

U.S. Police Arrest 50 Protesters in Ferguson, Missouri



St. Louis, October 15 (RHC)-- More than 50 protesters were arrested in the St. Louis area of the United States during demonstrations over the shooting death of a Black teenager by a white police officer in August.

Thousands of people demonstrated as rain poured during the fourth straight day of protests which ran from Friday until Monday. At least 50 protesters were arrested in civil disobedience acts in Ferguson, the predominantly Black suburb of St. Louis where 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot dead by Darren Wilson. Protesters were greeted by about 40 armed officers in militarized gear.

Clergy, civil rights groups, activists and community organizers from across the U.S. have helped to lead the demonstrations, which they said is aimed at creating a national movement against police brutality and police mistreatment of African-Americans.

The four-day protests, dubbed "Ferguson October," began on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, thousands of demonstrators from across the U.S. gathered in St. Louis to march and rally.

The shooting death of 18-year-old Vonderrit Myers Jr. by an off-duty white policeman on Wednesday has fueled fire to the four-day rallies. The shooting took place just two months after Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson killed Brown, sparking weeks of violent protests.

Police brutality and the unnecessary use of heavy-handed tactics have become a major concern across the U.S. in recent years. U.S. police shoot and kill an average of 1,000 people a year, one in every four of whom are unarmed, according to a report by the Police Policy Studies Council.

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