EITHER way the Florida jury had decided the racially charged trial of George Zimmerman for murder, there was an expected uproar across the country, stoking the debate on racial profiling in America.

True enough, when the six all-women jury found Zimmerman not guilty of fatally shooting an African-American teenager, Trayvon Martin, sporadic protests and rallies erupted, but not on a violent scale.

In finding Zimmerman not guilty of murder or manslaughter, the jury agreed with the defense that Zimmerman acted in self-defense in the face of grave danger to his life.

But his legal hurdles are not definitely over.

The powerful National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP, plans to bring a federal civil rights case against the neighborhood watchman.

This time, President Barack Obama declined to weigh in on the verdict, referring all questions to the Department of Justice.

Last year, Obama said on television that the case be thoroughly investigated so justice would prevail.

“Trayvon could have been my son,” he said in an aside.

The NAACP also vowed to continue to fight for the removal of Stand Your Ground laws in every state.
The prosecution was faulted for “overcharging” Zimmerman.

The state lawyers were required to prove beyond reasonable doubt that he shot Martin in self-defense.

And legal experts contend that the prosecution offered “little evidence” to overcome this high standard.

We have not heard the last of this contentious issue.

In the days ahead, there will be more discussions on race relations in this country.

Even with the election of the first African-American, tension between the races simmers, subtle for the most part, but lurking in unlikely places.

We hope that the stalwarts of the civil rights movement will act in a measured and responsible way so the situation would not get out of hand.

It would be nice if the White House were to issue a statement that the jury’s decision be respected.

It’s not a perfect justice system, all right, but it works.