

Pattern of Injuries in Case of Riot Control

Essay

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

سبحانك لا علم لنا
إلا ما علمتنا إنك أنت
العليم الحكيم

صدق الله العظيم

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List of Abbreviations

cm	: Centimeter
CN	: 1-Chloroacetophenone
CO	: Carbon Monoxide
CR	: Dibenz[b,f]-1,4-oxazepine
CS	: 2-Chlorobenzylidene malononitrile
DM	: Diphenylaminochloroarsine
ECD	: Electronic Control Devices
ECG	: Electrocardiographic changes
GC-MS	: Gas Chromatographic-Mass Spectrometric
H	: hour
HCL	: Hydrochloric acid
HCN	: Hydrogen Cyanide
Hz	: Hertz
Ib/in²	: Pounds per Square Inch
IC	: Incapacitating or Intolerable Concentration
J	: Joule
L	: Liter
Lb	: Pounds
LLT	: Low Lethal Technology

List of Abbreviations

m	: Minute
mA	: Milliampere
mg	: Milligram
mg/m³	: Milligram per Cubic Meter
NASA	: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
OC	: Oleoresin Capsicum
pH	: The measure of concentration of hydrogen ions
RADS	: Reactive Airways Dysfunction Syndrome
TASER	: Thomas A. Swift Electric Rifle
TC	: Threshold Concentration
UK	: United Kingdom
US	: United States
V	: Volt
VF	: Ventricular Fibrillation
W	: watt

Introduction

Civil unrest is defined as disharmony, expressive dissatisfaction and/or disagreement between members of a community, which leads to a situation of competitive aggression that may find expression as disruption of organisation, conflicts, damage to property and injuries. Such a breakdown of harmonious relationships, which may result in property damage and human injuries that may be threatening to life, varies in magnitude from participation of a very few individuals up to the involvement of large crowds of people which may evolve into a full-scale riot. Hence, riot represents the most extreme form of civil unrest which may threaten public safety (*Ballantyne, 2006*).

For control of civil unrest incidents, police and security forces start with advanced negotiations with organisers and verbal warnings. If these failed, physical and chemical measures will be used. Physical methods include restraint holds, truncheons, batons, mounted horses, projectiles (such as bean bags, plastic and rubber bullets), water cannons, tasers and (rarely) live ammunition. Although, all of these physical measures are intended to cause pain and immobilization there is a high potential for soft tissue and bone injuries. Some of

the physical methods, including plastic and rubber bullets, may cause lethal injuries (*Wire, 2001*).

The basis for using chemicals in civil unrest incidents is that they cause distraction, transient harassment and incapacitation, temporary impairment of the conduct of coordinated tasks and a desire to vacate the area of unrest. Although screening smokes and malodors have sometimes been employed, the currently used peripheral chemosensory irritants are CN, CS, CR and oleoresin capsicum (*Wire, 2001*).

Moreover, injuries due to circumstances of civil unrest incidents, injuries are inevitable, particularly when emotions are heightened and police and security forces have to resort to various chemical and/or physical means of control. These injuries may include slight to severe physical and/or chemical injuries, psychological problems and occasional deaths (*Ballantyne, 2006*).

During ‘25 January revolution’ millions of Egyptians rose up against police brutality, poverty and the relentless repression of their basic freedoms, and ended up ousting the president, most of the protests were peaceful, yet the authorities’ response was not, the security forces used tear gas, water cannons, shotgun pellets, rubber bullets and live ammunition against protesters, which led to huge number of injuries and deaths (*Amnesty International, 2011*).

Aim of the work

This study aims to throw light on the different types of injuries occurring in case of riot control and their mechanisms. Hence, diagnosis of the cause of death could be achieved. This will be done through discussion of different types of agents used to control riot and the related injuries.

Riot

Riot is a form civil unrest, also termed civil disorder or civil disturbance. Civil unrest can occur whenever a group in the community feels, that some aspect of society is antithetic or apathetic to their views, rights or needs. Civil disturbance may be in the form of labor strikes, large demonstrations, and riots. As the most extreme situation, a riot is a violent disruption of the public order and authority that threatens public safety. With high incidence of vandalism which result in destruction of private and public property (*Dan Braha, 2010*).

Many types of riot are described according to *Dan Braha, (2010)* as:

Police riot: is a term for the disproportionate and unlawful use of force by a group of police against a group of civilians, commonly where police attack a group of peaceful civilians and/or provoke previously peaceful civilians into violence.

Prison riot: is a type of large scale, temporary act of concerted defiance or disorder by a group of prisoners against the prison administrators, prison officers, or other groups of prisoners, often to express a grievance, in an attempt to force change or an attempt to escape the prison.

Race riot: in this type race or ethnicity is the key factor. Early use of the term in the United States (by the 1890s) referred to race riots which were often a mob action by members of a majority racial group against people of other perceived races.

Religious riot: the key factor for this type is religion. The rioting mob targets people and properties of a specific religion or those believed to belong to that religion.

Student riot: is precipitated by students, often in higher education, such as a college or university. Students may constitute an active political force in a given country as in student riots in the US and Western Europe in the 1960s and the 1970s and student riots may occur in the context of wider political or social grievances.

Urban riot: can be provoked by conditions such as discrimination, poverty, high unemployment, poor schools, poor healthcare, housing inadequacy and police brutality and bias.

Sports riot: can be sparked by the losing or winning of a specific team, such as the Nika riots, which by fighting between the fans of the two teams. There are several factors which may help the provocation of sports riot; teams

contending for a championship, a long series of matches, a gathering place for many fans, the presence of young men, and scores that are close. Sports are the most common cause of riots in the United States, accompanying more than half of all championship games or series; almost all occur in the winning team's city. In North America, they are generally seen in two sports, hockey and association football. Players rarely join in such riots, which usually occur in and around the playing field (in association football) or in the streets or stands (in hockey).

Food and bread riot: is caused by harvest failure, incompetent food storage, hoarding, poisoning of food or attacks by pests like locusts. When the public becomes too desperate in such conditions, they attack shops, farms, homes or government buildings to obtain bread or other staple foods like grain or salt, as in the 1977 Egyptian Bread Riots.