed NOPRIN researchers that "the Police no longer bring bodies that they kill here.