



# Two White Men Arrested in Shooting of Black Man Who They Believed Was a Thief

Greg McMichael said there had been several break-ins in the neighborhood. He told police he saw Ahmaud Arbery running down the street and he asked his son, Travis, to help him confront Arbery. The two allegedly got a shotgun and handgun because they “didn’t know if Arbery was armed or not.” The two men got into their truck and followed Arbery, who was running. When they pulled up next to Arbery, there was a struggle for the gun and Arbery was shot to death.

No arrests were for more than two months after the shooting, prompting outrage from Arbery’s family and their lawyer called the killing a “modern lynching”.

A new video shows a man who appeared to be Arbery going into a vacant home that was under construction in the McMichaels’ neighborhood on the day he was killed.

Brunswick, GA – The fourth in a series of prosecutors was appointed Monday morning to take over the fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery in February just a day after the Georgia Attorney General’s Office asked for a federal investigation of the handling of the case.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Cobb County District Attorney Joyette Holmes has been appointed to head up

the prosecution of 64-year-old Gregory McMichael, and his son, 34-year-old Travis McMichael, who were both charged with Arbery's murder and aggravated assault on Friday.

Holmes was appointed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to replace Vic Reynolds when he left to become director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and is the first black district attorney in Cobb County.

On Sunday, Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr asked the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) to investigate the handling of the case after a whole lot of new information came to light following the release of a video on Thursday, The Washington Post reported.

The community was outraged that it took two months and intervention by GBI before the first arrests were made in the bizarre incident that left Arbery, whose family said was just out jogging, fatally shot on a residential street.

The police report said the incident began when Arbery jogged past the home of Gregory McMichael and his son, Travis McMichael, the Associated Press reported.

The McMichaels told police afterwards that they thought Arbery was the suspect in several recent burglaries in the neighborhood, so they armed themselves and followed him, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

The men jumped in their pickup truck and followed the 25 year old as he jogged through the neighborhood.

The video, filmed by the McMichaels' friend, Willian Bryan, who was following in another vehicle, showed Arbery jogging up the middle of the residential road toward a white pickup truck was stopped ahead of him.

In the video, Arbery dodged to the right onto the grass to go around the stopped truck.

Yelling can be heard in the video for a second, and then a gunshot, just before Arbery reappeared in front of the truck.

The video showed Gregory McMichael standing up in the bed of the pickup with a gun in his hand.

Arbery appeared to engage Travis McMichael, who was holding a shotgun, in a struggle for the gun that drifted off camera for a split second.

While they were off-camera, Travis McMichael's gun went off – a puff of smoke is visible on the left side of the screen that indicated where the gunshot came from.

The video showed Arbery and Travis McMichael veered back into the frame, still engaged in a struggle over the gun, and then there was a third gunshot.

Arbery took a couple steps away from Travis McMichael and collapsed face-first in the middle of the street, the video showed.

Gregory McMichael got down from the back of the pickup, gun in hand, and was walking toward where Arbery lay on the ground as the video ended.

The police report said he claimed he and his son had called out to the jogger and told him they wanted to talk to him, the Associated Press reported.

Gregory McMichael told police that Arbery “began to violently attack” his son and then the two men fought over the shotgun.

Arbery was shot twice and died.

No arrests were for more than two months after the shooting, prompting outrage from Arbery's family and community.

The first two prosecutors who were assigned to the case had to recuse themselves because of professional connections to

Gregory McMichael, The New York Times reported.

The older McMichael recently retired from a long career as an investigator for the Brunswick district attorney's office.

Prior to joining the district attorney's office, Gregory McMichael was an officer with the Glynn County Police Department for seven years, The New York Times reported.

On Friday, Two Glynn county commissioners revealed that Brunswick District Attorney Jackie Johnson's office refused to allow police to arrest either of the suspects at the scene, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

"The police at the scene went to her, saying they were ready to arrest both of them," Glynn County Commissioner Allen Booker said. "These were the police at the scene who had done the investigation. She shut them down to protect her friend McMichael."

Glynn County Commissioner Peter Murphy confirmed Booker's account and said officers at the scene told the district attorney they had probable cause to make the arrests, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

Eventually, Johnson recused herself from the case because she had previously been Gregory McMichael's boss.

But the next prosecutor to get the case said there was no probable to arrest the McMichaels.

Documents obtained by The New York Times revealed that George E. Barnhill, a prosecutor with the Waycross Judicial District who was previously assigned to the case, had argued that both McMichaels had acted legally under the Georgia citizen's arrest and self-defense statutes.

Barnhill recused himself from the case after Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper Jones, complained about a conflict of interest, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

It turned out that Barnhill's son had worked with Gregory McMichael on an earlier prosecution of Ahmaud Arbery for the Brunswick District Attorney's Office, CNN reported.

Tom Durden, the third prosecutor assigned to the case, was bombarded with criticism after he said he wanted to convene a grand jury to determine whether the McMichaels should be charged, the Associated Press reported.

But that could not happen for more than a month because the Georgia Supreme Court has prohibited grand juries from meeting until after June 12, The New York Times reported.

Facing intense scrutiny, Durden asked the GBI to assist with the investigation into Arbery's death on Tuesday, WSB reported.

By Thursday, the GBI director announced that both McMichaels had been arrested.

Both men were booked into the Glynn County Jail on charges of murder and aggravated assault and remain there, held without bond, WXIA reported.

Further complicating matters, additional video was released over the weekend that showed a man who appeared to be Arbery going into a vacant home that was under construction in the McMichaels' neighborhood on the day he was killed, WJXX reported.

The surveillance video from inside the home showed the man looking around but he did not appear to have taken anything before he left.

Police said that a man called 911 shortly before Arbery was shot to report a man had broken into the home in the video, WJXX reported.

Read full article [here](#)...