

Eight minutes and forty-six seconds on May 25th, 2020 was all it took to send the country over the edge. Eight minutes and forty-six seconds doesn't seem like much, until it sparks months of outrage throughout the entire world. Shortly after 8:00 p.m., in Minneapolis, Minnesota, George Floyd was murdered in police custody after Former Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Little did he know, this act of manslaughter would cause one of the largest outcries for justice some generations have ever seen.

The Black Lives Matter Movement was formed on July 13, 2013 as a response to police brutality throughout the world. It was originally founded as a response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, but since the organization was created, it has demanded justice for countless victims of police brutality. Some consider George Floyd's murder to be the straw that broke the camel's back in terms of the people fighting back.

Protests were sparked first in Minnesota, before spreading to the rest of the nation, and eventually the world. These protests took place over countless days and weeks in an abundance of forms. Petitions were signed, marches organized, statements and speeches made. When the protests began to turn violent, the media had no trouble covering stories and footage of looting and rioting, however showed no sympathy towards those peacefully protesting and hurting from the centuries of injustice within the country.

It didn't take long for some to become outraged at the protesters for the violent nature of the demonstrations. However, in only seeing the riots, it is easy to overlook the murders that have occurred, and the peaceful protesters who are doing their best to make a true difference. On an episode of The Daily Show, Trevor Noah explains his way of seeing things, opening the eyes of thousands. He explained, "When you boil it down, society is a contract we sign as human beings amongst each other. 'Amongst this group of us, we agree in common rules, common ideals, and common practices that are going to define us as a group...' But if you think of being a black person in America who is living in Minneapolis, or any place where you're not having a good time, ask yourself this question when you watch those people: What vested interest do they have in maintaining the contract? Black American people watch time and time again how the contract they have signed with society is not being honored by the society... When you see George Floyd on the ground losing his life in a way that no person should ever have to lose their life at the hands of someone who is supposed to enforce the law, what part of the contract is that? A lot of people say, 'Well, what good does this do?' Yeah, but what good doesn't it do? How does it help you to *not* loot Target? Because the only reason you didn't loot Target before was because you were upholding society's contract. There is no contract if the law and people in power don't uphold their end of it."

As the riots have come to a close, the media is no longer covering the protests that are still taking place throughout the country. Many aren't even aware that there are still demonstrations taking place around the nation, due to the lack of media coverage. The fact of the matter is that the people will not stop until justice is served. Justice for Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, and the hundreds of others being killed in the streets. Black lives matter today, tomorrow, and always. Even if the media isn't talking about it any more.