

PEOPLE'S WORLD

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New York marches against racist murder of Trayvon Martin

By Jarvis Tyner



Several thousand New Yorkers gathered at Union Square for the “Million Hoodie March and Rally” to protest the murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

Martin was killed by George Zimmerman, a self-appointed neighborhood watch volunteer who racially profiled Trayvon and then shot him dead.

The rally gave a warm welcome to the parents, who were in New York making several appearances on national media.

The march and the rally was a massive protest against racism and a powerful call for justice.

At the rally Benjamin Crump, the Martin family’s lawyer, made a moving speech on the legal facts of the case.

He pointed out that the police completely accepted everything that George Zimmerman said ‘as if it was the ‘Gospel truth.’”

He also pointed out that Zimmerman had committed an act of murder, and the police didn’t even take him in for questioning.

“They didn’t even bother to check Zimmerman through the system or give him a alcohol or drug test.”

On the other hand, “They did check on Trayvon. They did test him for drugs and alcohol.”

He added, “They patted Zimmerman on the

back as if it had been Trayvon who pulled the trigger.”

The family had to file a lawsuit to get the 911 tapes from the police.

It is the 911 tapes and messages on Trayvon’s girlfriend’s cell phone that show that Zimmerman was driven by a racist outlook.

As Crump said, “He used every racist stereotype in the book to describe Trayvon.”

“Zimmerman,” Attorney Crump charged, “committed an act of ‘cold-blooded murder.’”

On the same day as the march, the Sanford,

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Fla., City Commission voted that they had “no confidence in Police Commissioner Bill Lee Lewis for not arresting Zimmerman.”

**Tracy Martin,
Trayvon's father,
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supporting his son.**

Trayvon's parents, Crump pointed out, "are not asking for an eye for an eye. They want justice."

Tracy Martin, Trayvon's father, thanked the New York crowd for supporting his son.

The crowd responded with the chant, "We are Trayvon."

Saybrina Fulton, Trayvon's mother, thanked the large crowd for coming out.

She went on to say that her heart was in pain but, she added, "to have the support of all of you gives me hope."

She continued, "This is not about black versus white. It's about right versus wrong."

After the rally there was a spirited march demanding justice for Trayvon which took over the streets around Union Square and ended up in lower Manhattan.

Over the last weeks Mayor Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Kelly have been under heavy criticism because of the city's racist stop-and-frisk program.

There have also been a number of police kill-

ings in New York involving young blacks and Latinos.

The police have also been caught spying on the Muslim community and NYPD has been carrying out mass arrest and vicious attacks on the Occupy Wall St. movement.

In response to the huge national outcry over the murder, the Justice Department has launched an inquiry.

The next step is a massive effort to get 1 million signatures on a petition to demand that the authorities in Sanford Florida arrest George Zimmerman for murder.

One marcher put it well, "I feel sad inside. I have black kids of my own.

"This could happen to any of us. It's time to put an end to this insanity."

The Million Hoodie March for Justice was majority black, Latino and white youth. It took place without incident.



Jarvis Tyner is CPUSA Executive Vice Chair.

We are all Trayvon Martin

By PW Editorial Board

We are all Trayvon Martin, even those of us who have never been trapped alone on a dark street on the thin line between life and death.

Throw in the effects of hundreds of years of racism and you have the situation last month in which a 250 pound self-appointed white vigilante hunts down an unarmed Black child who is screaming "help." After the vigilante's bullet rips open the child's chest, he lies on the ground, gasping for air until he dies.

And thus the streets of a majority-white gated community near Orlando, Fla., on February 26, 2012, became a killing field for a Black young man who, despite his high marks in school will never go to college because his chance at life is over.

This is what racism means to children like Trayvon, to mothers and fathers who have, for hundreds of years, lost children like Trayvon and to millions of African American, Latino and Asian people today. Countless people of color have had, in the history of this nation, no chance at all when an individual or group acting as if they were judge and jury, took it upon themselves to hunt, confront, tackle, kick, or beat them into submission or, worse yet, snuff out their lives altogether.

