

Why I Raise My Fist

8 minutes

8 minutes and 46 seconds

That's how long it took

That's how long it took for Gianna's dad to be taken from her

4 police officers

1 man

I put my fist in the air for George

I put my fist in the air for Breonna

Put it in the air for Rayshard

For Ahmaud

For Tony

For Alton

For Eric

For Tamir

And Elijah

And Laquan

Who was shot in my own backyard

I say their names with every breath George Floyd didn't get to breathe

And I sit here on my 15th birthday

Thinking of how Tamir didn't get to see his

I sit here, on my 15th birthday, with my dad next to me

Thinking about how Gianna Floyd won't have her dad next to her on her 15th birthday

I sit here

And they don't

You ask me why I raise my fist and yell Black Lives Matter

You're not black, why do you care?

I raise my fist and say Black Lives Matter because they do

I raise my fist and say Black Lives Matter because jogging while black shouldn't be a death sentence

Sleeping, walking, BREATHING while black shouldn't be a death sentence

No, I'm not black, but I care

Maybe it's because I'm a human being with compassion

Or maybe it's because I'm a minority too

And maybe one day, I'll need them to fight for me

To stand for me

And when that day comes, I'll be able to say I fought with them, and for them

Because underneath the skin that has defined us for so long

We all bleed red

And I don't know how long it's going to be before we all realize that