

\*\* Note from the writer — My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Trayvon Martin and Oscar Grant. \*\*

## Actions Speak Louder

There's an old saying that goes, "Actions Speak louder than words." A saying we've all heard and is brilliant in its simplicity. I mean, what better way to phrase the sentiment of: "Screw what you say, I'll do best to listen by what you do." We all know that sometimes what one says, and what one does, can be two totally irreconcilable things.

It is reasoned that every U.S. citizen (I don't use the term "American" because the U.S. isn't the only nation on the American Continent) has the right to remain safe from physical harm or threat. All the states in this nation have laws establishing the right of citizens to enjoy safety and security as they go through the normal course of everyday life. This presents the mirage that the government actually cares about the safety and security of its citizens. Well, maybe it does care about certain citizens; but as I'll attempt to now show you, this benevolence is not universally applied to all citizens.

For starters, tell the little girl whom received national media attention a few months back, due to suffering an unprovoked attack by a police officer (the officer tazed her in her private area), tell her that she has an absolute right to safety and security here in the U.S. The truth is that cops can attack any citizen at will and rarely suffer any real consequences for their misconduct, all under the guise of law. In most of these instances the cop is put on paid administrative leave pending an "investigation," then returned to their post soon after the "investigation." This is basically giving them paid vacation time. How's that for your right to be safe and secure?

And while we're on the subject of cop attacks, how about the instance of young Oscar Grant? He was fatally shot in the back, while laying prone on the ground with his hands cuffed behind his back, by a BART police officer. The cop had several absurd excuses for his actions. One being that he thought his gun was actually his tazer; despite the fact that cops receive extensive weapons training and even an untrained individual can tell the difference, in the weight and feel, between a gun and a tazer. Besides that, why would he even need a tazer for a man prone on the ground with his hands cuffed behind him?

This Caucasian police officer was brought to trial, by a mostly (if not all) Caucasian jury. Despite being charged with murder, the jury found him guilty of the lesser offense of Manslaughter and found true the gun enhancement allegation, which

typically lengthens a sentence by an additional 15 years. In an unprecedented maneuver by the trial judge, the judge reversed the gun enhancement conviction. And in another highly unusual move, the prosecutor didn't appeal (to the best of my knowledge) the trial judge's Abuse of Discretion. These are two things that very rarely happen in the courtroom. This amounted to a 3 part (judge, prosecutor, jury) condoning of the murder of an innocent young African-American man. The cop didn't do more than two years tops (probably substantially less) for murdering a young man who couldn't possibly have posed any real threat to him. ~~Iron-~~ Ironically there are literally thousands of African-American men languishing in Cal. prisons, with extremely lengthy sentences, due to being found guilty by a jury for a gun enhancement and not having a trial judge who would go the extra hundred miles in granting them the benefit of reversing the jury's finding. So much for justice being blind and equally applied eh? Now how do you think Oscar Grant's family and friends feel about this supposed right to remain safe and secure?

And then there's this recent incident involving the senseless murder of young Trayvon Martin. If you haven't heard about it then please find out about it and offer your solidarity to his family. Of course, the guy who murdered him said he shot in self-defense; the favored excuse given by a bigot who kills.

As is usually the case with the U.S. Corporate media, in situations involving African-Americans, they tried to present some unfavorable information, attempting to cast Trayvon in a negative light; as if a school suspension and his alleged smoking weed is supposed to justify him being murdered?? There has also been media reports, seemingly trying to validate the absurd self-defense claim, stating to the effect that George was pinned on the ground helplessly eating punches. Now, I've only seen the mugshot but George Zimmerman doesn't look like no small dude.

And let's not forget the fact that irrespective of Zimmerman's size, Trayvon Martin was a minor, a high school kid. I think it's completely illogical to give even the slightest consideration that this adult male needed a firearm to defend himself against an unarmed kid. I mean seriously, to be expected to swallow that pill is a tremendous insult to our intelligence and for no charges to have been filed is an insult to justice. I can assure you that if this were a situation where an African-American adult male claiming self-defense, shot and killed an unarmed Caucasian kid; he would've been in jail from the onset, facing first-degree murder charges, being held without bail. Many people claim that U.S. justice is blind and equally applied but Actions Speak Louder Than Words.

The theme, Cop shoots unarmed African-American man has already been recurring here in the U.S., so is: "Civilian shoots unarmed African-American man," the new edition?

Being killed by the cops, like Oscar Grant, is not a new phenomenon for an African-American man in the U.S. African-Americans being killed by a bigoted citizen is a revert back to the Civil Rights era and previously. It seems to me that the ruling-class deems it acceptable to murder African-American men. Of course it would be shouted across the airwaves that this isn't true; that all citizens are protected and their life respected alike. And for any politician, bureaucrat, or media pundit that would try to debate me on it, I'd tell them: "Don't show me with your words, show me with your actions!" Cause Actions Speak Louder Than Words, and there's no mistaking the message here in the U.S.