

My name is Yusuf Mohideen from the University of Hong Kong. I'd like to talk about the problem of racial profiling by the police towards the ethnic minority community in Hong Kong through 'stop and search' practises. This is a phenomenon of racial harassment commonly experienced by people of south asian and african heritage. Last year of summer 2019, I had been approached by a group of police in Sheung wan while I was on my way to my part-time work. The police had rudely asked me my name, searched my body and then asked for my ID. This was an extremely humiliating experience. I noticed that this random check was specifically on me, as the others within the environment were either chinese or caucasian. We know that the police have the authority to stop and search us under the police force ordinance, public order ordinance and immigration ordinance. However it's mentioned in the police force website that Without prejudicing operational efficiency, a police officer will inform a person of the intended scope of the search, prior to conducting it. None of these actions were taken. During these checks, I was treated like a suspected criminal, the tone was harsh and subtly implicates racial prejudices and stereotypes that darker-skinned people are criminals.

Due to the lack of quantitative data like figures of arrests on the types of people that the police have done 'stop and search' practises on, we do not know how prevalent this issue is apart from word of mouth. Thus this racial profiling perpetrates toxic stereotypes on the ethnic minority community of hong kong. The RDO does not cover government powers and functions hence directly accounting for or justifying their act of racial profiling and this begs the question, is anyone protected? Is this a type of racial microaggression? What can the administrative guidelines do when there are so many gaps within the racial discrimination ordinance?

We ask for two things. First, the police exercise its powers reasonably and within the extent of what is required from them. The police are law enforcers, not law debilitators, we ask you to be an agent of enforced justice, not racial prejudice. Because such behaviours create misunderstandings not only between the government and ethnic minority community but also between the local chinese' perception towards the ethnic minority community. And with all due respect, there are loopholes within the RDO, thus making its purpose ineffective since it doesn't cover the government functions and powers which doesn't make the police accountable for racial profiling.

Second, we ask that the police officials keep a record of the people they choose to conduct the 'stop and search' practises and to publish the statistics online to ensure transparency. The UN Committee does request HK to provide in its next periodic report, administrative records, disaggregated by ethnic origin and national origin of the victims, on investigations, prosecutions, convictions, sentences, sanctions and remedies for racist hate crimes.

Thank you.