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HEADLINE: Trayvon Martin on the phone with his girlfriend at the time he was shot; Trayvon's parent, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, and attorney Benjamin Crump discuss the case

ANCHORS: MATT LAUER, ANN CURRY

REPORTERS: LILIA LUCIANO

BODY:

MATT LAUER, co-host:

And now to Florida where a grand jury will investigate the controversial shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. This as the teenager's cellphone call to his girlfriend sheds some new light on the moments leading up to that deadly confrontation with a Neighborhood Watch volunteer. We're going to talk to Trayvon Martin's mother and father in a moment. But first, NBC's Lilia Luciano has the latest.

Lilia, good morning to you.

LILIA LUCIANO reporting:

Good morning, Matt. As new details are emerging this morning, revealing more about the final moments of Trayvon Martin's short life, questions are being raised about the Florida law that might protect the shooter, George Zimmerman, from ever being charged with a crime.

Unidentified Man: No justice!

Group: (In unison) No peace!

Man: No justice!

Group: (In unison) No peace!

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LUCIANO: Hundreds gathered at this Sanford chapel Tuesday night, brought together by Trayvon Martin and the way he died.

Mr. TURNER CLAYTON (NAACP): And we, as people of color, are going to stand our ground.

LUCIANO: Martin was shot by a Neighborhood Watch volunteer last month in this gated community as the 17-year-old made his way back from a 7-Eleven. George Zimmerman called 911, reporting the teen looked suspicious. He then told police Martin was approaching him.

(Clip from 911 call)

Mr. GEORGE ZIMMERMAN: Now he's coming towards me.

Unidentified 911 Operator: OK.

Mr. ZIMMERMAN: He's got his hand in his waistband. And he's a black male.

(End of clip)

LUCIANO: But Trayvon's family says there's a new witness to their son's final moments.

Unidentified Girl: (From audiotape) Trayvon, run for it.

LUCIANO: Trayvon's family says that according to cellphone records the teen was on the phone with his girlfriend when he encountered Zimmerman that night. She says it was Trayvon who felt threatened.

Mr. BENJAMIN CRUMP (Attorney for Trayvon Martin's Family): So she says, 'Run.' He says, 'I'm not going to run. I'm just going to walk fast.' And at that point she says, 'Trayvon'--she hears Trayvon say, 'Why are you following me?' And that's when she says she hears a other voice say, 'What are you doing around here?'

LUCIANO: Moments later, she says, it sounds like Trayvon gets pushed and then the phone call drops out.

When Zimmerman fired the fatal shot, he told police he acted in self-defense. Legal experts say that claim, backed by Florida's controversial Stand Your Ground law, could prevent Zimmerman's arrest.

Mr. KENDALL COFFEY (Former United States Attorney): The Stand Your Ground law is a license to kill.

LUCIANO: The law gives people in Florida the right to protect themselves with deadly force, and not just in their home. Data from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shows the number of justifiable homicides tripled after the law went into effect in 2005.

Mr. COFFEY: He's clearly claiming self-defense and relying on the Stand Your Ground law; however, there is circumstantial evidence suggesting that he had no business gunning down somebody who was armed only with Skittles and a can of iced tea.

LUCIANO: And now Zimmerman's already controversial 911 call is fueling speculation online that Zimmerman may have used a racial epithet, though some news outlets believe he muttered the word "punks."

(Clip from 911 call)

Mr. ZIMMERMAN: He's down towards the other entrance of the neighborhood.

911 Operator: OK. Which entrance is that that he's heading towards?

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Mr. ZIMMERMAN: The back entrance...(censored by network).

(End of clip)

LUCIANO: The state attorney has taken over the case from local police and is now announcing that he's called for a grand jury to weigh the evidence and determine Zimmerman's fate. For now Zimmerman has had no comment. Matt:

LAUER: Lilia Luciano. Lilia, thank you very much.

Trayvon Martin's father, Tracy, and mother, Sybrina Fulton, are with us now exclusively, along with their attorney Ben Crump.

Good morning to all of you. Thank you for joining us. I appreciate it.

Ms. SYBRINA FULTON (Trayvon Martin's Mother): Good morning.

Mr. TRACY MARTIN: Good morning.

Mr. CRUMP: Good morning, Matt.

