

The Trayvon Martin Shooting: Myth vs. Fact

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Many journalists continue to portray Trayvon Martin as an innocent victim who was shot by an overzealous neighborhood watchman named George Zimmerman. Not only do they continue to repeat myths that were thoroughly refuted at Zimmerman's trial, but they imply that the shooting was racially motivated. So let's get a few basic facts straight (sources are provided at the end):

MYTH: Zimmerman was driving around looking for possible burglars when he spotted Martin.

FACT: It was established at trial that Zimmerman was merely on his way to Target to do his regular Sunday shopping when he spotted Martin.

As the police call shows, Zimmerman noticed Martin because he saw Martin walking through yards and looking into windows in the cutback between housing units. Anyone can read this on the police call transcript or hear it on the police call audio for themselves.

MYTH: Zimmerman called the police to report Martin because Martin was black and because Zimmerman was a racist.

FACT: The FBI conducted a thorough investigation into Zimmerman's racial views and found no evidence that he was a racist. In fact, several blacks who knew Zimmerman came forward and said they had never known Zimmerman to express racist views and that they had always felt respected by him.

The police call transcript shows that Zimmerman was not certain that Martin was black, and Zimmerman said nothing about Martin's race/skin color until he was asked about it by the police dispatcher--at which point Zimmerman said he thought that Martin looked black. In Zimmerman's previous police calls to report other suspected trouble-makers, Zimmerman never mentioned the suspect's race/skin color until he was asked to describe their appearance.

Also, Zimmerman is half-Hispanic and is (or at least was) a Democrat.

MYTH: Zimmerman followed Martin against police orders.

FACT: The police call refutes this. Zimmerman thought the dispatcher wanted him to follow Martin if Martin began to move out of his sight, and at trial the dispatcher himself admitted that his wording to Zimmerman could have made Zimmerman think he wanted him to follow Martin.

Also, as the police tape reveals, when the dispatcher realized that Zimmerman was following Martin and told him to stop, Zimmerman said "ok" and then you can hear on the tape that his voice returns to normal as he stops breathing heavily.

MYTH: Zimmerman came back to the "T" junction to confront Martin. If he had not done that, the shooting would not have happened.

FACT: Zimmerman passed two voice-stress polygraphs that asked him if he went back to confront Martin, and when he asked if he returned to the T to confront Martin, he passed with "No Deception Indicated (NDI)," the highest indicator of truth-telling that a polygraph can provide. And one of those polygraphs was administered without Zimmerman's knowledge.

As the police tape shows, after Martin ran off, Zimmerman thought the incident was over and was making arrangements to meet the police car that was en route.

Zimmerman went back near the T to try to get an address to give to the police. The prosecution claimed that this was not plausible since Zimmerman had lived in the neighborhood for several years, but many people can attest that they could not tell you the name of even the next street over from their street even though they've lived in their neighborhood for many years. I could not tell you the name of the next street over east from my house. And, again, Zimmerman passed with NDI the polygraph question about whether he went back to the T to confront Martin.

Moreover, the homicide detective who did most of Zimmerman's interrogation said he was impressed that when he falsely led Zimmerman to believe that the police had obtained a surveillance video of the incident, Zimmerman was visibly relieved and expressed gratitude that the video had been found.



The back of Zimmerman's head shortly after the shooting. Notice the depth of two of the cuts. These were the "punctate wounds" that world-renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Vincent DiMaio noted and discussed at Zimmerman's trial. DiMaio said that only violent contact with a hard object could cause such wounds. The "hard object," of course, was the pavement against which Martin was slamming Zimmerman's head.

MYTH: Martin was just a defenseless kid, while Zimmerman was a grown man.

FACT: Martin was 17 years old (a legal adult in some states), and was 4 inches taller than Zimmerman, had played on the football team, and had a history of violence.

Martin's social media messages included messages about wanting to kill people, about slapping girls who would not cooperate in bed, about being congratulated for trying to punch a bus driver, and about gang-related activities. In addition, Martin got into trouble at school multiple times and was once caught with a common burglary tool and women's jewelry in his backpack. (Was he casing homes for a burglary the night he was shot?)

MYTH: Martin was afraid of Zimmerman and thus would not have picked a fight with him as Zimmerman claimed.

FACT: If Martin was afraid of him, why did he wait at the T junction for at least 2 minutes, and probably 4 minutes, after he ran away from Zimmerman and after Zimmerman then walked back to his vehicle? Even 2 minutes was more than enough time for Martin to have walked to his alleged destination (his dad's girlfriend's house). So why did he hang around the T junction?

One of Martin's girlfriends, Rachel Jeantel, who spoke with Martin on the phone moments before he was shot, said Martin thought that Zimmerman was gay and that that's why Martin tried to beat up Zimmerman.

MYTH: Zimmerman's "injuries" were very minor and so he had no reason to fear for his life.

FACT: This claim was utterly destroyed at trial with photographic evidence, with police testimony, and with expert forensic testimony from one of the world's leading forensic pathologists, Dr. Vincent DiMaio (many regard Dr. DiMaio as the best forensic pathologist in the world).

Zimmerman emerged from his fight with Martin with two punctate skull wounds that were visibly bleeding, a fractured and bleeding nose, a back injury, a bruised cheek, a bruised lip, and two black eyes. When the police arrived, they noticed that Zimmerman appeared "wobbly" and "dazed."

Also, eyewitness testimony indicated that Martin was on top of Zimmerman and was rapidly punching him moments before he was shot. When the police arrived, they noted that the back of Zimmerman's jacket was visibly wet and had grass on it, consistent with Zimmerman's account.

MYTH: The voice heard crying for help on a 911 cell phone call during the incident was identified by forensic analysis to be Martin's voice.

FACT: That "forensic analysis" was thoroughly discredited soon after it was published. Martin's own father initially said the voice crying for help on the 911 call was *not* his son's voice. Why would the person beating the tar out of the other person be crying for help? It only stands to reason that the person who was getting beaten up would have cried out for help. Furthermore, when the police arrived, Zimmerman complained that he had called out help but that no one had responded.

Sources

[Answering Seven Key Questions About the George Zimmerman Trial](#)

[George Zimmerman Medical Report Sheds Light on Injuries After Trayvon Martin Shooting](#)

[Trayvon Martin: A Violent Thug Teen](#)

[The Mystery of Trayvon Martin's Backpack](#)

[New Forensic Evidence Supports Zimmerman's Claim of Self-Defense](#)

[Medical Evidence Delivers Major Blow to Prosecution in George Zimmerman Trial](#)

[Witness Says Trayvon Martin Attacked George Zimmerman](#)

[Cops, Witnesses Back Up Zimmerman's Version](#)

[Trayvon Martin was Suspended, Caught with Burglary Tool](#)

[Wikipedia Article on Trayvon Martin Shooting](#)

[Trayvon Martin Thought Zimmerman was Gay](#)

[Trayvon Martin Friend Says Martin Thought Zimmerman was Gay Rapist](#)

[Rachel Jeantel Tells Piers Morgan that Martin Thought Zimmerman was Gay](#)

[Drop Zimmerman's Murder Charge](#)

[Famous Attorney Says No Unbiased, Unafraid Jury Would Convict Zimmerman](#)

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