

November 21, 2014

Dear Special Rapporteur Forst:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting you come to the St. Louis area under your thematic mandate as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to document violations of the human rights of those working to ensure accountability for Mike Brown's killing and an end to discriminatory police practices. As you are aware the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the severe, militarized repression and ongoing harassment of human rights defenders call into question their commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected. In particular, we are concerned that the intimidation, surveillance and arrests of community organizers will only increase in the coming days.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' and, in particular, organizers' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area will be heard and respected.

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.

November 21, 2014

Dear Special Rapporteur Izsák:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting your presence in the St. Louis area under your thematic mandate as Special Rapporteur on minority issues to document violations of human rights of persons of African descent, and those working for their equal rights. As you are aware, the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process without discrimination, as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the militarized repression of protests calling for an end to police killings of persons of African descent, throw into question the state's commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' and, in particular, organizers' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area calling for justice and an end to discriminatory police tactics will be heard and respected.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.

November 21, 2014

Dear Special Rapporteur Kaye:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting you come to the St. Louis area under your thematic mandate as the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression to document violations of human rights. As you are aware the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the severe, militarized repression of the right to free expression call into question their commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' and journalists' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area will be heard and respected.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.

November 21, 2014

Dear Special Rapporteur Kiai:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting your presence in the St. Louis area under your thematic mandate as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to document violations of human rights. As you are aware, the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the severe, militarized repression of the right to assembly and freedom of speech call into question their commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area will be heard and respected.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.

November 21, 2014

Dear Special Rapporteur Méndez:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting your presence in the St. Louis area under your thematic mandate as the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to document violations of the human rights of those working to ensure accountability for Mike Brown's killing. As you are aware the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the severe, militarized repression of protestors call into question their commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected.

As detailed in our report to the CAT Committee Against Torture, you have investigated excessive use of force against protesters including "beatings, tear gas, and stun grenades, during and following arrest for peaceful human rights demonstrations."ⁱ Protesters in St. Louis are in danger of being indiscriminately subjected to these very tactics, underscoring the need for your urgent attention to the events as they unfold in the area.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' and journalists' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area calling for justice and an end to discriminatory police tactics will be heard and respected.

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.

ⁱ Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Méndez, UN doc. A/HRC/22/53/Add.4, e.g. paras. 6, 10, 21, 77 (Mar. 12 2013), at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A.HRC.22.53.Add.4_Advance_version.pdf.

November 21, 2014

Dear Special Rapporteur Ruteere:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting you come to the St. Louis area under your thematic mandate as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to document violations of human rights of persons of African descent, and those working for their equal rights. As you are aware, the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process without discrimination, as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the militarized repression of protests calling for an end to police killings of persons of African descent, call into question the state's commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' and journalists' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area calling for justice and an end to discriminatory police tactics will be heard and respected.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.

November 21, 2014

Dear Ms. Fanon:

Last week, we, as the family of Michael Brown, Jr. and as civil society representatives, presented a report to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the killing of unarmed 18 year-old black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, Missouri (a small town outside of St. Louis) by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, and the numerous human rights violations committed by the police in the demonstrations that took place in the weeks that followed the killing. In the report, we detailed a range of human rights violations including cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of law enforcement, excessive use of force by law enforcement against protesters, racial profiling and racially biased police harassment.

Today, we, as civil society members, write you this urgent letter requesting your presence in the St. Louis area under your mandate as the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to document violations of human rights of persons of African descent, and those working for their equal rights. As you are aware, the United States has signed on to treaties to protect the rights of speech, assembly, life and due process without discrimination, as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Yet, the acts of the state of Missouri and local law enforcement, including the militarized repression of protests calling for an end to police killings of persons of African descent, throw into question the state's commitment to ensure that these basic rights be respected.

On November 17, 2014, Governor Jay Nixon issued a preemptive state of emergency and emphasized that protesters must conform to the demands of law enforcement. However, state officials have been silent about credible threats made by white supremacist hate groups to use lethal force against protesters. Further, since August, the St. Louis County Police Department has spent over \$300,000 acquiring additional armaments to respond to demonstrations.¹ Understandably, these acts have created the impression that the state is preparing for warfare against its own citizens.

Currently a grand jury continues its deliberations as to whether to criminally charge Officer Darren Wilson with the killing of Michael Brown. Protests have continued and we expect mass protests immediately following the decision, which we have been informed will be handed down soon.

Your attention to this issue is imperative to help prevent the systematic violation of protesters' human rights similar to or worse than those perpetrated during the August 2014 protests. We believe that international oversight may be the only safeguard against the commission of future human rights violations, as well as the only mechanism by which the voices of the citizens of the St. Louis area calling for justice and an end to discriminatory police tactics will be heard and respected.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/20/us/as-ferguson-grand-jury-report-looms-police-say-they-dont-fear-protests.html?mabReward=RI%3A12&_r=0

Signed,

The Family of Michael Brown and their Attorneys,
HandsUpUnited,
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE),
Organization for Black Struggle (OBS),
and the Ferguson to Geneva Delegation:
Cheeraz Gormon,
Justin Hansford,
Kareem Jackson,
Meena Jagannath, and
Tara Thompson.