Racism is also why George Zimmermann, the killer, still has not been arrested. It is why the police have failed to carry out this basic response to the crime even though they told Zimmermann to cease his pursuit of Trayvon when the vigilante called them for the 46th time this month about having spotted someone "suspicious."

Despite this awful tragedy, there is hope because from one end of the nation to the other great majorities of the people, Black and white, Latino and Asian, are rising up in outrage against what has happened. Witness the welcome intervention by the Justice Department.

Witness the revival and strengthening of the historic and great civil rights-labor alliance that resulted in the smashing of Jim Crow laws in the 20th century and that promises to build and is building a united movement for civil rights and workers rights in the 21st century.

The country has seen the election three years ago of its first African American president.

Yes, much progress has been made: much more needs to be done. The anti-racist majority that elected Barack Obama in 2008 and a Democratic majority still exists; its power must be felt in demanding that Zimmerman be arrested and the police chief removed.

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Striking workers converge on Red Cross headquarters

By Rick Nagin

With walkouts looming in two more regions, striking Northern Ohio Red Cross workers brought their anger and frustration to the agency's National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., March 19.

Riding all night in buses, 150 blood technicians and mobile unit operators, members of Teamsters Local 507, held a spirited rally in a nearby park and marched to the offices of the giant charity where they picketed with boisterous non-stop chants throughout the lunch hour.

The 250 workers in the nation's largest Red Cross region walked out Feb. 14 after nine months of futile talks for a new contract. The strike, affecting 19 northern Ohio counties, occurred as the agency insisted on reduced health care benefits, heavier workloads and conditions the union says threaten the safety of donors, employees and the blood supply.

"They're trying to erode our living standards. They want you to take ten to fifteen thousand dollars in cuts," Al Mixon, Principal Officer of the local told the cheering crowd. "I can't recommend that."

Mixon pointed to last year's appointment of virulently anti-union Walmart CEO William Simon to the 22-member Red Cross Board of Governors as evidence for the agency's union-busting policies.

Solidarity with the strikers was voiced by representatives of the District of Columbia Teamsters, the United Steelworkers (representing Red Cross workers in Georgia) and DC Jobs With Justice. Mike Parker, Principal Officer of Teamsters Local 580 representing Red Cross workers in Lansing, Michigan, announced to loud applause that a walkout would begin March 30 in that region.

The Lansing strike is set to begin a few days after Red Cross workers, members of the United



Food and Commercial Workers, in Toledo plan to walk out March 27.

While Red Cross demands cuts in wages and benefits, its employees have been outraged at massive increases in pay to top executives, especially the more than \$1 million salary of CEO Gail McGovern, who is also the agency's board.

"Gail McGovern, You Can't Hide - We Can See Your Greedy Side!" the pickets chanted as employees walked in and out of the headquarters.

"ARC Is Unfair - All We Want Is Our Fair Share!" they continued, adding "ARC Rich And Rude - We Don't Like Your Attitude!"

Wearing t-shirts reading "Red Cross - Cold Blooded," the strikers handed headquarters' employees green bills labeled "\$496 Gail McGovern Bucks" representing the CEO's hourly wage.

Joanna Wilcox, the driver and blood technician in a mobile unit, said she must work 10-hour days with only one 15-minute break.

Like the other strikers she defiantly wore a floppy monkey pin in response to a statement allegedly made to a monthly employee meeting by Carolyn Kean, the Cleveland office's Senior Director of Collections, that she "could train monkeys to do your job."

Kean did not return calls for a comment to the People's World.

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State workers' lobby important for all workers

By Tony Pecinovsky

What we're doing today isn't just important for public workers," Bradley Harmon, president of the Missouri State Workers' Union Local 6355, told about 250 union activists as they prepared to march on the State Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo., on March 21.

"It's important for all workers," Harmon added. "What we're doing today isn't just important for Missouri. It's important for the United States of America."

