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Topic: Black Lives Matter

Were you aware that in 2016, 2,570 black people were victims of other black people nationwide? Did you also know that in New York City during 2019, 88% of the people murdered were black and 93.2% of those people were murdered by other people of color? Yet, in the Black Lives Matter or BLM movement, the focus isn't on these problems, it is only on police brutality. The BLM Movement should address and try to resolve Black-on-Black crimes to reduce violence in black communities in addition to ending police brutality. The murders of Black people should not just be focused on police officers when more black people are getting killed by each other. It's difficult for me to fully support the BLM Movement as a young black woman because the complexity of the situation isn't being addressed and the movement can easily be perceived as hypocritical. A recent article by the Atlantic states that BLM does not grasp the attention of a lot of people not because they don't care, but because a black man in a particular kind of community is at much more risk of being killed by another black man. Activists should protest all killings of black people, including those by other black people. If more attention was brought to black-on-black crimes, using the BLM movement, it would reduce all crimes committed on black people.

On the contrary an article titled *Stop Accusing Black Lives Matter of Ignoring Black-on-Black Crimes* states, "that Black Lives Matter is not about black-on-black crimes right now" However, the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation states that the original purpose of the BLM Movement is to "eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes" Given this statement, the purpose of BLM is not just to address police brutality because it is not the only violence inflicted on the black communities. The movement's main focus is on violence inflicted by vigilantes and these vigilantes are not only white people. Including black-on-black crimes is not an excuse, a replacement, nor a change of subject. It is something that should be explicitly stated to include all aspects of black murders not just police killings. There is something to be done within the black community, "There has to be a second wing that goes into black communities and works in a real way on the black-on-black murders. That would make Black Lives Matter complete."(The Atlantic) Black lives matter all the time, not just when it involves police brutality. This will begin to spread awareness using peaceful protests and then, set African Americans up for success.

Word Count: 444