



Gainesville PD rejects Trump's remarks about treatment of suspects

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The violent global group has terrorized communities on Long Island and in other parts of the country.

"When you see these thugs being thrown into the back of a paddy wagon, you just see them thrown in, rough". "Don't hit their head, I said, 'You can take the hand away, OK?'"

The comment elicited laughter and applause from some in the audience, including uniformed law enforcers.

After President Trump's speech, the Gainesville Police Department took to social media to reject what he said. The department "has strict rules & procedures relating to the handling of prisoners", it said in another post.

In a statement Saturday, New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill said the department's training and policies about the use of force "only allow for measures that are reasonable and necessary under any circumstances, including the arrest and transportation of prisoners".

"The President of the United States has no business endorsing or condoning cops being rough with arrestees and suggesting that we should slam their heads onto the vehicle while putting them in", the department said in a Facebook post.

Trump talks regularly about cracking down on MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha. The gang is believed to have originated in immigrant communities in Los Angeles in the 1980s and then took root in Central America when its leaders were deported. It is known for violent tactics that include torturing victims and hacking them with machetes.

Civil rights groups that have spoken out against a number of Mr. Trump's policies were critical of the remarks, with the American Civil Liberties Union saying the comments would exacerbate tension between police and civilians.

Other departments and members of law enforcement soon followed suit.

Trump also praised the acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Thomas Homan, for appearing "rough". The agency could not provide similar numbers for 2016.

President Trump was in NY to discuss his campaign to crack down on gangs like MS-13. But the president did not mention Sessions in his remarks - his latest slight against the man he's been publicly fuming at for recusing himself from all matters related to Russian election meddling.

"Causing intentional injury to a handcuffed suspect is not only against police procedure, but is a federal crime for which police officers have been sent to prison", said Jonathan Blanks, managing editor of the National Police Misconduct Reporting Project at the libertarian Cato Institute. His death spawned riots and looting.