



# Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



TUESDAY — 2 JUN 2020

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## Event Calendar

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## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	06/01 More troops head to China, India border
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsweek.com/troops-head-china-india-border-despite-both-sides-saving-situation-under-control-1507913">https://www.newsweek.com/troops-head-china-india-border-despite-both-sides-saving-situation-under-control-1507913</a>
GIST	<p>Additional troops have reportedly arrived at the contested, high-altitude border between China and India, even as both sides downplayed reports of tensions spilling over into violence there.</p> <p>Asked Monday about Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh's promise that New Delhi would not allow its "pride to be hurt" at the disputed boundary between India-controlled Ladakh and China-administered Aksai Chin, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Beijing has upheld its bilateral obligations and "is committed to safeguarding national territorial sovereignty and security and maintaining peace and stability in the border area between China and India."</p> <p>"Currently the overall situation along the border is stable and controllable. Between China and India, there are unimpeded channels for border-related communication in diplomatic and military fields," Zhao said. "We believe the issues can be properly resolved after bilateral negotiations and consultations."</p> <p>In a statement sent to Newsweek, Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava commended the "very responsible approach towards border management" adopted by his country's troops, whom he said "strictly follow the procedures laid out in various bilateral agreements and protocols with China to resolve any issue that may arise in the border areas."</p> <p>"The two sides have established mechanisms both at military and diplomatic levels to resolve situations which may arise in border areas peacefully through dialogue and continue to remain engaged through these channels," Srivastava said.</p> <p>"India is committed to the objective of maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas with China and our armed forces scrupulously follow the consensus reached by our leaders and the guidance provided," he added. "At the same time, we remain firm in our resolve to ensuring India's sovereignty and national security."</p> <p>These remarks come amid reports last month of sporadic, unarmed clashes in at least four sites: Pangong, Galwan, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie. Officials from Beijing and New Delhi have offered few details about the encounters but media outlets from both sides to continue to report that tensions remain high.</p>

Ruling Chinese Communist Party newspaper Global Times reported Sunday that Chinese border forces arsenal had been expanded to include new weapons and equipment such as the Type 15 tank, Z-20 helicopter and GJ-2 drone to have the upper hand in the event of a conflict, citing Chinese military analysts. Several Indian media outlets reported that up to 5,000 Chinese troops had also arrived at the border, leading New Delhi to boost its own forces and scramble jets in response to Chinese helicopter activity.

The situation has caught the attention of the United States and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who told an American Enterprise Institute podcast Monday that the U.S. has witnessed "increasing forces of China moved up to the north of India on the line of actual control there on the Indian border."

President Donald Trump offered Wednesday to mediate between the two sides, a proposal both Beijing and New Delhi officials rejected, preferring instead to work through their established bilateral diplomatic lines. After Trump suggested Thursday he had recently discussed the issue with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian side issued a denial.

How Top Military Powers U.S., Russia, China, More Compare Over Past Decade [READ MORE](#)  
"There has been no recent contact between PM Modi and President Trump," an Indian Ministry of External Affairs source told Newsweek. "The last conversation between them was on 4 April 2020 on the subject of hydroxychloroquine. MEA had also made it clear on 28 May 2020 that we are directly in touch with the Chinese through established mechanisms and diplomatic contacts."

The White House declined to comment when contacted by Newsweek and Beijing's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Modi's administration had previously denied Trump's diplomatic overtures last year during another Kashmir-related spat with neighboring Pakistan, a close partner of China. The U.S. leader had said the Indian head of state accepted his offer to act as a middleman between New Delhi and Islamabad but an Indian official disputed this account at the time.

On Friday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Indian counterpart Singh "discussed a range of regional security issues and the Secretary expressed his firm commitment to India's leadership across the Indo-Pacific" among other issues during a telephone conversation.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Violence continues; arrests mount</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsweek.com/violence-continues-george-floyd-protests-1507991">https://www.newsweek.com/violence-continues-george-floyd-protests-1507991</a>
GIST	<p>The U.S. endured another night of unrest as governors grappled with President Donald Trump's threat to deploy the military if they did not quell the ongoing protests and looting.</p> <p>In a speech in the White House Rose Garden on Monday, Trump declared himself the president of "law and order" and "an ally of all peaceful protesters."</p> <p>But he said that the looting and violence that had erupted at protests sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man, while in Minneapolis police custody were "acts of domestic terror."</p> <p>He warned governors that if they do not deploy the National Guard in sufficient numbers to "dominate the streets," then the U.S. military would step to "quickly solve the problem for them."</p> <p>Earlier on Monday, Trump berated U.S. governors on a phone call, saying they would look "weak" and like "jerks" if they didn't crack down on protesters.</p>

More than 5,600 people across the country have been arrested over the past week, according to an Associated Press tally. People have been detained for offenses including stealing, blocking highways and breaking curfew.

[Strict curfews were imposed in at least 42 cities](#), including New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, on Monday night. The National Guard has been activated in at least 23 states and Washington, D.C., according to CNN, in a bid to put an end to the unrest that has roiled much of the country for days.

In New York City, an 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew did little to deter looters, who ransacked stores along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and the Macy's flagship department store in Herald Square.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said protests had been "overwhelmingly peaceful" on Monday but marred by some who "had nothing to do with the cause."

He took to Twitter on Monday night after a visit to The Bronx to say that there were "real problems" on two streets in the borough. Multiple fires were set on Fordham Road and several stores were broken into. On Monday night, de Blasio said he would extend the city's curfew to Tuesday night, but it would start three hours earlier at 8 p.m.

In Los Angeles, where a curfew took effect at 6 p.m., a fire was set at a looted strip mall in Van Nuys. Police fired bean bags at the crowd after looters raided a shoe store, a pharmacy and other small businesses.

According to NBC Los Angeles, the looters in Van Nuys appeared to be unconnected to a nearby protest and other demonstrations in the city, which took place without incident on Monday.

Meanwhile, in Buffalo, New York, [two police officers were hit by a vehicle after protests there turned violent](#).

The New York State Police said on Twitter that one of its officers was in hospital with serious but not life-threatening injuries. The other officer is with Buffalo Police, according to Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

Two people were killed during unrest in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, AP reported. Cicero spokesman Ray Hanania said 60 people were also arrested in Cicero after Illinois State Police and the Cook County Sheriff's Officer were called in to help local law enforcement after people looted a liquor store and other businesses.

In St. Louis, Missouri, four police officers were hospitalized after they were struck by gunfire, according to the city's police department. "All have been transported to an area hospital. All are conscious and breathing. Their injuries are believed to be non-life threatening," the police department said.

In Philadelphia, state police fired tear gas into a crowd of protesters an hour before the city's 6 p.m. curfew was due to take effect.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that protesters said the demonstration had been peaceful up until police fired the gas, forcing many to scramble up the banks of a highway.

In a statement, Mayor Jim Kenney and Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said police released the gas after one officer ordered the crowd to disperse because some protesters had thrown rocks. Dozens of protesters were arrested after the incident on the I-676, the newspaper reported.

Across the country in Seattle, the city's police department declared a riot after a demonstration in the Capitol District turned violent.

	<p><i>The Seattle Times</i> reported that police used flash bangs and tear gas to disperse protesters at around 9 p.m. Police said on Twitter that the crowd had "thrown rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers."</p> <p>One protester told the newspaper that objects had been hurled at officers, but said the police response was disproportionate.</p> <p>In Minneapolis, people attending a vigil at the intersection where Floyd was killed were not deterred by a curfew that began at 10 p.m., according to <i>New York Times</i> reporter John Eligon. KARE 11 reported police were not making arrests and allowed most people to remain in the area.</p> <p>Earlier on Monday, Floyd's brother <a href="#">Terrence Floyd was at the site, calling for an end to the violence</a> because "that's not going to bring my brother back."</p> <p>"I understand y'all are upset. I doubt y'all are half as upset as I am," he said. "So if I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community, then what are y'all doing?"</p> <p>Floyd died on May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer was filmed pinning him to the ground with a knee on his neck for more than eight minutes.</p> <p>The officer, Derek Chauvin, has been charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter. Three other officers were fired from the police department alongside Chauvin, but have not yet been charged.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Unrest in neighborhoods, suburbs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/ab8685cfc4e5b0460af2e5f797c31b46">https://apnews.com/ab8685cfc4e5b0460af2e5f797c31b46</a>
GIST	<p>CHICAGO (AP) — Vandals robbed malls and shopping centers in communities outside Chicago. They stormed stores across the San Francisco Bay in what appeared to be coordinated smash-and-grabs. Banks and a sleek, modern office building were burned to the ground in a San Diego suburb.</p> <p>As officials locked down city centers due to protests and violent unrest over police brutality, trouble has emerged in some neighborhoods and suburbs, leaving communities that felt insulated from the early unrest suddenly vulnerable and fearful.</p> <p>Many city and suburban officials blamed most of the mayhem on opportunists rather than those protesting the killing of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee against his neck.</p> <p>More than 100 people converged on an outdoor mall in Walnut Creek, a wealthy San Francisco suburb, carrying away garbage bags stuffed with merchandise. Video from news organizations and bystanders showed women hauling pricey purses out of stores. One woman was shot in the arm by someone in a vehicle that sped from the scene, police said.</p> <p>"We all understand the rage and the feelings that many have over what's happening in Minnesota. What we're concerned is that these people that are here have nothing to do with that; they are just here to make mayhem," Mayor Loella Haskew told KRON-TV.</p> <p>Walnut Creek was trending on Twitter Saturday with many posters threatening to stir up trouble in the wealthy and mostly white suburb.</p> <p>But the problems affected racially and economically diverse neighborhoods too.</p> <p>In West Philadelphia, a predominantly black neighborhood far from the city center, police on Saturday fired tear gas, people were seen running from at least one store with goods and police cars were ablaze or otherwise damaged. In Northeast Philadelphia, people ran into stores and emerged with merchandise.</p>

Even so, pop-up peaceful protests were scattered all over the Philadelphia suburbs — ranging from several hundred in public parks to a few people holding signs in supermarket parking lots.

Many Chicago suburbs imposed curfews and closures, including in the largely black suburb of Calumet City south of Chicago, where vandals ransacked a mall, and in the largely middle-class and white western suburb of North Riverside where one person was shot.

In Aurora, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) outside Chicago, “widespread incidents of violence, vandalism and stealing” prompted Mayor Richard Irvin to declare a state of emergency Sunday in Illinois’ second-largest city that is roughly 40% Latino.

But the unrest also moved from downtown Chicago into city neighborhoods, prompting complaints from several City Council members that Mayor Lori Lightfoot wasn’t doing enough to protect areas outside the central business district, especially neighborhoods with large black and Latino populations. The city put strict controls on downtown, including opening drawbridges, closing expressway ramps and train and bus stops, while National Guard troops patrolled parts of the Loop.

Alderman Raymond Lopez, whose South Side ward was heavily damaged, said Lightfoot’s focus on downtown essentially “left neighborhoods to basically fend for themselves.”

Lightfoot said Monday that vandalism and violence “spread like a wildfire” and more officers and other resources were deployed to neighborhoods.

“We didn’t stand by and let the South and West sides burn,” Lightfoot said. “There is no way, no way, that we would ever let any neighborhood receive more resources and protection than any others, ever.”

In the nation’s capital, protesters were allowed to roam unchecked through several blocks for at least two hours after being chased away from a park near the White House by officers with tear gas, plastic pellets and batons. Despite the pleas of some protesters, others began breaking windows and setting fires.

Metropolitan Police Department Chief Peter Newsham said Monday that police had to balance the use of force with a desire to prevent the situation from spiraling.

“One of the tactics that we are seeing is when we do take police action in the large crowds, that it agitates the crowds and it becomes very volatile and very dangerous for our officers,” he said.

In the San Diego suburb of La Mesa, banks and an office building were burned and windows smashed at businesses in the quaint, gentrifying downtown, including a jewelry shop, a Goodwill store, a Sotheby’s real estate office and a popular bar. Television video showed people running into stores and stealing items.

The town of about 60,000 was roiled last week by the arrest of a black man suspected of assaulting a police officer.

For business owners, the situation was especially disheartening because many had just reopened after being shuttered under orders to stem the coronavirus.

In Emeryville, California, across the bay from San Francisco, Keyla Calderon swept up glass at her recently reopened medical scrubs store on Sunday, a day after thieves stormed local malls.

“To hear the alarm ring and see people destroy the store before my eyes, it was heartbreaking,” Calderon said.

Chicago business owner Brian Heath, who is black, said he’s upset that his sneaker and streetwear consignment boutique in Chicago’s Wicker Park neighborhood was vandalized on Sunday. But he’s even more upset about Floyd’s death, which triggered the unrest.



	"(I) don't think the looting is necessary, but I definitely feel like something needs to be done, you know, to kind of protect everybody," said Heath.
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Tacoma Mall: cops, dumpsters</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article243188826.html">https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article243188826.html</a>
GIST	<p>The Tacoma Mall looked like it was ready for a siege Monday night.</p> <p>Walls of green dumpsters blocked several key entrances. Others were guarded by police vehicles, their lights flashing against drivers who were forced to make impromptu U-turns.</p> <p>The response, by Tacoma police with help from the Washington State Patrol and Pierce County Sheriff's Department, was a precautionary move, police said.</p> <p>Organized teams of looters hit malls and businesses in Puget Sound Sunday, <a href="#">including The Outlet Collection in Auburn</a>.</p> <p>Cities across the country <a href="#">have been wracked by riots and looting</a>, including in Seattle, following otherwise peaceful demonstrations against police brutality following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis a week ago.</p> <p>"It's easier to prevent it than it is to stop it," said Tacoma police spokeswoman Wendy Haddow Monday evening.</p> <p>As police guarded the mall, <a href="#">two groups of peaceful protesters were marching on Tacoma streets</a>. They were outgrowths of a demonstration that began in Wright Park earlier in the day.</p> <p>Haddow would not say how many officers were dedicated to the mall.</p> <p>Kantor Diamonds at the mall had its windows boarded up. A police vehicle, red and blue lights flashing, was parked in the jeweler's parking lot. <a href="#">Nearby businesses and others</a> across the city were also boarded up.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 DOH: 21,977 cases, 1124 deaths</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243181996.html">https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243181996.html</a>
GIST	<p>The Washington State Department of Health on Monday reported 275 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and six deaths.</p> <p>Pierce County reported <a href="#">eight new cases and no new deaths</a> Monday. Pierce County had a total of 73 deaths likely caused by COVID-19 as of Monday.</p> <p>Statewide totals from the illness caused by the coronavirus are at 21,977 <a href="#">cases and 1,124 deaths</a>, up from 21,702 cases and 1,118 deaths on Sunday.</p> <p>Twenty-three people with confirmed COVID-19 cases were admitted to Washington state hospitals on May 23, the most recent date with complete data. March 23 saw 88 admittances, the highest number to date during the pandemic.</p> <p>The total number of people who have been hospitalized in Washington state with a confirmed case of COVID-19 stood at 3,517 on Monday.</p>

	<p>Washington state <a href="#">has conducted 365,272 coronavirus tests</a>, with 6 percent coming back positive. The test numbers reflect only polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, which are given to patients while the virus is presumably still active in the body.</p> <p>King County continues to have the highest numbers in Washington, with 8,123 cases and 569 deaths. Snohomish County has the second highest number of deaths at 149. Yakima County has the second highest number of cases at 3,749.</p> <p>Washington's least populous county, Garfield, remains the only one without a case. Seven other counties are reporting fewer than 10 cases each.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 NYPD: protest violence planned in advance</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nypds-terrorism-chief-says-unnamed-groups-planned-protest-violence-in-advance/2440722/">https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nypds-terrorism-chief-says-unnamed-groups-planned-protest-violence-in-advance/2440722/</a>
GIST	<p>New York's top terrorism official says there's evidence that members of anarchist groups from outside the city intentionally planned to incite violence at protests calling for justice in the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller said there is a high level of confidence within the NYPD that these unnamed groups had organized scouts, medics, and supply routes of rocks, bottles and accelerants for breakaway groups to commit vandalism and violence. There are strong indicators they planned for violence in advance using at times encrypted communications, he said.</p> <p>One out of every seven arrests, of 686 so far since May 28, has been people from out of state, according to Miller. He said those arrested came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Iowa, Nevada, Virginia, Maryland, Texas and St. Paul, Minnesota.</p> <p>On Saturday, Commissioner Shea had estimated at least 20 percent of protesters arrested Friday night were from out of town.</p> <p>The fact remains that the majority of those arrested were locals. Some like Mayor de Blasio's daughter were arrested for "unlawful assembly," and others were arrested for acts of violence.</p> <p>"Before the protests began, organizers of certain anarchists groups set out to raise bail money and people who would be responsible to be raising bail money, they set out to recruit medics and medical teams with gear to deploy in anticipation of violent interactions with police," Miller said.</p> <p>He added, "They prepared to commit property damage and directed people who were following them that this should be done selectively and only in wealthier areas or at high-end stores run by corporate entities."</p> <p>Without specifying who "they" are, Miller said the agitators "developed a complex network of bicycle scouts to move ahead of demonstrators in different directions of where police were and where police were not for purposes of being able to direct groups from the larger group to places where they could commit acts of vandalism including the torching of police vehicles and Molotov cocktails where they thought officers would not be."</p> <p>Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday morning that the members of the anarchist movement plan together online and that "they have explicit rules, and we're going to make all this information available today and in the days ahead."</p> <p>Among the out-of-area instigators were two sisters from upstate New York. They were detained after one threw a Molotov cocktail at a police van. The woman who threw the Molotov cocktail will face federal charges from prosecutors in Brooklyn, law enforcement source said.</p>



HEADLINE	<b>06/01 OPA: 12,000 complaints against SPD</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://q13fox.com/2020/06/01/12000-complaints-filed-against-seattle-police-officers-after-weekend-protests-riots/">https://q13fox.com/2020/06/01/12000-complaints-filed-against-seattle-police-officers-after-weekend-protests-riots/</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE -- The office tasked with investigating Seattle Police misconduct has received roughly 12,000 complaints following weekend protests that were <a href="#">largely peaceful</a> before rioters and outside groups <a href="#">came in to loot and destroy</a>.</p> <p>A news release from the Office of Police Accountability, an independent office within SPD that investigates police misconduct complaints, said there are 10 alleged incidents that have garnered the most complaints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Pepper spraying a young girl</a> (Saturday): 2020OPA-0322</li> <li>2. Punching a person on the ground who was being arrested (Friday): 2020OPA-0323</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Placing a knee on the neck area of two people who had been arrested</a> (Saturday): 2020OPA-0324</li> <li>4. Covering up badge numbers: 2020OPA-0325</li> <li>5. Failing to record law enforcement activity on body-worn video: 2020OPA-0326</li> <li>6. Pepper spraying peaceful protestors (Saturday): 2020OPA-0327</li> <li>7. The use of flashbangs, including causing a significant thumb injury (Saturday): 2020OPA-0328</li> <li>8. <a href="#">Failing to secure rifles in the rear of a patrol vehicle</a> (Saturday): 2020OPA-0329</li> <li>9. Punching a person on the ground who was being arrested (Sunday): 2020OPA-0330</li> <li>10. Officers breaking windows of a Target store (date unknown): 2020OPA-0331</li> </ol> <p>One of the incidents, in which the child was pepper-sprayed, has prompted the OPA to make a statement because of widespread social media posts identifying the wrong SPD officer in the widely shared video...</p> <p>"The resulting investigations will be our top priority moving forward," the office said. "These investigations will be civilian-led and as transparent as possible given the law and police collective bargaining agreements. We will complete our investigations quickly due to the immense public concern."</p> <p>The OPA says the community is urged to continue filing complaints if they witnessed SPD misconduct. If you can't leave a voicemail, you can file the complaint <a href="#">online</a> and include links to any video you may have.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Seattle: activists point finger wrong cop</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/01/43815292/spd-officer-jared-campbell-was-not-deploying-pepper-spray">https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/01/43815292/spd-officer-jared-campbell-was-not-deploying-pepper-spray</a>
GIST	<p>In response to the social media furor over the last two days calling for the firing—or worse—of Seattle Police Department officer Jared Campbell following <a href="#">an incident involving pepper spray and a kid</a>, today Seattle City Councilmember Lisa Herbold went on the record to clear something up.</p> <p>"The officer that was identified as the perpetrator is not the individual who dispersed the pepper spray," Herbold says. "The officer previously identified and subject to death threats"—J Campbell, according to his uniform—"did not actually deploy pepper spray, according to the Seattle Office of Police Accountability (OPA). But they <i>have</i> been investigating the proper person, the officer who deployed the pepper spray on Saturday."</p> <p>OPA <a href="#">confirmed</a> Herbold's claim.</p> <p>Many people have been pressuring <i>The Stranger</i> to publish Campbell's full name and photograph and have argued that he needs to be fired.</p>

A [Change.org petition to get him arrested](#) begins:

*A video of a child being maced recently began circulating. The officer responsible is Jared Campbell, a member of the Seattle Police Department. His badge number is 8470.*

In fact, there is no video of a child being maced. (Also, you have a typo in your first sentence.)

The [video The Stranger published](#) is a video of a child being treated apparently after being maced (or pepper sprayed). Protesters allege that the kid got sprayed before the video was taken.

The Change.org petition has been signed by more than 8,000 people.

*The Stranger* has not been able to reach the kid's parents, though we would still very much like to hear their side of this story.

Activists also sent us video of Campbell being confronted by unseen protesters on Saturday. In the video, Campbell does not respond to questions. Though *The Stranger* decided not to publish the video until we had more information, versions of it have been shared widely online. [This one video](#) has been viewed 27,795 times.

Today the OPA also announced that they have received 12,000 complaints about SPD's actions this weekend, and they have a running list of the ten most cited by constituents. The incident involving the kid being pepper sprayed is at the top.

Here is more detail from the OPA:

Below are the ten specific incidents about which OPA has received the most complaints. We have assigned each a case number that can be used to [track the progress](#) online of the corresponding investigation. These investigations will be civilian-led and as transparent as possible given the law and police collective bargaining agreements. We will complete our investigations quickly due to the immense public concern and will provide updates via our website and Twitter.

1. Pepper spraying a young girl (Saturday): **2020OPA-0322**
2. Punching a person on the ground who was being arrested (Friday): **2020OPA-0323**
3. Placing a knee on the neck area of two people who had been arrested (Saturday): **2020OPA-0324**
4. Covering up badge numbers: **2020OPA-0325**
5. Failing to record law enforcement activity on body-worn video: **2020OPA-0326**
6. Pepper spraying peaceful protestors (Saturday): **2020OPA-0327**
7. The use of flashbangs, including causing a significant thumb injury (Saturday): **2020OPA-0328**
8. Failing to secure rifles in the rear of a patrol vehicle (Saturday): **2020OPA-0329**
9. Punching a person on the ground who was being arrested (Sunday): **2020OPA-0330**
10. Officers breaking windows of a Target store (date unknown): **2020OPA-0331**

"Obviously there's a significant amount of anger out there, but we want the proper people to be identified in these cases," said Andrew Myerberg, director of the OPA.

Some people need to go delete whatever they've written about Campbell on social media in the last two days.

Tomorrow on Slog, we'll have some clarity from Councilmember Herbold on what she plans to do about cops [covering up their badge numbers](#). The short version is: She's not cool with it.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Cities across region enact curfews
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/seattle-mayor-police-george-floyd-protests/281-75345d7a-77d5-4227-8459-11caa84d749f">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/seattle-mayor-police-george-floyd-protests/281-75345d7a-77d5-4227-8459-11caa84d749f</a>

SEATTLE — In response to protests over the death of George Floyd, who died in Minneapolis police custody, cities around Puget Sound braced for another round of demonstrations.

Overnight curfews are in effect for cities across the region.

**Real-time updates from Monday:**

**9:30 p.m.**

Seattle police have called the demonstration in Capitol Hill a riot. The crowd apparently threw rocks, bottles, and fireworks at officers.

Protestors were attempting to breach the police barricades a block away from the East Precinct, according to SPD.

These protests initially started out as peaceful as thousands walked through the city. However, a small group of people escalated the situation in Capitol Hill.

It's estimated that millions of dollars of damage was caused to the city over the span of a four-day protest. Things appeared to have calmed down around 10:15 p.m. and the streets were relatively quiet again.

**8:30 p.m.**

Both directions of I-5 are closed again through downtown Seattle, according to Washington State Patrol Trooper Rick Johnson. [He tweeted](#) that protesters were in the vicinity of the freeway, so both directions have been shut down as a precaution.

**7:40 p.m.**

Both directions of I-5 through downtown Seattle were briefly closed Monday evening due the possibility of protesters walking onto the freeway, but it has since reopened.

**7:32 p.m.**

Seattle police are seeking photos or videos that could help detectives identify suspects who have caused injuries and damaged public and private property during the weekend protests.

If you have photos or video of any criminal activity you would like to provide to detectives, please [upload them here](#).

To submit videos and photos related to any concerns regarding officer conduct at demonstrations, please visit the [Office of Police Accountability website](#).

**6:11 p.m.**

The City of Renton and Renton Farmers Market organizers have postponed Tuesday's opening day in an overabundance of caution in response to the protests.

The 19th annual market was set to open at 3 p.m. on June 2. Instead, opening day will now be Tuesday, June 9 at 3 p.m. The market is scheduled each Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Gateway Park in downtown Renton through September 29

**Curfews and preparations**

Protesters coming out in the name of George Floyd have been peaceful, but police departments have said that a group of people hid behind those protests to loot and cause damage.

Here's what some cities around the area did to prepare for Monday's demonstrations:

**Seattle**

While groups of protesters in Seattle turned violent on Saturday, demonstrators on Sunday remained mostly peaceful.

However, areas across Puget Sound are still preparing for large gatherings and protests on Monday.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said several demonstrations are planned across the city, not just downtown.

In response to that, another curfew has been put in place.

Durkan announced that this curfew would be in effect on Monday from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. Tuesday.

The curfew was put in place to help clear people off the roads and allow first responders to get through to emergencies.

On Saturday, hundreds of buildings and businesses were damaged on Saturday, including more than 90 in the Chinatown-International District, according to Seattle police. At least eight cars were burned, and six officers were injured in addition to injuries among community members. Fifty-seven people were arrested, mostly for burglary and assault.

The destruction prompted Seattle to [institute a curfew](#) on Saturday and Sunday nights from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Demonstrators gathered again Sunday afternoon and marched peacefully until after 10 p.m. when Seattle police ordered the crowd to disperse. A police line pushed the crowd away from Westlake Park in downtown Seattle to Capitol Hill before protesters started dissipating.

Mayor Durkan urges anyone who believes they have witnessed an instance of police brutality or excessive force to contact the [Office of Police Accountability](#). Durkan said some officers are already being investigated from the weekend.

“We will continue to allow people to protest peacefully, regardless of the content of their protest, but what we cannot tolerate is people acting criminally,” Durkan said. “Looting buildings, stealing property, causing damage, throwing molotovs, starting fires, and assaulting police. We believe we can come together and express our differences, express our First Amendment rights in a way that honors the death of Mr. Floyd.”

### **Bellevue**

On Sunday, Bellevue became a hotspot for destructive activity when a large group of people began looting Bellevue Square. Tear gas and flashbangs were deployed.

As a result of this, Bellevue is enacting a curfew from 5 p.m. today until 5 a.m. on Tuesday.

### **Lynnwood**

The Alderwood Mall is closed Monday as a precautionary measure.

Police will be stationed around the mall to prevent people from looting and causing property damage. Lynnwood police observed the happenings in Seattle and Bellevue and took action in advance.

There have been no reports of looting at Alderwood.

Lynnwood's curfew begins at 5 p.m. and expires at 5 a.m. on Tuesday.

### **Tukwila**

Tukwila was another hot-spot area on Sunday. Looters threw rocks and projectiles at police officers.

Places like Best Buy, Target, and REI were hit by looters and tear gas was deployed.

Tukwila will have a curfew from 8 p.m. Monday night to 6 a.m. Tuesday.

### **Renton**

Officers will be out "in full force" for a rally planned at Renton City Hall at 3 p.m.

	<p>Renton PD said their presence is to deter those with "destructive intent" and we will maintain this additional staffing as long as necessary.</p> <p>A curfew will be imposed again tonight for the city of Renton, however, officials have not announced that time yet.</p> <p>The FBI is also asking for assistance in making arrests for those who chose violence during the protests.</p> <p>If you witness or have witnessed unlawful violent actions, we urge you to submit any information, photos, or videos that could be relevant to the case at <a href="https://www.fbi.gov/violence">fbi.gov/violence</a>. You may also call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) to verbally report tips and/or information related to this investigation.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Some summer wildfires will be left to burn</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://crosscut.com/2020/06/some-wa-wildfires-may-be-left-burn-summer">https://crosscut.com/2020/06/some-wa-wildfires-may-be-left-burn-summer</a>
GIST	<p>With summer still weeks away, Washington's fire season is shaping up as onerous — and, in this pandemic year, especially dangerous.</p> <p>Hotter than usual temperatures are forecast and more than half of <a href="#">the state is in or near drought</a>. Summer fire forecasts for <a href="#">Washington and Oregon are the worst in the nation</a>. And 2019 was a light fire year, leaving a particularly heavy buildup of underbrush that can fuel backcountry blazes this summer.</p> <p>Already this year, Washington has seen nearly triple the usual number of wildfires, said Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz, who, as head of the Department of Natural Resources, leads the state's wildfire response. While some of that uptick can be attributed to homebound residents' enthusiasm for burning away brush in the countryside, the increase is worrisome.</p> <p>"This year is looking like it's going to be a tough one," Franz said in a recent phone interview.</p> <p>And then there's the coronavirus.</p> <p>As with grocery shopping, dating and so many aspects of American life, firefighting has been injected with a new complexity, making business as usual more risky.</p> <p>In America, large fires are fought from fire camps. Those camps amount to sprawling tent cities thrown up at county fairgrounds, empty fields, shuttered campgrounds and the like. Crews mix at chow tents and showers, swapping trucks as needed and rotating out after 14-day stints near the fire line. Fire managers, bookkeepers and IT workers mingle among them.</p> <p>It's an environment primed for disease to spread, and one that can't safely exist until the coronavirus has been contained.</p> <p>The plan instead, put forward by state and federal land managers, would have firefighters segregated by units or vehicles and directed to camp in small groups, creating physical separation that, it is hoped, the coronavirus cannot cross.</p> <p>Already in Washington, state firefighters have been put up in hotels instead of tents, Franz said. The U.S. Forest Service and state land managers also say they will focus on extinguishing fires early, before the blazes grow large enough to necessitate hundreds of firefighters. The practice, known in fire circles as "initial attack," has long been a staple of American wildland firefighting, and some longtime firefighters don't see much room to expand it.</p> <p><a href="#">Firefighter recruiting is down</a> because of the coronavirus and preventive burning to clear out underbrush was widely curtailed this spring for the same reason. That left land managers with a smaller, less effective</p>

firefighting force and forests unusually vulnerable to fire. Will the virus mean fires that would otherwise be fought are left to burn?

"It is possible that we will choose to put out all fires. It's also possible that we will choose certain fires to not put out, because the risk of exposure is too high," said Tom Zimmerman, a retired federal firefighter and former president of the International Association of Wildland Fire. "There's not a simple answer."

Recent incident reports authored following fires across the West illustrate the difficulties expected to intensify as fires spread.

Firefighters in New Mexico and Colorado described workers from various agencies mixing freely at the fire scene, heedless of social distancing directives. A review following an April 23 fire in a coronavirus hotspot in Idaho estimated staffing levels at 75% of normal, as career firefighters opted to stay home. At the time, Blaine County, where the fire was located, had the fifth-highest rate of COVID-19 in the country, [surpassing rates recorded in New York City and Italy](#).

"I also have two kids that frequently visit grandparents who are in the high-risk category for the illness," [one firefighter told reviewers](#). "My personal risk seemed to be more of a factor for me in my decision."

The coronavirus presents a particular danger to firefighters exhausted from the fire lines, their lungs routinely dusted with "camp crud," a combination of smoke and ash. It also injects new complexities into what was already a challenging calculus. The priorities — protect lives and homes, then timber and property — remain the same, and state and federal officials say fires that threaten communities will be fought.

Managers may find themselves resource-limited, if the fire season proves intense. The Forest Service has committed, nonetheless, to fighting all fires on lands it manages.

"Firefighters will respond to every wildfire, but to prevent the spread of COVID-19, how they are mobilized and supported will be different this year," said Lisa Bryant, a spokesperson for the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station at Fort Collins, Colorado.

Like their federal counterparts, state fire managers in Washington and Oregon aim to attack fires early in the hope that they can limit the number of sprawling burns that consume tens of thousands of acres and draw in thousands of firefighters. Franz said Washington has upped its "air game," fielding 12 helicopters that empty large water tanks over fires and contracting for planes equipped to dump fire retardant.

Since the pandemic set in, a search has been underway to find safe-enough firefighting schemes. Land managers and longtime firefighters have joined with modelers and researchers in the effort, the first fruits of which have been incorporated into region-specific plans.

It is not at all clear how damaging the coronavirus can be for firefighters, but it's been shown that [smoke inhalation eases the transmission of viruses](#). Research indicates that [small increases in air pollution drive an outsized increase in COVID-19's fatality rate](#).

A draft version of a Forest Service brief made waves in Washington, D.C., after a group of [senators noted in a letter to the agency](#) that the paper [considered fatality rates as high as 6%](#) among infected firefighters. The Forest Service and researchers involved in the study say that hypothetical fatality rate, used to develop a worst-case model, was misconstrued as a finding.

"It is important to understand that the figures in this report are not predictions, but rather ... possible scenarios," Olivia Walker, a Forest Service spokesperson based in Washington, D.C., told InvestigateWest. The Forest Service expects to release a final version of the brief soon.



Jude Bayham, a Colorado State University environmental economist involved in the modeling work, said the effort aimed to determine which changes make fire camps less vulnerable to the pandemic.

“We have potentially thousands of people in close proximity, stressed emotionally and physically, under conditions of relatively poor hygiene,” Bayham said. “That mixed with what we understand about this disease right now is concerning. ...

“I don't have any faith that we can exactly predict the number of cases or infections or anything like that, but what I hope is we can highlight big differences” in the impact various precautions will have.

The nature of any given fire dictates which steps are best suited to stemming the disease's spread, Bayham said. In short, in cases of intense fires lasting a day or two, the models showed that screening firefighters for fever or, if possible, testing them for the coronavirus is key. Doing so keeps the virus from jumping between fire agencies, and prevents firefighters taking the coronavirus home.

Longer fires draw dozens or hundreds of firefighters who cycle through on 14-day rotations. In those situations, Bayham said, creating physical distance between people and isolating units from one another can stop the disease from spreading through the whole firefighting force.

To slow the spread, firefighting units — an engine crew of two, a backcountry firefighting team of 20 — will segregate like households have since the pandemic arrived, Oregon Department of Forestry spokesperson Jim Gersbach said. They'll eat together, bunk together and mix with others as little as possible.

“You stay in your tent, or you stay in your vehicle,” Gersbach said.

Spreading fire crews around will likely cost firefighters basic amenities that on a fire line feel like luxuries. Hot food and showers may not be available, and some crews may have to subsist on self-heating military rations.

Dispersal also complicates the work of organizing a safe fire response. Zimmerman, the retired federal firefighter, said those challenges will intensify as fires grow.

“You can break up smaller camps and do that until we get into the very worst part of fire season,” said Zimmerman, who currently works with the Association for Fire Ecology, a leading fire science organization. “Then I think the difficulty increases significantly because you need a lot more logistical support to support more camps at the same time.”

It's envisioned that firefighters will be screened daily for fever, and tested for the virus if tests are available. The degree to which firefighters will be able to shift state to state or country to country — Australians were on Washington fire lines in 2018 — will be curtailed. Training has been cut back at the state and federal levels.

Across the West, fire services aim to focus on fast, low-headcount efforts to extinguish fires right away before they spread.

Federal and state land managers have long relied on quick, decisive responses to knock out most fires, said Michael Liu, a longtime Forest Service firefighter who retired as the Methow Valley District ranger in 2018. Liu questioned how much more could be done. While firefighting has been restricted in protected areas like the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the Central Cascades, fast firefighting already is the norm in most forests.

For decades, “the Forest Service and other agencies already have pretty good protocols in terms of initial attack,” Liu said, “so I don't know that an aggressive initial attack strategy is going to make much difference.”

	<p>The style of response will be fire-specific, and shaped by forces far from the fire line, said Bethany Hannah, a former Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management firefighter involved in an international survey of firefighters, land managers and others aimed at identifying disease-control practices.</p> <p>“It’s going to be a very fluid situation, and they aren’t going to apply a single approach to all areas,” Hannah said.</p> <p>Hannah said her concern is first for the firefighters. While she has retired from firefighting, her husband will be on the West’s fire lines this summer. Beyond that, though, she worries that a return to aggressive firefighting may outlast the coronavirus, that fire management will return to the practices that set the stage for the extremely large fires that have become increasingly common.</p> <p>“We need to keep progressing in how we approach fire and live with fire, and that can’t be done if we suppress all fires,” Hannah said. “There’s a classic saying, we’re not putting fires out, we’re putting fires off.</p> <p>“Fires are going to burn.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Mexico lifts lockdown; ‘new normal’</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/mexico-coronavirus-lockdown-quarantine-lopez-obrador/2020/06/01/76240584-a37e-11ea-898e-b21b9a83f792_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/mexico-coronavirus-lockdown-quarantine-lopez-obrador/2020/06/01/76240584-a37e-11ea-898e-b21b9a83f792_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY — Mexico on Monday lifted a 70-day coronavirus lockdown, but the federal and local governments replaced it with a contradictory patchwork of measures as the country struggled to contain the outbreak.</p> <p>The nation’s <a href="#">coronavirus</a> czar, Hugo López-Gatell, took a hard line, saying that federal guidelines on opening businesses would barely budge. Only a few industries — construction, auto manufacturing and mining — would be <a href="#">added to the list of “essential” businesses</a> allowed to operate, he said.</p> <p>"It's vital that society understands that the danger continues," he said.</p> <p>But several governors defied the federal government’s orders, allowing shops and hotels in their states to open at least partially. Meanwhile, President <a href="#">Andrés Manuel López Obrador resumed his travel</a> around the country with a visit to the Caribbean coast.</p> <p>“We have to enter a new normality,” López Obrador told a news conference. “Our national economy, the well-being of our people need this.”</p> <p>Mexico has confirmed nearly 10,000 deaths directly linked to the novel coronavirus, with an unknown number of other people perishing without a test. The Mexico City region has been hit hardest. López-Gatell says it is starting to show signs of a decline in cases, but some scientists believe deaths could continue at elevated levels for weeks.</p> <p>Mexico has suffered the <a href="#">second-most coronavirus fatalities in Latin America</a>, after Brazil, whose president, Jair <a href="#">Bolsonaro, has been a global outlier in downplaying the threat</a>.</p> <p>Jesús Silva-Herzog Márquez, a political scientist at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, said López Obrador had failed to establish a coordinated national policy.</p> <p>“He’s far from the terrible denialism of Bolsonaro and the brutal lack of responsibility of Donald Trump,” he said. But “he’s a politician who hasn’t managed to fit together the pieces of his strategy.”</p>

The Mexican leader initially appeared to minimize the coronavirus threat, holding crowded rallies and saying he was [protected by religious tokens](#). He then largely turned over management of the pandemic to López-Gatell, a respected epidemiologist and senior Health Ministry official. On March 23, Mexico ordered businesses, government offices and schools to shut down.

Several governors broke with the federal government's strategy from the start, saying it was too lax and imposing quarantines earlier. On Monday, some went in the opposite direction.

In the northern state of Nuevo Leon, officials allowed breweries, hotels and shopping centers to resume some operations. In the western state of Nayarit, authorities permitted car dealerships, clothing stores and paint stores to operate at 30 percent capacity.

"Our state can't survive being paralyzed any longer," said Enrique Alfaro, the governor of the western state of Jalisco, which plans to open its businesses gradually.

Several governors cited economic concerns for reopening. In the face of the coronavirus, López Obrador has adopted one of the [smallest stimulus packages](#) of any country in Latin America, saying he wanted to avoid debt.

"López Obrador's government is not crafting an economic strategy to protect jobs and businesses," said José Antonio Crespo, a political scientist at the Center for Research and Economic Policy. "So many governors say, 'I will.' "

Mexico's government has come under pressure not only from businesses and the unemployed — [nearly 1 million people have lost jobs](#) amid the country's outbreak — but from the Trump administration. Mexico was more aggressive in shutting down some industries than in the United States, leading to shortages of parts for U.S. auto and aerospace manufacturers.

By Monday, officials said, more than [5,000 manufacturers of cars or transportation equipment](#) had applied to reopen.

Authorities announced weeks ago that the restrictions would be terminated at the end of May. They appear to have underestimated how punishing the coronavirus would be. A month ago, López-Gatell predicted Mexico would suffer 6,000 deaths nationwide.

Officials now believe the country's outbreak will probably not be a single, cataclysmic event. Instead, they say, outbreaks are likely to surge in different parts of the country at different times, as they have in the United States.

So the federal government has switched to a traffic light system in which states are labeled red, orange, yellow, or green.

As of Monday, all but one state was red. Zacatecas was orange — some nonessential businesses and public spaces could reopen, but most restrictions remained in place.

Some jurisdictions added stricter measures. The mayor Of Mexico City ordered residents to wear face masks in public. Men were advised to [get rid of beards or mustaches](#), out of concern they could trap the virus.

While many Mexicans remained at home, [López Obrador was on his first domestic trip](#) in two months. He plans to spend several days in the Yucatán Peninsula, promoting construction of his Mayan train project to link popular attractions and boost tourism and jobs. He has said he'll avoid crowds.

The president has been widely criticized for traveling amid a raging outbreak.

"It doesn't seem to be a very coherent message," Silva-Herzog Márquez said.

HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Trying to separate protesters from vandals</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/as-unrest-grows-officials-try-to-separate-protesters-from-vandals-experts-say-its-not-that-simple/2020/06/01/3e9908f8-a441-11ea-b619-3f9133bbb482_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/as-unrest-grows-officials-try-to-separate-protesters-from-vandals-experts-say-its-not-that-simple/2020/06/01/3e9908f8-a441-11ea-b619-3f9133bbb482_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>By the time he picked up a plastic water bottle, wound his arm back and let it fly over the heads of protesters toward a row of federal police officers in riot gear, Daquan Jones had been pushed, pepper-sprayed and gassed with a chemical that made his eyes tear and his throat burn.</p> <p>Jones, 23, a lifelong District resident, joined the third day of protests over police use of force and the killing of George Floyd around lunchtime Sunday. He came to march and chant, to pour his own rage and sorrow into a cause where, he hoped, it might be useful.</p> <p>He didn't bring goggles. He didn't think he'd need a helmet.</p> <p>But as darkness fell over hundreds gathered at Lafayette Square and police pelted the crowd with pepper pellets, Jones said he looked at the plastic water bottle in his hand and decided it was time to throw something back.</p> <p>"At the end of the day, they got shields. What do they care?" he said. "They're dodging water bottles while we're out here dodging bullets."</p> <p>In trying to pin down the source of chaos, public officials blamed agitators who came from outside the city. Others, such as Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D), said a small "organized group" had come into the District bent on destruction. But several demonstrators and experts who study protest movements said the truth is more complicated.</p> <p>While a small group of people had come with baseball bats and fireworks, lighter fluid and hammers, dozens more who participated in the destruction that littered the city with broken glass and defaced storefronts joined in only after hours of confrontation, as their outrage and scorn rose from a simmer to a rolling boil.</p> <p>Looking at demonstrators as one singular group with one unified mission oversimplifies protests and who tends to show up at them, said Dana R. Fisher, a University of Maryland sociology professor who studies protests and social movements.</p> <p>"There are Black Lives Matter protesters who have been shoved one too many times by the police and are fed up. There are the anarchists who came there to smash capitalism and tear down Starbucks to make way for whatever comes next," she said. "There are the folks who genuinely want a peaceful protest and all the young people who have over the last several years gotten really good at civil disobedience, which, by the way, does not include throwing rocks at police."</p> <p>After weeks of economic devastation wrought by shutdowns that have shuttered businesses and pushed the national unemployment rate to nearly 15 percent, Fisher said, those who might not have otherwise participated in looting may have joined in when the opportunity presented itself.</p> <p>"Particularly now when the economy is in free fall, you may have people thinking, 'Well, the window is already broken, people are already taking things, maybe I'll grab something I need,' " Fisher said. "It's taking advantage of an opportunity."</p> <p>While there is overlap among the groups, she added, and the categories are fluid, President Trump and others have flattened them into one, Fisher said, conflating groups that might not agree on tactics or why they are participating.</p>

On Sunday afternoon, the Trump administration intensified its effort to pin blame on the far-left “antifa” movement for escalating demonstrations, property damage and violence. The president vowed on Twitter to designate antifa a terrorist organization, and Attorney General William P. Barr said it and other groups’ activities constituted “domestic terrorism” — neither of which is possible, for practical and legal reasons.

D.C. police said Monday that officers made 88 arrests related to the protests Sunday and overnight, and that two-thirds of those charged are facing felony counts for looting and destruction of property. Police Chief Peter Newsham said investigators are reviewing surveillance footage and that more arrests are possible.

He said seven police officers suffered minor injuries Sunday night. Damage was most extensive around Lafayette Square near the White House, but it extended to Northeast Washington, Georgetown and upper Northwest.

In an attempt to wrest control of the chaos that has gripped the District in recent nights, Bowser imposed a curfew beginning 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday — four hours earlier than Sunday.

Though tense, the mood remained mostly calm Sunday night as demonstrators marched around the White House before reconvening at Lafayette Square. Three hours before the curfew, cellphones chimed with the Districtwide alert that warned people to go home.

“F--- your curfew,” the crowd chanted.

Near the back, someone lit an American flag on fire. Then the door of a park maintenance building was kicked in. Another fire, more pepper pellets, another wave of gas.

Thick smoke and fumes hung over Lafayette Square like a sheet as waves of demonstrators ran to get out of the tear gas and away from advancing police, pulling at masks meant to protect them from the still-raging coronavirus pandemic and coughing into the night air.

Jones, a college graduate with a marketing degree, said he decided to leave when police began to force people out of the park. He and his cousin walked around downtown, surveying the damage in a haze of disbelief.

“I felt like I was looking at pictures from a history textbook,” he said. “I don’t necessarily agree with lighting things on fire, but I get why people are doing it. They’re tired of being calm and just using their voices. When you don’t feel heard, you feel like you need to take an extreme step to get people’s attention, and that’s what people are doing now.”

Some demonstrators, tired of reaping the consequences of other people’s more destructive actions, eventually took to patrolling their own side.

About 1 a.m. Sunday, Arianna Evans, 23, of Bowie, Md., lifted the speaker of a megaphone to her lips — one she had been using to beg officers to take a knee, to acknowledge the humanity in the black faces that stood before them — and turned away from the line of police to admonish the demonstrators around her:

“Stop throwing [stuff],” she shouted. “Put the bottles down!”

Later that day, a group of black men marching blocks from the White House converged on a white man dressed in all black who had begun to chip away at the sidewalk with a hammer. They picked him up as he thrashed and writhed and hauled him over to the police line.

“He’s yours,” they shouted. “Take his a--.”

	<p>Evans said she worried the vandalism was hurting the message of the peaceful protesters who made up the majority of the crowd.</p> <p>“Violence is not the answer, and the more that we are violent the worse this will get for every one of us who is out here,” she said. “It’s very disappointing to me that we have to deal with this agitation, which feels like it’s not even from people who genuinely care about our lives, about our livelihoods, about social and economic equality.”</p> <p>As Sunday melted into Monday morning, Autymn Bradshaw, 20, a college student from Howard County, ran from officers in a crush of screaming protesters, who began to call for “white bodies to the front.” She put herself nearest to the police line, in front of black protesters like Evans, an Army veteran who is starting classes at Howard University in the fall.</p> <p>Bradshaw cried as she stood with her hands raised. When police pressed forward, she ran, afraid they might start shooting plastic bullets or pepper balls. It was her first protest, she said, and she hadn’t expected to be so scared.</p> <p>“I was thinking, ‘What are they going to do to us? What’s going to happen? Are they going to shoot us? Are they going to tear gas the crowd?’ ” she said, as she readied herself to head back to Monday’s protest.</p> <p>This time, she said, she’s going to be ready. This time she’s bringing goggles.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 US protests matter to the world</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/06/02/world-george-floyd-protests/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/06/02/world-george-floyd-protests/</a>
GIST	<p><b>The United States is increasingly seen as a nation turning in on itself.</b> As protests against police violence and systemic racism rocked dozens of American cities, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab spoke of the crisis across the pond in <a href="#">language more often deployed</a> when discussing intractable conflicts elsewhere in the world.</p> <p>“We want to see de-escalation of all of those tensions and Americans come together,” <a href="#">he told the BBC</a> on Sunday.</p> <p>Raab wasn’t alone. A spokesperson from the European Commission <a href="#">emailed an unusual statement about American affairs</a> to reporters, indicating that officials in Brussels hoped that “all issues” related to the protests “will be settled swiftly and in full respect for the rule of law and human rights.”</p> <p>This followed <a href="#">a Friday statement from Moussa Faki Mahamat</a>, the head of the African Union Commission, who condemned the killing of George Floyd and lamented “continuing discriminatory practices against black citizens of the USA.”</p> <p><b>The unrest in American cities has drawn global attention for reasons both familiar and new.</b> The dramas of the world’s sole superpower captivate audiences elsewhere far more than the obverse, with the intrigues of other countries only occasionally penetrating America’s oft-insular news cycles. In some instances, the outpouring of anger over Floyd’s killing — intensified by social media videos shared around the world of the incident and the diverse demonstrations that followed — emboldened existing movements over racial violence and discrimination against minorities.</p> <p>In Australia, where fresh solidarity protests are planned this week, the upheaval in the United States has revived conversation around police actions against the country’s long-marginalized indigenous communities — and, in particular, a 2015 incident that saw David Dungay Jr., a 26-year-old Aboriginal man, die while in Australian police custody.</p>



“We’re outraged about what’s happening in Minneapolis, but really us guys home in Australia need to take a stand together here ... because they can actually see the racism and injustice against our people,” said Paul Francis-Silva, Dungay’s nephew, [to Australia’s ABC News](#).

In France, too, Floyd’s death rekindled memories of a 2016 incident in which Adama Traoré, a 24-year-old from the suburbs of Paris, died of asphyxiation after being detained by police. Traoré’s case triggered, [as my colleague James McAuley put it at the time](#), France’s own Black Lives Matter movement.

“How can one not think of Adama’s terrible suffering when he had three police officers on him and he was repeating, ‘I can’t breathe,’ ” a Traoré support group [wrote on Facebook](#) last week. “His name was George Floyd, who just like Adama died because they were black.”

**This sense of grievance and solidarity gave voice to protests in Toronto, Berlin, London and other Western cities.** “People all over the world understand that their own fights for human rights, for equality and fairness, will become so much more difficult to win if we are going to lose America as the place where ‘I have a dream’ is a real and universal political program,” Wolfgang Ischinger, a former German ambassador to Washington and the chairman of the Munich Security Conference, [told the New Yorker](#). “Let’s hope the demonstrations all over the world will help remind Washington that U.S. soft power is a unique asset, setting America apart from other great powers — from China, Russia, and even from Europe. It would be tragic if the Trump Administration turned a huge opportunity for the U.S. into a moral abdication.”

A dimension of the global reaction also taps into long-standing left-wing attitudes toward [American imperialism abroad](#) and [hypocrisy at home](#). They’ve only been heightened by [widespread antipathy toward President Trump](#).

“Part of it is about anti-Americanism, part of it is about the gross injustice,” Marcel Dirsus, a nonresident fellow at the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University, told Today’s WorldView in reference to solidarity demonstrations in Berlin. “But it’s also about Trump, who is so unpopular in Germany that it makes many people dislike America as a whole. I think a lot of people assumed that America had already hit rock-bottom over the last couple of years but then Trump proved them wrong in the way he is handling the pandemic and these protests.”

Then there’s the fact that Trump’s brand of ultranationalism more readily maps onto the growing divisions in other countries, with the U.S. president having [explicitly made common cause with far-right movements](#) in Europe. Animus toward Trump’s America can be a vehicle for domestic grievances, too.

“It’s significant that Trumpism is part of a broader transnational movement,” said Georgetown University political scientist Daniel Nexon during a webinar on Monday. “U.S. political polarization is now aligned with politics elsewhere.”

**But the protests abroad may also reflect an abiding admiration for the United States.** “Those marching seem to show just how morally magnetic the idea of the ‘good America’ continues to be in Europe,” Ben Judah, a British journalist, told Today’s WorldView.

He added that the weekend’s protests in places like London’s Trafalgar Square or at Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate could reflect the coalescing of a new kind of transatlanticism. “Ironically, just as the old ideological West, of the G-7, transatlantic intellectuals and NATO-focused think tanks is breaking down a new kind of transatlantic experience, born out of a common virtual Instagram and TikTok world, is coming alive,” said Judah.

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/civilian-casualties-surge-in-libya-during-tripoli-battle-study-finds/2020/06/01/17e4d7a2-a408-11ea-8681-7d471bf20207_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/civilian-casualties-surge-in-libya-during-tripoli-battle-study-finds/2020/06/01/17e4d7a2-a408-11ea-8681-7d471bf20207_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>Reported civilian casualties in Libya have surged over the past year amid a prolonged battle for the capital, Tripoli, with forces believed to be linked to a warlord based in the eastern part of the country responsible for most noncombatant deaths, a new study has found.</p> <p>The analysis by the New America Foundation and Airwars, which tracks allegations of civilian deaths, showed that forces associated with military leader Khalifa Hifter were believed to be responsible for the majority of reported casualties.</p> <p>Airstrikes and civilian deaths have increased dramatically since Hifter's so-called Libyan National Army launched an operation to take Tripoli in April 2019 from the U.N.-backed Government of National Accord (GNA).</p> <p>According to Airwars, at least 429 of the estimated minimum of 727 civilian deaths since 2012, or about 60 percent, are believed to have taken place since the offensive began. Airwars assigned responsibility to Hifter's group or affiliated forces for at least 270 of the deaths since the start of the Tripoli battle while saying the GNA and affiliated forces were believed to be responsible for 95.</p> <p>In its report titled "Airstrikes, Proxy Warfare and Civilian Casualties," an advance copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post, New America found that most of the strikes conducted in Libya since 2019 have been concentrated around Tripoli, a change from previous years when they mostly targeted areas populated by suspected Islamist extremists including Benghazi, Derna and Sirte.</p> <p>The shifting nature of the Libyan conflict is another illustration of the failed promise of Libya's 2011 revolution, when many Libyans hoped that the ouster of longtime authoritarian Moammar Gaddafi would yield new openness, stability and prosperity.</p> <p>Instead the country descended into a tangled civil conflict in which competing administrations in the east and west claim legitimacy as they vie for control of oil and other resources. The strife has allowed criminal networks to prey on migrants and extremist groups to flourish, as took place when the Islamic State established one of its most organized and brutal affiliates in 2015.</p> <p>All told there have been more than 4,000 airstrikes by all parties since 2012, the report found. On Sunday, five people were reported to have died after an artillery strike on a Tripoli park, Reuters reported.</p> <p>The conflict has also given rise to an increasingly complex competition between countries with perceived interests in Libya, pulling in an array of nations that have provided military and other support — most frequently behind the scenes — to both sides despite a United Nations arms embargo. According to New America and Airwars, at least seven countries have conducted airstrikes in Libya since 2012.</p> <p>Foreign supporters to Hifter's faction, the LNA, are believed to include Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, emboldening the LNA to seek a military victory.</p> <p>"Hifter's ability to attract foreign backing has amplified the LNA's military capabilities," the report said.</p> <p>Last week U.S. Africa Command took the unusual step of publicly condemning the Russian government for allegedly sending advanced fighter jets to Libya to assist the LNA. U.S. officials have also linked the Russian government to the presence alongside the LNA of fighters for the Wagner Group, a private army. Russian officials denied the charge.</p> <p>Foreign support to the U.N.-backed government, the GNA, meanwhile is believed to have increased this year as Turkey has begun to openly provide fighters and aid in an attempt to stave off an LNA capture of Tripoli. Both sides employ paid fighters from a number of countries, including Syria.</p>

In another example of the murky nature of the war, The Washington Post last year reported that a U.S. Air Force veteran apparently working as a contractor for the GNA was captured by the LNA and held for six weeks in 2019 before being released.

Identifying responsibility for individual airstrikes is difficult in Libya given that many countries do not publicly acknowledge their role in the conflict, but researchers say they attempt to do so by using information that includes the target and the kind of weapon or aircraft involved.

While Libyan combatants have had access to aircraft from Gaddafi's aging fleet, it's not clear how much of that remains after years of fighting. The UAE, for example, is believed to have provided Chinese-made drones while Turkey is believed to have provided Turkish-made drones.

The report cites an unnamed Turkish government official who said that Turkish personnel have been sent to Libya to train and advise GNA forces but denied that Turkey is directly conducting military strikes. The report also identifies a surge in strikes in 2019 attributed to the United Arab Emirates. Authorities from that country declined to comment.

A recent U.N. report likewise warned of continued civilian harm as a result of every category of armed activity, documenting at least 64 noncombatant deaths in the first three months of this year. The United Nations blamed the LNA for 81 percent of those casualties.

While President Barack Obama's administration backed the NATO-led intervention in 2011, Libya has not ranked among top U.S. foreign policy priorities in the years since.

New America and Airwars found that the U.S. role in alleged civilian casualties since 2012 has been relatively small despite a major military operation conducted in 2016 against Islamic State fighters in the coastal city of Sirte.

According to estimates in the report, the United States conducted 550 strikes between 2012 and February 2020, mostly targeting the Islamic State, killing at least 11 people. U.S. Africa Command has not acknowledged any civilian casualties in Libya.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Downtown businesses assess damage</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/downtown-businesses-assess-damage-weigh-reopening-after-nights-of-looting-and-chaos/">https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/downtown-businesses-assess-damage-weigh-reopening-after-nights-of-looting-and-chaos/</a>
GIST	<p>As hundreds of businesspeople and volunteers spent Sunday cleaning up the <a href="#">damage from two nights of rioting</a>, there was a palpable sense of resolve to get past this latest setback to a downtown business community that has seen more than its share of adversity.</p> <p>But there was also anger that city and police officials had allowed the rioting to spiral out of control, as well as fear the weekend's destruction could make recovery even more difficult for businesses already wounded by the pandemic shutdown.</p> <p>"This isn't going to make that any easier," said Jon Scholes, CEO of the Downtown Seattle Association, who described the destruction, which ranged from smashed windows to the torching of vehicles to widespread looting, as worse than what the city saw during the 1999 WTO riots. "It's something we've just never seen in downtown Seattle."</p> <p>The riots swept through Seattle on Friday and Saturday nights, overtaking what had begun as peaceful protests over <a href="#">George Floyd's killing</a> by a Minneapolis police officer, who pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes during an arrest last week.</p>

Along parts of Pine Street, where many of the confrontations between police and rioters took place, few businesses were untouched. Windows were smashed or spray-painted with slogans and profanity. Nearly three dozen storefronts were damaged in the downtown core, Scholes said.

On Saturday night, the intersection of Pine Street and Sixth Avenue had looked like a war zone, with burned-out vehicles still on the street and streams of people entering Nordstrom and other stores through smashed windows and emerging with armfuls of loot. Vandals breached Pacific Place shopping mall, where windows reflected cars ablaze across the street.

Looters threw perfume and designer purses from a Nordstrom window to a crowd gathered around the still-smoking wreckage of a police car. Downtown locations of national retailers Eileen Fisher, Old Navy and The North Face, among others, were pillaged.

“The big question for everyone is are people going to come downtown and shop?” said Pipo Bui, the owner of Seattle Coffee Works, which had a window smashed at its new Pine Street flagship around 8 p.m. Saturday.

“I’m a little bit nervous about it because I don’t know what’s going on here,” Tom Dang, whose International Model Toys in the International District wasn’t damaged, but who saw many other businesses in the area hit. After being closed for more than six weeks, Dang said he is now worried about the community’s ability to bring in business. After this weekend’s violence, he said, “I don’t want to be around the neighborhood.”

Mayor Jenny Durkan acknowledged the extra challenge the damage brings for businesses “coming out of the pandemic,” and said the city was already mobilizing resources.

“We’re reaching out to every business so that we can help assess the level of damages and what the city could do to help restore the downtown core,” Durkan said Sunday afternoon, adding that city crews had scrambled to help shopowners board up windows in the International District, Pioneer Square and the downtown core.

The scope of that damage may take weeks to fully measure. Scholes added that it was “millions and millions of dollars in property damage alone, and far more in terms of lost economic activity.”

On Sunday morning, the sound of saws, hammers and power drills rang out on streets that, just 12 hours earlier had echoed with flash bangs, protest chants and police calls to “Move back!” Across the shopping district and beyond, dozens of groups of volunteers — knit together from family, friends, sports teams, faith groups and fraternities — had swept into downtown to cover broken windows with plywood, clear glass from streets and wash graffiti off walls.

At Nordstrom, contractors hauled in plywood and lumber to cover shattered windows before the 5 p.m. curfew and the arrival of what some feared would be a second wave of protests and vandalism. “We’re just trying to get it cleaned up and secured,” said Dmitriy Bogomaz, a contractor who had worked on the Nordstrom remodel and had offered his services as soon as he heard about the vandalism Saturday night.

Although many business leaders expressed solidarity with the message of the demonstrations, there was deep anger, too — at the vandals who reportedly used the cover of a legitimate protest to wreak havoc on local businesses. There was also concern that city and police officials had been unable to contain the damage.

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“Where were the police?” said one executive who was helping supervise a window-covering operation near Pine Street but declined to give his name.

In the International District, area residents and activists complained that Seattle police on Friday had pushed protesters out of downtown and into the Chinatown International District, but had done little to protect area businesses or property.

Even before the weekend's violence and the months-long [coronavirus pandemic](#) shutdown, downtown Seattle business owners said they often felt they were under siege, held hostage by a [cyclical pattern of crime](#) that has led some businesses to quit the downtown corridor, and others threatening to do so. The coronavirus alone had wiped out nearly 50,000 jobs and caused restaurant revenue to plummet by nearly 80%, according to the Downtown Seattle Association.

