

The Anti-racism Collective of the Justice Institute is one of over 50 organizations who belong to the Don't Shoot Coalition in St. Louis. ARC is comprised of a diverse group of white activists who consistently examine and challenge our own and societal racism through activism, analysis and writing, with accountability to people of color. We write today to express our outrage at the state manipulated Grand Jury's failure to indict Darren Wilson, the white Ferguson police officer who murdered African American teenager Michael Brown.

While this one indictment and eventual trial is not the only avenue toward justice, it would have been a real beginning and offered those who seek both justice and peace a real possibility for equal treatment under the law that is "supposed" to serve its citizens equally. History has repeatedly taught us a different lesson for people of color, as does the Grand Jury's current failure to indict Darren Wilson.

Those St. Louis citizens who are tired of what they see as "unjustified unrest" are seeking peace without justice. But there is "no justice without struggle" (Frederick Douglass). We will continue to protest alongside young people of color and demand changes to extreme militarization of the police, racial profiling, race discrimination, and a white controlled corporate media who portray young Black people as unjustified troublemakers. Instead, if we listened to the demands of young people, we may see longer term changes in employment, education, and housing for all of our fellow citizens.

The murder of even one African American person has become a part of the continual genocidal environment that exists in this country. There is continued distrust of people who are supposed to be servants of the criminal justice system, the police, the prosecutor, the Grand Jury—even the Department of Justice should they fail to prosecute the systems they are said to be investigating. How exactly has the DOJ appeared to come to the conclusion that Michael Brown's civil rights have not been impinged upon when his murder occurred while he was unarmed—his life being his most essential civil right? Who cannot see his death as being one of overkill, no matter what evidence was presented to either the Grand Jury or discovered by the DOJ investigation?

For those who believe we have found Darren Wilson guilty without a trial and are satisfied that no trial is being initiated, we submit that the struggle will go on until justice is no longer denied. The unjust systems must change so that those who are servants of the law recognize all of us as citizens with equal protection and benefits that white citizens take for granted. Until that happens, we will be on the streets alongside those seeking real justice and long term social change.

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