



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

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STATEMENT FROM STATE TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN ON THE GUILTY VERDICTS IN THE MURDER OF AHMAUD ARBERY

Hartford, CT – Please see the following statement from Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden in response to the guilty verdicts in the trial of Gregory McMichael, Travis McMichael, and William Bryan, charged with the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, the 25-year-old Black man, who was chased and gunned down while jogging in Brunswick, Georgia, on February 23, 2020.

“Today’s jury verdict is a small measure of accountability for racial injustice. Ahmaud Arbery should still be alive today. The 25-year-old unarmed Ahmaud Arbery’s last moments included jogging near his home and being chased and gunned down by three white men.

As the father of two Black teenage young men, like so many other parents of color across our nation, I have had the difficult but necessary “talk” about how to stay safe when the “deck of cards” has been historically and systemically stacked against them. But following Ahmaud Arbery’s killing, I never expected that my son, a runner, would ask if it was safe to jog while Black. No one should ever fear for their lives or safety for jogging while Black, and as a society, we must do better to protect people of color.

Sadly, it took a video to emerge publicly two and a half months after Arbery was shot and killed for Georgia’s criminal justice system to even respond to Ahmaud Arbery’s murder. Even with the emergence of that video, it remains profoundly concerning that a group of armed white men could attempt to claim self-defense after coordinating, arming themselves, and then chasing, screaming at, and gunning down an unarmed Black man who was jogging near his home. We must always speak out against a culture and a criminal justice system that has historically rewarded vigilantes and white supremacists.

Until every person of color feels safe and free from the threat of violence based on the color of their skin, we must never let up. I hope today's verdicts offer Ahmaud Arbery's family and friends a sense of accountability and inspires those working tirelessly to try and improve our criminal justice system hope and acknowledgment that their work remains more critical than ever."

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