



# Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



WEDNESDAY — 3 JUN 2020

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## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Airline travel doubles during May</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.travelpulse.com/news/airlines/airline-travel-doubles-during-may.html">https://www.travelpulse.com/news/airlines/airline-travel-doubles-during-may.html</a>
GIST	<p>As more and more states begin to open up and drop lockdown restrictions, air travel is starting to see an incremental growth in passengers.</p> <p>Devastated by the coronavirus pandemic – which at one point in April saw a 94 percent drop in travelers compared to last year – the airline industry got a bounce-back in May.</p> <p>The Transportation Security Administration says it screened nearly 949,000 passengers over the final weekend of May, <a href="#">according to CNN</a>. That’s almost double the amount of travelers who passed through U.S. airports during the first weekend of the month, when 476,000 passengers went through security.</p> <p>The enthusiasm over the clear growth is tempered, however, by the stark reality of the effects of the virus. Those 949,000 passengers were counted over three days. The TSA has routinely processed between 2 million and 2.6 million air travelers – per day – during this time of the year. In fact, during the busiest day in May, only 14 percent of travelers flew compared to the equivalent day in 2019.</p> <p>But, CNN reported that airlines are also adding to their schedules and flying more planes. Industry-wide, about 200 fewer aircraft are sitting idle than in mid-May, when the airlines <a href="#">parked more than 3,200 planes</a>. The tracking service FlightAware says it saw a nearly 7seven percent increase in US flights since early May.</p> <p>Southwest Airlines, for example, <a href="#">cut some 100 routes from its winter schedule</a> but said it only did so because its slate was already nearly full.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Snohomish rally rattled; opposing groups</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/protests/unrest-spreads-from-big-cities-to-small-towns/281-ecc1647b-601c-417f-8b14-e6fb1c055720">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/protests/unrest-spreads-from-big-cities-to-small-towns/281-ecc1647b-601c-417f-8b14-e6fb1c055720</a>
GIST	<p>SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. — With well-kept rows of antique shops lining its historic streets, the city of Snohomish is about as far from downtown Seattle as you can get.</p> <p>It has been no stranger, though, to the protests that have descended upon that city.</p> <p>While the demonstrations in Snohomish were almost completely non-violent, there have been other disturbing factors at work in recent days.</p> <p>"I just saw someone get punched and before you know it, I had two, three people choking me," said Julien Crawford.</p> <p>Crawford was born and raised in Snohomish. He was one of the peaceful protesters in the city's downtown strip Monday night when in an instant, things got ugly.</p> <p>Facebook video captured the moment a brawl broke out on a crowded sidewalk when a man appeared to go after one of the protesters, throwing punches.</p>

Crawford got taken down in the fight, as another man tried to break them up.

"They hate me," he says. "I can't even walk peacefully. They hate me. They hate everything I stand for and that hurts."

Tensions have been high in town since demonstrations started over the weekend.

Peaceful protests were countered by armed men and Confederate flags.

Chants of "Black Lives Matter" were met with profanity and shouts of "all lives matter."

Social media posts showed members of racist groups also in the crowd.

Snohomish County courts confirmed one man was arrested for a hate crime after an alleged attack on a mixed-race woman whose arm was injured when she was hit by his car.

The Snohomish County Sheriff said there were credible threats of potential looting, but none of that ever materialized.

Some saw the show of force by heavily armed men as a show of intimidation.

"That changes the whole tone," said community member Sarah Dylan Jensen.

She has lived in this community for a decade and concedes there is an "undercurrent of racism."

She believes it's up to everyone to push back.

"White people can't stay silent anymore. Nobody can stay silent anymore," Sarah says. "The more we can advocate for the people protesting and stand by our neighbors and people of color, the more we change the narrative and the undercurrent."

Crawford says protesters will fight that undercurrent by continuing to make waves in the streets of Snohomish and beyond.

"I am very, very worried. My mom is worried. Everybody's moms are worried. But we're stuck because we don't know what else to do."

On Tuesday night, demonstrators returned to the streets of downtown Snohomish. They were met once again by a loosely-knit group of heavily armed men.

At one point, one of those men, named John Archambeault, addressed demonstrators with an assault-style rifle strapped across his chest. He said, "We support you. We just want you to be safe, we want you to be peaceful. We don't want any vandalism or graffiti."

After his remarks, a protester handed him a Black Lives Matter sign, which Archambeault accepted and said he would place on the side of his truck.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Seattle police: 14,000 complaints filed
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/14000-complaints-filed-against-seattle-police-during-george-floyd-protests">https://komonews.com/news/local/14000-complaints-filed-against-seattle-police-during-george-floyd-protests</a>
GIST	Thousands of complaints have poured into Seattle's Office of Police Accountability over officer conduct during our recent protests.

Video circulating on social media of some the incidents has sparked outrage, especially the images of a little girl in pain after she got pepper spray in her eyes from police.

It happened near Westlake Park Saturday afternoon around 3 p.m. before the violence and looting began.

Evan Hreha was there rolling with his camera at what he described as a peaceful protest.

“There was maybe 50 people in that line facing off against the cops, but it was during a peaceful prayer by the reverend across the street,” said Hreha who lives in Seattle.

The heart wrenching video of the little girl in agony has sparked 11,000 complaints to the Office of Police Accountability.

“A lot of the complaints on social media identified one officer who said did this and named that officer by name, we want it to be abundantly clear based on our review he did not do it,” said Andrew Myerberg who is the Director at the Office Police Accountability for City of Seattle. “We have identified another officer who we believe was involved in the pepper spraying and are going to be actively investigating that officer.”

Another 5,000 complaints have come into OPA about police conduct during the last few days of protests.

Many of the complaints surround 13 different incidents. Some of which were captured on video that’s circling on social media.

“We are going to do our best to be as transparent and communicative as possible with the cases,” Myerberg said.

OPA said they will complete these investigations quickly due to immense public concern and also provide updates on the cases.

Hreha said he wants justice for the girl and so many others.

“We need change,” Hreha said.

If you were a witness or captured pictures or video of the little girl who was pepper sprayed - OPA wants to talk with you.

They have six months to complete all 14,000 investigations, but said they'll be completed much sooner.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Portland largely peaceful; curfew lifted</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://q13fox.com/2020/06/02/portland-remains-largely-peaceful-curfew-lifted/">https://q13fox.com/2020/06/02/portland-remains-largely-peaceful-curfew-lifted/</a>
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland will not impose a curfew on Tuesday night for the first time in four days after several thousand demonstrators remained largely peaceful during a march the night before to protest the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.</p> <p>Mayor Ted Wheeler thanked protesters and organizers who kept an hours-long march and gathering peaceful and said he saw “a community ready for healing and reconciliation.”</p> <p>The protest marked a turning point for Oregon’s largest city after demonstrations the previous three nights spun into violence. Crowds set fires, shattered windows and broke into police headquarters and a corrections center during demonstrations over the killing of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee against his neck.</p>

“I know that if we truly want justice for George Floyd, we have a long way to go. I know that, but last night I saw a community that’s ready for both healing and reconciliation. I saw a progressive and mindful police bureau that deeply cares to to that work,” Wheeler said.

The evening was not without some violence, however.

After the protest disbanded late Monday, about 100 people confronted police officers guarding the downtown Justice Center and threw projectiles at them, Police Chief Jami Resch said.

Twelve people were arrested and two guns were seized from protesters, she said.

On Tuesday evening, thousands of people were peacefully marching and protesting throughout Portland, including at Pioneer Courthouse Square. At about 7:25 p.m. the Burnside Bridge in the city was filled with protesters silently lying down with their hands behind their backs.

During the previous four days of demonstrations in Portland, approximately 100 people were arrested or cited, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill said Tuesday. The district attorney’s office so far has filed charges in 28 of those cases.

Many of the people have been accused of interfering with a police officer, a misdemeanor, according to police statements and court documents, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

A visibly angry Wheeler lashed out at Gov. Kate Brown for what he called her “mischaracterization” of his initial request for National Guard members to assist police. He had requested the Guard in a supportive role, to protect critical buildings, and not for crowd control or to make arrests, he said. Brown had told reporters that Wheeler asked her to deploy the Guard on the streets.

“Mayor Wheeler asked me over the weekend to mobilize the National Guard and put them in direct confrontation with protesters,” Brown said during a Monday news conference.

Wheeler said he called the governor after her remarks Monday and expressed his alarm.

“On an issue as sensitive as this, we have to, as leaders, get the facts straight,” the mayor said Tuesday. ””And the idea that I would ask the (governor) for the National Guard for the purpose of direct confrontation with demonstrators on the very same day that Trump said the military should be deployed into states to crush even peaceful demonstrations is incendiary.”

Brown’s office did not immediately respond to an email or phone call seeking comment.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Protesters rally, march in Olympia</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://q13fox.com/2020/06/02/protesters-mobilize-for-rally-and-march-in-olympia/">https://q13fox.com/2020/06/02/protesters-mobilize-for-rally-and-march-in-olympia/</a>
GIST	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. -- Several hundred people <a href="#">rallied and marched</a> in Washington’s capital city Tuesday night.</p> <p>The rally started at Heritage Park Fountain at 4pm. People brought signs and flowers in memory of George Floyd. Speakers spoke passionately against racism, violence and inequality.</p> <p>The event was organized by the Washington Community Action Network.</p> <p>Organizer Ty Brown said we need legislative action.</p> <p>“I think the change is for lawmakers to actually finally listen to us and help us break down the system of white supremacy that fails us every single day. That's change,” said Brown. “It’s not going to happen</p>

	<p>today. It's not going to happen tomorrow. It's not going to happen with one policy. It's with many policies, with people actually stepping up to the bat and getting off the fence and doing something about it."</p> <p>Troy Tillman came with his wife Jamie and daughter Sedona from Tacoma.</p> <p>"People can come together from different races, different nationalities, different backgrounds and come together as one," said Tillman. "This is what we need to role model I think across the nation."</p> <p>The protest continued on through the night with a march through downtown Olympia with stops at City Hall and the State Capitol.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Huawei hid business links in Iran</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-huawei-iran-probe-exclusive/exclusive-huawei-hid-business-operation-in-iran-after-reuters-reported-links-to-cfo-idUSKBN23A19B">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-huawei-iran-probe-exclusive/exclusive-huawei-hid-business-operation-in-iran-after-reuters-reported-links-to-cfo-idUSKBN23A19B</a>
GIST	<p>LONDON/DUBAI (Reuters) - China's Huawei Technologies acted to cover up its relationship with a firm that had tried to sell prohibited U.S. computer gear to Iran, after Reuters in 2013 reported deep links between the firm and the telecom-equipment giant's chief financial officer, newly obtained internal Huawei documents show.</p> <p>Huawei has long described the firm - Skycom Tech Co Ltd - as a separate local business partner in Iran. Now, documents obtained by Reuters show how the Chinese tech titan effectively controlled Skycom. The documents, reported here for the first time, are part of a trove of internal Huawei and Skycom Iran-related business records - including memos, letters and contractual agreements - that Reuters has reviewed.</p> <p>One document described how Huawei scrambled in early 2013 to try to "separate" itself from Skycom out of concern over trade sanctions on Tehran. To that end, this and other documents show, Huawei took a series of actions - including changing the managers of Skycom, shutting down Skycom's Tehran office and forming another business in Iran to take over tens of millions of dollars worth of Skycom contracts.</p> <p>The revelations in the new documents could buttress a high-profile criminal case being pursued by U.S. authorities against Huawei and its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, who is also the daughter of Huawei's founder. The United States has been trying to get Meng extradited from Canada, where she was arrested in December 2018. A Canadian judge last week allowed the case to continue, rejecting defense arguments that the U.S. charges against Meng do not constitute crimes in Canada.</p> <p>A U.S. indictment alleges that Huawei and Meng participated in a fraudulent scheme to obtain prohibited U.S. goods and technology for Huawei's Iran-based business via Skycom, and move money out of Iran by deceiving a major bank. The indictment alleges that Skycom was an "unofficial subsidiary" of Huawei, not a local partner.</p> <p>Huawei and Meng have denied the criminal charges, which include bank fraud, wire fraud and other allegations. Skycom, which was registered in Hong Kong and was dissolved in 2017, is also a defendant. At one point, Huawei was a shareholder in Skycom but, according to corporate filings, sold its stake more than a decade ago.</p> <p>The newly obtained documents appear to undermine Huawei's claims that Skycom was just a business partner. They offer a behind-the-scenes look at some of what transpired at the two companies inside Iran seven years ago and how intertwined the companies were. The documents are variously written in English, Chinese and Farsi.</p> <p>Huawei declined to comment for this story.</p>

China's foreign ministry said the United States was politicizing economic and trade issues, which is not in the interest of Chinese or American firms. "We urge the United States to immediately stop its unreasonable suppression of Chinese firms including Huawei," it said. It referred specific questions about this story to Huawei.

