

Roger's Rant  
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## Police Under Fire!



Today, in liberal states like Connecticut, police, rather than being supported as bastions of law and order protecting innocent citizens, are being treated as criminals.

Below, is a factual account of a recent egregious example.

Mubarak Soulemane, using an Uber as transportation, made multiple visits to an AT&T store in an attempt to purchase an iPhone. After being refused service the third time due to a lack of acceptable credit, Soulemane wielded a knife and was ejected from the store by a brave, yet foolhardy, store clerk. Once ejected from the store, Soulemane then returned to the Uber and informed the driver he was taking the car. Incredibly, the driver, who was armed, did not shoot the miscreant. A witness called 911 reporting a carjacking, and a local police officer arrived just as the hijacked Uber drove off. A police chase ensued and the state police joined the pursuit at speeds up to one hundred miles per hour. During the chase, the hijacked Uber collided with at least one civilian vehicle and ultimately with a number of police cars before being blocked by police vehicles. Soulemane refused to leave the Uber vehicle, despite being

ordered so by law enforcement. Police officers approached the Uber vehicle from both sides, and one officer proceeded to smash the passenger side window, at which time Soulemane reached for a knife. Believing his fellow officer was in mortal danger, state trooper Brian North, who was on the driver's side of the Uber, fired a number of shots through the window, killing Soulemane.

Brian North was subsequently charged by Connecticut Inspector General Robert Devlin, the special prosecutor, with manslaughter, purportedly for using excessive force. During the trial, it came to light that the state had hired two expert witnesses to examine the facts of this incident in order to determine whether the officer's actions were justified. They both concluded that the officer's actions were justified, and the state dismissed them. When they subsequently testified for the defense, the court would not allow the disclosure of the fact that they were originally employed by the state and subsequently dismissed for coming to conclusions contrary to the state's charges. After a lengthy, emotional and sensational trial, the jury acquitted the officer.

Ah, but in the land of liberal Connecticut, the story doesn't end there.

You see, the liberal Connecticut legislature has passed a law that removes the shield of "qualified immunity" from civil actions against police officers who are sued for damages for actions they take while doing their duties. This means that all of an officer's personal assets are fair game for anyone who believes they have been wronged. It should be noted that in civil trials the standards of evaluating evidence are more relaxed than in criminal trials replacing the "beyond a reasonable doubt" jury decision standard with "a preponderance of evidence" jury decision standard. The fact that trooper North was acquitted in a criminal trial is irrelevant to the outcome of a civil trial for the same "offense." The prohibition of double jeopardy does not apply to criminal and civil trials.

So, as you might have guessed, Brian North is now being sued by the outraged family of the deceased in civil court, so his ordeal is far from over. Not only will he receive no support from the state police, but it is likely that Connecticut Inspector General Robert Devlin will testify on behalf of the plaintiffs, since he was seen consoling Soulemane's mother after the criminal trial.

Also, in Connecticut, police are no longer allowed to pursue suspects except for instances of violent felonies. It is not uncommon for suspects to give "the finger" to police officers after committing a crime and merely drive away, knowing they won't be pursued.

As a result of these two policies, as well as a raft of other criminal friendly ones, police are rightfully reluctant to address criminality in Connecticut. Law enforcement activity has diminished considerably and substantial lawbreaking occurs without any consequences.

Now, it goes without saying that all police are not angels, and there are certainly bad apples amongst the countless good cops. I'm certainly in favor of rigorously punishing illegal and unethical police behavior. However, tarnishing all law enforcement and punishing them with the threat of criminal prosecution, civil liability and enforcement restrictions when they do their hazardous jobs correctly, even under duress, is ridiculous.

Remember, it is uniformly acknowledged that the police are not required to protect innocents from criminals. The Uvalde, Texas, Texas student massacre is a stark reminder of this. Yet the vast majority of dedicated law enforcement officers are willing to put their lives on the line every day to protect the public.

The real victims of these misguided liberal laws and policies are:

## **You and Me!**

In my May ***Rant***, I'll examine how the mainstream media reported this incident.

***Roger***