

The Latest News

The Truth About Ferguson, Missouri



CRIME FEATURED NEWS

By Alexander Baron



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Two police officers **have been shot** in Ferguson, Missouri. Fortunately, **unlike Michael Brown**, both will live to tell the tale. Broadly speaking there are two extreme narratives to what has been happening in Ferguson since August 9 last year. The first: it's all down to *racism*, yadda, yadda, yadda. The second is it's the wonderful police doing their job but being obstructed and at times attacked by gangs and general criminal lowlifes, most of whom are black. As usual, the truth is somewhere between the two extremes, although race is not really an issue.



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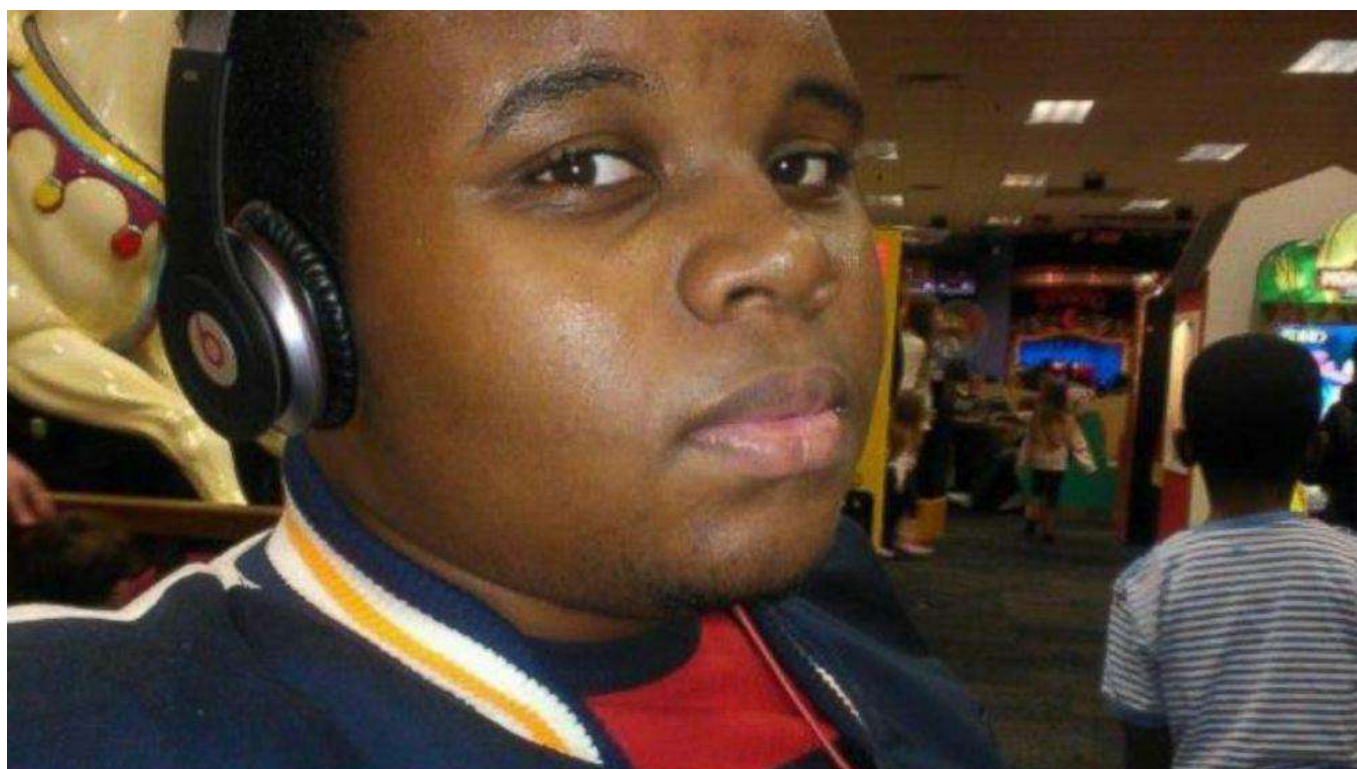
Watch: Ferguson shooting captured on video tonight by live streamer (beginning at 0:40) [ustream.tv/recorded/59796...](https://www.ustream.tv/recorded/59796...)

6:23 AM - 12 Mar 2015

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Let's get one thing clear first, Michael Brown was both a bully and a thug. And arrogant with it. He was also 18 years old, and did not deserve to be shot down like a dog, whatever the plausible Darren Wilson may claim. Wilson may have made a legitimate stop, but that is as far as it goes.



Michael Brown (Facebook)

On March 4, the Department Of Justice issued its report on its investigation into the Ferguson Police Department, and it makes **uncomfortable reading**. In a city where a quarter of the population is said to live below the poverty line (page 6), the police force is seen as a major generator of revenue by "aggressive enforcement of Ferguson's municipal code". The treatment meted out to the motorist detailed on page 3 beggars belief. Do you really want to read any further? Okay, check out the woman motorist alluded to on page 4, who was put through a seven year hell over a parking offence. True, both these citizens are black, but let's take race out of the equation for a moment. Even Jared Taylor **recognises the fact** that there are problems in Ferguson which are not entirely the fault of people like Michael Brown.

In the UK, the police are not used to generate revenue, but they have extensive powers of arrest and seizure; people are routinely fingerprinted and DNA swabbed on arrest, and as with the outrageous **Cliff Richard case** and the bizarre historical **case reported here**, they often search property and seize chattels just because they can. On the other hand, except in Central London the police are (theoretically) unarmed, and it is only very rarely that someone is shot. Likewise police brutality is largely a thing of the past. In the US, when the police stop a motorist the latter is often in peril of being shot, and occasionally the former. But, unlike in the UK, there are severe restrictions on police powers. For example, *Mapp v Ohio* (1961) limited the power of law enforcement to violate people's privacy by unreasonable searches. There are exceptions though, in particular there is the community caretaker exception which was established in the 1973 case of *Cady v Dombrowski*.

The phrase *community caretaker* requires neither legal nous nor explanation. In the UK, the function of the police is to maintain the Queen's Peace, and thereby protect its citizens, in theory, at any rate. In other words, the police are the servants of the community. In Ferguson, Missouri and much of the rest of the United States, the police behave less like servants than masters, and particularly cruel ones at that. What sort of community caretaker makes a woman's life a misery for seven years over a minor parking infraction?



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Two officers shot in Ferguson. First ambulance leaving from scene.

5:30 AM - 12 Mar 2015

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Yes, there are problems with crime and public disorder in Ferguson, but does turning the town into a *de facto* war zone diffuse or intensify these problems?

Before the police restore order to Ferguson, they need to restore it to their own ranks. It has often been said we get the police we deserve; that may once have been true in the UK but it is no longer true in the US, especially in Ferguson, Missouri.

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