

Dear Colleagues and Students:

Today, we heard the jury's verdict in the trial in Brunswick, Georgia, concerning a young unarmed Black man jogging in his neighborhood who was killed by three white men. The jury found all three of the defendants guilty of felony murder, aggravated assault, false imprisonment and criminal attempt to commit a felony. Only one defendant was found guilty of an additional charge of malice murder. All now face up to life in prison.

Whether the defendants had killed him was not in question; whether they would be declared guilty for doing so was. Please note that the three defendants in the Ahmaud Arbery case were also federally indicted in April on hate crime charges, to which they have pled not guilty. The three defendants had also pled not guilty to the state of Georgia's nine-count indictment.

We are a nation of laws. When those laws are fair and fairly applied, we are stronger as a nation. No one should be hunted down, harmed, or even killed for the color of their skin, their expressed gender, their religion, or for exercising those rights. That I should have to say this in 2021 is an appalling reflection on our present moment. And yet we know that this occurs. But change does not happen unless we speak up and participate in the process of government.

When I say that my intention is for Cal State San Bernardino to be a place where everyone feels safe, physically and emotionally, for who they are and how they look, live, and choose to worship (or not), these are not just words. Our nation is struggling with the very basic fact of how we view and treat one another. Not only is that struggle exploding into violence, it is also revealing how much of that violence, against people of color, has long existed in our country and been ignored or covered over.

CSUSB is offering an event to discuss Mr. Arbery's murder and the trial of and verdict on the three defendants—**Safe Space: A supportive environment to process the murder of Ahmaud Arbery**. The location will be SMSU 217 and there will be three opportunities to participate next Monday through Wednesday: November 29 at 12:00 p.m., November 30 at 9:00 a.m. and December 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Let us channel our responses to this most recent verdict, and redouble our efforts to bring long-lasting structural change to our nation through peaceful, non-violent means. This does not imply passivity. Rather, it implies involvement. "We the people" means everyone living in this nation today. That is how we will bring about a more perfect union.

In community,

**Tomás D. Morales**

President