

Video shows deadly encounter between police, black man

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Video of a deadly encounter between Charlotte police and a black man shows his wife repeatedly telling officers he is not armed and pleading with them not to shoot her husband as they shout at him to drop a gun.

The video, recorded by Keith Lamont Scott’s wife and released Friday by his family, does not indicate whether Scott had a gun. Police have said he was armed, but witnesses say he held only a book. The 2 ½-minute video does not show the shooting, though gunshots can be heard.

Scott’s wife, Rakeyia Scott, tells officers that he has a TBI, or traumatic brain injury. At one point, she tells her husband to get out of the car so police don’t break the windows. She also tells him, “don’t do it,” but it’s not clear exactly what she means.

As the encounter escalates, she repeatedly urges police, “You better not shoot him.”

After the gunshots, Scott can be seen lying face-down on the ground while his wife says “he better live.” She continues recording and asks if an ambulance has been called. The officers stand over Scott. It’s unclear if they are checking him for weapons or giving first aid.

In the footage, Scott’s wife states the address and says, “These are the police officers that shot my husband.”

The video emerged after a third night of protests over the shooting gave way to quiet streets Friday. The largely peaceful demonstrations in the city’s business district were watched over by rifle-toting members of the National Guard.

Protesters called on police to release video that could resolve wildly different accounts of the shooting earlier this week. Char-



Rakeyia Scott/Curry Law Firm via AP

In this image taken from video recorded by Rakeyia Scott on Tuesday her husband, Keith Lamont Scott, center, stands amid Charlotte police cars and other vehicles moments before he is shot by a police officer in Charlotte, N.C. In the video of the deadly encounter, Rakeyia Scott repeatedly tells officers her husband, who is black, is not armed and pleads with them not to shoot him as they shout at him.

lotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Friday that there is footage from at least one police body camera and one dashboard camera.

The family of Scott, 43, was shown the footage Thursday and demanded that police release it to the public.

Demonstrators chanted “release the tape” and “we want the tape” Thursday while briefly blocking an intersection and later climbing the steps to the door of the city government center.

Later, several dozen demonstrators walked onto an interstate highway through the city, but they were pushed back by police in riot gear.

State Attorney General Roy Cooper also called on Charlotte officials to release the video, saying doing so would help bring the

community and law enforcement together. Cooper, a Democrat, is running for governor in November.

Charlotte is the latest U.S. city to be shaken by protests and recriminations over the death of a black man at the hands of police, a list that includes Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago, New York and Ferguson, Missouri. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Thursday, prosecutors charged a white officer with manslaughter for killing an unarmed black man on a city street last week.

Thursday’s protests in Charlotte lacked the violence and property damage of previous nights, and a curfew enacted by the city’s mayor encouraged a stopping point.

Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts signed documents to keep the curfew in effect from midnight until 6 a.m. each day until the state of emergency declared by the

Clinton postpones visit to Charlotte after mayor’s request

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Hillary Clinton said Friday that the police video of the fatal shooting of a black man by Charlotte police should be released immediately as she announced and then abruptly postponed plans to make a pre-debate visit to the embattled North Carolina city.

Clinton wrote on Twitter that authorities in Charlotte should release the police video of the Keith Lamont Scott shooting “without delay. We must ensure justice & work to bridge divides.”

The Democratic presidential nominee’s campaign initially said she would travel Sunday to Charlotte, where protests have broken out after the police shooting. But Clinton decided to postpone the trip hours later after Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts — also a Democrat — told CNN her city’s security resources were stretched thin and urged Clinton to delay her visit.

Jennifer Palmieri, Clinton’s campaign communications director, said in a statement that

after “further discussion with community leaders” Clinton had decided to postpone the trip “as to not impact the city’s resources.”

Palmieri said Clinton planned to visit Charlotte on Sunday, Oct. 2. “In the meantime her prayers are with the people of Charlotte during these difficult days,” she said.

In the days leading up to Monday’s first presidential debate, both Clinton and Republican Donald Trump have been confronted with questions about police violence after the North Carolina shooting and a separate incident in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where a white police officer was charged with manslaughter in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man whose vehicle had broken down in the middle of the street.

Clinton said Wednesday that the shootings had added two more names “to a long list of African-Americans killed by police officers. It’s unbearable and it needs to become intolerable.”

governor ends.

After the curfew took effect, police allowed the crowd of demonstrators to thin without forcing them off the street. Police Capt. Mike Campagna told reporters that officers would not seek to arrest curfew violators as long as they were peaceful.

Putney said Friday that releasing the footage of Scott’s death could inflame the situation. He has said previously that the video will be made public when he believes there

is a “compelling reason” to do so.

“It’s a personal struggle, but I have to do what I think is best for my community,” Putney said.

During the same news conference, Roberts said she believes the video should be released, but “the question is on the timing.”

Earlier in the week, the Charlotte protests turned violent, with demonstrators attacking reporters and others, setting fires and smashing windows of hotels, office buildings and restaurants.

