

U.S. self-defence laws under scrutiny

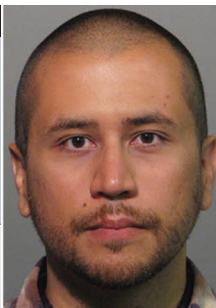
The verdict in the Trayvon Martin shooting case has drawn attention to U.S. “stand-your-ground” laws, which permit people to defend themselves with deadly force if they fear death or bodily harm



TRAYVON MARTIN SHOOTING

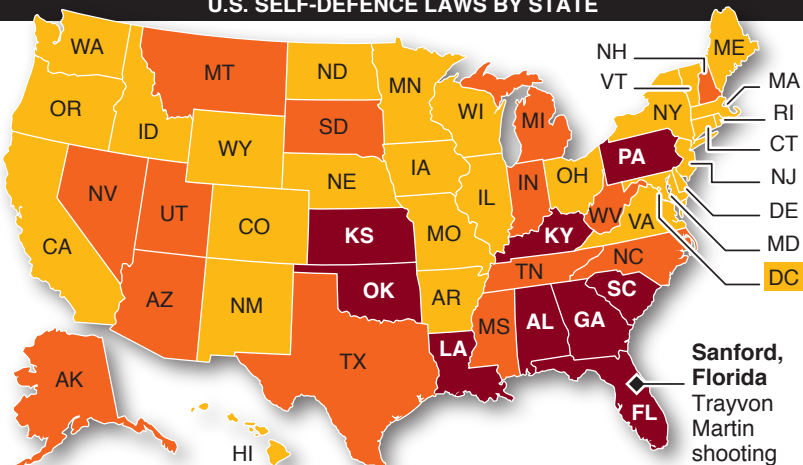
■ **February 26, 2012:** Unarmed black teenager **Trayvon Martin** (left) fatally shot during physical confrontation with neighbourhood watchman **George Zimmerman** (right), who identified Martin as potential criminal

■ **July 13, 2013:** Zimmerman found not guilty following three-week murder trial



■ **July 2013:** U.S. Justice Department to review case for possible civil rights violations. Martin’s family has said teen was racially profiled. Zimmerman, who is half white and half Hispanic, claims he acted in self-defence

U.S. SELF-DEFENCE LAWS BY STATE



■ Individual has “no duty to retreat” before using force if threatened by attack in any place in which that individual is lawfully present

■ “No duty to retreat” extended to include language stating that individual may “stand his or her ground” to resist attack

■ “No duty to retreat” legislation weak or does not exist, or only applies if individual’s home/workplace is attacked