After Friday's unrest, many downtown businesses took preemptive action. The Seattle Fire Department [advised business owners](#) to board up stretches of the city, lengthening the blocks of plywood facade already in place to deter looting during the pandemic.

In some cases, buildings and businesses were spared only because owners or tenants stood guard.

Instacart and Amazon Flex temporarily suspended operations at 5 p.m. Saturday, according to one driver who works for both delivery services. Instacart did so again on Sunday until 5 a.m. Monday "to help ensure the safety of our shopper community," as Instacart put it in an email to its shoppers late Sunday afternoon.

"We are monitoring the situation closely and in a handful of cities we've adjusted routes or scaled back typical delivery operations to ensure the safety of our teams," an Amazon spokesperson said in a statement. Protesters Friday had smashed the windows of the cashierless Amazon Go Grocery store in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, though it later reopened. The company reportedly also closed a few local warehouses Sunday.

Nordstrom, which temporarily closed all its stores Sunday, declined to give details about damage to its downtown store. "We had impacts at some [locations] and are in the process of assessing that damage and making repairs so we can resume serving customers," a spokesperson said in an email. "We hope to reopen our doors as soon as possible."

Looters emptied outdoor apparel retailer Columbia Sportswear on Third Avenue and Pine Street; a spokesperson for the national outdoor apparel brand said it was still assessing the extent of the damage.

One block west, rioters smashed the front door of outdoor lifestyle retailer Wayward, but didn't take anything, said owner Kevin Winkel.

"There are so many more important issues than a pane of broken glass," Winkel said, as a contractor screwed plywood into the door frame. The location, near the Third Avenue and Pike corridor known as [The Blade](#), where guns blazed in January, can be problematic in the best of times, he said. But difficulties like petty crime and open drug use, he said, are vastly overshadowed by "what's going on in the nation. It's a challenging time. We're incredibly divided."

Scholes of the Downtown Seattle Association said several businesses, including The Gap and Old Navy, had been preparing to offer curbside pickup under Gov. Jay Inslee's newly announced reopening schedule and not long before the violence struck. Now, they and other damaged businesses need to replace not only shattered windows, but stolen merchandise and damaged shelving before they can reopen.

In the International District, volunteers covered the windows of Tanya Nguyen's ChuMinh Tofu with plywood Sunday morning in anticipation of more violence, as Nguyen served vegan egg rolls to people. One of the store's windows was smashed Friday night, Nguyen said.

Longtime dim sum hotspot Jade Garden was also targeted. A thief broke the front door, took the restaurant's cash drawer containing about \$100 and smashed up the entryway, said owner Eric Chan.

	<p>The restaurant has been struggling since the start of the coronavirus outbreak. After sales fell by nearly 50% in February, Chan asked his 40 employees to take a pay cut. Most refused, saying they'd rather go on unemployment. Now, 19 people work in the restaurant, many of them Chan's family and friends who volunteer their labor, he said. Prices for groceries and to-go containers have risen as the pandemic drags on, further straining his bottom line, he said.</p> <p>The store's back window was smashed in late March. Chan, who is Chinese, said since April he's also been the target of xenophobic online harassment he links to an <a href="#">uptick in coronavirus-related hate crimes against Asians</a>.</p> <p>"We just want to serve the community," he said. "We just want to work in peace. But we're scared now."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Businesses brace; possible looting</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/king-county-businesses-brace-for-possible-looting-monday-on-recommendation-of-local-officials/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/king-county-businesses-brace-for-possible-looting-monday-on-recommendation-of-local-officials/</a>
GIST	<p>Some businesses in King County, already under limited operations due to the coronavirus pandemic, were urged Monday by local governments and police to close early and barricade stores ahead of possible looting.</p> <p>Kirkland city officials recommended all businesses close at 1 p.m. and secure valuable items in their stores. The city planned to issue an emergency proclamation Monday afternoon, but did not intend to impose a curfew.</p> <p>Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet said in a statement that the City Council "appreciates all of the individuals that are exercising their free speech rights to peacefully speak out against the murder of George Floyd and the ongoing racial inequities that exist in our society. It is unfortunate that a criminal element is seizing on this opportunity to engage in looting and other destructive activities. We hope that community members and business owners will join us in implementing precautionary measures to protect our community."</p> <p>Lynnwood police said they were closing access to Alderwood Mall, where stores are already closed, at the request of the mall's management.</p> <p>"We have become aware of potential groups bent on causing property damage and theft at Alderwood Mall," the Police Department said in an early afternoon statement.</p> <p>Retailers at University Village in Seattle were seen in videos posted to social media boarding up stores. A representative for the shopping center did not respond to requests for comment and a person answering the phone at the security office there said they were "not at liberty to answer any questions" and hung up.</p> <p>The University of Washington Police Department confirmed that a protest is scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday at University Village.</p> <p>Kirkland City Manager Kurt Triplett said in a news release issued Monday morning that the city had received reports that it "is a possible target for looting and destruction" and that the early closure recommendation was issued "out of an abundance of caution."</p> <p>Kirkland city spokesperson Kellie Stickney said that the city was monitoring social media channels. She added that the city believed a protest would occur Monday in downtown Kirkland and that "other commercial areas are vulnerable given what has occurred in other communities."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Pandemic waning or raging? Yes</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/is-americas-pandemic-waning-or-raging-yes/">https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/is-americas-pandemic-waning-or-raging-yes/</a>
GIST	<p>CHICAGO — In the weeks since America began reopening on a large scale, the coronavirus has persisted on a stubborn but uneven path, with meaningful progress in some cities and alarming new outbreaks in others.</p> <p>A snapshot of the country on a single day last week revealed sharply divergent realities. As the United States marked the tragic milestone of 100,000 deaths from the coronavirus on Wednesday, the contrasting picture was unmistakable — a murky, jumbled outlook depending on one’s location.</p> <p>Around Chicago, Wednesday was one of the most lethal days of the pandemic, with more than 100 deaths. Among the dead: a woman in her 30s, and four men past their 90th birthdays.</p> <p>In the Boston area, where an alarming crisis of a month ago has given way to cautious optimism, businesses were reopening that day and new cases numbered in the dozens, no longer the hundreds.</p> <p>Around Rogers and Springdale in northwest Arkansas, which the virus had barely touched in the pandemic’s early weeks, poultry workers spent part of Wednesday planning a protest as outbreaks in at least two plants were driving a sudden surge in infection numbers.</p> <p>The dizzying volatility from city to city and state to state could continue indefinitely, with vastly different policy implications for individual places and no single, unified course in sight.</p> <p>Some states are seeing vast improvements. But as the pandemic progresses, parts of the country may eventually need to reimpose restrictions, said Dr. Tom Inglesby, the director of the Center for Health Security at Johns Hopkins University.</p> <p>“The country is divided in terms of its overall trajectory,” Inglesby said. “This virus is persistent. It hasn’t changed.”</p> <p>Understanding the coronavirus’s spread depends on where in America one is standing: New cases are on a small but steady decline overall, to about 21,000 a day from more than 30,000 at its April peak, a somewhat encouraging sign that the pandemic is waning in the United States.</p> <p>It does not feel that way, though, in Chicago, where new coronavirus infections have remained steadily high. The city, America’s third-largest, has been shuttered since March, with little hope that life will return to normal soon. On Wednesday, surrounding Cook County added about 700 cases and about 100 deaths, its highest death toll in two weeks.</p> <p>Playgrounds have been wrapped protectively with yellow tape to keep children away. Parks and beaches along Lake Michigan, a reliably popular draw in the fleeting Chicago summer, are closed and under guard of the police.</p> <p>On Wednesday, there was an eerie calm at Marge’s Still, one of the oldest taverns in the city, which has remained open, offering carryout dinner orders and drinks to go. Lisa Vakulin-Rose, a manager, arrived in the afternoon as usual, but with no one to serve at the bar, she had no fruit to slice for cocktails or glasses to polish. Instead, she opened the windows and side door, let the summerlike breeze flow in and waited for the phone to ring.</p> <p>Regular customers have kept coming. They arrive and pick up their dinners, their to-go cocktails, their bottles of wine. Some are becoming impatient, asking: When are we going to be able to sit at this bar like before?</p> <p>“I’d love to be able to be in a normal state again,” Vakulin-Rose said. “But we’re not.”</p> <p>The Midwest is still troubled by persistent coronavirus outbreaks. Hospitalizations from the virus are on the rise in Wisconsin, an unnerving development after that state’s Supreme Court abruptly overturned a</p>

stay-at-home order in May. New cases are consistently high in Minnesota, particularly around the Twin Cities, where health officials have warned that escalating protests could increase the infection risk.

Jan Malcolm, Minnesota's health commissioner, said in a statement that "we are one of the communities most vulnerable to rapid increases in the spread of the virus, given where we are in the course of the epidemic."

But in the Northeast, the outlook has seesawed in the other direction. A glimpse of that region on the same day seemed hopeful.

In New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, case numbers have plunged considerably in recent days. In Massachusetts, Gov. Charlie Baker has given houses of worship and many businesses permission to open again.

At the peak of the epidemic, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, which includes Boston, was reporting more than 300 confirmed coronavirus cases and 25 deaths on many days. On Wednesday, the county added 63 cases and six deaths, a vast improvement from weeks ago.

The shift has left Bostonians wondering whether this means they are ready to reopen.

That question was vexing Ray Hammond and Gloria White-Hammond, a husband and wife who are co-pastors of the Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain, a neighborhood in Boston.

Baker had already announced that churches could begin holding in-person services again, with restrictions. But the pastors — who are also physicians — were more surprised than elated by the decision.

They worried about the potential of church services to be superspreading events. They had also watched the pandemic take a particularly devastating toll on black and Hispanic communities, and their largely black congregation has had several dozen members fall ill.

Could they reopen safely? Or would they be putting their congregants and everyone in the community at risk?

On Wednesday, they said they had decided not to go ahead with reopening.

"I just don't think we have enough information to make that decision in a way that I would feel — I'm saying personally, I can't make that decision for other people — that I would feel meets the criteria for love of neighbor," Ray Hammond said.

His congregants have been uniformly supportive of the decision to move slowly. Some people said they might be ready this summer, or in the fall, or perhaps early next year.

Still others have told him they plan to attend church virtually until there is a vaccine.

"Nary a soul has said, 'We've got to get back right away,'" he said.

In the South, many states have been open for weeks, and officials there are carefully monitoring the effects of lifting restrictions.

In some communities where the virus appeared to have been under control only weeks ago, there are now small but fierce flare-ups. Rural pockets of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi are struggling to control growing outbreaks.

Arkansas seemed to be on the rebound when May began. But as the month wore on, any glimmer of recovery faded. By last week, daily reports of new cases had spiked to near the highest levels since the

epidemic began. On Wednesday, the state added 97 new cases, down from previous days. The progress did not last: More than 230 cases were announced both Thursday and Friday.

Many of those new cases can be attributed to outbreaks in poultry processing facilities, where employees work in close quarters with little opportunity for social distancing.

In rural Yell County, the site of two poultry processing outbreaks, cases grew tenfold over two weeks. In more densely populated northwest Arkansas, home to the headquarters of Walmart and Tyson, the number of known cases has more than tripled since the start of May, fueled in part by outbreaks at poultry plants.

Magaly Licolli, a co-founder of Venceremos, an advocacy group for Arkansas poultry workers, said employees at the plants had watched nervously as food processing facilities in other states reported outbreaks. Then their own co-workers, many of them immigrants, started falling ill.

“They are so terrified of going to work because they feel that they are being led to slaughter,” Licolli said. She added: “It’s a very dark time for many of them. Many of them have preexisting conditions.”

Given what happened at meatpacking plants elsewhere, Licolli said the new spikes in northwest Arkansas seemed almost inevitable. On Friday, state officials reported cases at a third poultry plant in the region.

“We knew that we were going to get to this point,” she said.

That lament was true across much of the South. By week’s end, along the virus’s uneven path, cases were also rising in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Officials: white instigators to blame</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/protests-white-instigators/2020/06/01/b916bd98-a426-11ea-bb20-ebf0921f3bbd_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/protests-white-instigators/2020/06/01/b916bd98-a426-11ea-bb20-ebf0921f3bbd_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>“What did I tell you?” a voice cried out as the camera <a href="#">recording mayhem in downtown Pittsburgh</a> settled on a white man, clad in all black, smashing the windows of a police vehicle.</p> <p>“It is not black people,” the onlooker called to the crowd before addressing the vandal directly: “What are you doing?”</p> <p>What he was doing, authorities later alleged, was inciting riots on Saturday as the city — like dozens of others across America — was swept up in sustained unrest over the death of a black man in police custody. Demonstrations have spread from <a href="#">Minneapolis</a>, where a white police officer pinned his knee on the neck of <a href="#">George Floyd</a>, to scores of cities, some of which have been looted and set ablaze.</p> <p>Police identified Brian Jordan Bartels, 20, of Allison Park, Pa., as having “kicked off” the escalation in Pittsburgh, one of several examples of peaceful assemblies against police violence creating opportunities for pandemonium. While at heart the gatherings have been an appeal for racial justice, they also have attracted a diverse array of people with other grievances and agendas who have co-opted the moment, accelerating what has been a national unraveling as the country reels from a pandemic that has put more than 40 million people out of work.</p> <p>In most American cities, people of all races appear to be participating in the violence, vandalism and looting, particularly in Minneapolis, where a crowd burned the police department’s 3rd Precinct building last week and vandals were seen smashing windows and stealing items from stores. Multiracial coalitions also have marched peacefully. But in some cities, local officials have noted that black protesters have</p>

struggled to maintain peaceful protests in the face of young white men joining the fray, seemingly determined to commit mayhem.

In footage that spread widely online, a man identified as Bartels, who faces charges of vandalism and rioting, wore a bandanna emblazoned with the symbol of the Animal Liberation Front, a leaderless international resistance movement that pushes for animal rights. In the footage, he raised his middle fingers to black protesters who begged him to stop. At Bartels's home in a Pittsburgh suburb, officers found spray paint and firearms, according to an arrest warrant reviewed by The Washington Post.

Attempts to reach Bartels, who turned himself in to police on Monday evening, were unsuccessful.

As authorities [intensified their efforts to quell the uprisings](#) — deploying tear gas and rubber bullets in aggressive spasms in many cities — police officers were joined by some elected officials and protest organizers in accusing white activists and extremists of exacerbating the chaos by blocking roadways, destroying police property and lobbing bricks into businesses.

“We came together as Pittsburghers and supported a First Amendment right to gather and say more must be done,” Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto (D) told reporters over the weekend. “And then it was hijacked.”

Some local officials were even more blunt. After reviewing footage of the weekend's events, Jenny Durkan, the mayor of Seattle, said she feared the black community would shoulder the blame for havoc others caused.

“It is striking how many of the people who were doing the looting and stealing and the fires over the weekend were young white males,” Durkan (D) said in an interview.

President Trump on Monday evening said in a Rose Garden address that he stands with demonstrators who condemn Floyd's death, as peaceful protesters were cleared with flash-bang explosives and tear gas so he could pose for a photograph in front of St. John's Episcopal Church.

“These are not acts of peaceful protest; they are acts of domestic terror,” said Trump, who earlier Monday encouraged governors to “dominate” the streets with the militaristic tactics already in use in parts of the country.

Violence had erupted in some of the early demonstrations starting last week, with protesters in Minneapolis setting several businesses on fire along with the police precinct.

But from Baltimore to Sacramento, black protesters also were filmed protecting storefronts and placing their bodies before police barricades to preserve principles of nonviolence, and to prevent backlash disproportionately aimed at them. Videos emerged, too, of them confronting white demonstrators who had usurped the mantra of “black lives matter,” which gave birth to a movement for racial justice and police accountability, in seemingly random acts of defacement.

“Don't spray stuff on here when they're going to blame black people for this,” a black woman said in challenge to two vandals outside of a Starbucks in Los Angeles.

In East Liberty, a gentrifying neighborhood of Pittsburgh, a young black protester delivered a case of bottled water to a phalanx of police officers standing guard at a demonstration on Sunday outside of a Target store.

“With all this stuff going on, I just wanted to spread the positivity,” said Alexander Cash, 23, who lost his job at a nearby Residence Inn because of the novel coronavirus pandemic. “It doesn't matter if it's one or 45 cops standing there. I can walk up to them and still be peaceful.”

That sort of caution was being undermined by intentionally destabilizing acts, warned Tim Stevens, a longtime civil rights activist in Pittsburgh.

“People who do not have the social justice commitment at heart, people who really don’t care about George Floyd — they care only about an opportunity to cause disruption — how many of those people were in Pittsburgh over the weekend?” he asked. “How many were out across America?”

Similar questions have become acute from Austin, where a racial justice group on Sunday canceled a planned assembly for fear of violent escalation by unaffiliated activists, to Fargo, N.D., where police questioned four men carrying assault rifles to a protest site in a bid to protect businesses. In Denver, police officers commandeered firearms from anti-government gun enthusiasts who self-identify as “Boogaloo boys,” part of a far-right militia movement.

“These are people who are agent provocateurs,” Chas Moore, the executive director of the Austin Justice Coalition, said of the extremists joining the protests. He canceled his group’s demonstration, originally planned for Sunday, after the chaos of Saturday night. “These are extremists and anarchists, not right or left. They want complete annihilation of the system, and they’re at the forefront of the fires and the breaking of vehicles.”

Others warned against tagging certain bad actors for responsibility, especially after Minnesota officials at first tried to lay blame for damage on out-of-state protesters, allegations that failed to find support in arrest records. Over the weekend, Melvin Carter, the mayor of St. Paul, Minn., walked back comments initially asserting that “every person” detained in protests came from other states. In fact, data showed nearly all of those arrested gave addresses in Minnesota.

Durkan said the age profile of those arrested in Seattle skewed young, and she pledged to examine the demographics more closely. Officials in Pittsburgh and Austin said they did not break arrest data down by race, making it difficult to discover whether claims of culpability were reflected in on-the-ground enforcement efforts.

“It’s very easy for the government to create this binary of good protesters and bad protesters, and it always fits their whim,” said Rashad Robinson, the president of the racial justice group Color of Change. The dilemma, Robinson said, is how to welcome new faces to the fold without inviting chaos: “We are in a really complicated moment, and we have a lot more questions.”

The complexity was deepened when President Trump, with Attorney General William P. Barr’s backing, faulted anarchists and left-wing activists for the upheaval without furnishing any evidence.

On Monday, the president’s allies trumpeted news of the charges against Bartels, a day after the president said he would designate an anti-fascist collective known as antifa as a “terrorist organization,” though he has no apparent legal authority to do so.

A former friend of Bartels who corresponded with him for several years before they had a falling out in May said Bartels never once mentioned antifa, some of whose adherents favor aggressive tactics.

The friend, a 17-year-old who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she feared online harassment, said Bartels was militant about veganism but otherwise espouses views that do not fall neatly along ideological lines. Another teenager who moved in the city’s pop-punk scene with Bartels said Bartels loathed establishment forces, no matter their partisan makeup. But neither understood why Bartels would have smashed a police vehicle in broad daylight, as police accuse him of doing.

Similar scenes of destruction appeared in numerous cities.

In downtown Austin, a crowd of several hundred protesters massed outside Austin Police Department headquarters on Sunday evening. With their numbers increasing, protesters eventually streamed over a concrete embankment and onto Interstate 35, a thoroughfare that slices Austin along racial and economic lines.

	<p>The crowd was a diverse mix of black, white and Hispanic demonstrators, but it was the young white protesters who seemed to push the limits. As the crowd walked south to an exit, white protesters were spray-painting the asphalt and a concrete median.</p> <p>One white woman was observed applying an adhesive to a traffic cone in an attempt to adhere it to the roadway while a black protester walked by, turning his head in apparent surprise. Later in the evening, white protesters threw plastic water bottles at police, drawing rebuke from some black members of the crowd.</p> <p>“The police are targeting black protesters out here with rubber bullets,” said Meredith Drake, 43, who had been offering first aid to injured protesters all weekend. “We think they feel like they’ll be less accountable if they shoot a black person instead of a white one.”</p> <p>On Chicago’s West Side, a liquor store was looted for hours and then torched at about 9 p.m. Sunday. The air was filled with blinding smoke as Glenn Johnson, 45, stood in the doorway of his graphic design business across the street, saying he had watched looters so committed to the undertaking that they worked in crews of three, each completing a specific task. Most cars had out-of-town license plates, he said.</p> <p>“I don’t condone this, but I don’t condemn it,” Johnson said. “I understand where it’s coming from. But the thing is, we’re so far into this, everything is going to be gone.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Tuesday primary amid virus, civil unrest</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-pa-officials-prepare-for-coronavirus-civil-unrest-to-disrupt-tuesday-primary/2020/06/01/b0ad0856-a458-11ea-b619-3f9133bbb482_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-pa-officials-prepare-for-coronavirus-civil-unrest-to-disrupt-tuesday-primary/2020/06/01/b0ad0856-a458-11ea-b619-3f9133bbb482_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>Election officials across Pennsylvania are bracing for a chaotic day of voting in Tuesday’s primary, as the convergence of the <a href="#">coronavirus</a> pandemic and protests over the death of George Floyd threaten to close in-person polling locations, even as thousands of voters who requested mail-in ballots still haven’t received them.</p> <p>In Philadelphia, city officials said they were working with police and other emergency personnel to prevent violence from disrupting voting. The city planned to open 190 polling places instead of the usual 831, but with a late surge of poll workers canceling their commitment out of fear of unrest, there was no guarantee even that number would open Tuesday morning.</p> <p>“This was already a difficult task with the pandemic, and the current events have only made that difficult task harder,” said Nick Custodio, a deputy city commissioner. “We won’t know anything until first thing in the morning.”</p> <p>In Delaware County, a large suburb of Philadelphia, officials said they had fulfilled an unprecedented 80,000 mail-ballot requests. But 6,000 of them went out just Monday — giving those voters little wiggle room to return them on time. Officials said they would be unable to fulfill another 400 ballot requests at all because of insufficient staffing and time.</p> <p>To help alleviate the crush, Gov. Tom Wolf (D) extended the mail ballot deadline by a week in six counties where the pandemic and protests have been most acute, but ballots still must be postmarked or received in person by 8 p.m. Tuesday.</p> <p>“This is an unprecedented time for Pennsylvania and our nation as we face a major public health crisis and civil unrest during an election,” Wolf said in a statement. “Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and I want to ensure that voters can cast their ballot and that it is received in time.”</p> <p>Pennsylvania, notably the ring of suburbs around Philadelphia, is widely expected to be a crucial battleground in the November presidential election. If thousands of voters are unable to cast ballots in the</p>



primary, election officials will be under tremendous pressure to better prepare for a general election that four years ago was decided by the narrowest of margins.

Eight states plus the District will hold primaries on Tuesday. All of them have experienced a surge in interest in mail balloting, and several have experienced hiccups or worse.

In Indiana, the clerk of the state's most populous county warned last week that some voters would not receive their ballots in time — and that thousands of ballots might not be counted because they would not be returned by the deadline of noon on Election Day.

Voters in Maryland and Rhode Island also complained about not receiving their requested ballots. In the District, election officials resorted to hand delivering ballots that were at risk of not arriving on time.

The Pennsylvania primary is the state's first major contest since state lawmakers expanded absentee balloting to all voters last fall, long before they could have predicted how dramatically interest in voting by mail would surge as a result of the pandemic.

The onset of violent protests after Floyd, who was black, was killed in police custody in Minneapolis, compounded the challenges that Tuesday will bring.

Philadelphia has been under a mandatory 6 p.m. curfew since Sunday. The city's top prosecutor, District Attorney Lawrence S. Krasner, announced Monday that his office would not prosecute residents who violate the curfew to vote or work the polls.

Meanwhile, former vice president [Joe Biden](#) was scheduled to deliver a speech in Philadelphia on Tuesday morning.

Wolf ordered his deadline extension for mail ballots to apply to Philadelphia and two of its suburbs as well as the counties that include Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Erie.

Republicans fought efforts to extend the ballot deadline in Wisconsin's spring elections in April. Republican National Committee spokesman Mike Reed said Monday the party was considering whether to bring legal action to block Wolf's order.

"We want everyone to have the opportunity to vote, but we have an Election Day for a reason," he said. "Postponing this deadline would require county election offices to verify ballots for weeks after the election, potentially delaying the outcome and opening the door for unnecessary litigation."

In Philadelphia, the crunch for in-person voting access could be more acute in the city's black enclaves, notably West and North Philadelphia, where requests for mail ballots were lower than in white areas, according to [an analysis by Jonathan Tannen](#), a demographer who crunches city data.

And the challenges could repeat in other cities. In Allegheny County, home of Pittsburgh, officials consolidated roughly 1,300 polling locations down to 147.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Seattle protests complicate virus recovery</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/big-downtown-protests-might-complicate-seattles-coronavirus-recovery/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/big-downtown-protests-might-complicate-seattles-coronavirus-recovery/</a>
GIST	<p>For many protesters in Seattle over the weekend, the outrage over racial injustices outweighed the risk of contracting COVID-19.</p> <p>That calculus sent people streaming into the streets of downtown Seattle, where they shouted face to face with authorities and <a href="#">pushed into tight crowds</a>, although many wore masks.</p>

Now experts and public health officials are cautioning the large gatherings — the first of this scale since the pandemic was declared — could set back the region’s recovery from the novel coronavirus epidemic.

“We will need to watch COVID-19 activity closely in King County over the next several weeks,” David Postman, Gov. Jay Inslee’s chief of staff, said in an email. The protests, though, would not affect the county’s [current application to reopen](#) some parts of the economy, he said.

With the virus still coursing through the community, King County approached the weekend’s protests on precarious footing. The infection rate remained too high in recent weeks for King County to advance to the second phase of Inslee’s “Safe Start” plan to reopen society, unlike most counties in the state.

“We’re not done with the virus, at all,” said Brad Pollock, chairman of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the UC Davis School of Medicine in California. “It was pretty frightening to see people packed together.”

Many demonstrators [were wearing face coverings](#) at Saturday’s protests in downtown Seattle, but crowds filled cityscapes that made social distancing difficult.

The Seattle parks and neighborhoods departments handed out hundreds of single-use masks to people taking part in Saturday’s demonstrations. [Other groups](#) passed out water, masks and sanitizing wipes.

While face coverings reduce the risk of transmission, Pollock said, they don’t absolve the need for physical distancing of 6 feet or more.

“Some people let their guard down, being very emotionally involved,” Pollock said. “Folks that would normally be rational would get riled up, and you’d hate for people to be exposing themselves.”

A total of [8,054 King County residents](#) have tested positive for COVID-19, as of Saturday afternoon, and 556 people have died due to the disease.

The virus, as in other parts of the country, has disproportionately impacted people of color in King County. Black residents have been infected at nearly three times the rate of white residents, according to the [county’s count](#) of confirmed cases, adjusted for population.

Whether the demonstrations actually lead to COVID-19 cases will be difficult to determine, because the protests coincided with the reopening of businesses, experts say. The county is going to [soon apply](#) to the state to reopen a handful of businesses such as hair salons and some outdoor restaurant dining, County Executive Dow Constantine said Friday in a news conference.

A spokeswoman from Public Health — Seattle & King County confirmed Sunday the county was still submitting its latest reopening application “and will be closely watching disease trends in the coming weeks to determine whether we can continue to move forward safely with reopening.”

On Friday, Inslee lowered one key threshold needed to advance to Phase 2 of the state’s reopening plan, and King County appears to be within the new range, [according to county statistics](#). As of May 30, there was an average of 24 new cases per 100,000 residents over the previous two weeks. The new threshold is fewer than 25 cases, adjusted from 10.

Advancing to the second phase, however, is contingent on other benchmarks that must still be reached. Protest participants don’t necessarily need to get tested, state health officials said in an email, but they should “closely monitor their health” and contact a health care provider if they develop COVID-19 symptoms. If people don’t have a provider, they should contact their county health department to ask about testing.

	State health officials also said protesters who decide to congregate should abide by the now-familiar public health directives, including wearing a mask, socially distancing from other people, washing hands and staying home if they are sick.
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Corporations in area respond to protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/seattle-area-corporations-respond-to-protests-over-police-brutality-with-messages-of-solidarity-but-few-specifics/">https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/seattle-area-corporations-respond-to-protests-over-police-brutality-with-messages-of-solidarity-but-few-specifics/</a>
GIST	<p>Seattle-area corporate giants lined up to decry racially motivated violence as protests denouncing police brutality against Black Americans have swept through the Seattle area and across the nation in the last week.</p> <p>As demonstrators filled city blocks to decry the killing of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police, Amazon <a href="#">tweeted</a> a message of solidarity with the Black community. <a href="#">Starbucks</a> and <a href="#">Nordstrom</a> called for “courageous conversations” around race. <a href="#">Microsoft</a> pointed to its past support for criminal justice reform. “Racism has no home here,” Zillow <a href="#">tweeted</a>.</p> <p>Major companies typically shy away from staking a position on topics as divisive as racially motivated police violence.</p> <p>But across the country, protesters in the last week have repeatedly emphasized that there is no such thing as staying neutral, forcing companies that have traditionally preferred to stay silent on hot-button political issues to take a stand. During rallies in Seattle on Saturday, protesters carried signs saying “Silence is violence.”</p> <p>In some instances, companies that have denounced racial bias have been met with scorn for what some say are transparent attempts to burnish lackluster track records on race and diversity.</p> <p>“You can’t issue a statement about how you have a philosophy of everyone being equal, and then it comes out that you don’t have that policy,” said University of Washington professor Kathleen Fearn-Banks, the author of a textbook on corporate crisis communications.</p> <p>Amazon’s repudiation of “the inequitable and brutal treatment of Black people in our country” in a Sunday morning tweet rang hollow to many of the company’s detractors.</p> <p>The American Civil Liberties Union asked in reply, “Will you commit to stop selling face recognition surveillance technology that supercharges police abuse?” That tweet, by midday Monday, had 10 times as many “likes” as the original Amazon statement.</p> <p>The ACLU is among those who have criticized the company’s sale of its Rekognition technology to law-enforcement agencies, and its partnerships with them to boost sales of its Ring surveillance and home-security products.</p> <p>A shareholder proposal at Amazon’s annual meeting last week sought an “independent, third-party report ... to determine whether customers’ use of its surveillance and computer vision products or cloud-based services contributes to human-rights violations.”</p> <p>The company’s board of directors recommended a vote against the proposal, citing its own oversight and several steps taken “to review and address concerns around potential misuse of our technologies.” The proposal ultimately failed; vote tallies have not yet been disclosed. Amazon has also called for regulation of facial recognition technology.</p>

Amazon did not reply to questions about what the company was doing to “stand in solidarity with the Black community.”

Nationally, major corporations including Twitter, Netflix, Nike and Citigroup have publicly allied themselves with the Black Lives Matter movement, a loose coalition of community groups opposing violence against Black Americans by police and armed civilians. The movement grew out of demonstrations in 2013 and 2014 after the killing of Black teens Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown.

At that time, and in the following years of routine acts of violence against Black Americans, corporations were silent.

Not so now.

Historian Margaret O’Mara, who studies the tech industry at the University of Washington, said she sees the corporate response to Floyd’s death “as a departure. We haven’t ever had this demand for a corporate response and this idea that silence is violence.”

In Seattle, corporations including Nordstrom and REI began tweeting with the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag to show their support for the movement’s goals.

Still, the carefully couched corporate communiques from Seattle-based brands have tended to remain one step distant from the heart of the issues activating protesters.

Within the flurry of carefully worded news releases, tweets and blog posts, few specifically denounced the actions of law enforcement in Floyd’s death.

Starbucks held an online forum for employees centered around issues of race and protest; 2,000 of the company’s nearly 200,000 U.S. employees participated, according to a blog post.

After employees criticized outdoor retailer REI for staying silent on the issue of racism, the company posted on Instagram with the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on Sunday night. “We call on our entire community to come together with collective resolve and a commitment to respect, understanding and support,” the retailer wrote.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and wife Melinda also tweeted their support for the Black Lives Matter movement Sunday.

Nordstrom executives condemned “acts of violence” that led to “the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and too many others.” The company tweeted #BlackLivesMatter on Saturday night, sharing a video of employees talking about how they navigate racist policing.

Both Starbucks and Nordstrom faced criticism over incidents of racial bias in 2018. Nordstrom executives personally apologized to the three Black teens a clerk wrongfully accused of shoplifting from a Nordstrom Rack in St. Louis. Starbucks closed nearly 8,000 of its stores for a day of racial bias training after a barista called police on two Black men waiting for a friend in a Philadelphia store.

Using Black Lives Matter as part of corporate messaging is part of the new normal as brands seek to build a connection with consumers, said Fearn-Banks. But before corporations capitalize on its potency, they ought to clean house first, she said.

“I think that they would want to understand the origin of the slogan and who the people are before they actually adopt it,” she said.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, decrying “racism, bias and hatred,” asked employees to “join me ... in advocating for change in our company, in our communities, and in society at large.”

<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	<p>The company has made criminal justice reform part of its lobbying platform since 2018. Microsoft has helped nonprofits dig into criminal justice data and received a Justice Department grant to build an online tool meant to help Washington judges more equitably level fines and fees.</p> <p>The company also donated \$400,000 in 2019 to a state training course for law-enforcement officials, the 21st Century Police Leadership program. The three-month course aims to build trust between law enforcement and communities by fostering emotional intelligence and communication skills among police leaders.</p> <p>“That program is going to be critical as we address the issues that we are grappling with in light of the outrage over the killing of George Floyd,” said Sue Rahr, executive director of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, calling Microsoft’s support “a game-changer.” The company’s one-time donation made up roughly half the program’s 2019 budget.</p> <p>O’Mara said corporations may find it more difficult to appease demands that they support protesters if President Donald Trump follows through with threats to crack down on demonstrations with force.</p> <p>“It’s going to become more explicitly political,” O’Mara said. “It’s going to be something where you’re going to be asked to speak out against a president, against a certain wing of American politics.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Spotlight: still need for police reform</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/george-floyd-protests-spotlight-need-for-police-reform-even-in-times-of-coronavirus/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/george-floyd-protests-spotlight-need-for-police-reform-even-in-times-of-coronavirus/</a>
GIST	<p>If the events of the past week have taught us anything, it’s that now is not the time to take our foot off the gas of police accountability.</p> <p>The devastating death of George Floyd, a Black man who died after being pinned beneath the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer, has sparked widespread protests nationwide, including fiery confrontations between protesters and police in Seattle on <a href="#">Saturday night</a>.</p> <p>But while calls are growing nationwide for greater scrutiny of biased policing — particularly toward African Americans — Seattle officials are trying to go in the opposite direction. On May 7, the city and Trump’s Justice Department <a href="#">filed a joint motion</a> to ask a judge to find that the city had met its obligations under a 2012 consent decree and <a href="#">release the department</a> from remaining oversight.</p> <p>The <a href="#">consent decree</a> was put in place after a federal <a href="#">investigation</a> found a “pattern or practice of excessive force,” and required the department to address allegations of excessive force and biased policing.</p> <p>Calling the SPD a “transformed organization,” the <a href="#">joint motion</a> said the city had met its oversight obligations but also said that it was unable to fully address outstanding “accountability issues in this filing, because it is now confronting an unprecedented public-health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”</p> <p>Isn’t the midst of a pandemic — especially one that puts extraordinary stress on people experiencing homelessness and poverty, and people of color — exactly when we need more community responsiveness from the police?</p> <p>After Floyd’s death, Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best issued a <a href="#">statement</a> saying due to the department’s high level of training and commitment to de-escalation, she was confident a similar incident would not happen in Seattle. But during weekend protests, demonstrators reported that one SPD officer put his knee on a protester’s <a href="#">neck</a> (before another officer pushed it off); another <a href="#">punched a man</a> on the ground; and a third <a href="#">sprayed a young girl</a> with chemical spray. Details are still emerging, but if we’re ever to know the truth of these allegations, SPD must be fully engaged and accountable.</p>

Sadé Smith, a defense attorney and advocate based in King County, said that while the city says all the right things in public about accountability, transparency and racial justice, the promises come up empty. “What they’re doing behind closed doors is undermining the very policies that make those promises a reality.”

In response to the joint motion, the NAACP Seattle King County issued a [statement](#) May 11 opposing removal of consent decree oversight. “The City [of Seattle] has yet to address mechanisms in the police union contract that allow for officers ... to have seemingly more rights than the citizens they are sworn to protect.”

Teri Rogers Kemp is a defense attorney and co-chair of NAACP Seattle King County’s police accountability committee. She said the police department has not shown it can be answerable to the community.

“How do you trust them to do it without oversight?” she asked. “We see across the country and right here in the city and in the state, the number of Black and brown people who are overwhelmingly in danger of the use of excessive force.”

To her point, a Seattle Times [investigation](#) in 2015 found that of 213 people killed by police in Washington state from 2005 to 2014, only one officer was criminally charged with illegal use of deadly force; he was later acquitted. In fact it was the only prosecution in at least 30 years. The investigation found those killed by police were disproportionately African American, and in King County, Black people were 20% of the deaths by police while only 6.3% of the population.

Since then, voters passed Initiative 940 in 2018 to remove some barriers that made it virtually impossible to prosecute police, but there remains deep [concern](#) about how it will be implemented. Then in February, Seattle police union members overwhelmingly [elected](#) a hard-line president, who said police were “under unreasonable levels of scrutiny both locally and nationwide” and led the campaign against Initiative 940.

Kemp said [two](#) recent SPD [killings](#) are putting accountability to the test. Regardless of the circumstances, she said, “We have to, as a community, begin to reject the idea that some of us don’t deserve those same constitutional protections as others of us do. [That idea] was the entire premise of slavery.”

While Floyd’s death might have provided the spark for the events of the past week, we have been collecting the kindling and fuel for the flames for centuries. Systemic racism is woven into the fabric of our society and the rage, frustration and heartbreak we have seen are a result.

The systemic biases and conditions that lead to racial disproportionality in policing, excessive use of force and mass incarceration are not going to change overnight. They were years in the making and will take years to disassemble. And they are not going to go away with good intentions alone. To dismantle them will require vigilance, oversight, accountability, transparency and a willingness to take a hard look at some of the worst parts of ourselves and our systems. Weakening that oversight is a step in the wrong direction to get there.

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HEADLINE	06/01 Seattle council questions SPD tactics
SOURCE	<a href="https://mynorthwest.com/1907176/seattle-council-police-tear-gas-mace-protests/">https://mynorthwest.com/1907176/seattle-council-police-tear-gas-mace-protests/</a>
GIST	<p>Seattle councilmembers levied criticism against police officers at weekend protests downtown, citing reports of excessive force and inappropriately used dispersal tactics.</p> <p>“I personally witnessed the unacceptable escalation of violence by the Seattle Police Department,” Councilmember Kshama Sawant said <a href="#">in Monday’s council briefing</a>. “We have had hundreds, if not thousands of accounts from ordinary people of unacceptable conduct from the SPD.”</p>



“Seattle police officers indiscriminately used tear gas, mace, flash bang grenades, and other types of excessive use of force on the peaceful protesters,” she added.

Officers in Seattle are required by law to provide advance a verbal command to disperse before each use of extreme dispersal tactics. They must also ensure that the order is heard by everyone in the area.

Reports from Saturday’s protest appear to indicate that no such warnings were issued to people in attendance.

“In my conversations with people after the event, people confirmed for me that they were not receiving advance notice or receiving orders to disperse, which are required under city law,” said Councilmember Lisa Herbold, who said she was in attendance at Saturday’s peaceful rally at Westlake.

“In that situation, where people were standing on the street not causing harm, not assaulting officers, not harming property, in those videos that we saw, there was no dispersal warning,” Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda described, citing “multiple reports that audible warnings were not given to a diverse crowd, including children, elderly, and people with disabilities.”

Those reports included footage of a small child who was allegedly maced by police, and video of an officer kneeling on the neck of a protester.

Councilmember Mosqueda compiled a number of other videos posted by protesters on social media where officers appeared to be using excessive force, and has already sent them to the city’s civilian-run Office of Police Accountability (OPA).

The OPA has not yet made any determinations, but plans to review video footage and interview eye-witnesses in the days ahead to get a full accounting of the weekend’s events.

“Suffice it to say there is a lot of video evidence that confirms our city has work to do as it relates to properly handling interactions with members of the community, particularly at times like this,” Herbold noted.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Seattle-area protests; riots break out</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/george-floyd-protests-continue-in-seattle-area-demonstrators-expected-to-gather-for-fourth-day-to-call-for-racial-justice/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/george-floyd-protests-continue-in-seattle-area-demonstrators-expected-to-gather-for-fourth-day-to-call-for-racial-justice/</a>
GIST	<p>Protests in the Seattle area over the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died after his neck was pressed under the knee of a white police officer for several minutes, continued for a fourth day Monday, prompting mayors in Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond and Issaquah to issue city-wide curfews until Tuesday morning.</p> <p>Shopping centers and police departments around the Puget Sound area also prepared for the possibility of looting or violence. The city of Kirkland recommended that all businesses close their brick-and-mortar locations at 1 p.m., and Alderwood Mall in Lynnwood closed early.</p> <p>The protests in Seattle on Sunday had been largely peaceful, while looting was reported in surrounding towns including Bellevue, Renton and Tukwila.</p> <p>Throughout Monday, on this page, we’ll post updates from Seattle Times journalists and others on the protests in the Seattle area. Updates from Sunday can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Live updates:</b> <a href="#">12:15 am</a> <b>Seattle police issue statement on Monday night 'riot'</b></p>



Seattle police [said in a statement Monday night](#) that the department declared a riot on Capitol Hill after the crowd threw rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers and attempted to breach barricades near the east precinct.

"Hours before declaring the incident a riot, East Precinct commanders had spoken and knelt with members of the group at a barricade line near the precinct," the statement said. "As the night continued, members of the crowd threw rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers, and attempted to break through a fence line at 11th Avenue and Pine Street."

However, [videos of the officers spraying the crowd](#) and deploying flash bangs quickly spread on social media Monday night; many of those who shared them said the footage showed the police were responsible for escalating the confrontation. A police officer at the front of the crowd can be seen grabbing a protester's umbrella just before other officers deploy pepper spray into the crowd.

Officers deployed "less-lethal munitions," the department's statement said, and a line of bike officers attempted to disperse the crowd.

"While daily demonstrations continue to pose unique and dynamic challenges to the Seattle Police Department and the city, SPD remains committed to facilitating safe, lawful first-amendment demonstrations," the statement said.

SPD spokeswoman Sgt. Lauren Truscott declined an interview with the Seattle Times Monday night. Near midnight, most of the crowd had left Capitol Hill, though some demonstrators were still marching downtown and congregated near the Space Needle.

#### **NBC News correspondent hit with fireworks during live broadcast**

As the police stand-off escalated in Capitol Hill, NBC News correspondent Jo Ling Kent was hit with what MSNBC said was a firework during a live broadcast.

Kent, who was wearing a gas mask, was in the middle of reporting on the police presence when she was hit and quickly ran out of the frame.

She later tweeted that she and her team were OK. "My jacket sleeve got singed and that's it. So sorry for the curse words.. and thank you for the sweet texts, calls and tweets," [she wrote](#).

#### **Protesters regroup in Capitol Hill after facing tear gas**

Some protesters returned to Westlake Park in downtown Seattle after facing tear gas and flash-bang devices, but others stayed in Capitol Hill in a stand-off with police.

At the corner of Eleventh Avenue and Pine Street, where police deployed tear gas earlier, a group of protesters were back on their feet and closer to the police barricade around 10:15 p.m. Some in the crowd blamed police for escalating the situation.

In response to a 11 p.m. interview request with Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan or someone in her office about Monday night's events, Durkan's chief of staff, Stephanie Formas, said in a text message the police department and Chief Carmen Best were "best to discuss an ongoing law enforcement situation."

Formas said Durkan and the city's Emergency Operations Center were "closely monitoring developments across the city."

A police spokesperson didn't immediately return a request for comment.

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/george-floyd-protests-continue-in-seattle-area-demonstrators-expected-to-gather-for-fourth-day-to-call-for-racial-justice/#update-12818006">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/george-floyd-protests-continue-in-seattle-area-demonstrators-expected-to-gather-for-fourth-day-to-call-for-racial-justice/#update-12818006</a>
GIST	<p><b>Olympia protests turn more aggressive</b></p> <p>Olympia police have started using flash bang devices to clear away groups of people protesting outside City Hall, reflecting a much more aggressive night than crowds saw over the weekend.</p> <p>As protesters pressed toward the back of the Olympia Police Department, more flash bangs devices went off. Some people started backing off after police threatened them with felony assault charges, but a few began to regroup.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 King Co. to apply for modified Phase 1</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/king-county-will-apply-to-enter-a-modified-phase-1-of-coronavirus-recovery-on-monday-heres-what-that-means/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/king-county-will-apply-to-enter-a-modified-phase-1-of-coronavirus-recovery-on-monday-heres-what-that-means/</a>
GIST	<p>King County plans to apply for approval to enter into a <a href="#">modified Phase 1</a>, after Gov. Jay Inslee announced Friday he would not extend the state's COVID-19 stay-home order beyond Sunday.</p> <p>County Executive Dow Constantine announced Friday the county, in consultation with officials at Public Health — Seattle &amp; King County, will apply for approval to enter a modified Phase 1 and begin reopening <a href="#">some business activity</a> with limited or modified openings for a number of sectors.</p> <p>The application for the modified Phase 1 status was expected Monday, but on Monday afternoon, King County announced on its website <a href="#">it had not yet applied</a> and that, once the application is in, several days could pass before Washington state approves the request.</p> <p>The announcement on the county website said, “We will issue updates as we have them once the application process is underway.”</p> <p>The stay-home order, in place since March 23, expired Sunday night. So far, <a href="#">27 of the state's 39 counties are approved to enter Phase 2</a>, which allows restaurants and taverns to reopen at half-capacity with limited table sizes, hair and nail salons and barber shops to resume business, and retail stores to reopen for in-store purchases at 30% capacity. It also allows additional outdoor recreation and gatherings with no more than five people outside of a person's household.</p> <p>Under the modified Phase 1, the following activities would reopen in King County, if approved by the state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation and fitness (must be outdoor, with five or fewer people outside of your household, not including instructors)</li> <li>• Gatherings (must be outdoor, with five or fewer people outside your household)</li> <li>• Additional construction (as <a href="#">outlined in Phase 2</a>)</li> <li>• Manufacturing operations (as <a href="#">outlined in Phase 2</a>)</li> <li>• Real estate (25% of building occupancy; indoor services limited to 30 minutes)</li> <li>• In-store retail (15% of building occupancy; indoor services limited to 30 minutes)</li> <li>• Personal services (25% of building occupancy)</li> <li>• Professional services (25% of building occupancy)</li> <li>• Indoor services (limited to 30 minutes for customers)</li> <li>• Photography (as <a href="#">outlined in Phase 2</a>)</li> <li>• Pet grooming (25% of building occupancy)</li> <li>• Restaurants (no indoor dining; outdoor dining is permitted with seating at 50% of existing outdoor capacity)</li> </ul> <p>Inslee said his Friday announcement means counties will have more flexibility to demonstrate they have the capability to stay on top of the virus.</p>

	Constantine said, “Thanks to the people of King County, whose united efforts have flattened the curve and saved thousands [of] lives, we are ready to continue safely, carefully reopening our economy. Our continued vigilance against the virus can help make this a one-way journey from lockdown back to prosperity, and I’m excited that folks will soon be able to support our local businesses by doing simple things like dining at an outdoor restaurant, getting a haircut, or shopping for a summer outfit.”
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Israel plans to annex parts West Bank</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/israel-presses-ahead-with-plan-to-annex-parts-of-west-bank-11591040156?tesla=y">https://www.wsj.com/articles/israel-presses-ahead-with-plan-to-annex-parts-of-west-bank-11591040156?tesla=y</a>
GIST	<p>TEL AVIV—Israel’s government is preparing to begin annexing parts of the occupied West Bank as early as next month, ordering its military on Monday to bolster security there despite facing possible blowback from Europe and Arab states over the controversial plan.</p> <p>Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s new unity government with former rival-turned-partner Benny Gantz agreed in coalition negotiations to begin the annexation process as early as July 1. The Trump peace plan, which favored Israel on major issues and has been rejected by the Palestinians, allows Israel to annex up to 30% of the West Bank as long as the U.S. and Israel agree on a map.</p> <p>On Monday, Mr. Gantz, who heads the Defense Ministry in the new government, asked the country’s military to take steps to boost security in the occupied territory ahead of the move.</p> <p>“I instructed Chief of Staff Kochavi to accelerate the IDF’s preparations for the political measures on the agenda in the Palestinian arena, and updated him on the advancements in the political arena,” Mr. Gantz said in a tweet.</p> <p>Also on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu spoke on the phone with members of the Trump administration’s Middle East peace team, including Jared Kushner, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and envoy Avi Berkowitz. Mr. Friedman met Mr. Gantz earlier in the day.</p> <p>A senior White House official said the call was cordial and productive but declined to provide additional details.</p> <p>The order to accelerate military preparations came even as European and Arab officials urged Israel not to go ahead with the move, which they say would effectively kill any chance of an independent Palestinian state.</p> <p>Anwar Gargash, minister of state of foreign affairs for the United Arab Emirates, said on Twitter that the U.A.E. opposes any unilateral Israeli annexations, which would “undermine Palestinian self determination &amp; constitute a rejection of the international &amp; Arab consensus towards stability &amp; peace.”</p> <p>European and Arab officials said they were seeking ways to encourage Israel not to go ahead with the plan ahead of the July 1 date, in order to preserve the two-state solution they see as the only solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Diplomats said they see Washington’s decision whether to back the Israeli move as critical to whether it goes ahead. European officials have said they are considering sanctions on Israel if the country goes ahead with the plan.</p> <p>Diplomats said a recent effort to get the Palestinians and Israelis speaking again via the so-called Quartet of the U.S., Russia, the European Union and the United Nations failed when Washington rejected any talks that didn’t require the Palestinians accepting the Trump administration peace plan as a basis for discussions.</p> <p><a href="#">Annexing parts of the occupied West Bank</a> is popular with Mr. Netanyahu’s right-wing base but faces opposition from some in Israel’s security establishment as well as the Israeli left.</p>

Mr. Gantz, head of the Blue and White party, agreed in coalition negotiations with Mr. Netanyahu that he wouldn't have any veto power over the controversial move. His order to Israel's military on Monday suggested he had given some approval to the annexation plan or at least understands he will be unable to prevent it.

Mr. Gantz previously said he favors annexing parts of the West Bank only with the agreement of the international community. But he agreed not to block introducing the matter in the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

The move risks stoking unrest in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas last month announced that [the Palestinians would cease all cooperation](#) with Israel.

Recent weeks have already seen an increase in attacks by Palestinians against Israelis and Israeli security forces in the West Bank.

Israeli officials have said that some security cooperation has been curtailed since Mr. Abbas's announcement. Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said Monday that Israeli border guards have been told by Palestinian security officers not to enter Palestinian-controlled areas they have patrolled in the past.

"As a result of decisions made by the Palestinian leadership recently, border police officers were confronted by Palestinian officers and told not to go into those areas or told only to enter if there is a major incident," Mr. Rosenfeld said.

He said Israeli police continue to coordinate with their Palestinian counterparts when it comes to regular criminal activity, such as traffic violations or stolen cars.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Protests give way to organized mayhem</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/1/george-floyd-protests-give-way-organized-looting-r/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/1/george-floyd-protests-give-way-organized-looting-r/</a>
GIST	<p>Nobody knows left-wing, Antifa-style protests like the law enforcement agents of <a href="#">Portland</a>, but the mass rioting springing up in the wake of George Floyd's death is like nothing U.S. Attorney for Oregon Billy J. Williams has ever seen.</p> <p>"This is different," Mr. Williams said Monday at a press conference. "Those aren't my words; those are words coming from across the country."</p> <p>Indeed, state and local officials across the country have been left blindsided and dumbfounded by the unprecedented number of rioters, the intensity of the destruction, and the unexpectedly high level of coordination and organization.</p> <p>"It's different here in <a href="#">Portland</a>," Mr. Williams said. "At some point during each protest in individual cities, law enforcement has noticed a more organized effort as at some point during the evenings, protesters fan out and engage in the same kind of criminal conduct."</p> <p>In addition, he said, "people have been noticed in effect organizing those kinds of endeavors. And that's all I'm going to say about it."</p> <p>As the unprecedented rioting and mayhem enters its second week, federal and state authorities are becoming increasingly interested in who or what is behind the hordes of mostly young men of different races hijacking the peaceful civil rights protests to wreak havoc.</p>

Speculation has included domestic agitators such as Antifa, anarchists and white supremacists, or black-market rings such as drug cartels and organized crime, or foreign agents from China or Russia seeking to destabilize the nation before the presidential election.

The one point on which state and local officials increasingly agree is that the unrest is no longer about George Floyd, the 46-year-old black man who died on Memorial Day in Minneapolis police custody. Former Officer Derek Chauvin has been charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter in his death.

“Let’s be very clear: The situation in Minneapolis is no longer in any way about the murder of George Floyd,” Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said Saturday at a press conference. “It is about attacking civil society, instilling fear and disrupting our great cities.”

State and local officials point to a moment about two days after Mr. Floyd’s death when the demonstrations shifted from mass but peaceful protests to violent uprisings.

“It has elevated to an organized level across the United States from what we are all gathering in terms of the information,” Mr. Williams said. “It’s just different. It’s like a light switch going off at some point and similar conduct is going on throughout the United States.”

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said Saturday that the “dynamic has changed over the last several days.”

“If you look at Tuesday, it was largely peaceful protests, the vast majority from inside our city,” Mr. Frey said. “Gradually, that shift was made, and we saw more and more people coming from outside the city, we saw more and more people looking to cause violence in our communities.”

Minnesota officials said the extremists appear to be using stolen vehicles to transport incendiary devices, gasoline and other contraband. Video posted from different cities on social media shows stacks of bricks suddenly appearing in strategic locations.

“They are adapting, they are receiving information together, they are being fed by professionals in this and professional tactics in urban warfare,” Mr. Walz said. “Those types of things are happening with these people. Again, as I said, they are getting what they want. They are getting on TV.”

In the District, Metropolitan Police Chief Peter Newsham warned Monday of “antagonists” and “bad actors” whose intentions appeared “organized in nature” about peaceful protests that turned into rioting and vandalism Sunday night in the nation’s capital.

The Trump administration’s focus is clearly on Antifa, the shadowy left-wing protest group known for wearing masks and throwing milkshakes at “fascists.”

President Trump declared Sunday that the federal government would designate Antifa a domestic terrorist group, prompting pushback from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Stacy Washington, co-chair of the black conservative network Project 21, said Monday that white protesters who she believes represent the far-left group Antifa were responsible for property destruction in weekend protests.

“Expressing grievances to our elected officials in the form of protest is a time-honored tradition,” Ms. Washington said. “But what we are watching unfold across the country is a coordinated effort to destroy the rule of law and order in our communities and to gin up racial tension. In video after video, we see masked white protesters dressed all in black destroying property in black neighborhoods. And it’s blacks who are trying to stop the Antifa protesters from defacing small businesses.”

Others have raised the specter of white supremacists such as the so-called Boogaloo Bois taking advantage of the chaos to start a “race war.”

John Harrington, Minnesota Department of Public Safety commissioner, said Saturday that his department was working with local and federal agencies to figure out which groups were responsible for the devastation.

“We have seen things like white supremacist organizers who have posted things on platforms about coming to Minnesota,” Mr. Harrington said. “We are checking to see with the folks we have made arrests on, that we have information, are they connected to those platforms?”

Mr. Harrington also said he had seen “flyers about protests where folks have talked about they’re going to get their loot on tonight.”

“We’re checking to see: Are they part of organized criminal organization? And if so, what is that organization and how are they organized?” Mr. Harrington said.

National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien disagreed.

“I haven’t seen the reports on far-right groups. This is being driven by Antifa,” he said.

Could the college-age weekend radicals known for wearing masks and throwing milkshakes have organized the violent national uprising? Some are skeptical. Not Andy Ngo, the Portland journalist who has followed the anti-fascist group for years.

“Antifa are organized in multiple units,” Mr. Ngo tweeted. “Scouts monitor perimeter of an area & provide live audio/text updates. There are street medics, who are trained to get injured comrades out. And there are those who carry out violence w/weapons & firebombs. They use Signal to communicate.”

Signal is an encrypted messaging app.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Allies, enemies take shots at US over riots</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/1/britain-germany-hit-us-over-george-floyd-riots/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/1/britain-germany-hit-us-over-george-floyd-riots/</a>
GIST	<p>The <a href="#">Trump administration</a>’s struggles to get control of violent nationwide protests has sparked comment and criticism from even some of America’s staunchest allies, potentially driving a wedge between the U.S. and its partners as demonstrations spread around the globe and the U.S. seems paralyzed by an onset of crises.</p> <p>A week after <a href="#">George Floyd</a> died during a confrontation with Minnesota police, the racially charged firestorm has taken hold in all corners of the world.</p> <p>America’s main adversaries seem to be taking delight in the unrest. <a href="#">China</a> and Iran are openly mocking the U.S. and claiming that the nation’s deep-rooted racism and ineffective political system have led to an inevitable reckoning.</p> <p>Even more striking has been the criticism from friends and traditional allies. Officials in Britain and Germany took subtle swipes at American leaders Monday, and leading newspapers in Australia declared that the U.S. is “tearing itself apart” and that the American political system has failed spectacularly.</p> <p>Top British officials publicly called on the U.S. to cease all harassment of journalists trying to cover the growing protests. British photographer Adam Gray reportedly was arrested in New York City on Sunday while covering the demonstrations.</p> <p>“The reporter’s arrest and incident are very concerning. Journalists around the world must be free to do their job and hold power to account without fear of arrest or violence,” a spokesman for British Prime</p>

Minister Boris Johnson told Business Insider. “It’s the consistent position of the U.K. that journalists must be able to do their jobs without fear of arrest or violence.”

In Germany, top officials seemed to mock President Trump’s plan to declare the group Antifa as a terrorist organization. The far-left group, which considers itself “anti-fascist,” has been responsible for some of the violence across major U.S. cities in recent days, the president has said.

Germany’s center-left Social Democratic Party, a junior partner in Chancellor Angela Merkel’s governing coalition, described itself on [Twitter](#) as “157 (years old) and Antifa. Naturally.” The tweet refers to the country’s strong stand against all fascist and neo-Nazi elements in the post-World War II era.

The European Union issued a statement with language aimed at Washington that is more typically reserved for autocratic nations in the developing world.

The EU said it hoped “all the issues” related to the protests in the U.S. “will be settled swiftly and in full respect for the rule of law and human rights.”

Overseas press coverage, even in friendly capitals, has been particularly harsh.

Sydney Morning Herald political editor Peter Hartcher argued in a Monday column that the U.S. is forfeiting the moral high ground to [China](#) and other competitors because it has failed to address festering problems.

“The U.S. is tearing itself apart,” he wrote. “America’s problems are not intrinsic to liberal democracy. They are American failures. ... The U.S. today is in such a poor state because its biggest problems never get solved — they just accumulate.”

Amid such criticism, the U.S. is racing to head off other potential headaches around the world, some self-inflicted. In Zimbabwe, government officials summoned the U.S. ambassador Monday to explain comments from White House National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien a day earlier. Mr. O’Brien told ABC News on Sunday that Zimbabwe is one of several nations using social media to stoke discord in the U.S.

Officials in Zimbabwe rejected the allegation.

“We prefer having friends and allies to having unhelpful adversity with any other nation, including the USA,” said Nick Mangwana, a spokesman for the Zimbabwean government.

Meanwhile, large-scale protests in support of Mr. [Floyd](#) have erupted across Europe and even as far as New Zealand. Major demonstrations haven’t broken out in Africa, but U.S. embassies on the continent seem to be taking proactive approaches to tamp down brewing anger.

“We are deeply troubled by the death of Mr. [George Floyd](#) in Minneapolis,” the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, said in a [Twitter](#) message over the weekend. “The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) is conducting a full criminal investigation as a top priority. Law enforcement officials must be held accountable in every country.”

### **Taking advantage**

For America’s chief adversaries, the increasingly violent protests have offered a golden opportunity to twist a knife into the U.S. at its most vulnerable moment.

No country has been more overt in its attacks than [China](#), which seems to view the volatile situation as a chance to exact payback after the White House pinned much of the blame on Beijing for the global COVID-19 pandemic and has launched a global campaign criticizing Beijing’s crackdown on pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong.



State-sponsored media outlets in [China](#) have piled on in recent days and alleged that Mr. [Floyd](#)'s death and the subsequent chaos should prove that Washington is wrong to view Beijing as the enemy and should instead look within.

"In pursuing an all-embracing vilification of [China](#), the White House and its supporters are deceiving the public as to not only what America's true problems are, but what they always have been — that is that the United States is a deeply unequal and divided country with staggering levels of wealth inequality, structural racism and underwhelming poverty unprecedented within the developed world," reads a piece published Monday by the China Global Television Network. "The violent unrest stemming from Floyd's killing is a marked demonstration of these issues, illustrating the frustration and despair felt by many in the country."

Top administration officials sought to keep the focus on [China](#)'s human rights abuses, including its harsh crackdowns in Hong Kong.

"These are the kinds of actions that authoritarian regimes take, and they have a real impact not only on the Chinese people there in [China](#) and Hong Kongers in Hong Kong, but a real impact on people all around the world," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on a podcast hosted by the American Enterprise Institute. "And the United States has a responsibility and the capability to push back against that, ensure that the American people are properly served by a foreign policy that recognizes the threats that emanate from [China](#) today."

Chinese officials have also gleefully pointed to what they say are contradictions in Washington's lectures on tolerating protests in Hong Kong while trying to control unruly crowds in the U.S.

On Chinese social media sites, the phrase "Bunker Boy" was trending. It was a mocking reference to Mr. Trump's refusal to meet with demonstrators outside the White House after the [administration](#) urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to talk personally with Hong Kong's protesters.

Mr. Pompeo has had to directly confront other American adversaries seeking to capitalize on the problems gripping the U.S.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, a frequent thorn in the side of the [administration](#) who routinely blasts Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Trump on social media, took to [Twitter](#) over the weekend to accuse the U.S. of oppressing minorities.

"Some don't think #BlackLivesMatter," he tweeted. "To those of us who do: it is long overdue for the entire world to wage war against racism. Time for a #WorldAgainstRacism."

U.S. leaders also have targeted Russia for promoting violence and unrest. Former White House National Security Adviser Susan E. Rice said Sunday that foreign actors are pushing violence and that the incendiary rhetoric across social media is "right out of the Russian playbook."

