

## POSTER 162

### "I can't breathe!" famous last words: the concept of deaths in custody

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#### Resumo

**Introduction:** Police brutality (PB) is a sensitive theme in western society. It has been the target of social movements to encourage structural changes in the way the security forces act. Several studies on the matter have been carried out to try and understand the etiology of this phenomenon and mitigate its impacts. Ihor Homeniuk, is a name present in Portuguese society of the bad conduct of the authorities. Worldwide, George Floyd and Eric Garner are names of unfortunate deaths, that also sparked interest and protest in the community [2]. While the burden is heavy, PB only accounts for a portion of fatal injuries. People in custody are more likely to die prematurely of violent causes, than similar people not in custody [1]. **Objectives:** Characterize in a pragmatic and non-emotional way the concept of "Deaths In Custody" (DIC). **Methods:** Research in the scientific literature, journalistic material. Portuguese Court Rulings, Portuguese Constitution, Portuguese Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code where also researched. **Results:** DIC is a concept that divides some authors over the

context of how individuals at the mercy of authorities and at their responsibility die [4]. I define this concept as all deaths that occurred unnaturally during any process while an individual is at the mercy of the authorities, either as individual or institutional level. This applies to situations of conflict during a detention, during the entire process in which someone is serving time. It therefore not only includes deaths that occurred in situations of PB, but also altercations between inmates in prisons for example [4]. All of this leads to a decrease in citizens' trust in security forces and politicians over generations. Prevails through archaic prejudices of ethnic or religious origins, in addition to the traumatic consequences for those who watch how these events unfold are some other repercussions we may find. Adverse psychological effects have been linked to this matter [3, 5]. **Conclusion:** More studies and measures on this must be intensified, to minimize future impact that these episodes have on society using comprehensive policies, educational reforms, and take benefit from the knowledge of all sciences with much benefit to us all.

**Keywords:** deaths in custody; police brutality; forensic Sciences; social reform; violence

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