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www.afgazad.com

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Protesters irate over murder of black teenager in Florida

Fri Mar 23, 2012



Nationwide protests continue in the US as demonstrators demand justice for the killing of an unarmed African-American Florida teen, slain by a watch guard last month.

George Zimmerman, a volunteered guard in the city of Sanford, Florida, shot 17-year old Trayvon Martin dead in February as he was walking back to his father's house. Zimmerman was, however, released after claiming that he acted in self-defense.

Thousands of people from all walks of life gathered in a Sanford park on Thursday to voice their support for Martin's family and listen to Rev. Al Sharpton talk about the case.

The protesters carried signs, wore shirts and chanted demanding justice in Trayvon's case.

"Enough is enough. We are tired of going to jail for nothing. Zimmerman should've been arrested that night," Rev. Sharpton told the crowd of people.

Rev. Sharpton maintained that now is the time for justice for the young teen who was killed too soon, albeit pointing out that "we are going to act intelligent. We are not mad dogs."

The reverend also asked people to start a donation to help Trayvon's family.

The rally took place shortly after the city's police chief Bill Lee who was handling the case announced on Thursday that he would temporarily step down due to the "distraction" he has become in the case. Lee's department has been heavily criticized for failing to arrest Zimmerman.

Critics also say the murder was racially motivated. Trayvon's case has heightened tensions with the African-American community in the US.

Tens of thousands had also attended a similar march in New York City on Wednesday, while another massive rally is planned for Sunday in the Californian city of Los Angeles. Over a million signatures have also been collected on line, calling.