#### **'NORMAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP'**

Reuters reported in March that Huawei had produced internal company records in 2010, including two packing lists, that showed it was directly involved in sending prohibited U.S. computer equipment to Iran. Huawei declined to comment on that story, citing ongoing legal proceedings.

The newly obtained documents show that Huawei's efforts to obscure its relationship with Skycom began after Reuters reported in December 2012 that Skycom had offered to sell at least 1.3 million euros worth of embargoed Hewlett-Packard computer equipment to Iran's largest mobile-phone operator in late 2010. In January 2013, a second Reuters report described how Huawei had close financial ties and other links to Skycom, including the fact that Meng had served on Skycom's board of directors between February 2008 and April 2009.

In its response at the time to the Reuters reporting, Huawei said Skycom was one of its "major local partners" and that the relationship between Huawei and Skycom was "a normal business partnership."

But a newly obtained Huawei internal document from the Chinese company's Iran office, dated March 28, 2013, indicates Huawei controlled Skycom. The document in Chinese stated: "In consideration of trade compliances, A2 representative office is trying to separate Skycom and Huawei." A2 was Huawei's code for Iran, according to the U.S. indictment.

The document also noted that Huawei had installed one of its own employees to manage Skycom in Iran "to urgently avoid the risks of media hype." Huawei had made an "urgent decision" to appoint Hu Mei as Skycom's general manager in Iran, effective March 10, 2013, the document noted. Hu was a director of Skycom and was also listed as a Huawei employee in an internal Huawei directory.

The document detailed how Huawei quickly recognized a flaw in putting Hu in charge of Skycom. Hu was based at Huawei's headquarters in China, and the job required dealing with business matters on the ground in Iran, the document stated. So, Huawei decided to appoint instead "a Chinese employee based in Iran" to manage Skycom's Tehran office, the document shows.

Huawei decided to name Song Kai, deputy representative of its Iran office, to run Skycom in Iran. He was informed of the decision in an internal Huawei message that was reviewed by Reuters. "Please update your resume," Song was instructed.

The message said that the change had been approved by a man named Lan Yun, who was identified as the "chief representative" of Huawei's Iran office.

Hu, Song and Lan couldn't be reached for comment.

#### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

In response to the Reuters articles of 2012 and 2013, several Western banks questioned Huawei about its relationship with Skycom. They included HSBC Holdings PLC, where both Huawei and Skycom held bank accounts.

HSBC declined to comment for this story.

In August 2013, Meng met with HSBC's deputy head of global banking for the Asia-Pacific region. She is accused in the U.S. indictment of making "numerous misrepresentations regarding Huawei's ownership and control of Skycom."



	<p>Meng gave a PowerPoint presentation during the meeting that said Skycom was merely “a business partner of Huawei.”</p> <p>The newly obtained documents show that Huawei soon became directly involved in shutting Skycom down.</p> <p>In a letter dated Nov. 2, 2013, Song, the Huawei employee appointed to manage Skycom, told a major Iranian client that Skycom “has decided to annul and terminate its business activities and dissolve the branch company in Iran.” Song’s letter was addressed to a vice president of Iran’s largest mobile-phone operator, Mobile Communication Co of Iran, or MCCI.</p> <p>MCCI couldn’t be reached for comment.</p> <p>The next day, Skycom, MCCI and a new Huawei company - Huawei Technologies Service (Iranian) Co Ltd - signed an agreement. It stated that Skycom planned to transfer its contracts to the new Huawei entity. The agreement listed eight contracts worth a total of 44.6 million euros (about \$50 million), with about 34.6 million euros remaining on them. Any money owed to Skycom was to be paid to the Huawei entity upon completion of the contracts.</p> <p>“All the parties promise that this three-way contract remains confidential,” it stated.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Scrutinized: police choke holds</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/b186c4825ef8fdb67ce62b537ac6073d">https://apnews.com/b186c4825ef8fdb67ce62b537ac6073d</a>
GIST	<p>LE PECQ, France (AP) — Three days after <a href="#">George Floyd died</a> with a Minneapolis police officer choking off his air, another black man writhed on the tarmac of a street in Paris as a police officer pressed a knee to his neck during an arrest.</p> <p>Immobilization techniques where officers apply pressure with their knees on prone suspects are used in policing around the world and have long drawn criticism. One reason why Floyd’s death is sparking anger and <a href="#">touching nerves globally</a> is that such techniques have been blamed for asphyxiations and other deaths in police custody beyond American shores, often involving non-white suspects.</p> <p>“We cannot say that the American situation is foreign to us,” said French lawmaker Francois Ruffin, who has pushed for <a href="#">a ban on the police use of face-down holds</a> that are implicated in multiple deaths in France, a parliamentary effort put on hold by the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The <a href="#">muscular arrest on May 28 in Paris</a> of a black man who was momentarily immobilized face-up with an officer’s knee and upper shin pressing down on his jaw, neck and upper chest is among those that have drawn angry comparisons with the killing of Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis.</p> <p>The Paris arrest was filmed by bystanders and widely shared and viewed online. Police said the man was driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and without a license and that he resisted arrest and insulted officers. His case was turned over to prosecutors.</p> <p>In Hong Kong, where police behavior is a hot-button issue after months of anti-government protests, the city’s force says it is investigating the death of a man who was immobilized face-down during his arrest in May by officers <a href="#">who were filmed</a> kneeling on his shoulder, back and neck.</p> <p>Police rules and procedures on chokeholds and restraints vary internationally.</p> <p>In Belgium, police instructor Stany Durieux says he reprimands trainees, docking them points, “every time I see a knee applied to the spinal column.”</p>



“It is also forbidden to lean on a suspect completely, as this can crush his rib cage and suffocate him,” he said.

Condemned by [police and experts in the United States](#), Floyd’s death also drew criticism from officers abroad who disassociated themselves from the behavior of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. He was charged with third-degree murder after he was filmed pushing down with his knee on Floyd’s neck until Floyd stopped crying out that he couldn’t breathe and eventually stopped moving.

In Israel, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said “there is no tactic or protocol that calls to put pressure on the neck or airway.”

In Germany, officers are allowed to briefly exert pressure on the side of a suspect’s head but not on the neck, says Germany’s GdP police union.

In the U.K., the College of Policing says prone suspects should be placed on their side or in a sitting, kneeling or standing position “as soon as practicable.” Guidance on the website of London’s police force [discourages the use of neck restraints](#), saying “any form of pressure to the neck area can be highly dangerous.”

Even within countries, procedures can vary.

The thick Patrol Guide, hundreds of pages long, for the New York Police Department says in bold capitals that officers “SHALL NOT” use chokeholds and should “avoid actions which may result in chest compression, such as sitting, kneeling, or standing on a subject’s chest or back, thereby reducing the subject’s ability to breathe.”

But the so-called “sleeper hold,” where pressure is applied to the neck with an arm, blocking blood flow, was allowed for police in San Diego before [Floyd’s death triggered a shift](#). Police Chief David Nisleit said he would this week order an end to the tactic.

Gendarmes in France are discouraged from pressing down on the chests and vital organs of prone suspects and are no longer taught to apply pressure to the neck, said Col. Laurent De La Follie de Joux, head of training for the force.

“You don’t need to be a doctor to understand that it is dangerous,” he said.

But instructions for the National Police, the other main law and order force in France, appear to give its officers more leeway. Issued in 2015, they say pressure on a prone suspect’s chest “should be as short as possible.”

Christophe Rouget, a police union official who briefed lawmakers for their deliberations in March about the proposal to ban suffocating techniques, said if officers don’t draw pistols or use stun-guns then immobilizing people face-down is the safest option, stopping suspects from kicking out at arresting officers.

“We don’t have 5,000 options,” he said. “These techniques are used by all the police in the world because they represent the least amount of danger. The only thing is that they have to be well used. In the United States, we saw that it wasn’t well used, with pressure applied in the wrong place and for too long.”

He added that the “real problem” in France is that officers don’t get enough follow-up training after being taught restraints in police school.

“You need to repeat them often to do them well,” he said.

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HEADLINE	06/03 Curfew give sweeping powers to police
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/04d288d4ad80b7f443a43f5dc089178d">https://apnews.com/04d288d4ad80b7f443a43f5dc089178d</a>
GIST	<p>COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Hundreds of cities have imposed curfews to keep the peace during a week of violent unrest across the U.S., employing a tactic that gives law enforcement sweeping arrest powers but is frequently flouted and criticized as being unconstitutional.</p> <p>From New York City to Fargo, North Dakota, cities large and small have put curfews in place — in some cases for the first time in decades — sending out emergency notices on phones and highway signs urging people to stay off the streets.</p> <p>But the deadlines aren't hard and fast — many of them have exceptions for people heading to and from work, reporters, public transportation and even people buying groceries. Many protesters and citizens have routinely disregarded the restrictions, and police have allowed peaceful demonstrations to continue after curfew while focusing their attention on violent unrest.</p> <p>In New York City, an 11 p.m. curfew was originally put in place this week for what appeared to be the first time in nearly 80 years. Mayor Bill de Blasio rolled it back to 8 p.m., but thousands of people defied the curfew Tuesday night, continuing to march in parts of Brooklyn and Manhattan. After initially standing by and letting protesters continue, officers began ordering people to leave and some people were taken into custody.</p> <p>On an overall calmer night in New York City, de Blasio said the relative quiet was due partly to the curfew. "So far, the curfew is certainly helping, based on everything I've seen in Brooklyn and Manhattan over the last three hours," de Blasio tweeted.</p> <p>A curfew allows police the ability without any other reason to threaten to arrest or detain crowds of protesters that linger or groups that appear to be a danger to order. And curfews can be a deterrent to get law-abiding citizens off the street and allow police to focus their efforts on the unrest and not get bogged down in run-of-the-mill violations.</p> <p>They have been installed in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Detroit, Denver, Philadelphia and hundreds of other cities and communities across the country.</p> <p>Curfews aren't unusual in the United States but are typically used in natural disasters like hurricanes, floods and tornadoes to allow law enforcement to stop anyone on the streets and prevent stealing when many homes are empty or damaged. New York City has used curfews in specific locations like parks — sometimes with controversial results.</p> <p>The 1988 Tompkins Square Park riot in Manhattan had to do in part with a then-newly imposed 1 a.m. parks department curfew in a bid to rid the park of drugs and crime. In enforcing the curfew, police flooded the park with officers and were accused of rampant abuses.</p> <p>Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani ramped up enforcement of Central Park's nightly closure after a string of robberies in the late 1990s. Giuliani was so strict about the curfew, he wouldn't grant an exception for a late-night vigil to John Lennon, despite intercession from the lord mayor of Liverpool on behalf of aggrieved Beatles fans.</p> <p>During the unrest of the past week, police also want bystanders off the street during unrest — and the curfew solves that.</p> <p>"The curfew really is to keep people from coming sort of to gawk at what's going on and keep the looky-loos away," said Sacramento City Councilman Steve Hansen, whose city's 8 p.m. Monday curfew appeared to help prevent the destructive demonstrations from the night before.</p> <p>The curfews also come on the heels of lockdowns and stay-at-home orders imposed during the coronavirus pandemic, making for an unprecedented stretch in cities like New York.</p>

In Columbia, South Carolina, officials lifted a weekend curfew and the mayor joined an afternoon protest at the state capitol calling for police reform. But several dozen people stayed for hours after the protest ended as tensions with police grew as shadows got longer.

Just before 7:30 p.m. Monday, Columbia, South Carolina, Mayor Steve Benjamin set a curfew for 7:45 p.m. for a small area of downtown and an area of restaurants and shops. The city sent an emergency notice and protesters looked at their screens as their phones started to buzz and the curfew set in. The protesters immediately started to walk away.

But some civil rights organizations think hastily issued curfews are unfair and against the First Amendment of the Constitution.

“By making presence on public streets anywhere in these cities unlawful, these measures give police too much discretion over whom to arrest,” said the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California after a number of cities issued curfews.

New York City on Monday found out an unintended consequence of a curfew is keeping away law-abiding protesters. The night before, they banded together to stop vandalism and help police find lawbreakers.

It also sends a subtle message, said New York City Council member Ydanis Rodriguez.