The accusations led to a harsh response from Moscow. Officials echoed their Chinese and Iranian counterparts in claiming the U.S. is ignoring its own problems.

"The United States has certainly accumulated systemic human rights problems: race, ethnic and religious discrimination, police brutality, bias of justice, crowded prisons, and uncontrolled use of firearms and self-defense weapons by individuals, to name a few," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We are urging the U.S. authorities to take effective measures to improve the current state of affairs" and honor international commitments.

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/business/economy/black-workers-inequality-economic-risks.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=Business">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/business/economy/black-workers-inequality-economic-risks.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=Business</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — The coronavirus recession has hit black Americans particularly hard, amplifying racial inequalities that may worsen as the economy begins what is expected to be a slow climb back to where it was before the crisis.</p> <p>Black Americans have been slightly more likely to lose jobs or income in the recession that took root as states locked down their economies. They are more worried about the financial toll from the virus than white Americans and have far fewer resources available to ride it out, given that they earn less money and have had less ability to build wealth. And they are dying at higher rates from the virus than whites.</p> <p>Unemployment rates for black workers had dipped to an all-time low just before the pandemic, a piece of good news that the Federal Reserve had latched onto as a sign that a strong economy was generating broadly shared gains. The pandemic has swiftly ended that era.</p> <p>As the prospects for a rapid recovery dwindle and Americans face what could be a prolonged stretch of high unemployment and suppressed income growth, black households are confronting the prospect of a widening economic chasm.</p> <p>Workers across racial and ethnic groups have seen unemployment shoot higher amid state and local lockdowns in the pandemic, but many black workers fall into two fraught categories: They are either essential workers on the front lines, exposed to the virus, or they have lost their jobs. Black workers make up 11.9 percent of all employees but 17 percent of front-line workers, one <a href="#">study found</a>.</p> <p>“We need to recognize that unless we are OK with black and brown families always bearing the burden of these sorts of things, we need to address the underlying disparities,” said Valerie Wilson, an economist at the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute.</p> <p><b>Minority Unemployment Is Consistently Higher</b></p> <p>The jobless rate — the share of adults actively applying for jobs — is historically about twice as high for black people as for white people amid even the best economic conditions.</p> <p>Many factors contribute to that divide, including racial discrimination and access to educational opportunities. Studies have <a href="#">consistently found evidence</a> of discrimination against black job applicants. Companies are more likely to call back candidates with white-sounding names on their résumés, for instance. Black workers have <a href="#">lower education</a> rates, a fact that is itself the outgrowth of long-running opportunity disparities, and people with less schooling are less likely to be employed.</p> <p>While job losses tied to the economic shutdown have spared no racial or ethnic group, there are reasons to worry that black and other minority workers could suffer disproportionately as companies call back some — but not all — furloughed employees.</p> <p><b>Less Than Half of Black Adults Now Have a Job</b></p> <p>Black workers suffer from what some economists call a “<a href="#">first fired, last hired</a>” phenomenon: They lose work early, and their unemployment rate continues to rise even as the labor market for white workers begins to heal. That can have lasting effects, because workers who get stuck on the labor market’s sidelines can see their skills become outdated, making it harder for them to get back into decently paying jobs.</p> <p>“Based on prior experience, I would expect that we won’t see the recovery look as even as the job losses have been,” Ms. Wilson said, explaining that while much of America has been furloughed, minority job losses may be more likely to turn permanent.</p> <p><b>Black Workers Make Far Less Money</b></p> <p>Black workers consistently earn less than white workers. That is partly because they are more heavily concentrated in jobs in low-paying service industries. But it is also true that black Americans earn less at</p>

every education level than comparable whites, and that black workers [continue to be underrepresented](#) in corporate board rooms and the highest-paying occupations in the country, including surgeons, dentists and computer and information systems managers.

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco research has found that the pay gap between black and white workers is increasingly the result of biases that are tough to capture in data.

“Factors that are harder to measure — such as discrimination, differences in school quality or differences in career opportunities — are likely to be playing a role,” Mary C. Daly, the president of the San Francisco Fed, and her co-authors [wrote](#) in a 2017 analysis.

### **Low Wages Mean a Thin Wealth Cushion**

In part because they make less, black workers accumulate less wealth over time. The end result is that they have less money in their bank accounts to make it through extended economic weakness, as the United States could face in recovering from the pandemic. The typical black household has one-tenth the wealth of a typical white household, according to Federal Reserve data.

The last several decades have done relatively little to deliver wealth gains to black workers. In 1983, according to calculations by the New York University economist Edward N. Wolff, the median black household had a net worth that was the equivalent to about three months of its income — which is to say, if a black household sold everything it owned, it could replace its income for three months. In 2016, median black net worth was equal to about six months of median black income.

Over the same time period, the median white household saw its wealth rise from about two years’ worth of income to about three years’ worth.

As a result, black households were about twice as likely as white households to say they would have trouble covering their bills if hit by an unexpected \$400 expense in 2019, a recent Fed [survey found](#).

As part of their lower wealth share, black families are far less likely to own their homes. (And the homes they do own [are often worth less](#), because of discrimination, than comparable homes in similar white neighborhoods.)

While the 2007 to 2009 downturn was painful for families who saw their housing values drop, leaving them underwater on mortgages, this period of weakness might disproportionately hit renters. The group was already [grappling with low affordability](#), and could be at [risk of falling behind](#) on payments should expanded unemployment benefits and a one-time stimulus payment run out before jobs, hours and wages snap back.

### **Black Americans Have the Lowest Home Ownership of Any Group**

The government’s one-time \$1,200 checks for qualifying households and \$600 in additional weekly unemployment benefits have either supplemented or more than made up for missing wages for many American households. But the supplement to state unemployment payments is set to expire July 31, and many economists warn that the financial Band-Aid will be insufficient to get workers through a slow slog back to fuller employment.

Even the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office [expects](#) the [weak labor market](#) to last for years. The concern is that the shadow of the pandemic will be more economically damaging for the same workers who are least able to handle that financial stress — and often, those people are black or from other minority groups.

“Unemployment has tended to go up much faster for minorities, and for others who tend to be at the low end of the income spectrum,” Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair, said at a [news conference](#) in late April.

“Everyone is suffering here. But I think those who are least able to bear it are the ones who are losing their jobs, and losing their incomes and have little cushion to protect them in times like that.”

HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Global anger grows over Floyd's death</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/world/asia/george-floyd-protest-global.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=World%20News">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/world/asia/george-floyd-protest-global.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=World%20News</a>
GIST	<p><a href="#">Mass protests</a> over the police killing of another black man in the United States spread globally in the past few days, as many demonstrators not only expressed solidarity with their American counterparts but denounced racism in their own countries.</p> <p>Some critics, notably in China and Iran, used the killing to deflect from their own problems, saying it showed what they called the hypocrisy and arrogance of an increasingly isolated Trump administration.</p> <p>The criticism thundered from the streets of Berlin, London, Paris and Vancouver, British Columbia, to capitals in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Artists drew an anti-racism mural in a besieged part of Syria. Lebanese and Chilean protesters offered advice on protection from police abuse.</p> <p>The catalyst for the worldwide outpouring, George Floyd, 46, <a href="#">died last week</a> after he was handcuffed and pinned to the ground by a white Minneapolis police officer, who has <a href="#">been charged with murder</a>.</p> <p>In London, thousands of demonstrators ringed the moated United States Embassy in defiance of stay-at-home coronavirus restrictions and chanted Mr. Floyd's name, "I can't breathe" and "No justice, no peace," before making their way to Grenfell Tower, site of a devastating fire in 2017 that killed many Arab, Muslim and African residents.</p> <p>On a memorial at the base of the tower, a protester wrote, "Black Lives Matter."</p> <p>In Toronto, calls to end American racism merged with outrage at the recent death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, 29, a black woman who the police said fell from her balcony after officers arrived at her home in response to what the city's police chief called a "rather frantic" call about an assault.</p> <p>And in Paris, among those calling for protests was the family of Adama Traoré, a 24-year-old black man who died in custody in 2016 after having been tackled by the police. La Vérité Pour Adama, or "the truth for Adama," an advocacy group led by Mr. Traoré's sister, Assa, said Mr. Floyd's death was a chilling reminder.</p> <p>"How can one not think of Adama's terrible suffering when he had three police officers on him and he was repeating, 'I can't breathe'," the group <a href="#">wrote on Facebook</a> last week. "His name was George Floyd, who just like Adama died because they were black."</p> <p>The widespread condemnation partly reflected what critics called the erosion of America's moral authority. President Trump already faces criticism for a response to the coronavirus pandemic that has led the United States to <a href="#">relinquish its longtime role as a leader</a> in times of crisis.</p> <p>With Mr. Floyd's death inciting protests in <a href="#">at least 140 American cities</a>, images of street fights between police officers and protesters have spread swiftly across the world, drawing furious comments and calls for action.</p> <p>Just as American demonstrators have protested the <a href="#">disproportionate toll of the coronavirus</a> on black and immigrant neighborhoods, so, too, have activists around the world taken note of the gaping inequities laid bare by the pandemic. In England and Wales, for example, black people are <a href="#">twice as likely to die from the virus</a> as white people.</p> <p>In Berlin, thousands of demonstrators protested peacefully outside the U.S. Embassy on Saturday, some carrying signs that read, "Stop Killing Us." Three players in Germany's top soccer league — the English</p>

forward [Jadon Sancho](#); the French striker [Marcus Thuram](#); and the American midfielder [Weston McKennie](#) — made gestures of support for Mr. Floyd during weekend matches.

In downtown Montreal, a protest on Sunday turned violent after the police deemed it illegal. Clutches of protesters responded by throwing projectiles at the police, who used tear gas and pepper spray.

In Syria's northwestern Idlib province, the target of a monthslong offensive by the Syrian government to crush opposition forces, [two artists painted a mural](#) on a ruined building that read "I Can't Breathe" and "No to Racism."

In China, where officials have been infuriated by Mr. Trump's criticism of how they handled the coronavirus outbreak, the state-run news media featured reports about Mr. Floyd's death and portrayed the protests as another sign of America's decline. "BunkerBoy" became a trending topic after reports that Secret Service agents rushed Mr. Trump to a bunker on Friday night as hundreds of protesters converged outside the White House.

"Beijing could not have hoped for a better gift," said Pierre Haski, a noted French journalist commenting Monday on France Inter. "The country that designates China as the culprit of all evils is making headlines around the world with the urban riots."

When an American official on Saturday attacked the ruling Communist Party on Twitter for moves to quash dissent in Hong Kong, a spokeswoman for the Chinese government fired back with a popular refrain among protesters in the United States.

"I can't breathe," the spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, wrote on Twitter.

In Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister, posted a doctored screenshot of a 2018 statement by American officials condemning Iran for corruption and injustice. In his version, references to Iran were replaced with America.

"Some don't think #BlackLivesMatter," Mr. Zarif wrote on Twitter.

The head of the Addis Ababa-based African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said in a [statement](#) on Friday that Mr. Floyd's death was a murder, and criticized the "continuing discriminatory practices against Black citizens of the United States of America."

Gilles Paris, Le Monde's correspondent in Washington, [wrote on Sunday](#) that Mr. Trump was facing a "deadly spring" mix of Covid-19, record unemployment and the "resurgence of America's racial demons."

The European Union said on Monday that it hoped "all the issues" related to the protests in the U.S. "will be settled swiftly and in full respect for the rule of law and human rights." Such language is usually used for violent breakdowns in nations with few democratic or human rights safeguards.

The unrest also prompted advice to American demonstrators on how to keep the movement alive. In Lebanon, a group compiled a document titled "From Beirut to Minneapolis: A Protest Guide in Solidarity" as a way to track state abuses. In Chile, the activist Danae Pradenas, [writing on Twitter](#), cautioned demonstrators in the United States to protect their eyes from police rubber bullets.

[Hundreds of Chilean protesters were injured or blinded](#) by the bullets while protesting inequality last October. [An image](#) of the Chilean flag with the message "I can't see" and the United States flag with "I can't breathe" is circulating on social media.

The leftist legislator Gabriel Boric compared racism in the United States and in Chile against immigrants and Indigenous peoples on his [Twitter feed](#), writing, "We are all George Floyd." In Australia, the hashtag #aboriginallivesmatter was trending on Twitter on Monday.



	<p>The images of unrest in the United States have reignited debate about Australia's own troubles with police brutality. Some noted that more than 400 Indigenous Australians had died in police custody since 1991, without a single police officer convicted of abuse.</p> <p>The relatives of David Dungay, an Aboriginal man who said "I can't breathe" 12 times before he died while being restrained by prison guards in 2015, said <a href="#">they had been traumatized</a> by footage of Mr. Floyd's death, prompting them to call for another investigation into Mr. Dungay's death.</p> <p>Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday that while the video of Mr. Floyd's death was shocking, Australians should not emulate the destructive response seen in some American cities.</p> <p>Mr. Morrison told a conservative radio station on Monday morning: "I saw a good meme on the weekend. Martin Luther King didn't change anything by burning anything down or by looting any shops."</p> <p>To which many Australians quickly responded: You don't understand Dr. King.</p> <p>"What is with all these white people quoting MLK who've not read anything of King's beyond a meme or seen anything beyond a 30-second YouTube clip of 'I Have a Dream,'" Benjamin Law, an Asian-Australian writer and essayist, <a href="#">said on Twitter</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Retailers battered by virus face protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/business/stores-protests-damage.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/business/stores-protests-damage.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage</a>
GIST	<p>People smashed the front doors of a Walmart in Peoria, Ill. They ransacked an Apple store in Philadelphia and broke the windows at Nordstrom's flagship in Seattle, its hometown, while throwing merchandise into the crowds outside.</p> <p>The outbreak of protests and riots during the weekend roiled retailers of all stripes, adding new stress to an industry that has already <a href="#">been upended</a> by the coronavirus pandemic. But even as major chains boarded up stores and halted operations, they largely sought to convey empathy for protesters following the death of a black man, <a href="#">George Floyd</a>, while in police custody, and did not condemn the damage to their businesses. Many large retailers would not discuss the extent of the damage or how many stores they had to close because of the unrest.</p> <p>"The events of this weekend are one more painful reminder that injustice remains in our world," Nordstrom said on its <a href="#">website</a> on Monday. "We can fix the damage to our stores. Windows and merchandise can be replaced. We continue to believe as strongly as ever that tremendous change is needed to address the issues facing Black people in our country today."</p> <p>Walmart's chief executive, Doug McMillon, said in a memo to employees: "We must remain vigilant in standing together against racism and discrimination. Doing so is not only at the heart of the values of our company, it's at the core of the most basic principles of human rights, dignity and justice."</p> <p>Target, which is based in Minneapolis, where Mr. Floyd was killed, said over the weekend that about 200 stores would close or have shorter hours as a result of protests and looting. On Monday, the chain said that it was no longer sharing the number of affected stores "as the situation remains incredibly dynamic," and emphasized its commitment to rebuilding and reopening damaged locations while supporting the Minneapolis and St. Paul communities.</p> <p>CVS said that more than 250 locations across 21 states faced varying levels of damage from protest activity and that 60 stores remained closed while repairs were made. Adidas, which also sells the Reebok brand, said that after some stores were damaged during protests, it decided to close all its retail stores in the United States "until further notice." Nike and Apple also closed some stores.</p>

Companies across the business spectrum issued public statements of support for the protesters. [Netflix](#) wrote that “to be silent is to be complicit. Black lives matter.” [Amazon](#) said starkly that “the brutal and inequitable treatment of Black people in our country must stop.” WarnerMedia brands including HBO [changed their Twitter descriptions](#) to “#BlackLivesMatter.” And the influential trade group of corporate America, the [Business Roundtable](#), said its members “share the anger and pain felt by so many Americans at the recent killings of unarmed black men and women.”

Denise Moore, a member of the City Council in Peoria, Ill., said there seemed to be no obvious pattern for [which stores were targeted and damaged](#). A laundromat, a shoe store that sold largely orthopedic shoes and a Walmart — all had their windows smashed.

Ms. Moore, who is the first African-American woman elected to the Peoria City Council and represents a district with a large minority population, said she found the professions of empathy from large retailers like Walmart to ring hollow.

“It would be better for Walmart to respect their workers and pay them a livable wage,” Ms. Moore said on Monday. “They take so much from this community.”

A Walmart spokesman said total compensation and benefits for full- and part-time store employees averaged to more than \$18 an hour.

The Walmart in Peoria was one of several dozen that were damaged over the weekend. Social media and local news reports showed images of looting at dozens of Walmart stores from California to Massachusetts, and many locations had to close temporarily because of the unrest.

In a statement, the Walmart spokesman said the company was “monitoring this situation closely as it develops and will continue closing stores in select markets as a safety precaution for our customers and associates.”

The retailer said it would continue to pay workers while the stores remained closed.

Target and Gap, which also owns Old Navy, Athleta, Intermix and Banana Republic, also said that they would pay employees for scheduled shifts at closed stores and potentially redeploy workers to other locations.

Still, the damage comes just as retailers, especially those that sell clothing and other nonessential items, were beginning [to open up](#) after they were forced to shutter in March to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Many luxury retailers had already [boarded up their stores](#) in March as the pandemic took hold. And retailers like Nordstrom had their sales [plummet](#) 40 percent in the first quarter.

“We’re all crossing our fingers that this period will be a short one,” said Matthew W. Lazenby, chief executive of Whitman Family Development, which manages the high-end Bal Harbour Shops outside Miami.

“This pandemic has hit retail hard and of course, just as a lot of these stores are starting to try to bounce back, the civil unrest that spread this weekend has forced a lot of stores to close,” Mr. Lazenby said. “People are already nervous and already have some trepidation around the public health risk so this on top of that doesn’t make it any better.”

Even though the shopping center is miles from the site of protests in downtown Miami and in Fort Lauderdale, a handful of retailers, including Tiffany, Moncler, Saks Fifth Avenue and Intermix, which is owned by Gap, erected barricades in front of their stores on Sunday, Mr. Lazenby said. The stores took the step as Miami-Dade County [announced](#) a curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Sunday, he said, adding that the center had just reopened on May 18.



Even for retailers that were deemed essential and allowed to remain open during the pandemic, the looting has created another challenge that will mostly be borne by the companies' already beleaguered work force. Retailers like Walmart have been paying bonuses to their employees who have faced the daily risk of contracting the virus at work. But now those workers are confronting an additional threat of mayhem in their stores. Employees who were set to return to work at other retailers after being furloughed are being delayed as stores close to repair damage from the looting.

"When these stores have to close, that is putting more low-income people out of work and that is not any good," said Ms. Moore.

The National Retail Federation, an industry trade group, sought to address the looting but blamed it on "the actions of a few," in a Monday statement that largely focused on the reality of racial injustice in the country and peaceful protests.

"Defacing, looting and plundering businesses, whether viewed as a direct outgrowth of fury or an opportunistic act of vandalism and theft, impedes progress and healing," said Matthew Shay, the group's president. "We urge people to stop looting and destruction under the name of protest."

But some retailers were not willing to denounce the looting given the societal issues that unleashed it.

Marc Jacobs, the designer who had at least one of his stores damaged during the protests, declared [on Instagram](#), "NEVER let them convince you that broken glass or property is violence." Racism, white supremacy and poverty were violence, he wrote. He emphasized that while "property can be replaced, human lives CANNOT."

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HEADLINE	06/01 Misinformation on protests surges online
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/technology/george-floyd-misinformation-online.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/technology/george-floyd-misinformation-online.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage</a>
GIST	<p>On Twitter and Facebook, hundreds of posts are circulating saying that George Floyd is not actually dead. Conspiracy theorists are baselessly arguing that George Soros, the billionaire investor and Democratic donor, is funding the <a href="#">spreading protests</a> against police brutality.</p> <p>And conservative commentators are asserting with little evidence that <a href="#">antifa, the far-left antifascism activist movement</a>, coordinated the riots and looting that sprang from the protests.</p> <p>Untruths, conspiracy theories and other false information are running rampant online as the furor over Mr. Floyd, an African-American man who <a href="#">was killed last week in police custody</a> in Minneapolis, has built. The misinformation has surged as the protests have dominated conversation, far outpacing the volume of online posts and media mentions about last year's <a href="#">protests in Hong Kong</a> and <a href="#">Yellow Vest movement</a> in France, according to the media insights company Signal Labs.</p> <p>At its peak on Friday, Mr. Floyd and the protests around his death were mentioned 8.8 million times, said Signal Labs, which analyzed global television broadcasts and social media. In contrast, news of the Hong Kong protests reached 1.5 million mentions a day and the Yellow Vest movement 941,000.</p> <p>"The combination of evolving events, sustained attention and, most of all, deep existing divisions make this moment a perfect storm for disinformation," said Graham Brookie, director of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab. "All of it is toxic, and make our very real challenges and divisions harder to address."</p> <p>The collision of racial tensions and political polarization during <a href="#">the coronavirus pandemic</a> has supersized the misinformation, researchers said. Much of it is being shared by the conspiracy group QAnon and far-right commentators as well as by those on the left, Mr. Brookie said.</p>

President Trump himself has stoked the divisive information. Over the past few days, he posted on Twitter that [antifa was a “Terrorist Organization”](#) and urged the public to [show up for a “MAGA Night”](#) counterprotest at the White House.

Along with that, people are experiencing high levels of fear, uncertainty and anger, said Claire Wardle, executive director of First Draft, an organization that fights online disinformation. That creates “the worst possible context for a healthy information environment,” she said.

Twitter and Facebook did not immediately have a comment.

Here are three significant categories of falsehoods that have surfaced on social media platforms about Mr. Floyd’s death and the protests.

### **George Floyd’s ‘Fake’ Death**

The unfounded rumor that Mr. Floyd is alive is emblematic of the misinformation narrative that a newsworthy event was staged. This has become an increasingly common refrain over the years, with conspiracy theorists saying, among other examples, that the 1969 moon landing and the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School were hoaxes.

On Friday, the YouTube conspiracy channel JonXArmy shared a 22-minute video that falsely asserted Mr. Floyd’s death had been faked. The video was shared nearly 100 times on Facebook, mostly in groups [run by QAnon](#), reaching 1.3 million people, according to data from CrowdTangle, a tool that analyzes interactions across social media.

Jon Miller, who runs the JonXArmy channel, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. YouTube said on its site that it had removed the video, citing its policy on hate speech.

On Twitter, posts stating that “George Floyd is not dead” were also tweeted hundreds of times over the past week, with the phrase peaking at 15 mentions in a 10-minute span on Monday morning, according to Dataminr, a social media monitoring service.

In thousands of other posts on Facebook and Twitter, people falsely stated that Derek Chauvin, the Minnesota police officer who was [charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter](#) in Mr. Floyd’s death, was an actor and that the entire incident had been faked by the deep state.

### **The George Soros Conspiracy**

The false idea that Mr. Soros funded the protests spiked on social media over the past week, showing how new events can resurrect old conspiracy theories. Mr. Soros has for years been cast as an [anticonservative villain by a loose network of activists and political figures on the right](#) and has become a convenient boogeyman for all manner of ills.

On Twitter, Mr. Soros was mentioned in 34,000 tweets in connection with Mr. Floyd’s death over the past week, according to Dataminr. Over 90 videos in five languages mentioning Soros conspiracies were also posted to YouTube over the past seven days, according to an analysis by The New York Times.

On Facebook, 72,000 posts mentioned Mr. Soros in the past week, up from 12,600 the week before, according to The Times’s analysis. Of the 10 most engaged posts about Mr. Soros on the social network, nine featured false conspiracies linking him to the unrest. They were collectively shared over 110,000 times.

Two of the top Facebook posts sharing Soros conspiracies were from Texas’ agriculture commissioner, [Sid Miller](#), an outspoken supporter of Mr. Trump.

“I have no doubt in my mind that George Soros is funding these so-called ‘spontaneous’ protests,” Mr. Miller wrote in one of the posts. “Soros is pure evil and is hell-bent on destroying our country!”

Mr. Miller did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Farshad Shadloo, a YouTube spokesman, said that the Soros conspiracy videos did not violate the company's guidelines but that the site wasn't recommending them.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Soros said, "We deplore the false notion that the people taking to the streets to express their anguish are paid, by George Soros or anyone else."

### **Antifa Misinformation**

The unsubstantiated theory that antifa activists are responsible for the riots and looting was the biggest piece of protest misinformation tracked by Zignal Labs, which looked at certain categories of falsehoods. Of 873,000 pieces of misinformation linked to the protests, 575,800 were mentions of antifa, Zignal Labs said.

The antifa narrative gained traction because "long-established networks of hyperpartisan social media influencers now work together like a well-oiled machine," said Erin Gallagher, a social media researcher. That began when Mr. Trump tweeted on Sunday that "ANTIFA led anarchists" and "Radical Left Anarchists" were to blame for the unrest, without providing specifics. Then he called antifa "a Terrorist Organization."

Dan Bongino, a conservative political commentator who has unsuccessfully run for a House seat several times, then took up the call. On the "Fox and Friends" television show on Monday, Mr. Bongino said antifa activists were responsible for a "sophisticated" attack on the White House and called it an "insurrection."

He did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Those assertions soon spread around social media. More than 6,000 Facebook posts linking the antifa movement to the protests appeared in the last seven days, collecting over 1.3 million likes and shares, according to The Times's analysis.

And on Twitter, a fake "manual" specifying "riot orders" that was supposedly issued by Democrats directing antifa activists to stir up trouble circulated prominently. But the so-called manual was a resurrection of an old hoax linked to the April 2015 riots in Baltimore over the death of Freddie Gray in police custody, the fact-checking website [Snopes reported](#).

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HEADLINE	06/01 CBO: virus could cost economy \$7.9T
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/world/coronavirus-world-news.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-51920afd">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/world/coronavirus-world-news.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-51920afd</a>
GIST	<p>The Congressional Budget Office projected on Monday that the pandemic would inflict a devastating long-term blow on the United States economy, costing \$7.9 trillion over the next decade.</p> <p>Without adjusting for inflation, the agency said, the pandemic would cost \$16 trillion over the next 10 years. The estimates were an official tally of the damage from the crisis, reflecting expectations of dampened consumer spending and business investment in the years to come. Much of the diminished output was projected to be a result of weaker inflation, as prices for energy and transportation are expected to increase more slowly than they otherwise would have as Americans pull back on travel.</p> <p>Phillip L. Swagel, the director of the budget office, cautioned that "an unusually high degree of uncertainty surrounds these economic projections," because it remained unknown how the pandemic would unfold during the remainder of the year, or how social distancing and any future relief measures enacted by the federal government might affect its impact.</p>

	<p>Around the world, developing countries, from Angola to Ecuador to Zambia, have also seen their finances shredded by the pandemic.</p> <p>The low interest rates of the last decade allowed poor countries to raise money relatively cheaply to finance their growth. As a result, <a href="#">developing countries now owe record amounts</a> of money to investors, governments and others outside their borders: \$2.1 trillion for countries ranked as “low income” and “lower-middle income” by the World Bank.</p> <p>The president of Tanzania has called on “our rich brothers” to cancel his country’s debt. Belarus veered toward a default when a promised \$600 million loan from Russia fell through. Lebanon, troubled even before the pandemic, has embarked on its first debt restructuring. And Argentina has defaulted for the ninth time in its history.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Report critical of China’s flight patterns</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/world/coronavirus-world-news.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-39f56d80">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/world/coronavirus-world-news.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-39f56d80</a>
GIST	<p>China said on Tuesday that Wuhan, the city where the pandemic began, had reported no new symptomatic or asymptomatic infections on Monday for the second straight day. Sunday was the first day that both tallies were zero since the city’s outbreak began.</p> <p>Separately, the European Chamber of Commerce in China issued a report decrying the rapid proliferation in recent years of long-haul international flights to and from second-tier and third-tier Chinese cities. That includes Wuhan, where <a href="#">19 flights left the city</a> in January alone carrying about 4,000 travelers to New York or San Francisco, according to VariFlight, an aviation data company based in China.</p> <p>The pandemic has resulted in the temporary suspension of almost all of these services, according to the chamber, which focused its analysis on flights last year and prepared most of its report before the pandemic began. Philippe Bardol, the chairman of the chamber’s aviation and aerospace working group, declined to discuss Wuhan specifically.</p> <p><a href="#">A New York Times analysis</a> in March found that international flights from Wuhan and other Chinese cities continued as normal through much of January, even as the outbreak moved across the country. Thousands of people flew out of Wuhan to New York, Sydney, Bangkok and other cities. (Bangkok is where the first known overseas case appeared in mid-January, in a 61-year-old woman who had traveled from Wuhan despite having a fever, headache and a sore throat.)</p> <p>The pandemic has <a href="#">brought new attention</a> to the steep rise in recent years of nonstop flights to the United States from an ever-lengthening list of cities.</p> <p>Rapid growth in long-haul flights from second-tier and third-tier Chinese cities before the pandemic meant that people who used to change planes in Beijing or Shanghai could fly straight from Europe into smaller cities instead. Mr. Bardol said that eroded the number of passengers and profitability for European carriers on their routes from Europe to Beijing or Shanghai.</p> <p>Smaller Chinese carriers tend to be headquartered in second-tier or third-tier cities, which often own stakes in the carriers as well and subsidize their new international flights. Before the pandemic hit, these cities wanted more international flights so as to increase tourism and make themselves more viable candidates when big companies chose where to locate their offices.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Known, unknown about coronavirus</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-facts-history.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage">https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-facts-history.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage</a>
GIST	<p>We don't really know when the novel coronavirus first began infecting people. But as we turn a page on our calendars into June, it is fair to say that Sars-Cov-2 has been with us now for a full six months.</p> <p>At first, it had no name or true identity. Early in January, news reports referred to <a href="#">strange and threatening symptoms that had sickened dozens of people in a large Chinese city</a> with which many people in the world were probably not familiar. After half a year, that large metropolis, Wuhan, is well-known, as is the coronavirus and the illness it causes, Covid-19.</p> <p>In that time, many reporters and editors on the health and science desk at The New York Times have shifted our journalistic focus as we have sought to tell the story of the coronavirus pandemic. While <a href="#">much remains unknown and mysterious</a> after six months, there are some things we're pretty sure of. These are some of those insights.</p> <p><b>Here are some things we think we know about coronavirus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">We'll have to live with this for a long time.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">You should be wearing a mask.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">American public health infrastructure needs an update.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Responding to the virus is extraordinarily expensive.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">We have a long way to go to fix virus testing.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">We can't count on herd immunity to keep us healthy.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The virus produces more symptoms than expected.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">We can worry a bit less about infection from surfaces.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">We can also worry less about a mutating virus.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">We can't count on warm weather to defeat the virus.</a></li> </ul> <p><b>WHAT WE STILL DON'T KNOW</b></p> <p><i>These are <a href="#">six of the enduring mysteries of the coronavirus pandemic</a>.</i></p> <p><b>We'll have to live with this for a long time.</b></p> <p>Summer is almost here, states are reopening and new coronavirus cases are declining or, at least, holding steady in many parts of the United States. At <a href="#">least 100 scientific teams</a> around the world are racing to develop a vaccine.</p> <p>That's about it for the good news.</p> <p>The virus has shown no sign of going away: We will be in this pandemic era for the long haul, likely a year or more. The masks, the social distancing, the fretful hand-washing, the aching withdrawal from friends and family — those steps are still the best hope of staying well, and will be for some time to come.</p> <p>"This virus just may become another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away," Dr. Mike Ryan, the executive director of the World Health Organization's health emergencies program, warned last month. Some scientists think that the longer we live with the virus, <a href="#">the milder its effects will become</a>, but that remains to be seen.</p> <p>Predictions that millions of doses of a vaccine may be available by the end of this year may be too rosy. No vaccine has ever been created that fast.</p> <p>The disease would be less frightening if there were a treatment that could cure it or, at least, prevent severe illness. But there is not. Remdesivir, the eagerly awaited antiviral drug? "Modest" benefit is the highest mark experts give it.</p> <p>Which brings us back to masks and social distancing, which have come to feel quite antisocial. If only we could go back to life the way it used to be.</p>

We cannot. Not yet. There are just enough wild cards with this disease — perfectly healthy adults and children who inexplicably become very, very sick — that no one can afford to be cavalier about catching it. About [35 percent of infected people have no symptoms](#) at all, so if they are out and about, they could unknowingly infect other people.

Enormous questions loom. Can workplaces be made safe? What about trains, subways, airplanes, school buses? How many people can work from home? When would it be safe to reopen schools? How do you get a 6-year-old with the attention span of a squirrel to socially distance?

The bottom line: Wear a mask, keep your distance. When the time comes in the fall, get a flu shot, to protect yourself from one respiratory disease you can avoid and to help keep emergency rooms and urgent care from being overwhelmed. Hope for a treatment, a cure, a vaccine. Be patient. We have to pace ourselves. If there's such a thing as a disease marathon, this is it.

#### **You should be wearing a mask.**

The debate over whether Americans should wear face masks to control coronavirus transmission has been settled. Although public health authorities gave confusing and often contradictory advice in the early months of the pandemic, most experts now agree that if everyone wears a mask, individuals protect one another.

Researchers know that even simple masks can effectively stop droplets spewing from an infected wearer's nose or mouth. In a [study published in April in Nature](#), scientists showed that when people who are infected with influenza, rhinovirus or a mild cold-causing coronavirus wore a mask, it blocked nearly 100 percent of the viral droplets they exhaled, as well as some tiny aerosol particles.

Still, mask wearing remains uneven in many parts of the United States. But governments and businesses are beginning to require, or at least recommend, that masks be worn in many public settings.

There is also growing evidence that some kinds of masks may protect you from other people's germs. High-grade N95 masks are cleared by federal public health agencies because they filter out at least 95 percent of particles that are 0.3 microns in diameter when properly worn. One study showed that N95s were able to capture [over 90 percent of viral particles](#), even if the particles were about one-fifth the size of a coronavirus. Other studies have shown that flat, blue surgical masks block between 50 to 80 percent of particles, whereas [cloth masks block 10 to 30 percent](#) of tiny particles.

"Wearing a mask is better than nothing," said Dr. Robert Atmar, an infectious disease specialist at Baylor College of Medicine. Because the coronavirus typically infects people by entering their body through the mouth and nose, covering these areas can act as the first line of defense against the virus, he said.

Donning a face covering is also likely to prevent you from touching your face, which is another way the coronavirus can be transmitted from contaminated surfaces to unsuspecting individuals. And when combined with hand washing and other protective measures, such as [social distancing](#), masks help reduce the transmission of disease, Dr. Atmar said.

#### **American public health infrastructure needs an update.**

The United States knows how to fight wars. But, as the past few months have shown, the American response to pathogens can easily become a shambles — even though pathogens kill more Americans than many wars have.

We have no viral Pentagon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is more of an F.B.I. for outbreak investigations than a war machine. For years — under both the Obama and Trump administrations — its leaders have had to seek clearance for almost every utterance.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the most prominent of the doctors advising the coronavirus task force, is actually the head of a research institute, the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease, rather than of the medical equivalent of a combat battalion.



The Surgeon General is essentially an admiral without a crew. He dispenses health warnings and recommendations, but the Public Health Services Commissioned Corps, which reports to him, are only about 6,500 strong, and many members have other jobs, often at the C.D.C.

Almost all the front-line troops — the contact tracers, the laboratory technicians, the epidemiologists, the staff in state and city hospitals — are paid by state and local health departments whose budgets have shriveled for years. These soldiers are led by 50 commanders, in the form of governors, and with that many in charge, it is amazing that any response moves forward.

The rest of the response is in the hands of thousands of private militias — hospitals, insurers, doctors, nurses, respiratory technicians, pharmacists and so on, all of whom have individual employers. Within limits, they can do what they want. When they cannot get something they need from overseas they are largely powerless without federal logistical help.

As war does to defeated nations, pandemics expose the weaknesses of their systems. Our patchwork and uncoordinated response has produced more than 100,000 deaths; surely we can do better.

“The superpowers have their priorities all wrong,” Dr. Michael Ryan, the head of the W.H.O.’s emergencies program, said recently.

“They spend billions on missiles and submarines, and on fighting terrorism, and pennies on viruses. You can start peace talks with your enemy. You can change your policies to lessen the threat of terrorism. But you cannot negotiate with a virus, and we know that new threats are coming along every year.”

### **Responding to the virus is extraordinarily expensive.**

The federal government has spent hundreds of billions of dollars and [promised to spend more than \\$2 trillion](#) to address the coronavirus pandemic.

Of that money, [\\$2 billion has gone to helping companies develop new vaccines](#), expanding testing capacity nationwide and shoring up the economic fallout since the beginning of March. (Even more could be on the way, but [how much and when is unclear](#).)

The vast majority of this spending has been aimed at blunting the economic pain of small businesses shutting down and people losing their jobs or being furloughed. Congress also provided additional money for Medicaid and other social programs.

Hospitals, community health centers and other providers have been allocated \$175 billion to cover the cost of caring for patients with Covid-19 and for the visits, procedures and surgeries that were canceled because of the pandemic. In the latest bill, \$25 billion was targeted for coronavirus testing.

Many experts say more funding is needed, but there is ample controversy over how the money already allocated is being spent and which entities are getting funds. Various groups like the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget [are tracking the spending](#). By that organization’s calculation, roughly \$1.6 trillion has already been disbursed or committed. The Federal Reserve has also provided more than \$2 trillion in emergency lending, asset purchases and other activities, it said.

### **We have a long way to go to fix virus testing.**

The landscape for testing looks far better than it did in the early days of the outbreak, when [a botched rollout of coronavirus tests](#) failed to detect the spread of the virus in the United States.

Today, [hundreds of thousands of tests a day are being conducted in the United States](#), and in some areas it is so widely available that public health officials have complained [they do not have enough takers](#). In Los Angeles, where testing is free to everyone, [a drive-through site at Dodgers Stadium](#) can process 6,000 people a day.



The range of tests available is also expanding. Tests that once required a health care worker to insert a swab through the nose to the back of the throat can now be done with a swipe inside the nose, or by spitting into a cup. A handful of companies [now sell at-home test kits](#), and [a test from Abbott](#) can detect the virus in as little as five minutes.

In addition to the tests that detect active infections, Americans can also get tested for antibodies to the virus, which shows whether they have ever been infected, and could help give a better picture for how widely the coronavirus has spread in communities.

But despite this progress, the United States still has a long way to go. Public health experts say that anywhere from [900,000 tests](#) to [millions a day](#) will be needed to screen hospital patients, nursing home residents and employees returning to work.

And even as testing is abundant in some areas, it is still hard to come by in others. Shortages of key supplies needed to run the tests — such as swabs and chemical reagents — have persisted. The [federal government has effectively delegated oversight](#) to the states, creating a patchwork of policies and putting states in competition with one another. Even tracking the number of tests conducted has proved difficult, [after the C.D.C.](#) and several states began lumping tests for the virus as well as antibodies together, to the bafflement of epidemiologists trying to track active infections, which the antibody tests do not show.

### **We can't count on herd immunity to keep us healthy.**

The idea is simplicity itself: If enough of the population has antibodies to the novel coronavirus, the virus will hit too many dead ends to continue infecting people. [That is herd immunity.](#)

That is the great hope for a vaccine. But it may not happen, even if a vaccine becomes available, as experience with flu vaccines shows.

Dr. Paul Offit of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania noted that while vaccines eliminated measles, rubella and smallpox and almost eliminated polio in the United States, vaccines against influenza and whooping cough have not stopped outbreaks. (With some parents declining measles vaccines, the disease is coming back.)

Influenza and whooping cough have spread, even after enough people in a community have been vaccinated to, in theory, stop the diseases. That's because the antibodies that protect people against viruses infecting mucosal surfaces like the lining of the nose tend to be short-lived.

Vaccines against respiratory diseases are, at best, modestly effective, agreed Dr. Arnold Monto of the University of Michigan.

Since the coronavirus usually starts by infecting the respiratory system, Dr. Monto suspects that a Covid-19 vaccine would have a similar effect to a flu vaccine — it will reduce the incidence of the disease and make it less severe on average, but it will not make Covid-19 go away.

“As an older person, what I want is not to end up on a respirator,” Dr. Monto said.

### **The virus produces more symptoms than expected.**

Covid-19 is a viral respiratory illness. Many early descriptions of symptoms focused on patients being short of breath and eventually being placed on ventilators. But the virus does not confine its assault to the lungs, and doctors have identified a number of symptoms and syndromes associated with it.

In some patients, the virus propels the immune system into overdrive, causing the lungs to fill with fluid and damaging multiple organs, including the brain, heart, kidneys and liver.

The first symptoms of an infection are usually a cough and shortness of breath. But in April [the C.D.C. added to the list of early signs](#) sore throat, fever, chills and muscle aches. Gastrointestinal upset, such as diarrhea and nausea, has also been observed.

Another telltale sign of infection may be a sudden, profound diminution of one's sense of smell and taste. Teenagers and young adults in some cases have developed painful red and purple lesions on the fingers and toes, but few other serious symptoms.

Severe disease leads to pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The blood oxygen levels plummet, and patients may get supplemental oxygen or be placed on a machine, called a ventilator, to help them breathe.

But even without lung impairment, the disease can cause injury to the kidneys, heart or liver. Critically ill patients are prone to developing dangerous blood clots in the legs and the lungs. In rare cases, the disease triggers ischemic strokes that block the arteries supplying blood to the brain, or brain impairments, such as altered mental status or encephalopathy.

Death [can result from](#) heart failure, kidney failure, multiple organ failure, respiratory distress or shock.

### **We can worry a bit less about infection from surfaces.**

The news, when it was reported, added a frightening twist to the threat from the coronavirus: A study in March in The New England Journal of Medicine found that under laboratory conditions, the virus can [survive for up to three days](#) on some surfaces, such as plastic and steel, and on cardboard for up to 24 hours.

Other studies reported finding the virus on air vents in hospital rooms and on [computer mice, sickbed handrails and doorknobs](#).

Many people grew worried that by touching a surface that had been covered in droplets by an infected person, and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes, they then would contract the virus.

You should still wear a mask, avoid touching your face in public and keep washing your hands. But none of these studies tested for live virus, only for traces of its genetic material. Other scientists commenting on these studies said virus on these surfaces might degrade more quickly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said since March that contaminated surfaces are “not thought to be the main way” the virus spreads.

The main driver of infection is thought to be directly inhaling droplets released when an infected person sneezes, coughs, sings or talks. The C.D.C. recently made changes to its website to make this message even more explicit.

### **We can also worry less about a mutating virus.**

In February, three experts on viruses published [an editorial in a journal headlined](#) “We Shouldn’t Worry When a Virus Mutates During Outbreaks.”

But worry we did. As the coronavirus pandemic swept the planet, headlines and tweets poured forth that the new coronavirus was undergoing dangerous mutations.

Many of these worries were based on a misunderstanding of what it means when a virus mutates. When an infected cell produces new viruses, it sometimes makes mistakes in copying the viral genes. Those mistakes are mutations, and it turns out that most are bad for the viruses, getting in the way of their ability to hijack our cells.

The viruses that do manage to spread to new hosts have mutations, too. But those mutations often don’t have any significant effect. The alterations they bring to a virus’s genes don’t lead to any change in how the virus works.

Scientists have identified harmless new mutations in different lineages of the new coronavirus. These lineages are not dangerous new strains.

Some of these lineages have come to be the most common version of the coronavirus in some countries. Again, that doesn't mean that they've got some evolutionary edge. There's a very common phenomenon in nature called the founder effect: Whatever mutations happen to be common in the founders of a new population will end up common in their descendants.

It is possible for viruses to gain mutations that do affect the way they work. The new coronavirus will be no different. But the only way to know if a new mutation is significant or not is to carry out research. It will take a lot of evidence to reject the more likely hypothesis: that a new mutation has no importance at all.

Fortunately, it doesn't look like coronaviruses will be picking up these new mutations very quickly. Compared with other viruses, scientists have found, the new coronavirus has a relatively slow rate of new mutations.

That's a big relief for vaccine makers. Influenza viruses mutate so quickly that people need to get a new flu shot each year to stay protected. H.I.V. has so much genetic diversity that an effective vaccine against it has yet to be found. The new coronavirus poses immense challenges to vaccine makers, but most of them have to do with manufacturing billions of doses in a matter of months.

We have enough worries when it comes to Covid-19; no need to add needless ones to the list.

**We can't count on warm weather to defeat the virus.**

The hot and humid weather of summer [will not stop the pandemic](#). More sunlight and humidity may slow down its spread, but we probably won't know by how much. Other factors, like reduced travel, increased personal distance, closed schools, canceled gatherings and mask-wearing, have effects that would outweigh the influence of the weather.

A few things are known about conditions that do or do not favor the virus. The ultraviolet rays in sunlight help destroy the virus on surfaces and some studies have shown a small effect from humidity. It seems to last longest on hard surfaces like plastic and metal. It [won't survive in pool or lake or](#) seawater. Wind disperses it. [Risk of transmission is lower outdoors than indoors](#).

A wooden bench under a bright sun at a breezy beach is a better bet than a metal and plastic recliner on the shady side of the pool. But if someone infected sits near you and coughs, or talks a lot or sings, it doesn't really matter where you're sitting and how nice a day it is.

"The virus doesn't need favorable conditions," said Peter Juni, an epidemiologist at the University of Toronto. It has a world population with no immunity waiting to be infected. Bring on the sun; the novel coronavirus will survive.

Air conditioning [may blow the virus right to your restaurant table](#).

On Memorial Day, many people in the United States gathered in congenial closeness in lovely weather without masks. If any of them were infected and breathing, they probably infected someone else. The same will be true on July 4. Even if the weather is glorious.

In the time since the world's scientists and public health officials first became widely aware of the new coronavirus in January, they've had six months to learn about it.

They've reached [many conclusions about the virus and the illness it causes](#), from the importance of wearing masks to contain it, to the unusual range of symptoms it provokes.

But there are major gaps in scientific knowledge about the virus. In the half year that journalists of the health and science desk of The Times have been reporting on Sars-CoV-2, we have identified some of the enduring uncertainties. How scientists resolve some of these mysteries will shape our future with the coronavirus.

**Here are some of the things we don't know yet:**

- [How many people have been infected.](#)
- [The amount of virus it takes to make you sick.](#)
- [Why some people get so much sicker than others.](#)
- [The role of children in spreading the virus.](#)
- [When or where the new coronavirus started spreading.](#)
- [How long you'll be immune after infection.](#)

**WHAT WE DO KNOW**

*Much remains unknown after six months, [but there are some things we're pretty sure of.](#)*

**How many people have been infected.**

One of the epidemic's great unknowns is how many Americans have been infected so far.

Only [about 1.9 million Americans](#) had tested positive as of May 28, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — or perhaps only [about 1.7 million](#) according to the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, which produces a frequently cited map of world cases.

Statisticians believe the actual number of cases is higher, but it is not clear by how much.

They have more confidence in the accuracy of data produced by [states that do the most testing](#). On that score, New York is a leader; it has tested about 9.6 percent of its population, which is almost double the national average. (Rhode Island tested 13 percent of its people, beating New York, but its population is small.)

New York has also done tens of thousands of antibody tests for surveillance purposes. On May 22, [Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced](#) that, according to these tests, about a fifth of all New York City residents have had the virus, as had about 27 percent of thousands of black and Hispanic New Yorkers who were tested at their local churches.

If that same pattern were assumed to hold in other hard-hit big cities like Chicago, New Orleans, Detroit and Miami, it is likely that somewhere between 3 and 4 million urban Americans were infected.

Even if that figure was doubled or tripled — which is probably generous — to account for Americans infected all around the country before the lockdowns, that would still be only 9 to 12 million people.

That is in line with the low end of estimates made in mid-April, before antibody testing began; [different modelers predicted then that between 3 and 10 percent](#) of the country was infected.

In any case, since this is a country of 330 million, a mere 10 million or even 20 million infected would be a drop in the bucket. As the country comes out of lockdown, the vast majority of Americans remain vulnerable to the virus.

Nor will the country be able to spot all of those who get it. The C.D.C.'s "best estimate," [according to the pandemic scenarios](#) it issued May 22, is that about 35 percent of those infected have no symptoms.

Currently, about 21,000 Americans are getting infected each day. If a third of them show no symptoms, almost 210,000 "silent spreaders" are created each month.

It seems impossible to imagine that any contact-tracing program, no matter how large, will be able to keep up with that.

**The amount of virus it takes to make you sick.**

Here's what we can say for sure about the minimum number of viral particles it takes to seed a coronavirus infection: The number is somewhere between one and one million.

If you push scientists harder, they might offer a slightly smaller range of a few hundred to a few thousand — and some might even bravely throw out an estimate in the high hundreds, based on what they have learned about the behavior of the coronavirus that caused the 2002-03 SARS epidemic.

But the bottom line is that no one will know for sure until more research is completed.

"It's very unsatisfying to tell people, 'Oh we don't know,'" said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Columbia University in New York. "People do have a lot of questions about this."

It's difficult to say anything definitive about the coronavirus because it behaves like an influenza virus in how easily it is transmitted, and in that people can pass it on even when they don't seem sick. But its structure, origin in bats and overall symptoms are similar to those of its cousin coronaviruses.

So scientists cannot say whether touching a surface with a smidgen of virus or breathing air with a few droplets exhaled by a sick person will make you ill. But it is safe to say exposure to more of the coronavirus is more likely to cause infection, and also to lead to more severe symptoms. That's why it's important to avoid crowded indoor spaces, wear masks and wash your hands. Each of those steps can decrease your chances of being exposed to large amounts of virus.

**Why some people get so much sicker than others.**

Covid-19 is a mercurial disease. While some people experience only mild, fleeting symptoms, others are knocked over with a severe flulike illness that can last several weeks. A minority of patients develop life-threatening complications. Death can ensue.

Why do some people sail through the illness, and others develop the severe inflammation and lung damage that are hallmarks of the disease? It is one of the great mysteries of Covid-19.

Experts say the patient's immune response to the viral infection determines the severity of the illness. [If the immune system goes into overdrive](#), it can trigger a cascade of harmful effects, injuring the lungs and other organs.

Immune function declines with age, and [elderly people with Covid-19 are among the most vulnerable to poor outcomes](#), as are those with chronic health conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. [Obesity, which affects 4 in 10 American adults](#), also appears to exacerbate the illness.

[Men are at greater risk for critical illness and death](#), a sex disparity that may be explained by women's more robust immune systems, scientists say.

Generally speaking, patients get sicker faster if they are exposed to a large dose of the virus when they are first infected, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University.

Much scientific inquiry has focused on the role of a receptor called angiotensin-converting enzyme 2, or ACE2, which is the entry way for coronaviruses into the cells. The receptor is found on the outer surfaces of cells in the lungs, blood vessels, intestines and other organs, as well as in the back of the throat and high up in the nasal passage.

When the pandemic started, there was concern that people taking blood pressure medications like ACE inhibitors could be at greater risk from the coronavirus, but so far studies have not found that to be the case, and doctors are urging patients to continue their medications.

Though the SARS-CoV-2 virus attaches to the receptor in order to penetrate cells, ACE2 also helps regulate blood pressure and inflammation. Some scientists have suggested that children may be less susceptible to infection with Covid-19 because they have fewer of these receptors. ACE2 is also regulated differently in men and women, according to scientists who study sex differences in medicine, and men tend to develop hypertension, or high blood pressure, at younger ages than women. But much is still unknown.

“ACE2 can play two very critical roles, getting the virus into the cell, but also modulating some of the damage that takes place in the blood vessels and the lungs,” said Dr. Ankit B. Patel, a nephrologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. “So it’s a double-edged sword in a sense, and that’s made the whole story all the more complicated.”

### **The role of children in spreading the virus.**

There are many crucial unresolved questions about children and Covid-19. Finding the answers is not only important for them and their families, but for society at large, as communities plan to reopen schools, day care centers, playgrounds and other places children frequent.

One puzzle is what role children play in spreading the virus. They seem [less likely to become seriously ill than adults](#), making up about [2 percent of confirmed American coronavirus cases](#). There are [different theories](#) about whether that is because children are less likely to become infected to begin with, or whether the virus infects them just as easily but mostly causes few or no symptoms.

Either way, a growing body of evidence suggests that infected [children can transmit the virus](#), possibly as easily as adults. And [one recent study](#) suggests that when children attend school, they come in contact with three times as many people as average adults do, providing more opportunities for children to become infected and infect others.

Although far fewer children than adults have experienced severe symptoms, [some children have become devastatingly ill](#) and there have been at least 20 [deaths of children from Covid-19 in the United States](#) and elsewhere. Reports from hospitals suggest that the children most vulnerable to the respiratory failure adults develop are those who already have a serious medical condition. Some studies also suggest that [infants](#) and [preschoolers](#) may be more vulnerable than older children.

But a small number of other children, including teenagers, who did not have any symptoms when they were first infected, have developed [a newly-identified inflammatory syndrome that can cause serious heart problems](#). The syndrome, which seems to occur weeks after infection and to result from a revved-up immune response to the virus, has been reported Europe and throughout the United States and has caused several deaths. Doctors are urgently trying to understand what causes the syndrome, why it afflicts some children and not others, and how to best treat or prevent it.

### **When or where the new coronavirus started spreading.**

The notion of [a single patient zero](#) is both theatrical and real: In any new epidemic, some unlucky soul seeds the first infection, several links of which are fated to seed chains of their own and spark a viral Big Bang.

By analyzing the genetic material of people who test positive, scientists can trace the lineage of each virus back to a common ancestor, and often to an individual carrier. The first confirmed coronavirus case in the United States was a man who landed at Seattle-Tacoma Airport on Jan. 15, from China. Other introductions came in February, and scientists are now closing in on who, exactly, sparked the outbreak in Washington State.

New York confirmed its first case on March 1, and by that time there were already thousands of infected people walking around, for a week or more. Scientist have found genetic signatures on the viruses studied so far that link them to Europe, likely brought in by some of the millions of people arriving in New York in February, and it is likely that there were multiple introductions that spread widely: patients zero, plural.



The first infected arrivals in a community are not necessarily the ones who light the fuse. [In a report published last week](#), genetic scientists argued that infected people were among both Americans and Europeans in January, but that most of those viruses fizzled out. And French doctors [recently reported that a respiratory sample](#) from a man hospitalized near Paris, in late December, tested positive. That virus, too, likely died out. France's outbreak did not start until many weeks later.

The world's patient zero, in China, began infecting others in the late fall of last year, the evidence thus far suggests. [An analysis of the first 41 confirmed cases](#), all in people who had visited the same seafood market in Wuhan, indicates that the first hospital admission was on Dec. 16, 2019. The patient first noticed symptoms on Dec. 1, so the infection dates back earlier. Several scientists have estimated that the first outbreak began in late or mid-November, and [have inferred a probable common viral ancestor](#), though additional virus samples could change the picture.

The level of detective work required to find the actual patient zero might be steeper than it appears. [At least one genetic scientist](#) has argued that the virus could have first infected humans — likely from a pangolin — well before last fall, in a form that did not cause sickness. It then evolved its pathogenic features over time, while circulating. If that's the case, the question "Who came first?" may go without a conclusive answer for some time, perhaps for good.

### **How long you'll be immune after infection.**

Are people infected with the coronavirus protected from further infection? And, if yes, for how long?

The answers to these questions have broad implications for reopening the economy and allowing the public to live with less fear of infection in the short term — and for the effectiveness of vaccines in the long term.

Scientists have made steady, if incremental, progress in getting to the answers. When the body encounters any virus, it typically makes antibodies, some of which are powerful enough to neutralize the pathogen and prevent reinfection. It also produces large numbers of immune cells that can kill the virus.

Most tests that look for antibodies to the coronavirus [have been flawed](#). But at least one team with a reliable test reported that most people, including those who were only mildly ill, [make powerful antibodies](#). Data on immune cells has been slower to emerge, but a few studies suggest a robust response from immune cells as well.

What remains unknown is how long this immunity will last. There have been some reports of reinfection, but scientists have said that they are a result either of faulty testing, or of viral remnants that circulate long after the active infection has ended.

They are hopeful that based on other coronaviruses that cause the common cold, SARS or MERS, immunity to the new coronavirus might last at least a year, but it remains a mystery for now.

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HEADLINE	06/01 Another night of anger
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/us/floyd-protests-live.html?action=click&amp;module=Spotlight&amp;pgtype=Homepage">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/us/floyd-protests-live.html?action=click&amp;module=Spotlight&amp;pgtype=Homepage</a>
GIST	<p>Tens of thousands of protesters began another week of demonstrations and disturbances on Monday night, returning to the streets of cities around the country despite curfew orders, threats of arrest and the words of the brother of George Floyd, who made an emotional plea for the destruction to end.</p> <p>The protesters were driven from parks, interstates and government buildings by growing numbers of law enforcement officers in riot gear, whose response to the demonstrations has been criticized in a dozens of confrontations.</p>



- In **Washington**, President Trump threatened to call in the military to end protests around the country and then ventured outside the White House grounds to pose for photographs at a nearby church. His walk came after riot police and National Guard troops used tear gas and flash grenades to clear a path through a peaceful protest in a city park.
- In **New York**, a curfew implemented by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo that extended from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. did little to deter protesters and looters, who made their way into the iconic Macy's department store in Manhattan.
- In **St. Louis, Mo.**, four police officers were struck by gunfire during a lengthy shootout that took place amid the protests, the [department said](#).
- The driver of an S.U.V. sped through a line of law enforcement officers in riot gear in **Buffalo**, injuring two of them in an episode that was [caught on video](#). One of the injured was a Buffalo police officer, and the other was a member of the New York State Police, according to Mark Poloncarz, the Erie County executive, who said that both officers were in stable condition. The driver and the passengers in the S.U.V. were taken into custody.
- In **Philadelphia**, an armored vehicle bearing the insignia of the Pennsylvania State Police fired tear gas into hundreds of protesters who had gathered near downtown. Demonstrators sought refuge along a highway embankment after they had [breached the roadway](#). Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, is [slated to visit the city on Tuesday to address the unrest](#).
- In **Dallas**, protesters were arrested and charged with obstruction of a highway for marching on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. Clay Jenkins, the Dallas County Judge, allowed peaceful protests to continue on the county courthouse property past a citywide 7 p.m. curfew. He cautioned that protesters would likely be arrested by Dallas police officers if they left the property. "I support peaceful protest and radical transformation," he said.
- In **Minneapolis**, Terrence Floyd became the first member of George Floyd's family to visit the place where his brother lived his last conscious moments and told a crowd that what he had seen in recent days troubled him. "If I'm not over here wilding out, if I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community, then what are y'all doing? What are y'all doing?" he said. About 15 minutes after curfew, a peaceful crowd gathered at the spot saw flashing lights in the distance and ran toward them, saying they wouldn't back down from the police, and barricaded the nearby streets.
- The mayor of **Louisville, Ky.**, fired the city's police chief after the owner of a local barbecue restaurant was killed when police officers and National Guard troops shot toward protesters. The mayor, Greg Fischer, said he had fired the chief after learning that officers' body cameras were not activated during the shooting.
- A white bar owner in **Omaha** who fatally shot a young black man amid rioting [acted in self-defense, a prosecutor said on Monday](#), announcing that no charges would be filed. The bar owner, Jake Gardner, shot James Scurlock, 22, on Saturday night, in an area of downtown Omaha where businesses had been vandalized. The announcement prompted many employers in Omaha, which is already under a curfew, to send people home early for fear of renewed violence.
- A vigil in **Puerto Rico** brought hundreds of people to Loíza, the island's largest black community, before a 7 p.m. curfew in place to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. "We share the grief of all the African-American community," said one of the protesters, Andrés Santos, 41. "We share the rage."
- In **Chicago**, the Justice Department arrested a man it accused of traveling across state lines to start riots, loot and attack law enforcement officers. The man, Matthew Lee Rupert, 28, was arrested after he visited Minneapolis and, according to the complaint, posted a video of himself on social media in which he could be seen setting fire to a store, looting another store and distributing explosives to others and encouraging them to attack police officers.
- In **Austin, Texas**, the police chief said that an [African-American protester who was shot in the head by officers was in critical condition](#) at a hospital, one of a handful of cases in the city of protesters being injured by nonlethal rounds.
- **Seattle** issued its third night of curfews on Monday night, and the city's suburbs prepared for the possibility that further unrest could spread. Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah, Lynnwood, Tukwila

	and Renton were among those that were to begin curfews on Monday night. The National Guard arrived in Bellevue as crews cleaned up from looting and vandalism the day before.
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HEADLINE	06/02 Death toll grows in national protests
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/864cb5c14ba08b4411a16577042d0773">https://apnews.com/864cb5c14ba08b4411a16577042d0773</a>
GIST	<p>One man was the beloved owner of a Louisville barbecue restaurant who made sure to provide free meals to officers. Another was a man known as “Mr. Indianapolis,” a former star football player. Yet another was a federal officer working security during a protest.</p> <p>They are among the people who have been killed as protests roiled American cities in the week since 46-year-old George Floyd died when a white officer jammed his knee into the back of the black man’s neck.</p> <p>The deaths have at times been overshadowed by the shocking images of chaos engulfing cities across America, from heavy-handed riot police tactics to violence, vandalism and arson. Tens of thousands have marched peacefully in demonstrations against police brutality and racism.</p> <p>Many of the people killed were African Americans, compounding the tragedy for black families to lose more members of their community amid the unrest.</p> <p>Dozens more have been hurt in various altercations — vehicles plowing into crowds, police officers suffering head injuries and broken bones and protesters ending up in emergency rooms with a variety of injuries from the melees.</p> <p>The death toll and circumstances surrounding the killings are still being sorted out in many cities, but here is what we know about the cases so far:</p> <p>LOUISVILLE</p> <p>As local police and the National Guard sought to disperse a crowd early Monday, they heard gunshots and returned fire, killing the owner of a barbecue restaurant, David McAtee. The mayor has since terminated the city’s police chief after finding out that officers on the scene did not activate their body cameras. The state police and the U.S. attorney also are investigating.</p> <p>The 53-year-old McAtee was an African American man known for offering free meals to officers who stopped by.</p> <p>“We lost a wonderful citizen named David McAtee,” Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said. “David was a friend to many, a well-known Barbecue man.”</p> <p>The protests in Louisville have centered not just on Floyd’s killing but also the death of Breonna Taylor, a black woman killed in her home in Louisville in March. The 26-year-old EMT was shot eight times by narcotics detectives who knocked down her front door as they attempted to enforce a search warrant. No drugs were found in the home.</p> <p>—</p> <p>OAKLAND</p> <p>A federal law enforcement officer was providing security at the federal courthouse in Oakland during a protest when someone fired shots from a vehicle.</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT</p>

Dave Patrick Underwood, 53, died and another officer was critically injured in the shooting.

