Chronicle of a death untold: why witnesses to killings of Latinos by police stay silent

Jonathan Perez Lopez was a 21-year-old undocumented immigrant who is shot by police officers in a Fresno, California, apartment complex. Eyewitnesses, which being Mexican nationals, might be more hesitating for the cops.

Los otros no escaparon. Disparan a Jonatan: una muerte revela el temor que se encuentra tras los latinos atrabilar por la policía

Jonathan Perez Lopez was killed by police officers in his apartment complex in Fresno, Calif. Photo: Courtesy of Perez Lopez family

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Inside the Pearl Apport and House in San Francisco's Mission district, a newly painted mural glares in the afternoon sun. Two of the men stacked on the wall are instantly recognizable to the tight-knots-this-Garnes, the unnamed black man killed by police in New York City; Michael Brown, the unarmed black teenager killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri, stands to the left. Another man, a young Latino, is also recognizable to those who follow the US-Mexico borderlands reading class and recently deported.

Jonathan Perez Lopez was 21 years old when he was shot dead by two plain-clothes San Francisco police officers in February. An undocumented migrant and Guatemalan national, he is pictured in the bottom of the mural, his hands up, clutching a copy of Frantz Fanon's Wretched of the Earth.

He was killed two blocks away from the mural. The gallery's owners heard the gunshots go off.

Jonathan Perez Lopez was killed by police officers in his apartment complex in Fresno, Calif. Photo: Courtesy of Perez Lopez family

Perez Lopez was one of the 61 Latinos people identified by the Guardian as killed by police officers in the US in 2016. Latinos are disproportionately killed by police officers, long in the phrase that Latinos are disproportionately killed by police officers, long in the phrase that Latinos are disproportionately killed by police officers, long in the phrase that