

Zimmerman and Alexander: Racism and Sexism in America

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Tuesday, July 16, 2013

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Fla. mom gets 20 years for firing warning shots



Marissa Alexander of Jacksonville, Fla., received a 20-years prison sentence, Friday, May 11, 2012, for firing warning shots against her allegedly abusive husband. The judge rejected a defense under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law. / WETV

Not guilty

A jury found George Zimmerman not guilty of second-degree murder and of the lesser offense of manslaughter



Can you handle the contradictions?

I've been seeing things in twitter for the last few days that put some grotesque perspective on the American culture.

I'm actually quite speechless:

[Two Florida towns, 125 miles apart. Two people firing weapons at unarmed aggressors, purportedly in self-defense.](#)

[George Zimmerman](#), the 29-year-old neighborhood-watch commander, fatally shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin but [was acquitted by a jury that apparently concluded](#) he was in fear for his life.

[Marissa Alexander](#), a 32-year-old mother of three, fired what she described as a warning shot in the direction of her husband — against whom she had a protective order — and two stepsons. No one was injured, but she was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to 20 years.

In the wake of the Zimmerman trial and the national debate on race and justice that it prompted, Alexander's case — from 2010 — has drawn renewed attention, including an [online petition](#) seeking a pardon from Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) that has generated more than 36,000 signatures.

[Marissa Alexander case in spotlight after Zimmerman trial - The Washington Post.](#)