

AFRICAN UNION CONDEMNS KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. George Floyd was in handcuffs when he died. T / F
- b. The killing of George Floyd resulted in days of looting. T / F
- c. There have been protests outside U.S. embassies in the USA. T / F
- d. The African Union described the killing as "murder". T / F
- e. The article says African embassies in the U.S. have been very critical. T / F
- f. It is rare for U.S. embassies to comment on domestic issues. T / F
- g. The U.S. ambassador to Chad said he was angry and dismayed. T / F
- h. A U.S. ambassador said no one was above the law. T / F

2. THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS

- 1. What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'condemn'?
- 3. What news have you seen of this story?
- 4. What three adjectives best describe this story?
- 5. What should happen to the police officer?
- 6. What can the police do to rectify this situation?
- 7. What are police officers like in your country?
- 8. What would make you protest?
- 9. What do you think of the African Union's comments?
- 10. What advice do you have for the protestors?

3. READ THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2006/200602-george-floyd.html>

The killing of George Floyd in the city of Minneapolis on May the 25th has reverberated across the world. Mr Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after a police officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes, even after he was pleading for air and then stopped moving. Days of rioting, looting and clashes with police followed as citizens vented their anger over the killing. The protests have escalated across America's major cities. There have also been protests outside U.S. embassies across the world. The killing of Mr Floyd led the African Union Commission to take the unprecedented step of condemning what it called "murder" and the "continuing discriminatory practices against black citizens".

Many U.S. embassies in Africa have taken the unusual step of issuing critical statements. The news publication "Foreign Policy" wrote: "Several U.S. diplomats said it is rare for U.S. embassies abroad to weigh in on domestic U.S. issues. But in this case, the embassies were compelled to respond after seeing how African leaders reacted to Floyd's death with anger and dismay." The U.S. ambassador to Congo wrote: "I am profoundly troubled by the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The Justice Department is conducting a full criminal investigation as a top priority. Security forces around the world should be held accountable. No one is above the law."

Sources: <https://abcnews.go.com/international/wireStory/unusual-move-us-embassies-africa-speak-floyd-70967080>
<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-05-29-african-union-condemns-george-floyds-killing-in-the-us/>
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/29/africa-countries-condemn-george-floyd-minneapolis-killing-diplomatic-fallout-racial-injustice-police-violence/>

4. VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1. reverberated	a. Let out or expressed very strong emotions, like anger.
2. pleading	b. Being unfair or prejudicial between different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.
3. looting	c. Had continuing and serious effects.
4. vented	d. Steal goods from a place, usually during a war or riot.
5. unprecedented	e. Making an emotional appeal; begging.
6. condemning	f. Never done or known before.
7. discriminatory	g. Expressing complete disapproval of, typically in public.

Paragraph 2

8. critical	h. An official representing a country abroad.
9. diplomat	i. Get involved in an argument.
10. weigh in on	j. The fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important.
11. compelled	k. Showing negative comments or judgments of someone or something.
12. dismay	l. Of a person, organization, or institution required or expected to be open and responsible for their actions or decisions.
13. priority	m. A feeling of shock and horror at something.
14. accountable	n. Forced or obliged someone to do something.

5. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

1. reverberated	a. releasing
2. pleading	b. prejudicial
3. escalated	c. begging
4. unprecedented	d. responsible
5. discriminatory	e. unheard of
6. issuing	f. carrying out
7. compelled	g. echoed
8. conducting	h. intensely
9. profoundly	i. increased
10. accountable	j. forced

6. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2006/200602-george-floyd.html>

1. Where did the article say the killing of Mr Floyd had reverberated?
2. What did the article say protestors vented?
3. Where were the US embassies that had protests outside?
4. What kind of step did the article say the African Union took?
5. What practices did the African Union mention?
6. Where have many embassies been issuing critical statements?
7. What is the name of the news publication mentioned in the article?

7. MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2006/200602-george-floyd.html>

- 1) Where did the article say the killing of Mr Floyd had reverberated?
 - a) in New York
 - b) across the world
 - c) in sub-Saharan Africa
 - d) across Europe
- 2) What did the article say protestors vented?
 - a) their spleen
 - b) their frustration
 - c) their fury
 - d) their anger
- 3) Where were the US embassies that had protests outside?
 - a) across the world
 - b) in Los Angeles
 - c) in Nairobi
 - d) in the U.K.
- 4) What kind of step did the article say the African Union took?
 - a) a bold step
 - b) a baby step
 - c) an unprecedented step
 - d) a major step
- 5) What practices did the African Union mention?
 - a) poor practices
 - b) discriminatory practices
 - c) criminal practices
 - d) outrageous practices
- 6) Where have many embassies been issuing critical statements?
 - a) Latin America
 - b) Europe
 - c) Africa
 - d) Asia
- 7) What is the name of the news publication mentioned in the article?
 - a) Race Today
 - b) World Affairs
 - c) Africa Today
 - d) Foreign Policy
- 8) What did diplomats say it was rare for embassies to weigh in on?
 - a) domestic issues
 - b) race
 - c) society issues
 - d) criminal justice
- 9) What did an ambassador say the Justice Department is conducting?
 - a) a full criminal investigation
 - b) an experiment
 - c) tests
 - d) trials
- 10) Who did an ambassador say was above the law?
 - a) the rich
 - b) no one
 - c) the police
 - d) leaders

8. ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2006/200602-george-floyd.html>

It is true that no one in the world is above the law. Discuss.