“Implementing a curfew and increasing the number of police officers patrolling the streets is a tactic to effectively silence the voices raised in protest against the abuse of power and looting of black and colored bodies by members of the police,” Rodriguez said.

Curfews can cause other problems too. Charleston, South Carolina, had a curfew for three days after late night Saturday protests led to shattered windows for restaurants and businesses and stolen merchandise downtown.

Monday night was quiet. And Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg said he immediately heard from a certain group of people.

“We want to give our businesses a chance to get back into business,” Tecklenburg told his City Council at a Tuesday meeting lifting the curfew.

A curfew also allows police to separate people who want to protest while following the law from people who want to cause harm, said Tamara Herold, an assistant professor in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. That makes it easier for law enforcement to decide how to use force to break up unrest.

“One of the things police always want to avoid is using indiscriminate force against a large crowd,” Herold said.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Seattle mayor extends curfew thru June 6
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/george-floyd-protests-06-03-20/h_819c77715223e1738a489bc005087904">https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/george-floyd-protests-06-03-20/h_819c77715223e1738a489bc005087904</a>
GIST	Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan signed a civil emergency order on Tuesday extending the evening curfew through June 6, according to a copy of the order obtained by CNN.

	<p>The curfew extends every night from 9 p.m. local time until 5 a.m. the next morning. In the order, Durkan cited violence and looting as factors prompting the curfew, as well as the dangers of Covid-19 infection that are still present.</p> <p>The curfew does not apply to law enforcement, emergency personnel, city and government officials, members of the news media authorized in advance, and workers engaged in essential functions like medical care, according to the order.</p> <p>Those who violate the curfew could face imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$500.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Minneapolis protests years in the making</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://time.com/5846248/minneapolis-george-floyd-police-activists/">https://time.com/5846248/minneapolis-george-floyd-police-activists/</a>
GIST	<p>Longtime activist Sandra Richardson was on a walk with her husband last Monday evening through the Minneapolis neighborhood where she grew up. What she didn't realize until the next morning was that during her walk, just blocks away, a black man named George Floyd was dying as a police officer knelt on his neck and onlookers pleaded with the officer to get off him.</p> <p>Richardson later watched the video in horror, like millions of others since, as Floyd had his life taken away from him by an officer with a "very nonchalant attitude" not far from her home. She wasn't surprised when the <a href="#">city erupted in mass protest</a> soon after. "If you talk to enough people in Minneapolis, it wasn't <i>if</i> this was going to happen. It was <i>when</i>," Richardson, who has worked against inequality in the city for years with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, an anti-racist community organization, says. "You can only demean people so much until they respond."</p> <p>For activists like Richardson, it's no surprise to find Minneapolis at the center of the national uprising underway. The city, they say, has a long record of police brutality that is symptomatic of broader racial injustice issues that go back generations. For years, Minneapolis' large network of activists and organizers have been fighting for reforms to help close the poverty gap for the black community, and demanding the city stop increasing the budget of the police department, which they say targets members of their communities. They've held press conferences. They've gone to city council meetings. They've lobbied the state legislature. And they've cautioned what could happen if officials don't tackle the twin crises of economic disparity and what they say is an overly aggressive police force.</p> <p>"The reality is that our city and Minneapolis and elected officials were warned several years ago that this was likely to happen if they did not rein in the Minneapolis police department and also address the economic inequality that African-Americans here face," says Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights attorney and founder of the Racial Justice Network. "They failed to take action and so this is really the outcome of that."</p> <p>When the Black Lives Matter movement took hold nationally after Eric Garner and Michael Brown died at the hands of police in 2014, solidarity protests also broke out in Minnesota. Demonstrators occupied the Mall of America, <a href="#">a major regional attraction</a>, and shut down <a href="#">major highways</a>. The next year, protests erupted again after <a href="#">police shot and killed</a> Jamar Clark, an unarmed black man, in North Minneapolis, and in 2016, after a police officer shot and killed Philando Castile, whose girlfriend live streamed part of the incident in a Minneapolis suburb. In both cases, there was no police conviction.</p> <p>The men's deaths led to a groundswell of local organizing. Protesters held an <a href="#">18-day encampment</a> in Minneapolis's Fourth Police Precinct for Clark and a <a href="#">weeks-long occupation</a> of the governor's mansion for Castile. Local groups and projects sprouted up, like the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar and MPD150, a loose collection of local activists that support dismantling the police force and who created a people's history of the Minneapolis Police Department that coincided with its 150th anniversary. "We've been doing anti-police brutality organizing in Minneapolis pretty much straight since Jamar Clark's killing in 2015," says Tony Williams, an MPD150 contributor and member of Reclaim the Block, a group that</p>

focuses on policy organizing. “That was the point at which we realized that this place could be a flashpoint in the same way as anywhere else.”

Since Floyd’s death, Minneapolis’ activist network has swung into action again, organizing demonstrations, providing training and collecting and distributing supplies. Many of the organizers, like Richardson, live in the neighborhood where Floyd was killed. But as the city nears a full week of consecutive protest, something about this moment feels different, activists say. Several point to the city’s Third Precinct burning [last week](#) as the moment they realized that they were in uncharted territory. In addition to the horrors of police brutality, there are bigger national issues at play, like a President with a penchant for making racist and threatening remarks and a [pandemic disproportionately affecting black communities](#), that have exacerbated the situation.

“People are already trapped in poverty. You combine COVID-19 with something like this and people are going to react,” says Marjaan Sirdar, a local activist on police violence who has collaborated with Reclaim the Block and other organizations in the city. “They don’t have anything to lose.”

### **‘The perfect storm’**

Minnesota is often touted as one of the best places to live in the U.S., cloaked with a reputation of ‘Midwest Nice’. But the state has one of the largest poverty gaps between white and black residents in the country, according [to research by the Star Tribune newspaper](#), a disparity that was recently compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. [The Minnesota Department of Health](#) has reported 24,850 confirmed positive cases as of May 31. Though black or African American residents make up just under 7% of [Minnesota’s population](#), the number of cases affecting reporting black patients was 5,569, or at least 22% of the total cases. Like other states, Minnesota has also been hit hard by job losses during the pandemic.

“It was almost like the perfect storm, because here we are in the middle of this COVID crisis which is facilitating this economic crisis, this unemployment crisis, but in some sense people of color have always been in a crisis,” says Taiyon Coleman, an associate professor at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN, who has studied inequality in the area. “It all just came together and (Floyd’s) death, which I don’t want to devalue, was that spark that lit everything up.”

Though some of the groups that originally led much of the 2014 protests against police brutality, like the Black Liberation Project and Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, have since been disbanded, they’ve been replaced by others, such as Black Visions Collective, and many individual activists who were part of the first wave have been consistently involved.

“There is a lot of overlap of black organizers who have been responding to the violence and trauma of the Minneapolis Police Department for years and decades, continuing to come together in this moment,” says Kandace Montgomery, an organizer with Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective. “I think what is really amazing is the ways that our community has built infrastructure in the last few years, to be able to be more coordinated and to bring in new folks, younger people to be able to really effectively organize.”

While they work in tandem on fighting police brutality in the state, the groups have different goals and tactics. Racial Justice Network, for instance, places emphasis on challenging leadership. A couple of months ago, when Democratic Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar was running for President, Racial Justice Network was part of organizing a protest that led to [shutting down a campaign event](#) over Klobuchar’s criminal justice record. The Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar supports families of victims of police violence and focuses on accountability. Communities United Against Police Brutality focuses on a consistent response by local volunteers to police brutality in the twin cities. Minneapolis NAACP, the local chapter of the national civil rights organization, regularly partners with these groups, and though Black Lives Matter Minneapolis is defunct, other chapters, like Black Lives Twin Cities and Black Lives Matter Minnesota, are still active.

Other groups working in the city believe that reducing the police department budget – or getting rid of it all together – is the only way to protect members of the community. Reclaim the Block advocates for a

significant amount of the municipal funds going to the police to be redirected to community-led initiatives, as does Black Visions Collective. MPD150 touts a police-free Minneapolis.

Since Floyd's death, some groups have been calling on the city council to sign a petition that states they won't increase police funding and to make a \$45 million cut from the police budget to invest in the community. Last December, the department budget was [increased](#) by \$8.2 million. "We want to see (the city council) never increase the police budget again," says Miski Noor, an activist and member of Black Visions Collective. "Our city can be safe. We can build this city up if we invest in our community and in community-led infrastructure instead of racist policing."

The more immediate issue that goes hand in hand with defunding the police is increasing the accountability of police officers when they kill unarmed black men and women. Nationally, according to the [Mapping Gun Violence](#) database, 99% of all police officers involved in killings between 2013 and 2019 did not face charges. The same data revealed that black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than a white person. In 2019, black people made up 24% of those killed by police, while making up just 13% of the population.

"Unless you change the accountability of the police department then nothing is going to happen," said William Green, a history professor at Augsburg University in Minneapolis who has studied the history of race and civil rights in the city. "I hope that policymakers can man up or woman up and make those hard decisions to commit themselves to sustained efforts to change."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Extremists weigh in on nationwide protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20200602-extremists-weigh-in-on-nationwide-protests">http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20200602-extremists-weigh-in-on-nationwide-protests</a>
GIST	<p>American cities are reeling after another night of clashes between protesters and law enforcement. Since Thursday, daily, peaceful demonstrations against police brutality, spurred in part by the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, have descended into overnight eruptions of violence and destruction.</p> <p>In some cases, peaceful protests have been met with excessive police force. There have also been widespread incidents of violence and property destruction. And while some of this chaos may be an expression of protesters' despair and anger against America's long history of racism and inequality, it is important to note that antiracists are not the only – or even primary – cause of these incidents.</p> <p>While the majority of protests around the country have been peaceful and focused on opposing police brutality and systemic racism, some individuals and groups, including a scattering of extremists, are taking full advantage of a national crisis to advance their own violent agendas.</p> <p>Not everyone who is committing violence, it should be noted, is an extremist or connected to a formal group or organization, and not every extremist participating in protests or acts of violence is immediately identifiable.</p> <p>ADL's Center on Extremism has been closely monitoring the protests nationwide, and it is the Center's initial assessment that while a number of extremists – including anti-government agitators, anarchists and a handful of white supremacists – are taking an active role, these protests should not be categorized as "extremist" events at this point.</p> <p>Claims that extremists are taking the lead in these demonstrations diminish the message protesters are trying to convey. It is, of course, easier to believe that white supremacists or anarchists are leading the charge than it is to accept that Americans are so angry, so fundamentally outraged at the state of their country, that they are willing to take to the streets, push back against a militarized police force, risking serious injury or arrest.</p>



The Center has laid out (below) a representative sampling of what the Center knows about each extremist group believed to be participating in or commenting on these clashes. It is important to note that the Center is not drawing comparisons between groups; anarchists and white supremacists have very different stated missions, and the Center does not equate the two in this analysis.

In this time of national unrest, it has never been more important to understand the extremist landscape in America.

### **White Supremacists**

A handful of white supremacists have shown up at Black Lives Matter rallies around the country.

At least one member of small neo-Nazi Nationalist Social Club (aka 131 Crew) distributed the group's stickers around Boston during unrest there over the weekend. Meanwhile, members of the group's Tennessee chapter hung a sign that read "JOGGER" on the Alex Haley statue in Knoxville, Tennessee, "amid BLM riots nearby," according to their Telegram channel. The word "jogger" is a newly coined, derogatory white supremacist term for a Black man, and references Ahmaud Arbery, who was murdered while jogging in his Georgia neighborhood.

On 29 May, in Denver, Colorado, an apparent neo-Nazi was photographed giving a [Hitler Salute](#), and allegedly shouted "Heil Hitler" from a vehicle after threatening peaceful protesters near the 16th Street Mall.

Some white supremacists are using violent images and videos as recruitment tools. 131 Crew members posted a video of a white person being assaulted in Dallas, Texas, purportedly during the protests, accompanied by the words, "This could be you – join a local crew #131."

White supremacist Nick Fuentes, who runs the American First podcast, chanted "Groyper" during an ABC news video report of protests in Tampa, Florida. The so-called "[Groyper army](#)" is a white supremacist group that presents its ideology as more nuanced than other groups in the white supremacist sphere.

Online, white supremacists are reacting to the ongoing chaos with a mixture of glee and anger. What follows is a small sampling of what we've observed online.

