

# Officer who fatally shot man told boss he ran away

Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — The white South Carolina police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of a black man can be heard telling his supervisor twice that he didn't understand why the man ran away, according to dashcam video.

That officer, Michael Slager, is in jail and has been fired in the wake of the April 4 shooting death of Walter Scott, 50, who was buried over the weekend. The shooting happened after Slager pulled Scott over for what the officer said was a broken taillight on his Mercedes.

Scott was behind some \$18,000 in his child support payments, and family members have said he may have run because he was worried about going back to jail. A warrant had been issued for his arrest.

The shooting was captured on a cellphone camera by a man passing by and became the latest example nationally of an unarmed black man shot by a white police officer, further stirring outrage.

The shooting was not captured by Slager's dashboard camera, which shows what appears to be a routine traffic stop until Scott takes off running. But the cellphone video shows Slager firing eight times at Scott.

SLED has released almost 13 hours of dashcam video from the cruisers of the five officers who responded to the scene.

State Law Enforcement Division spokesman Thom Berry said Monday that the actions of all North Charleston officers at the scene are being reviewed. Any findings will be forwarded to a local prosecutor.

On one video, Slager can be heard answering a call on his cellphone.

"Everything's OK, OK?" he tells the caller. "I just shot somebody."

He also tells the caller: "He grabbed my Taser, yeah. He was running from me." The officer initially said after the shooting that Scott had tried to take his Taser, and the man who recorded the



The Rev. Al Sharpton, right, visits a makeshift memorial where Walter Scott was fatally shot by a police officer after he fled a traffic stop, April 12 in North Charleston, S.C. The officer, Michael Thomas Slager, has been fired and charged with murder.

shooting on his cellphone said he started recording after noticing a scuffle.

Slager can later be heard on the video talking to an officer Berry identified as his supervisor.

"I'm sure SLED will be on the way," the supervisor says. "Once they get here, it will be real quick. They're going to tell you you'll be off a couple of days, we'll come back and interview you. They're not going to ask you any questions right now. They'll take your weapon and we'll go from there."

The supervisor suggests to Slager, "When you get home it would probably be a good idea to kind of jot down your thoughts on what happened — the adrenaline is just pumping."

"It's pumping," Slager responds, and they both laugh.

Then there is a pause for a few seconds, and Slager speaks again, softly:

"I don't understand why he took off like that."

Another short pause.

"I don't understand why he'd run."

On Monday a small group of protesters blocked a main avenue in North Charleston and the entrance to City Hall.

Attorney Malik Shabazz, the president of Black Lawyers for Justice, also appeared in front of City Hall, calling for a special prosecutor to investigate the incident. He said his group will do its own investigation and hold a national town hall meeting next weekend on race and police practices.

Black Lawyers for Justice has brought a \$40 million lawsuit alleging Ferguson, Missouri, and St. Louis County used excessive force and falsely arrested innocent bystanders to quell widespread unrest after the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old man by a white police officer last year.

Shabazz said whether a lawsuit is brought in South Carolina depends on what his investigation turns up.

## BRIEFLY

### German Nobel literature laureate Guenter Grass dies at 87

BERLIN (AP) — Guenter Grass was to Germany what William Faulkner was to the old American South: The bard, scourge and pathfinder of a society ruined by moral disgrace and humiliated by military defeat.

For much of his adult life, the Nobel-winning writer held the rare status in the literary world of both national historian and inventor. Grass, who died Monday at age 87, often angered his fellow citizens by reminding them of their shared Nazi past. But through language of renewed freedom and lyricism and stories that were surreal yet recognizable, he also assumed the even greater challenge of imagining what they might become.

"His literary legacy will stand next to that of Goethe," German Culture Minister Monika Gruetters said in a statement following the news of his death.

Grass' first and most famous novel, "The Tin Drum," came out in 1959 and ranks as a modern, international classic and as a mini-encyclopedia of a country's state of mind.

Combining naturalistic detail with fantastical images, Grass captured the German reaction to the rise of Nazism, the horrors of the war and the guilt that lingered after Adolf Hitler's fall. The book follows the life of Oskar Matzerath, the boy in Danzig who is caught up in the political whirlwind of the Nazi rise to power and, in response, decides not to grow up. His toy drum becomes a symbol of this refusal.

### Russia lifts ban on S-300 missiles to Iran

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin on Monday sanctioned the delivery of a highly capable Russian air defense missile system to Iran, a game changer move that would significantly bolster the Islamic republic's

military capability and fuel Israel's concerns.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry objected to Moscow's decision in a phone call to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and the White House indicated the move could endanger plans to ultimately lift sanctions on Iran as part of a proposed nuclear deal.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said unity and coordination with nations like Russia is critical to the success of the negotiations. Washington has said Moscow played a constructive role in the Iranian nuclear talks, despite sharp differences between Russia and the West over Ukraine.

Putin's move was quickly welcomed by Tehran, while it worried Israel, which saw it as a sign that Iran already had begun to cash in on the emerging nuclear deal with world powers that is expected to be finalized by the end of June.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the missile system could be shipped to Iran at any moment.

### Taliban attack kills 18 Afghan soldiers; some beheaded

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban fighters swarmed over Afghan army posts in the country's northeast, killing at least 18 soldiers and beheading some in an attack to mark the start of the country's summer fighting season, authorities said Monday.

The assault marks a grim first summer battle for Afghan forces, now fighting largely alone after the U.S. and NATO ended their combat mission in the country at the start of this year. The attack in Badakhshan's Jurm district happened Friday, though officials only offered details about it days later as they pledged to investigate the apparent rout. Some 250 Taliban fighters overran the posts, said the province's deputy governor. He said Afghan troops killed 19 Taliban fighters, eight of them foreigners.

# Republican Rubio is running for president

Associated Press

MIAMI — Sen. Marco Rubio entered the presidential race Monday by offering the nation a younger generation of leadership that breaks free of ideas "stuck in the 20th century," a jab at both Democratic favorite Hillary Rodham Clinton and his one-time Republican mentor, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Standing in front of a banner that proclaimed "A New American Century" and repeating that refrain throughout his kickoff speech, the 43-year-old Cuban-American used his first turn as a Republican presidential candidate to take on two of America's political dynasties. In doing so, he bet heavily on the electorate's frustrations with Washington and his ability to change how his party is seen by voters.

"This election is not just about what laws we are going to pass," Rubio told his evening rally. "It is a generational choice about what kind of country we will be."



Florida Sen. Marco Rubio smiles during his announcement he is running for the Republican nomination, at a rally Monday in Miami.

He said it's also a choice between the haves and have-nots, nodding to his own upbringing by working-class parents.

"I live an exceptional country where the son of a bartender and a maid can have the same dreams and the same future as those who come from power and privilege."

Earlier in the day, the first-term Republican from Flor-

ida spoke to his top donors and told them many families feel the American Dream is slipping away and young Americans face unequal opportunities. He's banking on the hope that he, alone among many GOP rivals, can make inroads with groups that have long eluded Republicans — young people, minorities and the less affluent.

Rubio saw an opportunity to cast the presidential

contest as one between a fresh face representing a new generation of leadership and familiar faces harking back decades — namely, the 62-year-old Bush and the 67-year-old Clinton.

Supporters began lining up in 87-degree heat three hours before the public kickoff at Freedom Tower, the Miami landmark that was the first stop for tens of thousands of fleeing Cuban exiles during the 1960s and 1970s.

Rubio has outlined specific policy proposals on foreign and domestic issues. He plans future presentations as his campaign gets underway.

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