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HEADLINE: Police release 911 calls from the shooting death of a Florida teen; Trayvon Martin's mother Sybrina Fulton and lawyer Ben Crump discuss the case

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BODY:

MATT LAUER, co-host:

The release of 911 calls from the shooting death of a Florida teenager by a Neighborhood Watch volunteer is sparking new outrage. The victim's family is demanding justice, but so far no charges have been filed in that case. We'll talk to the young man's mother in a moment but first, NBC's Lilia Luciano has the latest on this.

Lilia, good morning to you.

LILIA LUCIANO reporting:

Good morning to you, Matt. Three weeks after Trayvon Martin's death, local police have released the 911 calls from neighbors and from the shooter himself, calls that some might find disturbing and calls that may hold the answers to a crucial question in this case: Did George Zimmerman in fact fire in self-defense, or was it something else?

Unidentified Call #1: (From 911 call) Oh. Oh, my gosh, some has been shot.

LUCIANO: In newly released 911 tapes you hear the panic from a neighbor just moments after the shooting last month. Seventeen-year-old Trayvon Martin was visiting family in this upscale gated community near Orlando. **George Zimmerman, a Neighborhood Watch volunteer, called 911 saying the teenager looked suspicious.**

Mr. GEORGE ZIMMERMAN: (From 911 call) This guy looks like he's up to no good or he's on drugs or something.

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LUCIANO: Zimmerman told the operator Martin was wearing a hoody and approaching him slowly.

Mr. ZIMMERMAN: (From 911 call) He's got his hand in his waistband and he's a black male. Something's wrong with him. He's coming to check me out.

LUCIANO: The operator told Zimmerman to stay put.

(Clip from 911 call)

911 Operator: Are you following him?

Mr. ZIMMERMAN: Yeah.

Operator: OK, we don't need you to do that.

(End of clip)

LUCIANO: But Zimmerman ignored the operator. Soon the two were engaged in some sort of altercation. Several neighbors called 911.

Unidentified Caller #2: (From 911 call) And they're wrestling right in the back of my porch. The guy is yelling help and I'm not going outside.

LUCIANO: In the background a voice is heard crying for help.

(Clips from 911 calls)

Operator: So you think he's yelling help?

Unidentified Caller #3: Yes.

Operator: All right, what is your...(gunshot)...number?

Caller #3: Just--there's gunshots. There's someone screaming and I just heard gunshots.

Unidentified Caller #4: There's a black guy down. It looks like he's been shot and he's dead.

(End of clips)

LUCIANO: Trayvon was dead, found lying facedown unarmed carrying a bag of Skittles and a can of iced tea. Zimmerman, who holds a concealed weapons permit, was questioned but not arrested. He told police it was him crying for help and that he shot Martin in self-defense. But in an interview on TODAY over the weekend, Martin's mother said the voice on the call was clearly Trayvon's.

Ms. SYBRINA FULTON (Trayvon Martin's Mother): That was my baby, and he was pleading for his life. And I just don't understand how that--how that's self-defense. You can clearly hear him yelling for help.

LUCIANO: The family believes Trayvon was targeted because of his race. But in a letter to a local paper, Zimmerman's father said his son would never discriminate.

Community leaders are outraged, holding rallies demanding an arrest.

Mr. TRACY MARTIN (Trayvon Martin's Father): We need answers and we need justice. We not only--not only are we looking for an arrest, but we're looking for a conviction.

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LUCIANO: Now Martin's family's calling on federal authorities to investigate. Sanford police say they have no evidence to charge Zimmerman with a crime. They've turned the case over to the state attorney's office. Matt:

LAUER: Lilia Luciano, thank you very much.

Trayvon Martin's mother Sybrina Fulton is with us now, along with Ben Crump, the family's attorney.

Good morning to both of you. And, Ms. Fulton, our condolences.

Ms. FULTON: Good morning. Thank you.

LAUER: I know you've asked yourself this question a thousand times, what could have happened that night between these two men, your son and Mr. Zimmerman, that resulted in this tragedy. When you think of any possible scenario is there one you can come up with in your mind where your son actually tried to harm that neighborhood volunteer?

Ms. FULTON: No, I cannot. I just can say that I'm pretty sure my son tried to get away. He didn't know who this guy was. He seen him as a stranger. So he was trying to just get away from the situation.

LAUER: Anything in your son's past, Ms. Fulton, any run-ins with the law, anything going on in his life at the time of the shooting that might have had him in a different state of mind, an agitated state?

Ms. FULTON: No. He was never agitated. He had never had a run-in with the law. He was mild-mannered. He was a nice kid.

LAUER: When you--and I know you didn't want to listen to the tape this morning. You have heard it. But you asked us not to play it for you this morning, but you heard Mr. Zimmerman at one point on that tape saying about your son, 'He's up to no good, there's something wrong with this guy.' What do you think he was reacting to?

Ms. FULTON: He was act--reacting to the color of his skin. He committed no crime. My son wasn't doing anything but walking on the sidewalk. And I just don't understand why this situation got out of control.

LAUER: The father of Mr. Zimmerman says that his son is not now and never has been a racist, that he is being portrayed incorrectly in the media. He also said at no time did his son, George, follow or confront your son. What's your reaction to that?

Ms. FULTON: I just don't think his dad knows all the facts in the situation that happened. If he--him being a parent, if something happened to his son he would want to know more information and not just jump to conclusions.

LAUER: What would be the question you'd want to ask George Zimmerman?

Ms. FULTON: I would just want to ask him was it a different way he could have handled the situation.

LAUER: Mr. Crump, let me bring you in quickly. Florida is one in 15 states that has something called "a stand your ground" law. It makes it easier to claim self-defense if you feel threatened near your home. Do you think that's exactly what is going to happen here? Do you think you have any legal recourse here?

Mr. BEN CRUMP (Sybrina Fulton's Attorney): I think Zimmerman has no legal recourse. He was not at his home, he was on a sidewalk, a common area. Trayvon Martin was 70 feet away from the back door. He was almost home. Zimmerman got out of his car, did not listen to the police, and chased this kid. You can't chase somebody and then claim self-defense. It is--Trayvon Martin had a bag of Skittles, Matt. He had a 9mm gun. He was almost 80 pounds more weight than Trayvon Martin. And it is a situation where when you look at these parents...

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LAUER: Right.

Mr. CRUMP: ...and you listen to those 911 tapes and the three witnesses, everybody in America is asking when are they going to arrest Zimmerman for killing this kid in cold blood.

LAUER: We will be following this story, Mr. Crump, Ms. Fulton. Again, our condolences and I thank you for joining us this morning.

Ms. FULTON: Thank you.

LAUER: It's now 20 minutes after the hour. Here's Savannah.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE, co-host:

Matt, thanks.

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