

Diallo Protests Continue

A demonstration at the state courthouse in Brooklyn, New York has drawn several hundred protesters chanting against police brutality. Most of the protesters are students. The demonstration was called in the wake of several high-profile cases in New York City involving police alleged police brutality and officers shooting civilians.

The biggest case was the fatal shooting of West African immigrant Amadou Diallo. Four police officers were found innocent last Friday of shooting Diallo 19 times, in a barrage of 41 bullets. A jury in the Brooklyn courthouse is considering the conspiracy case against three other police officers who are accused of a cover-up after the beating and torture of another back man, Abner Louima.

Meanwhile, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is defending his initial strong support for the police officers who shot an unarmed Diallo 19 times in the entrance way to his own apartment building

CBS News Correspondent Bobbi Harley reports that for the mayor, the hope is just to move on.

"Maybe we were asking for the conviction of four men that were from at least a legal point of view innocent and in a set of circumstances that had more to do with accident than deliberate misconduct," said Giuliani.

But Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, whose office tried the unsuccessful case, has called for the resignation of the four officers, who still face a police review, a possible federal probe and a potential civil lawsuit by the family of Amadou Diallo.

[The Diallo Case:
A Timeline](#)

Johnson said: **"You know, there have been some who said that Robert Johnson should resign. I think somebody who policed in the way these four officers policed that night, they should resign. Their mistakes, their misjudgments, their preconceptions led to the violent and horrible death of an innocent person."**

The jurors say prosecutors did not make their case, and their decision was clear based on the evidence.

Johnson has pledged to help the family pursue possible civil rights charges with the federal Justice Department.

Back home after being acquitted, the four police officers remain undecided about whether they will return to the force.

One of the officers' attorneys, Stephen Worth, says the trial showed that the officers were not guilty of any crime and that they followed procedure implicitly.

A [CBS News poll](#) found half of New York state residents disagree with the Diallo verdict, with 30 percent in agreement and 20 percent undecided.

On Monday, dozens turned out to protest the verdict in Baltimore. More than 1,000 people turned out Sunday for a peaceful prayer vigil outside the United Nations in New York and about 450 marched afterward to City Hall.

The Four Officers

Edward McMellon, 27, has been on the force six years. He lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn. In the Diallo shooting he fired 16 times. McMellon wounded an armed man in Brooklyn in June 1998; the shooting was deemed justified. He has had five civilian complaints alleging excessive force, abuse of authority and racial insensitivity, all deemed unsubstantiated by department officials.

Sean Carroll, 37, who has been on the force six years, also fired 16 times in the Diallo shooting. He is married, has two children, and lives in Babylon, on Long Island. In August 1998, Carroll was shot at by a suspect in the Bronx, and fired back, but missed. The suspect was never found, and the shooting was deemed justified. Three civilian complaints against him were all deemed unsubstantiated.

Kenneth Boss, 28, has been on the force eight years. He fired five times at Diallo. Boss is single and lives in Kings Park, on Long Island. Boss shot and killed a man armed with a shotgun in Brooklyn in October 1997; the Brooklyn district attorney's office cleared him of any wrongdoing. Three civilian complaints alleging excessive use of force were all deemed unsubstantiated.

Richard Murphy, 27, has been on the force six years. He fired four times

at Diallo. He is married, has a toddler, and lives in Fresh Meadows, Queens. Murphy had no prior shooting incidents or civilian complaints.

Diallo died Feb. 4, 1999, when plainclothes officers Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon, Kenneth Boss and Richard Murphy fired 41 bullets at him in the vestibule of his apartment building. They say he refused orders to halt for questioning, and they believed a wallet in his hand was a gun. Diallo was hit 19 times.

Diallo's father, Saikou, and one of the family's attorneys say they're not done fighting.

"I want those who killed my son to face the penalty and to be punished, not because they are police, because they killed a human being," Diallo's father, Saikou told **CBS News *Early Show* National Correspondent Jon Frankel.**

Omar Mohammedi, the lawyer that was retained by the Diallo family, said he wants to see New York pay.

"We want the city to pay in terms of money, but, also, we'd like to make sure that justice will be done for Amadou Diallo," Mohammedi said. **"His basic right to live was violated. He wasn't involved in any criminal activity, he didn't do anything wrong for him to be shot 41 times."**

Diallo said he believes his son's race was entirely responsible for his death.

The Diallo legal team has asked the Justice Department to look into the case, and it has opened an inquiry. But in order to overturn the verdict, it must be found that the trial was unfair. While the Justice Department is within its jurisdiction, it would be surprising to see them take action. **CBS News** has learned that Rep. Charles Rangel, D-NY, and the Rev. Al Sharpton are meeting with Assistant Attorney General Eric Holder Tuesday to discuss the inquiry.

The Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network is investigating what companies contribute money to the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, which helped finance the defense of the four officers in the case.

Later this week, Sharpton plans to release names of the companies and will ask citizens to boycott the firms.

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