Some, especially those in the [accelerationist](#) camp, are celebrating the prospect of increased violence, which they hope will lead to a long-promised "race war." They are extremely active online, urging other white supremacists to take full advantage of the moment:

This accelerationist [Telegram](#) channel suggests murdering protesters, then spreading rumors that law enforcement snipers are doing the killing: "It's Friday and if you live in the west it's even still early. Consider crimemaxing [sic] tonight if you have nothing to do. I'm far from Minneapolis but the first thing I want to do when I see footage of those areas is sit far back with a suppressed subsonic round and drop some joggers while also using social media to spread rumors of police snipers taking out specific rioters...."

Others want to further exacerbate racial tensions. "Good time to stroke race relations" and "post black live's don't matter stickers," a user posted to Reformthestates' Telegram channel.

Meanwhile, a poster on [Vorherrschaft Division's](#) Telegram channel referenced [Siege, a white supremacist term for race war](#): "The time to get started is now white man. Prepare yourself for what is to come. When the black militias come to your door and start knocking you'd best be prepared to deal with it. Siege is coming, it's right around the corner."



A user on ThirdPosition's Telegram channel appears to be reveling in the chaos: "The chimps are doing our work for us. When the ashes settle [we will be there to rebuild the world in our favor](#). Hail Final Victory!"

Other white supremacists are angry that white people are being blamed for violence and property destruction: "...No matter what we do, they will scapegoat us regardless. Why should we sit idly by if it's going to happen anyway?"

One Telegram user offers this advice to fellow white supremacists:

Survive Now!

N\*\*\*\* are demonic, soulless creatures.

Be safe out there wherever you are, city channel members.

Be careful, and most of all STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. Don't end up in Zionist lockup with these animal chimps

### **"Boogaloo" and Militia Groups**

Right-wing anti-government extremists have also reacted to the protests and violence following the killing of George Floyd. In particular, strong reactions have come from adherents of the embryonic "boogaloo" movement and from extremists associated with the militia movement.

Boogaloo and militia reactions have generally been quite different in nature, though neither faction is unanimous in its opinions. Boogalooers in particular have embraced and supported the protests, with many even participating in them, especially the protests of 30 May.

"Boogaloo" is a [slang term for a future civil war](#); boogalooers (or "boogaloo bois, as they are sometimes called) variously anticipate, prepare for, or embrace such a violent struggle. Some white supremacists have also adopted the boogaloo concept, but most boogalooers are not white supremacist. Rather, their orientation is anti-government and vehemently anti-police, a fact that has largely shaped their reactions to the protests against George Floyd's killing.

Many boogalooers have seen the protests as an opportunity to further their anti-police crusade and make common cause with others angry at police. One boogalooer on Instagram explained, "Even if some of the demonstrators don't support our movement, they will learn in time our intention is pure and...we are all in the same sinking boat."

In sharp contrast to the boogalooers, members of the militia movement and allied groups (including the [III%ers](#) and [Oath Keepers](#)) have expressed very little empathy with the protesters. Their reaction has been far more hostile, in part because the militia movement views the protests as organized by the extreme left for nefarious purposes, but also because (unlike the boogalooers), the militia movement strongly supports President Trump.

Rather than making common cause with protesters, the militia movement has issued calls against them. "These organized protests are not about any issue other than promoting hate by socialists," claimed a West Virginia participant in the My Militia forums. "These are hired domestic terrorists bought and paid for by the socialist conglomerates in America."

Boogalooers and militia groups' on the ground activity in cities nationwide underscores their divergent positions on the protests.

On 30 May, people wearing shirts bearing the logo for the [III% movement](#) were photographed standing outside the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh, North Carolina.

On 30 May, self-described "[Boogaloo Boy](#)" Paul Miller posted an Instagram video of himself "reporting" from the protests in Brooklyn, New York. During the video Miller wore an igloo facemask, a reference to the "Big Igloo," one of the phrases Boogaloo adherents use.

<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	<p>Boogaloos were also photographed joining protests in Norfolk, Virginia and Dallas, Texas.</p> <p>In Richmond, Virginia, a small, armed group of individuals dressed in <a href="#">militia</a>-style garb joined protesters on 30 May. One member of the group told protesters, “We are here to help you guys. We need to come together as one.”</p> <p><b>Anarchists</b></p> <p>Some anarchists are opportunists and view societal unrest as a chance to destroy a “corrupt” system. They are less attached to any particular cause (antiracism, etc.) than they are to the fundamental dismantling of the state.</p> <p>Brooklyn anarchist group The Base (not to be confused with the white supremacist group) tweeted its endorsement of continued “rebellion,” and threatened action against both “peace policing” and “liberal counterinsurgency” efforts.</p> <p>There are also reports that antifa (anti-fascists) have shown up at the protests. Focused on social justice issues, <a href="#">antifa are a loose collection</a> of groups, networks and individuals who believe in active, sometimes aggressive opposition to far right-wing movements. They have been especially active since the 2016 presidential election.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Revising Washington’s opening phases</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/life/which-phase-is-your-county-in-and-what-can-you-do-under-the-modified-phase-1-of-washingtons-reopening/">https://www.seattletimes.com/life/which-phase-is-your-county-in-and-what-can-you-do-under-the-modified-phase-1-of-washingtons-reopening/</a>
GIST	<p>Slowly but surely, Gov. Jay Inslee’s <a href="#">four-phase plan</a> to reopen Washington has taken effect throughout the state. Inslee <a href="#">unveiled</a> his plan May 1, and as of Monday, about two-thirds of the state’s counties have advanced to Phase 2.</p> <p>However, on <a href="#">May 29</a>, Inslee introduced “Safe Start” — a plan to continue the phased reopening of the state after the stay-home order expired Sunday. In this new approach, each county can apply to the secretary of Health for advancement through the different phases on a case-by-case basis. Inslee’s office also introduced a “modified Phase 1” that allows counties not yet qualified for Phase 2 to ease restrictions on some business activities throughout. The secretary of Health can modify the plan to address the needs of different counties.</p> <p>Counties now can also apply to enter what Inslee’s office is terming a modified Phase 1, which would allow limited openings for a number of sectors. Under the modified Phase 1 plan, counties can participate in select Phase 2 activities like recreation and fitness, gatherings and dining with specific modifications to the health and safety requirements. For instance, a county in modified Phase 1 can open outdoor dining at restaurants, but only at 50% of existing outdoor capacity. For those itching for a haircut, counties in Phase 1 can resume personal services as long as occupancy is kept at 25%. Find more details <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>King County is in the <a href="#">process of applying</a> for modified Phase 1.</p> <p>As your county moves through the various phases, <a href="#">here’s</a> a breakdown of some of the services and activities Washington residents can expect to participate in, some of the rules various industries have to abide by to reopen and an estimate of when you might realistically be able to do these things according to <a href="#">the state’s four-phase plan</a>. Note that the answers depend on the phase your <a href="#">county</a> is in, and dates are subject to change.</p> <p><b>Counties cleared for Phase 2 as of Monday:</b>  <i>Adams, Asotin, Clallum, Columbia, Cowlitz, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Klickitat, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Pacific, Pend Orielle, San Juan, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman.</i></p>

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to stay home</li> </ul> <b>OUTDOOR RECREATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking</li> </ul> <b>GATHERINGS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> <li>Drive-in spiritual service (one household per vehicle)</li> </ul> <b>TRAVEL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential travel</li> <li>Limited nonessential</li> </ul> <b>OPEN BUSINESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential businesses</li> <li>Existing construction may resume</li> <li>Landscaping</li> <li>Auto, RV, boat sales</li> <li>Retail (curbside pick-up orders only)</li> <li>Car washes</li> <li>Pet walkers</li> </ul>	<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to stay home</li> </ul> <b>OUTDOOR RECREATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.)</li> </ul> <b>GATHERINGS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With no more than 5 people outside your household per week</li> </ul> <b>TRAVEL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential travel</li> <li>Limited nonessential</li> </ul> <b>OPEN BUSINESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Additional construction phases</li> <li>In-home domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.)</li> <li>Retail (in-store with restrictions)</li> <li>Real estate</li> <li>Professional services/office-based (telework strongly encouraged)</li> <li>Hair and nail salons/barbers</li> <li>Pet grooming</li> <li>Restaurants at less than 50% capacity, party size max of 5</li> </ul>	<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to stay home</li> </ul> <b>OUTDOOR RECREATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group sports (5-50 people)</li> <li>Recreational facilities at less than 50% capacity (gyms, pools, etc.)</li> <li>Spectating professional sports (horseracing, baseball, etc.)</li> </ul> <b>GATHERINGS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With no more than 50 people</li> </ul> <b>TRAVEL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume nonessential travel</li> </ul> <b>OPEN BUSINESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restaurants/taverns at less than 75% capacity, party max of 10</li> <li>Bar areas inside restaurant/taverns at less than 25% capacity</li> <li>Movie theaters at less than 50% capacity</li> <li>Customer-facing government services (telework strongly encouraged)</li> <li>Libraries</li> <li>Museums</li> <li>All businesses except nightclubs or events larger than 50 people</li> </ul>	<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public interactions, with social distancing</li> </ul> <b>OUTDOOR RECREATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open</li> </ul> <b>GATHERINGS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gatherings with over 50 people</li> </ul> <b>TRAVEL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open</li> </ul> <b>OPEN BUSINESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nightclubs</li> <li>Concert venues</li> <li>Large sporting events</li> <li>Unrestricted staffing of worksites, with social distancing and good hygiene</li> </ul>

Source: Office of the Governor

THE SEATTLE TIMES

## Revising Washington state's opening phases

As part of his latest directive guiding a statewide reopening amid the new coronavirus, Gov. Jay Inslee announced new criteria for counties to advance to the second phase of his four-part plan. Officials in Pierce and Snohomish counties have said they will apply to move to the second phase. King County meanwhile intends to move forward with more limited reopenings.

### Completed statewide

PHASE 1
<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to stay home</li> </ul> <b>OUTDOOR RECREATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking</li> </ul> <b>GATHERINGS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> <li>Drive-in spiritual service (one household per vehicle)</li> </ul> <b>TRAVEL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential travel</li> <li>Limited nonessential</li> </ul> <b>OPEN BUSINESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential businesses</li> <li>Existing construction may resume</li> <li>Landscaping</li> <li>Auto, RV, boat sales</li> <li>Retail (curbside pick-up orders only)</li> <li>Car washes</li> <li>Pet walkers</li> </ul>

### The criteria counties must meet to enter Phases 2

<b>COVID-19 ACTIVITY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infection rate below 25 new cases per 100,000 residents over 14 days.</li> <li>Flat or decreasing trend in hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases.</li> </ul> <b>HEALTH CARE SYSTEM READINESS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 80% licensed beds occupied by patients.</li> <li>Less than 10% licensed beds occupied by suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.</li> </ul> <b>TESTING:</b> <p>Average number of tests per day in past week must be 50 times the number of cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 2 days from symptom onset to specimen collection.</li> </ul> <b>CONTACT TRACING:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of cases reached by phone or in person within 24 hours of receipt of positive lab test report.</li> <li>80% of contacts reached by phone or in person within 48 hours of positive lab test report on case.</li> </ul> <b>PROTECT THE VULNERABLE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of outbreaks reported by week</li> </ul> <p>0: Small counties (Populations under 75,000)  1: Medium counties (Populations 75,000 to 300,000)  2: Large counties (Populations over 300,000)  3: Very large counties (Populations over 1 million)</p>
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### 26 counties already at Phase 2

PHASE 2
<b>HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to stay home</li> </ul> <b>OUTDOOR RECREATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.)</li> </ul> <b>GATHERINGS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With no more than 5 people outside your household per week</li> </ul> <b>TRAVEL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential travel</li> <li>Limited nonessential</li> </ul> <b>OPEN BUSINESSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Additional construction phases</li> <li>In-home domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.)</li> <li>Retail (in-store with restrictions)</li> <li>Real estate</li> <li>Professional services/office-based (telework strongly encouraged)</li> <li>Hair and nail salons/barbers</li> <li>Pet grooming</li> <li>Restaurants at less than 50% capacity, party size max of 5</li> </ul>

Source: Office of the Governor

THE SEATTLE TIMES

HEADLINE	06/02 DOH: 22,157 cases, 1129 deaths
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243217071.html">https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243217071.html</a>

