

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 05/21/2012

The following are verbatim transcripts of five media reports on the case of GEORGE MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN which occurred on April 23, 2012:

Investigation on 4/23/12 at Sanford, Florida

File # 44A-TP-74471-TRANS - 39 Date dictated 4/23/12

by SA [redacted] mlf

b6  
b7c

142 ml/01.302  
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

OK 39

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 2

## Participants:

BETH:	BETH
ORTEEN:	Mr. ORTEEN
OLIVER:	JOE OLIVER
O'DONNELL:	LAWRENCE O'DONNELL
GRACE:	NANCY GRACE
MATHEWS:	CHRIS MATHEWS
BLOW:	CHARLES BLOW
LISA:	LISA
DEFOREST:	MIKE DEFOREST
UI:	Unintelligible
IA:	Inaudible
PH:	Phonetic

Media Interview #1

UM: ...on one about a suspicious person. When police arrived, they found TRAYVON shot in the chest. Two eye witnesses say police have ignored their accounts.

UF: We believe in our hearts a hundred percent it was not self defense. I heard the crying. It was a little boy. As soon as the gun went off...

Media Interview #2

BETH: Mr. ORTEEN (PH) is out of Longo joining us now. You spoke with ZIMMERMAN's friend, so why have we not heard so many parts of the story yet?

ORTEEN: Right. Well, we haven't heard ZIMMERMAN's side of the story yet, BETH, because the authorities have asked him to stay silent, but that certainly hasn't helped ZIMMERMAN's image as a gun wheeling want to be law man. But his friend tonight tells me that the shooting had nothing to do with TRAYVON MARTIN's race and having half the story, isn't helping anyone.

OLIVER: He was doing what he thought was the right thing and it turned out horribly wrong.

ORTEEN: JOE OLIVER is stepping forward to defend his friend, GEORGE ZIMMERMAN.

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 3

OLIVER: If he handled it differently, he'd probably be dead.

ORTEEN: In the months in seventeen year old TRAYVON MARTIN was killed, we've heard two different stories about GEORGE ZIMMERMAN, that he was the aggressor, stalking and confronting a black teenager, who looked out of place in his neighborhood, but we've also heard from police that ZIMMERMAN shot MARTIN in self defense.

OLIVER: He stopped following him and the evidence has shown that he was on his way back to his vehicle when TRAYVON approached him.

ORTEEN: Is, is it GEORGE, in your opinion, on, on the tape calling for help?

OLIVER: Yes. No doubt about that.

ORTEEN: OLIVER tells us that ZIMMERMAN cried for days after the shooting.

OLIVER: GEORGE has been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder. He is depressed. He has insomnia, having a hard time eating and he's taking it harder than anyone will ever know.

ORTEEN: OLIVER is insistent this was not a case of racial profiling. In fact, in a happen stands meeting with Reverend JESSIE JACKSON, OLIVER told JACKSON the larger message in this case is racism, but the incident between ZIMMERMAN and MARTIN had nothing to do with race.

OLIVER: People are angry and frustrated, not just because of TRAYVON MARTIN's death. People are angry and frustrated because of decades of discrimination, of prejudice and mistreatment.

(People are chanting in the background.)

ORTEEN: OLIVER says if he had any doubts, he would've been standing shoulder to shoulder with ralliers in Sanford.

OLIVER: I know what they're crying about. I know what they're protesting about. If I didn't know GEORGE, I'd be out there with them.

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 4

ORTEEN: Now OLIVER has talked with ZIMMERMAN about what exactly happened that night in his neighborhood. But OLIVER wouldn't talk to us about that.

Media Interview #3

GRACE: Now you heard that playback I played for you.

OLIVER: Uh huh.

GRACE: Now, I can hear it and again, while I don't condone it, he's not gonna go to jail for a slur. You don't go to jail. You can say whatever you want to in this country.

OLIVER: Look, I understand, but knowing GEORGE ZIMMERMAN, I am finding it hard to believe that it was a slur. Like I said, I've listened to it many times and one time I hear one thing. Another time I hear another. I think it's all based upon your perspective. But on the 911 call, uh, the call to the police dispatcher, two things I'd like to point out. You heard GEORGE said first of all, he's checking me out. Second of all, when the police dispatcher told them that he didn't have to follow TRAYVON, GEORGE responded, okay. To me that supports GEORGE's claim that he was heading back towards his vehicle. GEORGE is a very law abiding individual. That's why he didn't run.

