

Hillary Clinton 'is praying for Trayvon's parents' while calling on the Attorney General to act

By [Meghan Keneally](#) and [Associated Press](#)

PUBLISHED: 21:57 EST, 16 July 2013 | **UPDATED:** 22:02 EST, 16 July 2013



59 shares

[27](#)

[View comments](#)

Hillary Clinton has spoken out about the Trayvon Martin killing for the first time today as she offered her condolences to the teen's parents.

'My prayers are with the Martin family and with every family who loves someone who is lost to violence,' the former Secretary of State said during a speech to Delta Sigma Theta, an African-American women's group.

'No mother, no father, should ever have to fear for their child walking down a street in the United States of America.'



Opening up: Hillary Clinton spoke out about the George Zimmerman verdict and the annulment of the Voting Rights Act in front of an African American women's group on Tuesday

Opening up: Hillary Clinton spoke out about the George Zimmerman verdict and the annulment of the Voting Rights Act in front of an African American women's group on Tuesday



Getting her feet wet: Clinton has not announced a presidential candidacy, though she is thought to be the likely Democratic nominee

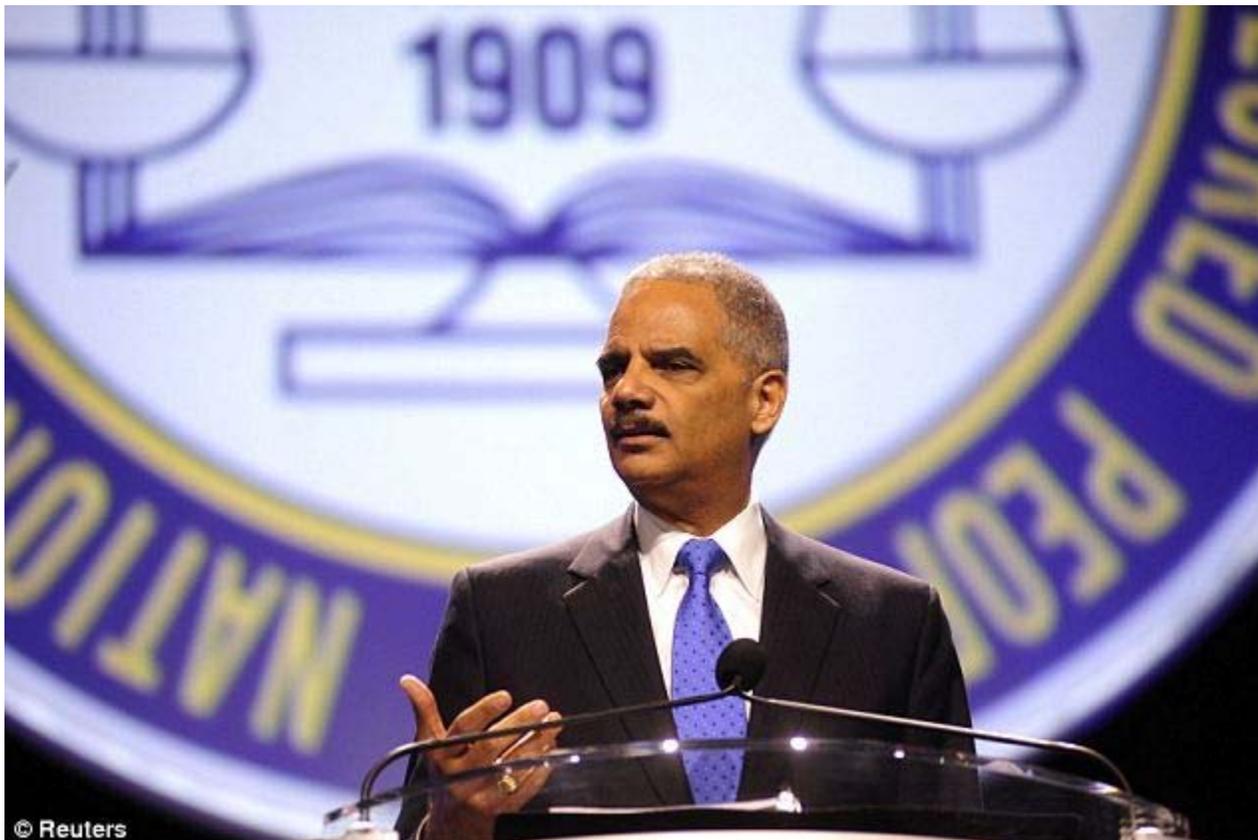
She said the verdict has brought 'deep, painful heartache' to people across the country.

She said the verdict has brought 'deep, painful heartache' to people across the country.

Though she is not officially running for president quite yet, the former First Lady is largely seen as the front-runner for the Democratic nominee in 2016.

Instead of putting forth her own conclusions about the acquittal of George Zimmerman, she bowed to Attorney General Eric Holder's statement that the Justice Department will continue their investigation into the case.

The Justice Department is looking specifically at whether or not there is enough justification to charge Zimmerman with criminal civil rights charges, as protests broke out across the United States following the verdict late Saturday that he was not going to be charged in the Florida case.



Addressing the public: Attorney General Eric Holder said Stand Your Ground laws will be evaluated

'As we move forward as we must I hope this sisterhood will continue to be a force for justice and understanding,' Mrs Clinton said told the group on Tuesday.

President Obama's official statement encouraged people to accept the ruling as part of the course of justice.

'We are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken. I now ask every American to respect the call for calm reflection from two parents who lost their young son,' he said.





Cleared: George Zimmerman was acquitted of any fault in Trayvon Martin's killing

Mrs Clinton's speech emphasized the importance of voting rights for black Americans in light of the Supreme Court's revocation of the Voting Rights Act.

Black voters have long supported her husband, President Bill Clinton, and would be a key voting bloc if the former first lady sought the presidency in 2016.

African Americans supported Barack Obama in large numbers during their Democratic primary campaign in 2008 and in his re-election last year.

'I want to make sure that in the next election and the next election and the next and every one after that, people line up to vote and they vote regardless of those who may not want to count their vote or acknowledge their right to vote,' Mrs. Clinton said.