GIST	<p>The Washington State Department of Health on Tuesday <a href="#">reported 180 new confirmed cases of COVID-19</a> and five deaths.</p> <p>Statewide totals are now at 22,157 cases and 1,129 deaths, up from 21,977 cases and 1,124 deaths on Monday.</p> <p>King County continues to have the highest numbers in Washington, with 8,177 cases and 570 deaths. Snohomish County has 2,987 cases and 562 deaths, while Yakima County has 3,817 cases and 316 deaths. <a href="#">Pierce County reported on Tuesday</a> a total of 1,967 cases and 75 deaths.</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> <p>There are 27 cases that haven't been assigned a county.</p> <p>Twenty-eight people with confirmed COVID-19 cases were admitted to Washington state hospitals on May 25, 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 3,543 on Tuesday.</p> <p>Washington state has conducted 368,799 tests, with 6% 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>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Residential eviction moratorium to Aug 1</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243218096.html">https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243218096.html</a>
GIST	<p>Gov. Jay Inslee on Tuesday extended the moratorium on residential evictions for nonpayment of rent through Aug. 1 and made several changes to it that will affect tenants and landlords.</p> <p>They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing eviction based on property damage, "except for damage that is not urgent in nature, including conditions that were known or knowable to the landlord prior to the COVID-19 crisis."</li> <li>• Prohibiting retaliation against any tenant who invokes rights or protections under the proclamation.</li> <li>• Allowing owners to evict tenants if the owner plans to occupy or sell the property, after providing at least 60 days' notice; and</li> <li>• Establishing a defense to any lawsuit for tenants if a landlord fails to offer a reasonable repayment plan.</li> </ul> <p>Inslee initially put the eviction moratorium into place on March 18. On April 16, he renewed the moratorium through Thursday and expanded it.</p> <p>The proclamation that the governor signed Tuesday continues the prohibition on landlords assessing late fees or other charges.</p> <p>Also, landlords still are prohibited from increasing rents or deposits for residential tenants, as well as for commercial properties as long as those tenants have been impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>The latest version of the moratorium, however, exempts commercial property rent increases that were executed in a rental agreement before the governor declared the state of emergency on Feb. 29.</p>



Jim Baumgart, a senior policy adviser to Inslee, said Aug. 1 was chosen for the end of the extension because the moratorium will stretch over two more rental periods, providing a “sense of predictability.”

Baumgart said the governor’s office is preparing for a “transitional period” through the proclamation signed Tuesday.

“There are still longstanding issues that we’re going to have to deal with, like back rent. Those types of things are not going to be quickly or easily resolved for either landlord or tenant,” he said.

Baumgart said an estimated 10 percent of Washington’s 1.2 million renters have been unable to pay because of the damage that the COVID-19 epidemic has done to the state’s economy.

Brett Waller is director of government affairs for the Washington Multi-Family Housing Association, which is the state’s chapter of the National Apartment Association.

In an interview, Waller said the multi-family housing association did not see a need for the moratorium extension.

“We’ve seen rent payments consistent with what we would call normal months. Landlords and tenants are working together. We have payment plans for those who can’t make the rent,” he said.

According to the National Multifamily Housing Council, 93.3 percent of apartment households nationwide made a full or partial rent payment by May 27.

Waller said his group has surveyed its members that have about 250,000 apartment units and have found similar results. He cited enhanced unemployment benefits and federal stimulus funds for avoiding a sharp reduction in those making full or partial rent payments.

“There’s definitely some concern come July when those enhanced [unemployment] benefits expire. We’re working at the federal and state level to find opportunities to assist renters,” he said.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Seattle mayor, PD chief vow tactics review</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Mostly-peaceful-Seattle-protests-turn-violent-at-15310839.php">https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Mostly-peaceful-Seattle-protests-turn-violent-at-15310839.php</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle’s mayor and police chief promised a large crowd of protesters Tuesday to review the department’s use of pepper spray and flash-bang grenades to break up a crowd of peaceful protesters the night before, encouraging them to keep marching as long as they do not do damage.</p> <p>“Your voices holding me accountable are important and you should continue to raise them,” Mayor Jenny Durkan told those assembled outside the city’s Emergency Operations Center downtown. “We want you to march. ... We want you to continue on the path of justice. But we need you please to do it peacefully.”</p> <p>Earlier in the day Seattle’s police watchdog agency said it would investigate the use of pepper spray Monday night to break up a fourth consecutive day of large protests over the George Floyd killing.</p> <p>The department insisted that demonstrators threw fireworks and tried to storm a barricade near a police station. Police Chief Carmen Best said one officer was struck in the face with a chunk of concrete.</p> <p>But video posted on Reddit and Facebook showed that in the moments before the chaos began, an officer grabbed a pink umbrella that a demonstrator was holding just across a barricade as a shield against a</p>

potential application of pepper spray. Other officers nearby then began spraying chemicals and firing flash-bangs at the crowd.

“It was a beautiful, beautiful march for hours,” the mayor said. “We know the end was not how it was meant to be, and the chief and I have talked about it. We’re going to look at it.”

Durkan also promised to address underlying issues of injustice and discontent with the crowd. When one protester asked her when, she asked what the group was doing Wednesday.

Best expressed support for the protesters, saying, “As a black woman, I feel the same things you feel. Just because I wear the uniform doesn’t change that.”

During a subsequent news conference, Durkan emphasized that change is needed to remedy a deep history of discrimination that has marred the U.S. since its founding. She also spoke to Seattle’s efforts to reform its police departments; in her prior position as U.S. attorney, she led the Justice Department in forcing the city into a consent decree to change training and accountability practices after questionable uses of force.

She stressed that police uses of force must be rare, necessary and proportional, and she said she had concerns about police tactics used Monday night.

Large crowds remained peaceful Tuesday evening in front of a barricade erected by police who stood silently on the other side in the city’s Capitol Hill neighborhood. Demonstrators shouted “Who do you serve,” and “No more gas,” referring to tear gas used by officers during previous protests.

Seattle’s Office of Police Accountability said Monday it has received about 12,000 complaints over the Seattle Police Department’s handling of the demonstrations, break-ins and theft. There were reports that a young girl was tear-gassed, officers placed their knees on the necks of two people who were being arrested, and protesters twice grabbed unattended rifles out of police cars before being disarmed by a television news crew’s security guard. Many of the incidents were captured on video.

On Tuesday, the agency said it was adding Monday night’s use of pepper spray to disperse the crowd to the long list of events it’s investigating. The agency, which is led by a civilian director and supervisors, uses civilian investigators as well as Seattle police sergeants to conduct its work, then presents its findings and recommendations to the chief.

The city’s Office of the Inspector General will also conduct a review, Durkan said.

“I am extremely concerned that the crowd management tactics that I have seen being used by the Seattle Police Department are just out of proportion,” Seattle City Council President Lorena González said in an interview.

Demonstrators in Washington and around the country have been protesting the killing of Floyd, a black man who died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

The police department declared the protests a riot about 9 p.m., saying the decision was made “after a crowd threw rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers and attempted to breach barricades one block from the East Precinct.”

That explanation drew criticism from protesters and some city leaders. City Council Member Teresa Mosqueda tweeted a link to overhead video taken by a witness and posted on Reddit, which did not show projectiles from the crowd or attempts to breach the barricade in the moments before the chaos began.

“THIS IS NOT A RIOT,” Mosqueda tweeted.

	<p>González said the police and fire chiefs were due to discuss the demonstration response at a council meeting on Wednesday.</p> <p>“We want to be able to get a better understanding of what the response was and has been,” she said. “My hope is that we'll be able to correct course in a way that doesn't eviscerate the trust we have spent so many years trying to rebuild with communities of color in our city.”</p> <p>Best said a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will remain in effect through Saturday. She said police do not intend to enforce it in a heavy-handed manner but want to be able to use it to keep the peace if necessary, given the looting and violence that occurred during last weekend's protests.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Seattle mayor to meet protest organizers</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/durkan-promises-to-meet-with-seattle-protest-organizers-the-plan-has-to-come-from-communty-voices/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/durkan-promises-to-meet-with-seattle-protest-organizers-the-plan-has-to-come-from-communty-voices/</a>
GIST	<p>After four consecutive days of protests in Seattle, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan promised a crowd of thousands of demonstrators Tuesday afternoon that she would meet with their organizers the following day to start creating a plan for addressing police accountability and racial justice.</p> <p>The impromptu meeting was a key moment after days of tension, and the first indication of a tangible step, beyond voicing sympathy, that Durkan and her administration were willing to take to address protesters' calls for action. Still, there were limits to what she agreed to.</p> <p>When asked if she could promise that there would be “no gas” from police as protesters continued their marches for a fifth night, Durkan demurred, saying she wasn't going to “make a promise I can't keep.”</p> <p>The city indicated it doesn't expect the protests over the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by a white police officer in Minnesota, to subside soon: Officials announced Tuesday that Seattle's overnight curfew would continue through Saturday morning, between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. each night. Thousands were back out on the streets, marching in downtown and in Capitol Hill at Cal Anderson Park.</p> <p>Tuesday's protests were peaceful until a little before midnight. At around 11:45 p.m., after the crowd had dwindled, police used tear gas and flash-bang devices against protesters at 11th Avenue and Pine Street near the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct. As police advanced down Pine, people could be seen nearby coughing, spitting and running away. At about 12:15 am, officers issued a three-minute dispersal order and continued to deploy flash-bang grenades.</p> <p>Hours earlier, Durkan addressed the crowd from the steps of the city's Emergency Operations Center at Fifth Avenue South and South Washington Street. David Lewis, an organizer who has helped lead protests for the past several days, asked Durkan what her immediate steps were to develop a proposal for “significant and immediate police reform.”</p> <p>“The chief and I and others will work on a plan, but the plan has to come from community voices,” Durkan said to the group.</p> <p>She added that the first step is to set up a process that brings individual leaders out to discuss specific and concrete objectives.</p> <p>“That is going to be a process of honesty and healing, it will bring out anger and disillusionment, there will be disagreement and agreement ... It will only be successful if we can find some mutual love and common humanity,” she said. “I know that has to be earned. That kind of trust isn't here today, or you wouldn't be in the streets marching.”</p> <p>Lewis said that while he appreciated her words, he and others wanted to see a timeline.</p>



“What are you doing tomorrow?” Durkan responded, offering to meet outside the city’s Office of Emergency Management at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best, who joined Durkan, told the crowd that she’s listening to their voices.

“I stand with you,” Best said. “I really stand with you. I understand the hurt and the anger that everyone feels, especially after the death of George Floyd ... As a Black woman, I feel the same pain you feel and just because I wear the uniform, that doesn’t change that.”

Durkan also addressed the black mourning stripe that covers police officers’ badge numbers, which sparked controversy over the weekend among protesters calling for more law enforcement accountability.

“The reason officers do that is to recognize fallen officers,” she said. She quickly added: “We are going to make a change ... We are going to find a way that a badge number can be shown every time.”

William Parham, a 35-year-old Seattle resident who has been out protesting every night except Sunday, said he thought Durkan should have addressed demonstrators earlier.

“She’s trying to save face at this point,” he said, “So, it’s cool that she came out and I appreciate that she came out, I just don’t appreciate the dog-and-pony show and the kiddie pool that they just brought out.”

Isabel Warren, a 31-year-old Renton resident who works as a nurse at Swedish, was passing out masks to the crowd. She said Durkan’s openness to communicating with the community is a “great first step.”

“But I think what everybody is really waiting for is more concrete plans and actions on her part. We want to know, step by step, how she’s going to heal our community and bridge the gap between people

In a Tuesday afternoon news conference after speaking to the protesters, Durkan and Best said they’d seen widely shared videos of a moment Monday night when police officers on Capitol Hill began shooting pepper spray, flash-bang grenades and tear gas at protesters crowded against a police barricade. The demonstrators had for hours been peaceful and videos showed the officers react to a tug of war with a protester over a pink umbrella.

Durkan expressed concern about how quickly the situation had escalated, while Best mentioned that officers were injured by projectiles thrown from the crowd. Both promised the incident, declared a riot by the police department, would be investigated for misconduct by the department’s civilian-led watchdog office and reviewed for policy purposes by its civilian inspector general. Neither rendered judgment on what happened, including whether officers complied with requirements to issue dispersal orders.

“We have come too far in this city on police reform and we cannot shirk from an honest and transparent or review of any police actions,” Durkan said, stressing that police use of force should be rare, necessary and proportional.”

Speaking to protesters earlier, the mayor described Monday’s “peaceful march” as beautiful and said, “No one is happy with how it ended.”

Durkan made no clear commitment to change course on a federal consent decree that since 2012 has required Seattle to undertake police reforms, though she did promise to listen to protester concerns. Her administration recently asked a judge to clear the way for Seattle to wrap up that oversight, with some caveats.

