

Michael Brown was shot to death, on August 9, 2014, by Darren Wilson, a Ferguson police officer.

On August 12, three days after Mike Brown was shot, Dorian Johnson (and his attorney) appeared on CNN's Anderson Cooper program. Johnson claimed that he and his friend, "Big Mike", were walking down the middle of the street when they were blocked by Officer Wilson, who then just reached out and grabbed Brown by the throat.

"The door ricocheted off our bodies...It almost knocked the wind out of me."

"After the door bounced back on [the officer]...it's almost in an instant, his left arm comes out the window...He just stuck his arm, his left arm, out the window and grabbed my friend around the throat. And now my friend, he's angry, he has a frowny face, but my friend is not [an] aggressive person, so he's not trying to go with the officer, he's trying to pull away from the officer. And the officer is pulling him in the vehicle, like's he's trying to pull him through the window. And [Big Mike's] so big, he couldn't pull his body down into the window, so it's more like his body is coming into the window while the officer was pulling on him."

"And while there was pulling, he managed to turn around and get loose [of] the officer's hold from his neck. And now the officer is still trying to maintain his grip, hold on him. So now he's grabbing on his shirt, still with his one arm, his left arm, he's trying to grab any grip he can on my friend...Now at this moment, [Big Mike] hands me the cigarillos [stolen from a convenience store]. Like he tells me, hold these...And I'm still standing in the door right when they're doing all this tugging and pulling, not wrestling as they say. It's more like tug and pull because he's trying to pull Big Mike and he's trying to pull away because we really don't understand the manner that the officer is addressing us..."

The Department of Justice (DOJ) released the results of their investigation approximately 7 months after Brown was shot dead.

The DOJ report notes on page 44 that Johnson "made multiple statements to the media immediately following the incident that spawned the popular narrative that Wilson shot Brown execution-style as he held up his hands in surrender." In one of those interviews, Johnson told MSNBC that Brown was shot in the back by Wilson. According to Johnson, Brown ran away from the patrol vehicle and stopped. It was then that Johnson said Brown stopped and said, "I don't have a gun, stop shooting!" And, like that, "hands up, don't shoot" became the mantra of a movement.

The media jumped on reporting the shooting immediately after it occurred. The dominant narrative, driven by Johnson's intentionally fabricated story, was his account on the Anderson Cooper program. This created a massive public interest and led to the Hands Up, Don't Shoot campaign that dominated the media waves in the months following the shooting.

The DOJ didn't release any information because it was investigating the incident...until the report was published 7 months later.

In the meantime- during the 7 months- Wilson received death threats, there were protests and looting, and there was a continued public dialogue about police abuse of minorities directly pointing the finger of guilt completely on the police.

The media also fueled the racial aspects, that cannot be detached from the incident, by reporting the shooting with tag lines such as 'African-American teen massacred by white cop' ...which were extremely inflammatory.

On November 25, 2014, a grand decided not to indict Darren Wilson. This led to immediate protests and looting. However, directly after reading the no-bill (no indictment), Prosecutor Bob McCulloch spoke for more than 30 minutes detailing how the media had inflamed emotions- yet not on facts.