What’s next?

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By Fernando R. de la Maza

Some say last week’s trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin brought our country a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. But the former officer was convicted of murdering a black man in broad daylight and keeping his neck pinned down for more than nine minutes no matter who you are, who the person laying on the ground is, where you are, or whatever the circumstances may be; no matter what; period. I am comforted by the fact that true justice will prevail and that it will take place in the American courtroom. It is beyond individual officers. At this point, this is a systemic issue. It is beyond systemic. It is beyond individual police. It is a systemic issue affecting society. It is a systemic issue affecting race, ethnicity and social movement. I use that as just an illustration of the persistent and systemic nature of this violence. It is beyond individual officers. At this point, this is a systemic issue. It is beyond systemic. It is beyond individual police. It is a systemic issue affecting society.

In a recent article in The Hill, Professor Amaka Okechukwu, a sociology professor here at Mason who specializes in race, ethnicity and social movement, said, “While he was convicted of murder and held legally responsible for this event, there is no understanding of the underlying systemic issues at play. The courtroom setup during his trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society. This is a step closer to the long-awaited punishment of George Floyd’s killers. The trial was a success in demonstrating the systemic issues affecting society.