ON THE WEB: www.yankton.net NEWSROOM: News@yankton.net

Obama: No Excuse For Violent Protests

CHICAGO (AP) — President Barack Obama sharply rebuked protesters Tuesday night for racially charged violence in Missouri, saying there was no excuse for burning buildings, torching cars and destroying other property after a grand jury declined to indict the white police officer who shot a black teenager.

As darkness fell in Ferguson, Missouri, where authorities hoped to avoid a second night of chaos in the streets, Obama said destructive actions are criminal acts and those who responsible should be prosecuted. "To those who think that what happened in Ferguson is an excuse for violence, I do not have any sympathy for that. I have no sympathy at all for destroying your own communities," he said. The president spoke from Chicago, a trip planned to focus

The president spoke from Chicago, a trip planned to focus on immigration but overshadowed by the news the night before of the decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in 18-year-old Michael Brown's death.

Obama said he understood that many people were upset by that decision.

"The frustrations that we've seen are not about a particular incident. They have deep roots in many communities of color who have a sense that our laws are not always being enforced uniformly or fairly," Obama said.

Russian Envoy: Protests Reflect Racisim

MOSCOW (AP) — The violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri, reflect simmering U.S. tensions over racial discrimination that could undermine the country's stability, a senior Russian diplomat said Tuesday.

The comments by the Russian Foreign Ministry's human rights envoy, Konstantin Dolgov, were among the sharpest from a foreign official as images of violent protests in Ferguson topped newscasts around the world. The protests came after a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer in the killing of an unarmed black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown.

"The developments in Ferguson and other cities highlight serious challenges to the American society and its stability," Dolgov said in remarks broadcast by Russian state television.

Moscow appeared to relish turning the tables on the U.S. after repeated U.S. criticism of Russia's rights record and its policies toward Ukraine. Relations between the two nations are at their lowest point since the Cold War due to the crisis in Ukraine.

Weather Could Slow Holiday Travelers

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP) — Thanksgiving travelers scrambled to change their plans and beat a storm expected to bring snow, slush and rain to the crowded Washington-to-Boston corridor Wednesday on one of the busiest, most stressful days of the year.

Forecasters said major Northeast cities will probably see moderate to heavy rain most of the day, though New York and other release were also graving the second in the second second

other places were also gearing up for several inches of snow. Higher elevations west of the Interstate 95 corridor could see as much as 6 to 12 inches before the nor easter exits

Wednesday night, meteorologist Andrew Orrison said. "I always go on Tuesday to try to avoid the Wednesday rush, but it seems like more people are leaving on Tuesday now," said Bill Fraser, a landscaper from Henniker, New Hampshire, who was taking a train from Boston to New Rochelle, New York, to visit his mother for Thanksgiving.

Jenna Bouffard, a New York City public relations executive headed in the opposite direction, changed her bus ticket from Wednesday to Tuesday.

Afghan President Orders Military Review

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — President Ashraf Ghani has ordered a top-to-bottom review of the operations of Afghanistan's defense forces, including discussing the resumption of controversial night raids banned by his predecessor.

The move appears aimed at revamping the military for the fight against the Taliban amid new indications that U.S. and international forces will play a greater role than initially envisaged after the 13-year U.S.-led combat mission formally ends next month.

The wholesale review is already underway, presidential spokesman Nafizullah Salarzai told The Associated Press, saying Ghani had instructed the National Security Council to "work on a manual of guidelines and standards for military operations."

Brown Family Blasts Prosecutor In Ferguson; Darren Wilson Speaks

BY TOM FOREMAN JR. AND JIM SALTER Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Hundreds of additional National Guard troops rolled into Ferguson on Tuesday, a day after protesters looted businesses and set fire to buildings in a night of rage against a grand jury's decision not to indict the white police officer who killed Michael Brown.

Meanwhile, officer Darren Wilson broke his long public silence, insisting on national television that he could not have done anything differently in the confrontation with Brown.

In the aftermath of Monday's violence, Missouri governor Jay Nixon more than tripled the number of Guard soldiers sent to the St. Louis suburb, ordering the initial force of 700 to be increased to 2,200 in hopes that their presence would help local law enforcement keep order in the St. Louis suburb.

"Lives and property must be protected," Nixon said. "This community deserves to have peace."

About 50 protesters converged on a barricade guarded by 30 Guard members. The group chanted "Whose streets, our streets," "This is what democracy looks like" and "Hands up don't shoot."

Two protesters wearing masks were arrested after refusing to comply with police instructions to get out of the street.

During an interview with ABC News, Wilson said he has a clean conscience because "I know I did my job right."

