

I Fear The Police More...

In 2014, Laquan McDonald, age 17, was shot 16 times by Chicago cop Jason Van Dyke. The incident has been well reported on in the media¹. While Van Dyke will now be facing Murder charges the story doesn't end there. What bothers me is the fact Van Dyke's fellow cops helped him cover up the murder by lying in reports and deleting more than 86 minutes of surveillance footage that caught Van Dyke's crime on tape and none of them are charged with being accessories to murder². There were at least eight other cops that saw Van Dyke execute Laquan McDonald³.

Over the years I have known countless prisoners serving sentences of anywhere from 10 years to life for being "accessories" to a murder. Most of them were not even present during the murder, did not know the murder was going to occur, and only helped to destroy evidence. Nonetheless, they are serving prison sentences and some of them will never get out. So, why aren't the cops who assisted Van Dyke cover up his crime also charged?⁴ Rather, the Chicago's lead prosecutor took over a year to charge Van Dyke while he continued to work on desk duty⁵. Garry McCarthy, the Chicago Police superintendent called the offers deleting the 86 minutes of footage and lying in reports as "technical difficulties." These are the "good guys".

Of course, while Anita Alvarez, Chicago's Prosecutor, is willing to let killer cops skate she is tirelessly pursuing the "real" threats – people like Tiawanda Moore, who recorded her conversation with two Chicago cops. Moore alleged that while being questioned by Chicago police during a domestic disturbance between her and her boyfriend that one of the officers interviewed her in her bedroom. Groped her breast and slipped her his home phone number. She filed a complaint against the officer⁶.

Two internal affairs officers investigated her allegation. She felt something was shady about the interaction and felt threatened. So she recorded her conversation with the officers – which turn out to be a crime in Chicago. Anita Alvarez immediately charged

¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/02/chicago-police-garry-mccarthy-laquan-mcdonald>

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/11/laquan-mcdonald-chicago-police-shooting-video-explainer>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-chicago-cop-shooting-video-laquan-mcdonald-charges-20151124-story>

² <http://thefreethoughtproject.com/photos-reveal-police-deleting-surveillance-footage-murderous-cop>

[www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/cops-didn't-know-camera-caught-them-deleting-video-murder-laquan-mcdonald](http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/cops-didn-t-know-camera-caught-them-deleting-video-murder-laquan-mcdonald)

³ <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/12/01/I-got-the-laquan-mcdonald-video-released-but-chicago-is-still-covering-up-his-death.html>

⁴ <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/11/protesting-the-corrupt-system-that-killed-laquan-mcdonald/417723>

⁵ <http://www.dailykos.com/stories/2015/11/24/1453982/-the-horifying-behavior-of-anita-Alvarez-Chicago-s-head-prosecutor?detail=email>

⁶ [http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/cops-didn't-know-camera-caught-them-deleting-video-member-laquan-mcdonald](http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/cops-didn-t-know-camera-caught-them-deleting-video-member-laquan-mcdonald)

Tiawanda Moore and refused to investigate any of the Chicago cops involved⁷. So it is no surprise Alvarez took a year to charge Van Dyke and has let his fellow cops get away, literally, with being accessories to his murder. It shouldn't be a surprise that 75% of Chicago cops with multiple charges of abuse never receive any discipline and 85% of abuse complaints are dismissed without the officer ever being interviewed⁸.

And it should be noted, Chicago is only the most recent and glaring example of Police corruption. The Corruption of U.S. Police forces is systemic. Thousands of corrupt cops go unpunished in every city and town in the U.S. and often for decades. Recently an Alabama Police Crew, for example, was accused of planting evidence on innocent men for decades⁹. Police advocates try to paint this as bad apples – its not. It's a bad system. I personally fear police officers more that ISIS terrorists. The corrupt cops like Van Dyke and his associates, act under the color of state law with the power to get away with their crimes with a pat on the back from Prosecutors such as Alvarez.

ISIS, in contrast, is a distant problem. The chances I or any other citizen will come in contact with an ISIS terrorist in the U.S. is near nonexistent. While the Police arrest more than 14 million people a year. How many of those arrested are their victims? We may never know when they're allowed to cover up their crimes

⁷ [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-08-25/news/ct-met-evesdropping-trial-0825-](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-08-25/news/ct-met-evesdropping-trial-0825-20110825_1_evesdropping-law-police-officers-law-enforcement/2)

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[Chicago-s-head-prosecutor?detail=email](http://www.dailykos.com/stories/2015/11/24/1453982/-the-horifying-behavior-of-anita-Alvarez-Chicago-s-head-prosecutor?detail=email)

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⁸ <https://chitaskforce.wordpress.com/2011/08/24/now-that-tiawanda-moore-is-free-what-lessons-can-we-learn>

⁹ <https://youcouldbewrong.wordpress.com/2015/12/04/members-of-an-alabama-elite-police-crew-have-been-accused-of-planting-evidence-on-innocent-men-for-decades>

<https://www.innocenceproject.org/news-events/exonerations/leaked-documents-show-alabama-police-planted-drugs-guns-on-innocent-black-men-in-decades-long-scheme#sthas.EDLdSIik.dpuf>