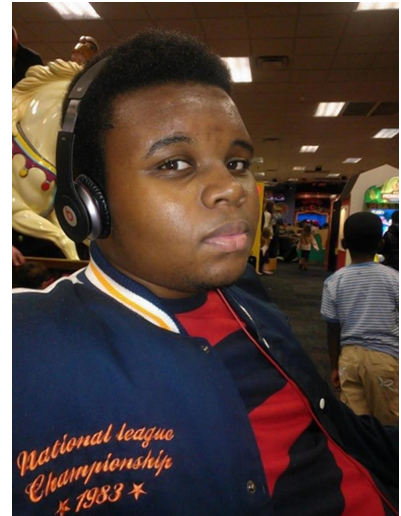


The News Today

Yeah, I was one of them, I was one of the looters and bottle throwers. Hell yeah, I screamed F*** The Police because the system is messed-up. Messed-up because when I commit a crime I'm arrested, when I don't commit a crime I'm arrested, If someone else who is black commits a crime I'm arrested and ya'll want to say be peaceful? And you call me crazy. I don't vote, and don't give a damn. My vote don't mean nothin'. As long as we ain't got no job, our schools are a joke, extra activities likes sports and shit are not available and you think a vote is going to make a difference? You trippin'. You think I'm unintelligent because I'm uneducated but let me tell you something. I've been educated by these streets and here are some realities for you:



- Unemployment breeds crime. You can debate the reasons, but this is true in white or Black neighborhoods. Why is it that the Black unemployment rate is always higher than the rest of the country? Because you don't care. As long as the crime is contained within those communities your ass is happy.
- Bad schools lead to bad jobs or no jobs at all. Why is it that schools in the inner city get short changed one way or another? Either there is less money per student, the administration in charge mismanages the money, the teachers are underpaid, the facilities are run down, the students have other issues like food and shelter or the books and programs are so poor that learning is a joke. I ain't the smartest person in the world but I'm smart enough to know that the people elected can do something about this but don't and haven't for decades. Like my vote really matters.
- I know that crime is dealt with differently in a Black Community or if a Black person is involved. Hell, I don't have no fancy graphs and facts but yeah, I watch the news and see that Whites shoplift, smoke weed, snort cocaine, kill people and get sentences that are lighter than us Blacks. You think I'm crazy? You think I'm stupid? Well think again. I don't need no books to tell me that the justice system is UNJUST.
- I also know that the odds of a Black boy making it out of the hood are slim. I didn't expect to make it to my 18th birthday. You want to blame it on Black on Black Crime, I blame it on survival. Poor people on top of poor people with all the worst stuff and you say we should be upstanding citizens yet you're content to let us live like our lives don't matter.

So you watched last night in amazement how could we tear up our own communities and ask why? What would that accomplish? And you are suppose to be the smart ones. Well, let me help you:

- First, we don't necessarily think Mike Brown was a great guy. We just know that our options are limited and so were his. We don't all stand with him on his actions, we stand with him on the reasons and the unfair consequences. Dude didn't have to die. If you care so much about Black on Black Crime, if you really care, what about better school, jobs, houses and shit? Maybe just a real grocery store with prices like in the rest of the city? Yeah, that's a pipe dream.
- Second, we can't go to your community to protest. You think I'm silly enough to think that would ever happen. Black people who live in your community are stopped just for looking Black. So I'm mad, I'm frustrated and I want to tear something up and I don't care whose it is because in reality it is not mine. Oh, that surprised you didn't it? You keep taking about "my" community but most of us don't own nothing in "our" community. We don't own a house or a business. For real, most of the businesses are owned by people who don't live in our community and then you want to ask why is that? We can't get a loan. Oh how quick you forget about the bad education, which leads to a bad job which leads to no home or what you call collateral for a loan to own a business. I put that all together all by myself. Hah, you think I'm stupid, well think again.
- Third and finally, the reason we are doing this is hopelessness. We have no hope for a better life, a better tomorrow. So you can just kill me now, lock me up now because that's all you do anyway. At this point I don't believe a damn word you say about making change, pulling myself up by the bootstraps, etc, etc. And when I mention racism, you say, there isn't a such thing. I've seen studies quoted (no. I ain't gonna lie, I haven't read them) which say Blacks are punished more for the same crime, that Blacks are stopped more while walking and driving, that Whites commit more crimes, that Blacks with the same qualifications as a White are hired less and discriminated against and you deny it is true.

I don't know if, I'll see tomorrow. I don't even think about it. But I'm tired of being bullied, pushed around and I just want to hurt somebody. Want to bring the same pain I feel everyday. I want to release all the frustrations of less than two decades on this earth. Call it what you want, barbaric, animalistic, uncivilized, whatever. But you think I'm stupid, well think again, some people would call this a revolution. It might not be the best revolution but they all start somewhere. I might be dead or locked up but I can tell you this, it is worth dying standing up against injustice much more than being killed over some stolen cigars. Mike Brown may have committed a crime but he also highlighted that this world is F***'d up! The interesting thing is, you want me to fight how you want me to fight and then change the rules but one thing about a revolutions their ain't no rules. Nothing is off limits when you are willing to die and since my life doesn't matter, why are you so concerned now? I know 'cause it now affects you and your life. Isn't that something. You the ones with the knowledge and don't know that if we burn, you might too. Content to let our neighborhood smolder in despair, discontent and disarray and now the fire is raging and you are asking why? — anonymous