

Surname

Professor's Name

Sociological Event

Date

### The Ferguson Uprising

The Ferguson uprising is a range of protests that began in August 2014. The uprising was formed due to the deterioration in the relationship between African- Americans and the police. Racism from law enforcement agencies like the police to African-Americans is not a new issue. It has existed for decades, and an efficient solution has been found. There have been many protests similar to the Ferguson uprising, for example, the currently popular "black lives matter campaign." These movements advocate for equality in the way law is enforced in all neighborhoods without specific communities having privileges. The Ferguson uprising was a major sociological event, as addressed in this document.

Michael Brown was an African-American 18 years of age. He was shot down by Officer Wilson, a white Ferguson male aged 28. Officer Wilson was called for an assault and robbery that was reported in a convenience store. The caller described Michael Brown (the accused), who was also later identified by security cameras in the vicinity. Officer Wilson claimed that when tried questioning Michael Brown, Brown attacked him. They struggled for a while, with Brown almost gaining possession of the Officer's weapon. During the struggle, Officer Wilson states that the firearm discharged wounding Brown slightly, who then tried to escape the scene. Officer Wilson chased Brown briefly and ultimately shot and gunned him down. The Officer stated that his reaction was in self-defense because Brown charged at him. However, witnesses argue that

Brown's hands were in the air, and he was also unarmed when Darren Wilson shot him (Gordon et al., 18). The incident caused "the Ferguson uprising."

The uprising happened due to the murder of Michael Brown, an African American citizen by Darren Wilson, a police officer in Missouri (David and Ragland, 520). The protests began on Aug 10, a day after Michael Brown was shot dead. Vigorous debates were sparked by the unrest in America on the relationship of the police and African-Americans, police militarization, and force law use. Activism continued until the uprising included issues on prisons of modern-day debtors, school segregation, and policing for profit. The unrest caused by the murder moved the police to deploy riot squads and establish curfews for the order to be maintained. Significant violent unrest and looting, along with protests that were peaceful, were experienced in the location of Michael Brown's murder. The media reported that police reacted in militarization in interacting with the violent demonstrations of Ferguson. The riots continued on Nov 24. It was after the Grand Jury failed to indict Officer Darren Wilson for any charges related to that incident (Mirzoeff and Nicholas, 50). How the police responded to that shooting was criticized heavily. The slow rate that information on the fire was flowing to the public was also subject to considerable criticism. A significant number of the documents reviewed and received by Jury were only released after declining the Grand Jury to indict Darren Wilson.

The event from a sociological perspective is a result of Racism that is still profoundly instilled in most of the institutions. Racism, especially in the police department, in dealing with African Americans and other ethnic groups, is prevalent. There have been numerous reports of police brutality from people of color, which sometimes are fatal cases. Excessive use of force by police when dealing with crimes involving the black community and their victimization is a severe issue for African-Americans. Youth African-Americans do not feel safe in the streets,

whether they are doing something legal or illegal because of the police. They risk arrest and harassment by law enforcement agencies that are supposed to protect them. It has caused the police relationship with the black community to be a bitter (Watts and Meghan, 112). The rift only increases as the days go by since the cases are still being reported. African-Americans are losing their trust significantly in the police since they are placed as enemies. In return, they disassociate with the police. This creates disorder among the community and being alienated even further by society. Alienation of African-Americans by the police causes race segregation to increase. The cops offer quality services to other cities but segregate African-Americans. This is Racism in the police department that has not been addressed. The riots indicated a police system that was rot and social change was required. The protests used looting and vandalism to draw attention to their problem since businesses are valued more than people. The police reaction to the demonstrations further showed that the structure of tactics and policing should also be subject to change.

In a time when race relations are of importance, the killing of Michael Brown was ill-timed. Additionally, reports indicated that out of the 53 police officers in Ferguson, only 3 were African-Americans (Ray and Rashawn, 1800). It suggests the racism levels in the police department. Diversity is not well represented, and cases like the murder of Brown only worsen the racism claims of the department. Over 67 percent of Ferguson's population consists of African-Americans. Having 50 out of the 53 police officers being white is a terrible representation of the majority. Additionally, research in Missouri showed that for every one white driver stopped by traffic police, there are already seven African-Americans who have already been stopped. Blacks encountered searches by the police in about 12 times as much as white people. All these issues have caused resentment bitterly among the black community

against the police force, which should be responsible for their protection. Michael Brown's murder bubbled these issues with the police department to the surface. Ranges of reports from the black community are from race wars that are all out to disrespect.

The level at which African-Americans are scrutinized unjustly, killed, and brutalized is epidemic. A report held in 2015 indicates that about 19 percent of African-Americans openly admitted to unfair treatment by the police in the last month from the interview (Davey, Monica, and Mitch, 43). This number is significantly small compared to the 3 percent of whites reporting police brutality. Latinos also have a 17 percent report level of discrimination by police officers. From the research, it is evident that people of color face challenges in accessing law institutions and also face law institutions as challenges to their daily lives. The society has adopted an ancient belief that associates blackness with criminality. The system has caused justification of unreasonably high use of force in dealing with suspects who are African-American. Michael Brown's case is among the prominent examples together with others like Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Jordan Edwards, and Sandra Bland, and many others. Unwarranted incidents such as these result in murder and other serious injuries. The problem is not that the black community mainly consists of criminals. The issue is that the areas with which most African-Americans can afford to live are areas with high crime rates. It is as a result of discrimination that they cannot afford safe neighborhoods and further classifying them as criminals without the benefit of the doubt that whites are given is wrong and inhumane and unjust (Kilgo et al., 420). The black community is victimized because of victimization in other areas on them. The deaths and injuries caused by the brutal police force on African-Americans are not accounted for by respective authorities. Young African-American men have a likelihood of getting shot by the police nine

times more than the whites. Over a thousand deaths are reported yearly are associated with police brutality on African-Americans.

The discrimination of African-Americans can be classified under functionalism sociological theory and conflict theory. Functionalism focuses on social equilibrium and unity. For Racism to exist for so many years, it must serve essential functions. There are some functions that are served by racial inequality and some dysfunctions. The functions, however, do not justify Racism. They strengthen the bond between discriminated communities, enhancing unity. Conflict theory applies to ethnicity and race, social class, and gender inequalities. The case of Michael Brown was inequality of race.

In conclusion, the death of Michael Brown might not have been brought to justice, but it triggered essential debates in the nation. It led to the Ferguson uprising, which plays a critical role in airing the injustices by the police systems to racial minorities like the African-Americans. Racial discrimination is present after all these years and campaigns against it, but the war on it should not stop. African-Americans are tortured psychology when encountering law enforcement officers even though they have not committed any crime. It is an inhumane to live in the current world, and social changes are required to solve the issue.

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