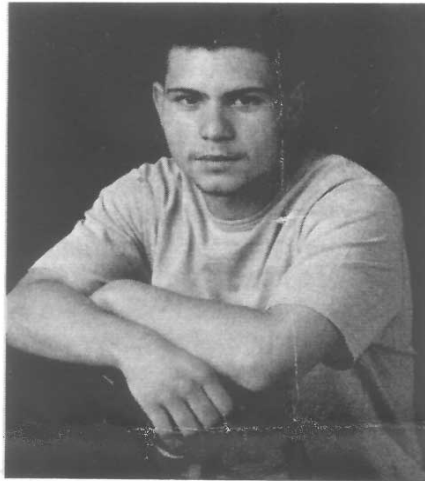




Innocent until proven guilty, is an opportunity that is offered to anyone who gets charged when convicted of a crime, no matter what race, color, age or religion. It is guaranteed to you as one of your civil rights. You are given this opportunity to prove to society that you could become a better person, it is a chance for you to prove that everyone makes mistakes. On Monday August 25, 2003, Mesa City police were called to the home of Mario A. Madrigal Jr. in the early hours of the day. Knowing that the police are suppose to be there for us to "protect and serve", none of this was provided to him. He didn't get a chance to prove to society that he is just a normal teen age boy who makes mistakes just like any other human being. Excessive force & death is what was offered to the fifteen year old holding a knife, threatening that he would take his life, not anyone else's. At that point, a trial for his innocence was not offered, and he was not given the chance to explain his actions, or intent to hurt himself. He was crying for help and so was his family. All that was offered to him was a death sentence. The three police officers who were at his home, did not want to offer him "innocent until proven guilty" opportunity for help or healing, when their guns went off on him. An escape for them was to say "He was charging at me with the knife", I do not know how this could be, when Mario was standing inside his home, by the door way of the kitchen that is by the carport, and outside police stood, aimed and killed Mario. Who are they to make the judgment call of whether he should live or die? In the eyes of the police officers, are we criminal, when we call 911 for help? Was it something personal that the police had against Mario? For them to go out and kill him in front of his family, threatening them in a criminal manner? When a person cries for help, are they going to help us, or are they going to attack us like a pack of raging wolves? To whom can we turn? A statement was made against his father not to long ago, that the police had been to their home five times before; but what they did not say, was that police were there due to other situations, none of which involved Mario Jr.

Mario was a normal 15 year old teenager who just wanted to enjoy his life. Like any other teenage boy; one that may be in your family as well, he would go to school come home, spend lots of time with his family, and hang out with his friends. He loved kids and animals, numerous times he would wish that his mother would have another baby. His family is the type that would go on vacations together, fish, and to the movies. They were always on the go, exploring new places together in and out of town. They are the type of people who always had their children on the top of their priority list. They are a very close family. Mario mostly obeyed his parents and never thought of harming his parents, especially his mother, whom he adored so much. There were times just like any other family that they would dispute over personal matters. This is what loved ones do when they care about each other. Mario had plans to finish high school, and enroll into the US Armed Forces. Isn't that ironic. That he wanted to serve for this country; "to protect and serve", something these police officers overlooked.

During the early hours of August 25, after the police had arrived on the scene, Mario's mother was holding his arms down, and asking him to calm down so that the police wouldn't hit or harm him. He saw the police outside and asked his mother not to let them take him. The door to the kitchen was open so that the authorities could come in and "hopefully" help the family, when suddenly one police officer shoved Mario's mother aside. Two tazers were shot at him then gunfire broke out, leaving him dead inside the kitchen. The family was not allowed back inside their home, and his body laid there for many hours. Fifteen hours later his body was transported to the county morgue and with much disrespect, a cleaning crew came in and cleaned up the "mess" the evidence that the city police created and did not want anyone else to see. What were they hiding? Why did they take so long to investigate, not only that, why did they have a second investigation done that same day? Something else the media and Rick Romley did not mention; why if it was all so innocent like the police mentioned, did they restrict it to their own investigations and why wasn't an independent party allowed to inspect the scene as well? Do you think this legit? Maybe in some communist country where the law only exist; to harm and not protect the poor or those who lack education.

Maybe in some bigots eyes we are minorities, Mexican, etc, who don't deserve this chance, but this is about children. Police see them as a threat when they become teenagers; so don't look at this as racially motivated it is more likely to be age discrimination. Just because one is a teenager and may look dangerous. Come on, what harm can a kid do to you; especially when he is smaller in size than you? But no matter what we are educated and we are created equal, and we know our rights. Our tax money does not show race, color, age, or religion. It is accepted to whom ever, and where ever we go. So why wasn't this help offered to Mario's parents when they called 911? What ever happened to rubber bullets, or K-9 dogs? Isn't it our tax money that pays for police payrolls? Do you think we should pay for a service that now has us in fear and doubt? Never in my life did I ever think that I'd see the day that a COP would perform such a disgusting act. Where are the ethics? I've seen it on TV, in the movies, on the news and when it happens in 3rd world countries where a higher authority can go into a person's home and commit a terrible crime against them, and nothing is done about the situation. It hurts to know that I now can not trust calling 911 when my life is depending on it. Does justice prevail, or does it exist? What I would like to know is what type of training are these officers receiving. Are they watching too many "COPS" shows? Do they know how not to take anything personal? When it comes down to their jobs, are their emotions too involved? When they are having a bad day, are they going to take it out on us, or is it just that having a badge makes them feel superior to civilians? I have many questions to ask. Maybe not even half would even be answered. One other thing that I would like to point out to all of you.

NOT ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD WILL BRING MARIO BACK, HIS PARENTS AND LITTLE BROTHER COULD USE THE MONITORY HELP, BUT NOT AT THE COST OF FURTHER RUIN AND PAIN. THEY DON'T NEED TO HEAR THE TRASH TALK THAT IS SURFACING. THEY CALLED 911 FOR HELP, BECAUSE THEY WERE FOLLOWING THE RULES OF SOCIETY, AND LOVE AND CARE THEIR CHILDREN. THEY DIDN'T CALL 911 TO HAVE MURDERERS COME IN AND RUIN THERE LIVES!
THE POLICE BRUTALITY HAS TO STOP! WE HAVE GOT TO STAND AND MAKE THEM REALIZE THAT OUR CHILDREN DESERVE A FUTURE, AND ARE NOT CRIMINALS!