	<p>At Cal Anderson Park on Tuesday, many appeared determined to show their protest was anything but a “riot.”</p> <p>At 5 p.m., nearly all the protesters knelt in front of police and National Guard members in fatigues, who barricaded Pine Street less than a block away from the Seattle Police Department’s East Precinct.</p> <p>Most of the crowd was very young, but two longtime friends in their 70s, Margaret McMillan and Christopher Gee, stood near the front wearing surgical masks.</p> <p>Gee, a Seattle resident who protested during the civil rights movement of the ’60s, said President Donald Trump’s comments about using the military drew her out. She feels the country is in danger of backsliding to the pre-civil-rights era.</p> <p>“It’s very scary to me,” Gee said. “The systemic racism I naively thought was going away.”</p> <p>McMillan, a Bellevue resident who helped clean up Bellevue Square after looting on Sunday, said she was disappointed more people her age weren’t at the protest.</p> <p>“I understand it’s dangerous with COVID,” she said, noting almost every protester around her was wearing a mask, “but it’s our generations that caused a lot of this.”</p> <p>“I think we didn’t do enough,” Gee added.</p> <p>“We gave up,” McMillan said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Seattle protests: tear gas, flash-bang</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-demonstrators-expected-to-gather-for-fifth-day-to-call-for-peace-and-change-after-george-floyds-death/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-demonstrators-expected-to-gather-for-fifth-day-to-call-for-peace-and-change-after-george-floyds-death/</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 around eight minutes, continued for a fifth day Tuesday, while local officials around the state extended their city-wide curfews, including in Seattle, Bellevue, Mercer Island, Redmond and Tukwila.</p> <p>Demonstrations remained mostly peaceful throughout Monday afternoon and into the evening as groups called for racial justice and police accountability in gatherings across the city. Some brief looting, however, took place near the University Village shopping center, and around 9 p.m. in Capitol Hill, tensions rose after police declared a riot and started using tear gas and flash-bang devices on crowds near the department’s east precinct.</p> <p>In other parts of the Puget Sound area, similar scenes ensued Monday night. In Olympia, local police also started using flash-bang devices to clear away protesters and threatening crowds with felony assault charges.</p> <p>Tuesday’s protests remained peaceful until around 11:30 p.m., when, for the second night in a row, police used tear gas and flash-bang devices in Capitol Hill. By 1 a.m., police had cleared the intersection at 11th Avenue and Pine Street, where protesters and police had earlier stood, separated by barricades, for hours.</p> <p>The Capitol Hill crowd protesting near Cal Anderson Park and the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct had dwindled significantly by 11 p.m., though a remaining group remained planted at the intersection.</p> <p>Meanwhile, National Guard members continued providing each other relief, trading out posts.</p>

HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Seattle police continue use flash-bang</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-police-continue-to-use-flash-bang-grenades-during-protests-despite-recommendations/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-police-continue-to-use-flash-bang-grenades-during-protests-despite-recommendations/</a>
GIST	<p>When she heard the explosions, Rebeca Muñiz knew her plans to participate in peaceful demonstrations in downtown Seattle last Saturday effectively had been blown apart, too.</p> <p>A few blocks from where she and dozens of other people had gathered at Westlake Park to hear speakers protesting George Floyd’s death at the hands of police in Minneapolis, Seattle officers in riot gear had begun tossing flash-bang grenades — military-style percussion devices often used to control crowds — toward a throng of demonstrators.</p> <p>A few moments later, Muñiz recalled, she was helping a woman with a badly injured hand who emerged from a torrent of fleeing bodies. The woman told Muñiz and medics that her thumb and forefinger, gouged and streaming with blood, had been struck by shrapnel from one of the police grenades, Muñiz said.</p> <p>“I don’t know why police would even think about using a flash-bang in a situation like that,” said Muñiz, 28, a hospital worker who photographed the woman’s injuries. “There were children around, there were families with strollers, and from where I was, the crowd didn’t seem out of control. I didn’t hear [police] give anybody any warning.”</p> <p>Deployment of flash-bang grenades, blast balls and other devices to control and disperse crowds have become a hallmark of the mayhem that has marred recent demonstrations in Seattle and other U.S. cities in the wake of Floyd’s death. The Seattle Police Department’s use of the crowd-control tool date back at least several years and has drawn past scrutiny and concern from civilian watchdogs.</p> <p>But despite recommendations by the city’s Community Police Commission in 2016 that the agency suspend use of the grenades until they could be more thoroughly assessed, Seattle police never completed the requested study, and continue to use the devices in its repertoire of crowd-policing tactics, according to one former commissioner.</p> <p>“There’s never been a systemic review of if and when these kinds of devices could be appropriately used, as we were calling for,” said Lisa Daugaard, executive director of the Public Defender Association and then a co-chair of the police commission.</p> <p>A Seattle police spokesman said this week he could not readily answer questions about the department’s internal assessments, training protocols and documented use of flash-bang grenades, blast balls or similar devices due to the “dynamic nature of the ongoing demonstrations.”</p> <p>“At this time, our subject matter experts on force training, tactics, and equipment are all currently deployed,” the spokesman, Jonah Spangenthal-Lee, said in an email.</p> <p>Mike Solan, president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild, did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday.</p> <p>The department generally has said officers have acted appropriately in response to the latest demonstrations, and police commanders previously have described crowd-control grenades as a permitted, “less lethal” tool not meant to hurt anyone, but rather to confuse, distract and scare agitated and uncooperative crowds into dispersing.</p> <p>But the devices have caused several documented injuries in Seattle — including at least one to an officer — and several dozen examples in nationwide news accounts over the past two decades of people being wounded, maimed or killed by flash-bang-type devices.</p>

The hand injury witnessed by Muñiz last weekend is among at least 10 cases of complaints about Seattle police's response to Saturday's demonstrations now under investigation by the Office of Police Accountability, the city's civilian-led police watchdog.

"In my opinion, these devices are dangerous and not appropriate for general use as a tactic for crowd control," said Pierce Murphy, a former OPA director who examined multiple complaints about police crowd-control projectiles and once asked the Seattle department to reevaluate their use. "If they're deployed close to people, they can certainly cause significant physical injuries."

Some police tactical experts, however, say such devices often are far less dangerous than other tools, and can help police create space, buy time and make better decisions in unruly demonstrations where they're likely outnumbered.

"I feel when used appropriately, they are very, very safe," said Thor Eells, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association, a police-training group.

"Distance equals time"

Flashbang grenades were first put into practice by the British Special Air Services, which were involved in a counter-terrorism raid of a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner in Somalia in 1977, Eells said. Since then, the devices and similar ones have been used more frequently in police operations, he said.

The classic flash-bang — technically not a grenade — typically contains a fuse head, with magnesium powder encased in gunmetal that weighs about a pound and a half, said Eells, a retired Colorado Springs police commander and tactical trainer who has deployed the devices hundreds of times. It's primarily utilized by SWAT teams to create the distraction with a disorienting loud noise and bright flash as officers make entry into a hostage or barricade situation, he said.

Offshoots of flash-bang grenades have been designed more specifically for crowd control in recent years. The devices typically consist of a fusehead with a small cartridge, a striker and a firing pin atop a rubber body. Like a grenade, when the pin is pulled and the device is tossed, it initiates and fragments on contact.

Five varieties are typically used in riot situations, including those capable of only making noise and light; sting-ball or blast-ball grenades that spray small rubber balls; devices that emit pepper spray or tear gas; or a combination of some or all of those, Eells said.

In situations with unruly crowds, the devices are meant to help police more effectively use resources by splintering large crowds into smaller groups and creating a "reactionary gap" that can improve policing decisions, and they are far less likely to cause injury than a 39-inch hickory wood riot baton, Eells said.

"What a lot of people don't recognize, these can be deployed in a way that allows law enforcement to remain separate from the crowd they're trying to manage," he said. "Distance equals time, and time equals better decision-making for how I, as an officer, should act given the circumstances."

Calls for reform

News accounts cite examples of serious injuries and deaths tied to the devices dating back decades: A woman killed by an exploding flash-bang grenade during a Los Angeles Police drug raid in 1984; a 7-year-old girl who was shot amid smoke and mayhem of a flashbang deployed during a Detroit police SWAT raid in 2010; a toddler injured critically after one landed near him during a raid in Habersham County, Georgia, in 2014.

During the 2014 riots in Ferguson, Missouri — which erupted after a white officer shot and killed a Black man — protesters and a journalist reported burns and other injuries from police crowd-control devices. In 2018, the Portland Police Bureau temporarily suspended using the devices after several people reported serious injuries during a Patriot Prayer rally and counter-demonstration.

In Seattle, the two former civilian police watchdogs said they don't dispute there are instances when police need such tools, but question whether widespread deployment of the devices as a tactic for general crowd control is safe or necessary.

Following violent clashes between Seattle police and protesters during May Day demonstrations in 2015, Murphy, then the OPA director, recommended in a letter to then-police Chief Kathleen O'Toole that her department "reevaluate" and limit the use of blast balls grenades during demonstrations.

The intense heat and potential for shrapnel from the devices couldn't be controlled and posed dangers to peaceful demonstrators, as police were using them in big crowds in confined spaces, Murphy said.

"This is contrary to our understanding of how officers have been trained to deploy blast balls, specifically so that they detonate in open areas to create greater distance between the police and a crowd," he wrote to the chief.

The department's response, Murphy recalled, was that "with proper deployment, these were relatively harmless devices that were effective for crowd management."

The city's Community Police Commission separately requested in 2016 "an immediate and public review" of the department's policies for blast-ball grenades after injuries were reported during several demonstrations.

"Until such time as blast balls' propensity for causing injury (including specific evidence from the past two years in Seattle), and their appropriate use given that risk, have been publicly weighed, we ask that SPD suspend their use," the panel's co-chairs, Daugaard and the Rev. Harriett Walden, wrote in a letter to police and city officials.

"That study was not done and there's never been a response at any level," Daugaard said this week. She said the commission repeatedly tried but failed to add policing protocols during demonstrations to the Seattle department's required reforms under a federal consent decree.

During a city council briefing Monday, Councilmember Lisa Herbold said she'd received reports that — contrary to department policy to announce dispersal orders and give warnings before using flash-bang grenades and tear gas — "people confirmed for me that their experience was that they were not receiving advance notice or receiving orders to disperse."

OPA director Andrew Myerberg said his office is now investigating those complaints.

To Daugaard, complaints about a communication breakdown between police and demonstrators is a more critical issue than concerns about flash-bang grenades or any specific police crowd-control device.

"It's not just about blast balls, it's any similar device that causes pain and feels like an attack," she said.

"Once you start using those, you're really starting to shut down other avenues that could help you accomplish a legitimate goal that protesters perhaps would help you accomplish had you effectively communicated with them."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Debate over policing in Seattle continues</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://crosscut.com/2020/06/debate-over-policing-seattle-continues-after-years-federal-oversight">https://crosscut.com/2020/06/debate-over-policing-seattle-continues-after-years-federal-oversight</a>
GIST	Two weeks before George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer — and a little more than two weeks before protests began to boil in cities across the country — Seattle asked a federal judge to terminate the bulk of his long-standing oversight of its police department.

That request, which would formalize a wind-down process that began in 2018, has now become a point of tension within the community and among some elected officials at a time when tension is easy to find. Beyond the legalese of the court filings, dating back to a 2011 report on excessive force by Seattle police officers, the future of the federal government's involvement — via an agreement known as a consent decree — is also seen as a question of the city's ability to police its own police department.

“Working with Trump's justice department to get rid of the consent decree, you start to wonder whose side they're on and how serious they are about change,” said Kamau Chege, a community organizer and managing director at Washington Census Alliance, a coalition of 93 tribes and community organizations of color.

Seattle City Council President Lorena González acknowledged the concern. “I think that what we're hearing from community members who are negatively impacted by policing, about what is going to happen when the consent decree goes away, is real,” she said. “Those concerns have to be addressed whether we have a consent decree or not.”

But beyond the consent decree are questions of the roots of reform: What are the origins of lasting change and where should the anger of the city's protests find a home?

For Lisa Dugaard, who spent years working within the structure of the consent decree as co-chair of the Community Police Commission, it's not in federal court.

“The consent decree is a distraction,” she said. “People need to stop waiting for the judge to come and save us. It's never happened and it's not going to happen.”

Seattle's agreement with the Department of Justice now spans two U.S. presidents and three elected mayors.

At the urging of the American Civil Liberties Union and a host of other community organizations, the DOJ launched an investigation into the Seattle Police Department in the wake of the 2010 killing of John T. Williams — a Native woodcarver shot in the back by an officer while he was crossing the street.

