

Unrest in Ferguson, Missouri by Imam Yahya Shabazz

In light of the recent shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo., and the Trayvon Martin murder, and the numerous other fatal encounters African Americans (especially men), have with Europeans, and others that leave African Americans either seriously injured, in jail, or dead, One wonders why this kind of tragedy continues to happen.

You would think that after all the sacrifices, and blood that's been shed, as a people we would be truly free by now. The question begs to be answered, we are we as a people in the 21st Century, still on the bottom of society's ladder of progress? When we reflect on our history during the struggle for human rights, we see that most all the world was with us in the quest for dignity, and honor.

We had among us great leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King speaking to the conscience of a nation filled with hatred, and racism for her fellow citizens, calling on America to respect the rights of all its citizens equally.

At the same time, we heard the voice of the Honorable Elijah Mohammed calling us as a race back to self responsibility, and to use our own minds, and human potential to move ourselves forward, depending on self, and no one else but Almighty God Allah. After the passing of these two great leaders, it seemed that racism was finally dead; we could vote, live where where we wanted, and had more elected African Americans in office than at anytime in history.

So then, why are we still being disrespected even more now than before the advent of the human rights struggle? It is because that same evil mind that supported Jim Crow is still in control. The deadly influences that is pumped into the African American community in the form of rap music, and filled with violence, and urges disrespect for any authority.

The so called new style of R&B focuses on nothing but sex, cheating, disrespect between men and women, and a complete tear down of self esteem in African American women. The rest of the emphasis is placed on trends and fads, parties, and trying to win concert tickets off the radio.

As a consequence, we remain a people disrespected by the world because we not only disrespect the sacrifices made by those who brought us this far, but we disrespect ourselves, as most of the blood shed in our communities is done by us to us, due to the influences from the Jim Crow mentality, killing off the creativity, and imagination in us to be producers and giving direction to the society to help advance the society.

Therefore, when white cops, and others do kill African Americans unjustly because we're not economically grounded, therefore when these tragedies do happen, all we can do is scream, holler, and protest. What a shame on us.

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