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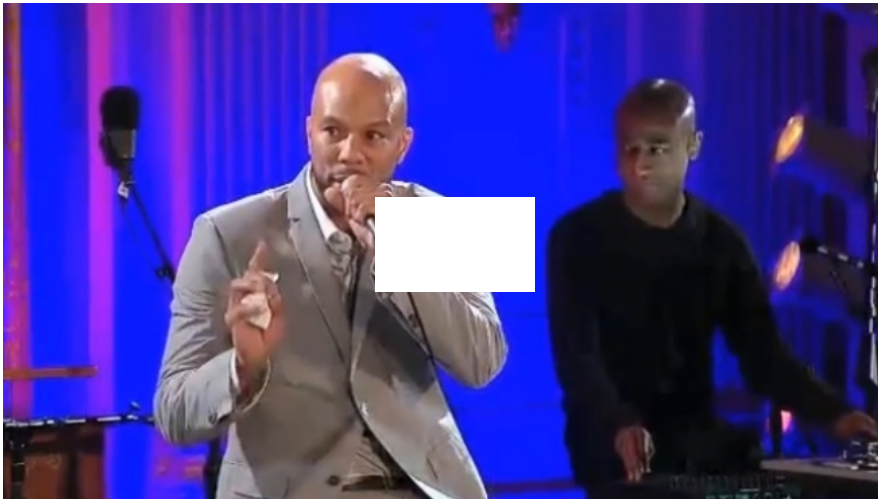


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NJ State Police "Outraged" Over Rapper Invite to White House

By [Brian Thompson](#) and [Marcus Riley](#) | Thursday, May 12, 2011 | Updated 12:09 PM EDT

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The White House

Despite controversy, rapper Common performed at the White House.

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The invitation of rapper Common to the White House this week is drawing the ire of the union representing New Jersey state police.

While even casual hip-hop fans wouldn't characterize him as a controversial rapper, Common found himself under the microscope after First Lady Michelle Obama invited him to the White House for an arts event. In question: the lyrics to "A Song for Assata," about convicted cop-killer and former Black Panther Assata Shakur.

The White House said Wednesday it stood by the decision to invite Common. Press Secretary Jay Carney said the conservative backlash distorts what Common stands for, and added that the president appreciates Common's work with children in Chicago.

FOX News and Sarah Palin condemned the decision after [the Daily Caller](#) published some of Common's lyrics, including some that criticize former President George W. Bush.

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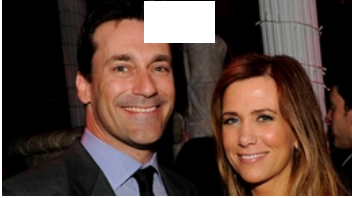
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"The young people who read this stuff, hear this stuff, are getting a very dangerous and deadly message," David Jones, president of the State Troopers Fraternal Association union, said on Tuesday.

After the union made the case on Tuesday, the New Jersey State Police itself issued a statement on the controversy on Wednesday.

"We cannot dictate who is invited to the White House, but we will always view Joanne Chesimard as a fugitive who killed one of our own," Major Gerald Lewis, spokesman for the state police said in a statement. "We will continue our pursuit of her until she is brought to justice."

Known for being more of a brainy poet type than a thug or a gangster, Common seemed to [retweeting](#) the various news items, such as FOX

and Fox News doesn't like me."

the same week that lawmen from across the nation, Washington to honor their fallen comrades at the

the state police, said his colleagues still talk about s put on her capture.

said in reaction to news of this invitation.

Common, who is also a successful actor, is known as one of the most lyrically poetic rappers. Last month he appeared in Chicago for a [charity event for his foundation](#), honoring legendary author and poet Maya Angelou.

Neither Jones nor Maggio believe the president or first lady are fully aware of Common's song about Shakur, though the rapper did appear at campaign events for Obama when he ran for president.

"I like the president and first lady," said Maggio. "I think he's doing a pretty good job lately."

A representative for Common could not be reached.

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Posted Tuesday, May 10, 2011 - 7:34 PM EDT

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line. Starting from the top down. I find this totally

Community Living Services

12:28am

young Americans whose lives have been damaged by
es of rap, you would think that Mrs. Obama would want
e.

12:32am

12:34am

anyway? They are just Dems not willing to admit it.

12:47am

ce Handler/Neurosurgeon at Self employed

blicans who are too ashamed to admit it.

12:04am

12:04pm

12:04am



Marcy Miller Tait · Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Why don't these young people rap about Single Mom's getting off welfare? Why don't they rap about successful educated african-americans? Why does it have to be about hate and murder and putting KILLERS on a pedestal and praising their over-inflated pride and power? How about some remorse and compassion? How about not just DEMANDING respect but giving it back...

357 · Like · Reply · May 11 at 5:34am



Vincent Deeney

Some rappers do, I guess.. Rap isn't really my thing.. But for every Bob Dylan there has to be a Jimmy Buffet singing about getting drunk (vince gets ready to duck as a Corona is thrown at him) :)

31 · Like · Reply · May 11 at 6:04am



Gary Ford · New School

Why don't metal bands sing about successful. educated white people? Or getting out of trailer parks? Or staying off crystal meth? I'll tell you why, because they represent the counterculture you twit.

169 · Like · Reply · May 11 at 6:14am



Judy Sims Cohoon · Works at Retired as Office Manager at Acredale Animal Hospital and Legal Secretary.

Don't like metal bands nor rap....give me good country music anytime, that truly represents America.

126 · Like · Reply · May 11 at 6:20am

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Keith Hudson · Louisiana State University in Shreveport

The story leaves out the fact the rapper called for the killing of Police and for Bush to be burned to death.....odd they left out the reasons the police were upset.

326 · Like · Reply · May 11 at 5:05am



Craig Hudson · Mansfield High School

keith its obvious all those police hate obama because of his skin color.

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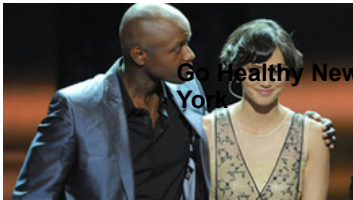
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