Wilson had been with the Ferguson police force for less than three years before the Aug. 9 shooting. He told ABC that Brown's shooting marked the first time he had fired his gun on the job. Attorneys for the Brown family

vowed to push for federal charges

against Wilson and said the grand jury process was rigged from the start to clear Wilson.

"We said from the very beginning that the decision of this grand jury was going to be the direct reflection of the presentation of the evidence by the prosecutor's office," attorney Anthony Gray said. He suggested the county's top prosecutor, Bob McCulloch, presented some testimony to discredit the process, including from witnesses who did not see the shooting.

During the protests that erupted after the grand jury's decision, 12 commercial buildings in Ferguson burned down, and firefighters responded to blazes at eight others, fire officials said. Other businesses were looted, and 12 vehicles were torched.

By Tuesday afternoon, several businesses along West Florissant Avenue were already closed.

Natalie DuBose, owner of Natalie's Cakes and More, planned to spend Tuesday night at her business, which is only about a block from the Ferguson Police Department.

"I have to be here because I have orders that I have to complete for tomorrow and for Thursday because of the holiday. I just couldn't do it today because of the cleanup."

A window at her business was busted out in Monday night's turmoil.

"This is my livelihood," she said. "This is the only source of income I have to raise my children."

Brown's parents made public calls for peace in the run-up to Monday's announcement, and on Tuesday, their representatives again stressed that the people setting fires were not on Michael Brown's side.

Videos that were widely circulated on Tuesday showed Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, standing on top of a car and breaking down as the announcement of the grand jury decision blares over the stereo.

Her husband, Brown's stepfather, comforts her, then begins angrily yelling "Burn the bitch down!" to a crowd gathered around him. Asked about the comment at a news conference, family attorney Benjamin Crump said the reaction was, "raw emotion. Not appropriate at all. Completely inappropriate."

Protests continued during the day on Tuesday. In Clayton, where the grand jury met, clergy members and others blocked morning traffic for several hours. In downtown St. Louis, where demonstrators swarmed the steps of a federal courthouse and stopped traffic, at least four people were arrested.

Many school districts canceled classes out of concern for the safety of students traveling to and from school.

Attorneys for Brown's family said they hope an ongoing federal civil rights investigation leads to charges. But federal investigations of police misconduct face a steep legal standard, requiring proof that an officer willfully violated a victim's civil rights.

Testimony from Wilson that he felt threatened, and physical evidence almost certainly complicates any efforts to seek federal charges.

Under federal law, "you have to prove as a prosecutor that the officer knew at the moment that he pulled the trigger that he was using too much force, that he was violating the Constitution," said Seth Rosenthal, a former Justice Department civil rights prosecutor.

The Justice Department has also launched a broad probe into the Ferguson Police Department, looking for patterns of discrimination.

Obama Takes On Hecklers Over Immigration Policy

BY JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Taking on the hecklers who've been interrupting his speeches lately, President Barack Obama argued back Tuesday with a point-by-point rebuttal of their arguments and suggested they "get the facts."

Obama had traveled home to Chicago for an appearance aimed at broadening the appeal of his recent executive actions on immigration beyond the predominantly Latino population that lobbied heavily for relief. He visited a community center in a predominantly Polish-American neighborhood.

About midway through his

remarks, three protesters strategically placed around the auditorium rose and began criticizing his deportation policy, saying he hasn't just been deporting criminals. "You have been deporting

families," one heckler shouted. Obama listened. He sympathized. He asked them to stop yelling. Then when it appeared he'd had enough, the former lawyer and former constitutional law professor set about deconstructing their arguments. "What you're not paying

attention to is the fact that I just took an action to change the law, so that's point No. 1," Obama said. "Point No. 2, the way the change in the law works is that we're repriori-

migration law generally."

"The point is that though I understand why you might have yelled at me a month ago, although I disagree with some of your characterizations, it doesn't make much sense to yell at me right now when we're making changes," he said as the audience of approximately 1,800 people applauded.

"But the point is, let's make sure that you get the facts and that you know exactly what we're doing," Obama said. He said if they still have disagreements with his immigration policy, then they can appeal to some of the immigration advocacy groups the administration has worked with on the issue.

A heckler interrupted

Vegas, where he gave an immigration speech the day after outlining the changes in a nationally televised primetime address. The announcement inflamed Republicans, who have vowed to rein in Obama but have not fallen behind any specific plan.

At issue is the extent of Obama's executive actions, which make nearly 5 million immigrants eligible to be spared from deportation. The measures would apply to parents of U.S. citizens or of legal permanent residents. The parents would have to have lived in the U.S. for at least five years. Obama also expanded a program designed to extend deportation protections to immigrants who entered the U.S. illegally as

children.

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