

I am LaRonda Jones, and I had to bury my son.

I have repeated these words to myself every single day for the past 122 days. I have said them in moments of disbelief, in moments of heartbreak, and in moments of sheer agony. My son, Kilyn, was just 37 years old when his life was violently taken from him on May 23, 2024. He wasn't just a number or a case file. He was my son. And I had to bury him.

It has been 122 days since Kilyn's life was cut short. 122 days since I last heard his voice, felt his presence, or told him how much I love him. My son was a kind, loving man. He had dreams, hopes, and a future. But in one horrific moment, those dreams were shattered — because of police violence. Because of an officer who chose to take my son's life rather than protect it.

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It's hard to find the words to describe the depth of my grief, but it's impossible not to feel the weight of this pain every single day. I buried my son when it should have been him carrying on with his life. Kilyn should be here with me, with his family, with his friends. But instead, we are left with memories and a hole in our hearts that can never be filled.

122 days.

That is how long I have lived without my son. How long I've waited for answers, for accountability, for justice. My son, Kilyn, did not deserve this. No mother should have to stand here before you and say these words. But I am here today because I refuse to let my son's life be reduced to just another tragedy that goes unanswered. I refuse to let his name be forgotten.

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I am standing here because I need you to understand that Kilyn's life mattered. His death has left a wound in our family, in our community, and in this city. We deserve justice. Kilyn deserves justice. For 122 days, I have woken up with the crushing weight of my loss, but I will continue to fight. I will continue to speak out because I owe it to my son to make sure his story is heard and that this city remembers who he was.

I don't expect you to grieve as hard as I do for Kilyn, but I do expect you to grieve alongside all of us as you continue to bury justice.

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