



Daniel
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LETTER FROM...



FERGUSON

A year after shooting of Michael Brown, Ferguson streets could burn again

POLICE are bracing themselves for a new wave of protests this weekend on the first anniversary of the fatal shooting of black teenager Michael Brown.

Many fear a repeat of the chaos that erupted on the streets of the St Louis suburb after the unarmed 18-year-old was shot dead by white policeman Darren Wilson on 9 August last year.

One serving officer told the Standard: "I'm scared about what will happen. We have not even recovered from last

year. This is my community. I don't want them to burn this place in the name of Michael Brown."

Ferguson lit the spark for a year of protests over US policing. Amid the worst racial tensions in a generation, police forces came under unprece-

ented scrutiny over a string of deaths of black people.

In New York, father-of-six Eric Garner, 29, was choked to death by a white police officer who was not indicted by a grand jury. Then there was Freddie Gray, the 25-year-old who died of a

broken spine after being arrested and driven around in a police van in Baltimore, in a killing which sparked riots.

Only last month in Cincinnati, Ohio, white officer Ray Tensing was charged with murder after shooting black motorist Samuel duBose.

According to The Guardian's project The Counted, 547 people were killed by US police in the first six months of this year, the vast majority of them black.

The Black Lives Matter movement has one simple message: Stop Killing Us. They also want justice.

Officer Wilson was not indicted by a grand jury and a federal investigation cleared him, although it condemned the Ferguson police department as racist. The father-of-two faces a wrongful death lawsuit but has £250,000 war chest from supporters.

The Ferguson police force has brought in body cameras but still has only five black officers out of a force of 53, even though 67 per cent of the population is African American.

It is also unclear where the protest movement goes now.

Larry Fellows, one of the original organisers of the Ferguson demonstrations, remains optimistic. He said: "Young kids are taking things into their own hands and speaking out. There is high school, college campus actions and they are doing it on their own."

But Professor Maria Haberfeld, the chair of the department of Law and Police Science at John Jay University in New York, offered a more sober view.

"We know that the standards for most police are abysmal. We know that the training is poor. We know what needs to be changed. But instead we do superficial changes like body cameras," she said. "How is that going to change the behaviour of someone who doesn't belong on the force?"

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Remembrance: children stage a "die-in" in

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London fugitive held in

Paul Cheston

Courts Correspondent

THE brother-in-law of a fugitive "fraudster" has been arrested in Lithuania after fleeing London to avoid prison.

Kazakh millionaire Syrym Shalabayev was detained in the capital Vilnius four years after being sentenced to 18 months in jail for contempt of court.

His brother-in-law Mukhtar Ablaev, who faced a fraud charge over the £11 billion collapse of a bank he ran in Kazakhstan, left Britain after he was sentenced to 22 months for flouting court orders to reveal his wealth.

Ablaev, who lived in Hampstead, was traced to the south of France in 2013, and is waiting to hear if French prime minister Manuel Valls will confirm his extradition for trial in Russia.

Investigators in Kazakhstan claim that Shalabayev was involved in Ablaev's alleged illegal financial activities, lied to the court in London, and tried to



Brothers-in-law: Mukhtar Ablaev, left, and Syrym Shalabayev of Kazakhstan

cover up the source of his brother-in-law's wealth. In 2011 Mr Justice Biggs sentenced Shalabayev, in his absence, to prison for contempt after the "wholesale flouting" of court orders.

In a separate judgment, Mr Justice Teare labelled Shalabayev "a man who is willing to cause to be created documents which contain untruths and are designed to hide the truth".

The judge added: "He did not appear to see anything wrong about this practice. It was, as he described it, his 'business'." He said Shalabayev could not