

POLICE BRUTALITY AND TORTURE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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Summary: Numerous specifics of police violence, and above all the characteristics of the perpetrator and the circumstances under which such actions are undertaken, make research of this phenomenon problematic, but also challenging. In addition to the problem of practical nature, researchers of this phenomenon may also encounter some conceptual limitations, especially in terms of defining the subject of research. Hence, our aspiration was to re-examine some of the existing perceptions of police violence, and above all brutality and torture, as its most indicative forms. To this end, we pointed out some common characteristics, as well as the essential differences between these two phenomena, all in order to eliminate certain doubts in their interpretation, but also how to find the most acceptable determinations, which would be an important basis for defining the subjects of some future scientific research into police violence. Specifically, brutality and torture have the following common characteristics: the status of the perpetrator, the circumstances of the execution, the act of execution, the form of guilt (the vindication of the perpetrator) and the intention. In contrast, these two phenomena are distinguished by some important differences, namely: the purpose of use; the cause of execution, the location of the event, the reaction (level of tolerance), and the responsible person.

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