Harmon, a fiery orator, rallied the assembled union members. He placed their immediate struggle for pay raises and collective bargaining into a larger national context for democracy and progressive change. He connected their day of lobbying to the upcoming November elections and the re-election of President Obama: "Today we march. November we vote."

In an earlier conversation with this reporter, Harmon said, "We want the tea party Republicans to think this is total war."

The public sector workers' lobby day consisted of union members from the Missouri State Workers' Union (CWA-MSWU), the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Jamie Reed, a MSWU member from St. Louis, told the People's World, "I don't think most of these politicians understand what we actually do."

Reed, a Department of Youth Services employee, works to keep at-risk youth out of jail, off drugs and out of gangs. She said, "Without state workers a lot of these kids end up back on the streets or in jail."

Josh McCarroll, from AFSCME District Council 72, summoned-up the lobby day when he said, "This is where the rubber meets the road."

Caso Martin se presenta difícil para fiscales en EE.UU.

Por Prensa Latina

Una fiscal de la Florida admitió hoy que será muy difícil inculpar legalmente al individuo que disparó y mató a un joven afroestadounidense desarmado el 26 de febrero último en la comunidad sureña de Sanford.

La magistrada Angela Corey, quien lidera las investigaciones contra el vigilante nocturno George Zimmerman, explicó que a tenor de la controvertida ley floridana conocida como "dispara primero" será casi imposible armar una acusación oficial.

Varios estados norteamericanos permiten a cualquier persona enfrentar de manera letal a un potencial agresor con un arma de fuego cuando considere que su vida puede estar en peligro.

El abogado de Zimmerman invocó el criterio de defensa personal y alegó que la noche del suceso su cliente y Trayvon Martin forcejearon, el primero quedó con una herida en la cabeza mientras que el adolescente recibió un disparo en el pecho.

Este incidente -interpretado por muchos ciudadanos como un crimen de odio racial- ha desatado una ola de protestas públicas, sobre todo en el llamado Estado del Sol, y el Departamento de Justicia junto al Buró Federal de Investigaciones iniciaron pesquisas independientes.

Líderes de la Asociación para la Defensa de los Derechos Civiles, la Federación para el Progreso de la Gente de Raza Negra, y la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Negros demandaron al gobernador Rick Scott y a la Casa Blanca el arresto del atacante.

El padre de la víctima, Tracy Martin, dijo que "nuestro hijo no merecía morir. Nada podemos decir que nos lo

devuelva, pero quiero asegurarme que se haga justicia y que otros padres no tengan que pasar por esto de nuevo".

Zimmerman alegó que había disparado en defensa propia, y aún no ha sido arrestado. Se comprobó que el muchacho de 17 años hablaba por teléfono en el momento de ser abatido y no portaba arma alguna.

Comisionados federales de Sanford votaron 3-2 en favor de una moción de no confianza en contra del jefe del departamento policial Bill Lee, mientras en las redes sociales se multiplican los llamados para la destitución definitiva del funcionario.

Nuevas marchas y protestas populares contra el racismo y por el caso Trayvon Martin fueron convocadas para hoy en Estados Unidos, mientras el contexto público se enrarece con la entrada en escena del Partido Panteras Negras.

El joven negro de 17 años, desarmado, fue muerto a tiros por un vigilante voluntario hace exactamente un mes en el barrio de Sanford, Florida, mientras salía de una cafetería donde compró té frío.

Este incidente envuelve muchas interrogantes legales, y el victimario no ha sido arrestado por la policía, aunque el gobernador Rick Scott pidió se le aplicara un juicio aclaratorio donde se tengan en cuenta sus alegaciones sobre presunto "acto de defensa propia".

El caso Martin desató una ola de movilizaciones de la comunidad afroestadounidense sobre todo en California, Nueva York, y Florida, además de poner en entredicho una ley conocida como "dispara primero", la cual ya ha provocado otras reacciones letales de ciudadanos.