

Texas cop resigns after outcry over pool party video

By Jordyn T Noennig, dpa

Washington (dpa) - A police officer in the US state of Texas resigned Tuesday after a video of his aggressive behaviour at a pool party went viral and led to protests.

Police officer Eric Casebolt was "out of control" and his actions "are indefensible," state police chief Greg Conley said.

More than 1,000 protesters Tuesday demanded a federal investigation into the incident at a pool party last week in McKinney, Texas.

Casebolt was shown in the video pinning a teenage girl to the ground and brandishing his handgun at others in the chaotic scene, with dozens of mostly teenagers spilling into the street.

None appeared to be armed.

McKinney police responded to a disturbance Friday with a large group of teens and adults during a party at the neighbourhood's community pool.

When officers arrived, neighbourhood security and homeowners pointed out juveniles who were creating disturbances and allegedly crashing the party.

Dajerria Becton, the African-American teenager who was pinned by Casebolt in the McKinney video, told a Dallas television station that she believed the officer used force against her because he perceived that people in the crowd were insulting him.

Casebolt, who is white, was put on administrative leave soon after the video appeared online. He would face a formal investigation, McKinney police said. He had been with the police department for 10 years.

US President Barack Obama is "aware" of the Texas incident, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

"Graphic incidents like the one that we saw depicted on that video do have a detrimental impact on the relationship between local law enforcement and the local community, and I think that's evident from some of the news coverage and public statements of people who live in that community," he said.

A second video emerged Tuesday showing a fight that broke out between two females before police officers arrived. A witness said the fight and other arguments began after

an older resident spoke disparagingly to black teens among the diverse crowd at the party.

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