The investigation — led by then U.S. Attorney and now Mayor Jenny Durkan — found the department used an unconstitutional level of force and showed patterns of bias.

“It was clear to us in 2010 that we would not be able to prevail without federal involvement and oversight,” said Diane Narasaki, retired director of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service and an original member of the Community Police Commission. “And frankly, we were glad that the Department of Justice did come to Seattle, did investigate, and the finding did reflect what community members have seen all these years.”

In response, the city and the federal government agreed to a series of benchmarks the department must hit when it comes to use of force, training, data collection, crisis intervention and more.

In 2018, U.S. District Judge James Robart concluded the city had hit those marks and declared Seattle to have met its obligations under the consent decree, triggering a two-year cool-down period. In recent court filings, the city has called SPD a “transformed organization,” pointing to lowered levels of force.

But there was a wrinkle. A new contract with the Seattle Police Officers Guild — which represents rank-and-file officers in the department — altered and, for some, rolled back new police accountability measures that the Seattle City Council had approved in 2018, including the review process through which officers can appeal discipline.

Robart chastised the city over the new contract, demanding it offer a path toward fixing what he viewed as the weakened accountability measures; otherwise, he said, he would have to stick around for years to come.

At the same time, he left open the possibility that Seattle could be released from monitoring on all other aspects of the consent decree. With its most recent filing, the city has formally requested he take such a step, while promising it would continue its work on accountability.

On Friday, Durkan downplayed the significance of the filing. “We are simply seeking to terminate that sustainment plan, but made very clear to the court that we would continue to address the issues raised by the court,” she said.

Council President González agreed Saturday that it’s time for the city to move on from the bulk of the consent decree, expressing confidence in the increase in civilian oversight that’s come in recent years. “I think we have done 10 years of really hard work, and it’s time for the training wheels to come off and for us to do as much of this work alone as we can,” she said.

Some of her colleagues disagree, especially following the weekend’s protests, which elicited over 12,000 complaints to the Seattle Office of Police Accountability.

On Monday, Councilmembers Kshama Sawant and Tammy Morales — the two most left-leaning members of the body — argued the city should rescind its latest filing.

“That consent decree is there for good reason,” Sawant said.

Andre Taylor, founder of Not This Time and whose brother was killed by police in 2016, called for “rejecting this idea that the Seattle Police Department wants to get out from underneath the consent decree.” That the unions may chafe at the oversight signals to Taylor that it must be worth something.

“If that’s one of those tools, then put that on there,” he said. “It might not be the greatest tool, it might not operate like we want it to operate, but if [the unions] don’t like it so much and are fighting against it so much, there’s something that the community doesn’t know why they feel that way.”

For Dugaard, however, the court’s presence only serves to take pressure off of elected officials.

“The court didn’t stop the purge of SPD reform leaders by Mayor [Ed] Murray in 2014,” she said. “The court didn’t step in when peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters were kettled, terrorized and arrested a year later. The court didn’t intervene to protect the 2017 accountability ordinance when it was gutted by the 2018 SPOG [police union] contract. The court didn’t require the force review process to produce recommendations for policy changes after deaths that honorable SPD leaders themselves felt were avoidable.”

“Instead of looking directly to city officials for accountability, activists and advocates get distracted hoping the court will weigh in,” she continued. “It’s not going to happen.”

Repeated audits of the Seattle Police Department have found that officers are using less force than they used to — and, when they do use force, it’s at lower levels. In 2018, force was used in just one-quarter of one percent of incidents to which they responded. Evidence suggests officers are more often de-escalating crisis situations than there were in 2011.

But racial disparities remain. Thirty-two percent of uses of force in 2018 were against Black men, despite African Americans comprising just 6% of the city’s population. People of color generally are more likely to be searched by a Seattle police officer and yet less likely to have weapons in those searches than white people.

“When it comes to communities of color, no, I do not believe they are an improved department,” said Jackie Vaughn, an anti-racist organizer and executive director of Surge Reproductive Justice. Vaughn advocates for disinvesting from police and pressuring elected officials from within the community, she



said. In the meantime, “while we build to that, we have a tool right now and that is the consent decree,” she said.

Chege, who is Black and lives on Capitol Hill, said the large East Precinct in the heart of the neighborhood represents safety for many. “That is not my feeling of walking by that precinct,” he said. “I do not feel safer. If anything it’s a little reminder that if there was an Amy Cooper situation at Cal Anderson [Park],” the police would be quick to respond.

The next milestone is likely to be contract negotiations with the city’s two police unions. Durkan and the city have promised to codify strong accountability measures in their talks with the unions, a message Durkan hopes will satisfy the judge.

Negotiations with both groups have been delayed. Bargaining with the rank-and-file union has not yet begun, despite earlier promises they would start “no later than April 2020.” González said she’s hopeful those talks can produce greater accountability.

Narasaki, the retired director of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service, said she was “immensely disappointed and outraged” by the results of the last police contract. In the wake of the protests — combined with the COVID-19 pandemic — she wants to see the status quo upended.

“We need to create a new normal,” she said. “We need to create a normal which addresses structural racism, which is showing up in the contours of this pandemic, disproportionately affecting low income and people of color — the same people who are disproportionately affected by negative policing. These things are not separate; they grow out of the same root.”

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HEADLINE	06/02 'Ring of fire' weather pattern Lower 48
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/02/ring-of-fire-weather-pattern/?itid=hp_national1-8-12_ringoffire-910pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans">https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/02/ring-of-fire-weather-pattern/?itid=hp_national1-8-12_ringoffire-910pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans</a>
GIST	<p>June is here, and Mother Nature apparently got the memo. A prominent “ring of fire” pattern is becoming established across the Lower 48, with stifling heat and booming storms likely for many as the northern hemisphere ushers in meteorological summer.</p> <p>Toasty temperatures look to overspread much of nation’s Heartland, with widespread 90s likely from the central Rockies to the Mid-Atlantic. Meanwhile, a corridor of increased risk for strong to severe storms, some containing damaging winds, parallels a cold front draped from the Northern Plains to the northern Mid-Atlantic.</p> <p>At the same time, parts of the Gulf Coast are watching a tropical threat as Cristobal churns north and approaches this weekend.</p> <p>The pattern is referred to by some meteorologists as a “ring of fire,” since complexes of vigorous storms surround an orb of steamy heat and more tranquil weather.</p> <p><b>Heat dome lounges lazily over central U.S.</b></p> <p>Anchoring the meteorological mash-up is a sweltering dome of high pressure, beneath which temperatures will surge some 5 to 10 degrees above early June averages. Dallas could be in the mid- to even upper 90s beginning Wednesday and lasting through at least the weekend, while Oklahoma City could hit 97 and claim a record high on Thursday.</p> <p>The National Weather Service’s Weather Prediction Center is anticipating heat indexes — a metric to gauge how much the heat stresses the human body — could range from 100 to 105 degrees on Friday over parts of the Interstate 35 corridor in Oklahoma and Texas. High humidities could also bring triple digit heat indexes from Houston up through northern Louisiana and into parts of Arkansas as well.</p>

Clockwise flow around the high will also pump soupy, juicy air north over the central and eastern United States. Dew points, proportional to how much water vapor the air contains, could spike into the upper 60s or lower 70s as far north as Interstate 80 from the Corn Belt to the East Coast.

The heat looks to last at least into the weekend across the southern tier, tempering some early next week.

In the Northeast, the stubborn coastal sea breezes and more obstinate backdoor cold fronts that keep the coast cooler in May are likely to succumb to a steady westerly or northwesterly breeze. That's likely to bring summertime heat all the way to popular New England beaches leading up to the weekend.

#### **'Ridge runner' storms skirt up and over the heat dome**

The combination of heat and humidity will fuel strong to locally severe thunderstorms along the northern periphery of the high pressure "ridge." That's also where the jet stream, bunched north by the dominant high pressure zone, resides with its speedy west to east current. That jet of swiftly moving air will further help focus and intensify storms thanks to its change of wind speed with height.

Moreover, any storms that do develop will probably become "mesoscale convective systems." MCSs are expansive bands of thunderstorms that feed off warm, humid air and jet stream winds, often transporting that momentum to the surface in the form of damaging wind gusts. The National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center already has outlined an area at a "slight risk" for severe weather on Wednesday, a level 2 out of 5 on its threat scale. That zone essentially encompasses the entire front from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Midwest and even the northern half of the Mid-Atlantic.

Several days of intermittent storminess are possible along that front through Saturday. One round of storms will blossom in eastern South Dakota, northern Iowa, and southern Minnesota on Tuesday afternoon, and race east during the evening and overnight, potentially affecting Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Detroit.

On Wednesday, the storms shift slightly south and east, affording the greatest risk of strong to severe storms across the parts of the Midwest, Ohio Valley and, by the evening, the Mid-Atlantic. This risk zone includes Kansas City, Indianapolis and Columbus, and extends as far east as the nation's capital, with Washington, Philadelphia and New York.

#### **Brewing tropical cyclone threat along Gulf Coast**

As if the weather map wasn't crowded enough, we're also tracking a tropical storm — Cristobal. It formed Tuesday morning over the Bay of Campeche in the southwest Gulf of Mexico.

Its near-term future is largely uncertain, but most data and forecasters are in agreement that the system is likely to make a run at the United States by the second half of the coming weekend. Heavy rain is the main threat, with flooding likely wherever it makes landfall. It's still not a guarantee that occurs in the United States.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Cyclone targets Mumbai amid pandemic
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/02/cyclone-nisarga-mumbai-india/?itid=hp_world1-8-12_nisarga-640pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans">https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/02/cyclone-nisarga-mumbai-india/?itid=hp_world1-8-12_nisarga-640pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans</a>
GIST	Less than three weeks after hosting Category 5-equivalent super cyclonic storm Amphan, the Indian Ocean is again blistering with storm activity. A significant tropical cyclone is likely to develop in the Arabian Sea by Wednesday evening, slated to bring strong winds and flooding rains to Mumbai. It comes as the city is gripped by the coronavirus crisis, with hospitals overflowing and local infrastructure overwhelmed.

The financial center, home to 18 million people, has logged roughly 1,000 deaths and more than 40,000 covid-19 infections. The city is set to be slammed by Cyclonic Storm Nisarga on Wednesday into Thursday, which the India Meteorological Department predicts will be accompanied by a storm surge of up to three to six feet and winds gusting up to 75 mph.

The cyclone, equivalent to a tropical storm as of late Tuesday local time, is forecast to intensify overnight into Wednesday morning as it churns north and draws nearer to the coast.

Some environmental parameters — such as toasty sea surface temperatures and efficient upper-level exhaust of its previously ingested air — favor more-dramatic strengthening. But those aspects are offset by strong winds in the upper atmosphere that serve to disrupt the cyclone's structure, effectively capping the storm's propensity for growth as it flirts with hurricane-equivalent force.

In its update Tuesday afternoon, the India Meteorological Department noted "the system has been further well organized in the last three hours," with winds estimated sustained at 45 mph.

"The sea condition is high to very high around the system's center," wrote the department.

The storm is being steered around a ridge of high pressure anchored to the south. Clockwise flow around the high-pressure ridge will propel Nisarga to the north-northeast, in the direction of northern Maharashtra and the southern coast of Gujarat.

If a six-foot storm surge is realized, as in the predicted worst-case scenario, some parts of Mumbai could experience inundation. While a surge of around six feet is at the high end of a list of possibilities, the India Meteorological Department states the most likely outcome will be a surge in Mumbai of 1.5 to 3.5 feet.

Rainfall will also have a serious impact, with six- to 10-inch amounts likely in Mumbai and some localized totals of around 14 inches. Moist flow from the southeast will bring periods of downpours down the coast, while the system's remnants could drop four to seven inches along a swath as far inland as northern Madhya Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh.

Though Mumbai is a coastal city, powerful cyclones are relatively rare there.

The timing of the cyclone could not have come at a worse time for Mumbai. With over 40,000 cases, the densely packed city has emerged as the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the country. The health-care system is already under strain, and some hospitals have had to turn away patients as they run out of beds.

During the past month, the state government has raced to construct temporary health-care facilities in empty spaces to house the steady increase of patients, many of whom are at risk. Over 150 patients at one such facility were moved, as the structure was not deemed strong enough to withstand the high winds expected in the storm.

