



My Drift

Title: NFL National Anthem Protests

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NFL players are not the only ones protesting during our country's National Anthem but they are the ones in the spotlight as I write this article.



What are these millionaire football players protesting?

A spokesperson for the players stated, “The players are simply protesting systemic oppression against people of color, police brutality, and the criminal justice system. The national anthem is just the vehicle for the protest.”

That’s fine but most Americans and most football fans think these players are attempting to disrespect our country, our national anthem, the US flag, and our military by taking a knee or sitting during the playing of the anthem.



NFL fans are booing and either not showing up for the games or leaving the stadiums after the playing of the National Anthem

Okay, most people know but how did this NFL player protest get started?



When Colin Kaepernick’s national anthem protest began during the 2016 pre-season, he affirmed to reporters at the time that he refused to stand because he did not want to honor the flag of the United States of America.

It was August 26, 2016 and Kaepernick’s San Francisco 49ers were playing the Green Bay

Packers in a preseason contest. Kaepernick, recently relegated to bench-warmer status for the team he had once led to the Super Bowl, chose to stay seated on the bench while the rest of his team and everyone else at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, CA rose to their feet in a sign of unity for our country.

Colin Kaepernick’s exact words were - “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”



In the 49ers' final 2016 preseason game on September 1, 2016, Kaepernick opted to kneel during the anthem rather than sit as he did in their previous games. He explained his decision to switch was an attempt to show more respect to former and current U.S. military members while still protesting during the anthem. He did this after having a conversation with former NFL player and U.S. military veteran Nate Boyer.

Other 49er players started kneeling with him.

On March 3, 2017, Kaepernick officially opted out of his contract with the 49ers, an option as part of his restructured contract, therefore making him a free agent at the start of the 2017 league year. No NFL team has signed Kaepernick to date.

During the 2017 preseason, several players (mostly black) on several teams sit on the bench or kneeled during the National Anthem. Some said they were taking up the cause that Kaepernick started.



President Donald Trump criticized some in the National Football League Friday night at a rally for Alabama Republican Senate candidate Luther Strange, saying team owners should fire players for taking a knee during the national anthem.

Trump added that if fans would "leave the stadium" when players kneel in protest during the national anthem, "I guarantee, things will stop."

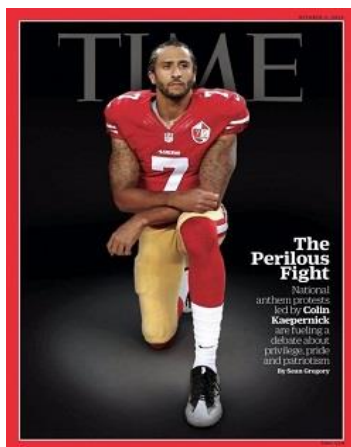
Trump said NFL owners should respond to the players by saying, "Get that son of a bitch off the field right now, he's fired. He's fired!"

Well, a lot of NFL players don't like Trump and the anthem protest got much bigger. Peer pressure by some vocal team leaders forced many players who wanted to stand for the anthem to kneel for the sake of team unity. This resulted in several entire NFL teams either staying in the locker room or all kneeling. Some players showed some guts and stood for the National Anthem in spite of what the rest of the team decided to do.



Alejandro Villanueva became a symbol of the division in the country over the polarizing protests by NFL players during the national anthem. The offensive tackle for the Pittsburgh Steelers, a former Army Ranger, stood at the end of a tunnel leading to the field in Chicago, with his hand over his heart during the national anthem, while his teammates stuck to their plan of not being on the field.

Okay, let's take a closer look at Colin Kaepernick (who started this whole mess) and his real motives.



Kaepernick's protest has made him famous

Personal information

Date of birth: November 3, 1987 (age 29)

Place of birth: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Race: Mixed (mother is white – father is black)

Height: 6 feet 4 inches

Weight: 230 pounds

Career information

High school: John H. Pitman in Turlock, CA

College: Nevada

NFL Draft: 2011 / Round: 2 / Pick: 36

Pro Career: San Francisco 49ers (2011–2016)

Career Earnings: \$22 million

Early life

Kaepernick was born in 1987 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Heidi Russo, a 19-year-old who was single at the time. His birth father, an African American man, left Russo before Colin was born. Russo placed Colin for adoption with Rick and Teresa Kaepernick, a white couple who had two children—son Kyle and daughter Devon—and were looking for a boy after losing two other sons to heart defects. Kaepernick became the youngest of their three children. He lived in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, until age four when the family moved to Turlock, California.