It was not immediately clear if the drive-by shooting was related to the protests, though the federal building's glass doors were smashed and the front entrance was sprayed with anti-police graffiti.

Underwood, who was black, and the other officer were contracted security officers and employed by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service; they were monitoring a nearby protest.

No one has been arrested and a motive for the shooting has not yet been determined.

Underwood was the brother of Angela Underwood Jacobs, recently a Republican candidate to fill a vacant U.S. congressional district north of Los Angeles.

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## INDIANAPOLIS

Two people were killed over the weekend amid unrest in Indianapolis, including 38-year-old Chris Beaty, a former offensive lineman for Indiana University.

Beaty was known as "Mr. Indianapolis" and remained involved with the Hoosiers long after his graduation. He also was a prominent businessman in the city and ran multiple nightclubs.

"I am at a loss for words. The news of the passing of Chris Beaty is just devastating," coach Tom Allen said in a statement. "Since I returned home to coach at Indiana, Chris embraced me, encouraged me and supported me! His passion for life and Indiana Football energized me every time we were together."

The circumstances of his shooting weren't immediately clear but some media reports said it happened near an apartment where he lived. It also occurred the same night that an 18-year-old man also was fatally shot as protests broke out in the city.

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## MINNEAPOLIS

In what is believed to be the first killing since the protests broke out, a 43-year-old black man was fatally shot outside a pawn shop as rioting broke out last week in Minneapolis and then spread nationally.

The owner of the pawn shop, who is white, was arrested in the death of Calvin L. Horton Jr. Police say they are investigating the circumstances surrounding the killing, including whether it was related to protests in the neighborhood.

The shop was described as having been significantly damaged during unrest.

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## OMAHA, NEBRASKA

A 22-year-old black man was killed after authorities said he tussled with the owner of two bars in downtown Omaha. Surveillance video of the strip of bars shows a group of people, including James Scurlock, approach bar owner Jake Gardner.

Two people are seen on the video tackling Gardner, who ended up on his back and fired shots in the air. Seconds later, Scurlock is seen tackling Gardner, who then fires the gun over his shoulder, striking Scurlock.

	<p>Authorities have declined to press charges, calling the shooting self-defense.</p> <p>—</p> <p><b>DETROIT</b></p> <p>A 21-year-old man was killed in downtown Detroit after someone fired shots into a vehicle during a protest. According to a police report, the man was sitting in the driver's seat of a car in a parking lot with two others when someone fired shots into the vehicle and then fled on foot.</p> <p>—</p> <p><b>CHICAGO SUBURB</b></p> <p>Two people were killed during unrest Monday in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, according to a town official. Spokesman Ray Hanania did not provide details about those who were killed but said it happened amid protests there.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>06/01 School goes online so do pranks</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/school-goes-online-so-do-class-pranks-11591029142">https://www.wsj.com/articles/school-goes-online-so-do-class-pranks-11591029142</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>In the first Zoom prank that Jack Buzali pulled on his teacher after school moved online, each student in his class danced off screen mid-lecture. That did well enough on the video-sharing app TikTok, garnering about 100,000 views.</p> <p>Mr. Buzali believed he could do better.</p> <p>So the 18-year-old high-school senior in Mexico City tried again. This time, as he was listening to his philosophy teacher wax on about Marxism over Zoom while lounging in his swimming pool, he started blasting a version of the song “Jump On It” by the Hit Crew.</p> <p>Just as he had arranged before the lesson, Mr. Buzali pointed to a classmate with each punctuated beat. In turn, they switched off their cameras and changed their Zoom profile pictures to say “Reconnecting.” Within seconds, all of the students had disappeared, the teacher left alone in the class gallery surrounded by black rectangles that said “Reconnecting.”</p> <p>The stunt got 2.3 million views in 24 hours on TikTok, where students around the world are posting their virtual pranks. “The whole point was to go viral,” said Mr. Buzali.</p> <p>After months of taking classes online due to the pandemic, students have learned one lesson well: how to digitally prank their teachers.</p> <p>Patricia Hernandez, an assistant professor of communication at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wis., thought she was pretty tech savvy. Then in the middle of final presentations for her digital media class, all 20 of her students’ faces disappeared, leaving her with a gallery of black boxes that each said “reconnecting.”</p> <p>“Where did everyone go?” she asked the blank screens. The students hadn’t gone anywhere. They had just turned off their cameras and changed their Zoom profile pictures to “reconnecting,” similar to Mr. Buzali’s classmates.</p> <p>“It seemed like a legit technical issue,” said Ms. Hernandez. The fact that one of her students misspelled “reconnecting” didn’t tip her off to the prank. She eventually left the meeting, sent an email to students saying there was a tech problem and asked them to rejoin the call.</p>

When Ms. Hernandez returned, her students were cracking up and let her in on the joke.

The ringleader, 21-year-old Martin Vu, got the idea from the profusion of prank videos on TikTok. Mr. Vu said he would never pull a prank during an in-person class, but online learning feels to him like a more casual, permissive environment.

When Tulane University in New Orleans announced in March that it would be moving courses online, junior Peter Solimine thought it raised the possibility that he wouldn't have to wake up for his morning lectures.

The next day, Mr. Solimine flew up to Atlanta, where he teamed up with his friend Jinseo Park at Georgia Tech, a fellow computer-science major. Over the next month, quarantined in his friend's dorm room and fueled by food from Uber Eats and lots of beer, the 21-year-olds built Beulr, a bot that automatically signs a student into a class taking place on Zoom so it seems like they're present. It's named after the famously crafty, hooky-playing main character in the 1986 comedy "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

Mr. Solimine used it to sleep through his 8 and 9:30 a.m. computer science classes, large lectures where there was little risk his professors would call on him. He would watch the recorded sessions later in the day.

The point, he said, wasn't to skip classes altogether but to watch them when it suited the students' circadian rhythms. Most students just aren't morning people, he figured, so why not listen to lectures when they're more alert, in the afternoon or evening?

Within a month, 12,000 students from over 100 countries signed up, according to Mr. Solimine. Students could purchase tokens for as low as 59 cents. It cost one token for Beulr to show up to a one-hour class.

The pair worked on new features, like making Beulr compatible with Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams and adding a prerecorded looping video of the student for those who have to keep the camera on during class.

Mr. Solimine decided to shut down Beulr last month after discussing the app with some adults who pointed out potential problems, such as students skipping class. "I still believe early start times are a big problem in schools but it's not necessarily up to me to make those decisions and I don't want to encourage students to be dishonest," he said.

Others were shooting for a bigger workaround: to end remote school altogether. On March 18, Chris Kelly, then a high-school senior in St. Paris, Ohio, posted a video on TikTok encouraging others to leave a bad rating for Google Classroom. The goal? To tank the app's rating in the hope that Apple would remove it from the App Store.

Within weeks, Google Classroom's rating fell from 4.4 stars to 1.6 stars, amassing more than a million reviews. Other distance-learning tools like Schoology and Zoom were also targeted. But Google Classroom, which Google says has been used by more than 100 million students and teachers during the shutdown, has been the most besieged.

A review with one-star rating from May 22 reads, "Yeah, I've been using this app for a min now, and it seems to be slow and not helpful most of the time, it's not a good app to be able to have in the Apple store.... Tik Tok army unite."

Mr. Kelly's TikTok video—which has been joined by similar videos by other students—has been viewed 187,000 times. "I did it to inform people, 'Hey, not every student is happy with this quarantine situation and being forced to do online school,' " he said. "This brings our voices out."

	This time, though, the joke is on the kids, because Apple doesn't automatically pull apps because of one-star reviews.
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 India: worst locust invasion nearly 30yrs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/asia/india-desert-locust-swarm-intl-hnk/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/asia/india-desert-locust-swarm-intl-hnk/index.html</a>
GIST	<p><b>New Delhi (CNN)</b>As India continues its battle with the coronavirus pandemic a new kind of invasion is threatening to destroy vital crops and vegetation -- the worst <a href="#">locust swarm</a> the country has seen in almost 30 years.</p> <p>Waves of desert locusts -- millions strong and stretching up to 7 kilometers (4 miles) long -- crossed into India's western state of Rajasthan from neighboring Pakistan in early May and swarms have since pushed into five different states in search of food.</p> <p>The desert locust is the most destructive of all locust species because of its speed and ability to multiply rapidly, <a href="#">according</a> to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Adult locusts can fly up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) a day and eat their own body weight -- equal to 2 grams -- worth of fresh vegetation in that period.</p> <p>A swarm can vary from one to several hundred square kilometers -- with each square kilometer containing up to 80 million adult locusts.</p> <p>The FAO said much of the locust movements were driven by the strong westerly winds in the wake of Cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal, which slammed into India and Bangladesh on May 20, <a href="#">killing at least</a> 90 people and causing more than \$13.2 billion dollars in damage.</p> <p>From Rajasthan, the swarm entered Uttar Pradesh -- which borders the capital New Delhi -- in the north, Madhya Pradesh in central India and Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west on Thursday, according to India's agriculture minister.</p> <p>Other states have been put on alert. Jharkhand in the country's east, issued a state-wide alert to farmers on Sunday to prepare for locust swarms, according to P K Sannigrahi, senior scientist at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Knowledge Network in the state.</p> <p>"Lighting a fire, bursting crackers, banging plates and tins, and playing the drums as well can chase locusts away, these insects can't tolerate loud noises," the advisory issued to farmers read.</p> <p>The New Delhi government also issued an advisory to be prepared if the swarms turned toward the national capital.</p> <p><b>Controlling the swarm</b> Hard-hit states have been carrying out locust control operations that include dispersing the flying insects with drones, tractors, and fire engines.</p> <p>Rajasthan, which was the first to be impacted by the locusts, has been conducting daily operations since May 22.</p> <p>"The locusts were sitting in an area that was 7 kilometers (4 miles) long and 1.5 kilometers (0.9 miles) wide. We started the control operations around 1 a.m. (Tuesday) along with the Locust Organization team," said B R Karwa, a deputy director of Rajasthan's Agriculture Department.</p> <p>Karwa added that 11 swarms initially entered the state and three followed the winds onwards toward Madhya Pradesh.</p>



State officials are using 100 tractor-mounted sprayers and 20 fire engines across 11 districts to spray water and pesticides. Drones provided by the central government were also used to spray pesticides in two districts in Rajasthan, according to Karwa. He added that about 70% of the locusts there had been destroyed.

Despite dispersal operations, locust infestations could continue into next month.

"Several successive waves of invasions can be expected until July in Rajasthan with eastward surges across northern India as far as Bihar and Orissa followed by westward movements and a return to Rajasthan on the changing winds associated with the monsoon," according to the Desert Locust Situation Update issued by the FAO.

#### Breeding season

The locusts have flown into India from their breeding areas in Pakistan, according to Om Prakash, a Rajasthan-based plant protection officer for the Locust Warning Organization.

While locust invasions can be devastating for communities because they pose a threat to food security, India has so far appeared to have escaped from the worst as farmers have not yet begun to sow the new season's crops.

"The locusts were sitting on barren land. The winter crops have been cut and it hasn't rained yet so the new season's crops have not been sown. Those who planted fodder crops or vegetables could chase the locusts away. This time, there wasn't much loss," said Karwa.

Earlier this year, the Horn of Africa [was hit by the worst invasion](#) of desert locusts in 25 years, devastating large swaths of food and pasture in the region.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Historic curfews L.A., NYC</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/historic-curfews-los-angeles-new-york-city/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/historic-curfews-los-angeles-new-york-city/index.html</a>
GIST	<p>(CNN)Curfews have been issued across the country in the wake of <a href="#">protests, both peaceful and violent, against police brutality</a> following the <a href="#">death of George Floyd</a> in Minneapolis last week.</p> <p>In Los Angeles, the curfew is the harshest since the riots in 1992 following the acquittal of the officer who beat <a href="#">Rodney King</a>.</p> <p>On the East Coast, New York City has enacted the strictest curfew since the race riots of 1943.</p> <p><b>Why are there curfews?</b></p> <p>Floyd died as former officer <a href="#">Derek Chauvin</a> knelt on his neck and two others held him down. A fourth officer stood by as it happened. Only Chauvin has been arrested in the death while three others were fired from the Minneapolis police department. Calls for the arrest of those officers continue to ring out.</p> <p>Businesses were damaged and looted as fire broke out in Minneapolis Wednesday.</p> <p>While many of the <a href="#">demonstrations have been peaceful</a>, some have devolved into chaos with people setting fires, shattering the windows of emergency vehicles, and looting stores throughout the nation.</p> <p>It's unclear who is responsible for the violence, but officials have said they believe white supremacists, anarchists and people from outside the cities where the protests are happening could be responsible for the damage.</p> <p>As a result, many cities have enacted curfews to curb the violent and destructive nature of some attendees of these protests.</p>

## **12 hour curfew in Los Angeles**

The county of Los Angeles, the nation's most populous county with approximately ten million residents, [enacted a 12-hour overnight curfew](#) from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Monday night.

Officials said the highly restrictive curfew has been ordered because of "imminent danger to life and property during the hours of darkness," in the executive order.

The curfew is the harshest since the riots of 1992 when people took the streets following the acquittal of officers accused of using excessive force in the beating of Rodney King, according to Los Angeles Police Chief Michael Moore.

The 1992 acquittal sparked massive protests, where 50 people were killed and over 2,000 injured, along with hundreds of buildings burned.

Moore said peaceful protests are welcome but "no violence will be supported."

Nearly 90 [businesses along Melrose Avenue were destroyed](#) during the recent demonstrations, according to Moore, who apologized to the owners of those businesses Monday.

"Our efforts were to balance expression of public discord in a lawful, peaceful manner," Moore explained. "Unfortunately the powers and forces of those who wished to exact violence in the community overwhelmed us."

Protesters flooded the streets of Los Angeles Saturday.

One thousand members of the California National Guard have already been deployed to Southern California to respond to the unrest and one thousand more are expected to arrive Tuesday, Moore said. The additional National Guard members will be posted to protect businesses that have already been damaged and those that might be vulnerable, according to Moore.

## **Most restrictive curfew in more than 70 years**

New York City has also been the site of several protests throughout its five boroughs.

While some have been peaceful demonstrations against police brutality, others have descended into destruction.

On Monday, Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio ordered a curfew from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m. for the city that never sleeps, and an 8 p.m. curfew for Tuesday.

The last time such a curfew was enacted was during the race riots in Harlem, New York, in 1943 after a white police officer shot a black soldier in Manhattan, according to an [archived report from The New York Times](#).

A New York Times article from August 4, 1943 said that Mayor LaGuardia announced the order to be inside by 10:30 p.m. after five people were killed in the chaos and 500 more were injured. Roads were closed and the sale of liquor was also banned in an effort to calm tensions in the city.

Just two years later, the entire nation would be put on curfew due to WWII.

Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio issued similar statements Monday saying that they needed to protect the people of the city from further violence.

"I stand behind the protestors and their message, but unfortunately there are people who are looking to distract and discredit this moment," Cuomo said in a press release. "The violence and the looting has been bad for the city, the state and this entire national movement, undermining and distracting from this

	<p>righteous cause. While we encourage people to protest peacefully and make their voices heard, the safety of the general public is paramount and cannot be compromised."</p> <p>Cuomo told WAMC radio show host Alan Chartock there were about 4,000 officers who responded to the protest Sunday and expected about 8,000 officers to be out Monday night.</p> <p>The mayor said that while he supports the message of the demonstrations, the destruction needs to stop.</p> <p>"These protests have power and meaning," de Blasio said in a tweet. "But as the night wears on we are seeing groups use them to incite violence and destroy property. Our first priority is keeping people safe, so I'm extending the curfew to Tuesday."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Data: Minn. police use of neck restraints</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/mn-minneapolis-police-neck-restraints-george-floyd-invs/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/mn-minneapolis-police-neck-restraints-george-floyd-invs/index.html</a>
GIST	<p>(CNN)In the years leading up to <a href="#">George Floyd's death</a> with his neck beneath the knee of a Minneapolis policeman, at least 58 people lost consciousness after the city's officers put them in neck restraints, according to a CNN analysis of use of force data from the police department.</p> <p>Officers used neck restraints on 428 people since 2012, and 14% lost consciousness, the data showed. That means the procedure, which is restricted or banned in many large police departments around the country, was used an average of about once a week in the city over that time period.</p> <p>About two-thirds of the people placed in neck restraints by Minneapolis officers were black -- in a city where black residents make up 19% of the population, according to <a href="#">Census data</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Use of force experts told CNN</a> that the procedure that officer Derek Chauvin used -- pressing his knee into the back of Floyd's neck for several minutes, as Floyd groaned that he couldn't breathe -- wouldn't qualify as a proper neck restraint under the city's <a href="#">policy and procedure manual</a>.</p> <p>But the Minneapolis department does allow officers to compress "one or both sides of a person's neck with an arm or leg, without applying direct pressure to the trachea or airway," according to a section of the manual that is marked as last being updated in 2012. It calls the method a "non-deadly force option."</p> <p>Authorities <a href="#">charged Chauvin</a> with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. He's due to appear in court later this month. His attorney has not responded to CNN's requests for comment.</p> <p><b>What happened to George Floyd was 'crazy inappropriate,' expert says</b></p> <p>Seth Stoughton, an associate professor of law at the University of South Carolina who's <a href="#">written a book</a> about police use of force, said many large police departments banned neck restraints after protests in the 1960s, following criticism that similar chokeholds resulted in fatalities. He said he thinks Minneapolis should also prohibit it except when officers are facing a serious, imminent threat to their safety.</p> <p>What Chauvin did to Floyd was "not a neck restraint," Stoughton said, calling it "crazy inappropriate."</p> <p>"Properly applied, a neck restraint is relatively safe," Stoughton said. "The problem is that it's really difficult for officers to apply properly, and there's a high risk that it'll be applied improperly."</p> <p>Of the total number of people Minneapolis officers subjected to neck restraints since 2012, 280 were black -- 65% -- while 104 people were white, 13 Native American, 13 other/mixed race, 12 unknown, four Asian and two had no record of race.</p>

Thirty-three of the 58 people who lost consciousness were black -- or 57% of the total -- while 19 were white, three were Native American, two were other/mixed race, and one was Asian.

A department spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment about the use of the procedure or the racial disparities in whom officers use it on.

Floyd does not appear to be listed in the city's use of force database -- possibly because the investigation into his death is ongoing. The data is updated daily.

[NBC News](#) first reported on the Minneapolis department's neck restraint data.

The city's police manual lays out two types of neck restraint procedures: Conscious neck restraints, which use lighter pressure, and unconscious neck restraints, which are designed to make the person being held lose consciousness but not to kill them. Unconscious neck restraints are only allowed to be used on people who are "exhibiting active aggression" or cannot be subdued by other methods, or "for life saving purposes."

"Neck restraints shall not be used against subjects who are passively resisting," the manual states. It defines passive resistance as someone who is not attempting "to defeat an officer's control efforts."

### **They 'tensed' and police put them in neck restraints**

Still, the department's data shows that many encounters resulting in neck restraints began with seemingly minor provocations. The most common incident that preceded someone being placed in a neck restraint was a report of a "suspicious person," which accounted for 83 of the 428 cases.

And the most common type of "resistance" by a subject that led to officers placing them in a neck restraint was that they "tensed" -- the description used for 162 of the cases. Those explanations come from officers' own reports about the incidents.

Nearly half of people who lost consciousness in neck restraints were injured, according to the data. The reports don't specify how serious those injuries are.

Overall, the city has seen an overall decline in use of the procedure in recent years. While 71 people were subject to neck restraints in 2012, the first year for which data is available, 49 experienced it in 2019. So far, there have been 14 cases listed for 2020 (half the number in the first five months of 2019), although other examples such as Floyd's death may not have reports submitted yet.

Adam Bercovici, a retired Los Angeles Police Department lieutenant who works as an expert witness in police use of force cases, agreed that Minneapolis should ban neck restraints.

"There's no reason for it, unless you're in a life-or-death struggle," Bercovici said. "That officer wasn't in any danger. To me, he looked like he could have been eating a sandwich -- that's how calm he looked."

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HEADLINE	06/01 Twitter: white nationalists posed as antifa
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/twitter-takes-down-washington-protest-disinformation-bot-behavior-n1221456">https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/twitter-takes-down-washington-protest-disinformation-bot-behavior-n1221456</a>
GIST	<p>A Twitter account claiming to belong to a national “antifa” organization and pushing violent rhetoric related to ongoing protests has been linked to the white nationalist group Identity Evropa, according to a Twitter spokesperson.</p> <p>The spokesperson said the account violated the company's <a href="#">platform manipulation and spam policy</a>, specifically the creation of fake accounts. Twitter suspended the account after a tweet that incited violence.</p>

As protests were taking place in multiple states across the U.S. Sunday night, the newly created account, @ANTIFA\_US, tweeted, "Tonight's the night, Comrades," with a brown raised fist emoji and "Tonight we say 'F--- The City' and we move into the residential areas... the white hoods.... and we take what's ours ..."

This isn't the first time Twitter has taken action against fake accounts engaged in hateful conduct linked to Identity Evropa, according to the spokesperson.

The antifa movement — a network of loosely organized radical groups who use direct action to fight the far-right and fascism — has been targeted by President Donald Trump as the force behind some of the violence and property destruction seen at some protests, though [little evidence](#) has been provided for such claims.

Other misinformation and misleading claims spread across Twitter on Sunday night and into Monday related to the protests.

Two hashtags that trended worldwide on Twitter falsely claimed that there was a "cover-up" or a "blackout" of protests in Washington, D.C., overnight. Both appeared to insinuate that protesters have been silenced in some way, perhaps by a secret internet blackout.

Twitter says it has removed the trend from its "trending topics" section because of "coordinated attempts to disrupt the public conversation" around the protests.

Twitter said it suspended several hundred accounts and is investigating the viral spread of the hashtag, which it said was boosted by "hundreds of spammy accounts."

"We're taking action proactively on any coordinated attempts to disrupt the public conversation around this issue," a Twitter spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the company sometimes pulls down hashtags that violate the company's rules, like platform manipulation.

"We want trends to promote healthy discussions on Twitter. This means that at times, we may prevent certain content from trending. These include trends that violate the [Twitter Rules](#)," the Twitter spokesperson said.

[NetBlocks](#), a nonprofit group monitoring worldwide internet access, found no indication of a mass-scale internet disruption in the Washington area overnight or in the last 48 hours.

Journalists covering the protests also took to Twitter to disprove the hoax.

"A lot of people are asking me about a possible #dcblackout. I've been out near the White House since 4 am and haven't experienced any outage," [tweeted](#) Victoria Sanchez, a reporter for WJLA, the local ABC affiliate, adding that her colleagues had posted multiple updates throughout the night.

Many accounts tweeting the message had few to no followers. The same messages were also posted on Reddit and 4chan late Sunday. The posts pushing the #DCBlackout hashtag peaked in popularity around 12:30 a.m. ET Monday.

A [second narrative](#) boosted by bots and hacked accounts claimed that #DCBlackout is a misinformation campaign. The same message was tweeted verbatim by multiple accounts.

"Yeah..... as someone seeing #dcblackout trending, who lives and works in the DC metro area, and who has friends telecommuting into DC rn..... This hashtag looks like misinformation," read the tweet, which was posted hundreds of times.

Some accounts had few to no followers, while other tweets were posted by users who claim to have been hacked.

One verified Twitter user, Jason Elia, said his account was hacked to tweet the message. Elia lives in Oklahoma City and said he wouldn't go to Washington "unless they build an In-N-Out there." He said he has since changed his password.

The goal of the hashtag seems to be to sow confusion and fear during a chaotic time and to push the #DCBlackout hashtag to the front page of Twitter, where all users would at least glance at the disinformation.

Josh Russell, an independent bot researcher who identifies foreign and domestic hacking and trolling operations, said events like the weekend's protests are ripe for this kind of platform manipulation.

"Any large 'online' event is going to have these types of things happen. Every bad actor that sees the opportunity to create some panic is going to leverage the situation to do so. It's nothing new," Russell said.

Off Twitter, viral text messages of screenshots of doctored tweets have circulated throughout the country. Some of the false text messages claim that extremist groups are plotting to move into residential areas this week.

Bot researchers [call this kind of disinformation distribution "hidden viral" text messages](#), which go undetected on mainstream platforms like Facebook and Twitter and can spread like wildfire without moderation.

Similar "hidden viral" text messages went viral at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., with messages claiming that the institution of martial law was imminent, vaguely citing friends or co-workers.

[American officials later claimed that the texts](#) were boosted by Chinese disinformation agents to spread panic.

Russell said hostile foreign governments frequently "look at opportunities to make it seem as though there is an infrastructure failure" during times of crisis.

"This is a common thing for foreign disinformation agents," Russell said. "They would be trying to get people to believe that things are much worse on the ground than they are."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Cops beaten, shot, rammed by vehicles</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/cops-beaten-shot-rammed-by-suvs-as-george-floyd-protests-boil-over?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/cops-beaten-shot-rammed-by-suvs-as-george-floyd-protests-boil-over?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>Violent factions attacked half a dozen police officers in New York state and elsewhere over the last 24 hours as demonstrations against the death of George Floyd have spiraled out of control.</p> <p>An officer responding to a looting incident in Las Vegas was reportedly shot in the head early Tuesday after exchanging gunfire with an angry mob, according to several Nevada news sources. His condition was not immediately known.</p> <p>Late Monday night, video of a police officer apparently being run over by an SUV in the Bronx went viral. In the video, which has not been verified by The Daily Beast, an officer is struck by a speeding SUV and left in the middle of an intersection. Moments later, a New York City Police Department vehicle arrives and puts the officer, whose condition is unknown, in the back.</p>



	<p>In Buffalo, two officers were deliberately targeted by a car in front of the E District police station. New York State Police confirmed to the media that one was a trooper and the other a Buffalo Police officer. Both were taken to the Erie County Medical Center. Both have serious injuries and are in stable condition, according to WTHR News.</p> <p>Posts on social media also captured a fallen officer on Madison Avenue in New York. Details and the circumstances of that officer's condition are unknown.</p> <p>The New York City Sergeant's Benevolent Association tweeted a photo of an officer being attacked by two looters in the Bronx late Monday night. The officer survived that incident and pulled his weapon after the perpetrators ran off, but did not appear to retaliate.</p> <p>Early Monday morning, another officer was rammed by an SUV as he tried to make an arrest after giving chase to looters. Video of that incident posted by <i>New York Daily News</i> shows an SUV with Wisconsin license plates speeding away after the hit and run. That officer was taken to Bellevue Hospital and remains in stable condition.</p> <p>Elsewhere, <a href="#">four police officers were shot in downtown St. Louis</a> after a gunfight erupted as they tried to disperse violent crowds with tear gas and flash bangs.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Analysis: masks, social distance work</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/masks-social-distancing-work-analysis-finds-71007617">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/masks-social-distancing-work-analysis-finds-71007617</a>
GIST	<p>Masks and social distancing can help control the coronavirus but hand washing and other measures are still needed, a new analysis finds.</p> <p>Researchers concluded single-layer cloth masks are less effective than surgical masks, while tight-fitting N95 masks provide the best protection. A distance of 1 meter (more than 3 feet) between people lowers the danger of catching the virus, while 2 meters (about 6 1/2 feet) is even better.</p> <p>Eye protection such as eyeglasses or goggles can help too. None of the strategies work perfectly and more rigorous studies are needed, according to the analysis published Monday.</p> <p>With the coronavirus still new, health officials have relied on studies involving its cousins, severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle East respiratory syndrome. The findings come from a systematic review of 44 studies, including seven involving the virus causing COVID-19. The remaining focused on SARS or MERS.</p> <p>"This puts all that information clearly in one place for policymakers to use," said study co-author Dr. Derek Chu of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.</p> <p>Still to come are results from more rigorous experiments in Canada and Denmark that are testing masks in randomly assigned groups of nurses and the general public. Until then, the new study in the journal <i>Lancet</i> provides reassurance that masks do help.</p> <p>Public health officials have given conflicting advice about masks.</p> <p>The World Health Organization, which funded the new analysis, has said healthy people need to wear a mask only if they are caring for a person with COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wants everyone to wear at least a cloth mask when grocery shopping or in similar situations where keeping distance is difficult.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 SKorea virus rebounds; clamps down</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-south-korea-clamps-virus-rebounds-71012431">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-south-korea-clamps-virus-rebounds-71012431</a>
GIST	<p>BANGKOK -- Areas around the South Korean capital moved to curb large gatherings Tuesday and officials urged churchgoers and some <a href="#">health care</a> workers to avoid crowds as the number of new <a href="#">coronavirus</a> once again increased.</p> <p>The densely populated Seoul metropolitan area was home to all but one of the 38 new cases of COVID-19 reported by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>Hundreds of recent cases have been linked to workplaces, including call centers and a massive warehouse operated by local e-commerce giant Coupang, which officials say failed to properly enforce preventive measures and distance between workers. At least two dozen cases have been linked to churches near Seoul.</p> <p>Incheon, a port city west of Seoul, banned gatherings at some 4,200 churches and other religious facilities. Gyeonggi province, which surrounds the capital, issued an administrative order to shut down warehouses, funeral homes and wedding halls.</p> <p>Health Minister Park Neunghoo pleaded with churchgoers and employees of hospitals and nursing homes to avoid unnecessary gatherings to reduce infection risks for senior citizens and others who are medically vulnerable.</p> <p>He also called for school officials to double-check their preventive measures as the country proceeds with a phased reopening of schools. Nearly 1.8 million children — high school freshmen, middle-school juniors and third - and fourth-grade elementary school students — are expected to return to school on Wednesday.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 China delayed releasing coronavirus info</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/china-delayed-releasing-coronavirus-info-frustrating-71012635">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/china-delayed-releasing-coronavirus-info-frustrating-71012635</a>
GIST	<p>Throughout January, the World Health Organization publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to the new coronavirus and thanked the Chinese government for sharing the genetic map of the virus “immediately,.”</p> <p>But in fact, Chinese officials sat on releasing the genetic map, or genome, of the deadly virus for over a week after multiple government labs had fully decoded it, not sharing details key to designing tests, drugs and vaccines. Strict controls on information and competition within the Chinese public health system were largely to blame, The Associated Press has found from internal documents, emails and dozens of interviews.</p> <p>Health officials only released the genome after a Chinese lab published it ahead of authorities on a virology website on Jan 11. Even then, China stalled for at least two weeks more on giving WHO the details it needed, according to recordings of multiple internal meetings held by the U.N. health agency in January — all at a time when the outbreak arguably might have been dramatically slowed.</p> <p>Although WHO continued to publicly commend China, the recordings obtained by the AP show they were concerned China was not sharing enough information to assess the risk posed by the new virus, costing the world valuable time.</p> <p>“We’re currently at the stage where yes, they’re giving it to us 15 minutes before it appears on CCTV,” said WHO’s top official in China, Dr. Gauden Galea, referring to the state-owned China Central Television, in one meeting.</p>

The story behind the early response to the pandemic comes at a time when the U.N. health agency is under siege. U.S. President Trump cut ties with WHO on Friday, after blasting the agency for allegedly colluding with China to hide the extent of the epidemic. Chinese President Xi Jinping said China has always provided information to WHO and the world “in a most timely fashion.”

The new information does not support the narrative of either the U.S. or China, but portrays an agency now stuck in the middle that was urgently trying to solicit more data. Although international law obliges countries to report information to WHO that could have an impact on public health, the U.N. agency has no enforcement powers. Instead, it must rely on the cooperation of member states.

The AP has found rather than colluding with China, WHO was itself largely kept in the dark, as China gave it only the minimal information required. But the agency did attempt to portray China in the best light, most likely to coax the country into providing more outbreak details.

WHO officials worried about how to press China for more information without angering authorities or jeopardizing Chinese scientists, whom they praised for decoding the genome with astonishing speed. Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO’s emergencies chief, said the best way to “protect China” was for WHO to do its own independent analysis, because otherwise the spread of the virus between people would be in question and “other countries will take action accordingly.”

From the time the virus was first decoded on Jan. 2 to when WHO declared a global emergency on Jan. 30, the outbreak grew by a factor of 100 to 200 times, according to retrospective Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention data.

WHO and officials named in this story declined to answer questions asked by the AP without audio or written transcripts of the recorded meetings, which the AP was unable to supply to protect its sources.

“Our leadership and staff have worked night and day....to support and share information with all Member States equally, and engage in frank and forthright conversations with governments at all levels,” a WHO statement said.

China’s National Health Commission and Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no comment. But in the past few months, China has repeatedly defended its actions, and many other countries — including the U.S. — have responded to the virus with even longer delays of weeks and even months.

In late December, doctors noticed mysterious clusters of patients with unusual pneumonia. Seeking answers, they sent samples to commercial labs. By Dec. 27, one company, Vision Medicals, had pieced together most of the genome of a new virus with striking similarities to SARS. They alerted Wuhan officials, who, days later, issued internal notices warning of the unusual pneumonia.

On Dec. 30, Shi Zhengli, a renowned coronavirus expert at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, was alerted to the disease, and by Jan. 2, her team had fully decoded it.

But when it came to sharing the genome with the world, things went awry. China’s top medical authority, the National Health Commission, issued a confidential notice forbidding labs from publishing about the virus without authorization. The order barred Shi’s lab from publishing the sequence or warning of the possible danger.

Commission officials later said the order was to prevent any accidental release of the then-unknown pathogen, and to ensure consistent results by giving it to four state labs to identify at the same time.

By Jan. 5, two other government labs sequenced the virus, and another lab in Shanghai led by Zhang Yongzhen had also decoded it. Zhang warned the National Health Commission the virus was “likely infectious.” The Chinese CDC raised its emergency level to the second highest, but did not have the authority to alert the public.

Suspicious cases starting surfacing across the region. In Thailand, airport officials pulled aside a woman traveling from Wuhan with a runny nose, sore throat and high temperature. Scientists at Chulalongkorn University soon figured out she was infected with a new coronavirus, but did not have a sequence from China to match it.

WHO officials, meanwhile, grumbled in internal meetings that China was stalling on providing crucial outbreak details even though it was technically meeting its obligations under international law. Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said it was time to "shift gears" and push for more information.

"The danger now is that despite our good intent...there will be a lot of finger-pointing at WHO if something does happen," he said.

On Jan. 11, Shanghai's Zhang finally published the coronavirus sequence ahead of health authorities on virological.org, used by researchers to swap tips on pathogens. It was only then that the Chinese CDC, Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences raced to publish their sequences, doing so on Jan. 12.

On Jan. 20, Chinese authorities warned the virus spread between people. WHO dispatched a small team to Wuhan from its Asia offices. China representative Galea told colleagues the Chinese were "talking openly and consistently about human-to-human transmission."

WHO's emergency committee of independent experts met twice that week and decided against recommending an emergency. But the agency's concern prompted an unusual trip to Beijing by WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and top scientists.

At the end of Tedros' trip, WHO convened another emergency meeting, finally declaring a global emergency on Jan. 30. Tedros thanked China profusely, declining to mention any of WHO's earlier frustrations.

"We should have actually expressed our respect and gratitude to China for what it's doing," he said. "It has already done incredible things to limit the transmission of the virus to other countries."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Puerto Rico overhauls 1930 civil code</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/puerto-rico-overhauls-1930-civil-code-amid-sharp-71010686">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/puerto-rico-overhauls-1930-civil-code-amid-sharp-71010686</a>
GIST	<p>SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -- For the first time in nearly a century, Puerto Rico overhauled a series of laws that regulate rights in the U.S. territory including marriage, abortion and property ownership without having held any public hearings.</p> <p>Gov. Wanda Vázquez on Monday night signed into law a new civil code that replaces the one created in 1930 and contains more than 130 amendments, raising concerns that some could lead to certain loopholes in what is considered Puerto Rico's second most important legal document after its Constitution.</p> <p>"We will never have a civil code with 100% consensus," she said as she defended the new code, adding there will always be room to improve or change it.</p> <p>Vázquez said she consulted numerous experts including judges and professors as part of an effort that began more than 20 years ago.</p> <p>Critics agree that it was time to revise and modernize the civil code, but said legislators should have held public hearings before it was approved. One of the biggest concerns for some is that while the new code upholds the right to have an abortion in Puerto Rico, it also for the first time recognizes the rights of a fetus.</p>

	<p>“You have to ask yourself, ‘Why was that clause included? What’s the final intention?’” said Edgardo Román, president of Puerto Rico’s Bar Association, adding that in the future, it could be used to question the legality of abortion or in cases where a mother might be in a coma or incapacitated in some way.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the island’s LGBTQ community in part decried what it described as obscure and contradicting language regarding the ongoing right to change one’s gender on their birth certificate.</p> <p>Human rights activist Pedro Julio Serrano said he expects a flurry of lawsuits over the new civil code: “They wanted to satisfy God and the devil, and they ended up making no one happy.”</p> <p>The island’s House of Representatives had approved some 70 amendments alone that Román said were adopted to promote the conservative vision of various religious groups. The Senate then introduced more than 60 new amendments.</p> <p>Vázquez said she doesn’t believe the civil code violates the rights of anyone and that it would go into effect in 180 days. Román, however, wants to delay implementation of it to give attorneys and others time to read and understand all the changes.</p> <p>Among those changes are that couples getting a divorce no longer have to justify their decision in front of a judge and inheritors are not responsible for the debts or obligations of those who died.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 South America reopens; viral peak nears</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/south-america-ignores-europe-reopens-virus-peak-nears-71004651">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/south-america-ignores-europe-reopens-virus-peak-nears-71004651</a>
GIST	<p>RIO DE JANEIRO -- South American countries on Monday began easing COVID-19 restrictions even as the region hurtles toward its viral peak, disregarding the example set by European nations that were battered earlier by the virus.</p> <p>Some of Brazil’s hardest hit cities, including the jungle metropolis Manaus and coastal Rio de Janeiro, are starting to allow more activity. Bolivia’s government authorized reopening most of the country and the government of Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro unwound restrictions. Ecuador’s airports were resuming flights and shoppers returning to some of Colombia’s malls.</p> <p>Rolling back measures runs counter to Europe’s approach of waiting for the worst to pass before resuming activity, and South America trails much further behind on its viral curve. Even European nations that lifted restrictions earliest in their respective outbreaks – the U.K. and Russia - did so only after clearing their initial peaks.</p> <p>The executive director of the World Health Organization’s emergencies program, Mike Ryan, expressed concern over South America’s climbing contagion, telling reporters Monday that the region had become an “intense zone of transmission for this virus,” which had not yet reached its peak.</p> <p>“Clearly the situation in many South American countries is far from stable. There is a rapid increase in cases and those systems are coming under increasing pressure,” he said.</p> <p>Data from the WHO’s Pan American Health Organization shows the region’s seven-day rolling average of new cases continues rising, due in large part to Brazil, which accounts for more than half the total.</p> <p>Manaus, the Amazon rainforest’s largest city, was the first Brazilian metropolis whose health care system collapsed. For weeks, overwhelmed intensive-care units were unable to admit patients, deaths at home surged and a city cemetery buried bodies in mass graves.</p>

Such burials continue, yet the capital of Amazonas state on Monday began loosening its clamp on non-essential businesses. Amazonas registered 818 new COVID-19 cases Sunday, bringing the total number of cases above 40,000. There are more than 500,000 confirmed cases in Brazil, the second most in the world, and experts believe the true toll to be much higher due to insufficient testing.

Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian city with the second-most cases after Sao Paulo, on Monday announced it would begin gradually relaxing restrictions the following day. Already a city in its metropolitan region, Sao Joao de Meriti, started allowing salons, auto mechanics, and hotels to operate on Monday.

“Brazil tends to look at Europe, and the problem is that there they did one or two months of strict quarantine and are now reopening,” said Renato Mendes Coutinho, a specialist in mathematical biology at COVID-19 BR Observatory, an independent group of more than 50 Brazilian researchers. “The difference is that the lockdown they implemented and the restriction measures were much more efficient and thorough.”

Ecuador was one of the first South American nations slammed, with grim scenes of people leaving corpses outside their doorsteps in Guayaquil through March and April. The nation’s caseload continues to surge, yet its airport will resume international flights on June 3, according to Nicolás Romero, the airport’s spokesperson, though he said arriving passengers must spend 15 days in quarantine, without specifying how such quarantine will be enforced.

The airport in capital, Quito, recorded its first flight in 80 days on Monday, and flights to Miami and Houston will take off on June 4.

“It has just been one flight so far, but the important thing is the message it gives, of flying safely,” Luis Galárraga, the airport’s spokesperson, told The Associated Press.

Across Ecuador’s border, Colombia has shut the international airport in its capital, Bogotá, until September and locked down an entire working-class district home to 1.5 million people. But in the nation’s second city, Medellin, malls cautiously began opening their doors on Monday, though checking customers’ temperatures upon entry.

Medellin’s Mayor Daniel Quintero highlighted that the city registered no COVID-19 deaths in the prior 30 days. The national death toll, however, continues rising.

Marcos Espinal, director of PAHO’s communicable diseases department, said by phone that reopening too soon could cause harm in certain places that aren’t yet ready.

“If you’re in the middle of the epicenter, we don’t recommend to open,” Espinal said from Washington. “People’s lives are precious, and there shouldn’t be any negotiations of that.”

Venezuela on Monday allowed barbershops, beauty salons, auto shops, construction sites and banks to begin operations, along with other sectors. The nation is dialing down restrictions because it has reported relatively low COVID-19 impact: 1,510 cases and 14 deaths. Experts have roundly criticized Venezuela’s data as suspicious.

Bolivia on Monday instituted a so-called “dynamic quarantine” in most of the country, keeping parks and shows shuttered while resuming work, commerce and public transport, even as contagion continues rising.

The government’s public works minister, Iván Arias, suggested Monday that men shave their beards and mustaches to prevent infection. The Health Ministry’s epidemiological director, Virgílio Prieto, offered less optimism about recalibrating the nation’s quarantine, admitting it “could bring about an explosion of the new coronavirus.”

Across the ocean, in Europe, nations have debated reopening even after passing their contagion peaks. Britain only began easing lockdown once new deaths, hospitalizations and infections had clearly topped



	<p>out. Still, some public health experts believe the government has acted too soon and there will likely be a new rise in infections.</p> <p>Russian officials say that the nation is now past its peak, making it safe to gradually ease restrictions, even though some experts warn that the significant daily increase of about 9,000 cases makes it dangerous to do so quickly. On Monday, non-food retail stores, dry cleaners and repair shops reopened in the Russian capital that accounted for about half of the nation's caseload.</p> <p>Having seen first-hand the worst of the virus' damage in Europe, Jesús Gómez-Gardeñes, an associate professor in physics and computational epidemiology at the University of Zaragoza, in Spain, looks on South America's rush to reopen with concern.</p> <p>"Opening their doors when we have recent growth in the number of daily cases is something that could be, or is, a catastrophe," he said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 UN: Libya warring sides agree to talks</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/libyas-warring-sides-agreed-restart-peace-talks-71011420">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/libyas-warring-sides-agreed-restart-peace-talks-71011420</a>
GIST	<p>CAIRO -- The United Nations said Libya's warring factions have agreed to resume cease-fire talks, following days of heavy fighting and eastern-based forces retaking a key town from their rivals after a string of setbacks.</p> <p>The U.N. Mission in Libya said it hoped the new round of talks would "mark the beginning of calm on the ground," especially to allow the country's war-scarred health system to cope with a coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>Delegates from the rivals, Khalifa Hifter's east-based forces and militias allied with the U.N.-supported government in Tripoli, will conduct the talks through video calls because of the pandemic, the U.N. Mission said in the announcement late Monday. It didn't say when the talks would resume or give further details.</p> <p>As the foreign-fueled proxy war teeters on the edge of a major escalation, the statement signaled that both sides, and their foreign backers, may prefer to pull back from the brink.</p> <p>Spokespeople for the military factions did not immediately respond to requests for comment, and the fate of the political process remains unclear after previous agreements collapsed.</p> <p>On Sunday, Hifter's self-styled Libyan Arab Armed Forces recaptured the strategic town of al-Asabaa, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of the capital, after launching airstrikes on militias in the area, according to Ahmed al-Mosmari, a spokesman for the group. Their troops were chasing Tripoli-allied forces to their stronghold in the nearby town of Gharyan, he added.</p> <p>A statement for the Tripoli-allied forces did not acknowledge the defeat, with spokesman Mohamed Gnono saying only that they were targeting LAAF forces on the town's borders. But two Tripoli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, admitted they lost the town after heavy shelling and airstrikes by eastern forces.</p> <p>Control of the town gives the LAAF better access to Tarhuna, their main western stronghold and supply line southeast of the capital.</p> <p>Hifter's gain more broadly reflects the seesawing nature of the war, which in recent weeks had turned dramatically in favor of rival Turkish-backed Tripoli militias that ousted Hifter's forces from a key western airbase and several towns. The Tripoli government had been struggling to fend off a yearlong siege of the capital by Hifter's forces when Turkey escalated its air support.</p>

	<p>The battle for Tripoli has threatened to plunge Libya into chaos on the scale of the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, as foreign backers increasingly intervene.</p> <p>Hifter is backed by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia, while the Tripoli-allied militias are aided by Turkey, Qatar and Italy.</p> <p>Last month, in an unusually bold statement, the U.S. military accused Russia of deploying 14 aircraft to Libya to help Hifter's forces, saying the move was part of Moscow's longer term goal to establish a foothold in the region that could threaten NATO allies. Russia dismissed the claims as "stupidity."</p> <p>The coronavirus has infected at least 168 people in Libya, but testing is extremely limited. The impact of a large outbreak would likely be severe given the continued fighting and the state of the country's health system.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Journalists face attacks from police</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/journalists-covering-george-floyd-protests-face-attacks-police/story?id=70995097">https://abcnews.go.com/US/journalists-covering-george-floyd-protests-face-attacks-police/story?id=70995097</a>
GIST	<p>As protests over the <a href="#">killing of George Floyd roil the nation</a>, journalists covering the news have been indiscriminately arrested, tear gassed or shot with rubber bullets by local law enforcement -- at times even live on air.</p> <p>The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, an advocacy and research group that records reported attacks on journalists, says it is investigating over 100 instances of attacks on members of the press from just the last three days. The majority of those aggressions have been from police.</p> <p>In the last three days, at least 19 reporters have been arrested, 36 journalists have said they were shot at by police with projectiles such as rubber bullets and 76 have reported assaults (with 80% of those assaults being by police officers), according to their tally. The group cautions that the figures are preliminary and could change after their investigations.</p> <p>Last week, video of a black CNN journalist being arrested live on air went viral, garnering <a href="#">outrage and a direct apology from Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz</a>.</p> <p>As the protests continued across the country over the weekend, however, similar instances kept rolling in, many of them shared on social media by the journalists themselves.</p> <p>Video of a journalist in Louisville, Kentucky, with the local NBC News affiliate WAVE3 appeared to show police taking aim and shooting rubber projectiles at the reporter and her crew while live on air.</p> <p>Los Angeles Times reporter Molly Hennessy-Fiske said on Twitter that she and other colleagues covering the protests in Minnesota were tear gassed at "point blank range."</p> <p>"We identified ourselves as press and they fired tear gas canisters on us at point blank range, I got hit in the leg," she said in a video shared Twitter. "I was saying, 'Where do we go? Where do we go?' They did not tell us where to go. They didn't direct us. They just fired on us."</p> <p>Another reporter in Minnesota for the Star Tribune shared on Twitter that police shot rubber bullets through his car window, shattering the glass.</p> <p>"I'm bleeding," Ryan Faircloth said in the video. "Cops just shot my window out, my passenger side window out. Glass shattered as I tried to quickly turn and get out of their way."</p>

<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	<p>The new instances have raised alarm for press advocacy groups.</p> <p>"It's not enough to cover the protests via the official podiums of local police departments and politicians. Reporters need to be free to turn their cameras and microphones toward the local organizers who have long engaged in the fight for black dignity alongside those who are now taking to the streets with legitimate grievances against a system that devalues the lives of our people," Alicia Bell, the News Voices organizing manager at the advocacy group Free Press, said in a statement.</p> <p>"Rather than allowing law enforcement to control the narrative and vilify black people, as has been the case too often in the past, journalists have the right to mingle among protesters to document and air their perspectives," Bell added.</p> <p>She said this moment, however, also underscores the importance of building a relationship between newsrooms and communities.</p> <p>The Save Journalism Project called the attacks "unconscionable."</p> <p>"In reporting on protests of police violence against black Americans, reporters and journalists have become targets of violence themselves," cofounders Laura Bassett and John Stanton and spokesperson Nick Charles said in a joint statement.</p> <p>"The acts of violence and injustice against reporters covering the fight for black lives against police brutality is unconscionable," the statement added. "It impedes the press' ability to hold officials accountable and shed light on the fight for equality."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>06/01 Curfews, National Guard deployments</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/locations-george-floyd-protests-curfews-national-guard-deployments/story?id=70997568">https://abcnews.go.com/US/locations-george-floyd-protests-curfews-national-guard-deployments/story?id=70997568</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Twenty-six states including the District of Colombia have <a href="#">activated their National Guards</a>, with nearly 80 localities implementing curfews amid the nationwide protests following the <a href="#">death of George Floyd</a>.</p> <p>The historic orders follow a weekend where protests erupted across dozens of U.S. cities. At least 4,400 people have been arrested as of Monday, according to The <a href="#">Associated Press</a>.</p> <p>"As of Monday morning, a historic 66,700 National Guard soldiers and airmen were activated for domestic operations across the United States in support of their governors" the National Guard Bureau said in a press release Monday.</p> <p>45,000 National Guardsman had already been deployed to support states responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Minnesota Governor Tim Walz first initiated the state's National Guard on Thursday after protests descended into violence the night before.</p> <p>Since then, half of the country's states have activated the National Guard to aid local law enforcement.</p> <p>While New York State has not deployed the National Guard, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that the Guard is on "standby" in a press conference Sunday.</p> <p>In addition to the nationwide National Guard deployments, localities across the country have implemented curfews.</p>

New York City, the site of some of the country's largest demonstrations, announced Monday afternoon that [the city would enact a curfew](#) taking effect at 11 p.m.

Several municipalities have also extended curfews.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser moved the city's curfew to 7 p.m. on Monday -- four hours earlier than what it was on Sunday.

[Los Angeles](#) also announced that its order would begin at 6 p.m. on Monday. The City of Santa Monica began its downtown lockdown at 1 p.m. -- with the entire city under lockdown at 4 p.m.

Despite Miami-Dade County maintaining a curfew, Miami officials announced Monday afternoon that the city would lift its curfew order.

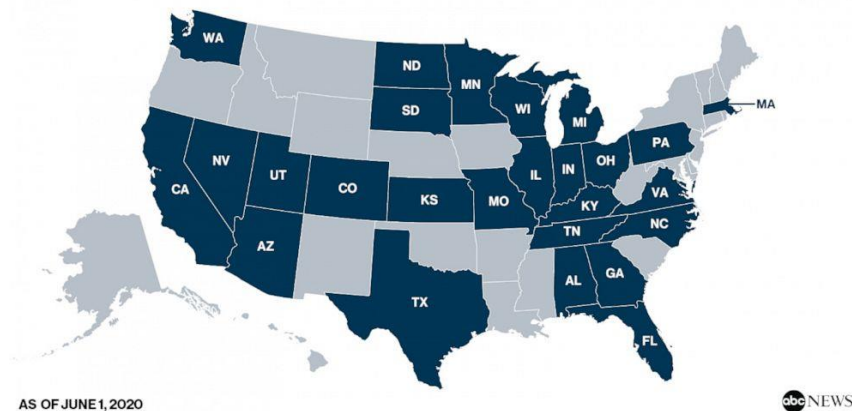
Minneapolis, the site of Floyd's death, announced a shorter curfew for Monday night, starting at 10 p.m., and expiring at 4 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

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## Cities with Curfews



## States with Active National Guard



HEADLINE	06/01 Louisville PD chief fired; fatal shooting
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/louisville-police-chief-fired-fatal-shooting-david-mcatee/story?id=71004972">https://abcnews.go.com/US/louisville-police-chief-fired-fatal-shooting-david-mcatee/story?id=71004972</a>
GIST	<p>A police chief has been fired and two officers are on administrative leave after a barbecue business owner in the West End of Louisville, Kentucky, was shot dead by law enforcement trying to <a href="#">enforce curfew</a> amid <a href="#">protests</a> over a previous police shooting, officials said.</p> <p>David McAtee, who owned YaYa's BBQ, was shot and killed early Monday morning in the parking lot of Dino's Food Mart on 26th and Broadway, where he normally set up his stand.</p>

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said in a [statement](#) that the Louisville Metro Police Department and National Guard were dispatched to the lot to disperse a crowd when they were fired upon and subsequently returned fire, killing McAtee.

Amid an investigation by state and local police, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said he learned that the officers involved in the incident had not had their body cameras activated when the shooting occurred.

"This type of institutional failure will not be tolerated," Fischer said. "Accordingly, I have relieved Steve Conrad of his duties as chief of Louisville Metro Police Department."

Fischer said Assistant Chief of Police Robert Schroeder will be taking Conrad's place.

"The two officers that fired their weapons violated our policy by either not wearing or not activating their cameras," Schroeder said. "That is completely unacceptable and there is no excuse... We will review the entire incident to determine if there are any other policy violations that occurred. I assure you we will follow up and there will be discipline for failing to utilize our cameras."

Schroeder said that there were two LMPD officers and two National Guardsmen involved in returning fire. The two LMPD officers, Katie Crews and Austin Allen, were placed on administrative leave pending the investigation. The National Guard will also conduct its own review on its members, he said.

Although there were no body cameras, Schroeder said the police department will be releasing video of the incident from nearby cameras as well as the audio from police radio transmissions in an effort to increase transparency.

McAtee's mother, Odessa Riley, described him to the [Courier-Journal](#) as a "community pillar" who would feed police for free. Those who knew him told the publication he would often cook for community events as well.

"David was a friend to many, well known, barbecue man," Fischer said Monday. "[He] had nurtured so many people in their bellies, in their hearts before, and for him to be caught up in this and for him not to be with us today is a tragedy that is just hard to put into words."

McAtee's death comes amid protests in Louisville for [Breonna Taylor](#), a licensed EMT, who was shot eight times while sleeping in her home by police executing a "no-knock" search warrant on March 13.

On Monday, Kentucky State Rep. Charles Booker said "our community is hurting."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Some protests turn peaceful</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/george-floyd-protest-live-updates-derek-chauvin-moved/story?id=70991321">https://abcnews.go.com/US/george-floyd-protest-live-updates-derek-chauvin-moved/story?id=70991321</a>
GIST	<p>New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted late Monday night that any unrest has calmed down at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, the site of clashes between protesters and police over the last few days.</p> <p>De Blasio said protesters were overwhelmingly peaceful on this latest night of demonstrations, but that some people during the evening caused some damage that won't be allowed.</p> <p>In Denver, protesters at the State Capitol took a knee and observed eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence -- the same amount of time Derek Chauvin had his knee on George Floyd's neck before Floyd died. Only the sound of helicopters above and honking in the distance could be heard.</p> <p>Louisville, Kentucky, Mayor Greg Fischer also said protests in his city were largely peaceful.</p>

	<p>The mayor said the peaceful demonstrations honored the memory of David McAtee, the local restaurant owner who was <a href="#">shot and killed</a> by Louisville police officers early Monday morning.</p> <p>The city of Washington, D.C., has been relatively quiet tonight compared to the violence of the past weekend, law enforcement and homeland security officials tell ABC News.</p> <p>Officials report sporadic disturbances in Chinatown, where tear gas was deployed near the Convention Center.</p> <p>City and federal law enforcement, as well as the military, has had a heavy presence on the city streets, with aircraft, including a Black Hawk helicopter, patrolling overhead.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Floyd Autopsy: 'homicide by asphyxia'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/independent-autopsy-george-floyd-findings-announced/story?id=70994827">https://abcnews.go.com/US/independent-autopsy-george-floyd-findings-announced/story?id=70994827</a>
GIST	<p>An independent autopsy ordered by George Floyd's family found his death was a "homicide caused by asphyxia due to neck and back compression that led to a lack of blood flow to the brain," according to early findings from the examination released Monday.</p> <p>Floyd was apprehended by police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota, last Monday, and one of the officers pinned his knee to Floyd's neck as Floyd called out that he couldn't breathe.</p> <p>The independent examiners found that weight on Floyd's back, the handcuffs and the positioning were contributory factors because they impaired the ability of Floyd's diaphragm to function. The report concluded that Floyd, 46, died at the scene.</p> <p>"The ambulance was the hearse," Ben Crump, an attorney for Floyd's family, said at a news conference announcing the findings.</p> <p>Later Monday, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office released its initial findings of their autopsy and also declared Floyd's death was a homicide caused by "a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by law enforcement officer(s)."</p> <p>Dr. Michael Baden and the University of Michigan Medical School's director of autopsy and forensic services, Dr. Allecia Wilson, handled the newly announced independent examination.</p> <p>Baden, who was New York's medical examiner in 1978 and 1979, had previously performed independent autopsies on Eric Garner, who was killed by a police officer in Staten Island, New York, in 2014 and Michael Brown, who was shot by officers in <a href="#">Ferguson</a>, Missouri, that same year.</p> <p>Baden said Floyd was in good health before his death and said the video of his death showed the compression of his neck and back very clearly.</p> <p>"When he said 'I can't breathe,' unfortunately, many police are under impression that if you can talk that means you're breathing. That is not true," he said during the news conference.</p> <p>Wilson said toxicology reports and other examinations are still ongoing and acknowledged that since they conducted a second autopsy, as the medical examiner had done one previously, they did not have access to Floyd's tissue samples in their original state.</p> <p>"We feel those items will not change or alter the cause of death with mechanical asphyxia," she said.</p>



	<p>The medical examiner's preliminary report, however, said Floyd had "other significant conditions," including "arteriosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease, a fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use."</p> <p>Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, identified as the officer who put his knee to Floyd's neck, was arrested and <a href="#">charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter</a>. Floyd was heard saying "I can't breathe," while the officer had him pinned for nearly nine minutes, according to the criminal complaint.</p> <p>Three other officers who were involved in the arrest <a href="#">have been fired</a> but haven't been charged as of Monday afternoon.</p> <p>The criminal complaint said the official examination of Floyd's body by the medical examiner is still ongoing, but prosecutors provided some information about this death. This is separate from the independent autopsy requested by Floyd's family.</p> <p>The medical examiner's initial findings were that Floyd had underlying health conditions including coronary artery disease and hypertensive heart disease, the complaint said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Seattle mayor, police face questions</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattle-mayor-police-face-questions-over-response-to-george-floyd-protests-downtown-turmoil/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattle-mayor-police-face-questions-over-response-to-george-floyd-protests-downtown-turmoil/</a>
GIST	<p>Mayor Jenny Durkan sought to draw a sharp line Sunday between peaceful protesters who thronged to downtown Seattle the day before to demand justice for George Floyd — and other people who broke windows, looted stores, started blazes and threw projectiles at police officers.</p> <p>At the same time, Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best faced questions over the city's response to the turmoil, as some nonviolent protesters described escalations by officers early in the afternoon, and as business owners pondered why the police weren't able to stop the chaos that erupted.</p> <p>Many weeks may be spent reviewing what occurred Saturday, including muddled scenes like demonstrator Alex Jessup, 35, recalled being caught up in on Fifth Avenue as the situation devolved.</p> <p>"I saw people with their hands up, shouting 'Hands up, don't shoot,' and then people behind them throwing water bottles at the police," said Jessup, compelled to protest based on Floyd's death while in police custody, other such killings and his own interactions as a Black man with police. "Then the officers would throw a flash bang or tear gas just randomly into the crowd."</p> <p>Durkan began Sunday downtown, where volunteers cleaned up glass and graffiti. "It wasn't a downtown that I recognized," she said afterward, holding back tears at a news conference. "What I did recognize were the hundreds of volunteers and residents who came because they love Seattle."</p> <p>Speaking to media, she said that damage had been committed by people bent on "chaos, destruction and hate," rather than by sincere demonstrators touched by a death that "echoes through too many decades of hopes dashed, promises broken and lives taken" from Black communities.</p> <p>Much of the violence was, she said, "instigated and perpetuated not by the people most impacted by generations of discrimination and institutional racism but by young white men," Durkan said. "These were not the acts of allies."</p> <p>Best agreed, though she didn't share demographic information about the dozens of people she said were arrested Saturday on charges that included assault, obstruction, failure to disperse and burglary.</p>

King County jail data showed a spike in burglary arrests, with 43 people booked between 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday. In the past year, only three people were jailed each day on that charge, on average.

“We’ve dealt with crowds of thousands of people before,” Best said, calling the situation the worst in her 28-year career. “But this crowd was different ... The anger directed toward the Police Department was unprecedented and the numbers were unprecedented.”

While Durkan imposed a two-day, 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew that she announced suddenly around 5 p.m., no one was arrested Saturday for merely violating that order, with most peaceful protesters leaving downtown soon after, Best said. “We didn’t have buildings burnt to the ground. We didn’t have major injuries,” she added, arguing Seattle made out better than some other U.S. cities.

What the damage-causing people “did not do and will never do is drown out” the righteous message behind the protests, Durkan said at another news conference later Sunday, held as protesters once again gathered downtown.

Several Black community leaders struck the same tone as the mayor. Not This Time!’s Andre Taylor, who led a large, non-violent protest in Westlake Park, praised the Durkan administration’s posture toward the situation.

“I’m tired, I’m angry” about Floyd’s killing and so many others, said Sheila Edwards Lange, president of Seattle Central College, who participated in the Westlake Park rally. “But I have to stand up for what I know to be right ... I also saw groups of mostly white men with huge backpacks clearly not there for ... hope and healing.”

The situation began to deteriorate around 3 p.m. Saturday, as police in certain streets near Westlake Park blocked certain crowds from the rally. That step was taken to exclude troublemakers from the demonstration, Durkan said.

Projectiles thrown at officers were first reported just before 2 p.m. on Fifth Avenue, between James and Madison streets, near police headquarters, the Durkan administration said. At 3:50 p.m., a patrol vehicle was reported vandalized and then set on fire.

By 4:30 p.m., there were reports of Molotov cocktails being thrown at officers, rifles stolen from police vehicles, the department’s headquarters being doused with accelerants, about 1,000 people shutting down Interstate 5, according to the administration, which was preparing a timeline Sunday.