GRACE: I understand that.

OLIVER: He didn't have any reason to run.

GRACE: To, to NATALIE JACKSON, the TRAYVON MARTIN family attorney response.

Media Interview #5

OLIVER: ...stupid man either. I know what I'm putting myself up against and I know the repercussions of this. I'm stepping forward for GEORGE because this was not a racial incident. I'm stepping forward for GEORGE because of how it has ignited all the racial tensions that we've had here for years. I understand everything that everybody

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 5

is out there marching about because I've experienced it myself and I wouldn't put myself on the line like this if I didn't know in my heart that GEORGE ZIMMERMAN was in a life or death struggle. I wouldn't be here...

O'DONNELL: How do you know in your heart?

OLIVER: I would not be risking myself.

O'DONNELL: How do you know that in your heart? How do you know in your heart...

OLIVER: Have you ever had a gut feeling?

O'DONNELL: You were not there. You were not there.

OLIVER: Have you ever had a gut feeling?

O'DONNELL: You were, so this is a gut feeling?

OLIVER: Were you there? Were you there?

O'DONNELL: This is not admissible in any court.

OLIVER: Were you there?

O'DONNELL: No, I'm asking you because you were the one who was saying, you know in your heart that GEORGE ZIMMERMAN was in a life or death situation and I'm saying that we don't know. I'm saying that we have to wait until the investigation is finished and you are saying that you know that that was GEORGE ZIMMERMAN. You said on television that you know that that was GEORGE ZIMMERMAN's voice crying out for help and you have only known GEORGE for six years and you have only seen him in social situations. His mother told me that she is absolutely one hundred percent sure that that is her son and she has known that boy for seventeen years. She has heard him cry many times from a child all the way up to seventeen. She'd say, are you saying that you know GEORGE ZIMMERMAN's voice better than TRAYVON's mother knows his voice?

OLIVER: I'm saying it has, you know, LAWRENCE, has pointed out, I've had had numerous conversations with GEORGE and because now...

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 6

O'DONNELL: Have you ever heard GEORGE ZIMMERMAN scream?

OLIVER: You know what? What is the point of you asking me questions if you're not giving me an opportunity to answer?

O'DONNELL: Answer the question.

OLIVER: Okay?

O'DONNELL: Answer the question.

OLIVER: And as far as GEORGE raising his voice, yeah, I've heard him raise his voice before.

O'DONNELL: Scream?

OLIVER: Not in anger, not in anger.

O'DONNELL: Scream? Scream?

OLIVER: Would you, and you know what, this, why are we having this discussion if you're not listening?

O'DONNELL: Okay. Why are we having this conversation? JOE, JOE...

OLIVER: If you're not listening to my answers? If you're not giving me a chance to finish my answers.

O'DONNELL: You don't have an answer.

OLIVER: Why are having this discussion?

O'DONNELL: You don't have an answer. JOE, let's see what we can do here. I, I've listened carefully. You've said for you the entire thing. Your entire view comes down to a gut feeling. That's all it is and okay, and I'm glad you verified that.

OLIVER: Not just a gut feeling. Not just...

O'DONNELL: JOE, JOE hold on. I want to move on. JOE...

OLIVER: I've asked questions, I've asked questions, can I answer that?

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 7

O'DONNELL: JOE, JOE, you know what? JOE,

OLIVER: Can I ask you why it's his gut, a gut feeling? And why I feel good about it? Because it's an instinctual thing.

O'DONNELL: Okay.

OLIVER: And it's also because I've had what I have been told validated. What you have heard so far that has been leaked has been val, was val, is validating what I've been told. There's other information that is yet to come out that we're waiting for the Grand Jury to pass down. Okay? And when that comes down, then it's a question of whether or not anybody else believes what the investigation turns out.

O'DONNELL: Okay.

OLIVER: You know, we welcome, we welcome the State's Attorney looking into this. We welcome the Grand Jury. We welcome the Justice Department. We welcome all of this because first of all, this was not a racial incident and we welcome all of this because we know that if we weren't sitting here talking about GEORGE shooting TRAYVON, we'd be talking about TRAYVON shooting GEORGE.