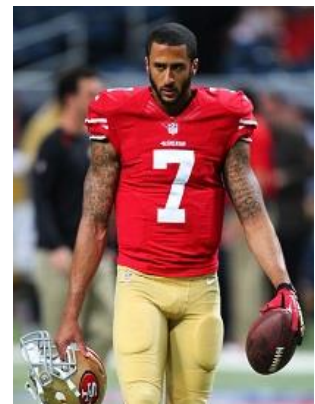
When Kaepernick was eight years old, he began playing youth football as a defensive end and punter. He then became his youth team's starting quarterback at age nine, and he completed his first competitive pass for a long touchdown. A 4.0 GPA student at John H. Pitman High School in Turlock, California, Kaepernick played football, basketball and baseball and was nominated for All-State selection in all three sports his senior year. He was the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Central California Conference in football, leading his school to its first-ever playoff victory. In basketball, he was a first-team all CCC selection at forward and led his 16th-ranked team to a near upset of #1 ranked Oak Ridge High School in the opening round of playoffs. In that game, Kaepernick scored 34 points, but Ryan Anderson of Oak Ridge scored 50 to beat him.

College - Colin Kaepernick was a great college football player. He is the only quarterback in the history of Division I FBS college football to have passed for over 10,000 yards and rushed for over 4,000 yards in a collegiate career. He is also the only Division 1 FBS quarterback to have passed for over 2,000 yards and rushed for over 1,000 yards in a single season three times in a career (consecutively).



Kaepernick graduated from Nevada in December 2010 with a bachelor's degree in business management and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

Pros - The San Francisco 49ers traded up with the Denver Broncos to get Kaepernick in the second round of the 2011 NFL draft.



In 2013, the team advanced to Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans against the Baltimore Ravens. Kaepernick threw for a touchdown and ran for another, but the 49ers fell behind early and could not come back, losing by a score of 31–34.

On June 4, 2014, Kaepernick signed a six-year contract extension with the 49ers, worth up to \$126 million, including \$54 million in potential guarantees, and \$13 million fully guaranteed.

Up to this point, Colin Kaepernick was a bright upstanding American who always stood tall with his hand over his heart during the National Anthem. But then things started going downhill. On September 17, Kaepernick was fined by the NFL for using inappropriate language on the field. On October 9, he was fined \$10,000 by the NFL for appearing at a post-game press conference wearing headphones from Beats by Dre, while the league's headphone sponsor was Bose. The 49ers finished the season 8–8 and failed to make the playoffs for the first time since 2010. In the 2015 season, Kaepernick lost his starting job to backup Blaine Gabbert. At the start of the 2016 season, he started sitting and kneeling during the anthem.

What happened to Kaepernick?



Well, he got a Muslim girlfriend and his life changed drastically!

Her name is Nessa Diab.

Many people believe that his Islamic girlfriend is behind his changed political views and “Black Lives Matter” protest. Some claim that she has even made him sympathetic to ISIS.

There are a lot of Internet rumors that claim his girlfriend had convinced him to convert to Islam and become a Muslim. Nobody knows for sure if this has happened or not but Kaepernick denies it.

Some say the real motive behind Kaepernick’s protest is to divide America more than it already is – Black people against White people.

Now that we have some background information, let’s get back to what these NFL players say they are protesting which is oppression against people of color, police brutality, and the criminal justice system.

