

Rappers carry damaging message called “Stop Snitching”

In most communities, a person who sees a murder and helps the police put the killer behind bars is called a witness. But in many poor and African American neighborhoods in this country that person is called a “snitch.” “Stop snitchin’” is a catchy hip-hop slogan that embodies and encourages this attitude. You can find it on everything from rap music videos to clothing. “Stop snitchin’” once meant “don’t tell on others if you’re caught committing a crime.” But as CNN’s Anderson Cooper reports for 60 Minutes, it has come to mean something much more dangerous: “don’t cooperate with the police – no matter who you are.” As a result, police say, witnesses are not coming forward. Murders are going unsolved. Reluctance to talk to police has always been a problem in poor, predominantly African-American communities, but cops and criminologists say in recent years something has changed: fueled by hip-hop music, promoted by major corporations, what was once a backroom code of silence among criminals, is now being marketed like never before. **What do you think? The following people speakout.**



Alto, TX. -I think witnesses should speakup when a crime is committed. Put yourself in the other person’s place. If the crime is committed against you, you want someone to be a witness for you.



I think they are sending the wrong message. A witness should tell what happened. There are ways to do that like using crime stopper 800 numbers.



Troup, TX.I think you have to stand for something. Speaking out is standing for what’s right. If witnessess to crimes don’t speak up, crime will takeove.

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a “snitch” might have damaged Rhymes’ “street cred.” “One of the things that sells music is when the artist is looked at as someone who’s come up from the streets. Not just any streets, but the toughest, meanest streets of the urban ghetto. And that’s called ‘street credibility,’” Canada says. Busta Rhymes did put a tribute to Israel Ramirez on the video he was making when Ramirez was killed. “Just wanted to make sure people seen this so they know you ain’t die in vain. Love you and I miss you, Homie. Hope we make you proud,” Rhymes said in the video. “I think that’s horrid,” says Canada. “I ask you Busta, as a man, if that was your son and you watched someone kill your son, would you remain quiet or would you get justice for your son? This is murder. This is murder. This is watching someone getting murdered. How



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