

Minneapolis rallies before anniversary of George Floyd killing

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Minneapolis, May 24 (RHC)-- People have rallied in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in advance of the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd, which sparked mass protests across the United States for an end to police violence against Black people.

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of murder last month after he held his knee against Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes during an arrest on May 25th last year.

Demonstrators gathered on Sunday outside the Hennepin County Government Center, where Chauvin's trial was held, to commemorate Floyd's life and demand action to combat police violence and anti-Black racism.

The George Floyd Memorial Foundation, a group founded by Floyd's sister Bridgett Floyd, said the event aimed "to demonstrate our continued call for accountability and reform, because the right to equal justice should not be conditional or based upon a person's color."

Several other rallies and events are being held across the U.S. to mark the anniversary on Tuesday. "It's getting real close to the day," Bridgett Floyd told reporters earlier this week, as reported by Minneapolis NBC News affiliate KARE11.

"And I feel like as close as the days come I get a little stronger than I was last year, and that's because I have been through so much in this last year. I have no choice but to be strong and carry this weight, and carry this position that God has put me in. Because I didn't see it coming, none of us did," she said.

Reverend Al Sharpton, a prominent US civil rights leader, was in Minneapolis on Sunday to join the Floyd family, which he said "has not only suffered the pain but have been the ones to stand for the justice in this matter." "The Chauvin verdict was a step in the right direction, but it was a step," Sharpton told MSNBC before the rally. "We have a long way to go. I'm glad we're on the right path, but we must continue that path."

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