“I’ve heard and seen some of those criticisms, that somehow it was the Seattle Police Department that instigated the violence and chaos, and it’s just false,” the mayor said.

### **Participants describe escalating tensions**

Some protesters said that doesn’t quite match what they saw. Several demonstrators said they were surprised as they peacefully made their way to the Westlake Park rally and were repelled by a police force for reasons they didn’t understand.

It was about 3:30 p.m. when Ariana Dapra came upon a crowd blocked by a line of police at Fifth Avenue and Pine Street, she said. Dapra was waiting about three feet away when officers without warning shot what she described as pepper spray in her direction. Some hit her face.

“We weren’t even aware we were supposed to be moving or dispersing,” the 26-year-old said. “We were given no direction before they pepper sprayed into the crowd.”

Dapra said she couldn’t see for more than 10 minutes, until people poured milk and saline solution into her eyes. She listened Sunday as Durkan rejected the idea that police contributed to the tensions.

“I felt like I was being gaslighted,” she said about the mayor’s remarks. “It was not the experience I had.”

Jules Carson, 22, described a similar encounter, as she and her mother made their way toward Westlake Park. They and others were stopped near Fifth and Pine.

“People were completely peaceful, chanting, ‘No justice, no peace,’” she said. “Then at like 3:20 p.m., without provocation, there was a tear-gas canister fired into the crowd by the police and people started running.”

Minutes later, when she knelt down with “maybe 200” other people a couple blocks away, another canister was fired into the crowd, though no one had thrown anything at the police, she said. “None of us ever made it to Westlake,” Carson said.

Many demonstrators didn’t expect conditions to turn ugly so quickly. Jorge Barón, executive director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, said he brought his two teenage daughters downtown for the rally.

In a Sunday email to Durkan, he rejected the violence that occurred while also questioning the mayor’s account, saying it “seemed to suggest ... that officers had only been trying to keep the bad actors away from the peaceful protesters” at Westlake Park.

“I have to tell you that this account does not conform with what I saw yesterday,” Barón wrote, saying he and his daughters were blocked by police at Fourth Avenue and Olive Way.

“We did not witness any violence or disturbance at this point that justified the officers being deployed in this way,” he said.

They were blocked again at Fifth and Pine, “until we started sensing the crowd ahead of us begin to flee northeast and we heard loud bangs,” he added, suggesting the police lines “exacerbated the tensions.”

### **Videos capture downtown scene**

Several alarming incidents captured on video and shared on social media also raised concerns.

In one, protesters helped a young girl who apparently had been hit by pepper spray or tear gas, wash her eyes. In another, an officer held a young man to the ground with his knee near the man’s neck until another officer pulled the knee away.

Durkan said all questionable incidents would “undergo a high level of scrutiny and review” by the police department and its civilian watchdogs, including the Office of Police Accountability (OPA), though she also warned about relying on clips that don’t show what may have happened moments earlier. “If any use of force was outside of compliance, the officer will be held accountable,” she said.

The OPA, director Andrew Myerberg said, will look into a mind-boggling incident Saturday that saw two assault rifles removed from police cruisers, at least one of which was torched. A video posted on social media shows a private security guard who was protecting a Q13 television crew pointing a handgun at a young man holding one of the rifles, snatching it and ejecting the magazine.

“We need to see who those vehicles belonged to and the circumstances under which this happened,” Myerberg said. “We certainly are concerned.”

Durkan visited the Chinatown-International District to meet with community leaders and business owners, including some who absorbed damage there. Meanwhile, others struggled to understand why the police were unable to stop the smash-and-grab activity that continued for hours after dark.

The 1,300-officer department isn’t large enough to handle what erupted Saturday night, said a high-level city source; at Durkan’s request, Gov. Jay Inslee sent state National Guard troops Sunday.

"It's very, very difficult," the source said, wondering why officers didn't start seizing poles and other potential weapons sooner.

Later in the evening, when demonstrators shut down Interstate 5, the police appeared to almost abandon parts of downtown, allowing looting to ramp up there.

Fire Chief Harold Scoggins said his department handled 530 calls to 911 Saturday, representing a 40% increase over normal volumes.

Spokeswoman Sgt. Lauren Trustcott said a police-department policy requires that patrol rifles, when not in use, be secured in the police vehicle, in the trunk or a bracket mounted between the seats.

Near Sixth Avenue and Pine Street, a man who gave his name as Steve stood guard outside an apartment building with an aluminum baseball bat and a handgun. "It's anarchy," he said.

By then, Durkan had issued an emergency order banning all weapons, including firearms, in central Seattle. But it remained unclear Sunday how the order was being enforced.

"I think people are going to be standing in line to file a legal challenge to this," said Dave Workman, spokesman for the Bellevue-based Second Amendment Foundation.

The Durkan administration said the ban was written to provide officers with discretion to confiscate any weapon as necessary.

Some people always will try to hijack protests to cause harm, said Norm Stamper, who served as police chief during Seattle's notorious 1999 World Trade Organization demonstrations. To become more resilient, departments nationwide must give up more power and decision making to community members, he said.

"We have a tendency to not learn from history," Stamper said. "We need to forge authentic partnerships."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 WHO: no evidence virus losing potency</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-who-transmission/who-and-other-experts-say-no-evidence-of-covid-19-losing-potency-idUSKBN23832J">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-who-transmission/who-and-other-experts-say-no-evidence-of-covid-19-losing-potency-idUSKBN23832J</a>
GIST	<p>LONDON/MILAN (Reuters) - World Health Organization experts and a range of other scientists said on Monday there was no evidence to support an assertion by a high profile Italian doctor that the coronavirus causing the COVID-19 pandemic has been losing potency.</p> <p>Professor Alberto Zangrillo, head of intensive care at Italy's San Raffaele Hospital in Lombardy, which bore the brunt of Italy's COVID-19 epidemic, on Sunday told state television that the new coronavirus "clinically no longer exists".</p> <p>But WHO epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove, as well as several other experts on viruses and infectious diseases, said Zangrillo's comments were not supported by scientific evidence.</p> <p>There is no data to show the new coronavirus is changing significantly, either in its form of transmission or in the severity of the disease it causes, they said.</p> <p>"In terms of transmissibility, that has not changed, in terms of severity, that has not changed," Van Kerkhove told reporters.</p>

It is not unusual for viruses to mutate and adapt as they spread, and the debate on Monday highlights how scientists are monitoring and tracking the new virus. The COVID-19 pandemic has so far killed more than 370,000 people and infected more than 6 million.

Martin Hibberd, a professor of emerging infectious disease at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said major studies looking at genetic changes in the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 did not support the idea that it was becoming less potent, or weakening in any way.

“With data from more than 35,000 whole virus genomes, there is currently no evidence that there is any significant difference relating to severity,” he said in an emailed comment.

Zangrillo, well known in Italy as the personal doctor of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, said his comments were backed up by a study conducted by a fellow scientist, Massimo Clementi, which Zangrillo said would be published next week.

Zangrillo told Reuters: “We have never said that the virus has changed, we said that the interaction between the virus and the host has definitely changed.”

He said this could be due either to different characteristics of the virus, which he said they had not yet identified, or different characteristics in those infected.

The study by Clementi, who is director of the microbiology and virology laboratory of San Raffaele, compared virus samples from COVID-19 patients at the Milan-based hospital in March with samples from patients with the disease in May.

“The result was unambiguous: an extremely significant difference between the viral load of patients admitted in March compared to” those admitted last month, Zangrillo said.

Oscar MacLean, an expert at the University of Glasgow’s Centre for Virus Research, said suggestions that the virus was weakening were “not supported by anything in the scientific literature and also seem fairly implausible on genetic grounds.”

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 New EPA rule curbs state powers</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-water-energy/u-s-epa-moves-to-curb-state-powers-to-deny-permits-for-energy-projects-idUSKBN238367">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-water-energy/u-s-epa-moves-to-curb-state-powers-to-deny-permits-for-energy-projects-idUSKBN238367</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler signed on Monday a rule limiting state powers to block energy infrastructure projects, setting up a fight with some Democratic governors who say Washington is stripping their ability to protect their states’ interests and combat climate change.</p> <p>The move comes as the Trump administration grows increasingly frustrated with left-leaning states like California and Washington that it says have misused their authority under the U.S. Clean Water Act to halt fossil fuel projects like pipelines and coal terminals.</p> <p>Under the rule, first proposed in August, the EPA will alter Section 401 of the federal water law to make it impossible for a state to block a water permit for a project for any reason other than direct pollution into state waters. It will also set a one-year deadline for states to approve projects.</p> <p>In the past, states have weighed broader factors, such as climate change, to determine quality and have taken years to make decisions on projects.</p> <p>New Jersey and New York both denied a 401 permit to the Williams Co. \$1 billion Northeast Supply Enhancement pipeline project, citing both water quality and climate change concerns.</p>

	<p>Wheeler said the change would prevent states from holding “our nation’s energy infrastructure projects hostage,” deterring investors.</p> <p>“You won’t be able to use 401 in the future, citing climate change,” Wheeler said.</p> <p>Interstate pipelines, coal terminals and other projects cannot proceed without a state agreeing to a water permit or waiving its authority to issue a certification.</p> <p>Several states, including Washington, have hinted that they would take legal action against the EPA if it moves to curtail state authority under the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>“The Trump Administration’s proposed rule would usurp state and tribal authority to regulate our waters, in violation of the law,” Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson said after submitting comments in October.</p> <p>Washington denied a section 401 permit in 2017, effectively blocking the construction of a coal export terminal that would have allowed western U.S. coal to be transported to Asia.</p> <p>The American Petroleum Institute, which has criticized states like New York for blocking pipeline construction, praised the new rule.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Michigan gov. largely rescinds lockdown</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-michigan/michigan-governor-largely-rescinds-lockdown-retailers-to-reopen-idUSKBN2383EC">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-michigan/michigan-governor-largely-rescinds-lockdown-retailers-to-reopen-idUSKBN2383EC</a>
GIST	<p>DETROIT (Reuters) - Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer on Monday moved to further reopen the Midwest state’s economy, largely rescinding a stay-at-home order in place since March and allowing retailers and restaurants to open back up over the next week.</p> <p>Whitmer’s new executive order will allow retailers to reopen on Thursday and restaurants and bars on June 8, both subject to capacity limits. Until now, only essential retailers like groceries had remained open, while restaurants had closed dining areas while offering pickup and delivery services.</p> <p>“The data has shown that we are ready to carefully move our state into the next phase,” Whitmer said in a statement. “While Michiganders are no longer required to stay home, we must all continue to be smart and practice social distancing.”</p> <p>Michigan, one of the states hit hardest by the outbreak, has had one of the stricter stay-at-home orders.</p> <p>Whitmer, seen as a potential vice presidential running mate for presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, had been criticized by business leaders and President Donald Trump, and faced protests over her orders. She has gradually reopened different segments of the state economy as the infection rate has flattened.</p> <p>Trump won in Michigan in the 2016 election, the first Republican to do so since 1988.</p> <p>Whitmer on Monday added that her goal was to announce a shift to the next phase, which would allow most businesses as well as schools to reopen, before July 4. She said state residents must continue to wear face masks when in enclosed public spaces.</p> <p>Effective immediately, groups of 100 or less will be allowed to gather outdoors with social distancing and office work that cannot be done remotely can resume.</p>



	<p>Subject to local regulations, gyms and fitness centers may conduct outdoor classes or games provided participants maintain six feet of distance from others. Outdoor pools can reopen with restricted capacity.</p> <p>Other businesses involving close contact and shared surfaces, including hair salons, indoor theaters, tattoo parlors, casinos, and similar establishments, will remain closed for now.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Colorado: no virus deaths 2<sup>nd</sup> straight day</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/health/colorado-announces-no-new-coronavirus-linked-deaths-for-second-straight-day">https://www.foxnews.com/health/colorado-announces-no-new-coronavirus-linked-deaths-for-second-straight-day</a>
GIST	<p>For the second straight day, <a href="#">Colorado</a> reported no new deaths linked directly to the novel <a href="#">coronavirus</a>, according to official estimates.</p> <p>The news comes as deaths from the coronavirus in the Centennial State have continued to decline since peaking in mid-April, the <a href="#">Denver Post reported</a>.</p> <p>Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 are also falling, with some 297 people currently hospitalized in Colorado. The newspaper noted this is the first time since March 27 that less than 300 people in the state have been hospitalized at once due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>The news comes after Colorado made a significant change to the way it counts COVID-19 deaths <a href="#">that reduced the statewide figure from more than 1,000 to 878 in mid-May</a>. The change came after Colorado's Department of Public Health admitted that its COVID-19 death toll was counting those who tested positive for the coronavirus but had died of other causes. The state now separates the two, now listing "deaths among cases" and "deaths due to COVID-19" in separate categories in its official estimates.</p> <p>Colorado has reported 26,378 cases of the novel virus, with some 1,181 deaths due to COVID-19, <a href="#">according to the latest estimates</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Trail of destruction across cities</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/george-floyd-protests-aftermath">https://www.foxnews.com/us/george-floyd-protests-aftermath</a>
GIST	<p>American cities are spending Monday morning digging out from scenes of destruction after demonstrations against the police-involved death of George Floyd gave way to a fifth straight night of looting and rioting, resulting in another wave of arrests.</p> <p>As of Monday morning, at least 4,400 people have been taken into custody nationwide in relation to the chaos, according to an Associated Press tally. Meanwhile, countless more business owners whose livelihoods already have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic are finding their stores damaged and ransacked.</p> <p>"It's one of the most challenging times that I've seen in my 30 years of policing," NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea told "Fox &amp; Friends" on Monday after a night of looting in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood left sidewalks outside high-end retail stores littered with debris and broken glass. "I can tell you that we had thousands of police officers deployed last night."</p> <p>"In terms of protest, in terms of balancing orderly protest, respecting people's rights to peacefully assemble, that was going on all day, large crowds in Brooklyn, smaller crowds in Queens, significant crowds in Manhattan," Dermot continued. "But then it turned dark, it turned ugly and it turned that way fast."</p>

The New York Post reports that police arrested dozens of looters in the Big Apple overnight. A witness told the newspaper that some of them acted in an apparent system where suspects would break into stores before leaping into getaway vehicles outside.

Videos on social media showed crowds targeting a wide array of businesses throughout Manhattan, emerging from shattered storefronts with everything ranging from Chanel handbags to bicycles.

The ongoing demonstrations that have gripped the U.S. and the entire world were sparked by the death of Floyd, a black man who pleaded for air as a Minneapolis officer pressed a knee into his neck. That officer – Derek Chauvin – has been charged with third-degree murder and reportedly has been transferred to a maximum-security prison.

Floyd's death came after tensions had already flared after two white men were arrested in May for the February shooting death of black jogger Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, and the Louisville police shooting death of Breonna Taylor in her home in March.

Despite fresh concerns about the spread of coronavirus, Americans from all walks of life have come together en masse to demonstrate against the deaths and call for the reform of police departments and the criminal justice system. While many of the gatherings have been peaceful – including some that saw officers take a knee in solidarity with protesters – others have frequently turned violent, often when late afternoon gives way to nightfall.

A Sunday afternoon of mostly peaceful protests in Boston made a turn for a worse overnight when protesters clashed with officers, throwing rocks, breaking into several stores, and lighting a police vehicle on fire.

Boston police tweeted that at least 40 people had been arrested as of 3 a.m. Monday, adding that seven police officers had been hospitalized and 21 police cruisers were damaged.

In Portland, Oregon, police deployed tear gas to disperse a large crowd downtown late Sunday night after authorities said projectiles were thrown at officers.

Earlier, police said protesters smashed windows at the federal courthouse, and authorities on loudspeakers declared the gathering a civil disturbance.

A protest along the historic Route 66 into downtown Albuquerque also turned violent early Monday after police reported demonstrators setting small fires and officers said they were fired upon.

Albuquerque police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos told the Associated Press that officers reported shots fired at them in front of the historic Kimo Theater after a mostly peaceful demonstration disbanded. Gallego said there was damage to several properties in the area, including broken windows and some stealing from stores – although there were no reports of injuries.

And in Texas, police fired rubber bullets and pepper spray late Sunday night at demonstrators who gathered outside the downtown police station in Austin. Some people – in television footage of the standoff -- could be seen throwing water bottles at police.

A little farther north in Dallas – one of the many [U.S. cities to have instituted a curfew](#) in hopes of quelling the unrest – police made dozens of arrests.

Some Americans have even tried to get in the way of the looters, with mixed results.

A man protecting a liquor store in Chicago Sunday night was hit in the right arm by gunfire and was rushed to a hospital, where he is now said to be in good condition, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

	<p>In Philadelphia, local residents from a group called “Stand Up Philly” banded together to deter looters from going after a Target store.</p> <p>Anthony, one of its members, told Fox29 that the locals are against what happened to Floyd, calling it “disgusting” and vowing that “it has to stop.”</p> <p>“But we have to unite the city and what is happening throughout the city right now is dividing the city, it is not uniting the city,” he said. “There is no justice in robbing stores and looting your own neighborhood and burning the city down.”</p> <p>Even though an estimated 16,000 National Guard troops have been mobilized to quell the rioting and looting, it’s not clear when the violence will end.</p> <p>But in the meantime, Shea is calling on all Americans to show restraint.</p> <p>“I think people need to understand, when they see officers out there on the line as they’re doing now trying to keep peace, they’re doing the best they can in an extremely, extremely difficult situation,” he told ‘Fox &amp; Friends’. “This goes across the country and they need your support.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 China uses US protests to cry hypocrisy</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-uses-u-s-protests-to-cry-hypocrisy-amid-hong-kong-standoff/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-uses-u-s-protests-to-cry-hypocrisy-amid-hong-kong-standoff/</a>
GIST	<p>The protests across the U.S. over <a href="#">George Floyd's death</a> at the hands of police in Minneapolis have coincided with rising U.S. tensions with <a href="#">China</a>. That tension has been fueled most recently by Beijing's hugely controversial move to impose <a href="#">new national security laws on Hong Kong</a>, but China is using the mass protests roiling the U.S. to troll Washington, and demand the Trump administration mind its own business.</p> <p>China's criticism of President Trump has come from every angle — from the central government in Beijing; from Hong Kong and even from Washington D.C., where Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai blamed the massive pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong last year for forcing Beijing's hand to move ahead with the new security law.</p> <p>But it was China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying who referenced the death of George Floyd in a tweet. She replied to U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus' Twitter criticism over Hong Kong with just three words: "I can't breathe."</p> <p>Those were the words Floyd was heard saying as a police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes, and the message from Beijing was clear: The Trump administration should worry more about the mass protests sweeping the U.S. before criticizing China for what it's doing in Hong Kong.</p> <p>China is using the protests to point out what it calls American "hypocrisy."</p> <p>"Racism against ethnic minorities in the U.S. is a chronic disease of American society," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing, adding: "The current situation reflects once more the severity of the problems of racism and police violence in the U.S."</p> <p>But protests have also returned to the streets of Hong Kong in recent weeks over the new security laws. Thousands of people have turned out in the former British colony, met by riot police using water cannon and pepper balls to quash the demonstrations. Hundreds of protesters have been arrested.</p> <p>If and when the new legislation is officially enacted, the new laws will ban subversion, secession, terrorism and foreign interference. But many Hong Kongers are afraid Beijing will twist the interpretation</p>

	<p>of the laws to chip away at their freedoms of speech, press, assembly and Hong Kong's independent judicial system.</p> <p>Those freedoms — non-existent on mainland China — were enshrined in an agreement signed by both the U.K. and China when Hong Kong was handed back to Beijing in 1997, and they're meant to remain in place until 2047.</p> <p>But a new development on Monday night will fuel fears that those rights are at risk, and likely fuel the protests along with them: Hong Kong's police force has objected to the annual Tiananmen Square vigil in the city, set for this week.</p> <p>It will be the first time since Beijing's June 4, 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing that Hong Kongers will not be allowed hold a mass vigil marking the solemn date.</p> <p>Officials say a vigil would run against social distancing rules in place amid the coronavirus pandemic.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 DOJ steps up law enforcement presence</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-law-enforcement-nationwide-protest-clashes/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-law-enforcement-nationwide-protest-clashes/</a>
GIST	<p><i>Washington</i> — The Justice Department is ramping up its law enforcement presence amid <a href="#">nationwide protests</a> in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which has sparked violent clashes between police and demonstrators in major American cities.</p> <p>A senior Justice Department official said Attorney General William Barr had directed the Bureau of Prisons to send riot teams to Miami, where the team was over the weekend, and Washington, D.C., where hundreds of protesters gathered at the White House for demonstrations that escalated as day turned to night.</p> <p>In addition to deploying riot teams, known as special operation response teams, all FBI field offices have set up command posts.</p> <p>Protests erupted across the country in the wake of Floyd's death last week, with tens of thousands taking to the streets over the last six days to oppose police brutality and the deaths of unarmed African Americans in police custody.</p> <p>As tensions have continued to escalate, mayors in dozens of cities have imposed curfews on residents and the National Guard has been activated in 23 states and the District of Columbia.</p> <p>The protests have been marred by clashes with law enforcement and destruction of businesses, vehicles and monuments. In the nation's capital late Sunday night as hundreds demonstrated outside the White House gates, a fire broke out in the basement of the historic St. John's Episcopal Church, located across the street from the White House. Firefighters put out the flames at the church, which held its first services in 1816.</p> <p>Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser activated the National Guard in the district Sunday to assist with the response to protests outside the White House and implemented a 7 p.m. citywide curfew for Monday and Tuesday in anticipation of another night of demonstrations.</p> <p>The senior Justice Department official said Barr deployed the FBI's hostage rescue team late Sunday night to help D.C. police and is working to maximize federal law enforcement's presence in the nation's capital Monday. U.S. Marshals and Drug Enforcement Agency agents were also dispatched to help the National Guard on Sunday in Lafayette Square across from the White House.</p>

	<p>Barr said Saturday that the protests appear to be organized by "anarchic and left extremist groups," though he did not provide evidence showing a centralized effort by outside organizations to use the protests to incite violence. President Trump, too, has blamed leftist activists for the violence, without presenting evidence to support the claim.</p> <p>The attorney general warned that it is a federal crime to cross state lines to participate in violent rioting and said participants found to have done so will be prosecuted.</p> <p>In the case of the protests taking place from coast to coast, the senior official said FBI agents have already begun interviewing some suspects arrested by local police to determine whether any federal crimes have been committed.</p> <p>Floyd died last week after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his left knee into his neck for more than eight minutes. In the last few minutes, Floyd was unresponsive, his family's attorney, Benjamin Crump, told "Face the Nation" on Sunday.</p> <p>The officer who kneeled on Floyd's neck, identified as Derek Chauvin, was arrested and charged with second-degree manslaughter and third-degree murder last week. The other three officers who were involved in the incident were fired but have not been charged.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Philippines, Turkey, India ease lockdowns</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-philippines-sees-traffic-jams-lockdown-eases-70989109">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-philippines-sees-traffic-jams-lockdown-eases-70989109</a> <a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/turkey-eases-lockdown-restaurants-reopen-flights-resume-70992705">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/turkey-eases-lockdown-restaurants-reopen-flights-resume-70992705</a> <a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/indias-cautious-states-open-virus-cases-rise-70990779">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/indias-cautious-states-open-virus-cases-rise-70990779</a>
GIST	<p>BANGKOK -- Traffic jams and crowds of commuters returned to the Philippine capital on Monday, as the metropolis relaxed antivirus measures in a high-stakes gamble to slowly reopen the economy while fighting the <a href="#">coronavirus</a> pandemic.</p> <p>Commuter trains, taxis, ride-sharing cars, special shuttle buses and motorcycles rumbled back on the roads in metropolitan Manila but were only allowed to carry a fraction of their capacity as a safeguard.</p> <p>Public transport was still limited under the relaxed rules and many commuters waited for hours to get a ride despite the government's deployment of buses.</p> <p>A larger swarm of private cars also helped choke roads.</p> <p>"Many people are now allowed to go out and many industries are reopening so you'll see a lot of vehicles ... but the situation remains abnormal," said police Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar.</p> <p>He warned that police will still go after violators who don't wear face masks or observe physical distancing.</p> <p>Classes remain suspended for the next two weeks. Barber shops and beauty salons can open next week at a third of their capacity.</p> <p>The Philippines remains a Southeast Asian hot spot for the coronavirus with more than 18,000 infections and 957 deaths.</p> <hr/> <p>ANKARA, Turkey -- Turkish Airlines resumed limited domestic flights, restaurants welcomed sit-in customers and beaches and museums reopened as Turkey's broadest easing of coronavirus restrictions came into effect Monday.</p>

A Turkish Airlines flight, with 156 people on board, departed from Ankara airport for Istanbul as Turkey lifted a travel ban between 15 of its worst-affected provinces. The air routes between Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Antalya and Trabzon are the first start, with others scheduled to follow gradually.

Traffic jams returned to Istanbul, Turkey's most populous city, while intercity roads filled with people heading for hometowns or to resorts.

Meanwhile, restaurants and cafes opened their doors to a limited number of customers after some two months of takeout services only.

Istanbul's 15th-century Grand Bazaar, museums, libraries, gyms, swimming pools, child care centers and nurseries were among other venues allowed to resume operations.

Businesses will be required to ensure social distancing and strict hygiene conditions are maintained.

Bars, nightclubs and hookah bars, however, will remain closed. A stay-at-home order for people age 65 and older and minors also remains in place.

The easing of restrictions follows a slowdown in confirmed COVID-19 infections and deaths in the country. Turkey has registered more than 4,500 COVID-19 deaths and nearly 164,000 confirmed infections.

Last month, shopping malls were allowed to go back into business along with barber shops, hairdressers and beauty salons. Worshippers held their first communal Friday prayers in more than two months last week.

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NEW DELHI -- More states opened up and crowds of commuters trickled onto the roads in many of India's cities on Monday as a three-phase plan to lift the nationwide coronavirus lockdown began despite an upward trend in new infections.

Businesses and shops reopened in many states and the railways announced 200 more special passenger trains. Some states also opened their borders, allowing vehicular traffic.

The coastal state of Maharashtra, home to the financial hub of Mumbai and Bollywood, allowed the resumption of film production with some restrictions in place. In New Delhi, the capital, authorities announced the reopening of all industries and salons, while keeping the borders sealed until June 8 to try to prevent a spike in new virus cases.

Although social distancing and the wearing of masks in public are still mandatory across India, some people were seen forgoing both in many places. Others violated lockdown rules. In Prayagraj, a city in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state, hundreds of Hindu devotees took a dip in the sacred Ganges river even though congregations at religious venues remain barred.

But as India eases more restrictions, it continues to report a rise in infections.

India on Monday climbed to the seventh spot in countries worst hit by the virus, passing Germany and France, as its confirmed cases rose to more than 190,000, including over 5,400 deaths.

The first phase of the easing of the lockdown, called Unlock 1, will restrict curbs to containment zones — areas that have been isolated due to coronavirus outbreaks. It gives states more power to decide and strategize lockdown implementations locally.

More than 60% of the country's virus fatalities have been reported in only two states — Maharashtra and neighboring Gujarat. The new cases are largely concentrated in six states, including New Delhi.



	<p>Critics fear that the lockdown, which started over two months ago, is being eased too soon. There are concerns that the virus may be spreading through India's villages as millions of jobless migrant workers return home from big cities.</p> <p>Experts warn that the pandemic has yet to peak in India, and many states have begun to identify more high-risk zones where coronavirus lockdowns will continue until June 30. But restaurants, malls and religious venues are permitted to reopen elsewhere on June 8.</p> <p>In a radio address to the nation on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned citizens and asked them to remain vigilant.</p> <p>"Becoming careless or lackadaisical cannot be an option," he said. Modi's government has stressed that restrictions are being eased to focus on promoting economic activity, which has been severely hit by the lockdown.</p> <p>India implemented the lockdown — one of the world's strictest — on March 25, ordering everyone to stay inside, except for emergencies and essential services, leading to a sudden halt to the economy. The lockdown was brutally devastating for daily laborers and migrant workers, who fled cities on foot for their family homes in the countryside.</p> <p>The country's unemployment rate rose to 23.48% in May, according to official data released Monday.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 WHO: Central, South America hit hard</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/latest-india-climbs-7th-biggest-outbreak-world-70990711">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/latest-india-climbs-7th-biggest-outbreak-world-70990711</a>
GIST	<p>LONDON— The emergencies chief of the World Health Organization said Central and South America are currently witnessing the most intense transmission of the coronavirus worldwide, but it's difficult to predict when the epidemic might peak there.</p> <p>In the last 24 hours, Dr. Michael Ryan said five of the 10 countries reporting the highest number of cases are in the Americas: the U.S., Brazil, Peru, Chile and Mexico. He said that while the growth of COVID-19 was not exponential in all those countries, officials were seeing a progressive increase in cases and that hospitals were starting to strain under the pressure.</p> <p>"We're particularly concerned about places like Haiti because of the inherent weaknesses in the system," Ryan said at a press briefing on Monday. "I think we now absolutely need to focus on supporting particularly Central and South America," he said. He added that while officials previously had very serious concerns about COVID-19's impact in South Asia and Africa, outbreaks in those regions, although difficult, were now stable.</p> <p>"I don't believe we've reached the peak" in the Americas, Ryan said, noting that several factors in the region, including the number of urban poor and fragile health systems, made outbreaks in those countries particularly dangerous.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Over 25,000 virus deaths nursing homes</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/federal-count-25000-coronavirus-deaths-nursing-homes/story?id=70999185">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/federal-count-25000-coronavirus-deaths-nursing-homes/story?id=70999185</a>
GIST	The federal government has begun sharing its tracking data for nursing home fatalities for the first time since the novel coronavirus outbreak, a step long urged by members of Congress as an important way to guide efforts to protect the elderly and frail as the nation tries to reopen.

“Without this information, adequate testing and a full supply of [personal protective equipment], our seniors will continue to suffer,” U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, a Pennsylvania Democrat, said last month.

The new, initial numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services were shared in a letter to U.S. governors dated Sunday and obtained by ABC News. The numbers document that at least 25,923 nursing home residents have died as a result of COVID-19, though the figure doesn't include reporting from some states prior to May and differs from state-by-state reports due to disparities in the way data is tracked.

The federal regulators also acknowledge their first release of figures may only account for 54% of the nation's nursing homes, and that “data maybe inconsistent with state data, particularly state death data.”

The survey is the first to include the number of nursing home staff killed in the outbreak, which federal officials list at 449 fatalities across the country. And it marks the first public accounting of deaths in 10 states that were not previously publishing any data about the outbreak's severe impact on those in long-term care facilities during ABC News' most recent survey.

Along with the new figures, the federal agency that regulates nursing homes told governors they intend to step up penalties and enforcement of infection control efforts. Problems containing infections using trusted methods, like frequent hand-washing and changing gloves and masks, have surfaced frequently during inspections of facilities where there have been deadly coronavirus outbreaks. In inspections, multiple facilities have been shown not to be using certain infection control methods properly.

The federal totals remain lower than the numbers gathered through a state-by-state analysis conducted by ABC News in mid-May. That survey found more than 37,600 deaths attributed to the coronavirus in nursing homes and long-term care facilities from 40 states and the District of Columbia stretching back to the beginning of the crisis.

Just over 100,000 total coronavirus deaths in the U.S. have been reported since the outbreak reached America's shores, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The new federal count shows that in the 10 states that were not reported nursing home fatalities during ABC News' last survey of national data, an additional 794 residents and staff have died. Those states are Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Missouri and Utah.

Federal officials said one reason for the disparity in the counts is because some states only provided figures to the federal government starting in May, when they were first required to provide data specific to nursing homes. That means earlier staggering nursing home outbreaks like the ones that killed dozens in Seattle, Virginia, Massachusetts and New York may not be counted in the federal data.

Also, when responding to ABC News inquiries, some states included deaths in assisted living centers, which are not tracked by federal regulators and not included in their tally, officials said.

The omission of deaths from assisted living facilities in federal counting had already drawn criticism from Senate Democrats and advocates.

“The reality is this virus doesn't care whether seniors are living in assisted living facilities or living in nursing homes it can affect them regardless,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said during a Senate hearing earlier this month.

University of Chicago Professor R. Tamara Konetzka, who studies nursing homes and assisted living facilities, said that the differences between nursing and assisted living facilities varies by state. Assisted living often allows for slightly more separation between residents, but still involved staff care that has shown to be a cause of outbreaks.

“They're just older populations who probably are very vulnerable to the virus,” Konetzka said.

	<p>The release of this data has been long awaited by Senate Democrats who have for weeks called on the federal government to make more info about the affects of COVID-19 in nursing homes available.</p> <p>Earlier this month, Casey said incomplete data was part of the reason Congress was struggling to provide appropriate aid to nursing homes.</p> <p>"Still to this day, we are trying to help those residents and workers in nursing homes with one hand tied behind our backs because the Administration... is not releasing any data on outbreaks in these facilities," Casey said during a hearing last month. "This is unconscionable."</p> <p>While this data set represents the first installment of national data, it is expected that more nursing homes will comply with their reporting requirement next week, when they would otherwise begin to face a daily fine for failure to do so.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Spain: no virus deaths in 24hrs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/spain-reports-virus-deaths-time-march-70998591">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/spain-reports-virus-deaths-time-march-70998591</a>
GIST	<p>MADRID -- Spain on Monday reported no official deaths from the new coronavirus in a 24-hour period for the first time since March.</p> <p>The development is “very, very encouraging,” emergency health response chief Fernando Simón said.</p> <p>Also, Spain recorded only 71 new COVID-19 infections over the past 24 hours, he told a news conference.</p> <p>“We are in a very good place in the evolution of the pandemic,” Simón said. “The statistics are following a trend. They are going in the right direction.”</p> <p>Spain reported its first two deaths on March 3. Another was reported two days later. Spain’s number of infections and death jumped exponentially. On April 2, it recorded 950 deaths in 24 hours — the peak death toll.</p> <p>The official death toll now stands at 27,127, with 240,000 confirmed cases.</p> <p>Spain was the second European country after Italy to be forcefully hit by the pandemic before it also spread death in France and Britain. One of the world’s strictest lockdowns was put into place in mid-March and managed to eventually reduce the pressure on hospitals after some were overwhelmed with patients suffering from the virus.</p> <p>The lockdown is gradually being relaxed as the medical situation improves.</p> <p>The Spanish government has warned, however, that the threat is not over and that the loosening of restrictions could be reversed.</p> <p>Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said last weekend he will be asking parliament for an extension of the government’s special emergency powers for another two weeks. That enables authorities to order people to stay home.</p> <p>Simon said recent hot spots caused by people holding unauthorized “fiestas” can potentially bring a major new resurgence.</p> <p>“We are still at risk. Any of these outbreaks can mean a new wave of infections,” he said. “We must remain cautious.”</p>

HEADLINE	<b>06/01 UK eases lockdown restrictions</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/uk-eases-lockdown-restrictions-wary-nation-70992063">https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/uk-eases-lockdown-restrictions-wary-nation-70992063</a>
GIST	<p>LONDON -- The U.K. eased more lockdown restrictions Monday despite warnings from some health officials of another spike in coronavirus infections, especially if Britons persisted in flouting the new guidelines.</p> <p>Most of the changes were in England, where a number of schools reopened to some — but not all — younger children for the first time since they closed in mid-March.</p> <p>The easing of the lockdown, particularly in England, has raised concerns that it is taking place too soon for economic rather than health reasons, given a still-high level of coronavirus infections and a lack of evidence showing that the recently rolled out track and trace system is working properly.</p> <p>Even in Scotland, there are worries over another spike in infections. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon warned that her government may reverse course if people contravened the rules as they did over another sunny weekend.</p> <p>She said police in Scotland dispersed 797 groups on Saturday alone for not abiding by the guidelines, five times higher than the previous Saturday. She also said road use on Sunday was up 70% on the week before.</p> <p>Sturgeon said the rules will be tightened “if there is continued evidence of even a minority not abiding by these guidelines and travelling unnecessarily, if people meet up in larger groups or if they’re making journeys which risk spreading this virus.”</p> <p>Over the weekend, as the U.K. basked in warm sunshine, beaches and parks were packed, with many people clearly not observing social distancing guidelines to stay 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) apart.</p> <p>The four nations that make up the U.K. — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — are moving at different speeds out of the lockdown that began March 23.</p> <p>England has gone furthest. As well as reopening primary schools, groups of six people are now able to meet up outdoors, including in gardens, provided social distancing guidelines are observed. Those people considered vulnerable, who have been asked to remain indoors and stay away from other people since March, are now also able to go for a walk.</p> <p>British Health Secretary Matt Hancock, who legislates on the changes in England, sought to counter concerns while saying the government would tighten restrictions on a local level in the event of a flare-up.</p> <p>“The data show that we’re winning the battle against coronavirus,” he said. “Today, we’re therefore able to make some cautious changes to the lockdown rules carefully and safely.”</p> <p>Hancock pointed to the fact that the confirmed number of new daily infections was 1,570, the lowest since March 27.</p> <p>He also said the U.K. recorded 111 new coronavirus-related deaths, the lowest daily total since the lockdown was put in place on March 23. However, figures released on Mondays have throughout the pandemic been artificially low because of a lag in reporting deaths during the weekend.</p>

	<p>Still, that increase took the U.K.'s official coronavirus death up to 39,045, which is 556 higher than the equivalent total announced yesterday. That raised questions over where these extra 445 deaths came from. The government said they were linked to cases identified through testing by commercial partners.</p> <p>Whatever the merits of the easing, parents across England had difficult decisions to make Monday. And the early evidence suggests that a lot opted against sending their children to school.</p> <p>Geoff Barton, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said the picture was "very mixed," with head teachers reporting that the attendance ranges between 40% and 70% of the eligible pupils.</p> <p>"Schools have remained open to vulnerable and key worker children throughout the lockdown period, and as the lockdown eases, it is likely this will lead to greater demand for places," he said.</p> <p>Emma Corps, 39, was one parent who decided to allow her five-year-old daughter Isla to attend school.</p> <p>"I was a bit anxious, but she was excited and I think they need to go back to school as there needs to be some sort of normality back in their lives," she said at the gates of Queen's Hill Primary and Nursery School near Norwich.</p> <p>"For the 10 weeks, she was saying 'When am I going back? When am I going back?' Corps said. "Then at 6.30 a.m. this morning, it was 'Mummy, quick!'"</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Hong Kong police ban Tiananmen vigil</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/hong-kong-police-ban-tiananmen-massacre-vigil-11591002907?mod=hp_list_pos2">https://www.wsj.com/articles/hong-kong-police-ban-tiananmen-massacre-vigil-11591002907?mod=hp_list_pos2</a>
GIST	<p>HONG KONG—Police denied an application by organizers of an annual candlelight vigil to commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, amid concerns over civil liberties after China said it would impose <a href="#">national-security legislation</a> on the city.</p> <p>Citing health concerns and social-distancing regulations to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, the police force said in a letter of objection Monday that it couldn't allow the vigil to be held this year and that anyone who violated its decision could be subject to imprisonment and fines.</p> <p>This would be the first time in three decades that a mass memorial isn't held in the city. Since Chinese soldiers and tanks forcibly swept away students gathering to demand democracy in Beijing in 1989, tens of thousands have turned out each year in Hong Kong to light candles, call for justice for the victims and chant against China's one-party rule.</p> <p>"We are extremely disappointed and strongly object to this decision," said Richard Tsoi, secretary of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, which organizes the event. "The freedom of assembly is enshrined in the basic law," Mr. Tsoi said, referring to the city's mini-constitution.</p> <p>Opposition groups have accused the government of exploiting social distancing laws by extending them to June 4 to prevent street protests against China's planned legislation and memorials to mark the Tiananmen anniversary, which Beijing has thus far tolerated.</p> <p>Hong Kong is the only place on Chinese soil where such massive demonstrations, which feature chants and banners denouncing the central government in Beijing, had been tolerated. On the mainland, mention of the massacre isn't condoned.</p>

The candlelight vigil has been a landmark event in the city, a symbol of peaceful opposition and dissent. A somber event where participants attended even during thunderstorms, torrential rain and the city's tropical heat, it features a moment of mourning for the victims. While attendance has waxed and waned over the years, the number of people was often seen as a barometer of wider public opinion on China's rule.

Last year, more than 100,000 attended, one of the highest turnouts, amid growing concern against a proposed extradition bill. Days later, a million people marched on the streets calling for its withdrawal. The movement morphed into a wider prodemocracy and antigovernment campaign, which has divided society and plunged the city's economy into a recession.

The decision comes after a decision by Beijing last month to [unilaterally impose legislation](#) targeted at quelling violent protests that gripped the city last year. The law has yet to be drawn up but targets seditious behavior that analysts say would put into question the legality of calling for the end of authoritarian rule in China and denunciations of the Communist Party that are common at such events.

Meanwhile, a China foreign ministry spokesperson said China will not be intimidated by U.S. criticism of the legislation. President Donald Trump on Friday said the U.S. no longer viewed Hong Kong as being sufficiently autonomous from Beijing and would roll back privileges the city enjoys, without providing specific details.

The China spokesperson said late Monday that the U.S. wasn't in a position to represent Hong Kong citizens.

Vigil organizer Mr. Tsoi said he believes the refusal to allow Thursday's event was a political decision. The group will ask people to hold vigils all across the city instead. It plans to broadcast an online program for people to follow through the evening.

Hong Kong has largely contained the coronavirus outbreak, with fewer than 1,100 cases in a city of 7.5 million people. The city has in many ways returned to normal, with many students back in schools and with streets and public transportation packed again, although there have been sporadic local cases and the city's borders remain closed to foreign visitors.

Beaches, bars and gyms have reopened, though rules banning more than eight people gathering together have posed a problem for protest organizers. Police have refused several recent protest-march applications, also citing social-gathering bans and other considerations.

In its letter objecting to the vigil, the police force said it was considering the health and well-being of participants and the public, especially as medical experts have urged city residents to remain cautious while the global pandemic continues.

Health concerns were the only reasons cited for the ban. In rejecting an earlier rally at the Hong Kong legislature on May 27—where many wanted to object to a controversial law that would ban disrespect to the national anthem—police had also cited a danger to public order and previous protests.

City officials have said freedom of assembly and freedom of speech would continue despite the [national-security laws](#).

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HEADLINE	06/01 Warnings on system disinfect N95 masks
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/warnings-surface-about-new-system-to-disinfect-n95-masks-11591026809?mod=hp_lead_pos5">https://www.wsj.com/articles/warnings-surface-about-new-system-to-disinfect-n95-masks-11591026809?mod=hp_lead_pos5</a>
GIST	Hundreds of thousands of respirator masks to protect against coronavirus have been sent through a decontamination system that has triggered warnings from front-line workers and has so far cost the government more than \$110 a mask.



The system is made by Battelle Memorial Institute, a nonprofit research corporation that has built more than 50 mask-decontamination units after getting more than \$400 million in federal government contracts. Battelle said its process allows for N95 respirator masks to be reused 20 times.

It is a widely watched coronavirus initiative aimed at preserving the limited supply of protective equipment held by U.S. hospitals. In recent weeks, hospitals have put 700,000 used medical-grade face masks through the newly created system to sanitize and reissue them, Battelle Chief Executive Officer Lou Von Thar said last week.

He said Battelle has billed the U.S. \$78 million so far and that the government's per-mask cost will likely drop as the system is used more. He also said the machines could be used in future health crises. Battelle expects the costs to come down to \$7 a mask "within a few months," spokeswoman Rose Rankin said. She added that "the variables are changing constantly," and noted that the roughly \$110 figure was as of Friday. Battelle expects the number of masks decontaminated to increase as elective surgeries and dental procedures resume.

Battelle's decontamination system exposes used masks to vaporized hydrogen peroxide in modified shipping containers for a few hours and then allows the masks to air out until the concentration of the chemical drops to acceptable levels.

The use of these systems shows hospitals' continuing intense demand for protective gear. N95 masks, so called because [they filter out 95% of very small particles](#), are in high demand because they are designed to protect wearers from diseases. When quality masks can be found now, they commonly cost \$5 or more, more than double the cost before the pandemic.

Federal guidelines and 3M Co., the largest U.S. N95 mask maker, indicate that some mask-reuse systems like Battelle's are unproven and could make masks unable to properly protect health-care workers from the coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends mask-decontamination systems be used only if other supplies are unavailable. It urges health-care workers to put a used mask in a paper bag for five days instead of using one of these systems. The Food and Drug Administration said the benefits of decontamination systems outweigh the risks.

Some unions said that decontamination systems put workers at risk.

Rick Lucas, a nurse and union leader at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, said disinfected masks from Battelle have come back with seals worn, elastic bands broken, and masks stained by respiratory secretions from other users. He said it has created "a lot of anxiety for nurses and health-care workers."

The medical center, based like Battelle in Columbus, Ohio, has worked with Battelle to develop virus tests. Since April, the hospital has sanitized 22,000 of its masks through Battelle at no charge, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Mr. Lucas said he is concerned about the long-term effects of breathing in chemicals from the decontaminated masks, including the hydrogen peroxide that Battelle uses to sanitize them. He also cited the potential for the process to degrade the masks, which could lead to inhaling fibers or chemicals.

For safety, the hospital said it plans to sterilize its masks just five times, not 20 as proposed by Battelle. So far, some of the hospital's masks have been cleaned three times, the hospital's spokeswoman said. The hospital's epidemiologists reviewed Battelle's data, she said, which "showed excellent decontamination of microorganisms and the full removal of the hydrogen peroxide from the masks." She said the hospital opted to limit sterilization to five times out of an abundance of caution. She also said staff members can discard masks that come back with defects.

Other workers' groups, including National Nurses United, a nurses union, have raised concerns about mask-reuse systems in general. The Massachusetts Nursing Association said it strongly opposes mask-reuse methods. And the International Association of Fire Fighters urges its members to avoid systems like the Battelle product.

Battelle's Mr. Von Thaer said he understands the worry from front-line workers but said Battelle doesn't plan to change its guidance on allowing masks to be sanitized 20 times. Battelle stands by its safety claims.

"We are very confident the science is sound," he said. "We would clearly adjust if we needed to, but we've seen no evidence yet that would lead us in that direction."

Battelle has received more than \$400 million in federal contracts to build equipment and operate those systems at no charge to hospitals, though Battelle wouldn't necessarily receive all the money, he said. Battelle expects to bill more than the \$78 million it has so far, he said. The U.S. has authorized as much as \$600 million to Battelle for the program, a Defense Logistics Agency spokesman said.

Mr. Von Thaer said Battelle has signed up about 16,000 hospitals and other health-care sites and that a couple thousand are actively using its system. Hospitals collect used masks at their facilities and then send them to one of Battelle's systems located nearby.

In recent months, doctors and nurses treating coronavirus patients have run into severe shortages of face masks. Many have used imported masks of questionable quality; in May, federal officials withdrew emergency approval for dozens of Chinese mask manufacturers over such concerns. Battelle's cleaning of 700,000 masks to date represents a fraction of the tens of millions of masks needed.

Systems to disinfect masks could ease supply-chain constraints, turning a one-time-use product into one that could be used as many as 20 times. Already, many medical professionals were using a single mask for an entire day instead of changing after every potentially contagious patient, as was typical before the crisis.

Some hospitals use 15,000 masks a day and are seeking to create a stockpile of five million masks each—something they don't expect until late this year at the earliest, said David Gillan, senior vice president of sourcing operations for Vizient Inc., an Irving, Texas, company that provides contracting services for acute-care providers.

3M, the most prominent N95 mask maker, doesn't "recommend that 3M N95 respirators be decontaminated through a processing system," said Nicole McCullough, occupational safety and health leader at 3M.

The company has been evaluating mask-decontamination systems to counsel front-line workers using its products. The company said a decontamination system could be necessary if there aren't enough unused masks.

3M and the FDA said mask-reuse systems can reduce a filter's efficiency and fit. 3M said its testing shows that masks can be run through Battelle's system three times and is evaluating whether they can safely be reused 20 times, as Battelle states.

In April, a respiratory therapist filed an adverse-event report with the FDA, claiming that masks weren't sealing properly after being processed.

The FDA said Battelle has forwarded about 100 such adverse-event reports about its system, which is a tiny fraction of the masks that have been reused. The issues include torn straps, fit concerns and dirty masks. Battelle's spokeswoman said five of the complaints have required additional investigation from Battelle and that the others didn't qualify as adverse events.

The FDA said health-care facilities should inspect decontaminated masks before use and dispose of any showing discoloration or signs of degradation.

The agency granted emergency approval to Battelle in late March to sterilize up to 10,000 masks a day in Columbus, Ohio.

Battelle and some politicians, such as Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, supported broadening the authorization, allowing more masks to be decontaminated in more locations.

“The FDA’s decision to severely limit the use of this lifesaving technology is nothing short of reckless,” Gov. DeWine said in a March 29 statement. In a tweet the same day, President Trump said: “Hope the FDA can approve Mask Sterilization equipment ASAP.”

Within a day, the FDA gave approval for the full use of the Battelle system at additional sites.

A White House spokesman said Friday that Mr. Trump didn’t pressure anyone to approve Battelle’s process and the president “built a never-before-seen public-private partnership to supply critically needed” protective gear. Gov. DeWine’s office declined to comment Friday.

The Department of Health and Human Services, which funded the Defense Logistics Agency contract with Battelle, said Battelle’s program isn’t meant to replace efforts to buy new masks but rather to supplement them, given the shortage. A DLA spokesman said the contract included operating the system for six months.

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HEADLINE	06/01 Canada: virus impact indigenous elders
SOURCE	<a href="https://news.trust.org/item/20200601091703-zdx5s/">https://news.trust.org/item/20200601091703-zdx5s/</a>
GIST	<p>TORONTO, June 1 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - When Diane Janvier Dugan's mother was born in 1929, there were no roads or stores in her indigenous village in northwest Saskatchewan so as a child she learned how to hunt and trap for her food.</p> <p>"I'm starting to realize how much my mother knows about being Dene," said Dugan, a teacher in the Canadian city of Saskatoon. "There aren't many people like my mum left anymore."</p> <p>Her mother's village, La Loche, has been the epicentre of indigenous Canada's first major COVID-19 outbreak. More than 200 people in the community have contracted the virus so far and two elderly care home residents died, according to local officials.</p> <p>Most vulnerable are the elders, whose high rates of conditions like hypertension and diabetes put them at risk.</p> <p>In some areas, <a href="#">more than 85% of indigenous seniors have been diagnosed with at least one chronic condition</a>, according to a study by Statistics Canada and the National Association of Friendship Centres.</p> <p>The elders play a vital role as keepers of cultural knowledge, history and traditions passed on to future generations over millennia, said Chris Scribe, director of the Indian Teacher Education Program at the University of Saskatchewan.</p> <p>"That textbook will leave if they leave this earth," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.</p> <p>Dugan remembers her mother telling stories on their family berry-picking trips and said she was concerned she will not have enough time with her mother to collect all her knowledge and pass it on to her children.</p>

"Growing up as an indigenous person, you hear stories over and over again. That's how you get oral history passed down," said Dugan.

## HEALTH IMPACT

With strict travel restrictions in place, Canada's indigenous people – who make up about 5% of the population – have so far avoided the worst impacts of the pandemic.

Overall, Canada has reported about 92,000 cases and more than 7,000 deaths from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University, compared with at least 613 indigenous cases and 11 deaths, according to the Yellowhead Institute, an indigenous-led think tank.

Health experts warn that COVID-19 could have a devastating impact if it breaks out in indigenous communities, which have high rates of poverty, overcrowding and underlying health conditions, along with limited medical services.

Unlike Dugan's mother, many elders are forced to leave their communities for urban centres when they grow older, due to a lack of health and care facilities.

More than 80% of Canada's COVID-19-related deaths [have occurred in care homes](#), according to the National Institute on Aging, a think tank at Ryerson University.

"This is very traumatic and detrimental to the community, since the knowledge and the corporate memory is greatly disrupted," said John Cutfeet, a research fellow at the Yellowhead Institute.

He compared it to [the residential school system](#), which started in the late 1800s and forcibly separated indigenous children from their families, subjecting them to horrific abuse in residential schools.

"It is the continuation of removing our people off the land," Cutfeet said in emailed comments.

## 'BLINDFOLDED'

In response to COVID-19, the federal government in March made C\$305 million available to fund indigenous communities' needs like food and medical supplies, along with C\$130 million to support Canada's northern territories, [earmarked for indigenous people](#).

Last week it pledged an additional \$650 million to support indigenous communities' COVID-19 response. But those funds will not make up for a large gap in health care infrastructure, local experts say. In British Columbia, an alliance of indigenous chiefs, whose communities form the Central Coast First Nations, wrote an open letter in May to the provincial government – responsible for indigenous health off-reserve – saying they were "working blindfolded" due to a lack of shared data.

One of the signatories was Marilyn Slett, chief councillor of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council. In her remote community, just 30 people are fluent speakers of the Heiltsuk language, and they are all over 75 years old.

The community has very limited capacity to deal with an outbreak, with just one ventilator at the health centre, and mental health is a concern, Slett told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"One of our matriarchs was telling me that she hasn't felt this way, in terms of the isolation and the disconnection, since she was in residential school," she said.

But Slett said she is hopeful. "We are 700 generations of Heiltsuk," she said. "We are resilient people."

In Clyde River, an Inuit hamlet of 1,100 people in Nunavut, the non-profit Ilisaqsivik Society has been preparing the community's 84 elders for COVID-19 by mapping their locations, sending care packages and creating educational radio shows.

	<p>"There's a huge lack of culturally relevant, linguistically relevant health resources in the community," said Malcolm Ranta, director of the Ilisaqsivik Society.</p> <p>Majority-indigenous Nunavut is the only territory or province with zero cases so far. "It would be a miracle if this was the one corner of the world that COVID-19 didn't creep into," Ranta said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Social media as battleground for protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/social-media-becomes-battleground-over-days-of-street-protests-11591018647">https://www.wsj.com/articles/social-media-becomes-battleground-over-days-of-street-protests-11591018647</a>
GIST	<p>Social media has become a central battleground for the <a href="#">protests across the U.S.</a>, with tech platforms amplifying tensions while also providing a real-time chronicle of the riots and police responses that might not have otherwise gained widespread attention.</p> <p>A lone video of the violent arrest that led to the death of George Floyd posted last Monday on <a href="#">Facebook</a> by a bystander, Darnella Frazier, has been shared by 52,000 people there and found its way to <a href="#">Twitter</a>, Instagram and other social platforms, widening awareness of the episode. Since then those outlets have been a tool to spread dissent and anger by those upset at Mr. Floyd's death and those disturbed by the sometimes violent actions of both protesters and police in cities across the country.</p> <p>Social media played a critical role in galvanizing the protesters through the quickly shared video around Mr. Floyd's arrest, said Alex Stamos, director of Stanford University's Internet Observatory. "It nationalizes local issues like this," he said, adding that "maybe 20 years ago this might have only been covered at the local press."</p> <p>Nathaniel Persily, a Stanford law professor and co-director of the California university's Cyber Policy Center, said the riots also have turned into an online battle of opposing viewpoints. "There is a fight on social media as to how to portray the events on the ground," he said.</p> <p>The platforms not only can fuel the emotions underlying the protests, they can also shape on-the-ground tactics on both sides. Some of the protesters and their supporters appear to be using social media to avoid clashing with law enforcement, said Lorenzo Boyd, assistant provost for diversity and inclusion and director of the Center for Advanced Policing at the University of New Haven. These protesters are telling one another what areas to avoid and which ones are safe—and faster than police in many cases can react, he said.</p> <p>"Protesting in the time of social media is instantaneous," said Dr. Boyd. "You don't need a single leader to do this anymore."</p> <p>People on Twitter said they were issuing alerts to protesters about police movements by using scanners to listen in to official communications. One user allegedly relaying L.A. police department activity warned that police were trying to lure protesters toward a certain area to conduct arrests, and urged followers to share the tweet. It was retweeted over 120,000 times and liked more than 240,000 times.</p> <p>The strategy has been used by law enforcement as well. The New York Police Department on Sunday said it was <a href="#">monitoring social media</a> to track protesters.</p> <p>Moments of upheaval have long defined social media. Twitter, then only five years old, became a central tool for protesters during the Arab Spring unrest in 2011. The #blacklivesmatter hashtag on Twitter began in connection with the 2012 shooting death of unarmed Florida teen Trayvon Martin and soon spread. Last year, footage of attacks on a pair of mosques that left 50 dead in New Zealand was streamed live on Facebook and posted on YouTube and Twitter. The social-media platforms <a href="#">scrambled to remove them</a>.</p>

The coronavirus pandemic has added to social media's reach. Twitter Inc. and Facebook Inc. both have seen big growth in user numbers during the health crisis as people looked for information on the disease and for ways to remain connected.

Discussion related to the George Floyd video and the ensuing protests now have overtaken the coronavirus as the hottest topic online, said Gideon Blocq, chief executive officer of VineSight, a startup that tracks social-media activity and hunts for misinformation.

Mr. Blocq warned that bad actors have infiltrated online discussion over Mr. Floyd's death to heighten division. Many accounts tweeting content appear to be automated accounts known as bots, he said. Conspiracies that point to different political figures being behind the protests abound online, Mr. Blocq said.

Past moments of racial tensions have been used by foreign actors to try to foment divisions in the U.S. Workers behind [Russian-linked Facebook accounts](#) in 2016 sought to exploit social divisions after outrage swelled over fatal shootings in Dallas and Minneapolis. Facebook said it closed such accounts.

A Twitter spokeswoman said the company was using existing teams and tools to police riot-related content on its site and was taking action on any coordinated attempts to disrupt the conversation around the issue. Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, said the company is using tools to combat misinformation around the protests while trying to avoid hindering people's ability to share information.

What helped trigger the outrage over Mr. Floyd's death were several race-related events that were widely publicized before the video of his arrest, said Joan Donovan, director of a Harvard University project on technology and social change.

Days earlier, Americans were wrestling with the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old black man who was pursued by armed white residents in Georgia. A video of the incident spread across social media. That video was followed by one of a white woman in New York's Central Park calling the police on a black man who had asked her to leash her dog.

"It takes a special kind of moment for something like this to kick off," Dr. Donovan said.

As the reach of the social-media companies has grown, they have faced increasing pressure to moderate some of their content. That debate is taking place within the companies and has [become a political flashpoint](#) for the nation.

Twitter last week flagged one of President Trump's tweets about the unrest in Minneapolis, where Mr. Floyd died, saying it glorified violence. That action kept Mr. Trump's tweet in place, but prevented his more than 80 million followers from commenting, retweeting or liking it.

The same post remained on Facebook untouched. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he had a "visceral negative reaction to this kind of divisive and inflammatory rhetoric," but wouldn't remove the post because Facebook wants to enable as much expression as possible.

Mr. Trump and his backers have attacked Twitter for its moves, which earlier included [placing a fact-check notice](#) on two of the president's tweets about voting by mail, saying the tweet violated its rules around voter misinformation. After Twitter applied its fact-check labels, Mr. Trump [signed an executive order](#) Thursday seeking to limit the broad legal protection that federal law currently provides to social-media and other online platforms. The move is expected to draw immediate court challenges.

VineSight's Mr. Blocq said that as discussions around the protests have grown especially on Twitter, it has given rise to competing narratives about who is behind them and the looting in several cities. The split, he said, has been between those who are placing blame on the far-left groups known as Antifa and those saying far-right groups and white supremacists have been the cause.



	<p>Mr. Trump on Sunday said the protests involved radical left anarchists and Antifa, which he said would be <a href="#">designated a terrorist organization</a>. Minnesota officials Saturday said that white supremacists and perhaps organized drug cartels could be infiltrating protests.</p> <p>Those competing viewpoints can often help intensify conflict, said Hany Farid, a digital forensics expert at the University of California, Berkeley. "People are going into their same camps to tell their side of the story," he said. "That's the hard part about consuming news over social media."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Santa Monica, Beverly Hills extend curfew</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-01/la-braces-for-another-night-of-protests">https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-01/la-braces-for-another-night-of-protests</a>
GIST	<p>The cities of Santa Monica and Beverly Hills announced they were extending curfews after days of unrest erupted in looting and vandalism over the weekend.</p> <p>In both cities, the curfews take effect at 1 p.m. Monday in the business districts and at 4 p.m. citywide.</p> <p>"Sunday was one of the most distressing days in Santa Monica history," Santa Monica Mayor Kevin McKeown said in a statement.</p> <p>Long Beach officials said they also planned to enact a curfew Monday, noting that more details would be released later in the day.</p> <p>Looters shattered windows and <a href="#">emptied stores in downtown Santa Monica and Long Beach</a> on Sunday, largely unimpeded by law enforcement, but at times clashing with peaceful protesters as officials issued a countywide 6 p.m. curfew and National Guard troops patrolled Los Angeles for the first time since the 1992 riots.</p> <p>While the destruction erupted during mostly peaceful protests decrying the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, two groups emerged more distinctly later in the day: one ransacking shops, the other rallying on message.</p> <p>In Santa Monica, they were often blocks apart. Looters in the shopping district on 4th Street appeared organized, smashing windows with crowbars and skateboards and loading the stolen goods into waiting cars. Some ran or drove off as sirens approached, but mostly continued as they passed. Dozens stole shoes and gear from a Vans shop, while bike after bike was pulled out a hole in the front door of an REI store. Fires were lit, with at least two squad cars burned.</p> <p>Several blocks away, police tried to break up demonstrators on Ocean Avenue with smoke grenades, and fired rubber bullets when eggs and water bottles were hurled at them.</p> <p>More than 400 people were arrested on suspicion of crimes that included looting, burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, assault on a police officer and curfew violations, Santa Monica Police Chief Cynthia Renaud said Monday. She estimated that 95% of those arrested did not live in the city.</p> <p>Firefighters also extinguished nine fires around the city, McKeown said.</p> <p>Despite the property damage, no serious injuries were reported.</p> <p>By early Sunday evening, a similar dynamic had <a href="#">developed in downtown Long Beach</a>, with police facing off with protesters as groups of people looted stores nearby.</p> <p>At the Pike Outlets at Pine Avenue and Shoreline Drive, the crowd used hammers and threw the lids of trash cans to smash windows. Some protesters yelled at them to leave the stores alone.</p>



“Let’s hit Nike!” another said, and ran toward the popular athletic store.

Some threw punches at a man trying to stop the theft at a G by Guess store, as a woman yelled at them to stop.

Riot police moved in after 6 p.m. and the crowd fled.

