

The Latest News

Watching The Detectives With The ACLU



CRIME FEATURED NEWS

By Alexander Baron

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The big “shooting story” from the US is still the Charleston church massacre, and it is likely to remain so for some time. There is though a much more sinister story, that of the police shooting and killing innocent members of the public.

The big difference is that while mass shootings are illegal in both theory and practice, police malfeasance, brutality and even murder is a different matter, because although in theory the police are subject to the rule of law, in practice they are often able to shoot and kill people with impunity.

On Friday, the BBC *Victoria Derbyshire* programme highlighted this, and some staggering statistics. While only 9 people were shot dead in the Charleston massacre, at least two people had been shot dead by American police every day this year up until the time of the report. Granted this is a country with a population of 320 million souls, but 385 shootings, only 3 of which have resulted in charges against the police, sounds alarming, and is. Even allowing for America’s insane gun culture, these figures are staggering. As BBC correspondent Tom Bateman pointed out, on average more people are shot and killed by the American police in one week than have been shot and killed by the police in England and Wales in the past five years.



David Kassick (Family photo)

Curiously, or maybe not so curiously, all 3 of these charged cases involve video footage; the first was that of **David Kassick**, a white man – who says the police are *racist*? He was executed while lying face down on the ground for the heinous crime of driving with an expired inspection sticker, and predictably he has been blamed for his own death.

The most notorious of the police shootings this year is that of Walter Scott; as this case is *sub judicæ* it would be improper to comment on it at length, but **the video** speaks for itself.

Now the ACLU is doing something about this with a new app. Actually, this is not so new, the first dedicated app of this nature was **released in 2012**, specifically for New Yorkers; this April, one was released for California residents, and now they are being rolled out all across the nation.

Predictably the police themselves are not entirely happy with this, but here's the rub boys and girls, we are now living in an almost **total surveillance state**. We've had to adapt to this, and now so will you.

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