



August 14, 2014

JCRC Mourns Killing of Michael Brown, Condemns Violence and Racism

We were deeply saddened to learn of the tragic killing of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old from Ferguson, Missouri who was unarmed when he was shot and killed by a policeman earlier this week. Our hearts and prayers are with the Brown family during this difficult time.

In the aftermath of this terrible tragedy, we have been alarmed by the racially charged atmosphere that has emerged both in Ferguson and throughout the United States. It is unacceptable that in 2014 racism continues to resurface and rear its ugly head.

We support the rights of the people of Ferguson to peaceful freedom of assembly without fear of intimidation or arrest, and call on demonstrators to refrain from violence. We commend President Barack Obama for speaking out against alleged police brutality, saying there is “no excuse” for excessive force by police or looting and violence against law enforcement, and echo his outrage over the arrest of journalists covering the events in Ferguson. “Police should not be bullying or arresting journalists for doing their jobs.”

As the Department of Justice and FBI look into the circumstances under which Michael Brown was killed, we ask our community both here and throughout the United States to pursue justice for Michael Brown and his family, and speak out against violence and racism in all its forms.