Other tense standoffs between demonstrators and police flared around Southern California, but for the most part remained less destructive than Saturday. Police dispersed crowds at the Huntington Beach Pier with pepper balls. In San Diego, officers fired rubber bullets and deployed tear gas on demonstrators who refused to disperse.

The 500 National Guard troops remained in Los Angeles, where protests remained mostly peaceful.

Los Angeles police said 398 people were arrested Saturday on suspicion of crimes including burglary, looting, vandalism, failure to disperse, and firearms and curfew violations. Five LAPD officers were injured, with two of them hospitalized, officials said.

The most seriously injured officer was struck by a brick while in the Fairfax area, authorities said. The brick fractured his skull. Another officer suffered a broken arm, and another suffered a broken leg during the clashes with protesters. Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore, appearing with Mayor Eric Garcetti at a news conference at City Hall on Sunday, said the officer whose skull was fractured underwent surgery Saturday night. “I believe he will survive,” Moore said.

Garcetti said people who engaged in “destruction and looting” were only hurting others in the community. “They have not just caused chaos and damage,” he said. “They are hijacking a moment and a movement.” Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the city and county of Los Angeles shortly before midnight Saturday, which was when he activated the National Guard.

Los Angeles County officials also proclaimed a countywide state of emergency to deal with the unrest. “This emergency comes as we are in the midst of battling another emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,” county Supervisor Kathryn Barger said Sunday in a statement. “This taxes our resources, but not our resolve.”

The [proclamation](#) will help authorities coordinate an emergency response and mutual aid, and speed up the procurement of supplies, officials said.

Throughout the afternoon, National Guard troops holding automatic weapons stood in small clusters of two or three around Pershing Square downtown, smiling and waving as people passed. One wore a mask with a Lakers logo.

“Yo, boy, you need to keep that [stuff] lower,” one man said as he walked by, pointing at one soldier’s weapon.

Others had more amicable reactions.

“I like the disposition of the Army versus the police,” a man said to a friend as they rode past on their bicycles.

At a 7 p.m. news conference, Renaud said members of the guard were on the way to the coastal city. “We are making arrests as we speak,” she said. “The 4 p.m. curfew is now in place.”

Mayor Pro Tempore Terry O’Day said the protests were by and large “very peaceful” and “not part of the looting.”

He noted that Santa Monica had “long stood up against intolerance and hate.”

“We are deeply disturbed by what happened in Minneapolis,” he said.

But some business owners were angry that the police had given the looters such leeway.

Russell Bowman, owner of “Books,” a spiritual bookstore, watched from inside the store as looters smashed his windows.

He couldn’t believe the police were not helping him.

“The looters broke the window in my face. There was nothing we could do,” he said.

Other residents of the progressive city tried to empathize with the looters.

Sara Meeter, 28, stood outside an REI store on 4th Street, holding a cardboard sign that simply read “Justice.”

The store’s windows had been shattered and smoke was pouring out.

A firefighter shouted at everyone to get out of the area as his team pulled hoses out of the firetruck. They sawed into the front doors.

Across the street, people were still scavenging through an optometry office and jewelry store, the front of which was spray-painted: “Save a life, kill a cop.”

Meeter said she saw a “kid” throwing boxes of shoes out of the Vans store for others to pick up. A Santa Monica resident, Meeter was following the chaos but staying out of the way. “It’s completely overwhelming,” she said. “All my senses are on overload.”

She and her friend Danielle Fetzer, 32, of Venice, both white, said it was important to be allies with the protesters and witness the history that was unfolding in their seaside city. Fetzer said they needed to “just show that we’re not going to ... handle the systematic oppression of black people.”

“It’s a tale as old as time and I’m tired of it,” she said. “I’m tired of the police using their power to hurt civilians. I say burn the place down. Sometimes things need to be burnt down so that we can rebuild. “Who are we to tell people of color how should they express that anger?”

Jennifer Tatimatla was carrying her “No Lives Matter Until Black Lives Matter” sign as she walked down Santa Monica Boulevard dodging firefighters, pedestrians and random looters.

She’d been at the protest since noon but was calling it a day with the 4 p.m. curfew closing in.

“What upsets me is it takes away from the movement and the cause,” the 34-year-old attorney said. “While I don’t condone looting, that’s not the focus here. The focus is the cause.”

Tatimatla was upset with the unequal treatment of black people in the country long before George Floyd’s death under the knee of a police officer, but it inspired her to join the demonstrations sweeping the country, she said.

She was at a loss on how to ensure the looting doesn’t undermine the protesters’ message.

“Most of us aren’t looting obviously, most of us are trying to be peaceful,” she said. “We have to continue to focus on the message, that’s why we have signs” —then exaggerating: “Even though most people are carrying tennis shoes.”

Kama Onwuka, a 24-year-old black man, watched the looting like other bystanders.

	<p>“This is America. I can’t tell people how to feel,” he told his friends.</p> <p>“Wait, you’re telling me you agree with this?” a white man chimed in. “This is my city. I live here. How is this helping the situation? . . . When people see this, the divide is going to be greater.”</p> <p>The pair debated amicably for several minutes whether the looting that was occurring before their eyes was warranted.</p> <p>“Listen, I don’t say I agree with what’s happening,” Onwuka said. “But we are at a point where we don’t know what to do.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Police use-of-force criticized in protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/f2187147d6b47449332b71f811bff23a">https://apnews.com/f2187147d6b47449332b71f811bff23a</a>
GIST	<p>As <a href="#">protests grip the nation</a>, officers have doused crowds with pepper spray, struck protesters with batons, steered police cars into throngs, shoved demonstrators and screamed curses. Some police action has been directed against people smashing windows, breaking into stores and burning cars, but many find other instances more difficult to understand — like the elderly man knocked over by police as he walked with a cane on a Salt Lake City sidewalk.</p> <p>The protests began after the May 25 <a href="#">death of George Floyd</a>, a black man who died in Minneapolis after a white police officer who is now charged with murder, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.</p> <p>Now, some are questioning whether tough police tactics against demonstrators are actually making the violence worse rather than quelling it.</p> <p>While the protests and subsequent police interactions may be shocking to some, many African Americans aren’t surprised because they’ve <a href="#">endured police brutality</a> for decades, said Chris White, director of the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality.</p> <p>“What’s happening, it’s the way American society has always been,” White said.</p> <p>U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty, who was hit by pepper spray Saturday as scuffles broke out near the end of a demonstration in Columbus, Ohio, said police escalated matters by using heavy-handed tactics against “passionate” young demonstrators who were mostly orderly.</p> <p>“Too much force is not the answer to this,” said Beatty, who pressed for peaceful tactics on both sides in a <a href="#">video</a> posted on Twitter by Columbus City Council president Shannon Hardin, who also was pepper-sprayed. Both are African American.</p> <p>In Salt Lake City, a police officer shoved and knocked over an older man who was walking with a cane on a sidewalk near a protest. Another officer stepped in within seconds to assist the man, as did the officer who knocked him down. Police Chief Mike Brown issued a <a href="#">video</a> Sunday saying he’d personally apologized to the man.</p> <p>“It was hard for me to watch what happened, and I know it was even harder for him to experience it,” Brown said.</p> <p>In New York, where <a href="#">video</a> showed two police vehicles driving into a crowd, knocking aside demonstrators, Mayor Bill de Blasio decried what he called “structural racism” that leads to violence against minorities, but also defended police.</p>

“It is inappropriate for protesters to surround a police vehicle and threaten police officers,” he said. “That’s wrong on its face and that hasn’t happened in the history of protests in this city.”

Two [police officers in Atlanta](#) were fired and three others placed on desk duty over excessive use of force during a protest incident involving two college students Saturday night. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Sunday that she and the police chief made the decision after reviewing body-camera footage.

Footage shown on TV as captured by local reporters shows a group of police officers in riot gear and gas masks surround a car being driven by a man with a woman in the passenger seat. The officers pull the woman out and appear to use a stun gun on the man. They use zip-tie handcuffs on the woman on the ground.

In a message some saw as encouraging police violence, President Donald Trump praised U.S. Secret Service officers guarding the White House amid demonstrations and said any protesters who breached its fence would face “the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons, I have ever seen. That’s when people would have been really badly hurt, at least.”

In a letter titled “Dear America,” civil rights leader Rev. William Barber II, a pastor at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, said protesters have the right to decry “brutal and inhumane” treatment at the hands of police.

“What if, instead of a President who tweets ‘when the looting starts, the shooting starts,’ we had leadership that could unequivocally say, ‘When you use police power in the name of the state to murder, lynch, and destroy, you will be prosecuted for your crimes,’” Barber wrote.

Trump wasn’t alone in using loaded language.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety sent a [tweet](#) Saturday saying it would strengthen its response to “a sophisticated network of urban warfare.” Hours later, [video](#) emerged of police shooting paint projectiles at people gathered on the front porch of a home after curfew in Minneapolis. “Light ’em up,” a man is heard saying before the shooting began. No one appeared seriously injured.

Activist Meeko Williams organized a peaceful demonstration in Detroit on Friday and later traveled to Minnesota to help support organizers there. Trying to understand what he sees as increasingly aggressive law enforcement tactics, Williams said police shouldn’t “antagonize, provoke or instigate” protesters.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen over these next few days in this country because they want these killer cops arrested and they’re not going to stop until they are,” Williams said, referring to the lack of charges against the other three officers at the scene when Floyd’s neck was pinned under Chauvin’s knee. “People are just sick and tired of being in this predicament, where innocent life has been taken at the hands of those who were to protect and serve us. We have not been heard.”

Some protesters are increasing efforts to protect themselves. On Sunday, Black Lives Matter organizers in Tampa, Florida, had nearly 100 safety marshals in fluorescent vests patrolling their march, trained in de-escalation tactics. The group also had medics and enlisted lawyers and those with legal training to watch out for protesters’ rights from the sidelines.

In New York, a police labor group, the Detectives’ Endowment Association, noted some police there had been attacked and patrol cars set ablaze.

“As we do everything to stop NYC from burning, all we hear from elected officials is criticism,” the group tweeted. “Maybe they should try it on the front lines.”

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/new-ebola-outbreak-declared-in-congo-city-that-last-saw-the-virus-in-2018/2020/06/01/33a9f958-a3ff-11ea-898e-b21b9a83f792_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/new-ebola-outbreak-declared-in-congo-city-that-last-saw-the-virus-in-2018/2020/06/01/33a9f958-a3ff-11ea-898e-b21b9a83f792_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>NAIROBI — Congo's health minister confirmed the discovery of a new Ebola case in the country's Équateur province, which last saw an outbreak of the highly deadly virus <a href="#">in 2018</a>, ultimately killing 33 people there.</p> <p>The province's governor, Bobo Boloko Bolumbu, spoke on national radio earlier on Monday, saying there were five likely cases and that four of those infected had already died. He said the cases were found in Mbandaka, the provincial capital, which is home to more than 1 million people and is an important port city at the confluence of the Congo and Ruki rivers, which are heavily plied for trade and transport.</p> <p>The World Health Organization's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said later on Monday that <a href="#">six cases</a> had been identified by Congo's Health Ministry. He said the WHO's response was already underway.</p> <p>No cases of the novel <a href="#">coronavirus</a> have been confirmed in Mbandaka, although more than 3,000 have been confirmed across Congo. The coronavirus and Ebola are unrelated. Ebola, which is endemic to Africa's tropical rainforests, is transmitted only through contact with an infected person's bodily fluids and manifests as a hemorrhagic fever accompanied in severe cases by vomiting and extensive internal bleeding.</p> <p>Congo has grappled for almost two years with a separate Ebola outbreak in its northeastern provinces that has killed 2,272 people so far. In April, the end of that outbreak, the country's worst, had been <a href="#">just days away</a> from being declared over when new cases were found. The same region is also home to the world's largest ongoing measles outbreak.</p> <p>The worst outbreak of Ebola took place mainly across three West African countries between late 2013 and early 2016, when nearly 30,000 people were infected and more than 11,000 died.</p> <p>The new outbreak in Équateur would be Congo's 11th since the virus was first identified in 1976. Experimental vaccines have proved effective in preventing the spread of Ebola, but no cure has been found. Different strains of the virus exist, and different outbreaks have had mortality rates ranging from 25 to 90 percent.</p> <p>Rickety health infrastructure and mistrust in governments and foreign aid organizations have impeded Ebola responses in Congo and West Africa. Locals have <a href="#">accused health officials and contracted suppliers</a> of using well-funded responses to enrich themselves while imposing strict restrictions on movement and business. Congo's government, however, has been lauded as quick to identify and contain Ebola in most previous outbreaks.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Rivals test limits of American influence</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://lightlynews.com/2020/06/01/politics/as-virus-toll-preoccupies-u-s-rivals-test-limits-of-american-influence/">https://lightlynews.com/2020/06/01/politics/as-virus-toll-preoccupies-u-s-rivals-test-limits-of-american-influence/</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — With the United States preoccupied by the sobering actuality of greater than 100,000 Americans lifeless from the coronavirus, China has pushed in current weeks to maneuver troops into disputed territory with India, proceed aggressive actions within the South China Sea and rewrite the foundations of the way it will management Hong Kong.</p> <p>At roughly the identical time, Russian fighter jets roared dangerously near American Navy planes over the Mediterranean Sea, whereas the nation's house forces performed an antisatellite missile take a look at clearly aimed toward sending the message that Moscow might blind U.S. spy satellites and take down GPS and different communications programs. Russia's navy cyberunits have been busy, too, the National</p>

Security Agency reported, with an revolutionary assault that will portend accelerated planning for a strike on e mail programs this election 12 months.

The North Koreans mentioned they have been accelerating their “nuclear deterrent,” shifting past two years of obscure guarantees of disarmament and Kim Jong-un’s heat exchanges of letters with President Trump. Iran, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo mentioned, is re-establishing the infrastructure wanted to make a bomb — all a response, the Iranians insist, to Mr. Trump’s choice two years in the past to reimpose sanctions, reaffirmed in current weeks because the State Department dismantled the final components of the Obama-era nuclear deal.

The coronavirus could have modified nearly all the things, however it didn’t change this: Global challenges to the United States spin forward, with America’s adversaries testing the boundaries and seeing what beneficial properties they will make with minimal pushback.

It has not created a brand new actuality as a lot because it has widened divisions that existed earlier than the pandemic. And with the United States trying inward, preoccupied by the worry of extra viral waves, unemployment hovering over 20 % and nationwide protests ignited by lethal police brutality, its rivals are shifting to fill the vacuum, and rapidly.

In some circumstances, Mr. Trump has helped them alongside. His announcement on Friday that the United States was severing ties with the World Health Organization left the sphere clear for China to broaden its affect over the group. On Saturday, Mr. Trump delivered a present to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia: Aboard Air Force One, nearly offhandedly, he mentioned he would invite Mr. Putin to an expanded assembly of the Group of seven nations. Russia was banned from conferences of the world’s main financial powers after its 2014 annexation of Crimea and assaults on Ukraine.

Most of the European allies have rejected previous proposals to convey Russia again into the fold, noting that Moscow has by no means loosened its maintain on Crimea, and Mr. Trump didn’t clarify his change of coverage. Apart from Mr. Pompeo’s declaration in February that the United States “doesn’t and won’t ever acknowledge” Russia’s declare to the area, although, Mr. Trump’s proposal suggests the United States is shifting on.

Mr. Trump has additionally withdrawn from varied U.N. our bodies and from vital worldwide accords, most not too long ago the Open Skies Treaty — actions that additionally weaken ties with allies and cede floor to China, Russia and others.

The retreat can also be occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, the place Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper is weighing cuts in U.S. troop ranges and support to French-led counterterrorism efforts in ways in which analysts say might open the door to China and Russia. Already, they’re dangling offers for brand spanking new ports and railroads, arms and mercenaries, and medical provides to assist fight Covid-19.

“The scope of medical and financial disruption that can come from Covid-19 will go away alternatives for each nations, and others, to attempt to achieve benefits,” Stanley A. McChrystal, a retired four-star commander of the Joint Special Operations Command and American forces in Afghanistan, mentioned in an interview.

The United States has not stayed completely on the sidelines, although, creating potential arenas for brand spanking new competitors and attainable collision. The race for a coronavirus vaccine has come to contain each China’s People’s Liberation Army and the U.S. navy, which has mentioned it could mobilize to distribute any breakthrough discovery.

American warships have sailed into disputed waters within the South China Sea in current weeks to claim freedom-of-navigation rights, persevering with a standoff in a area that Beijing asserts is its territory, backed up by the institution of latest air bases.

And the United States is dashing forward in a renewed typical and nuclear arms race, although its strategic rationale — apart from to overmatch Russia and China — has by no means been absolutely described by this administration. Not lengthy after the Pentagon introduced in March that it had efficiently examined an unarmed prototype of a hypersonic missile, a weapon that would probably overwhelm an adversary's protection programs, Mr. Trump boasted that a "tremendous duper" missile was on the way in which. Presumably it's meant as a solution to Russia's introduction of the Avangard, which made it the primary nation to assert it had deployed an operable hypersonic weapon, and a spread of comparable weapons that China is creating.

Mr. Trump's new arms management negotiator, Marshall Billingslea, warned not too long ago that Mr. Trump meant it when he vowed that America would all the time have probably the most potent nuclear power on the earth. "We know easy methods to win these races, and we all know easy methods to spend the adversary into oblivion," he mentioned, even because the nation ran up file deficits to keep away from an financial implosion due to the virus. "If we now have to, we'll, however we certain wish to keep away from it."

### **Middle East Power Vacuum**

It just isn't solely China and Russia which are difficult the United States. Across the Middle East, there's a sense that Mr. Trump's oft-expressed need to withdraw from the area — alongside along with his National Security Strategy's deal with a renewed competitors amongst superpowers — presents new leeway.

Iran has guess that Mr. Trump, for all his emphasis on doubling down on sanctions as he completes America's exit from the 2015 nuclear deal, just isn't keen to danger outright confrontation. Tehran has regularly accelerated its manufacturing of nuclear gas and ignored requests from worldwide inspectors for entry to suspected nuclear-related websites. But it has not raced forward, maybe calculating that a sluggish rebuilding of its stockpiles won't lead to a powerful worldwide backlash.

And within the Persian Gulf, even after the U.S.-led killing in January of Qassim Suleimani, a senior commander within the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and Iran's terrorism mastermind, Tehran is episodically testing America's limits.

Nearly a dozen Iranian quick boats performed what the Navy described as "harmful and harassing approaches" to 6 American warships within the Persian Gulf in mid-April, prompting Mr. Trump's order "to shoot down and destroy any and all Iranian gunboats in the event that they harass our ships at sea." Iran backed off within the gulf — however then stepped up oil shipments to Venezuela, in a problem to the U.S.-led embargo meant to displace President Nicolás Maduro, who has stayed in workplace regardless of a vigorous American marketing campaign to power him out.

In mid-May, Iran's international minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, mentioned American makes an attempt to disrupt the course of Iranian tankers carrying gas for Venezuela have been "harmful" and "provocative" acts. Iran has threatened retaliation in opposition to U.S. forces within the gulf and all through the Middle East if Washington interferes with Tehran's oil deliveries.

And in Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State, a 12 months after dropping its final territorial foothold, is resurgent with a spate of roadside bombings, ambushes and different assaults as U.S. troops in Iraq pull again from 4 bases and droop coaching within the nation, together with different Western allies, due to coronavirus restrictions. Mr. Trump, after initially declaring in 2018 that the group had been defeated, has barely talked about its current beneficial properties.

Russia and China are energetic within the area. Russia continues to help the federal government of President Bashar al-Assad as he nears a brutal victory in Syria's civil conflict. And China maintains a navy base in Djibouti, close to an American one there. Chinese diplomats and state-owned enterprises have elevated their presence all through the area.

"China has considerably expanded its engagement within the area, particularly within the financial and diplomatic realms," mentioned Patricia M. Kim, a China analyst on the U.S. Institute of Peace who



labored on a current report on China and the Red Sea space. “And for the U.S. to stay related — to have the ability to form norms within the area and assist states handle China’s rising presence — it must considerably enhance its personal engagement.”

### **From Russia, Testing Boundaries**

Mr. Trump’s willingness to ask Mr. Putin again into the corporate of the most important Western allies — largely as an effort to counter China — is all of the extra mystifying as a result of friction between American and Russian forces is operating excessive. From worldwide territory and airspace off Alaska to the Black Sea, fight planes and warships are urgent new boundaries and renewing years-old brinkmanship.

On Friday, two U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers flying a long-range coaching mission over the Black Sea prompted Russian fighter jets to scramble and intercept the American warplanes. At least thrice prior to now two months, Russian fighter jets intercepted Navy P-Eight surveillance planes over the Mediterranean, most not too long ago on Wednesday.

In an intercept in April, a Russian jet performed a high-speed, inverted maneuver, 25 ft in entrance of the P-Eight. “Another unsafe #Russian intercept of @USNavy P-Eight in worldwide airspace above #Mediterranean Sea!” the U.S. navy wrote, tweeting a video of the encounter.

If these had been encounters with Iranian or Chinese forces, Mr. Trump would have nearly actually protested. But amid the throes of a pandemic, he has not been desirous to ratchet up tensions with Russia. “I don’t see it,” Mr. Trump mentioned when requested whether or not Russia was toying with U.S. navy forces. “We had an excellent relationship with Russia.”

That just isn’t what prime NATO officers and American commanders say.

The U.S. navy on Tuesday accused the Kremlin of secretly sending at the very least 14 fighter jets to jap Libya in May to help Russian mercenaries battling alongside a beleaguered commander, Khalid Hifter, in his marketing campaign to oust the internationally acknowledged authorities in Tripoli, the capital. The unusually blunt and public criticism by two prime American generals underscored the Pentagon’s broader concern about Moscow’s rising affect in Libya and a looming safety risk on NATO’s southern flank.

Closer to residence, Air Force F-22 Raptor fighter jets intercepted two Russian maritime patrol planes in April about 50 miles from Alaska’s Aleutian Islands, in an echo of the Cold War. A month earlier, a pair of Russian reconnaissance plane have been intercepted by U.S. and Canadian jets 50 miles from the state’s coast over the Beaufort Sea.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, mentioned the Russian plane have been intercepted within the Bering Sea north of the Aleutian Islands and by no means entered U.S. or Canadian airspace.

### **China Seizes the Moment**

During the 2016 marketing campaign, Mr. Trump spoke publicly, in a New York Times interview, about leaving it to South Korea and Japan to safe the Pacific, saying he was bored with paying a lot to assist defend allies who have been operating massive commerce surpluses with the United States. And as Mr. Trump has argued with Seoul and Tokyo, and never considerably bolstered ties with Southeast Asia, President Xi Jinping of China has seen his second of alternative.

From the waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans to the heights of the Himalayas, China has pressed ahead on increasing its navy footprint.

“I believe what Beijing is pursuing — and it’s a rational curiosity — is hegemonic authority over Asia,” mentioned Elbridge Colby, the previous Pentagon official who was the primary author of the Trump administration’s National Defense Strategy, which focuses on how the American navy ought to reshape itself for great-power competitors with Russia and significantly China.

It is most evident within the South China Sea. Beijing has continued with its yearslong technique of urgent maximal territorial claims. Turning outcroppings of rock into full islands, it's forming a bulwark in opposition to the claims of competing nations and in opposition to the findings of a 2016 worldwide tribunal, which sought to restrict China's aggressive maritime actions.

In April, a Chinese Coast Guard vessel collided with a Vietnamese fishing boat close to a disputed archipelago, sinking the small vessel. The similar month a Chinese seismic survey ship, escorted by Chinese Coast Guard vessels, entered waters designated because the unique financial zone of Malaysia, daring the Malaysians to push again. There have been parallel confrontations with Indonesia and the Philippines.

The Trump administration has continued President Barack Obama's coverage of not taking sides within the territorial disputes whereas asserting that the United States goals to keep up freedom of navigation within the area. Mr. Esper insists that the United States will proceed naval operations "to ship a transparent message to Beijing that we'll proceed to guard freedom of navigation and commerce for all nations, massive and small."

But China's leaders seem to suspect that they're empty phrases; Mr. Trump has no urge for food for going through off with Beijing over scarcely populated territory half a world away.

And in an annual coverage report final month, the Chinese authorities dropped the time period "peaceable reunification" when discussing Taiwan, the democratic, self-governing island, breaking with a convention of utilizing that phrase within the studies since 1992. Li Keqiang, the Chinese prime minister, additionally omitted "peaceable" when he known as for reunification on the opening session of the National People's Congress on May 22.

The U.S. Navy has introduced at the very least three situations of transits of its warships via the Taiwan Strait this 12 months. And final month, the State Department notified Congress of a possible sale of superior torpedoes to Taiwan price \$180 million, the most recent of a number of massive arms sale packages to the island.

"We want to alter issues on Taiwan to enhance the deterrent and make clearer the place we stand," mentioned Mr. Colby, who added that the United States needed to "finish any remaining ambiguity about how we'd react to the usage of power." Without that, China could properly doubt that Mr. Trump sees Taiwan's de facto independence as a significant American curiosity.

Tensions involving China prolong to the roof of the world. Along a disputed border within the Himalayas, Indian and Chinese troops engaged in scuffles and shouting matches in current weeks. Indian officers say the Chinese navy made at the very least one main incursion into Indian territory. Both sides have amassed hundreds of troops within the disputed areas, resulting in the tensest such standoff since 2017.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump weighed in through Twitter. "We have knowledgeable each India and China that the United States is prepared, keen and capable of mediate or arbitrate their now raging border dispute," he wrote, in an echo of a suggestion he made final 12 months on the India-Pakistan battle over Kashmir.

Neither facet appeared fascinated with his supply.

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HEADLINE	06/01 China halts some US farm imports
SOURCE	<a href="https://finance.yahoo.com/news/china-halts-u-farm-imports-084759026.html">https://finance.yahoo.com/news/china-halts-u-farm-imports-084759026.html</a>

(Bloomberg) --Chinese government officials told major state-run agricultural companies to pause purchases of some American farm goods including soybeans as Beijing evaluates the ongoing escalation of tensions with the U.S. over Hong Kong, according to people familiar with the situation.

State-owned traders Cofco and Sinograin were ordered to suspend purchases, according to one of the people, who asked not to be identified discussing a private matter. Chinese buyers have also canceled an unspecified number of U.S. pork orders, one of the people said. Private companies haven't been told to halt imports, according to one of the people.

The halt is the latest sign that the hard won phase-one trade deal between the world's two biggest economies is in jeopardy. While Chinese Premier Li Keqiang last month reiterated a pledge to implement the agreement that was inked in January, tensions have continued to escalate since then amid a standoff over Beijing's move to tighten its grip on Hong Kong.

Beijing's move eroded the risk-on sentiment that had been prevailing over markets. The S&P 500 Index was little changed, while soybean futures in Chicago gained 0.4% after falling as much as 0.8% earlier. Shares of Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. were down 1.7% at \$38.64.

"The market has already seen the deteriorating relationship between the China and the U.S. and many think that with the slow progress of Chinese commodity buying so far, the trade deal's future was already in jeopardy," said Michael McDougall, a managing director at Paragon Global Markets in New York.

#### Hong Kong

The measures to halt imports come after President Donald Trump on Friday lobbed a barrage of criticism at Beijing after it moved to impose controversial new national security legislation on Hong Kong. Critics say it will crack down on dissent and undermine the "one country, two systems" principle that has kept Hong Kong autonomous of the mainland since the 1997 handover from the British.

Cofco and Sinograin are China's key importers of farm goods. They had been making pricing inquiries for 20 to 30 cargoes of U.S. soybeans on Friday but held off on going through with purchases after Trump indicated he would punish Chinese officials, one of the people said. Beijing is waiting to see what steps Trump takes before deciding its next move, one of the people said.

Nobody from the commerce ministry responded to a fax seeking comment. Officials from Sinograin and Cofco also didn't respond to calls.

#### Trump's Threats

Trump said the U.S. would begin the process of stripping some of Hong Kong's privileged trade status, without detailing how many changes would take effect and how many exemptions would apply. He also promised sanctions against Chinese and Hong Kong officials "directly or indirectly involved" in eroding Hong Kong's autonomy, though stopped short of giving specifics.

Equity investors had reacted positively to Trump's remarks, as he didn't provide any details or time-frame for what actions might come next. It's unclear how soon the U.S. would move on a range of options, from sanctioning Chinese officials to imposing tariffs on Hong Kong to attacking the territory's financial stability.

While Trump has periodically threatened to call off the "phase one" trade deal, his top economic advisers have suggested it would continue. Larry Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, told CNBC on Thursday that the trade agreement "does continue to go on for the moment and we may be making progress there."

The two sides have traded blows over a range of issues from the coronavirus to Taiwan in recent weeks, and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned during high-profile legislative meetings in Beijing that

	<p>some in America were pushing relations to a “new Cold War,” and urged the U.S. to give up its “wishful thinking” of changing China.</p> <p>China had agreed to buy U.S. farm goods worth about \$36.5 billion for 2020 as part of the phase-one trade deal signed in January. However, the coronavirus outbreak roiled those plans, with China only managing to import \$3.35 billion in American agricultural products in the first three months of the year, the lowest for that period since 2007, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>Still, as China started to gradually reopen its economy from the virus-led lockdown, it had increased its pace of imports, including a more-than 1-million ton cargo of American soybeans in just two weeks in May, and rare purchases of U.S. soybean oil and ethanol.</p> <p>But then tensions between the U.S. and China began escalating, with Trump blaming the Asian nation for misleading the world about the scale and risk of the coronavirus outbreak. The fallout filtered through to the commodities markets, with China opting to buy Brazilian soy instead of American beans.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Neo-Nazis call for attacks during unrest</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/5dzbv3/neo-nazi-accelerationists-calling-for-terror-attacks-during-social-unrest">https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/5dzbv3/neo-nazi-accelerationists-calling-for-terror-attacks-during-social-unrest</a>
GIST	<p>While President Trump <a href="#">tweeted</a> that his administration would be moving to designate “ANTIFA”—broadly and incorrectly referring to the movement of antifascist activism as a centralized group—a terrorist organization, online chatter among the far right shows <a href="#">accelerationist</a> neo-Nazis calling for terror attacks on U.S. cities dealing with mass protests.</p> <p>The thinking, as laid out on a series of Telegram accounts linked to a wider network of paramilitary far-right extremists, is that ongoing protests are spreading America’s police forces thin, making this the ideal time to strike with a strategic attack.</p> <p>“I wonder how many synagogues could be targeted by vicious anti-Semites who wear masks, gloves, and leave their phones at home while most police, firefighters, and paramedics are being tied up in rioting cities,” reads one post from a neo-Nazi channel specializing in anti-surveillance tradecraft that frequently calls for an insurgency against society. “A total theoretical hypothetical.”</p> <p>Another infamous account, with thousands of followers and links to several neo-Nazi terror groups like <a href="#">The Base and the Nordic Resistance Movement</a>, called for attacks on critical infrastructure.</p> <p>“The real way any of us benefit (from) this situation is to go after serious infrastructure,” reads a recent post from the account, viewed over a thousand times. “If the power goes out in any of the affected cities right now on top of what’s already happening, you can expect them to really shatter.”</p> <p>Neo-Nazi terror groups have been known to call for attacks on critical infrastructure. In 2019, The Base released propaganda suggesting its followers bomb their local transformers, while as far back as 2017, a ProPublica investigation reported how <a href="#">Atomwaffen Division members internally discussed</a> meddling with public water systems and taking out the California electric grid.</p> <p>Though far-right activists have appeared at protests and officials in <a href="#">Minneapolis and Atlanta</a> suggested these types of white supremacists might be infiltrating protesters to capitalize on social unrest, many of these same Telegram accounts viewed by VICE preached the opposite.</p> <p>One particularly racist post told followers to allow protesters and police to fight it out, because “They’re both our enemies.” The same post warned against going to a protest, because it offers the chance for authorities to identify suspects in the white supremacist movement. “Never forget that the system is 1000x more interested in putting you in jail.”</p>

	Accelerationism—a decades old, hyper-violent doctrine among the far right that seeks to hasten the collapse of society through terrorist acts—has enjoyed a recent resurgence in popularity among neo-Nazi paramilitary types, who have propagated its teachings on far-right social media platforms during the pandemic. In April, one man in Missouri, who was under investigation by the FBI for his links to a neo-Nazi terror group, died during a <a href="#">gunfight with police</a> . They had intercepted him before he attempted to bomb his local hospital, which was struggling with the coronavirus outbreak.
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## Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Ransomware hits UK city council firm</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-52880218?intlink_from_url=&amp;link_location=live-reporting-story&amp;web_view=true">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-52880218?intlink_from_url=&amp;link_location=live-reporting-story&amp;web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p><b>A gang demanded an £800,000 Bitcoin ransom in a cyber attack on a firm owned by Kent County Council, and leaked its data on the dark web.</b></p> <p>Kent Commercial Services (KCS) delivers services and supplies to public authorities, including protective equipment during the Covid-19 crisis.</p> <p>No ransom was paid and no personal data relating to taxpayers was stolen, KCS said.</p> <p>The Information Commissioner said KCS had been given data protection advice.</p> <p>KCS chief executive John Burr said: "The timing of this attack is particularly malicious and challenging given the current Covid-19 pandemic."</p> <p>The <a href="#">Local Democracy Reporting Service</a> was told the attack bore "the hallmarks of starting with a phishing email that was used to introduce a virus that then compromised the network".</p> <p>The hackers encrypted the firm's systems and data and demanded payment to release and repair them on 2 April.</p> <p>Stolen data that went on the dark web contained business and corporate information relating to business activities of KCS, based in Aylesford.</p> <p>It took the company over four weeks to get the majority of systems back online with additional security, with remaining systems going live in the next two weeks.</p> <p>The firm, which has an annual revenue of about £350m, is owned by the council but operates independently.</p> <p>A spokesman for the Information Commissioner's Office said: "We were made aware of this incident and looked into the details. We provided data protection advice to the organisation and concluded no further action was necessary at this time."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Post-breach, only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> change passwords</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/after-a-breach-users-rarely-change-their-passwords-study-finds/?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.zdnet.com/article/after-a-breach-users-rarely-change-their-passwords-study-finds/?&amp;web_view=true</a>

GIST	<p>Only around a third of users usually change their passwords following a data breach announcement, according to a recent study published by academics from the Carnegie Mellon University's Security and Privacy Institute (CyLab).</p> <p>The study, presented earlier this month at the IEEE 2020 Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection, was not based on survey data, but on actual browser traffic.</p> <p>Academics analyzed real-world web traffic collected with the help of the university's <a href="#">Security Behavior Observatory (SBO)</a>, an opt-in research group where users sign up and share their full browser history for the sole purpose of academic research.</p> <p>The research team's dataset included information collected from the home computers of 249 participants. The data was collected between January 2017 and December 2018 and included not only web traffic, passwords used to log into websites and stored inside the browser.</p> <p>Based on their analysis of the data, academics said that of the 249 users, only 63 had accounts on breached domains that publicly announced a data breach during the collection interval.</p> <p>CyLab researchers said that of the 63 users, only 21 (33%) visited the breached sites to change their passwords, and that of these 21, only 15 users changed passwords within three months after the data breach announcement.</p> <p>&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;In total, 23 passwords were changed on these domains. Of the 21 participants, 18 were Yahoo! users; the remaining 31 Yahoo! users (out of 49) did not change their passwords although all were affected by the breach according to the breach announcement. Two participants changed their Yahoo! passwords twice, once after each breach announcement. Two participants changed their password on the breached domain within one month of the breach announcement, a total of five within two months, and eight within three months.</p> <p>Furthermore, since the SBO data also captured password data, the CyLab team was also able to analyze the complexity of the users' new passwords.</p> <p>The research team said that of the users who changed passwords (21), only a third (9) changed it to a stronger password, based on the password's log10-transformed strength.</p> <p>The rest created passwords of weaker or similar strength, usually by reusing character sequences from their previous password, or by using passwords that were similar to other accounts that were stored inside their browser.</p> <p>The study shows that users still lack the education needed in choosing better or unique passwords. Researchers argue that a lot of the blame also resides with the hacked services, which "almost never tell people to reset their similar - or identical - passwords on other accounts."</p> <p>The study, while small in scale compared to others, is, however, more accurate in representing real-world user practices when it comes to user behavior following a data breach, as it's based on actual browsing data and traffic rather than survey responses that may sometimes be inaccurate or subjective.</p> <p>The study is named "(How) Do People Change Their Passwords After a Breach?," and is available for download in PDF format from <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/01 LoveBug changed malware forever
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.itproportal.com/features/how-lovebug-changed-malware-forever/?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.itproportal.com/features/how-lovebug-changed-malware-forever/?&amp;web_view=true</a>

20 years ago this month, a student in the Philippines unleashed a computer virus that not only brought millions of computers to a halt, but became a catalyst for the multi-billion dollar ransomware crime industry that we know today. On this anniversary, Mark Nutt, EVP EMEA at Veritas, takes a look back at the incident, and the ripples it sent forward in time, creating the minefield that CIOs are navigating in 2020.

“LoveBug”, was a simple piece of malware but 20 years ago, it changed the world of cybersecurity. Originally intended to simply harvest the passwords of a few local internet providers, LoveBug spread around the world, infecting over 45 million devices to become the first piece of malware to really take businesses offline in a significant way.

Whilst it was the first malware to have this impact, it would be far from the last. LoveBug proved to be a turning point in malware, paving the way for the emergence of the global ransomware challenge that we’re all fighting today.

### **The legacy**

Eleven years before anyone had heard of LoveBug, the IT industry witnessed the first real case of ransomware, in the form of AIDS Trojan. AIDS Trojan was spread through infected floppy disks sent to HIV researchers as part of a knowledge-sharing exercise. It worked by encrypting file names and then demanding that victims post a cheque to a PO Box in Panama to regain access to them.

AIDS Trojan was limited though – victims needed to receive and install the file by disk, and they needed to pay by cheque. The hacker, Dr Joseph Popp, was quickly apprehended and no one got rich as a result of the virus. It was not an example that many people wanted to follow. It did, however, birth the anti-ransomware movement. Since AIDS Trojan used synchronous encryption, good actors were able to help restore files without victims needing to pay. This started a giant game of cat and mouse, with the data protection industry always trying to stay one step ahead of the hackers.

What was critical with LoveBug, was the shift of malware from limited exposure to mass destruction. 45 million compromised devices a day, could equal 45 million daily payments. The ‘love child’ of LoveBug and AIDS Trojan was the ransomware that followed, with GPCoder and Archievus hitting businesses around the world. Hackers also harnessed ecommerce sites to find better ways to receive payments.

The protection industry reacted again, with good actors working together to crack the encryption code on which Archievus relied, and sharing it widely to help victims avoid paying any ransoms. Since then the cat-and-mouse game has continued with viruses like CryptoLocker, CryptoDefense and CryptoLocker2.0 building new attack strategies, and the protection industry implementing new defences. By the time that WannaCry launched, it was able to infect 230,000 devices, in over 150 countries, demanding ransoms in 20 different languages and receiving payments in cryptocurrencies.

### **So, what have we learned?**

Ransomware has become more sophisticated and more prevalent. Targets today are less likely to be individuals, since big businesses can pay big sums of money. According to Coveware, an average ransom is now around \$110k. Travellex is reported to have paid hackers \$2.3m in an attempt to recover from an attack in January. The actual costs of the ransoms are also a small fraction of the impact of the attacks. It’s reported that it cost Norsk Hydro \$75m to recover from a ransomware attack in 2019, when you account for downtime, loss of business and lost production.

At the same time, data protection has become more sophisticated too, with four areas that should now be part of every business’s ransomware strategy: protect, detect, respond and recover.

- [Evasive malware grows to record highs](#)
- Protect: Educating end users and deploying anti-malware are key. But, more so is having a backup copy of business data, that is complete, stored offsite, airgapped and immutable.
- Detect: The faster you can respond to a ransomware attack, the faster you can recover from it, so intrusion detection, anti-malware and file-anomaly detection can keep a business safe



- Respond: Once you know that you're being hit, you need to be able to rapidly shut-down systems to prevent further infection and quickly identify when the infection occurred on each impacted system.
- Recover: Businesses need to be able to recover large numbers of servers quickly and roll-back to a known good point in time.

### What can we expect next?

AIDS Trojan targeted the healthcare sector and ransomware will continue to focus on these organisations due to their heavy reliance on mission-critical information for their day-to-day activities. To stay one step ahead, these organisations need to improve their data visibility and further automate their backups.

We'll also see more diverse threats. Increasingly, hackers are expanding their threats to data exfiltration or public exposure if they feel that leaking data might be more 'motivational' for their targets. In order to respond, it's essential to have backup copies of data, and to understand the nature and value of the information that might have been compromised.

Finally, social engineering and phishing is becoming increasingly central to the success of a ransomware attack. The LoveBug was successful in a scattergun fashion, but still relied on social engineering. Had people been less inclined to open an email with the subject line 'I love you', the spread of the malware would have been far more limited. If you know hackers might get past your line of defence, prevention can't be your only option.

In the ever-evolving game of cat and mouse between hackers and businesses, we'll continue to see innovation on both sides. What's clear is, throughout the history of ransomware, it's never more important to have backup copies of your data that you can rely on.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Mitron app security flaw</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://in.mashable.com/tech/14419/mitron-apps-security-flaw-lets-hackers-access-user-accounts-in-seconds-report?&amp;web_view=true">https://in.mashable.com/tech/14419/mitron-apps-security-flaw-lets-hackers-access-user-accounts-in-seconds-report?&amp;web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>Mitron, a video-making app, has been gaining immense popularity among the Indians as a rival of popular video app TikTok. The app has already <a href="#">crossed over 5 million downloads</a> on the Google Play Store with an average rating of 4.7 stars. However, it has come to light that the app has a major security vulnerability that lets threat actors exploit users' accounts by easily bypassing account authorization.</p> <p>As first brought to light by the <a href="#">Hacker News</a>, cybersecurity researcher, Rahul Kankrale, revealed that this security flaw lies in the app's 'Login with Google' feature. This feature requires user's permission to access their profile information via Google account when they're signing up. However, it doesn't make use of any secret tokens required for authentication of the user. So, an attacker simply needs to know the victim's unique user ID and they'll be able to access the account without requiring any password.</p> <p>By exploiting this feature, anyone can easily gain access to a user's account where they can then follow others and comment on different videos through this account. Moreover, the report states that this security vulnerability has not yet been patched and there isn't even any privacy policy or terms of use on the app, which makes it very unsafe to use.</p> <p>Add to this the fact that Mitron is <a href="#">not made by Indian developers</a> instead it was bought from a Pakistani software development company, Qboxus, for \$34 i.e. Rs 2,600. Mitron app's entire source code was bought from Qboxus along with its features and the user interface, after which it was rebranded as 'Mitron' in India. In fact, Mitron developers have taken the exact product from Qboxus and have not changed anything in the interface.</p> <p>As a precautionary measure, users are advised to uninstall the app as it can put your account and data to risk.</p>

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Police efforts erode trust on dark web</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/police-efforts-help-to-erode-trust/?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/police-efforts-help-to-erode-trust/?&amp;web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>Law enforcement activity over recent years is eroding trust on the dark web and forcing cyber-criminals to try new tactics, according to new <a href="#">Trend Micro</a> research.</p> <p>The security vendor's latest report, <i>Shifts in Underground Markets</i>, charts changes over the past five years, which has seen the takedowns of numerous marketplaces including <a href="#">Evolution</a>, <a href="#">AlphaBay</a> and <a href="#">Hansa</a>.</p> <p>Trend Micro found widespread concern among cyber-criminals frequenting such sites that police may be monitoring them or the administrators themselves may try an exit scam. Others complained of login problems and frequent DDoS attacks, which may also stem from law enforcement efforts.</p> <p>In a bid to rebuild trust, a new site dubbed DarkNet Trust was created to verify vendors' reputations by analyzing their usernames and PGP fingerprints. Other efforts include security measures such as direct (walletless) buyer-to-vendor payments, multi-signatures on BTC and Monero, encrypted messaging, and a ban on JavaScript, <a href="#">according to the report</a>.</p> <p>In the absence of a stable and secure forum to advertise their wares, some cyber-criminals are taking to gaming comms platform Discord and e-commerce platform Shoppy.gg to buy and sell.</p> <p>Trend Micro principal security strategist, Bharat Mistry, argued that the firm expects to see new tools and techniques flood dark web sites going forward.</p> <p>"AI will be at the centre of these efforts. Just as it's being used by Trend Micro and other companies to root out fraud, sophisticated malware and phishing, it could be deployed in bots designed to predict roll patterns on gambling sites. It could also be used in deepfake services developed to help buyers bypass photo ID systems, or launch sextortion campaigns against individuals," <a href="#">he explained</a>.</p> <p>"Some emerging trends are less hi-tech but no less damaging. Access to devices, systems and accounts is so common today that we're already seeing it spun out in 'as-a-service' cybercrime offerings. Prices for access to Fortune 500 companies can hit as much as \$10,000."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Increase of attacks on financial services</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://cyware.com/news/financial-services-sector-witnessing-increased-attacks-4a373b27">https://cyware.com/news/financial-services-sector-witnessing-increased-attacks-4a373b27</a>
GIST	<p>The ongoing penetration of tech in the finance sector, mostly for improving productivity and reducing transaction costs, has also given rise to various cyber threats and challenges. This pandemic is only adding to the security woes for the sector.</p> <p>What happened recently?</p> <p>The cybercriminals community is more synchronized than ever, and proactively uses the collective innovation of malicious code and TTPs for targeted attacks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maze ransomware operators <a href="#">published</a> the encrypted version of 240 credit card details stolen from the Bank of Costa Rica (BCR).</li> <li>• Banco de Costa Rica, one of the most powerful state-owned commercial banks, was <a href="#">attacked</a> twice in eight months by the same ransomware operators—Maze, leading to stealing of 11 million credit card credentials.</li> <li>• The second attack, however, happened due to the bank not securing its network after the first attack, as claimed by the attacker group. Threatening to put the data for sale on the dark web, the group posted encrypted details of the credit cards.</li> </ul>

## Leading banks expose database: Report

In a [recent survey](#) by Reposify, security experts measured the prevalence of exposed sensitive assets for large banks. Here's what they found:

- 23% of banks worldwide had at least one misconfigured database exposed to the internet, resulting in potential data leakage issues.
- 54% of the banks had one or more RDP exposed to the internet.
- 31% of banks had at least one remote code execution vulnerability, which could allow attackers to execute arbitrary code on a target system.

## It's raining attacks for the financial services sector

- Just two weeks back, experts at VMware Carbon Black reported a [238%](#) surge in cyberattacks against banks.
- Researchers at Proofpoint [disclosed](#) banking malware campaigns targeting users in the US, Canada, Germany, Poland, and Australia, with COVID-19 lures to spread the [ZLoader trojan](#).
- Last month, there was a spree of ransomware attacks on financial services sector vendors—including [Pitney Bowes](#), [Finastra](#), [Diebold Nixdorf](#), and [Cognizant](#). Cognizant and Pitney Bowes were hit by the Maze attackers. The attackers called their attacks as virtuous: purposed toward drawing the attention of people to security lapses in the banking industry.
- IBM X-Force researchers reported a new Android banking Trojan, dubbed Banker[.]BR in the third week of April. It was targeting users in countries that speak Spanish and Portuguese, namely Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and other parts of Latin America.
- In March, Group-IB [discovered](#) Gustuff Android banking trojan targeting over 100 banking apps and 32 cryptocurrency apps.

## The bottom line

The combined growth of banking and mobile technologies has served cybercriminals with an ever-expanding attack surface. Financial service organizations must remain vigilant of these evolving threats leveraging threat intel sharing.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Minneapolis neighbors mobilizing offline</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wired.com/story/in-minneapolis-neighbors-are-mobilizing-offline/">https://www.wired.com/story/in-minneapolis-neighbors-are-mobilizing-offline/</a>
GIST	<p><b>ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON</b>, under a cloudless Minneapolis sky, thousands of people flocked to a 50-block stretch of Lake Street, where for the previous three days, mass protests over the police killing of George Floyd sparked riots and violent standoffs with police and National Guard. Some came with brooms and buckets. Some drove trucks full of freshly cut plywood and portable drills for boarding up the businesses that were left. Many carried hand-painted signs saying “Stop killing black people” and “Justice for George.” Almost everyone wore a mask. And everywhere you looked, people were pointing cell phones—capturing protesters chanting, citizens sweeping up broken glass, and buildings still smoldering for audiences on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to see.</p> <p>At a gathering a few blocks to the south in Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the ground rules were very different: no livestreaming, no social media posts, only share things directly with people you trust. It may have seemed a bit paranoid to the 300 people, mostly white families and retirees, who had shown up to participate in a neighborhood defense planning meeting. But then again, scores of shops, restaurants, and community buildings in the city had been damaged or set on fire in the past 24 hours. And they had reason to believe that this night would be even worse.</p> <p>That morning, Minnesota governor Tim Walz had claimed <a href="#">during a press conference</a> that highly organized outside groups, including white supremacists and drug cartels, were believed to be part of the protests that had turned violent in South Minneapolis, leaving hundreds of buildings damaged and burned in recent days. There were also <a href="#">local reports</a> of armed white men roaming the area in out-of-state vehicles carrying</p>

symbols associated with a variety of online fringe groups with different agendas, including far-right militia, white supremacists, and [anti-government firearm enthusiasts](#) with [pro-protester/anti-police politics](#).

If the threat of [the coronavirus pandemic](#) had forced Minneapolis residents to interact with other people almost exclusively through screens since mid-March, the threat of armed arsonists intent on starting a race war galvanized them into action IRL. They were worried that any organizing information they'd put on the internet could be seen—and therefore disrupted—by people who might mean them harm. So to air-gap these plans from would-be infiltrators, many organizing efforts went analogue, returning to tactics reminiscent of a pre-internet era. All day long, all across the city, citizens met in parks and in front of community centers to build phone trees (remember those?), form block peacekeeping patrols, and draw up plans to defend their homes and businesses from potential nighttime marauders.

The night before—Friday—when the city's fourth day of protests had become a fiery free-for-all up and down Lake Street, Raquel Sidie-Wagner had been at home, eight blocks south, watching the news, scrolling Twitter, and feeling terrified about what might come up to her door. "I realized the city is not prepared for this," she said. "And we're all sitting scared and alone in our houses. If the only thing we can really do is look out for each other then we might as well be proactive about it." And at first, she had turned to the internet to do something about it. At 2:30 in the morning, while the flames in Minneapolis burned bright enough [to be seen](#) more than 30 miles away in Hudson, Wisconsin, Sidie-Wagner created an event in her King Field neighborhood's closed Facebook group for Saturday afternoon.

But by the time people started showing up at MLK park, Sidie-Wagner had decided things needed to go lower-tech "to keep our exposure as low as possible." Before the meeting got started, she asked attendees not to livestream or post about it to social media. "We'd been hearing about the possibility of bad actors learning about neighborhood safety protocols through those channels, and we didn't want that to happen," she said. Her biggest concern was that instigators might try to learn what residents were planning to do and wear, so they could blend in and escape notice.

People stepped forward to an underpowered microphone to share ideas about how best to prepare for the evening. A man who'd served in the Marines and now works security told people the best thing they could do was to turn on their lights and just be present. "If it's an empty area, something is going to happen," he said. A couple who'd just biked over from a similar gathering of more than 1,000 people in nearby Powderhorn Park shared tips from their meeting—like moving in trash cans or filling them up with water so their contents couldn't easily be used to set fires, and clearing away anything that could be used to break a window.

Then Sidie-Wagner divided everyone into groups by block to trade contact information and sign up for patrol shifts. People had lots of questions: "Should we use our cars as barricades?" (Probably not; that'd be a fire hazard and wouldn't stop people who are on foot.)

"Can we use messaging apps to talk to each other?" (Yes, but try to get everyone [on an encrypted app, like Signal](#).)

"Will we be breaking curfew if we're in our yards or houses?" (No, [per the department of public safety](#). However, that didn't stop police officers in riot gear from [firing nonlethal rounds at residents](#) keeping watch from their porch in the nearby neighborhood of Whittier later on Saturday night.)

When the block groups dispersed, about an hour later, each one received a fire extinguisher, with some groups who lived near vulnerable older commercial buildings without sprinkler systems taking extras. One woman who'd been taking detailed notes on the impromptu safety plan volunteered to print out paper versions to hand out door to door.

Will Drescher, a 24-year-old drug counselor, was planning to go back and tell the people in his building about what he'd heard at the meeting. He wasn't sure whether to be more nervous about extremists or [police surveillance](#), but he'd had his phone in airplane mode for the past few days and hadn't been

texting with his roommates. “My DNA is just fried from all this. I really think I’m coming apart,” he said. “But I know that’s how many of our city’s black and brown citizens feel every day.”

In North Minneapolis, where the majority of neighborhood residents are black, people were also mobilizing on Saturday afternoon for what they feared would be a long night. On Thursday, fires had been set at several black-owned businesses on West Broadway, about 6 miles away from the protests. Firefighters, overwhelmed by the myriad blazes, [took hours](#) to respond, and many cherished institutions were destroyed, including the Fade Factory barbershop and a Walgreens, the neighborhood’s only pharmacy. Phillipe Cunningham, the city council member representing North Minneapolis’s 4th Ward, was out that night driving around, responding to calls from constituents who said they’d seen groups of white men setting fires. Cunningham said he didn’t see a single police officer the entire time. “It was eerily quiet. There were no protests. No break-ins. And yet buildings were burning,” said Cunningham. “That was a huge red flag for us, and it became apparent that we were going to have to figure this out for ourselves.”

With the help of his husband, Lane, Cunningham got to work identifying a list of critical, high-risk businesses and recruiting people to watch over them through an open Facebook page. More than 100 people volunteered. Unlike residents in Sidie-Wagner’s neighborhood, Cunningham said he wasn’t afraid to leverage social media to get people involved, because the neighborhood is so tight-knit that anyone out of place would be immediately apparent. “I don’t blame folks in South Minneapolis for being cautious, because the fact is infiltrators have pretended to be community members during protests and other high-tension moments,” he said. But the two sides of the city are experiencing two completely different crises right now, and responding requires two different strategies, he said. “We’re seeing very targeted destruction, not this wanton smash-and-burn approach. So it was more important for us to get folks out in numbers to keep an eye on things.”

Still, Cunningham’s constituents didn’t want to publicize their plans *too* widely. So after the initial recruiting push, the real organizing moved to closed groups, encrypted chats, and a password-protected Zoom call. Volunteers game-planned where to stash water and fire extinguishers, and picked places to set up floodlights. “We’d seen white supremacists in the neighborhood on previous nights, and we just didn’t want them to have any idea what our strategy was,” said Nate Pentz, a realtor who has lived in North Minneapolis with his wife for 10 years. “Because there was a good chance we weren’t going to have a ton of support from the National Guard if shit went down.”

The Pentzes live in the Camden area, near where a young black man named Jamar Clark was [killed by police in 2015](#). They signed up to sit watch over the corner of 47th Street and N. Lyndale, home to Firebox Deli, a BBQ joint, a Cuban takeout spot, and a Dairy Queen. As the sun started to go down, they set up chairs in the parking lot. They were joined by neighbors and a few other folks they’d not met before, a mix of white and black and LGBTQ Northside residents. They drank coffee and listened to Whitney Houston and Lady Gaga, a diva playlist left over from Pentz’s last birthday. At 12:30, Vong Wang, one of the owners of Firebox Deli, arrived to say thank-you with brisket sandwiches and macaroni and cheese. They stayed until 5 am, relieved to only see a few things that they reported to Minneapolis police, mostly cars without plates driving erratically. And unlike during the previous two nights, this time squad cars responded.

That’s not to say that the entire city was quiet on Saturday night. In Whittier, while 4,000 National Guard troops and police officers were clashing with protesters [and journalists](#), a group of young white men allegedly tried to burn stores at the Karmel Mall, an East African market, according to [news reports](#). A crowd of Somali shoppers [chased them out](#) before anything burned. In Longfellow, residents told WIRED that one of their neighbors ran off three white men in their early 20s after they threatened him with a taser. Sidie-Wagner didn’t see anything suspicious on her own patrols, but another block group told her they’d chased a group of young white men out of an alley. Still, having a plan made it “a whole different night,” she said.

They’d made it through Saturday. But on the Northside, victory was short-lived. On Sunday, three businesses near 44th and Penn Avenues burned in [a suspected arson attack](#). The Minneapolis Fire



	<p>Department said if it weren't for the neighborhood's community patrols, the building would have been completely destroyed.</p> <p>By the time evening fell on Monday, the organizers had changed their playbook. And this time, they weren't telling how.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Students 'stacking' credentials to a degree</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wired.com/story/students-stacking-credentials-route-degree/">https://www.wired.com/story/students-stacking-credentials-route-degree/</a>
GIST	<p><b>THE MENU</b> AT the Henderson, Nevada, diner where Amy Nelson likes to take a break from work is notable for its side dishes, including caramelized bananas, cinnamon apples, and mushrooms and onions. Each can feed an appetite in its own right. Together with an entrée, they add up to breakfast. That's much like the radically new way Nelson and a small number of other pioneering students have been experiencing college.</p> <p>First they get a credential in a skill they need, then another, and another. Each can quickly pay off on its own by helping to get a job, raise, or promotion. Over time, they can add up to a bachelor's degree. "Even if I chose not to finish, I would still have these pieces and I'd say, 'Look what I've done,' as opposed to, 'I have two years of college'" but nothing to show for it, said Nelson, who works as an information technology consultant and hopes to move into an administrative role.</p> <p>The concept, known variously as "stackable credentials" or "microcredentials," she said, "almost seemed too good to be true."</p> <p>That's one reason it's been painfully slow to take off: Consumers have trouble understanding it. Even after Nelson began the program in which she racks up microcredentials while on the path to a bachelor's degree, she didn't entirely get it. Then she started stacking up high-demand industry certifications in subjects such as technical support, cloud technology, and data analysis while on her way to a bachelor's degree in data management.</p> <p>"I don't think it really dropped on me until I sat down to update my résumé," she said. That's when Nelson realized that those certifications had already increased her value on the job market.</p> <p>Now the economic toll of the <a href="#">coronavirus</a> pandemic is giving microcredentials a burst of momentum. A lot of people will need more education to get back into the workforce, and they'll need to get it quickly, at the lowest possible cost, and in subjects directly relevant to available jobs.</p> <p>Nelson is enrolled in the stackable information technology bachelor's program offered by Western Governors University. Enrollment in the program has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic, to 10,711 in May, from 4,410 in March, the online nonprofit says. The number taking microcredential programs from edX, the online course provider created by MIT and Harvard that also offers a microcredential program, rose to 65,000 by the end of April, a 14-fold increase since early March.</p> <p>"People are looking for shorter forms of learning during this time. They don't know whether they have two months, three months. They've lost their jobs," said Anant Agarwal, CEO of edX. The nonprofit had the fortuitous timing to launch a stackable program leading to a bachelor's degree in computer science in January and three more in May—in writing, marketing, and data science. It also trademarked the term "MicroBachelors" to describe them.</p> <p>"The ability to earn a microcredential within a few months and improve their potential to get hired as we come out of <a href="#">Covid</a> becomes much more important," Agarwal said.</p>

Surveys bear this out. [A third of people](#) who have lost their jobs in the pandemic, or worry that they will, say they will need more education to get new ones, the nonprofit Strada Education Network found.

They don't have time to waste. Among lower-income adults, who have already been disproportionately affected, one in four say they have only enough savings to cover their expenses for three months if they're laid off or get sick, the Pew Research Center reports.

"They don't have two to three years of runway to put a pause on their life," said Scott Pulsipher, president of Western Governors University, where Nelson is enrolled. WGU has rolled out microcredential programs in states including Nevada that supply certificates and certifications on the way to degrees in information technology and health care.

### **Affordability Matters**

Affordability matters, too, Pulsipher said; WGU's IT microcredential program costs about \$150 per credit and edX charges \$166 per credit for its MicroBachelors degrees. That's far less than the [average \\$663 cost of a credit](#) at conventional public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities, the US Department of Education says.

"No one planned for or designed for a pandemic, but it starts to heighten the differentiated value that comes from things like microcredentials," Pulsipher said.

Agarwal reports edX signed up as many learners in April as it did in all of last year—it now has 30 million, worldwide—and a survey of the newly registered found that 11 percent were already unemployed or furloughed and trying to learn skills that would help them get new jobs; edX has said [it will offer a 30 percent discount](#) on MicroBachelors programs to students who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

Even before the coronavirus hit, several providers were making a push for microcredentials. WGU and edX teamed up to create the program in which Nelson is enrolled. BYU Pathway Worldwide, an online spinoff of Brigham Young University-Idaho, has created stackable bachelor's degrees in all of the subjects it offers. It calls them "Certificate First."

That's because students in these programs, and the others like it, first get certificates or certifications on their way to earning associate or bachelor's degrees. Advocates say the approach can help not only people who need credentials quickly to reenter the workforce, but also reduce the number of people who leave college before finishing.

"If you were designing [college] from scratch," said BYU-Pathway Worldwide President Clark Gilbert, "this is how you'd do it."

[More than a quarter of students](#) in conventional college programs quit after their first year, when a degree still seems intimidatingly far off. For many, it is; [more than 40 percent of bachelor's degree candidates](#) don't finish in six years, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, which tracks this. The center says [36 million people have dropped out](#) with no degrees or certificates to show for their time in college—but often with student loan debt to repay.

Research shows that students run out of money or experience personal problems that sidetrack or slow them down. The longer they spend in school, the more likely they are to quit with no credentials at all, despite their investment of time and money.

Earning credentials on the way provides a series of rewards that may encourage students to persist. Even if they don't, they'll have something to fall back on that can help them get, or advance in, a job. Agarwal likens getting a bachelor's degree in this new way to climbing Mount Everest by first hiking to the base camp at about 17,000 feet and getting acclimated to the altitude before attempting to



achieve the summit. Earning that first certificate, he said, is like reaching the base camp; stacking them into a bachelor's degree, like getting to the top.

Early returns suggest receiving rewards along the way helps the so-far limited number of people who have already tried microcredential programs. Nearly 70 percent of students racking up industry certifications on their way through the edX/Western Governors stackable IT programs [finish their bachelor's degrees](#) within two years, the university says. That's in part because they also get [27 credits, on average, for earlier education or life experience](#), another way of speeding students through higher education that is available from a growing number of colleges and universities.

The concepts are novel, but there are signs that employers are responding to them. Some are endorsed by companies for career relevancy, or created in partnership with businesses. Many of the certifications students earn along the way, including in IT and health care, are already industry-recognized.