O'DONNELL: Hey, JOE, JOE, uh, we're gonna get to that in a minute. The detail of that in a minute. I just want to explain to the audience that we've lost a little bit of light in your studio and so the image looks a little different here. I, I want to get to something that's been very important to a lot of people who saw you on HARDBALL yesterday and I want to play a little clip of you there. Talking about this controversial elements of the 911 tapes in which people think they hear a racial slur and for you now it seems to come down to a distinction of one letter, is it a c or is it a g? Uh, is it goon or is it the c word that, that goes with that and I just want to listen to what you told CHRIS MATHEWS about that and we'll try to get your light back while we're playing that tape, so let's just listen to this.

(Playing tape)

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 8

OLIVER: To me it's, it's a matter of interpretation of whether he's saying coon or goon. Uh, there are a lot of parts of this country where people proudly call themselves coon asses in Louisiana in particular.

MATHEWS: Yeah, well, I don't...

OLIVER: And I don't know too many people uh, who younger than forty, who use that term as a racial slur. As far as the other word goon, I've been informed by my seventeen year old daughter that that among her peers is a term of endearment.

MATHEWS: Uh, JOE, as you know, there's a lot of African American reaction to that, uh, starting with CHARLES BLOW. I'm gonna, let's hear his reaction to that now.

BLOW: Well, I've grown up in Louisiana and I have not heard, never once heard that African American referred to an African American in that way.

OLIVER: I've never said an African American.

BLOW: Like you said before, are you gonna let me finish?

OLIVER: I will.

BLOW: And particularly, at the term, any sort of term of endearment and particularly, why with, why would you insinuate that GEORGE ZIMMERMAN was using that as a term of endearment whether it's a c or a g after the f word about a person whom he found suspicious about a person whom he was following with a gun? That is absolutely patently ridiculous.

OLIVER: You know, the characterization of what happened out there has, has been ridiculous because the characterization that's been put out there is that GEORGE was following TRAYVON with his gun drawn and that's not correct.

BLOW: Okay. Nobody said that. I didn't say that.

O'DONNELL: JOE, that's, JOE, you're just dodging the question. But listen, we want to talk about this particular phrasing



44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 9

because it really has provoked a lot of outrage in, in, among African Americans. JOE, please...

OLIVER: Okay. I will answer the question. I will answer the question because,

O'DONNELL: Go ahead.

OLIVER: You know, again, it all boils down to interpretation.

O'DONNELL: JOE, let me hear this. JOE, JOE, let me do this. Let me take a break right now so we can really fix your lighting during this commercial break and then we want to hear your answer to this because you know, you know, as an African American man, there are millions of people in this country who are very eager to hear you on this. We're gonna take a break right now. We're gonna be right back. Thank you, JOE.

Media Interview #6

LISA: ...six. It's MIKE DEFOREST. He's in Seminole County tonight near the Sanford neighborhood where the shooting happened and MIKE ZIMMERMAN claims he was punched and even had his head slammed into the sidewalk.

DEFOREST: That's what he told detectives, LISA, according to an ORLANDO SENTINEL report that's now been verified by Sanford Police. Now if true, it paints a much different picture than many in the public believe happened inside this gated neighborhood.

OLIVER: Plus the fact I've known GEORGE for so long and know what kind of a man he is. He's a good man. The reason why he's the watch captain is because he cares. He cares about his community.

DEFOREST: JOE OLIVER believes his friend, GEORGE ZIMMERMAN, fired a gun to protect himself and now Sanford Police confirm they've shared information with the special prosecutor that supports the self defense theory.

UM: Are you following him?

ZIMMERMAN: Yeah.

44A-TP-74471

Continuation of FD-302 of FIVE MEDIA INTERVIEWS, On 4/23/12, Page 10

UM: Okay. We don't need you to do that.

ZIMMERMAN: Okay.

DEFOREST: ZIMMERMAN tells police that after calling 911, he walked back to his vehicle, but was soon approached from behind by TRAYVON MARTIN. As the two men exchanged words, ZIMMERMAN claims the seventeen year old punched him in the nose, climbed on top of him and slammed his head into the pavement. Long before police released the 911 calls capturing the sounds of screaming, ZIMMERMAN reported that he yelled for help. A witness told police he saw ZIMMERMAN shouting as MARTIN hovered over him.

OLIVER: There was a conversation between the two that started with TRAYVON asking if GEORGE had a problem and when GEORGE responded no, TRAYVON responded with a punch saying, you do now.