LAUER: This phone call that was carried on between Trayvon and this young lady just before he was shot, the young lady says that she heard him saying, 'Why are you following me?' says perhaps he then put his hoodie up on his sweatshirt and heard someone else saying, 'What are you doing in this neighborhood?' and then the phone went dead. What do you think this phone call proves?

Mr. MARTIN: To me it proves that he wasn't walking around the neighborhood doing anything suspicious. He was on his way home. He had every right to have on his hoodie. It was raining. Why not put on his hoodie to prevent getting wet?

LAUER: This is not a recorded phone call, Mrs. Fulton. The young lady--the police in Sanford asked anyone with information to come forward if they had that. This young lady, according to our reporting, had not come forward. And we're now getting her version of this phone call. Can it be trusted?

Ms. FULTON: Yes, it can. She was distraught because of the situation that happened with Trayvon and that--the fact that she was on the phone with him when he--when the incident occurred--right before the incident occurred. So she was very distraught. She had to go to the hospital. She was hospitalized. She also mentioned to us that she had feelings for Trayvon, so it hurt her dearly to know that he has passed away.

LAUER: Mr. Crump, though, as an attorney, does it worry you that really what this is, is hearsay evidence?

Mr. CRUMP: It really doesn't because she is a 16-year-old teenager who just lost a person very special to her. Her parents are very concerned. They did not want her to get involved. And it wasn't till Mr. Martin found the phone records and saw that she called him at 7:12--the police got on the scene 7:17. He was shot and dead on the ground. Five minutes.

LAUER: So just before this happened.

Mr. CRUMP: I mean, she talked to him...

LAUER: Briefly, I want to ask you about this other controversy now with this 911 call. Some people who have heard the entire tape believe that Mr. Zimmerman, the man who shot your son, uttered a racial slur and might--some people think he said "blacking punks"; other people think he said "blacking" and then a racial slur. Have you heard the entire tape? And do you think you've heard the original tape? What's your opinion?

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Mr. MARTIN: I've heard the entire tape, but the parts that I did hear, Zimmerman did go on saying--I think he said words that were not--were not comforting to my ear, like "these people"...

Mr. CRUMP: "These people."

Mr. MARTIN: ...and...

Mr. CRUMP: Who are "these people"?

Mr. MARTIN: ...he was--he was suspicious because he was young, black, with a hoodie.

LAUER: Let me read you something that lawyers for the Department of Justice have said on the condition of anonymity, that (reading) "while the investigation of the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin will go forward, it would be difficult to prosecute the case under federal law. Civil rights law protects against hate crimes or actions by police officers, but Martin's shooting may not have either of those elements."

Mr. CRUMP: Matt, it's real simple to us. He needs to be arrested, prosecuted and convicted. Now, the state needs to do it. It's crazy that this family has to wait for grand juries and stuff when, if it was the other way around, they would have arrested their son on the spot.

LAUER: Mr. Fulton***(as spoken)***though, if we put the picture of Trayvon up on the screen it is very easy to look at this young man and want to support you and to comfort you and offer our condolences? But do we also have to remember that with all the public outcry here, that there is a, perhaps, potential for a rush to judgment against Mr. Zimmerman, who has not been charged with a crime and even if he had been charged with a crime would have to be viewed as innocent in the eyes of the law. Are you worried about that? Would you urge people to be patient?

Mr. MARTIN: I would urge people to be patient, let the courts decide, but I strongly feel that he needs to be arrested because a crime was committed. My son is murdered. My son is not with us no more. Nothing can bring him back.

LAUER: Only two people know what happened that night and your son, unfortunately, cannot tell his side of the story.

Ms. Fulton, are you worried that in a court of law it will be tough to convince a jury of this--of the guilt of Mr. Zimmerman beyond a reasonable doubt?

Ms. FULTON: Well, there is some witnesses--there are witnesses and I just want them to take a look at the evidence that they have. I just hurt and my heart hurts because this guy has not been arrested. And I just feel like the Sanford Police Department decided to decide if he--they decided on the scene to be the judge and jury, and I just want this guy arrested and--so he can be brought to justice.

LAUER: Mr. and Mrs. Fulton***(as spoken)***thank you for your time this morning. I truly appreciate it.

Mr. MARTIN: Thank you, Matt.

LAUER: Mr. Crump, thank you very much as well.

Mr. CRUMP: Thank you, Matt.

LAUER: It's now 15 minutes after the hour. Here's Ann.

ANN CURRY, co-host:

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Matt, thanks.

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