

# GLOBAL NEWS



## US Cabby Tricks Bent Cop!

A traffic cop in Houston, Texas has been caught by a quick thinking cab driver after the cop threatened to book the cabby, although he had committed no offence. The officer was on what should have been a routine traffic stop of a taxi to check he had his licence in order. Driver Amanuel Hadis, a naturalized US citizen who originally came from Ethiopia, fled that country 15 years ago during the height of its civil war, but now says he's afraid to drive in downtown Houston because of "police persecution." He told Taxi Globe that the officer snatched his driver's licence "like a mad man!" But moments after being pulled over for allegedly going through a red light, Hadis says he reached for his mobile phone and phoned himself knowing that the answerphone would come on and record what he suspected was "going to be abuse from the officer." The recording was later played.

It said...

Officer: You pulled out in the middle of the intersection. That's running a red light whether you backed up or not. I don't know what it's like in your country, but in the United States of America and in the state of Texas we abide by all the laws. If you don't like it here, leave. You got it? Do we understand real good English here?

Hadis: Yes.

Officer: "Let me tell you something, (expletive). You crossed that white line out there. That's running the red light, period. You want to argue with me or do you want to go to jail? We don't need your kind here. You can go back to where you come from if you don't want to abide by our laws. You understand me?"

Hadis: Yes, sir

Officer: Look at my name. Remember it. Remember Officer C-A-R-R 'cause the next time I find you on a city street in downtown Houston and you (expletive) up and break the law, I will put your (expletive) in jail.

"He had a real bad temper," said Mr Hadis, "and I thought he was going to kill me or do something to me and I was afraid of that." The voice on the tape was said to belong to Officer Doug Carr, a former president of the Metro Police Association. Hadis says that Carr pulled him over after the front wheels of his cab touched the white lines of the crossing.

Metro police chief Tom Lambert said later that he would like to apologise on behalf of all his staff and added that Officer Carr had been demoted to desk duty while the complaint was investigated. But Mr Hadis says he wants more than an apology, he wants the officer fired and says he is fed up with the harassment non-whites get. "I am a United States of America citizen and I want it to stop."

Metro officials say this is the second similar complaint against Officer Carr the department had received in a short period...

## Baaad Ghanaian Taxi Driver Jailed For Stealing Goats!

Twenty year old Ghanaian cabby Law Nboateng has been sentenced to 18 months by a Magistrate's court in the capital Accra for stealing eight goats and seven sheep after bleating, er..., pleading guilty. The Prosecution told the court that the accused was driving his taxi when, with two others, he went to a farm, stole the animals and kept them all in the boot of his cab!

The prosecution then alleged that when they got to Abonko, one of the taxi tyres became deflated and while working on it, the animals began bleating. This aroused the suspicion of locals who went to see what was happening and as soon as the culprits saw people coming towards them, they took to their heels but were chased by the town's men who captured and held them until police arrived.

The hapless cabby claimed that he had bought the animals at the market but forgot they were in the boot. He didn't mention how much he may have paid thereby removing from Taxi Globe the opportunity of describing him as having been fleeced!

## The Kind Japanese Taxi Driver Robber!

Several Japanese taxi drivers were recently robbed and then locked in the boot of their vehicles after being handcuffed. Police have issued warnings to the Tokyo cab trade. They told Taxi Globe that the same man was probably responsible for all the cases due to his "kindness" in phoning either the driver's family or employers after abandoning them!

The latest incident occurred when a male passenger hailed a taxi in Tokyo's Kabukicho entertainment district and ordered the driver to take him to out to Niiza – a 90-minute trip. When the taxi arrived at Niiza, the man pulled out a knife and demanded the driver give him money. After stealing the driver's takings, he handcuffed the 51-year-old cabbie – known to have a heart problem - and forced him into the trunk of the cab. He then abandoned the taxi several miles away and called the driver's family using his pre-programmed mobile phone and explained where he had left him. "He is obviously a caring man deep down," the police told us! When TG replied that in our view, this man was a no good robber who didn't want to take the risk of killing someone, the phone line went dead. So I guess we'll never know!

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