



NEWS RELEASE

SENATOR

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California legislators stand together to seek justice for Trayvon Martin

Black, Latin and Asian and caucus members don 'hoodies' in solidarity with slain teen's family

SACRAMENTO – Outraged by inflammatory public statements and the failure of law enforcement to take action, members of the California Legislative Black Caucus, Latino Caucus and Asian Pacific Islander Caucus will don their 'hoodies' and join together to stand up for murdered Florida teen Trayvon Martin at a news conference Thursday morning in Sacramento.

On February 26, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot down by a self-styled "neighborhood watch leader" as he walked to his father's home carrying a bag of Skittles and a bottle of iced tea. More than a month later, no charges have been filed against his killer, and some are blaming the young man's choice of clothing for his death.

"Just as we recognize Denim Day each year to signify that you can't blame a woman for her own rape for wearing jeans, you can't blame this young man for his own death because he chose to wear what nearly every teen in America has in his or her closet," said Senator Roderick D. Wright (D-Inglewood), who called for the three caucuses to band together. Trayvon Martin was killed because George Zimmerman assumed a black teen walking in his neighborhood must be up to no good and took it upon himself to serve as judge, jury and executioner."

"The tragedy of a young man's untimely and unfair death is being compounded each day by the hateful and hurtful comments of those seeking to deflect blame from the neighborhood vigilante who killed him, and by the failure of law enforcement officials to seek justice for his murder," said CLBC chairman Senator Curren D. Price, Jr., adding, "There is no argument to be made that Trayvon Martin was the aggressor here. The recorded evidence clearly shows that Mr. Zimmerman pursued Trayvon Martin -- as Trayvon walked unsuspecting to his father's home to enjoy his Skittles and iced tea -- against the explicit instructions of law enforcement."

Thursday's three-caucus news conference will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 3191 of the California State Capitol in Sacramento. **Legislative staff and all members of the greater Capitol community are urged to join legislators in wearing their hoodies on Thursday.**

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

WHO: Members of the California Legislative Black Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and Latino Legislative Caucus

WHAT: News conference calling for justice for slain teen Trayvon Martin

WHEN: Thursday, March 29, 2012; 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 3191; Sacramento, CA

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Representing the communities of: Alondra Park, Athens, Compton, Gardena, Florence-Graham, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Lawndale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Pedro, Watts, Westchester, Westmont and Willowbrook