

Our World Today

On May 25th, George Floyd was killed on the street in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He died when a police officer, Derik Chauvin, kneeled on his neck for more than 8 minutes. Chauvin has been charged with 2nd degree murder. The three officers who were with him, Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Kuen, have been charged with aiding and abetting 2nd degree murder.

Now people of every colour, sex and age are joining together in anger and protest. Many of these protests have even become violent. These protests are happening across the state, across the country and across the world.

The reason for the protest is because racism is very strong, especially racism in the justice system in the United States. Black people are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police officers every year. There are almost 5 times the number of black people in the jails than white. Black people are poorer and they have fewer opportunities. The protesters are fighting for change in the justice system. They are also fighting for change in the police system.

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and many other politicians have admitted that there is systemic racism in Canada, too. Statistics show that more black and indigenous people are arrested and put in jail than white people. The government has promised to listen and find ways to improve the justice system in Canada. The murder of George Floyd is not the first murder at the hands of a police officer, but it has begun a new fight for change around the world.

How did George Floyd die? _____

Who killed him? _____

How do protesters feel? _____

Why are they protesting? _____

What do they want to change? _____

Is there racism in Canada? _____