

## Republican Perspective

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### Unworthy of a Presidential Comment

The President of the United States has been quick to comment on some high profile crime cases. This is especially true in cases which seem to support his positions. But he has been tongue-tied in situations where the facts are at odds with his agenda.

Let's recall these five instances where Obama was moved to comment in favor of "victims" whose situations bolstered his view of racial injustice in America.

□ Henry Louis Gates: "I don't know, not having been there and not seeing all the facts, what role race played in that. But I think it's fair to say....that the Cambridge police acted stupidly...." And "... there is a long history in this country of African-Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement disproportionately. That's just a fact."

□ Trayvon Martin: "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon." And "When I think about this boy, I think about my own kids." And after the verdict acquitting George Zimmerman "...there is a history of racial disparities in the application of our criminal laws---everything from the death penalty to enforcement of our drug laws."

□ Michael Brown: "The death of Michael Brown is heartbreaking, and Michelle and I send our deepest condolences to his family and his community at this very difficult time...."

□ Eric Garner: "When anybody in this country is not being treated equally under the law, that's a problem," he added "It's incumbent on all of us as Americans....that we recognize that this is an American problem and not just a black problem. It is an American problem when anybody in this country is not being treated equally under the law."

□ Freddie Gray: "This has been going on for a long time," the President said. "This is not new, and we shouldn't pretend that it's new...." And "...there are problems and challenges when it comes to how policing and our laws are applied in certain communities and we have to pay attention to it." And "Don't just pay attention to these communities when a CVS burns."

Now let's look at two recent cases in which Obama could not find his voice to acknowledge the deaths, let alone to express concern for the victims or for the

grief of their families. Cases which did not reflect Obama's positions or his view of conditions in America.

□ Colleen Hufford: Jah'Keem Yisrael's, Facebook page describes his conversion to Islam and his support for ISIS. Formerly named Alton Alexander Nolen, Yisrael was fired from his job in Oklahoma City after attempting to convert co-workers to the Muslim faith and getting into discussions about stoning women. Yisrael then beheaded his co-worker, Colleen Hufford. Witnesses reported he was shouting Islamic phrases during the attack. Obama sent no representative to her funeral, but he *did* send an envoy to Oklahoma City on the day after the funeral, to read a message of praise at the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City---coincidentally the mosque where her murderer had worshipped. The message was completely unrelated to Hufford's beheading, but giving accolades to the mosque of the beheader while ignoring the funeral of the victim seems misconceived and heartless at best. No comment or condolence, no reaching out to the Hufford family by the Obamas. Just silence from the President.

□ Kate Steinle: The sheriff of the sanctuary city of San Francisco ignored an ICE detainer request and released illegal alien Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez from custody. With seven felony convictions and five deportations, and using a gun stolen from a law enforcement officer, Sanchez shot and killed Steinle. Sanctuary cities have routinely refused to cooperate with ICE because the Illegal Immigrant Reform Act of 1996, which requires their cooperation, is not enforced by the administration. Again, no reaching out to the Steinle family by the Obamas. Again, no comment or condolence by the President. Again, just silence.

Why did the President rush to comment on the first five cases, yet not show compassion, or even courtesy, or even acknowledge the loss of these last two families? Hard to know what he was thinking, but consider this. Neither of these cases fits Obama's view of reality. The Hufford beheading does not square with his stated position that the problem of terrorism is overblown by the media. The Steinle murder highlights his failure to secure the border and his failure to enforce the federal law prohibiting sanctuary cities. Further, the Steinle shooting does not even lend itself to the usual reflexive call for more restrictive gun-control legislation---since no such remedy could prevent the theft of a weapon from a law enforcement official.

Hufford and Steinle: Two murders where the facts don't affirm the President's agenda. Two tragedies unworthy of a Presidential comment.