I guess “oppression against people of color” is the nice way of saying “racism” and “discrimination” against blacks. Here is an article on the subject with my comments in red:

Racism and discrimination are prevalent throughout the US, although they can be felt most strongly in conservative regions of the country like the South and Midwest, as well as in small towns and rural areas. The groups that are most often discriminated against are African Americans, Hispanics, and Muslims, but smaller minority groups, such as Jews, other immigrant groups, and the LGBT community, bear their share of intolerance as well. (This paragraph is mostly true)

Although the United States has come a long way since the days of slavery, and huge steps were made towards granting equal rights on the basis of race in the 1960s, racism is still a very pressing problem in the US today. Sometimes it is blatant and open but often it can be more subtle or even built into the system, as seen by racial profiling by law enforcement officers and other government officials, and the near impossibility for some groups, especially African Americans, to break the cycle of poverty. (I disagree that racism is built into the US justice system)

Discriminatory policies in schools lead to the so-called “school-to-prison pipeline.” Due to zero-tolerance policies in schools, disadvantaged black youths quickly end up being pushed out of school and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems, instead of being given a chance and receiving counseling within the school system. (I don’t think schools have discriminatory policies. All students must abide by the same school policies.)

Police brutality against blacks – The following article pretty much confirms my beliefs on the subject:

Police Violence against Black Men is Rare

Recently, former police officer Jason Stockley, who is white, was acquitted of first-degree murder; he had fatally shot Anthony Lamar Smith, who was black, in 2011. Protests started in St. Louis, where the shooting took place and Stockley was judged, immediately after the verdict was announced. Although they were initially peaceful, they soon turned violent, and dozens of protesters were arrested while several police officers were injured. Since the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, just outside St. Louis, in 2014, this has become a familiar pattern. This article is not about whether Stockley should have been acquitted. Instead, I want to talk about the underlying narrative regarding the prevalence of police brutality against black men in the U.S., which is largely undisputed in the media.

According to this narrative, black men are constantly harassed by the police and routinely brutalized with impunity, even when they have done nothing wrong, and there is an “epidemic of police shootings of unarmed black men.” Even high-profile black celebrities often claim to be afraid of the police because the same thing might happen to them. Police brutality, or at least the possibility that one might become a victim of such

violence, is supposed to be part of the experience of a typical black man in the U.S. Events such as the death of Brown in Ferguson are presented as proof that black men are never safe from the police.

This narrative is false!



In reality, a randomly selected black man is overwhelmingly unlikely to be victim of police violence — and though white men experience such violence even less often, the disparity is consistent with the racial gap in violent crime, suggesting that the role of racial bias is small. The media's acceptance of the false narrative poisons the relations between law enforcement and black communities throughout the country and results in violent protests that destroy property and sometimes even claim lives. Perhaps even more importantly, the narrative distracts from far more serious problems that black Americans face.

Last year, according to the Washington Post's tally, just 16 unarmed black men, out of a population of more than 20 million, were killed by the police. The year before, the number was 36. These figures are likely close to the number of black men struck by lightning in a given year, considering that happens to about 300 Americans annually and black men are 7 percent of the population. And they include cases where the shooting was justified, even if the person killed was unarmed.

Of course, police killings are not the result of a force of nature, and I'm not claiming these are morally equivalent. But the comparison illustrates that these killings are incredibly rare, and that it's completely misleading to talk about an "epidemic" of them. You don't hear people talk about an epidemic of lightning strikes and claim they are afraid to go outside because of it. Liberals often make the same comparison when they argue that it's completely irrational to fear that you might become a victim of terrorism.

The U.S. criminal justice system discriminates against people of color. Really? Here is an article that addresses this subject:

The Color of Justice

In 1991 in Los Angeles, a bystander videotaped police officers beating Rodney King, a black man, after a car chase. People in the African-American community had long complained of cases of police brutality. At long last, they had clear evidence — a videotape. But at the trial in state court, the jury acquitted the four officers of using excessive force. A major riot erupted in Los Angeles following the verdict.

Although two of the officers were subsequently convicted in federal court, many in the African-American and in other minority communities argue that this case shows how difficult it is for people of color to get justice from the criminal justice system. Racial discrimination, they say, permeates the system.



Critics who claim that racism taints the system have cited its treatment of African-American and Hispanic males. For example, a Bureau of Justice Statistics analysis showed that if current incarceration rates remain unchanged, 32 percent of black males and 17 percent of male Latinos born in 2001 can expect to spend time in prison during their lifetime. This compares to only 6 percent of white males who will go to prison. African-Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, but today compose 40 percent of all prison inmates and 42 percent of those sentenced to death.

