

**BLACK** Lives Matter. These are the numbers in respect of the status quo for Aboriginal Australians: **99** - deaths in custody, as per the 1991 Australian Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. **432** - the number of Indigenous Australians who have died in custody since the commission's report. **2,481** - the number of First Nations adults in prison for every 100,000 members of the population. **164** - the comparable number for non-indigenous adults; 15 times as many Aborigines are imprisoned. **2%** - the percentage of Australia's adult population who are First Nations Australians. **28%** - the percentage of Australia's prison population who are First Nations Australians. **2015** - the year David Dungay Jr. was killed when prison officers held him face down on the floor. **Dungay** was screaming that he could not breathe; an officer said, "if you can scream, you can breathe". **Zero** - the number of successful homicide prosecutions of a death in custody in Australia's courts.

*In the wake of the 2020 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis USA, Australia remembers its own history of black deaths in custody.* "Identity can pit us against each other; we form our tribes and we tear each other apart. How I wish we did not have to chose sides."

*Stan Grant (1963), a Wiradjuri man, journalist, ABC's Australian Indigenous and international affairs analyst SMH 6, 7 June 2020 ... also go to my blog 1046*

**BLACK LIVES MATTER** and all other lives too. The BLM movement in the USA is problematic; and most likely not as you think. Sam Harris has a podcast, CAN WE PULL BACK FROM THE BRINK? **Harris** turns to the issue of racism and police violence, and the issue is not straightforward. There surely are racist (as well as incompetent) cops, and incidents like George Floyd's killing are galling, but consider this: **Blacks** are 13 percent of the population ... however, they commit 50 percent of violent crimes; the majority of their victims are black; the story of crime in America is overwhelmingly the story of black-on-black crime. **But** there is distortion in the media: It's not showing us videos of white people killed by cops (twice as many as blacks \*); that the rate of police killings is down; that the crime rate is lowest in 25 years. Facts matter.

*\*50% of those killed are whites, 25% blacks; but since blacks are 13% of the population, proportionally they are killed twice as often. Go to my blogs 1051, 1049 and SamHarris.org; see also FACTFULNESS*