

**ACLU**

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

FOUNDATION

CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
RACIAL
PROFILING**RACIAL PROFILING ALERT**212-549-2500 / www.aclu.org/profiling

COMPLAINT HOTLINE 1-877-6-PROFILE or online

Hip Hop Surveillance / Racial Profiling

Hip hop racial profiling - Many rappers report being profiled while growing up in their neighborhoods before they became famous; others report it since they have become entertainers (dead prez, "Rappers dead prez arrested for being minorities Amsterdam News 11/7/03; NORE, *The Source* 06/04).

Know your rights - While some rappers have had problems with the law, it is a violation of their rights (and your rights) if surveilled, stopped, searched or arrested without reasonable suspicion (4th Amendment - due process), based on racial profiling (14th Am.-equal protection) or rap lyrics (1st Amendment - free speech). Police are expected to investigate criminal activity, but not to target artists, music industry executives, or anyone else without reasonable suspicion, or on the basis of race, ethnicity or religion, or the type of music they perform, produce or listen to.

NYPD admitted "it has an intelligence division and ... detectives that monitor the music industry" (*Village Voice* 4/6/04).

Miami and Miami Beach police departments admitted staking out rappers, monitoring them at airports and clubs (*Miami Herald* 3/9/04).

Hip hop Dossier - Miami Beach police released a 500 page book of information on rappers from the NYPD, FBI, and federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force (NY/NJ HIDTA) they said they received during training by the NYPD.

False assumptions - Police drug interdiction programs wrongly believe that most drug users and sellers are people of color. Government studies show that each racial group uses and sells equal to their percentages in the population (for example, whites are 70% of the population and 70% of the drug users and sellers; blacks are 15% of the population and 15% of all users and sellers).

Data proves racial profiling exists - Studies from around the country have documented racial disparities in stops and searches of people of color, especially youth; a study by the NY state attorney general found similar disparities in the treatment of pedestrians of color by the NYPD ("*NYPD Stop and Frisk Practices*," 1999).

History 101 - The targeting of black jazz artists in the 1920's and '40's, black rock and roll artists in the '50's, and R&B artists in the 60's set a historical precedent for the racial profiling of performers in the hip hop era; cultural experts call the level of activity actions unprecedented for any musical genre (*Miami Herald* 3/15/04).

History 201 - The targeting of rappers is a throwback to the FBI counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO) that targeted the civil rights movement (such as Dr. Martin Luther King) and the black power movement (such as the Black Panther Party) with surveillance, disruption and assassination by agents and snitches, for using their constitutional right to protest against racism and police brutality. (Churchill, *Agents of Repression*; Pepper, *Orders to Kill*).