

Trayvon Martin Shooter Charged With Second-Degree Murder

Florida special prosecutor Angela Corey announced Wednesday she has charged neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman with second-degree murder in the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

At an evening press conference, Corey said Zimmerman, 28, is already in custody.

On Feb. 26, an unarmed Martin was reportedly shot by Zimmerman while returning home from a nearby convenience store.

The killing of the 17-year-old has caused a national outcry, sparking protests and calls for Zimmerman's arrest.

But on Wednesday afternoon Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton, urged everyone to remain calm, saying she was confident "justice will be served."

"For the last 44 days it has been a nightmare and this is coming from a mother's perspective," Fulton told reporters at a press conference in Washington, D.C.

"I have been up and down as if I were on a roller coaster. But I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that justice will be served," she said.

News of the charges come one day after Zimmerman's lawyers announced they were no longer representing the 28-year-old, saying they were unable to contact their former client.

Zimmerman has maintained that he acted in self-defense on the night of the shooting and was acting under Florida's "stand your ground" law.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Eric Holder has vowed to take “appropriate action” if authorities find evidence that the shooting was a civil rights crime.

“Although I cannot share where our current efforts will lead us from here, I can assure you in this investigation, and in all cases, we will examine the facts and the law,” he said.