

Federal Court Hears T-Shirt Case

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OMAHA, Neb. —Millard South High School students suspended for wearing "Rest In Peace" T-shirts to honor a friend took their case to federal court.

Eighteen students were punished for wearing "RIP Julius" T-shirts in 2008. The shirts were in honor of fellow student Julius Robinson, who was shot to death outside an Omaha apartment complex.

Daniel Kuhr designed the shirts, but school officials told him he couldn't wear anything with Robinson's name on it.

Kuhr and two of his siblings were suspended.

Kuhr's lawyer, <u>Brian Jorde</u>, said the school went too far, bullied the students and suppressed their First Amendment rights.

"This was a simple T-shirt. There's nothing wrong with it. Along with a T-shirt, there were wristbands and bracelets," Jorde said. "The school did memorials for a fallen principal recently, but they wouldn't for this student. And it's not right, and that's what we hope the jury finds."

"I just felt hurt and a little angry that I couldn't honor my friend's life," Kuhr said.

The Nebraska chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union is involved in the case.

Jury selection began on Tuesday. The trial is expected to last through Friday.