

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

BLASPHEMY. Some will consider my writings blasphemous. I reject this notion in the strongest. To me the idiom blasphemy is an oxymoron. **If** a belief is strong and built on Truth*, nothing anyone said or did about it would be considered blasphemous by the devotees - the strength of their belief would deflect any criticism or insult as irrelevant. **If**, however, believers are offended by whom they call a blasphemer, their faith is weak and untrue - in which case the term blasphemy does not apply.

blas·phe·my
the act - or offence - of speaking sacrilegiously about sacred things
 ox·y·mo·ron
a figure of speech, incongruous, paradoxical and contradictory

The only thing sacred is love; thus it is love alone we shall treat with the utmost respect. *Only the love for humanity can be blasphemed: By bigotry, intolerance, abuse and war.*

**see also THE TRUTH*