The question remains whether these statistics come from racism in the criminal justice system or from other causes. Social scientists and politicians have argued about this question for decades.

Many sociologists have rejected the discrimination argument. They have reviewed scores of studies that showed statistical inequalities between whites and blacks in arrest rates, imprisonment, and other areas of criminal justice. They found that the inequalities have more to do with poverty than race. Street crimes such as robbery and assault, prominent in the statistics, are usually committed by people from poor backgrounds. Today, about one quarter of all African Americans and Latinos live below the official poverty line. This compares to about 10 percent of all whites.

Why are there so many blacks in the U.S. correctional system? I will provide three views on why this is the case. The first view is from black community leaders like Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, the NAACP, and bleeding-heart liberals. I guess we

can add Colin Kaepernick and several NFL football players to that group. The second view is from an unnamed source I found on the Internet. The third view is from our nation's police force and most white people like myself.

First View (Black Community Leaders)

- White people commit just as many crimes as blacks but the American justice system discriminates against blacks.
- Police discriminate. Police departments have engaged in campaigns of stopping and frisking people who are walking, mostly black people without cause.
- Police traffic stops also racially target people in cars. Black drivers are 31 percent more likely to be pulled over than white drivers and Hispanic drivers are 23 percent more likely to be pulled over than white drivers.
- Once stopped, Blacks and Latinos are also more likely to be searched.
- People with money will just pay the traffic fines. But for poor black people, fines are a real hardship. And we know unpaid tickets can lead to jail.
- Almost half the arrests these days are for drugs and half of those are for marijuana. Despite the fact that Black and white people use marijuana at the same rates, a black person is 4 times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana than a white person.
- The bail system penalizes poor black people. Every day there are about 500,000 people are in jails, who are still presumed innocent and awaiting trial, just because they are too poor to pay money to get out on bail.

Second View (Unnamed Source on the Internet)

- Black people are *uneducated* because they drop out of school.
- Black people are *undisciplined*.
- Black people have *no respect for authority*.
- Black people *live in projects* where *they commit crimes and do drugs*.
- Black people *don't have jobs*. So, *they have no money*. *White people work*.
- Black people want the *things that white people have*. So, *they steal* them.

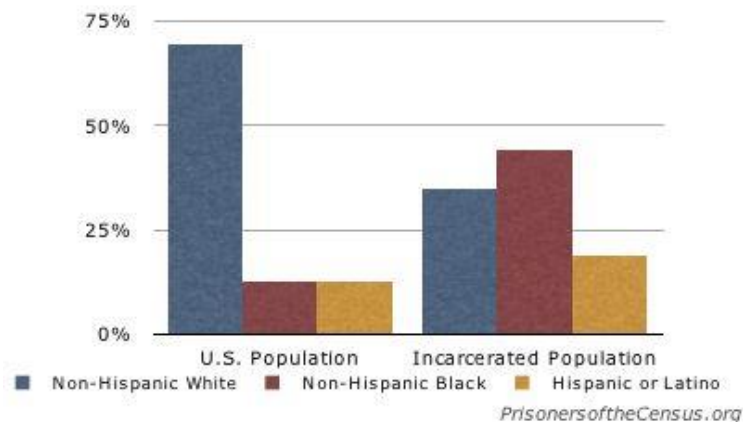


- *Sometimes black people are caught. They go to jail. Jails and prisons are filled with black people for a reason.*

Third View (My Views which corresponds with most Police Departments)

- That second view is pretty accurate for the inner city black population.
- However, I believe that most black people are good law bidding citizens but there are many more blacks (especially in our large cities) than whites that are breaking the law.
- Police are not targeting blacks. It might seem that way because more blacks break the law and the police are just doing their job.
- For example, there have been 474 people murdered in Chicago in the first 9 months of this year (2017). Chicago police are expecting to see more than 4,000 people shot by the end of this year. In Chicago, blacks commit 76% of all murders and 75% of all shooting victims are black.
- Being a Police Officer in a big U.S. city like Chicago is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world.
- Just in case you were wondering, white people make up 45% of the population in Chicago – black people make up 33% of the population.
- Black activists make the problem worse. Whenever a black person is shot by the police, these idiots rush to the scene and are quick to blame the police and encourage people to riot. They never ever blame the black criminal who has no respect for the law.
- I do agree that U.S. drug laws need changing. They are too strict and do penalize poor people more than the wealthy.
- Bottom line: There are more blacks in jail and prison because more black people break the law.