At BYU-Pathway Worldwide, officials there report, the proportion of students who drop out between their first and second year has fallen more than 20 percentage points, to 14 percent, from 35 percent, since the start of the Certificate First program.

"That early milestone—the early win—is so motivating," Gilbert said. "Now they understand how education works. And if we lose someone, instead of being a dropout, they'll have a certificate. Is it as good as having a bachelor's degree? No, it's not. But is it better than being a dropout? Yes, it is."

That's what Brian Salazar experienced. "It's very encouraging every time you pass one of the certification tests," said Salazar, who has already earned certifications in Amazon AWS system operations administration, IT service management, Linux, and several other industry cloud and network subjects.

An IT tech in Carson City, Nevada, Salazar had already gone to community college, but he said he had few job offers after getting his associate degree. Once he started earning the certifications, "I started getting lots of offers," even without the bachelor's degree he expects to finish this year.

### **Showing Skills to Employers**

Certifications and certificates can also show prospective employers the specific practical skills students have learned, which is increasingly important when only 11 percent of business leaders in a Gallup poll strongly agreed that [college graduates had the skills their businesses require](#). Two-thirds of Americans in a Pew Research Center survey said that [students aren't getting the skills they need](#) for the workplace. Students don't feel ready either: [Only 41 percent say they consider themselves very or extremely prepared for their careers](#), a McGraw-Hill survey found.

Graduating with one or more certificates and a bachelor's degree "has the ability to show employers that you have a breadth of knowledge," said Karen Elzey, associate executive director of Workcred, which teams with universities to add certificates and certifications to bachelor's degrees.

While both can be included in a stackable bachelor's degree, certificates and certifications are different. A certificate is awarded by an educational institution upon completion of a course of study; a certification is given by an industry association or a union to someone who has passed a test to certify that he or she has the skills to do a certain job.

It's no coincidence that the institutions furthest along with stackable credentials are nonconventional ones. Some traditional universities say they want to add them, too, but longstanding practices are hard to alter.

Some universities are trying to embrace this change. Many have programs that help students earn industry certifications in fields including accounting and manufacturing. The University System of Georgia in January launched what it calls a "nexus degree"—certifications that add to associate degrees that can then add up to bachelor's degrees. The financial and enrollment challenges they now face also are pushing colleges and universities to seek new sources of revenue.

Conventional institutions that are working to come up with stackable credentials have been slowed by accreditation requirements, occasional faculty resistance, the need for certification bodies and academic departments to collaborate, and the difficulty of explaining the process to prospective students.

“In reality it’s proving a little more complicated than we anticipated,” said Shari Garmise, a senior vice president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and executive director of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities. “But people are starting to get it.”

There’s growing pressure on colleges and universities to speed the process of embedding certifications and certificates into bachelor’s degrees. That’s because, even before the coronavirus created new problems for them, traditional higher education institutions already appeared to be losing business to those quicker, cheaper credentials.

[Nearly one in 10 undergraduates](#) today is working solely toward a certificate, and [more are pursuing certificates or associate degrees](#) than are studying toward bachelor’s degrees, the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce reports.

[More than 670,000 certificates were awarded](#) in 2018, the last year for which the figure is available from the US Department of Education—up 117 percent since 2000. That’s cutting into a market for bachelor’s degrees that’s already suffering from a decline in the number of 18- to 24-year-olds.

And while consumers might not fully understand stackable credentials, many are increasingly recognizing that in some fields they can boost incomes with a smaller investment than a bachelor’s degree. For instance, [workers with certificates in construction](#) and other blue-collar trades often make more than liberal arts and humanities majors with bachelor’s degrees, the Georgetown Center found.

A few miles from Henderson, in North Las Vegas, teachers at the Fredric W. Watson Elementary School also are earning stackable credentials—in topics such as communication, using data, and building leadership skills. Here the payoff is even more direct: Once they finish a certain number of hours, they get a \$5,400 raise.

Teachers used to need master’s degrees to get that bump in pay. But those master’s degrees often focus on theory, and didn’t seem relevant to what was happening in classrooms, said Margaret Loveall, a fourth-grade teacher who gave up 12 credits short of earning hers.

The shorter credentials teachers are earning now are “very connected to what we do,” said Tricia Young, whose tidy first-grade classroom is decorated with students’ pictures of sea animals. Young has finished enough stackable credits to get one raise and is working on another.

Even with a guaranteed financial reward, however, it takes a lot of personal outreach to help teachers fully grasp this idea, said Brenda Pearson, director of professional learning for the Clark County Education Association, which administers the program. “I don’t think people really know what stackable credentials are yet,” she said.

Shifting so much attention to vocational skills concerns some higher education experts.

### **Not Quite as Good as a Degree**

Short-term certificates “can be a positive force in people’s lives,” said Chris Gallagher, vice chancellor for global learning opportunities at Northeastern University and author of *College Made Whole: Integrated Learning for a Divided World*. But suggesting it’s OK for learners to stop before they reach a bachelor’s degree, Gallagher said—just because they’ve received some shorter-term credential—leaves them at a comparative disadvantage.

That’s because certificate holders who stop short of a bachelor’s degree may miss out on substantially greater earnings; a typical graduate with a [bachelor’s degree will earn \\$1.19 million over his or her](#)

[lifetime](#), compared with \$855,000 for someone with an associate degree and \$580,000 for a high school graduate, the economic think tank the Hamilton Project calculates.

By comparison, workers who finish a certificate make up to a comparatively modest [\\$2,960 a year more, on average](#), than those with a high school diploma, according to the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. (The Hechinger Report, which produced this story, is also housed at Teachers College.)

Lifetime earnings estimates for certificate holders comparable to those for bachelor's degree recipients are not available. Some research, including from the public policy think tank Third Way, has found [much less financial benefit](#) from microcredentials that are not industry certified than from associate or bachelor's degrees. The value of some certificates also fades over time as job demands change. And microcredential programs such as the new one in professional writing through edX provide certificates meant less for the workplace than for transfer to another designated university.

Back at her breakfast in Henderson, Nelson said friends have begun to ask her about the stackable credentials model. Their interest was piqued when she posted on Facebook how many certifications she'd already earned on the way to her degree.

"I had only been doing this for one year and I had all this stuff. It just blew my mind, so I wanted to share that," she said. "To be the girl who was maybe not going to finish high school and now to have all these degrees, it's sort of amazing."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Web browsers still do drive-by downloads</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/web-browsers-still-allow-drive-by-downloads-in-2020/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/web-browsers-still-allow-drive-by-downloads-in-2020/</a>
GIST	<p>It's 2020, and numerous browsers still allow drive-by-downloads from what is meant to be secure contexts such as sandboxed iframes.</p> <p>For those unfamiliar with the term, a drive-by-download is when a user visits a site, and a file download is initiated without the user's interaction.</p> <p>This technique can be used to distribute unwanted software and malicious programs in the hopes that users will accidentally or mistakenly execute the downloads and get infected.</p> <p>New research from <a href="#">ad security firm Confiant</a> shows that secure contexts such as sandboxed iframes can be abused to allow drive-by-downloads when visiting a website.</p> <p>As most advertisements are displayed on a web page via iframes, malicious advertisers can use them to deliver unwanted applications that infect your computer.</p> <p><b>Investigating an attack</b></p> <p>In January 2020, visitors to the Boing Boing site began seeing fake Google Play Protect overlay that prompted users to download a malicious APK that installed the Anubis banking Trojan on Android devices.</p> <p>For Windows users, it would instead display a fake Adobe Flash installation page that was distributing other malicious programs.</p> <p>Originally thought to be a malvertising campaign, it was later discovered that <a href="#">Boing Boing's CMS was hacked</a>, and a script was injected that displayed these overlays to visitors.</p> <p>After investigating this attack, Confiant researcher Eliya Stein noticed that the drive-by-downloads were being initiated by the JavaScript embedded into the page.</p>

This script would create a link on the page and click this link, without any prompt from the user, to initiate the download.

While it turned out that this attack was not malvertising, Stein wondered if a similar attack could be initiated via malvertising using sandboxed iframes.

### **Testing sandboxed cross-origin iframes**

As previously stated, most advertisements use [sandboxed iframes](#) to embed the ad on a web page.

As the advertisements are under a third-party's control, these iframes are commonly used with the sandboxed argument to increase security and restrict what actions the third-party page can perform. To see if the same script described above would cause a drive-by-download of an APK in sandboxed cross-origin iframes, which is an iframe loaded from a different hostname, Stein created a proof-of-concept page to test various browsers.

### **Drive-by-download proof of concept**

When creating this sandboxed iframe, Stein used the following restrictions that are commonly used by advertisements.

Let's start with the good news.

With the release of Chrome 83, downloads are [blocked in sandboxed cross-origin iframes](#), and the drive-by-download technique did not work. To allow downloads, a developer has to add 'allow-downloads' to the sandbox value.

### **Chrome test blocked the download**

Microsoft Edge, which is based on Chrome 83, also includes this new feature and blocks the drive-by-download.

Unfortunately, this is where it went downhill.

Mozilla Firefox does not prevent downloads in cross-origin iframes, and the user was prompted to download the file.

### **Firefox allows the download**

The privacy and security focused browser, Brave, also failed to block the drive-by-download.

### **Brave Browser allows the download**

Safari's behavior was strange as it would attempt to download the APK file but ultimately never complete it.

### **Safari starts the download but never completes**

Mobile browsers were inconsistent in Stein's tests.

Android browsers would prompt you to download the file, but would warn that the APK file is dangerous. Other mobile browsers would not download the file at all.

### **What's next?**

As you can see, allowing scripts to initiate downloads in what is expected to be a secure context, is problematic as it could enable the distribution of malware through malicious advertisements.

While Chrome 83 and Microsoft Edge 83 both block downloads in sandboxed iframes, Brave and Firefox still allow it.

In a [Mozilla Firefox bug post](#), the Firefox developers have already completed the code to block downloads in sandboxed iframes and will add it to the browser soon.

	It is not known if Brave, Safari, and affected mobile browsers will resolve it in the future.
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Breach incidents in 2020: nearly 400</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/over-460-million-records-exposed-in-breach-incidents-reported-in-may/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/over-460-million-records-exposed-in-breach-incidents-reported-in-may/</a>
GIST	<p>At least 460 million records were exposed in data breach incidents that were reported in May. The figure is a very conservative estimate as it reflects only publicly reported events.</p> <p>In many cases, the amount of data exposed to unauthorized users was not provided, so the number is likely much higher.</p> <p><b>Nearly 400 incidents reported in 2020</b></p> <p>While not all the records represent sensitive or personally identifiable information and it is a highly cautious count, it is a worrying result.</p> <p>IT Governance, a provider of cyber risk and privacy management solutions, compiled a list of publicly disclosed cyber incidents that impacted data records from various services around the world.</p> <p>The company counted 8.8 billion records exposed in May but 8.3 came from a single incident at AIS mobile operator in Thailand, who <a href="#">exposed a database</a> of DNS query and NetFlow logs.</p> <p>With this event, IT Governance <a href="#">counted</a> 105 incidents that exposed over 8.8 billion records. Adding the numbers from major incidents, we stopped counting at 460 million. The list also has many entries where the compromised records is unknown.</p> <p>In a breakdown of the incidents, the same source attributes 39 of them to cyber attacks, 37 to data breaches, 17 to <a href="#">ransomware attacks</a>, and six to insider threats or other types of cyber events.</p> <p>It is worth highlighting that not all the records are sufficiently valuable for attackers to use but they can provide the necessary context for an attack.</p> <p>Reports for previous months from the company show that April was the month with the smallest number of records exposed as a result of data breaches and cyber attacks: 216 million from 49 publicly reported incidents.</p> <p>Monthly reports show that in March there were 67 incidents reported, cumulating at least 832 million records. Before that, in February, 623.5 million records were exposed in 105 incidents.</p> <p>January shows with the largest number of exposed records, 1.5 billion from 61 incidents. Most of that figure, though, is from a <a href="#">report in November 2019</a> from vulnerability analysis and management company Greenbone Networks, who found medical data exposed on the internet.</p> <p><b>Real tally hard to know</b></p> <p>Despite these inconsistencies, data breaches and leaks are showing up more frequently in media reports. However, what gets into the public space reflects only a fraction of the current reality.</p> <p>In many cases, the victims learn of the intrusion at a much later time or don't learn about it at all. Others, don't even report the incidents for fear of fines and losing their customers.</p> <p>Hackers are constantly trading or selling smaller data sets that do not capture media attention. There multiple actors that steal databases and either extort owners for money or <a href="#">sell</a> them. These incidents are usually noticed only when the activity is on a larger scale.</p>

HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Dark web host database leak</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.hackread.com/dark-web-host-database-hacked-websites-leaked/">https://www.hackread.com/dark-web-host-database-hacked-websites-leaked/</a>
GIST	<p>The dark web hosting firm known as Daniel's Hosting was under cyber attacks since 2018.</p> <p>In November 2018, Daniel's Hosting, a dark web hosting service suffered a cyberattack resulting in <a href="#">6500 of the websites</a> hosted on it to go offline. Although it recovered from that attack, it suffered another one <a href="#">back in March</a> this year when its entire database was deleted.</p> <p>Following this, the owner, Daniel Winzen decided to shut down the service in its entirety, at least temporarily to see how things work out.</p> <p>However, just recently, it has been revealed that the entire database has been dumped online by an attacker named KingNull. Uploaded on a file hosting service, the data contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3,671 email addresses</li><li>• 7,205 passwords of user accounts</li><li>• 8,580 private keys of dark web domains.</li></ul> <p>Although no IP address information was found, the data contains confidential information on both the owners and the users of the respective <a href="#">dark web</a> domains. This naturally presents several challenges for the victims – the good ones &amp; the bad ones.</p> <p>To start with the good ones, there are many websites on the dark web that are built with the purpose of speaking against oppressive governments in the form of whistleblowing or otherwise (apologies if you thought it was limited to <a href="#">Wikileaks</a>) Yet, if the data of such sites is leaked, their site owners and respective users can be traced and taken revenge off.</p> <p>Regarding the bad ones consisting of malicious or criminal content, this will help law enforcement agencies not only trace such site owners but also offending users who may have engaged in such activities.</p> <p>To borrow a bit from our analysis of <a href="#">DH's previous attack in March</a>, over 450 websites using the host dealt with malware whereas numerous others hosted illegal content in the form of <a href="#">counterfeit products</a> and carding services.</p> <p>In response, breach monitoring service Under The Breach <a href="#">told</a> ZDNet in a statement that “the leaked data can be used to tie the owners of leaked email addresses to certain dark web portals”.</p> <p>Nonetheless, a common threat may haunt both of the above. That is, even if these websites were moved to another hosting service, if users continued without setting new passwords, this can make it easier for hackers to tap into their accounts with the help of the hashed passwords obtained from the leak by cracking them.</p> <p>To conclude, this presents another <a href="#">dark side of the dark web</a> – a lack of security mechanisms to safeguard the very structure on which websites are run there. This, we believe remains a major impediment for small digital businesses who may want to grant their users a safe presence on the dark web but cannot do so for these reasons.</p> <p>For the time being, no information is available as to whether the leaked data will be indexed on any breach notification service so in the case that one of our readers had any link with Daniel's hosting, it is recommended that they change their passwords and try to use a pseudonym to avoid getting traced for political activities.</p>



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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 UK virus test, trace could lead to phishing</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/covid19-test-trace-phishing/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/covid19-test-trace-phishing/</a>
GIST	<p>Security experts are warning of a potential deluge of mobile SMS-based phishing (smishing) attacks as the UK's Test and Trace service launches to mitigate a potential second wave of COVID-19 infections.</p> <p>The government scheme will require contact tracers to proactively reach out via email, text or phone call to anyone they believe has been in contact with someone with the virus, to ask them to self-isolate.</p> <p>The NHS has said that anyone contacted in this way “will not be asked to provide any passwords, bank account details or PIN numbers” or asked to download anything. However, they may require full name, date of birth, sex, NHS Number, home postcode and house number, telephone number and email address — more than enough to craft highly effective follow-on attacks and identity fraud.</p> <p>There are therefore fears that especially older and more vulnerable members of society may still be tricked into handing over their details or unwittingly downloading malware.</p> <p>In fact, experts are already warning of unsolicited text messages claiming the recipient may have been in contact with a COVID sufferer and urging them to click through on a malicious link to find out more.</p> <p>Bogus text messages were also sent out during the trial of the UK's contact tracing app on the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>One UK-based social engineering company, The AntiSocial Engineer, explained in a blog post over the weekend how easy it is to register legitimate-looking but fake domains and spoof Sender IDs to launch a smishing campaign.</p> <p>“We have closely followed SMS-based scams since our company was founded and sadly many contributing factors seem to be exacerbating text message fraud. One key trend is that email security is getting better and it's harder for criminals to reach the inboxes and conduct phishing scams,” he explained.</p> <p>“SMS is the perfect solution to this problem as only the bare minimum is being done in this sector to stop fraudsters. Messages land straight in the target's inbox all the same. Criminals can reach out to thousands of people at once and if you don't understand about Sender ID spoofing you are an easy target.”</p> <p>RSA Security's district manager UK &amp; Ireland, Ben Tuckwell, argued that UK adults are “sitting ducks” for such scams, that exploit a heightened sense of concern over the virus.</p> <p>“Consumers can protect themselves by acting smart and pausing to consider each communication they receive, while remembering the three key smishing don'ts: don't respond to texts from unknown or unusual numbers; don't click on any links in text messages; and don't share any banking information, usernames or passwords or other personal details after receiving a text message, unless you can verify who you are speaking with,” he added.</p> <p>A new survey from iProov out today reveals that a quarter (26%) of Brits feel more vulnerable to hackers as a result of COVID-19.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Hackers leak stolen UK Elexon data</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.securityweek.com/hackers-leak-data-stolen-uk-electricity-market-administrator-elexon">https://www.securityweek.com/hackers-leak-data-stolen-uk-electricity-market-administrator-elexon</a>



GIST	<p><b>The cybercriminals behind the recent attack on Elexon, which manages the electricity market in the United Kingdom, have started leaking data allegedly stolen from the company.</b></p> <p>Elexon revealed in mid-May that its IT systems were <a href="#">targeted in a cyberattack</a>, but it did not provide any additional details.</p> <p>It turns out that the company was targeted by a group that launches attacks using a piece of ransomware known as Sodinokibi and REvil, and the hackers have made available some files stolen from Elexon, threat intelligence company Cyble reported on Monday.</p> <p>Cyble has <a href="#">analyzed</a> the leaked files and identified what it has described as “highly sensitive and confidential files and data.” The exposed information includes passport copies, enterprise analysis data, and enterprise renewal application forms.</p> <p>The REvil ransomware is designed to encrypt files on the compromised system and instruct the victim to pay a ransom to recover them. However, the hackers also steal data from victims to increase their chances of getting paid — victims are told that if they don’t pay up, their files will be made public.</p> <p>When it disclosed the breach, Elexon said it had been working on restoring impacted IT systems, which suggests that they had no intention of paying the ransom — this is recommended by law enforcement and many cybersecurity professionals.</p> <p><i>SecurityWeek</i> has reached out to Elexon for comment and will update this article if the company responds.</p> <p>It’s not uncommon for organizations in the electricity sector to be targeted in cyberattacks. Earlier this year, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) admitted that hackers <a href="#">breached</a> its corporate network, and an electric utility in Massachusetts reported being <a href="#">hit by ransomware</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Moscow virus tracking app nightmare</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/virus-tracking-app-angers-thousands-moscow-fines-71013332">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/virus-tracking-app-angers-thousands-moscow-fines-71013332</a>
GIST	<p>MOSCOW -- When nurse Maria Alexeyeva caught coronavirus at work, she isolated herself at home and followed the rules set down by Moscow authorities: She checked in with doctors regularly, didn’t leave her apartment and downloaded a smartphone app required by the city to keep tabs on quarantined patients.</p> <p>The Social Monitoring app tracks users via GPS and sends them random notifications demanding a selfie to prove they’re still at home. If it detects they’ve left home or they fail to provide a photo, they face a fine of about \$56 each time.</p> <p>But soon the app became a nightmare for Alexeyeva. It crashed when she tried to take a photo. Weak with illness, she struggled with the software for days, sometimes on hold for hours with technical support. And when her quarantine ended, she discovered she had accumulated 11 fines totaling \$620.</p> <p>“That’s more than my monthly wage,” Alexeyeva told The Associated Press. “This quarantine has been hard on me. And now I have to deal with this on top of it.”</p> <p>Thousands of Muscovites also complain they have been wrongfully fined by the quarantine app. In slightly over a month, authorities issued some 54,000 fines, totaling \$3 million among its nearly 70,000 registered users.</p>

Authorities insist the fines were justified, issued to those who repeatedly violated quarantine. But the app's users say it has glitches and flaws, sometimes demanding selfies in the middle of the night, adding that the fines were dished out arbitrarily.

Moscow has been Russia's biggest hot spot during the pandemic, recording nearly half of the country's more than 414,000 cases. As the city of 12 million struggled to contain the outbreak, it used technology that later drew widespread criticism.

After two virus cases were reported in February, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin authorized facial recognition software to track Chinese citizens in the capital, drawing complaints from rights groups. When the city introduced digital passes for commuters in April, tightly packed crowds formed at Metro stations as police checked smartphones individually.

But the biggest complaints focus on the Social Monitoring app, which was rolled out in early April and was mandatory for those infected with the virus or suspected of having it.

Patients had to sign a form requiring them to install the app as part of their quarantine notifications, although they said they were not told how to use the app or what actions would lead to fines.

Grigory Sakharov, who self-isolated after a week in the hospital with coronavirus-induced pneumonia, was given six fines, totaling about \$336. Two dated back to when he was still hospitalized, even though he didn't install the app until after his discharge.

"I don't mind paying a fine for something I did wrong, but I don't understand what I'm paying for here," Sakharov told the AP.

Svetlana Bystrova, quarantined at home with flu-like symptoms, didn't install the app. She said her doctors didn't tell her she had to, and she didn't notice a clause obligating her to use the app in the quarantine order she signed.

After two weeks of strict self-isolation, Bystrova found she had been fined four times, totaling \$224. One was for not installing the app, two said it detected her outside her apartment, and one was for not giving details of her wrongdoing.

"The one for not installing the app I get, fair enough," Bystrova said. "But how can the app I never installed track my movements?"

Vladimir Perevalov, who installed the app and diligently took selfies, was fined three times for \$168. The app never sent him any notifications, he said.

The outrage has mounted as tales of arbitrary fines mushroomed on social media. By the end of May, authorities got over 2,500 complaints contesting the fines, and more than 200 lawsuits were filed. Three online petitions demanding to abolish the app got over 94,000 signatures.

Tanya Lokshina, associate director for Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia division, said while many countries use mobile tracking apps, she hasn't seen one getting so many complaints.

"The situation is absurd. It's insane," Lokshina said. "Instead of serving to contain the epidemic, it in fact serves ... to punish law-abiding citizens who actually attempt to play by the rules."

On May 21, Human Rights Watch urged Moscow authorities to drop the app, noting that on top of the arbitrary fines, Social Monitoring violated users' privacy by accessing their location, calls, camera, network information and other data.

Russia's Presidential Human Rights Council echoed HRW's stance, urging officials to cancel all fines.

But Alexei Nemeryuk, the mayor's deputy chief of staff, said there will be no amnesty, noting: "There's a system for contesting the fines."

That has proved unsuccessful, said Leonid Solovyov of the Apologia Protesta legal aid group, which is working with over 100 people who were fined. He said those who are fined must provide proof they did nothing wrong, which is difficult, while authorities are basing the punishment on data from the app.

"Some fines are indeed being overruled," Solovyov told AP, but only the "most egregious cases."

City Hall has said it was canceling 468 fines for failing to take a selfie because the app made those requests in the middle of the night.

Another high-profile case involved Irina Karabulatova, a bed-ridden professor who hasn't left her apartment in a year and got two fines for not installing the app. After her story made national headlines, the fines were canceled and officials apologized.

"They canceled my (fines) because journalists stood up for me," Karabulatova told AP. "But what is going to happen to the others is a big question."

On Thursday, Sakharov started receiving messages saying his fines were canceled. Alexeyeva, the nurse, also was contacted by officials who promised to lift all her fines.

Then, Alexeyeva's mother was notified she was being fined: Social Monitoring detected her leaving the apartment.

"My mother was quarantined with me. She didn't sign (a document) that had a clause on using Social Monitoring and she doesn't have the app," Alexeyeva said. "Looks like we got excited too soon."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Australia court rules: news outlets liability</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/news-outlets-are-liable-for-others-facebook-comments-court-rules-11591007734">https://www.wsj.com/articles/news-outlets-are-liable-for-others-facebook-comments-court-rules-11591007734</a>
GIST	<p>SYDNEY—Newspapers and television stations that post their own articles on <a href="#">Facebook</a> Inc.'s platform are liable for other Facebook users' defamatory comments on those posts, an Australian court ruled, presenting a fresh dilemma for traditional publishers in the social-media age.</p> <p>Media companies encourage and facilitate comments that can be seen by other Facebook users, said the highest court in the Australian state of New South Wales, which includes Sydney. That means, it ruled Monday, that the companies should be considered publishers of the comments, responsible for their content.</p> <p>The media companies that were defendants in the original lawsuit, which include <a href="#">News Corp</a> Australia as well as the publisher of the Sydney Morning Herald, said they are considering a further appeal to the country's highest court.</p> <p>"Today's decision means the media cannot share any story via Facebook without fear of being sued for comments which they did not publish and have no control over," they said. "It also creates the extraordinary situation where every public Facebook page—whether it be held by politicians, businesses or courts—is now liable for third-party comments on those pages."</p> <p>News Corp Australia is a subsidiary of News Corp, which also owns Dow Jones &amp; Co., publisher of The Wall Street Journal.</p>

The decision could also threaten social-media platforms like Facebook, which count on news articles for traffic and ad revenue. In April, Australian authorities said they would require Facebook and [Alphabet Inc.](#)'s Google to [pay local media organizations](#) for their content, amid a broader debate over whether the tech companies are unfairly benefiting from news articles on their platforms.

Australia has also moved to hold social-media companies themselves responsible for what users post. After a live stream of a [shooting spree at New Zealand mosques](#) last year was posted on Facebook, Australia passed legislation that allows social-media platforms to be fined if they don't remove violent content quickly.

Monday's case was initially brought by Dylan Voller, who was detained in a juvenile detention center and became the subject of media attention. Articles about Mr. Voller that media outlets posted on Facebook drew comments from other Facebook users falsely accusing him of serious crimes, according to his lawyer, Peter O'Brien.

The court heard evidence that traditional media companies use Facebook to drive traffic to their own websites, Mr. O'Brien's statement said: "With this strong commercial imperative driving them, it really is a no-brainer that the media companies lent their assistance to the publication of third-party comments."

In the U.S., Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act broadly exempts social-media companies like Facebook from legal liability for what people post on the site. However, after [Twitter Inc.](#) last month applied a [fact-checking notice to tweets by President Trump](#), the president signed an executive order that could [curb some of those legal protections](#).

Michael Douglas, a defamation lawyer and senior lecturer at the University of Western Australia, said if Monday's ruling stands, traditional media companies could be forced to beef up monitoring of third-party comments on their social-media posts. Aside from an appeal, Mr. Douglas said he would expect the companies to lobby state and federal governments to change defamation laws. A review of the laws is already under way.

"It's a big challenge to the business model of publishers, because it means there is a greater risk any time you create content which is in any way controversial," he said. "There is a risk that users will write something objectionable, which will open up the entity behind the account to being sued for defamation."

The media companies said Monday that the court's ruling failed to acknowledge that Facebook doesn't give media companies the ability to turn off comments. Facebook should be held responsible for content posted by users, they said.

Facebook pages generally offer some ability to moderate content, including hiding and deleting comments. "We are aware of the court's decision today and we are reviewing it carefully," Facebook said.

Monday's ruling, which upheld a decision from last year, didn't determine whether the Facebook comments regarding Mr. Voller were in fact defamatory.

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HEADLINE	06/01 Minn. IT officials respond DDoS attacks
SOURCE	<a href="https://statescoop.com/minnesota-it-officials-respond-to-weekend-ddos-attacks-against-state-systems/">https://statescoop.com/minnesota-it-officials-respond-to-weekend-ddos-attacks-against-state-systems/</a>
GIST	Minnesota technology officials said Sunday that the state's networks were inundated over the weekend by malicious attempts to knock government agencies offline, though those efforts were successfully repelled.  <a href="#">In a statement Sunday</a> , Tarek Tomez, Minnesota's chief information officer and the head of Minnesota IT Services, said the attempted DDoS attacks had not disrupted government operations.

“MNIT’s Security Operations Center is defending against distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) cyber-attacks aimed at overloading state information systems and networks to tip them offline,” the statement read. “Keeping our communications systems secure during times of crisis is critical to protecting the Minnesotans that we serve, and we work to meet the challenging and evolving threat to those systems every day. At this time, these attacks have not successfully disrupted the state services that Minnesotans depend upon, and MNIT is working in close coordination with partners at the Department of Public Safety and with the federal government to share intelligence and stay proactive on cyber threats.”

Officials have not said if the DDoS attempts were linked to the reaction to the May 25 death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, who was killed while in custody of the Minneapolis Police Department in a videotaped incident that has sparked protests and violent clashes with law enforcement nationwide.

The City of Minneapolis, including its police department, was also the target of a DDoS attack last Thursday, which temporarily disabled some websites with an overwhelming surge of traffic, though city officials told StateScoop they were able to repel the attack within a few hours.

Initially, Gov. Tim Walz said Sunday of the DDoS attempts against state systems that “a very sophisticated denial of service attack on all state computers was executed” Saturday night.

The governor’s description, though, may be overblown. While sometimes briefly successful in crippling a government agency from connecting with its constituents online, DDoS attacks are one of the more basic forms of cyberattacks, and can be easily launched with ready-made software — often called a “booter” or “stresser” — purchased on illicit hacker forums. According to website security firm [Cloudflare](#), booters can be purchased for as little as \$19.99 in cryptocurrency.

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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	06/01 DHS memo warns of domestic terrorists
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/01/dhs-domestic-terrorists-protest-294342">https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/01/dhs-domestic-terrorists-protest-294342</a>
GIST	<p>Anarchist and militia extremists could try to exploit the recent nationwide protests spurred by the death of George Floyd, the Department of Homeland Security warned in an intelligence note sent to law enforcement officials around the country.</p> <p>Floyd, a black man who pleaded that he couldn't breathe while a police officer held him down and pressed his knee into his neck for nearly 9 minutes, was killed in Minnesota on May 25. The officer responsible has been charged with murder and manslaughter.</p> <p>The memo, dated May 29 and marked unclassified/law enforcement sensitive, cites “previous incidents of domestic terrorists exploiting First Amendment-protected events” as one reason for DHS’ concern of additional targeted violence by “domestic terrorist actors.”</p> <p>It also reveals, citing the FBI, that on May 27, two days after Floyd’s death, “a white supremacist extremist Telegram channel incited followers to engage in violence and start the ‘boogaloo ’— a term used by some violent extremists to refer to the start of a second Civil War — by shooting in a crowd.” One Telegram message encouraged potential shooters to “frame the crowd around you” for the violence, the document said.</p> <p>And on May 29, “suspected anarchist extremists and militia extremists allegedly planned to storm and burn the Minnesota State Capitol,” the memo reads, citing FBI information.</p> <p>The body of the memo says the plans about the state capitol were made in 2019, but a footnote describing the FBI’s information says twice that the plans were made in 2020. Spokespersons for DHS and the FBI</p>

did not respond to requests for clarification on the dates, but a source familiar with the report said 2019 was a typo, and the plans were made in 2020.

A spokesperson for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety said he was unable to confirm or deny the report for security reasons. A spokesperson for the FBI declined to comment. After publication, a DHS spokesperson flagged [a tweet from DHS Secretary Chad Wolf](#). In the tweet, Wolf confirmed that DHS had reported that domestic terrorists were trying to exploit the protests.

News of the report comes as the Trump administration has touted its ambition to crack down on Antifa, a cohort of far-left activists who often destroy private property and use violent tactics.

President Donald Trump and Attorney General Bill Barr have blamed Antifa radicals for inciting violence at the protests, and [Barr on Sunday said](#) the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces would coordinate federal, state, and local efforts to find violent perpetrators.

"The violence instigated and carried out by Antifa and other similar groups in connection with the rioting is domestic terrorism and will be treated accordingly," Barr said. Trump also [tweeted](#) that he would designate Antifa as a terrorist organization—a move he does not have the legal authority to make.

Despite the DHS intelligence note, administration officials have focused overwhelmingly on alleged left-wing violence. The note itself does not use the terms "left" or "right." But it defines "militia extremists" as people who direct violence at the government because they believe it is taking away Americans' freedoms and setting up a totalitarian regime. That definition also notes that militia extremists oppose laws regulating gun ownership and often form armed paramilitary groups. Those details are all hallmarks of far right extremism.

The document also defines "anarchist extremists" as people who use violence to change the government and society because they oppose capitalism and globalization, and believe government institutions are unnecessary and harmful—hallmarks of the far left.

The DHS intelligence note is at least the fifth the department has sent out to law enforcement officials in the last two months warning of the mobilization of domestic terrorists and violent extremists in the context of a national crisis.

On April 23, as so-called Liberate protesters began demonstrating outside several states' capitol buildings demanding an end to the coronavirus lockdowns, [DHS warned](#) that the pandemic was "driving violent actors — both non-ideologically and ideologically motivated — to threaten violence" and "serving as the impetus for some domestic terrorist plots."

In remarks to the Security Industry Association on Monday, DHS' assistant director for Infrastructure Security, Brian Harrell, said the department had been "touched by this violence," too. He cited the murder of a Federal Protective Service contract officer on Friday as he and his partner, who was wounded, monitored protests, as well as assaults on Secret Service officers that evening and over the weekend.

"As Americans, we should all support peaceful demonstrations and exercising our constitutional rights," Harrell said. "However, violence, destruction, and bloodshed in the streets is never the answer. DHS, as the nation's largest law enforcement organization, will continue to support our state and local police and first responder agencies, to bring a quick, safe, and peaceful ending to the disorderly violence in the streets."

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HEADLINE	06/01 UN study: Taliban, AQ remain linked
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/taliban-and-al-qaeda-remain-linked-u-n-study-says-11591053642?mod=hp_listb_pos3">https://www.wsj.com/articles/taliban-and-al-qaeda-remain-linked-u-n-study-says-11591053642?mod=hp_listb_pos3</a>



WASHINGTON—A United Nations report issued Monday found that Afghanistan’s Taliban has maintained close ties with al Qaeda, holding at least six high-level meetings with leaders of the group during more than a year of talks with the United States.

The U.N. findings point to the difficulty faced by the Taliban in implementing its side of the agreement signed with the U.S. in February. Under the terms, the U.S. will withdraw all its troops within 14 months in return for a Taliban guarantee that Afghanistan will never again become a haven for terrorists.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the top U.S. envoy to Afghanistan said after the report’s release Monday that “we see progress, but they have a lot more to do.”

The U.N. report stated that al Qaeda’s senior leadership remains in Afghanistan along with hundreds of armed operatives. The report warned that fully implementing the agreement with the U.S. could cause the Taliban to split between pro- and anti-al Qaeda camps.

The Taliban share a close relationship with al Qaeda “based on friendship, a history of shared struggle, ideological sympathy and intermarriage,” the report said. It found the Taliban continue to provide a haven for al Qaeda members, estimating the size of its force between 400 and 600 armed operatives in Afghanistan.

U.S. defense officials are drawing up options for President Trump, including a full withdrawal of all U.S. troops as early as this autumn.

Mr. Khalilzad insisted the U.S.-Taliban deal remained in place and that any U.S. withdrawal would be based on conditions, as outlined in the deal negotiated over about 16 months of talks with the Taliban.

“The key thing is whether the conditions have been met, and I think that is the most important issue,” he said.

The U.N. report was produced by the world body’s sanctions monitoring team as part of its routine reporting on Afghanistan to the U.N. Security Council. The Taliban remain confident they can take power by force and could gain a significant battlefield advantage, if the U.S. abruptly withdraws, it said.

“The sudden or unexpected withdrawal of such support would endanger several provinces and leave them susceptible to falling to the Taliban,” the report said.

It noted there was also a risk that the Taliban will continue to find reasons to delay the full implementation of the deal with Washington as the U.S. continues to draw down its presence. As part of the agreement, the Taliban must reduce violence and start talks with the government and other Afghan groups.

The process has been held up over a prisoner swap, which is a condition for intra-Afghan talks to start. The Afghan government, which isn’t a signatory to the deal, has balked at freeing Taliban prisoners who could return to the battlefield and is calling for a long-term commitment by the Taliban to reduce violence.

The government and the Taliban also disagree over the number and process for releasing prisoners. The government said this week it had released 3,000 prisoners, but the Taliban have countered that 500 of them weren’t members of the group.

Mr. Khalilzad said the outlook for talks to start soon has improved since the Taliban agreed to a three-day cease-fire over the Muslim Eid holiday celebrated last week. Since then, he said, violence has remained relatively low.

“There are more prisoners to be released, and we hope violence will stay at very low levels,” he said.



HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Gunmen attack refugee camp in Niger</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/gunmen-attack-refugee-camp-niger-cut-off-water-71003459">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/gunmen-attack-refugee-camp-niger-cut-off-water-71003459</a>
GIST	<p>DAKAR, Senegal -- Dozens of armed men on motorcycles have attacked a town in western Niger that has been hosting 35,000 displaced people, killing three and cutting off the community's water supply, the U.N. refugee agency said Monday.</p> <p>UNHCR said it was working to help provide water to the community following Sunday's attack so that people could continue washing their hands. Niger already has had 64 confirmed deaths from COVID-19, and while the virus has yet to reach the area of the attack, there are fears it may be only a matter of time.</p> <p>There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault in Intikane, but Islamic extremists with links to the Islamic State group are known to be active in the region along the porous borders of Niger and Mali, often operating in dozens mounted on motorcycles.</p> <p>Two of the victims were leaders within the local refugee communities, UNHCR said. The attackers also set fire to relief items and destroyed mobile phone towers, cutting off communications in the immediate area.</p> <p>"The heinous and senseless act against vulnerable refugees and their hosts is heartbreaking and must be condemned in the strongest terms," said Alessandra Morelli, UNHCR representative in Niger.</p> <p>Intikane has been hosting some 20,000 refugees from Mali and 15,000 other people internally displaced from other parts of Niger.</p> <p>Morelli lamented that hundreds of people were now fleeing yet again, a setback after "a careful balance had been built to allow solidarity with the local communities."</p> <p>Islamic extremists have increasingly established themselves in remote areas of Niger following the 2013 French-led military operation to oust them from power in neighboring Mali. Last year Niger's army suffered unprecedented fatal attacks on its forces, underscoring the tremendous challenges it faces even after receiving military training from the United States and former colonial ruler France.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Indonesia: police kill suspected militant</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/indonesian-police-shoot-militant-fatally-slashed-officer-70992181">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/indonesian-police-shoot-militant-fatally-slashed-officer-70992181</a>
GIST	<p>JAKARTA, Indonesia -- Indonesian police fatally shot a suspected Islamic militant who killed an officer at a police station with a samurai-style sword, officials said Monday.</p> <p>National Police spokesman Ahmad Ramadhan said the suspect was shot as he tried to attack two other policemen after fatally slashing the first officer. The suspect died on the way to the hospital.</p> <p>The attack occurred early Monday at the South Daha police station in South Kalimantan province, he said.</p> <p>"One of the police officers died at the crime scene and the suspect was still trying to attack other officers. If the officer did not shoot, he would have killed more," Ramadhan said. "We are still investigating if the suspect was related to or inspired by the Islamic State group."</p> <p>He said police seized the sword, an Islamic State-style flag and a small Quran.</p> <p>South Kalimantan police spokesman Mohammad Rifai said the suspect burned a police car at the station before attacking the officers.</p>

	<p>Indonesia has carried out a sustained crackdown on Islamic militants since bombings on the tourist island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly foreigners.</p> <p>Attacks on foreigners have been largely replaced in recent years by smaller, less deadly strikes targeting the government, police and anti-terrorism forces, inspired by Islamic State group attacks abroad.</p>
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## Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Emails: NOAA credibility takes a hit</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/01/busy-hurricane-season-looms-noaas-credibility-has-taken-hit-new-emails-show/?itid=hp_national1-8-12_noaa-920pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans">https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/01/busy-hurricane-season-looms-noaas-credibility-has-taken-hit-new-emails-show/?itid=hp_national1-8-12_noaa-920pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans</a>
GIST	<p>The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is getting underway with the country's weather forecast agency in an unfamiliar situation. Facing what it expects to be an unusually active season, with between 13 to 19 named storms, forecasters at the National Weather Service will have to contend with lingering questions about their ability to operate independently after political interference from the White House during 2019's Hurricane Dorian.</p> <p>Monday brought the release of hundreds of emails that The Washington Post and other media outlets had requested from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — NWS's parent agency, under the Freedom of Information Act. The records request is related to President Trump's erroneous tweet about the hurricane and efforts to retroactively justify it. This latest release, the seventh since the dust-up shined a spotlight on the politicization of weather forecasts, shows concerned citizens and NOAA constituents writing scathing emails of concern to the agency's leaders in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane's assault on the Bahamas and the southeastern United States.</p> <p>Many of the emails excoriate NOAA's leaders for issuing an unsigned statement Sept. 6, which backed up an inaccurate assertion from President Trump days earlier that Alabama "will most likely be hit (much) harder than anticipated" by the Category 5 storm.</p> <p>That statement criticized the National Weather Service forecast office in Birmingham for a tweet that contradicted Trump's claims by definitively stating that the storm posed no threat to the state. By issuing that tweet, meteorologists in Birmingham were responding to a flood of calls from residents expressing concern about the storm. It was only later that they found out the source of the fears stemmed from a tweet from the president.</p> <p>The NOAA statement was widely interpreted within its National Weather Service as contradicting an accurate forecast because of political pressure from the White House and the Commerce Department. The Post has reported that the demand for NOAA to issue the statement came from then-acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, at the request of the president, via officials at the Commerce Department.</p> <p>A rare confluence of events is combining to make the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season more fraught for the previously uncontroversial oceans and atmosphere agency, and to put more pressure on its scientists to make accurate forecasts and communicate them clearly.</p> <p>The 2020 hurricane season comes in the wake of what came to be known as "Sharpiegate," due to Trump's modification of a NOAA weather map to show Hurricane Dorian traveling in the direction of Alabama. But it also comes amid a pandemic, which complicates both NOAA's own operations and storm response efforts by emergency managers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with which NOAA works closely.</p>

Based on the emails, sent within a few days of the Sept. 6 NOAA statement on Hurricane Dorian, some coastal residents state that they are less likely to trust NOAA's hurricane forecasts in the wake of Dorian.

One email from a member of the public, addressed to acting NOAA administrator Neil Jacobs and then-deputy chief of staff Julie Roberts, states, "Going forward, I will have less faith in NOAA's forecasts, because I won't know how they might have been tainted by politics."

"Mostly, I will have to question whether there has been micromanagement of NOAA's forecasts by the president," the letter states.

Another email from a member of the public, this time sent to Jacobs, contains the question: "How can I trust anything coming from NOAA anymore?"

Many of the emails released Monday are laced with profanity, showing the vitriol directed at NOAA leadership following the Sept. 6 statement, which was not signed by any official.

The emails show that on Sept. 7, retired Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, the No. 2 official at the agency, was told that other communications channels, including personal phone and email accounts as well as phone lines at weather forecast offices, were being targeted with "a lot of angry/hate mail and phone calls."

Mary Erickson, NWS deputy director, raised the concern that communications with emergency management officials could be disrupted, noting some agency leaders "had to turn off their cellphones due to the large volume of calls."

Even officials not involved in weather forecasting saw blowback from NOAA's Dorian statement. David Herring, who works on NOAA's climate programs, wrote to ask for guidance on how to respond to "very angry comments" sent by visitors to the Climate.gov website and social media channels.

### **Self-censorship concerns**

Gretchen Goldman, research director for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), said there are questions regarding how the public will trust NOAA hurricane forecasts this season, and also how willing agency scientists will be to speak up internally if a forecast might contradict a political position, as occurred with the NWS Birmingham office last year.

"I think that given everything that happened with 'Sharpiegate,' there are questions about whether the agency will be trusted ... and this is a time that we really need people to take seriously NOAA recommendations," Goldman said.

"My bigger concern is that NOAA employees are going to be more hesitant" to speak out, Goldman said, since many may still be "feeling the burn of the betrayal of the Birmingham office."

With the forecast for an active season, climate change impacts that make rapid storm intensification and heavy rainfall more likely, and an ongoing pandemic and its economic ramifications, this is not going to be a typical hurricane season, Goldman says. "It just seems like we're potentially in for a perfect storm where the communication out of NOAA is going to be more important than ever, and we need them at full force," she said.

NOAA spokesman Chris Vaccaro said the Weather Service is ready for the active season, noting it has already dealt with two named storms.

"The public and our partners in the emergency management community should continue to rely on the forecasts issued from across the National Weather Service, including the National Hurricane Center, just as they have over the agency's 150-year history," Vaccaro said. "With two named storms already, and possibly a third storm forming soon, this year's hurricane season is likely to be busy and the

National Weather Service stands ready for what is ahead while continuing to monitor the range of other weather hazards across the country.”

#### **Awaiting results from investigations**

The fallout over Sharpiegate has led to investigations into possible violations of NOAA’s scientific integrity policy, as well as an inquiry from the Commerce Department’s Inspector General’s Office, which is expected to be released in the near future. In addition, the House Science Committee has been probing the actions of NOAA’s leaders, and there have been shake-ups in NOAA’s upper ranks, with Jacobs’s chief of staff and Roberts, who also held the title of communications director, both departing suddenly for other positions within the administration.

NOAA has consistently ranked higher than other federal science agencies when it comes to its protection of agency scientists and their rights to share scientific results without worrying about political retribution.

In a [2018 study](#) published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS ONE, UCS found that a majority of agency scientists agreed or strongly agreed that the agency adheres to its scientific integrity policy.

NOAA researchers [scored their agency significantly higher](#) on this question when compared with other agencies surveyed, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency and energy-related agencies. The survey, however, was sent before Hurricane Dorian and the coronavirus pandemic, which has seen [political interference](#) with health-related agencies, principally the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/31 Other Seattle bridges aging; vulnerable</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/west-seattle-bridge-is-a-surprise-crisis-but-plenty-of-other-aging-seattle-bridges-are-also-vulnerable/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/west-seattle-bridge-is-a-surprise-crisis-but-plenty-of-other-aging-seattle-bridges-are-also-vulnerable/</a>
GIST	<p>In January, if West Seattle commuters caught in a bottleneck had gazed out the window at their high bridge and wondered about its safety, a look at federal bridge ratings may have calmed their nerves. The bridge was labeled sufficient. In a catchall rating out of 100, it had a respectable 69.</p> <p>By the spring, the city had discovered that cracks in the bridge were accelerating, closed it with no definite reopening date and begun preparing emergency plans in the event — which the city says is unlikely — the bridge collapses.</p> <p>The abrupt turnaround for the West Seattle Bridge, which carried 125,000 travelers a day, underscores how even structures deemed sufficient by federal authorities can face serious problems and create new transportation crises. And in Seattle, dozens of other bridges have lower overall ratings than the now-closed span, some with key vulnerabilities the West Seattle Bridge never had.</p> <p>Meanwhile, city spending on bridge maintenance and replacement is far below what is needed, according to the Seattle Department of Transportation’s own experts. Bridges here and across the country are aging beyond their expected lifetime as public budgets face a new pressure: the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Seattle is in the process of auditing the condition of its 124 bridges and spending on maintenance, after a request from Seattle City Councilmember Alex Pedersen.</p> <p>A look at local and federal reports offers a sense of what the city will find.</p> <p>Among the Seattle bridges with lower ratings than the West Seattle Bridge, six have a label never attached to that span: They are deemed structurally deficient or <a href="#">rated “poor,”</a> meaning they need significant repair or replacement. Nine bridges have structures that are fracture critical, meaning they could fall if a certain major part is damaged, as happened in the <a href="#">2013 Skagit River bridge collapse</a>.</p>

Experts warn that no one of these measures is a perfect indicator of a bridge's safety, and they emphasize that any sign of risk to the traveling public is likely to get a bridge shut down, regardless of its rating. The National Bridge Inventory, where these ratings are kept, can give a picture of which bridges may need replacement or repair in coming years.

Some low-ranked Seattle bridges, like the [decaying Fairview Avenue North bridge](#), with its 25.8 grade, are getting city attention and replacement. For others — like the 91-year-old [Magnolia Bridge](#) and the [fracture-critical Ballard Bridge](#) — the city does not yet have funding or firm plans for replacement.

SDOT's list of structurally deficient bridges includes the Magnolia Bridge, two portions of the Fairview Avenue Bridge, a bridge at West Dravus Street over 15th Avenue West, and bridges in Pioneer Square on South Main Street and the 2nd Avenue extension.

In federal ratings, the 90-year-old University Bridge, which carries 36,000 trips a day, is also listed as being in poor condition with a low rating for its substructure, the part of a bridge that includes supporting elements like piers and foundations.

A lack of funding for bridge repair has long been a concern for the city's bridge experts, annual reports from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) since 2014 show. Seattle's bridge maintenance budget remained roughly steady from 2012 to 2015 and got a bump in 2016 after voters passed the Move Seattle levy.

In recent years, SDOT's budget for bridge maintenance has been about \$7 million a year, according to the city, far short of the roughly \$68.5 million SDOT [says it should be spending each year](#).

In a statement, SDOT said Seattle, "like every major city in the United States," has seen "grossly insufficient funding support from the federal government." SDOT cited state taxation issues and the federal gas tax, which hasn't increased since 1993, for the lack of money.

"Despite these challenges, the Seattle Department of Transportation continues to prioritize the safety and resiliency of our transportation infrastructure," the statement said. The agency did not make anyone available for an interview.

Even if the city spent \$100 million a year toward replacing bridges, a 2018 SDOT report noted, it would take 30 years to replace all the bridges that are over 60 years old. Including maintenance, replacements like the Fairview Avenue Bridge and other work, SDOT's total annual bridge spending has been between \$40 million and \$75 million in recent years.

The rate of deterioration and the age of Seattle's bridges and other structures, the report said, "are making our current funding practices inefficient and unsustainable."

Statewide, funding for maintenance and preservation is about half of what's needed, said Mark Gaines, bridge and structures engineer at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). "That puts us in the difficult position of what to prioritize and what to defer," he said.

The 2013 collapse of an Interstate 5 bridge over the Skagit River [drew attention to the state of the state's bridges](#). Though the Skagit Bridge was structurally sound, the bridge was fracture-critical and one section was ruined by a tall load that [hit an overhead brace](#).

After the collapse, WSDOT [said](#) 143 state-maintained bridges were classified as structurally deficient. In 2020, WSDOT [listed](#) 155 bridges as rated "poor," a new rating term for bridges previously described as structurally deficient.

The label of structurally deficient or “poor” means bridges have at least one component in poor condition that’s likely to eventually need repair or replacement. Fracture-critical bridges can trigger extra inspections, Gaines said.

The federal sufficiency rating — the score out of 100 — is a combined analysis of the structures of the bridge, the condition of the deck, its average daily traffic and other factors, and is mostly used for trying to get federal funding, Gaines said. A low rating, combined with factors like how important a bridge is to the movement of freight, can help prioritize it for funding.

None of these is a perfect measure of a bridge’s safety.

“The idea of safe as an absolute black and white is deceptive,” said University of Washington civil engineering professor John Stanton, “because everything is really a scale of gray and the question of where on that scale you’re willing to live.”

Engineers can learn new information about certain types of bridges after they’re built, like the level of [concrete creep on the West Seattle Bridge](#) or the [seismic vulnerability of the hollow columns in some bridges](#) the state has worried about in recent years.

Washington ranks around the [middle of the pack](#) compared with other states for its share of structurally deficient bridges by deck area. Although the state has one of the highest gas taxes in the country, [much of that money is dedicated to pay off bonds](#) on existing projects rather than fund new projects or maintenance.

King County, too, has struggled to adequately fund bridge replacement and repair in unincorporated areas. Of 182 bridges in those areas, 75 are beyond their expected useful life, according to a 2018 county [report](#). Seattle and Washington have unique risks.

Because of geography, a major corridor shutdown in Seattle can tangle traffic due to few alternative routes.

Another risk: the Big One. Researchers, who in recent years discovered that ground motion from a major quake will be even riskier for tall buildings than previously known, are turning their attention to state bridges.

This January, work began to study the types of state-owned bridges that could be most vulnerable to a magnitude-9 earthquake, said UW civil engineering professor Marc Eberhard.

Nationally, the share of bridges that are structurally deficient has fallen, but progress has slowed in recent years, said Andy Herrmann, a retired bridge engineer and past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

That could indicate governments have addressed much of the lowest-hanging fruit, leaving the harder and more expensive work still to be done. Bridges will continue to age, adding to the to-do list.

“We’ve let them ride for quite some time,” Herrmann said.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Amusement parks reopen; visitors return?
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-amusement-parks-reopen-will-americans-ride-rollercoasters-in-a-pandemic-11591090203?mod=hp_lead_pos5">https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-amusement-parks-reopen-will-americans-ride-rollercoasters-in-a-pandemic-11591090203?mod=hp_lead_pos5</a>
GIST	At this time of year, Brian Witherow can usually hear the screams of riders on some of the world’s fastest roller coasters from his office in the middle of Cedar Point, a 150-year-old amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio.



Mr. Witherow, the chief financial officer of the park's operator, [Cedar Fair](#) LP, says it's quiet right now in the park, which juts into the southwest corner of Lake Erie. He is at his desk struggling to manage the financial fallout of a monthslong shutdown at the park and others owned by the company across the U.S.

"We've been as hard-hit as any industry out there," Mr. Witherow said in an interview. "There's no middle ground. We're not a restaurant that can still do carryout. We went from being open to 100% shuttered."

Now, as some American theme parks gingerly begin to reopen this week, they are asking whether cash-strapped, jittery thrillseekers will return in the face of a still-spreading [coronavirus pandemic](#).

The parks, which closed across the nation in March, are requiring masks and temperature checks and social distancing for guests. But it remains uncertain whether enough people will venture out to the parks to stave off a financial shock for the companies.

[Six Flags Entertainment](#) Corp., Universal Orlando and [SeaWorld Entertainment](#) Inc. have plans to open parks in the next week or two. [Walt Disney](#) Co. is targeting opening some Florida parks in July. Cedar Fair hasn't disclosed an opening date for any of its theme parks.

Six Flags, SeaWorld and Cedar Fair shares have plunged more than 40% year-to-date. Disney, with a more diversified portfolio of assets such as its streaming service Disney+, is down about 18%.

None of the companies face the immediate threat of bankruptcy, credit analysts say. Standard & Poor's says Six Flags, SeaWorld and Cedar Fair have enough cash and credit on hand to survive full closure of their parks throughout 2020. All three companies issued debt to bolster their balance sheets as the pandemic forced them to close down. Mr. Witherow says Cedar Fair could weather a complete shutdown through 2021.

The question for investors is how financially stable the companies will be on the other side of the pandemic. That will determine whether the parks can pursue expansion plans such as new rides and hotels, key to how they compete against rivals.

Theme-park companies will have "a significant amount of leverage and liquidity risk depending on what the recovery looks like," said S&P analyst Emile Courtney.

A big uncertainty: season-pass sales. For years, theme parks—especially regional operators such as Six Flags and Cedar Fair—competed by building bigger, faster and zanier rides. From Six Flags' 50-mile-per-hour Batman: The Ride to Cedar Point's iconic Millennium Force, the companies have laid out big bucks to lure visitors.

In recent years, theme parks have increasingly shifted their business models, and marketing budgets, toward season passes, which provide a stream of cash from loyal customers. That helps steady revenues and is attractive to big investors.

"All theme parks like to have that recurring revenue stream that's represented by season passes," said James Hardiman, an analyst at Wedbush Securities. He said the concern for the companies isn't so much that fewer new people buy season passes, it's that pass holders from last year don't pony up in 2020, forcing operators to build new long-term relationships from scratch.

Season passes last year accounted for 58% of attendance at regional theme parks, up from about one-third, according to Goldman Sachs. At Cedar Fair, 53% of its attendance came from season-pass holders in 2019, up from 27% in 2009. Season-pass and other all-season product sales at the company last year were up 40%, or \$40 million, from the previous year.

The pace of gains slowed in the first quarter, with season-pass and all-season sales up just 30% from a year ago as the pandemic spread. Year-over-year sales have declined since mid-March, according to Mr. Witherow, the Cedar Fair CFO.

Cedar Fair is burning through about \$30 million to \$40 million a month, he said, in part due to interest payments on \$1 billion in new debt it issued this year to shore up its balance sheet, as well as ongoing operating expenses. The company furloughed nearly all of its part-time staff as it shut down its parks, the CFO said.

To stave off a wave of season-pass cancellations, Cedar Fair and Six Flags are extending passes into 2021. More than half of Cedar Fair's season-pass holders said in a survey they planned to return to its parks soon after they reopen.

Six Flags, based in Grand Prairie, Texas, gets 63% of attendees from its "active passes," which includes members and season-pass holders. That's up from 50% in 2014, according to Wells Fargo Securities. On an April earnings call, Six Flags said its active-pass base was down 20% through April from last year.

One potential bright spot for regional theme parks: Many people who don't want to fly or spend for big vacations will choose spots they can drive to. That could benefit park operators such as Six Flags and Cedar Fair, where more than 90% of attendees arrive by car. SeaWorld says 85% of its visitors come from within driving distance of its parks.

Mr. Witherow says that while the current crisis is unique, there's some precedent for such a trend. As the 2008 global financial crisis began to fade, Cedar Fair's parks benefited from consumers still wary of expensive trips, he says.

"We're hopeful that's still the case on the back side of Covid-19," he said.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Report: mass extinctions accelerating</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/science/mass-extinctions-are-accelerating-scientists-report.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=Science">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/science/mass-extinctions-are-accelerating-scientists-report.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=Science</a>
GIST	<p>We are in the midst of a <a href="#">mass extinction</a>, many scientists have warned — this one driven not by a catastrophic natural event, but by humans. The unnatural <a href="#">loss of biodiversity is accelerating</a>, and if it continues, the planet will lose vast ecosystems and the necessities they provide, including fresh water, pollination, and pest and disease control.</p> <p>On Monday, there was more bad news: We are racing faster and closer toward the point of collapse than scientists previously thought, according to research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The extinction rate among terrestrial vertebrate species is significantly higher than prior estimates, and the critical window for preventing mass losses will close much sooner than formerly assumed — in 10 to 15 years.</p> <p>"We're eroding the capabilities of the planet to maintain human life and life in general," said Gerardo Ceballos, an ecologist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and lead author of the new study.</p> <p>The current rate of extinctions vastly exceeds those that would occur naturally, Dr. Ceballos and his colleagues found. Scientists know of 543 species lost over the last 100 years, a tally that would normally take 10,000 years to accrue.</p> <p>"In other words, every year over the last century we lost the same number of species typically lost in 100 years," Dr. Ceballos said.</p>

If nothing changes, about 500 more terrestrial vertebrate species are likely to go extinct over the next two decades alone, bringing total losses equivalent to those that would have taken place naturally over 16,000 years.

To determine how many species are on the brink of extinction, Dr. Ceballos and co-authors Paul Ehrlich, a conservation biologist at Stanford University, and Peter Raven, an environmentalist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, turned to population data for 29,400 terrestrial vertebrate species compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Of those species, 515 — or 1.7 percent — are critically endangered, they found, with fewer than 1,000 individuals remaining. About half of these species comprise fewer than 250 individuals.

The researchers also examined species with populations between 1,000 and 5,000. When the scientists added those 388 species to their original analysis, they found an 84 percent geographic overlap — largely in the tropics — with species in the critically endangered group.

The loss of some will likely trigger a domino effect that sends others into a downward spiral, ultimately threatening entire ecosystems, the authors report. Dr. Ceballos compared this process to removing bricks from the wall of a house.

“If you take one brick out, nothing happens — maybe it just becomes noisier and more humid inside,” he said. “But if you take too many out, eventually your house will collapse.”

Conservationists, therefore, should consider all species with populations under 5,000 individuals to be in danger of extinction, Dr. Ceballos and his colleagues concluded.

“This is a substantial increase in what we have typically thought of as endangered,” said Daniel Blumstein, an ecologist at the University of California, Los Angeles, who was not involved in the research.

The new study also emphasizes the importance of protecting individual populations of animals, not just a species itself. Based on an analysis of the current and historical ranges of critically endangered species, the researchers calculated that more than 237,000 individual populations have disappeared since 1900.

In a previous study, Dr. Ceballos and Dr. Ehrlich similarly found that 32 percent of 27,600 vertebrate species’ populations are declining around the world.

As populations disappear from geographic areas, the species’ function there also disappears. The loss of honeybees in the United States, for example, would deal an economic blow of more than \$15 billion, but the species itself would still survive elsewhere around the world.

“The population declines of common species — top predators, large-bodied herbivores like the rhino, pollinators and others — have large effects on the way ecosystems function even when they are far from extinction,” said Rebecca Shaw, chief scientist at the World Wildlife Fund, who was not involved in the research.

“Ceballos and his colleagues are telling us with scientific certainty that the survival of these species is linked to our own survival,” she added.

Dr. Ehrlich emphasized that the study’s overall findings were almost certainly a gross underestimate of the true scope of the extinction problem. Their analysis did not take plants or aquatic or invertebrate species into account, and it included only approximately 5 percent of terrestrial vertebrates for which scientists have population data.

The findings are “in fact what one would expect in the gathering biodiversity crisis,” said Thomas Lovejoy, an ecologist at George Mason University, who was not involved in the research. The paper “should be considered a major wake-up call while there is still time to make a difference.”

That so few people are aware of the impending crisis, Dr. Lovejoy added, is a cause of the crisis itself.

Many who are aware may simply feel the loss is not consequential. “People say, ‘What the hell of a difference does it make to me?’” Dr. Ehrlich said.

But often the role of a particular plant or animal in an ecosystem has become apparent only after the species in question is gone.

Passenger pigeons, for example, once numbered in the billions. Their voracious appetite for seeds limited population growth of other seed-eating species, including white-footed mice — the natural reservoir for the bacterium that causes Lyme disease.