BRIEFLY

Cruz backs Trump, whom he called ‘utterly amoral’

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ted Cruz announced Friday he will vote for Donald Trump, a dramatic about-face that may help unite a deeply divided Republican Party months after the fiery Texas conservative called Trump a “pathological liar” and “utterly amoral.”

Cruz said he was simply following through on a promise to support his party’s presidential nominee, even though the New York billionaire had nicknamed him “Lyin’ Ted,” insulted his wife and linked his father to the John F. Kennedy assassination.

But facing intensifying political pressure to back Trump, Cruz said he would cast a vote for Trump, while stopping short of an official endorsement in a statement posted Friday on Facebook.

The distinction may matter little to voters, but helps Cruz save face among those supporters still unwilling to forgive Trump’s heated attacks during their ugly and often intensely personal primary campaign. Cruz was booed by Trump supporters at the national convention for encouraging Republicans to “vote your conscience.”

Trump accepted Cruz’s support, describing it as an “endorsement” in a statement. That’s even after Trump claimed he didn’t want Cruz’s endorsement immediately after the convention chaos.

“I am greatly honored by the endorsement of Senator Cruz,” Trump said Friday. “We have fought the battle and he was a tough and brilliant opponent. I look forward to working with him for many years to come in order to make America great again.”

Obama vetoes 9/11 bill; override by Congress looms

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama nixed a bill Friday that would have allowed the families of 9/11 victims to sue the government of Saudi Arabia, arguing it undermined national security and setting up the possibility Congress may override his veto for the first time of his presidency.

Obama’s move escalates the fight over an emotional issue that has overlapped with the campaign debate

over terrorism and the Middle East. The bill had sailed through both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support, clearing the final hurdle just days before the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

The president said the bill, which doesn’t refer specifically to Saudi Arabia, could backfire by opening up the U.S. government and its officials to lawsuits by anyone accusing the U.S. of supporting terrorism, rightly or wrongly.

Congress is determined to try to overturn the veto, which requires a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate. Previous attempts to overturn Obama’s vetoes have all been unsuccessful.

With lawmakers eager to return home to campaign, a vote could come early next week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s office said the Senate would vote “as soon as practicable in this work period.”

Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Senate’s No. 3 Democrat and a traditional Obama ally, came out swinging against Obama while predicting lawmakers would reverse it “swiftly and soundly.”

GOP lawmaker: FBI gave immunity to top Clinton aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton’s former chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, and two other staff members were granted immunity deals in exchange for their cooperation in the now-closed FBI investigation into Clinton’s use of a private email server as secretary of state, says a Republican congressman.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, told The Associated Press on Friday that Mills gave federal investigators access to her laptop on the condition that what they found couldn’t be used against her.

Democrats on the committee said Friday the immunity agreements were limited in scope and did not cover statements made to investigators or to potential testimony before Congress.

Still, Chaffetz said he was “absolutely stunned” that the FBI would cut a deal with someone as close to the investigation as Mills. By including the emails recovered from the laptops in the immunity agreements,

the Justice Department exempted key physical evidence from any potential criminal case against the aides.

“No wonder they couldn’t prosecute a case,” said Chaffetz, R-Utah. “They were handing out immunity deals like candy.”

Copies of the immunity agreements were provided to the House oversight committee by the Justice Department this week under seal.

Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon accused House Republicans of “trying to make something out of nothing by rummaging through the files of a Justice Department investigation that was closed months ago without any charges whatsoever, and leaking selective details three days before the first presidential debate.”

Witness: Christie used bridge to gain endorsements

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Republican Gov. Chris Christie’s office used the bistate agency that runs the New York area’s bridges, tunnels, ports and airports as a clearinghouse for political favors aimed at gaining endorsements from local Democratic politicians, a witness testified Friday in the fraud trial of two former Christie allies.

Among those directly involved in the effort or aware of it were Bridget Kelly and Bill Baroni, who are accused of creating traffic gridlock at the George Washington Bridge in 2013 to punish one of those mayors for not endorsing Christie, according to David Wildstein’s testimony.

Wildstein said Christie and his former campaign manager, Bill Stepien, were among those who discussed the strategy at a meeting about Christie’s 2013 re-election.

Christie has denied knowing about the bridge scheme until well after it was carried out, and a taxpayer-funded report he commissioned absolved him of wrongdoing. He hasn’t been charged.

U.S.-Russia deal unravels and war revs up

NEW YORK (AP) — In a New York hotel room earlier this week, Russia thought it was close to a deal with the U.S. to revive a

cease-fire deal for Syria.

A three-day period of calm would go into effect, accompanied by Syrian and Russian planes leaving the skies over northern Syria, according to a concept that Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov developed late Wednesday

night. That would permit Syria’s warring sides to reaffirm their support and prove their commitment to a U.S.-Russian plan for ending the civil war.

But neither government had signed off on the diplomats’ plans, according to U.S. and Russian officials with knowledge of the

private conversations in the Palace Hotel.

And after Kerry consulted others in the Obama administration, he told Lavrov that the truce should last a week, said the officials, who weren’t authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity.

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