Racial disparity between U.S. and incarcerated populations



Soapbox Time – Why do so many black people break the law and end up in jail?

Here is my theory. The black inner city culture is the problem. Let me explain what I mean by this:

- **Blacks live in highly segregated and deeply impoverished neighborhoods.**
- **There is chronic unemployment – Most people have little or no money.**
- **Many black families live on welfare and other public assistance programs.**
- **Many black families are fatherless! Kids live with their mother or relatives.**
- **Kids grow up having no respect for authority (i.e. mostly the police)**
- **Violence in the streets is a daily occurrence.**
- **Gangs rule the streets at night (and sometimes during the day).**
- **Drug use is extremely high.**
- **The crime rate is extremely high.**
- **Racial discrimination is extremely high – If you are not black, don't ever go into one of these neighborhoods at night – You will be beaten and/or killed.**
- **Most black people living in the projects or slums have no hope for living a normal life – most don't know what a normal life is.**

It is not politically correct to give advice or to say anything bad about the poor blacks living in the inner cities of our nation. I have only heard one black man say anything negative about the situation - Charles Barkley.

Charles Barkley: Blacks keep each other down, not whites or cops



NBA legend Charles Barkley was recently interviewed by a local Philadelphia radio station about the current racial issues plaguing America. During the interview, Barkley stated that “unintelligent,” “brainwashed” African-Americans are the ones keeping successful ones down, not white people, or cops.

“Unfortunately, as I tell my white friends, we as black people, we’re never going to be successful, not because of you white people, but because of other black people. When you’re black, you have to deal with so much crap in your life from other black people. It’s a dirty, dark secret; I’m glad it’s coming out.”

What prompted Charles Barkley’s response was a question posed to him on the radio show, “Afternoons with Anthony Gargano and Rob Ellis;” he was asked about a rumor that Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson was being accused by his fellow teammates of not being “black enough.”

“One of the reasons we’re never going to be successful as a whole is because of other black people. And for some reason we are brainwashed to think, if you’re not a thug or an idiot, you’re not black enough. If you go to school, make good grades, speak intelligent, and don’t break the law, you’re not a good black person. And it’s a dirty, dark secret.”

“There are a lot of black people who are unintelligent, who don’t have success. It’s best to knock a successful black person down because they’re intelligent, they speak well, they do well in school, and they’re successful... We’re the only ethnic group who say, ‘Hey, if you go to jail, it gives you street cred.’ It’s just typical BS that goes on when you’re a black man.”

I agree 100% with Charles Barkley. This mindset must change!

If I had to pick one key issue that is causing our jails and prisons to be overcrowded with black people - it is “FATHERLESS HOMES”. There is a direct relationship between the percentage of black kids growing up in fatherless homes and the percentage of black people in jail and prison. Statistics show that about 49% of black children grow up in fatherless homes and U.S. prison population for blacks is about 47%.

I rest my case. Here is a little advice from me:

For Colin Kaepernick. Get rid of that racial Muslim girlfriend and apologize to the American people for your actions.

Otherwise, if you hate America so much, you should move to the Middle East and join ISIS. You would fit right in.



For the protesting NFL players. Get up off of your knees and stand tall with your hand over your heart during the playing of America's National Anthem. Set a good example for all the kids (and adults) who look up to you as role models.

Otherwise, I agree with President Trump, you should be suspended or fired. Apparently, you don't know how lucky you are to be playing football for a living.



If NFL players really want to do something to help people of color, they should go to the inner city projects, slums, and schools to teach kids that it is not cool to be a thug. Spend some of your money and campaign against fatherless homes in America. Teach kids to respect the police and the laws of this country. Also tell them that they are responsible for their own actions when they don't. Stop blaming white people, the cops, and the criminal justice system. It is your problem – do something about it!

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