



Name

Professor

Course

Date

mycustomessay

Militarization of the Police

Jamelle Bouie, a staff writer for Slate who covers politics, policy, and race, wrote the article called “The Militarization of the Police” that was published on August 13, 2014 in order to show the general public that there is a great reason to be worried about the police in America acting like the military. It is very important that the public is aware of this situation and the amount of military equipment that the police have in order to keep the police from treating the cities in America like a battlefield. By bringing this to the public, Bouie hopes to get the support of others in an effort to keep the government from continuing to militarize the police forces. Bouie wants to make sure that the streets of America are not treated like a war zone and that the police protect the citizens instead of controlling them.

According to the article, police officers in Ferguson, Missouri were riding in mine resistant armored trucks as if there was a true war going on in the city. The citizens were forced to come face to face with rifles and SWAT teams as if they were war criminals. This was possible because the United States government has been giving surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies across the country. Reporting that these police departments now have over \$450 million worth of military equipment, the article points out that there is a military mindset that goes along with this equipment. The officers are eager to use their new weapons and seem to become even more attached to

their authority with the availability of the military weapons and vehicles. The author states that, although crime is lower, the militarized police are feeling the need to show their strength no matter what the situation is at the time.

Looking at the images that were in the article and the images that the author painted with his words, I could only imagine the scenes that are on the television when the media shows war zone footage. The sight of unarmed citizens with their hands up and facing military personnel made me think of the nations where there is no democracy like there is supposed to be in the United States of America. It reminded me of the reports of military hostages and terrorists acts such as the ISIS images which have been all over the media recently. The police forces are acting like little kids who just got a new toy and need to show it off in order to gain the attention that they feel others such as the military have been receiving. This made me angry as the police officers are supposed to protect and serve and America is supposed to be free. When the people who are supposed to protect the citizens are treating the citizens like criminals in a war zone, there is a great need for concern.

Bouie was very effective in expressing his opinion and offering enough evidence to support his area of concern. Although many parts of the article were informative, the purpose of the article seemed to be to persuade the audience to do something about this situation. The persuasion technique of facts and opinionated descriptions being mixed throughout the article was very effective. Without directly calling for a specific action, the author was able to express that some action had to be taken. This gave an emotional response to the reader and a sense of duty to the citizens of the United States to regain their cities.



mycustomessay

Works Cited

Bouie, J. "The Militarization of the Police." *The Slate Group*. 13 Aug. 2014. Web. 2 Feb.

2015.