



U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division

RM:PF:CG  
144-32-5142

Criminal Section - PHB  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

SEP 24 2013

(b)(7)(C)

Bogalusa, LA 70427

Dear (b)(7)(C):

We are writing to inform you that the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently conducted a review of the circumstances surrounding the death of your (b)(7)(C) Carrie Brumfield, on September 12, 1967. We regret to inform you that we are unable to proceed further with a federal criminal investigation of this matter because there is insufficient evidence to prove a violation of the relevant federal criminal civil rights statutes, beyond a reasonable doubt, and because the applicable five-year statute of limitations has expired. Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your (b)(7)(C).

Over the last 50 years, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has been instrumental in bringing justice to some of the nation's most disturbing civil rights era crimes. Today, the Division continues to use its resources and expertise to identify, locate, and, where possible, prosecute those responsible for committing racially-motivated crimes committed more than 40 years ago.

In 2006, the FBI began its "Cold Case Initiative" — a comprehensive effort to identify and investigate racially-motivated murders committed decades ago. Toward that end, each of the 56 FBI field offices searched their "cold case files" to identify incidents which might be ripe for investigation. In February of 2007, the FBI announced the next phase of the initiative, which includes a partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), and the National Urban League to assist the FBI in identifying additional cases for investigation and to solicit their help. In October 2008, the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act" ("Emmett Till Act") became law giving the Department of Justice additional tools to investigate "violations of criminal civil rights statutes . . . result[ing] in death" that "occurred not later than December 31, 1969."

The federal review concerning your (b)(7)(C) death was begun pursuant to the Cold Case Initiative and the Emmett Till Act. This review was conducted by FBI Special Agents and an experienced "cold case" civil rights prosecutor. We have now concluded that review and wish to inform you in writing of our findings.

cc: Records Chrono Fitzgerald Gamondi T. 09/24/13

As part of its review of the circumstances your (b)(7)(C) death, the FBI case agent interviewed you and contacted the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office (WPSO). Additionally, a reviewing attorney conducted numerous internet newspaper archive searches.

According to our review, on or about September 12, 1967, your (b)(7)(C) was found shot to death in his car on a deserted rural road near Franklinton. He had died as the result of a .22 caliber revolver gunshot wound to the chest.

As you know, the FBI interviewed you in June 2007 and recontacted you in September 2009. According to what you told the FBI, you (b)(7)(C) had been robbed and murdered by one of his Mississippi ship yard co-workers. You also told the FBI that the murderer, whose name you could not recall, had died in a Louisiana prison some years ago. More significantly, you stated that the murderer was a serial killer who had gone on to kill several other individuals in Louisiana and Mississippi and that the killer had not killed your (b)(7)(C) out of racial animus.

The FBI case agent contacted the WPSO, and determined that the WPSO file concerning your (b)(7)(C) murder no longer contained any documents.

Searches of the internet identified (b)(7)(C) serving a life sentence for the murder of a Texas sheriff in 1976, as also having committed a murder of a white store owner in Franklinton about a month and a half after the murder of your (b)(7)(C). (b)(7)(C) had also used a .22 caliber revolver in that murder.

After careful review of this incident, we have concluded that we cannot proceed further with a federal criminal investigation of this matter because, as you indicated, your (b)(7)(C) killer, who you believe to be long dead, was not motivated by your (b)(7)(C) race and, therefore, the crime does not fall under the purview of the Emmet Till Act. Moreover, any federal civil rights prosecution in this case would be barred by the then applicable five-year statute of limitations. Accordingly, we have no choice but to close our investigation.

We regret that we cannot be of further assistance to you. Again, please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your (b)(7)(C).

Sincerely,

Paige M. Fitzgerald  
Deputy Chief in Charge of the Cold Case Initiative