After the passenger pigeon’s extinction, white-footed mice populations exploded, and the risks to human health increased. The impacts of the passenger pigeon’s extinction, researchers wrote in Science, “are still being felt a century after the last passenger pigeon died.”

As humans continue to encroach on nature and wildlife, Dr. Ceballos and his colleagues warn of a cascading series of impacts — including more frequent occurrences of new diseases and pandemics. The coronavirus that launched the pandemic originated in a wild animal, most scientists believe.

“The vaccine for Covid-19 was natural habitat,” Dr. Ceballos said. “The pandemic is a great example of how badly we’ve treated nature.”

With enough species losses, ecosystems will eventually fail, destabilizing economies and governments and triggering famine and refugee crises. But there are steps that can be taken now, Dr. Ceballos said.

Habitat loss and wildlife trade are currently responsible for the brunt of the problem, whereas climate change has yet to unleash “the full tsunami” of its impacts, Dr. Ceballos said.

To offset the most urgent wave of extinctions, he and his colleagues call for an immediate end to illegal wildlife trade.

“There’s no way this can be continued, wiping out species and putting the whole of humanity in danger,” Dr. Ceballos said. “We can solve this immediate problem.”

They also call for a halt to deforestation and a complete reform of the legal wildlife trade — one that prioritizes sustainability over profits.

“The most fundamental problem is reducing the scale of the human enterprise, especially its consumptive demands on the biosphere,” Dr. Ehrlich said.

Making these changes will require electing leaders who prioritize the environment, redistributing resources and slowing human population growth. To help organize these efforts, Dr. Ceballos and Dr. Ehrlich launched a new global initiative called Stop Extinction.

The initiative aims to provide a framework for creating new national agreements, as well as tools for educating and activating the public about the unfolding extinction crisis.

“All of us need to understand that what we do in the next five to 10 years will define the future of humanity,” Dr. Ceballos said.

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/climate/deforestation-climate-change.html?action=click&amp;module=News&amp;pgtype=Homepage">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/climate/deforestation-climate-change.html?action=click&amp;module=News&amp;pgtype=Homepage</a>
GIST	<p>Destruction of tropical forests worldwide increased last year, led again by Brazil, which was responsible for more than a third of the total, and where deforestation of the Amazon through clear-cutting appears to be on the rise under the pro-development policies of the country's president.</p> <p>The worldwide total loss of old-growth, or primary, tropical forest — 9.3 million acres, an area nearly the size of Switzerland — was about 3 percent higher than 2018 and the third largest since 2002. Only 2016 and 2017 were worse, when heat and drought led to record fires and deforestation, especially in Brazil.</p> <p>“The level of forest loss we saw in 2019 is unacceptable,” said Frances Seymour, a fellow with the environmental research group World Resources Institute, which released the deforestation data through its Global Forest Watch program. “We seem to be going in the wrong direction.”</p> <p>“There has been so much international effort and rhetoric around reducing deforestation, and companies and governments making all these commitments that they are going to reduce by half their tropical forest loss by 2020,” said Mikaela Weisse, who manages the Global Forest Watch program. “The fact that it’s been so stubbornly persistent is what’s worrying to us.”</p> <p>Global Forest Watch researchers estimated that the loss of primary tropical forest in 2019 resulted in the release of more than 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide, or more than the emissions from all on-road vehicles in the United States in a typical year.</p> <p>Ms. Seymour said the outlook for 2020 is not good as the coronavirus pandemic continues.</p> <p>Restrictions on mobility and looming budget cuts as a result of the economic fallout from the global crisis may hamper efforts to enforce anti-deforestation laws, she said. “Bad actors will try to take advantage with more illegal logging, mining, clearing and poaching.”</p> <p>Global Forest Watch uses data from <a href="#">researchers at the University of Maryland</a> who have developed machine-learning software to analyze satellite imagery for loss of tree cover. Overall in the tropics, that loss amounted to nearly 30 million acres last year. Since 2000, the world has lost about 10 percent of its tropical tree cover.</p> <p>Other analyses of deforestation come up with different numbers. Two United Nations agencies, <a href="#">in their most recent report</a> on the subject, issued last month, said deforestation worldwide averaged about 25 million acres a year since 2015. Their analysis relies on reporting from each country.</p> <p>Much of the tree cover loss that the Maryland researchers’ data reveals occurs tree plantations or other areas that are not old-growth forests. The scientists then do additional analysis to determine the loss from those old-growth forests, which are important for storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and for maintaining biodiversity, and can take decades to recover once destroyed.</p> <p>That destruction can occur in several ways: clear-cutting for agriculture, ranching, mining or other uses and for accompanying roads and other infrastructure; selective logging; or through fires that are set as part of land-clearing efforts but can spread out of control.</p> <p>Brazil and many other tropical countries experience those kinds of fires every year. Brazil had a <a href="#">high number in 2019</a>, especially in August. The blazes, which were widely reported on social media drew <a href="#">widespread condemnation</a> from environmental groups and world leaders who have been critical of the Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro.</p> <p>Mr. Bolsonaro, who took office at the beginning of 2019, has <a href="#">aggressively pursued development</a> in the Amazon, including mining and large-scale agriculture, and has begun dismantling programs that protect Indigenous lands.</p>

Ms. Weisse said that the fires actually contributed relatively little to Brazil's total primary forest loss of about 3.4 million acres in 2019, an amount only slightly higher than 2018's total.

Many of the fires occurred on lands that had been previously deforested and were being burned in preparation for planting or ranching, she said. Only about one-fifth of fires burned in primary forest.

Instead, data from the Brazilian government's forest-monitoring programs and other projects showed an increase in clear-cutting of primary forests for agriculture, Ms. Weisse said. "Even though the overall primary forest trend is only a small increase, we think that deforestation is getting worse," she said.

In neighboring Bolivia, fires were a major cause of what was a significant increase in deforestation last year. The country's primary forest loss of 720,000 acres was nearly double the total from 2018. Bolivia now ranks fourth in deforestation globally behind Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia.

However, there were encouraging signs that efforts to reduce deforestation had some results in 2019. Indonesia provided a rare bit of good news, with primary forest loss declining for the third year in row. The decrease, by 5 percent from 2018, to about 800,000 acres, came despite extensive fires in the country last fall.

Widespread [fires earlier](#) in the decade had caused extensive deforestation and hazardous air pollution that reached neighboring countries. Since then, the Indonesian government, under international pressure, has established policies that include a moratorium on land clearing for certain activities, ramped up enforcement of illegal forest cutting, and coordinated efforts to limit the spread of fires.

The data shows that while there were a significant number of fires last year in Indonesia, most were on land that had already been degraded in the past, which was also the case in Brazil.

Elsewhere, Colombia also showed improvement, with a decline in deforestation similar to the level of 2016. A peace agreement that year between the government and a leftist guerrilla movement that had strictly enforced limits on logging in areas under its control had led to a power vacuum in those areas, allowing illegal logging to proliferate. Deforestation in 2017 and 2018 soared.

In Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo showed little sign of progress. Annual loss of primary forest has more than doubled since 2012, and although the 2019 total was slightly lower than the year before, it was higher than 2017. "We're seeing sustained amounts of loss," said Elizabeth Goldman, a research manager for Global Forest Watch. While most of the deforestation appears to be linked to subsistence farming, [there are signs](#) that some may be related to large-scale commercial agriculture or mining.

But in West Africa, both Ghana and Ivory Coast showed significant declines in primary forest loss, the data showed. Ghana's total of about 14,000 acres was its lowest since 2014; Ivory Coast had its lowest total since 2005, at 29,000 acres.

Deforestation in both countries has largely been spurred by increasing cocoa production for world markets. The governments of both countries, and large cocoa and chocolate producers, had agreed on initiatives to reduce or end deforestation. The decline is a sign that these efforts might be working, Ms. Weisse said, although "it's a little early to say too much yet, because it's just one year."

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HEADLINE	06/01 Tornado count in May lowest in decades
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/tornado-season-may-lowest-decades-april-severe-storm-spring-weather">https://www.foxnews.com/us/tornado-season-may-lowest-decades-april-severe-storm-spring-weather</a>
GIST	After a destructive April that made 2020 the deadliest year for <a href="#">tornadoes</a> in nine years, the typical peak of <a href="#">severe weather</a> system ended up being on the calmest in decades.



The [National Weather Service's](#) (NWS) [Storm Prediction Center](#) (SPC) did not issue a moderate or high [tornado](#) risk for the entire month of May.

Evan Bentley, a severe weather meteorologist at the SPC, said last Tuesday on [Twitter](#) that he was not able to find any records of such event happening going back through 1995.

"Given the pattern for the next 5 days, 2020 will likely be the first," [he tweeted](#).

That is a rarity in what is usually one of the most active months in "[tornado alley](#)."

In fact, fewer than confirmed 100 tornadoes were reported in the month of May. If that stands, it will be the first time in 50 years.

Bentley said the best he could find was 49 confirmed tornadoes through May 25.

"There have not been less than 100 confirmed tornadoes in any month of May since 1970 (88)," he [tweeted](#).

The [SPC database](#) lists 112 preliminary reports of tornadoes, but those are not yet confirmed. There are sometimes overlapping reports from multiple weather office.

Bentley also said the SPC only issued 10 tornado watches for the entire month of May, the fewest in the digital era dating back to 1970.

"Moral of the story: Don't storm chase in May on even numbered years post 2012," he tweeted.

### **So what happened?**

Tornado activity is most likely when strong long pressure systems pull warm and moist Gulf of Mexico air into the middle of the country.

That, plus the right placement of the jetstream, can cause severe weather outbreaks in the plains in the southeast.

But in 2020, May was largely been dominated by two weather patterns.

For the first week and a half of the month, there was no low-pressure system in place to bring in that moist gulf air.

On top of that, the jetstream was not in the ideal location. For the following 10 days, an upper-level low-pressure system sat itself on the east.

Instead of feeding tornado alley with warm gulf air, it was pumped with cooler dryer conditions that eliminated tornado development.

On average, around 1,200 tornadoes are reported in the U.S. every year, more than any country in the world.

Tornadoes kill about 60 people per year on average, mostly from flying or falling debris. But the actual number can vary from single digits to hundreds, [according to the SPC](#).

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HEADLINE	06/01 Mystery: Botswana mass elephant deaths
SOURCE	<a href="https://finance.yahoo.com/news/mass-elephant-deaths-anthrax-poison-161758435.html">https://finance.yahoo.com/news/mass-elephant-deaths-anthrax-poison-161758435.html</a>

GIST	<p>(Bloomberg) --Anthrax and poisoning have been ruled out as the cause of a rising number of unexplained elephant deaths in Botswana, the country with the world's biggest population of the animals.</p> <p>Wildlife authorities have now discovered 110 carcasses in north west Botswana, up from the 56 announced earlier in May according to a government statement.</p> <p>"I would say 90% of the new cases we have found are old carcasses we previously did not locate," said Dimakatso Ntshebe, a regional wildlife director, in an interview. "However, a few are indeed new deaths. All recovered carcasses do not show signs of poaching."</p> <p>Elephants have become a political issue in the southern African nation, with President Mokgweetsi Masisi last year lifting a hunting ban and saying more needed to be done to stop the 135,000 elephants in the country from damaging crops and occasionally trampling villagers.</p> <p>Further efforts to determine the cause of the deaths has been complicated by travel restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic that have delayed sending samples to a laboratory in Zimbabwe, Ntshebe said.</p> <p>Almost all of the world's African elephants live in southern Africa.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Sign here first: coronavirus waivers</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-disclaimers-busine/sign-here-first-u-s-salons-gyms-offices-require-coronavirus-waivers-idUSKBN238298">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-disclaimers-busine/sign-here-first-u-s-salons-gyms-offices-require-coronavirus-waivers-idUSKBN238298</a>
GIST	<p>(Reuters) - As U.S. businesses reopen after weeks of pandemic lockdowns, many have been posting coronavirus disclaimers or requiring employees and patrons to sign waivers before entering.</p> <p>From hair salons and recreation centers to stock exchanges and wedding photographers, the notices have sprung up across the country, asking guests to acknowledge they might contract a disease that has so far killed over 100,000 Americans.</p> <p>Companies are using signs, forms and website postings as a shield against lawsuits, but the measures do not prevent people from seeking damages due to negligence, the same way someone might sue after falling on a slippery floor or getting sick from walls covered in lead paint, experts said.</p> <p>Lawyers said it would be tough to prove a business caused a customer's illness, but concerns are so intense that a waiver may soon become the new normal.</p> <p>Entities including the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, a real estate agency in Arizona, a racecar speedway in Seinsgrove, Pennsylvania, and the New York Stock Exchange have introduced waivers disavowing responsibility for anyone who might contract the disease onsite, Reuters has learned.</p> <p>Missoula, Montana-based lawyer Paige Marie Griffith created a waiver for COVID-19, the respiratory illness related to the novel coronavirus, that business owners can buy and customize online. Events industry workers, including makeup artists and wedding photographers, are using them, she said.</p> <p>"As essential as we feel, everyone getting their hair done is choosing to do so," said Cody Brooke, who owns 10th Avenue Hair Designs in Pensacola, Florida. "We don't want the salon or stylist to be held liable knowing that they chose to come in."</p> <p>Since reopening on May 11, the salon requires clients to sign a form stating they have no COVID-19 symptoms and have not visited a "hot spot" with high infection rates in the last 30 days. It releases the salon from liability for "unintentional exposure" to the virus.</p>

Ryan Reiffert did not mind signing a waiver recently for the gym where he practices martial arts near San Antonio, Texas. He had symptoms in March and later learned from antibody testing that had likely contracted the virus.

"But even if I hadn't had it," he said, "I'd happily sign the waiver."

A gym attendant sprayed disinfectant on Reiffer's hands and feet before he could enter, he said.

Bigger companies are taking similar steps.

Walt Disney Co's (DIS.N) website cites "severe illness and death" risks for customers at its Orlando, Florida, amusement parks due to reopen on July 11th.

That warning did not deter the throngs who waited for hours to buy Mickey Mouse swag or apparel from familiar brands outside the Disney Springs shopping center that reopened on May 20.

A Disney spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment.

New York Stock Exchange-owner Intercontinental Exchange Inc (ICE.N) and commodities exchange CME Group Inc (CME.O) also require entrants to sign waivers. Floor traders at the exchanges have historically shouted in close proximity to one another, sans masks, but that has changed.

"I cannot stress enough that we will not be able to guarantee the safety of traders, clerks or other trading personnel that choose to access the trading floor," said CME Chief Executive Terry Duffy. "It will have risk and will continue to have risk until there is a vaccine or some other cure for this disease."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Sewage: key detect new virus outbreaks?</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/01/europe/germany-sewage-coronavirus-detection-intl/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/01/europe/germany-sewage-coronavirus-detection-intl/index.html</a>
GIST	<p><b>Leipzig, Germany (CNN)</b>The vast brown rivers of sludge that gush into the sewage treatment plants across Germany may hold a key to early detection of any new wave of the coronavirus, scientists tell CNN.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research</a> is leading a trial that's sampling wastewater from plants serving some of the largest urban areas and trying to find evidence of the coronavirus.</p> <p>The ultimate goal is for almost all sewage plants to install these coronavirus early warning systems so as to track the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>"It would be the first test line," said microbiologist Hauke Harms, one of the leaders of the study. "You would start with our measurement and then you would know where to go to look for the reasons. Normally it is a hospital, or I don't know, a factory where you have an outbreak. And then one would have to test the people."</p> <p>The concept seems fairly simple: Sewage contains remnants of the virus from human feces. If those concentrations suddenly jump, sewage plants would detect that and alert authorities to take action and begin targeted testing of the area in question.</p> <p>The sewage plants in the area of the eastern German city of Leipzig -- which can serve populations of between 100,00 and 600,000 people -- are among those taking part in the study.</p> <p>"If it would be possible to have an idea of the concentration of coronavirus in the wastewater, we can calculate the number of infected people in Leipzig and this would be very interesting in the coronavirus strategies," said Dr. Ulrich Meyer, the technical director of Leipzig's waterworks.</p>

But in reality, it's not as straightforward. At Leipzig's main sewage plant, samples are extracted every two minutes as the wastewater streams through 24 hours a day.

The scientists at Helmholtz acknowledge that finding a small amount of genetic material (or RNA) from the virus in a giant river of waste is a monumental task.

"We have a high, high volume of waste waters and it is a challenge to find the traces of the virus in the waste waters," said Rene Kallies, a virologist working on the project. "So we have liters and we have to scale it down to microliters to get a sufficient amount for RNA extraction and that's the challenge."

Yet, the scientists say they could detect a Covid trace surge within a day and transmit that information to local authorities.

Another challenge, the scientists say, is the current low number of new infections in Germany, which makes finding the virus even more difficult and means that a single infected person could skew test results. "You may have heard about these super spreaders and there are also super excretors, for instance. People who excrete much more virus than others and of course this gives you a wrong idea about the number of infected people," Harms said.

Germany has been held up as an example of a country that has successfully fended off the worst ravages of the virus. As of Friday, it had reported more than 182,000 cases of Covid-19 with around 8,400 deaths, significantly lower than other European countries.

Tracing the virus in excrement is not new and German researchers are not the only ones working to try and use sewage as an alarm system. In February, scientists at the Dutch KWR Water Research Institute found the virus in six sewage plants in the country, including one that services the main international airport in Schiphol. KWR said it has developed a method to monitor the presence of the virus in sewage and said testing wastewater has clear benefits.

"Whereas the testing of individuals requires individual tests, testing in sewage can give an early indication of the contamination within a whole population," KWR said on its website.

On Tuesday, [it was announced the](#) KWR data will be integrated into the Dutch government's Covid-19 monitoring dashboard.

The German researchers believe that testing sewage will be one factor in a web of measures to detect outbreaks.

But they acknowledge there are still problems to work out, although they say they are confident the system will be in place and working in the latter half of 2020, in time to help contain a possible second wave of the coronavirus.

"I think we can offer something before the next wave," Harms said, referring to a working detection system that can be used by states and sewage systems. "So if the next wave is coming in fall or early winter or so, then we should have something."

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## Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	06/01 NYPD: protest violence planned in advance
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nypds-terrorism-chief-says-unnamed-groups-planned-protest-violence-in-advance/2440722/">https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nypds-terrorism-chief-says-unnamed-groups-planned-protest-violence-in-advance/2440722/</a>

GIST	<p>New York's top terrorism official says there's evidence that members of anarchist groups from outside the city intentionally planned to incite violence at protests calling for justice in the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller said there is a high level of confidence within the NYPD that these unnamed groups had organized scouts, medics, and supply routes of rocks, bottles and accelerants for breakaway groups to commit vandalism and violence. There are strong indicators they planned for violence in advance using at times encrypted communications, he said.</p> <p>One out of every seven arrests, of 686 so far since May 28, has been people from out of state, according to Miller. He said those arrested came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Iowa, Nevada, Virginia, Maryland, Texas and St. Paul, Minnesota.</p> <p>On Saturday, Commissioner Shea had estimated at least 20 percent of protesters arrested Friday night were from out of town.</p> <p>The fact remains that the majority of those arrested were locals. Some like Mayor de Blasio's daughter were arrested for "unlawful assembly," and others were arrested for acts of violence.</p> <p>"Before the protests began, organizers of certain anarchists groups set out to raise bail money and people who would be responsible to be raising bail money, they set out to recruit medics and medical teams with gear to deploy in anticipation of violent interactions with police," Miller said.</p> <p>He added, "They prepared to commit property damage and directed people who were following them that this should be done selectively and only in wealthier areas or at high-end stores run by corporate entities."</p> <p>Without specifying who "they" are, Miller said the agitators "developed a complex network of bicycle scouts to move ahead of demonstrators in different directions of where police were and where police were not for purposes of being able to direct groups from the larger group to places where they could commit acts of vandalism including the torching of police vehicles and Molotov cocktails where they thought officers would not be."</p> <p>Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday morning that the members of the anarchist movement plan together online and that "they have explicit rules, and we're going to make all this information available today and in the days ahead."</p> <p>Among the out-of-area instigators were two sisters from upstate New York. They were detained after one threw a Molotov cocktail at a police van. The woman who threw the Molotov cocktail will face federal charges from prosecutors in Brooklyn, law enforcement source said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Bellevue police: looting organized event</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/determined-to-wreak-havoc-bellevue-looting-was-organized-event-police-say">https://komonews.com/news/local/determined-to-wreak-havoc-bellevue-looting-was-organized-event-police-say</a>
GIST	<p>BELLEVUE, Wash. -- Hundreds of looters ransacked major shopping malls and even small businesses across Bellevue amid the peaceful protests Sunday in a coordinated event that police say was organized by outside groups.</p> <p>"Several groups that showed up in Bellevue (Sunday) were bound and determined to wreak havoc," said Bellevue Police spokesperson Meghan Black.</p> <p>Around mid-afternoon Sunday, looters smashed their way into the shuttered Bellevue Square Mall, stealing from dozens of stores inside, as other groups simultaneously hit Lincoln Square and the Bravern.</p>

Video from Air 4 and KOMO News ground crews showed a steady stream of people running from the stores with arms full of stolen merchandise through much of the afternoon.

Bellevue was cleaning up after looters ransacked a high-end mall Sunday,

"They were in multiple locations at the same time and really caused a lot of problems," Black said. "It was just a disgraceful day here in Bellevue. It was very sad to see this happen."

Police did receive intelligence that it was a known gang unit coming into the city to be destructive.

"They were even inciting participation on social media," Black said.

Bellevue Police Chief Steve Mylett said Bellevue Square sustained heavy damage amid the looting inside.

"It's destroyed inside," Mylett said. "It breaks my heart, because I wish we could have stopped it. And we're going to figure out how to stop it next time."

He said they were prepared and knew there may be looters heading their way.

"We didn't know how much...and how violent and well organized they were," Mylett said.

Black said they understand why people might have wondered why officers couldn't step in to stop the looters, but they were overwhelmed by the number and spread of the looters.

"When you see a couple hundred people busting down the doors of Bellevue Square and rushing in there, we have to make sure our officers are safe and we have to have the right numbers to go in and be able to take that back," Black said.

"And at the exact same time, it's happening over at the Bravern. And then up the street at...the LA Fitness. So there were multiple locations going on at the exact same time and some very large numbers of people. And it is impossible to defend every single storefront at the same time."

And it wasn't just the big malls that were hit. Some smaller businesses were hit as well, including the Noir Lash Lounge.

"We lost a significant amount of our stock," said Joey, whose wife runs the business. "There was a gentleman who had broken the door and another young couple had come to take some of our products."

It comes as a double blow for businesses already closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"I think for a lot of small business owners among the COVID shutdown, just having to deal with this is difficult," said Joey. "The transition to working from home and dealing with home school... and this just further complicates things for the family. We'll just have to pull through and get through it."

Gov. Jay Inslee activated the National Guard Sunday afternoon to help provide security and 166 troopers were at Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square keeping looters out by late Sunday evening.

Black said it's still too early to survey how much damage was done.

"This was an incredibly busy, very active night and so tallying up that stuff has not been a top priority," she said.

Investigators do hope to get some clues about the crime ring from some of the arrests they did make.



	<p>"We were making traffic stops even before they arrived and as they were coming in," Mylett said "And nobody's from Bellevue. To my knowledge, maybe a few from Seattle, but they're coming in from way out of the area. And how dare they."</p> <p>Black added they realize the looters were not connected to the peaceful protests going on simultaneously in the city over the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>"At the end of the day, this was not about protesting George Floyd's death," she said. "This was about groups of people coming in and wanting to steal things and destroying property. And that is not what the peaceful protestors were trying to do."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Seattle police investigate protest violence</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-police-ask-for-videos-photos-to-investigate-destruction-violence-during-protests">https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-police-ask-for-videos-photos-to-investigate-destruction-violence-during-protests</a>
GIST	<p>The Seattle Police Department said its detectives are investigating a series assaults, vandalism, arsons, burglaries and other crimes that occurred downtown during protests after George Floyd was killed last week by a Minneapolis police officer.</p> <p>Authorities said the videos could help detectives identify suspects who caused injuries and damaged public and private property.</p> <p>You can upload the photos and videos of criminal activity <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>And you can submit videos and photos with any concerns about Seattle officers' conducts during the protest at the <a href="#">Office of Port Accountability</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Prosecutors drop charges D.C. arrests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/prosecutors-drop-many-rioting-charges-as-dozens-charged-in-dc-protests-appear-in-court/2020/06/01/b581d5d2-a38b-11ea-bb20-ebf0921f3bbd_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/prosecutors-drop-many-rioting-charges-as-dozens-charged-in-dc-protests-appear-in-court/2020/06/01/b581d5d2-a38b-11ea-bb20-ebf0921f3bbd_story.html</a>
GIST	<p>Dozen of people arrested over the weekend when mass protests in the District erupted in mayhem were released from custody Monday after appearing in court on an array of charges, including burglary, destruction of property and violating a municipal curfew.</p> <p>Although many of those arrested were charged by police with felony rioting, that charge was dropped by prosecutors in most cases.</p> <p>After making their initial appearances in D.C. Superior Court, nearly all defendants were freed pending future court appearances. Renata Cooper, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in the District, declined to comment on the cases.</p> <p>D.C. police said they made 106 arrests from Saturday through early Monday, including dozens involving charges of felony rioting. But when the arrestees appeared in Superior Court on Monday, the U.S. attorney's office dismissed rioting charges against most of the defendants. A handful still face that count.</p> <p>Sporadic looting on Saturday and early Sunday spiraled Sunday night into Monday, leaving a path of destruction through downtown D.C. and in other neighborhoods. Newsham said looting and property damage mainly occurred in businesses north of Lafayette Square as well as those in Tenleytown and Georgetown.</p>

In one case, a man was charged with jumping over two security barriers early Saturday morning and trying to “enter the White House complex, against the will of the United States.” In another, three men are accused of burglarizing the Walgreens drugstore at 1306 U St. NW at 4 a.m. Sunday and trying to make off with a cash register and four packs of candy, according to court papers.

In those cases, the defendants were released and ordered to stay away from the location associated with their arrests.

Other alleged break-ins, thefts or vandalism, according to court records, occurred at clothing stores and a gelato shop.

Joel Dilone, of Montgomery County, Md., said he felt compelled to join the protests Saturday and Sunday, and has no regrets, despite being arrested and charged with burglary and rioting.

“I feel like being silent right now is still being pro-racist,” Dilone said. “I know other people were in the cell for a good cause, too.”

Dilone said he is a manager at a car dealership and had never been arrested. He said he plans to fight the charges in court Aug. 30.

“The officers who arrested me were nice and peaceful,” Dilone said. “The only problem we really had is they stopped people for the wrong things.”

Dilone said he found some liquor bottles on a corner along Seventh Street NW, after two teenagers dropped them.

“I picked them up — free liquor,” Dilone said. “The police started chasing me. I didn’t run. I didn’t do nothing. I stood my ground. They didn’t ask me no questions. They automatically thought I broke into the place. I didn’t want to argue with them to make it worse.”

Court papers say surveillance video inside a store showed a person with Dilone’s build and distinctive T-shirt “forcefully entering the location” and taking bottles of alcohol.

Dilone said he didn’t learn of the rioting allegation until he was in his holding cell and that he did not understand why he had been charged on that count. There were several people behind him at the time police approached him late Sunday, he said, and many of them were arrested as well.

“I can’t really say too much,” Dilone said, adding that he wants to work directly with his lawyer to present his best defense.

“I’m a Latino and I feel like we have a voice, too. We’re part of a minority group. If we don’t speak up, nobody else will,” Dilone said after his release.

D.C. officials have said they welcome peaceful protests, but some among the thousands who descended on the city appeared prepared for mayhem.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Arrested remain jailed; threat of violence</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/king-county-superior-court-shutters-courthouses-due-to-credible-threats-of-violence/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/king-county-superior-court-shutters-courthouses-due-to-credible-threats-of-violence/</a>
GIST	Dozens of people arrested Saturday for their alleged involvement in rioting and the looting of businesses in downtown Seattle were forced to forgo their first appearances before a judge Monday and so remain jailed due to an emergency closure of the county’s courthouses.

King County Superior Court Presiding Judge Jim Rogers closed courthouses in Seattle and Kent on Monday afternoon after receiving a credible threat of violence, which was relayed by the County Executive's Office.

Rogers said the information he received at 1:30 p.m. Monday was vague, but he quickly shuttered the King County Courthouse in downtown Seattle, the Children and Family Justice Center on Alder Street, the Maleng Regional Justice Center (RJC) in Kent, and the involuntary treatment courtroom at Harborview Medical Center.

The courtroom inside the King County Jail was also evacuated, just as the first-appearance calendar was about to begin, Casey McNerthney, a spokesman for Prosecutor Dan Satterberg, said in an emailed statement.

Seattle police made a total of 57 arrests downtown amid Saturday's protests and afterward, mostly for burglary and assault, the department said. It wasn't clear exactly how many of the people arrested were jailed as of Monday. During first appearances, a King County District Court judge makes a finding of probable cause and decides whether to release someone suspected of committing a crime or to impose bail.

Due to the emergency evacuation order, District Court Judge Gregg Hirakawa decided to make probable cause findings based on paperwork submitted by police and postponed bail hearings for those defendants until Tuesday, according to McNerthney and the King County Department of Public Defense (DPD).

DPD Director Anita Khandelwal was angry that a total of 104 people who were set to appear Monday, including those arrested during the protest — 61 of them jailed in Seattle and 43 others in Kent — were deprived of their right to appear before a judge and seek their release.

"Although the court was willing to sign release orders for those people whom the defense and prosecution could agree should be released on their own recognizance, the State refused to even discuss a single case, despite the pleas of several defense attorneys and family and community members," Khandelwal said in an emailed statement. "I'm outraged that the prosecutor would not even consider release, dangerously driving up the jail population during a pandemic."

Between the downtown jail and the RJC, the average adult daily population has been around 1,300, reduced from 1,900 in mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, 1,414 adults were jailed in the two facilities on Monday.

Khandelwal noted that many of the people arrested Saturday don't have criminal histories. She criticized the actions that she said "prioritize the convenience of the system" while forcing individuals to languish in jail without an opportunity to seek their release.

McNerthney responded that after the threat was made against King County buildings, officials ordered an immediate evacuation.

"We were trying to get our staff and attorneys out safely while also ensuring that the court had the correct information to make probable cause findings. We didn't have the time to safely go through dozens of cases because of the court's immediate closure," he said in a statement.

Some of the people who were to appear Monday are accused of assaulting police officers and burglarizing closed businesses, McNerthney said. Before the hearings were canceled, he said prosecutors removed people from the calendar in cases where it was clear felony filing standards would not be met.

He said prosecutors are still waiting for cases to be referred to his office related to violence and looting that broke out Sunday in Bellevue, Auburn, Renton and Tukwila.

	<p>According to Rogers, there were reports of protests and possible looting Monday at Kent Commons, a shopping center across from the RJC. The Children and Family Justice Center was also badly damaged during Saturday night's rioting, he said.</p> <p>The court closure was ordered only for Monday and the courts are expected to reopen Tuesday, Rogers said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Seattle police timeline 57 arrests on Sat.</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://mynorthwest.com/1907508/timeline-seattle-police-arrested/">https://mynorthwest.com/1907508/timeline-seattle-police-arrested/</a>
GIST	<p>Seattle police on Saturday arrested 57 people, mostly for burglary and assault.</p> <p>The police department released an initial timeline of events in an effort to offer full transparency to the public. SPD says the events were all reported through the Seattle Police Operational Command and Seattle Fire Department in real time.</p> <p>In addition to the arrests, SPD says there were no serious injuries reported, but they know there were community members and six officers who were injured. The department says hundreds of buildings and businesses were damaged, including 90 in the Chinese-International District, and at least eight cars were burned.</p> <p><b>Time Saturday May 30</b>  6:00:00 AM SPOC Activated  9:31:56 AM Radio called to report a citizen called, stating that Antifa is to gather at Westlake at noon per a Twitter feed. RTCC informed  11:00:00 AM EOC Activation  11:29:10 AM 50 People at SPD HQ  11:42:40 AM Approximately 100 people at SPD HQ  12:22:27 PM Approximately 1000 people at SPD HQ  1:08:29 PM Speakers at SPD HQ are encouraging them to join Westlake event  1:58:28 PM 5/Cherry bottles thrown at officers  1:58:41 PM 5/Madison- rocks and bottles thrown  2:00:49 PM 5/James bottles thrown  2:19:35 PM Approximately 4000-5000 crowd size at Westlake  2:32:17 PM Crowd is more hostile on 5/Pine. Bikes from 4/Pine to 5/Pine  2:36:33 PM 5/Pine rocks and bottles  2:38:15 PM rocks and bottles- unlawful assembly- need dispersal order  2:39:07 PM taking glass bottles 5/Pine  2:39:16 PM officer exposed- need medical  2:40 PM SPD officer injured. SFD Deployed.  2:45:44 PM SFD to 6/pine. Individual pepper sprayed.  2:59:53 PM Projectiles being thrown 5/Pine  3:01:18 PM Officer struck in the throat by a projectile. Minor injury  3:09:00 PM Patient was pushed to the ground during the protest. Transported to HMC by AMR.  3:10:20 PM Dispersal orders given at 5/pine  3:35:14 PM Large crowd headed to HQ- currently 5/Columbia  3:43:00 PM SPD officer injured.  3:46:25 PM Throwing bottles in front of Bartells at 5/Olive  3:52:45 PM SFD to 3/Pine for injured officers  3:53:56 PM Patrol car being vandalized in front of Old Navy  3:55:53 PM Patrol car on fire by Old Navy  3:59:19 PM Crowd is on I-5  4:01:55 PM SFD inquiring if they can get in to handle the car fire at 5/Pine. Negative – Don't have a perimeter around it.</p>

4:02:38 PM Assault on officers 5/Olive-  
4:04:50 PM Molotov cocktail thrown at the police vehicle  
4:05:22 PM Hundred individuals head toward SPD HQ  
4:06:14 PM Thousands on I-5 SB  
4:07:09 PM Call for Resources to HQ ASAP  
4:08:02 PM SFD is at 5/Olive needing to get through to the injured officer  
4:10:24 PM HQ under siege  
4:14:26 PM Radio: 6/Pine rifle from police vehicle  
4:15:03 PM HQ is taking bottles  
4:15:41 PM DHS Alert: Social media user stated he will join Seattle protest and has desire to kill Law Enforcement officials  
4:18:09 PM Approximately 1200 at HQ, HQ taking bottles  
4:18:37 PM 5/Pine: Police rifle was turned in to officers  
4:21:38 PM Large crowd headed toward the West Pct. Make sure infrastructure in place.  
4:26:12 PM SPOC made a regional mutual aid request made via EOC  
4:26:53 PM Paintballs being thrown at HQ  
4:27:30 PM Officers being assaulted at HQ  
4:30:32 PM Reports of items being thrown at HQ smell like accelerants  
4:31:17 PM 5/Union Molotov cocktail are being made  
4:31:26 PM More resources are coming to HQ  
4:32:11 PM Crowd attempting to break windows 5/Olive  
4:36:40 PM Reports of a fire at Pacific Place  
4:39:24 PM Vehicle torched  
4:39:24 PM Car fire. No reported injuries. Unsafe for crews to operate.  
4:43:12 PM Report of man walking up the stairs at Yesler/5 Ave overpass with rifle  
4:43:58 PM Mayor's office will announce 5pm curfew  
4:45:22 PM Smoke coming into Nordstrom's building.  
5:02:00 PM SFD en Route to Auto fire Alarm at City Hall  
5:12:55 PM HQ is under control – Crowd about 100  
5:16:33 PM 4/Battery – Approximately 1000 in the street  
5:22:30 PM 5/James officers taking rocks. Molotov cocktail 1500 blk of 6th. Need resources  
5:25:39 PM 4/Pine occupied vehicle windshields shattered  
5:28:27 PM Starbucks is being looted  
5:29:54 PM Reports of break in at King County Admin building  
5:31:15 PM 300 individuals heading toward the West Pct  
5:31:59 PM Nordstrom on 6th windows broken  
5:34:04 PM 2 city owned vehicles burned  
5:35:26 PM 6/Stewart officer is surrounded in his vehicle. Units en route.  
5:38:00 PM Reported arson, dumpster fire with no exposures. No injuries reported.  
5:40:27 PM KC admin building damage. Windows broken.  
5:40:43 PM Looting at Nordstrom's. Resources en route.  
5:42:35 PM 5/pine injured officer hit in the face. Medic needed will meet at 1500 blk of 5th  
5:43:00 PM SPD officer injured.  
5:56:15 PM Taking rocks at 6/Olive  
5:56:40 PM Objects being thrown 5/Pine  
5:57:09 PM Injured officer 6/Olive  
5:57:00 PM SPD officer injured.  
5:58:13 PM 6/Olive way objects thrown  
5:59:06 PM 6/Olive – Lasers pointed at officers  
6:43:16 PM Potential fire at North Face  
6:47:32 PM Large group throwing rocks and bottles 9/Pine  
6:50:53 PM 9/Pine need assistance- heavy rocks and bottles  
7:02:00 PM Broken Windows East Side 1500 blk of 5th  
7:10:29 PM Breaching additional stores/breaking windows  
7:12:00 PM 2 vehicles on fire. No injuries reported.  
7:14:13 PM Significant property damage 1500 blk 5th.

7:15:53 PM Car fire in front of Ben Bridge, subjects breaking in Ben Bridge  
7:18:01 PM WSP car damaged at 4/Pike  
7:18:40 PM SFD waiting on an escort to 4/Pike  
7:21:04 PM 20 people trying to break into Target  
7:29:25 PM 300+ to north and another 150 + to the south – approximately 500 total.  
7:34:00 PM Reports of arson via security camera. Small fire extinguished on its own.  
7:48:00 PM Reports of Arson  
7:59:43 PM Large group forming in front of Pacific Place  
8:03:00 PM Caller reports person starting fire at construction site.  
8:06:14 PM 2 in custody for looting Carhart  
8:09:00 PM SPD reports car fire. No injuries reported.  
8:09:00 PM WSP officer injured.  
8:17:05 PM Multiple locations being looted  
8:23:17 PM Report of a fire inside Nordstrom  
8:24:12 PM Multiple windows being broken at Post Office.  
8:26:03 PM Group of 200-300, 3/University, breaking windows as they move.  
8:27:19 PM Group of looters 6/Olive NW corner  
8:39:06 PM Valley CDU released to attend to obligations in their own jurisdiction  
8:39:51 PM Looters at Walgreens at Pike  
8:41:04 PM Looter reentering Bartell  
8:42:27 PM Officer hit with projectile on the head  
8:46:51 PM Walgreens- 2 in custody  
8:47:53 PM Looting, Tabaco store 3/Pine  
8:48:42 PM Individual spray-painted kill cops on the side of the building – Pendleton store  
8:49:50 PM Handgun at Robins Brothers jewelry store  
8:54:15 PM Large group near 4/Pine smashing windows  
8:58:41 PM Citywide: all traffic resources to block traffic coming into downtown  
8:59:16 PM Multiple looting occurring, bikes to go mobile to deter  
9:05:10 PM Rocks and bottles 5/Pine, transport needed for 4 prisoners at 5/pine  
9:13:39 PM Westlake center reports of 10 individuals with crowbars attacking security. Units there not seeing anything.  
9:20:10 PM Looting at Pacific Place  
9:28:46 PM Per South ACT officers: 2 rifles, handgun compact, gloc 9mm in a fanny pack  
9:32:20 PM 10 Sheriff deputies to west to handle 911 calls, 8 going to East, 20 will rove downtown  
9:33:14 PM Men's Warehouse looting  
9:37:22 PM Looters at Bartells 5/Olive resources being requested  
9:39:01 PM Jewelry store 5/University broken into  
9:39:49 PM 5/pine highly agitated male with body armor and rifle  
9:42:21 PM Stabbing 5/pike need medic, stab wound to abdomen  
9:45:25 PM Requesting 5/Pike for scene security  
9:46:35 PM Reports of bats being swung on 1st- units responding  
9:47:29 PM 523 union – Bank has live feed of 2 people in the bank  
9:51:50 PM 10-20 subjects lighting items on fire 2nd floor pacific place  
9:52:56 PM Bellevue SWAT enroute to check on fire at Pacific Place.  
9:54:38 PM Looters back at Vans  
9:54:54 PM 3 in custody at Walgreens 3/Pike  
9:55:24 PM Units in the area of Westlake, reports of people on the roof of Pacific Place... Radio: its security. They locked themselves up there, Bellevue SWAT enroute.  
9:56:18 PM Fire enroute to NorthFace looters are setting fire. Units are clearing the building.  
10:04:32 PM Looting at Nordstrom's.  
10:10:39 PM Looting at Patagonia.  
10:12:14 PM Units taking bottles, explosives from the crowd 6/Pine.  
10:20:28 PM Reports shooting from a silver Malibu 3/pike  
10:27:59 PM Pursuit en route NB I-5  
10:29:56 PM Vehicle in pursuit has crashed  
10:32:58 PM One in custody I 5 onramp Dearborn

	10:38:00 PM Looting at Northface 10:38:14 PM Looting at Verizon 10:41:24 PM Vans and Bartells waiting for transport 10:51:13 PM Looter inside Target, 2nd floor 11:03:59 PM 1/Pine subjects breaking into Seattle T shirt Shop 11:04:12 PM 1/Blanchard subjects in the Robins Brothers Jewelry store 11:08:21 PM 3 in custody at Pacific place 7/olive need additional resources 11:10:38 PM 2 arrested at Target 11:10:51 PM 2/Union firearm recovered 11:11:04 PM Looters at Arcteryx 11:12:28 PM Need additional units at North Face 11:13:03 PM Bellevue SWAT enroute to Arcteryx 11:14:05 PM Request for assistance at North Face 11:14:43 PM Large group entering Smoke Shop 11:16:17 PM Bellevue SWAT heading to North Face 11:16:25 PM Units under control at NorthFace 11:26:34 PM T mobile Looting 11:26:54 PM Looting at Cupcake Royale 11:27:32 PM Looting Elliott Ave/Bell St 11:29:11 PM 2/Pike for another arrest 11:30:45 PM Target – 2nd Ave on 3rd floor man destroying electronics area with garbage can 11:34:48 PM Bellevue SWAT – citizen reporting someone stuck in the elevator on McDonalds side 11:48:18 PM Looting at Carhart *Please note this ends at midnight for 5/30/2020*
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Illinois man charged; Minneapolis riot</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/01/politics/illinois-minneapolis-charges/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/01/politics/illinois-minneapolis-charges/index.html</a>
GIST	<p>(CNN)Federal authorities have <a href="#">charged an Illinois man</a> for civil disorder, carrying on a riot and possession of unregistered destructive devices associated with recent clashes between violent protesters and police in Minneapolis.</p> <p>In videos allegedly posted to his Facebook account on May 29, Matthew Lee Rupert, 28, was seen passing out explosive devices to other rioters and encouraged them to throw the devices at law enforcement officers, according to the criminal complaint released Monday.</p> <p>After handing an explosive device to another rioter and telling the person to throw it at police SWAT officers, the complaint states that Rupert is heard on video saying "He's throwing my bombs," adding, "He's going to bomb the police with them."</p> <p>After an audible explosion is heard, Rupert is heard saying, "Good shot my boy," according to the complaint, as well as, "F*** 12," a derogatory phrase often directed at law enforcement.</p> <p>On one video, the complaint alleges Rupert asked for lighter fluid, entered a Sprint cell phone store, and is later heard on video saying, "I lit it on fire."</p> <p>On May 31, the criminal complaint said Rupert posted Facebook videos depicting himself in Chicago. In one video, Rupert is heard saying, "Let's start a riot," and "I'm going to start doing some damage," according to the complaint. He is then seen on video entering a convenience store and placing items in his backpack, according to the complaint.</p>



Rupert was arrested early Sunday morning by Chicago police officers after allegedly violating the city's emergency curfew order, the complaint states. After searching his vehicle, authorities found several destructive devices, according to the complaint.

He was subsequently transferred into federal custody, according to a Justice Department statement.  
Court appearance

In a court appearance Monday, Rupert appeared to be incredulous at the charge he's facing for possessing an explosive device.

"A firework?" Rupert responded to Chicago federal Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer, who had asked him to acknowledge the crime he was being accused of.

"You may disagree with it but this is what the charge says," Pallmeyer said.

"Yes, ma'am, I understand the charge," he said.

Prosecutors say Rupert filmed himself passing out the device at a protest in Minneapolis.

"I've got some bombs if some of you all want to throw them back," Rupert says in a video that he posted on Facebook, according to an affidavit from an FBI agent included in a charging document.

The agent described the device as a "commercial item with a cylindrical container, hobby fuse and a main charge capable of exploding."

It had a brown casing and a green wick, according to the affidavit, which does not refer to it as a "firework."

Rupert did not officially enter a plea to the charge or the other two he faces during the brief initial appearance, which was held via telephone because of court closures related to the coronavirus pandemic.

He agreed to remain in custody and be transported by US marshals to Minnesota, where he is charged. His public defender said he would challenge his detention once there.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Riot groups come together: loot, destroy</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/george-floyd-riots-looting-destroy">https://www.foxnews.com/us/george-floyd-riots-looting-destroy</a>
GIST	<p>As riots continue to wreak havoc on cities across the country, officials have continued to point to "outside influencers," along with anarchists and opportunists, who have hijacked the otherwise peaceful demonstrations against police brutality following the death of an African-American man, <a href="#">George Floyd</a>, in <a href="#">Minneapolis</a> last weekend.</p> <p>According to multiple U.S. intelligence sources, law-enforcement officials in various departments nationwide and analysts monitoring the activity, the playbook in every city is almost the same: the peaceful protests are organized, and a point place is designated for people to gather in the daylight hours.</p> <p>But, as the night falls and thousands go home, the looting and discord are ignited by a fresh round of people camouflaged with dark clothing and masks, armed with spray paint for graffiti and sometimes homemade weapons, and their nefarious behavior continues well into the early hours.</p> <p>"The most important thing to realize is the difference between is between the protestors and the rioters. The protestors are mostly peaceful, and the rioters who come next are Antifa going into areas with Black Lives Matter [BLM] signs," said Lorenzo Boyd, an assistant professor for diversity and inclusion and</p>

director for the Center for Advanced Policing at the University of New Haven. "It is a mob mentality, really."

Many officials concurred that while they may be a small amount of crossover between the protesters and rioters, it is generally limited. And, while the umbrella of BLM is being used, elements seemingly aligned with Antifa have been commandeering the organization's name.

Images and footage online showed the looting and destruction were being committed by a mix of races and ethnicities, but a giant spotlight has been shone on Antifa as agitators.

And, baffling officials: the level of intelligence-sharing and organization involved from what appears to be the Antifa wing.

"We had no idea it was this sophisticated," one high-ranking source within the Minneapolis Police Department, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said.

Those causing the trouble seemingly would coordinate through social media and encrypted apps on the backs of the peaceful protesters late at night, the insider continued.

"The rioters use different weapons like Molotov cocktails and slingshots, and even tennis rackets so they can launch rocks from a block away, and you can't see it coming," the source said.

There have been other tactics, as well.

"We will get a lot of police calls about the KKK being somewhere, but when we go to the place, no one is there," the source said. "But, even if it amounts to nothing, all those calls have to be documented."

President Trump this week has vowed to designate Antifa a domestic [terrorist organization](#), and Attorney General William Barr has said that "groups of outside radicals and agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate, violent and extremist agenda," and that "the violence instigated and carried out by Antifa and other similar groups in connection with the rioting is domestic terrorism and will be treated accordingly."

Although Antifa is traditionally understood to be a leaderless movement, analysts and law enforcement on both state and federal levels have been working to piece together coordinating figures pulling strings.

"President Trump wants to designate Antifa a terrorist group, but Antifa has no structure or centralized leadership, but that doesn't mean that there aren't leaders now emerging," observed Tony Schiena, the CEO of security firm MOSAIC. "I don't believe it's a coordinated riot but do believe that groups are utilizing it to push their agendas and misguided individuals are buying into it and being opportunistic and looting which basically becomes copY-cat rioting."

In one case, Pittsburgh police on Sunday issued an arrest warrant for a man they believed played a key role in inciting violence in the city on Saturday night.

The suspect: 20-year-old Amazon employee Brian Jordan Bartels, who was facing charges of "institutional vandalism, rioting and reckless endangerment of another person." Bartel allegedly was identified in a video donning all-black and "breaking the windows out of a marked Pittsburgh Police vehicle Uptown, against the wishes of peaceful protesters who tried to stop him," police said.

A list of others arrested in Pittsburgh on Sunday night showed at least two apparently were minors, and the others ranged in age from 19 to 54, but most were in their twenties. Around one-third of those arrested were women.

Meanwhile, in New York, it is believed that the groups have operated using encrypted communications and seek external funding for bail money. One source connected to the NYPD pointed out that political

and celebrity vows to bail out those arrested across the country have inflamed the situation and further emboldened the violence.

Moreover, rumors were being stirred up across social media to conjure up fear and anxiety in communities even in far-reaching counties such as Suffolk County in Long Island, a common terrorist tactic, the police source said, adding that federal and local police, in recent days, have infiltrated the various rioting clusters to ascertain further information below the radar.

"But, those doing the damage are from all walks of life, kids to educated adults. Some come in groups, and some come alone," the official continued.

One known Antifa offshoot in New York, as investigated by Fox News, came together for planning meetings regarding various social causes in early 2019 and was comprised mainly of university students, local writers and artists, some former U.S. military members and minority groups passionate about multiple causes ranging from LGBTQ rights and Palestinian rights to Native American and immigration issues. Ready-made "F-- the Police" signs stood at the ready whenever needed, and a few of the most vocal in the group typically advised newcomers on how to deal with such things as tear gas or police pushback.

The effort was led primarily by a university professor and self-proclaimed human rights activist with extensive experience in protest movements. Little vetting was done on those who joined the group, but when it came to discussing anything potentially criminal, all discussion went underground.

In Chicago, Mayor Lori Lightfoot has stressed that "there clearly was coordination" among the looting faction and that "they were clearly listening to our radio traffic."

"The number of U-Haul trucks that magically showed up in front of stores, car caravans that dropped people off and broke windows, and they were hustling the goods out into the backs of the cars," she added. "Absolutely, it was organized – there's no question whatsoever about that."

Furthermore, Richmond, Va., Police Chief Will Smith emphasized during a Sunday morning news conference that "we have people from across the country who have traveled many states to be here" and that they "know that this is an organized effort."

Several officials, including Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell, have pointed to white-supremacy groups as also having penetrated the riots. He said Sunday that law enforcement was cognizant of their presence on the ground, but it remained unclear how many there were and if they belonged to a specific outfit.

Ian Bradbury, the president of Terra Nova Strategic Management, a Canadian advisory and strategy firm that has enabled the counter-violent-extremism sector to better resolve complex challenges, said that the most observable of those committing violence and riot behavior included local street gangs, local and out-of-state anarchists and Antifa groupings – using black bloc tactics centered on vandalism of public property and rioting – as well as unassociated individuals.

"Some far-right elements have been observed acting as provocateurs, but with only minor observable representation thus far in comparison to other actors. Should the destabilizing conditions continue, these observations may shift as more interests become involved," he asserted.

As for just how "outside" the rioters were, those on the ground contend it's been a mixed bag of locals as well as opportunists from rural areas and neighboring states. Several sources interviewed by Fox News indicated that there was little to prove an overwhelming outside presence, as most arrests in cities seemingly were those living in and around the area.

But in the case of Detroit, as per Mayor Mike Duggan, many have traveled from out-of-state to contribute to the calamity. On Friday, he claimed 65 percent of those arrested were from outside the Detroit area and even well beyond Michigan's borders. That number jumped to 75 percent on Saturday night.

And, as Boyd pointed out, many of those arrested this weekend in Boston stemmed from outside the urban hub and were from New Hampshire, Vermont and rural pockets of Massachusetts.

Officials also were rushing to develop a clearer picture of the involvement of foreign actors and cyber instigators in the calamity, both in pushing narratives and as propaganda victories.

"Chinese propaganda has been quick to label the American government as incompetent as the U.S. deals with an intricate network of interstate activists using technology to exploit revolutionary lessons learned since Ferguson, and perfected in places like Portland, Oregon, against unprepared communities across America," global-risk analyst Dennis Santiago conjectured. "The Chinese clearly remain worried that their mishandling of the novel coronavirus outbreak will have severe repercussions from the global community as post-COVID-19 re-opening and realignment of supply chain dependencies plays out."

He also highlighted the role cyber has played in adding fuel to the fire.

"Social-media engines have had to contend with a new series of both artificial intelligence and expert-system robotic attacks from abroad in recent times, particularly pushing the Chinese narrative that the U.S. is an incompetent government," he said. "Born out of worry about the novel coronavirus, the extent to which it has been a contributor to domestic U.S. events remains to be seen. There are other... robotic-narrative campaigns sourced within the U.S. that are equally powerful. This is still an election year, and the presidential election is divisive."

Experts largely have concurred that the extended lockdown to squash the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, created something of a "perfect storm" that thousands of looters have been able to exploit – either driven by pent-up frustration or loss of income.

But, with mass riots and little in the way of "social distancing," some analysts feared the worst was still to come.

"The riots have underplayed the COVID-19 threat," Schiena added. "We are potentially facing disastrous consequences with a potential severe spike in cases, forcing an extended lockdown which would damage the U.S. economy even further."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Weekend unrest: 7200 arrests 43 cities</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/george-floyd-protests-over-7200-people-arrested-in-43-u-s-cities-this-weekend-cbs-news-review-finds/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/george-floyd-protests-over-7200-people-arrested-in-43-u-s-cities-this-weekend-cbs-news-review-finds/</a>
GIST	<p>More than 7,200 people were arrested in 43 cities across the country as a result of <a href="#">civil unrest stemming from protests</a> on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a CBS News review of arrests has found. Charges included burglary, arson, aggravated assault, rioting, looting, defacing public property and violating curfew.</p> <p>There were protests throughout the country over the weekend stemming from the <a href="#">death of George Floyd</a> in Minneapolis. The Department of Homeland Security issued an alert on Thursday warning that violent protest movements will grow and domestic violent extremists and others will seek to take over government facilities and attack law enforcement, a law enforcement source told CBS News senior investigative reporter Pat Milton.</p> <p>While a number of local officials said they felt the violence was started by people coming in from outside areas, none of the cities that reported that data saw a sizeable number of out of town arrests. In Miami, where local officials told the public that most of the "agitators" were "outsiders," only 9 out of the 92 people arrested had out-of-state addresses.</p>

The three most populous cities in the country — New York, Los Angeles and Chicago — had the most arrests, but those cities did not provide data for "out-of-town" arrests.

In Los Angeles, where Mayor Eric Garcetti imposed a curfew and asked Governor Gavin Newsom to deploy the National Guard, 1,600 people were arrested over the three-day period, the most of any city. Roughly 1,000 guard personnel began arriving overnight Sunday, and Newsom announced Monday an additional 1,100 National Guard troops would be deployed to cities throughout the state.

Over 400 people were arrested in neighboring Santa Monica, the police department said.

Chicago had the second-most arrests with 699. Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown said the majority of the arrests were for looting, and 461 of those arrests came from the South and West sides, [CBS Chicago reported](#). A total of 132 officers were injured.

[There were 48 shootings, 17 people killed and more than 64 guns recovered on Sunday](#), Brown said. It was not immediately clear how many of those shootings and fatalities were related to the protests.

The Minneapolis Department of Public Safety said there were 481 arrests in the city, where protests first began six days ago. The U.S. Attorney's office said Monday it had charged Illinois resident Matthew Lee Rupert, 28, with causing civil disorder, a riot and possessing unregistered explosive devices. The charges allege Rupert was trying to stoke chaos during Friday night's protests.

There were 398 people arrested in New York City, where a [curfew wasn't declared until Monday](#).

Other cities with arrests included Phoenix, where police said more than 300 were arrested, Richmond, Virginia, where at least 233 people were arrested, and Dallas, where 191 people were arrested.

At least 40 people were arrested at demonstrations on Sunday in Louisville, Kentucky, where protests have erupted over the [death of Breonna Taylor](#). Taylor was in bed with her boyfriend when three plainclothes police detectives entered her home in March. Gunfire erupted and Taylor was killed.

A black business owner was shot and killed by police Sunday night in Louisville. [CBS affiliate WLKY reported](#) police said they were trying to clear a large crowd in a parking lot. But officers' body cameras were not activated, and Louisville Metro Police Chief Steve Conrad was [fired on Monday](#) and both officers involved were placed on administrative leave.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 St Louis police: gunfire hit 4 officers</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/4-st-louis-officers-hit-by-gunfire-during-protests/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/4-st-louis-officers-hit-by-gunfire-during-protests/</a>
GIST	<p>St. Louis police said four officers were hit by gunfire after protests that started peacefully Monday became violent overnight, with people smashing windows and stealing items from businesses and fires burning in the downtown area. The police department tweeted early Tuesday that the officers were taken to an area hospital with injuries that weren't believed to be life-threatening.</p> <p>Two were shot in the leg, one in a foot and the fourth in an arm, St. Louis Police Commissioner Colonel John Hayden Junior told reporters in an overnight briefing.</p> <p>It was unclear who fired the shots.</p> <p>Police also said on Twitter that officers continued to be targeted by gunfire.</p> <p>St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson tweeted, "Please keep these officers in your thoughts and prayers, as well as all our brave first responders responding to the unfolding situation downtown tonight."</p>

The chaos in St. Louis followed [continued protests](#) Monday in Missouri over the death of George Floyd and police treatment of African Americans, with gatherings also held in Kansas City and Jefferson City. The nationwide protests were sparked by [the May 25 death of Floyd](#), a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck until he stopped breathing.

Monday's protests came after peaceful daytime protests Sunday led to spurts of chaos overnight into Monday, with vehicles and buildings damaged and officers firing tear gas after being pelted with rocks, fireworks and Molotov cocktails.

On Monday afternoon, several hundred people rallied peacefully outside the justice center in downtown St. Louis, including Krewson and St. Louis Public Safety Director Jimmie Edwards. Protestors later walked to the Gateway Arch National Park and then onto nearby Interstate 64.

But later Monday, protesters gathered in front of police headquarters, where officers fired tear gas. Some protesters smashed windows at a downtown 7-11 store and stole items from inside before the building was set on fire. Moments later, a car was set on fire and other businesses broken into and looted.

On Monday afternoon, Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas and Police Chief Rick Smith kneeled with protesters gathered at the Country Club Plaza entertainment district and had what police spokesman Sgt. Jake Becchina later described as a good conversation with the crowd.

Not long after, Becchina said, items were thrown at police and pepper spray was used. More people began to arrive later in the evening and he said about "half a dozen" people had been detained, some who had sacks of rocks and bags of urine.

Nearly 2,000 protesters gathered early Monday evening on the Capitol grounds in Jefferson City, carrying signs reading "white silence is violence" and "say their names."

Police estimated that more than 1,500 people turned out in O'Fallon, about 35 miles west of St. Louis. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Police Chief Tim Clothier locked arms and marched with protesters, saying he wanted to show support for their cause.

"We do not agree with what happened. We do not want to condone the behavior of that one officer," Clothier said.

Republican Gov. Mike Parson said Monday that the Missouri National Guard and the Missouri State Highway Patrol are ready if violence persists.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Imprisoned Iran scientist freed; deported</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/irans-fm-scientist-held-us-freed-now-back-71011657">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/irans-fm-scientist-held-us-freed-now-back-71011657</a>
GIST	<p>TEHRAN, Iran -- An Iranian scientist imprisoned in the U.S. after being acquitted in a federal trade secrets case is on his way back to Iran after being deported, the country's foreign minister said Tuesday.</p> <p>Sirous Asgari was in the air on a flight back to Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif said in an Instagram post.</p> <p>"Congratulations to his wife and his esteemed family," Zarif wrote.</p> <p>There was no immediate word on Iranian state-run media about the flight.</p> <p>Asgari, a professor at Iran's Sharif University of Technology, had been indicted in April 2016, accused by federal prosecutors of trying to steal secret research from Case Western Reserve University. The</p>

Cleveland school had been working on a project for the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research to create and produce anti-corrosive stainless steel.

Asgari ultimately was acquitted in November after U.S. District Judge James Gwin tossed the case by prosecutors.

Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy Homeland Security secretary, earlier told The Associated Press that the DHS had started to try to deport Asgari on Dec. 12 after his acquittal. However, he said, Iran refused to recognize him as legitimately Iranian and provide him with a validated passport until late February.

Once Asgari received the passport, DHS made several attempts to fly him back to Iran, purchasing tickets for flights on March 10, March 18, March 23, April 1 and May 1, according to Cuccinelli. Each of those flights was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, he said.

Asgari's supporters told The Guardian newspaper in April he had contracted the coronavirus while imprisoned. He had been held at Louisiana's Winn Correctional Center by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement before his deportation, they said.

Iran's deputy education minister, Hossein Salar Amoli, recently said Asgari had recovered from the virus and would be able to travel, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian officials had associated Asgari's release with U.S. prisoners held in Iran potentially being freed, something Cuccinelli strongly disputed. Iranian officials in recent days had been saying they believed Asgari soon would return to Iran.

Among the U.S. citizens held in Iran is U.S. Navy veteran Michael White, of Imperial Beach, California. White was detained in July 2018 while visiting a girlfriend in Iran. He was convicted of insulting Iran's supreme leader and posting private information online.

He was released from prison in March on a medical furlough that required him to remain in the country in the care of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which represents America's interests in Iran. White is among tens of thousands of prisoners granted medical furloughs by Iran, which was one of the first countries to be hit hard by the spreading coronavirus.

In December, Iran released a Princeton University scholar held for three years on widely disputed espionage charges in exchange for the release of a detained Iranian scientist.

In March, the family of former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran 13 years ago on an unauthorized CIA mission, said they had been informed by U.S. officials that they had determined that Levinson was probably dead. They have not elaborated on how they made that determination.

Westerners and Iranian dual nationals with ties to the West often find themselves tried and convicted in closed-door trials in Iran, only later to be used as bargaining chips in negotiations.

The release comes as the U.S. under President Donald Trump continues a maximum-pressure campaign targeting Iran after unilaterally withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in May 2018. In the time since, the two countries have seen a series of escalating incidents, including the U.S. drone strike killing an Iranian general in Baghdad and an Iranian ballistic missile attack targeting American troops in Iraq.

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