

**Gerald Darmanin,
France's Minister of Interior
37 Quai d'Orsay, 75351, Paris, France**



Dear Minister Gerald Darmanin,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to elicit your support in the campaign to ban the use of the “chokehold” as a police practice. In light of the harrowing killing of George Floyd by a group of Minneapolis police officers, who unnecessarily utilized the “chokehold” technique, your department made the courageous and honorable decision to outlaw the practice of this technique in France. It was therefore disappointing, and for some distressing, to see this decision immediately overturned.

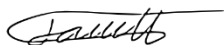
As you are aware, the debate on the use of the “chokehold” as a restraint tactic remains prevalent in both domestic and international politics. In the U.S, numerous states including California, Florida and New York, have already banned this potentially fatal method of restraint. In France, a review on the use of the “chokehold” is currently being undertaken, and we at the Organization for World Peace strongly urge you to use your platform to outlaw this deadly restraint tactic during this review.

Although the killing of George Floyd has brought the debate surrounding the use of the “chokehold” to the fore, the fatal use of the technique is, unfortunately, anything but novel. In France, the tragic deaths of Adama Traore and Cédric Chauviat can both be attributed to the “chokehold” technique. More recently, a French policeman incorrectly used the “chokehold” on a fellow officer, preventing her from being able to breathe and displacing two vertebrae. This highlights the inherent danger implicated in the use of this technique and its unsuitability as a policing technique.

The “chokehold” has proven to be not only dangerous but also deadly on numerous occasions. We therefore plead for you to advocate for alternative, non-violent methods of restraint during the review on the use of the “chokehold” in France. A decision not to outlaw the “chokehold”; a technique which legalizes the use of potentially fatal force, is a vote for police brutality. Through the initial decision to ban the “chokehold” your department has already demonstrated their disapproval for this barbaric technique, we now ask for you to stand by this decision.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Entwistle
Advocate, Organization for World Peace.



Jonathon Arrell
Vice President, Organization for World Peace