



Eight-year-old KJ Taiwo hopes to change the public's perception of people with mental disabilities.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHAIRMAN APPLAUDS EIGHT-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN BOY'S ADVOCACY FOR MENTALLY DISABLED CANADIANS.



KJ Taiwo (Photo: 2009 Keminations PR)

2009-04-17 08:38:56 - KJ Taiwo is an advocate for the mentally challenged. On 3/31/09, R-Word day in the U.S, he walked around malls in Toronto with a sign telling Canadians to "end the word to spread the word." He wants Canadians to respect the mentally disabled and not use the word "retard" anymore. He states the new r-word is "Respect."

WASHINGTON, April 6, 2009, 5 a.m. - Special Olympics head Timothy Shriver last week encouraged an 8-year-old's crusade to eradicate use of the r-word.

Toronto's Kayode Joshua "KJ" Taiwo was hailed as "hero and leader" for his work on eradicating use of the word "retard."

KJ, who is American and nicknamed "KJ the Kid Reporter", was lauded for his advocacy in [Canada](#) for his autistic 22-year-old brother and other mentally disabled individuals. KJ has walked around malls with a sign and conducted media interviews on Toronto radio and TV to mark the Special Olympics' r-word day in Canada and helped direct people to the r-word website. Shriver has sought to prohibit the language that is directed towards mentally disabled people by holding the stop the r-word event,

which aims to prevent the [labeling](#) and generalization of his estimated three million athletes in 180 countries. KJ told Shriver how Fox News channel's Bill O'Reilly had apologized vowing never to use the word on his show and how he wanted WWE wrestlers to do the same.

Shriver's spoke to KJ during his first in depth interview with Redding News Review. The interview was Shriver's first since President Obama made a joke about the Special Olympics. Shriver said that many were hurt by Obama's comments.

During the interview, he also spoke about his aunt Rosemary Kennedy, who died in 2005 from natural causes but suffered a mental [disability](#) for most of her adult life. The late Rosemary Kennedy is the sister of Special Olympics founder, Eunice Shriver.

KJ Taiwo was interviewed and applauded by several Toronto Media including 680 Radio News, Z03.5FM, Flow 93.5FM, Special Olympics Canada, Toronto Catholic District School Board as the Student of the Month as well as a citation letter of thanks from U.S Consular General John Nay at the Toronto United States Consulate. To see pictures and [audio interviews](#) with KJ, click the following link.

www.thekidreporter.com/2009/04/i-went-to-picket-my-r-word-sign.h...

KJ, an internet savvy kid has his own blog where he researches stories, copies, pastes and sources them from different websites. He also has a fanpage on Facebook, is on Twitter and a YouTube channel.

Visit his blog at www.thekidreporter.com/

KJ is available for interviews on request.

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