In a televised address, Uddhav Thackeray, the state's chief minister, urged residents to stay indoors for two days and brace for possible power cuts. He said the state was being "tested" first by the virus and now the cyclone.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Iran lifts lockdown; infection cases surge
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-iran-lifts-its-lockdown-coronavirus-cases-return-to-peak-level-11591127761?mod=hp_listb_pos1">https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-iran-lifts-its-lockdown-coronavirus-cases-return-to-peak-level-11591127761?mod=hp_listb_pos1</a>
GIST	Iran is rolling back coronavirus restrictions as it attempts to revive its battered economy, despite a surge in new infections that has driven daily cases back toward the country's peak in late March.

Iran locked down much of its economy and closed off religious sites after emerging as the biggest hot spot for the disease in the Middle East in February. As the number of daily cases waned, it began easing some restrictions such as local bazaars and shopping malls in April, followed by restaurants in May.

This past weekend, the government gave permission for all state employees to return to work and allowed gyms to reopen, removing most of the restrictions on businesses. Mosques across the country, some of which had been allowed to perform Friday prayers, are now permitted to hold daily congregations.

Such moves have been met with warnings from Iranian health officials.

“Not only is corona not finished, but we might also get a dangerous peak at any moment,” Health Minister Saeed Namaki said Monday, according to the semiofficial ILNA news agency.

On Tuesday, the health ministry reported 3,117 new infections—roughly the same level as the country’s peak when the number reached 3,186 on March 30. That raised the total caseload to 157,562, including 7,942 deaths and 123,077 recovered patients.

Governments across the world are easing lockdowns to bolster their struggling economies. Iran’s economy appeared to be on the mend before the onset of the pandemic, after having suffered a steep downturn in 2019. But the lockdown, along with low oil prices and a decline in foreign trade, have cut short any chance of a recovery.

U.S. sanctions continue to choke off Iranian oil exports and have isolated the country from the global banking system. The currency has lost two-thirds of its value since the reimposition of U.S. sanctions in 2018, while inflation last year hit 38% and is expected to remain above the central bank’s target of 20% this year. Since the coronavirus outbreak, exports to China—one of its economic mainstays—have also plummeted.

The International Monetary Fund in April said it expects Iran’s gross domestic product will contract by 6% this year, after having predicted in October that the economy would arrest last year’s slid and register no growth this year.

The economic crunch has made the political situation in Iran extraordinarily combustible. In November, a cut in fuel subsidies triggered widespread protests and a crackdown by security forces that killed hundreds.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has tried to keep the economy alive by gradually allowing businesses to reopen in April as soon as daily confirmed cases decline for two consecutive weeks—and hasn’t reimposed restrictions even when cases began to climb back. The government has also prepared a \$4.4 billion rescue package, about half of which is earmarked for loans to small and medium-size enterprises.

The push to reopen has put officials at odds with the country’s health ministry. “Unfortunately, some officials assume that corona is finished and are constantly putting pressure on me to open here and there,” Mr. Namaki said.

The health ministry has also rebuked Iranians for not following health guidelines. A recent health-ministry poll showed that only 40% of the population believed in social distancing, down from 90% in February and March, Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi said on state television Tuesday.

Health officials repeated those guidelines over the weekend after the president on Saturday said mosques across the country could open for daily prayers. Religious sites emerged as main vectors of the virus in the early days of the outbreak, in Iran as well as in other countries including Saudi Arabia, Israel and South Korea.

Saudi Arabia on Sunday reopened mosques that had been closed for more than two months, allowing them to perform the five daily prayers and hold Friday congregations. Tunisia is also preparing to reopen mosques on June 4, but other North African nations have yet to follow.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 US tightens squeeze Venezuela oil trade</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-tightens-squeeze-on-venezuela-oil-trade-blacklisting-four-tanker-owners-11591117063?mod=hp_lista_pos3">https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-tightens-squeeze-on-venezuela-oil-trade-blacklisting-four-tanker-owners-11591117063?mod=hp_lista_pos3</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON—The Trump administration Tuesday tightened <a href="#">its web of sanctions</a> around the Maduro regime in Venezuela, blacklisting four companies allegedly involved in the country's oil sector. By sanctioning the firms and their vessels, which are registered in the Marshall Islands and Greece, the U.S. Treasury Department is attempting to cut off the flow of revenue President Nicolás Maduro needs to preserve his power. Targeting the private sector with financial sanctions also helps the administration avoid a military confrontation, U.S. officials say.</p> <p>As Russia, one of Maduro's last allies around the globe, eases its logistical support for Venezuela's energy sector in the face of a costly U.S. sanctions campaign, Caracas has increasingly relied on <a href="#">relationships with Iran</a>, narco-traffickers and other illicit networks to trade its oil and gold for fuel and cash, current and former U.S. officials say.</p> <p>The economy-crippling sanctions have accelerated an economic deterioration that U.S. officials and Venezuela analysts say was already under way because of the Maduro regime's systemic corruption and mismanagement. Despite a deepening six-year economic depression compounding political opposition to the regime, Mr. Maduro has been able to hold on to power through the aid of those allies.</p> <p>Iran, another top U.S. foe, has recently begun shipping Venezuela the gasoline and other refined oil products it needs to keep the economy afloat and the country's military fueled. Venezuela is using international brokers to sell its crude, U.S. and Western officials say, to pay back Iran.</p> <p>The Venezuelan representative to the United Nations didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. The Maduro government has condemned the accusations and the sanctions as U.S. propaganda and economic warfare, blaming Washington for its economic woes.</p> <p>Those blacklisted on Tuesday include Afranav Maritime Ltd., based out of the Marshall Islands, and its Panamanian oil tanker, the Athens Voyager. Another target is Greece-based Seacomber Ltd., the registered owner of the Chios I tanker. Afranav couldn't immediately be reached for comment. A representative for Seacomber didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>The sanctions block any assets the blacklisted companies might have in the U.S. More importantly, they are designed to spook the international business infrastructure shippers need, such as international insurers, port operators, financiers and traders. Anyone found by Washington to be helping the sanction targets risks facing punitive action themselves, including loss of access to the world's most important finance and trade market, the U.S.</p> <p>"The United States will continue to target those who support this corrupt regime and contribute to the suffering of the Venezuelan people," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.</p> <p>The Treasury and State Departments are conducting broad diplomatic campaigns to warn countries, banks, shipping firms and other companies to avoid helping the Maduro regime, persuading nations to deregister ships and cut off credit lines, both of which are necessary for international maritime trade.</p> <p>"The international community should increase pressure against the Maduro regime until it relinquishes its illegitimate hold on power," said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.</p>
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HEADLINE

**06/02 Military ends Mideast 'accompanied tours'**

SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/families-will-no-longer-accompany-u-s-troops-on-mideast-tours-11591140936?mod=hp_list_pos2">https://www.wsj.com/articles/families-will-no-longer-accompany-u-s-troops-on-mideast-tours-11591140936?mod=hp_list_pos2</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON—The U.S. military is ending a decadeslong practice of designating the Middle East as a region safe enough for the families of American service members to live, a signal that the U.S. is scaling back part of its presence in the region, officials said Tuesday.</p> <p>Defense Secretary Mark Esper has approved a proposal to terminate what is known as accompanied tours in Bahrain, Qatar and elsewhere U.S. military families live on the Arabian Peninsula, phasing out the policy over the next two years, officials said.</p> <p>The move doesn't have an immediate effect on U.S. deployments. But it sends a message to the region and the world about American military commitments and security issues posed by Iran.</p> <p>Military tours that include service members' families typically last longer than solo tours, which saves money for the Pentagon. For service members, accompanied tours can mean fewer moves and extra benefits—larger housing allowances, family-travel reimbursement and the ability to live longer abroad. Host countries consider accompanied tours a statement of U.S. confidence and commitment.</p> <p>The Defense Department announced the change Tuesday, emphasizing it wouldn't affect troop numbers.</p> <p>The U.S. this week notified allies in the region about the shift, including Bahrain, home to the Navy's Fifth Fleet, and Qatar, where the U.S. military command's air-operations center is based, officials said.</p> <p>Officials in both those countries, which are concerned about any American shift from the region in the face of aggression from Iran, have expressed concern about the new policy, officials said. At any one time, about 2,000 relatives of U.S. service members reside in the region, officials said.</p> <p>But U.S. officials determined those families were at risk, because they reside inside a "threat zone," the region within reach of Iranian ballistic missiles, officials said.</p> <p>The Pentagon has been looking for ways to reduce the number of Americans overseas, in keeping with a Trump administration priority. Mr. Esper previously had attempted to withdraw small numbers of American forces from West Africa, but <a href="#">encountered opposition</a> in Congress.</p> <p>Some military officials, including U.S. Central Command head Gen. Frank McKenzie and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark Milley, have expressed the need to <a href="#">maintain a presence in the region</a> to continue to deter Iran. On the issue of families accompanying service members on Middle East tours, however, Gen. Milley supported Mr. Esper's idea, officials said.</p> <p>Discussions regarding the issue have taken place over the past two months, and officials for a time considered bringing family members currently living in the region home instead of reducing the number of family members in the region by attrition.</p> <p>The coronavirus crisis, posing logistics and safety concerns, interrupted that idea. At the same time, some officials felt that drawing military family members out of the region abruptly could send a false signal that the U.S. was planning on a conflict with Iran. No such plans are imminent, and there was no indication of an imminent threat from Iran, defense officials said.</p> <p>Under the current plan, no family members will be brought back as a result of the change in policy. Instead, family members will return through attrition and normal rotations of service members and their families to their next assignments.</p> <p>Starting this month, no service members assigned to the region will be allowed to take their families, officials said.</p>



	<p>Tensions with Tehran have been particularly high since last May, when the U.S. began moving in additional military capabilities. Over time, U.S. military officials believed they had <a href="#">re-established deterrence in the region</a>.</p> <p>The U.S. airstrike that <a href="#">killed an Iranian military leader</a>, Qassem Soleimani, earlier this year, was seen by the Trump administration as having further offset the threat from Iran.</p> <p>Mr. Esper has tried to <a href="#">realign the Pentagon's resources</a> with the 2018 national-defense strategy that singles out China and Russia as global U.S. rivals and de-emphasizes long-running conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 China funds alternate channels for projects</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/out-of-favor-with-australias-central-government-china-targets-states-11591095602?mod=hp_lead_pos11">https://www.wsj.com/articles/out-of-favor-with-australias-central-government-china-targets-states-11591095602?mod=hp_lead_pos11</a>
GIST	<p>SYDNEY—One of Australia's biggest states is pushing ahead on an infrastructure deal with China as ties between Beijing and the federal government are at a low, raising concerns that Chinese money may end up funding projects that are a national-security risk.</p> <p>Victoria joined <a href="#">China's Belt and Road program</a>—a trillion-dollar flagship foreign-policy initiative—in October. In recent days, the state's premier, Daniel Andrews, has been touting it as a “passport to export” and a way to create jobs in a coronavirus-afflicted economy.</p> <p>The deal is driving a wedge between the southeastern state and the government in Canberra, where views toward Beijing are hardening as <a href="#">the two countries spar</a> over China's handling of its coronavirus outbreak. An influential bloc of nationalist lawmakers is calling on the government to use the pandemic as a way to reshape the economy and reduce Australia's reliance on China.</p> <p>The Victorian deal pledges cooperation on infrastructure projects, as well as on biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and technological innovation. Melbourne, the Victorian capital, is home to many of Australia's biotech startups and health-care companies.</p> <p>Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he didn't support Victoria's decision to sign up to the program and that it is “usual practice for states to respect and recognize the role of the federal government in setting foreign policy.” The federal government wasn't consulted on the October framework agreement, and the country's foreign-affairs department was advised only on the day it was signed, an official said.</p> <p>Clive Hamilton, a China expert at Charles Sturt University in Canberra, said Beijing's strategy is “using the countryside to surround the city,” ramping up its influence efforts in state capitals. Washington's hard-line policies on China means there has been a strong push in the U.S., too, to find alternate channels of engagement via local government leaders, he said.</p> <p>A summit held in Lexington, Ky., in May 2019 is one such example, bringing together political officials from U.S. states, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Washington, Michigan and Colorado, and Chinese municipal- and provincial-level governments.</p> <p>In Australia, tensions with Beijing have been increasing since 2018, when Canberra tightened counterespionage and foreign-interference laws and banned Chinese telecom companies Huawei Technologies Co. and ZTE Corp. from its next-generation 5G mobile network, aligning it with U.S. policy on the matter and underscoring concerns about the possibility of cyberspying by Beijing.</p> <p>The relationship deteriorated further in May when Beijing imposed tariffs on Australian barley exports and threatened a consumer boycott of Australian meat and wine, and visits by Chinese tourists and students,</p>



after Australian officials called for an investigation into any missteps that contributed to the coronavirus pandemic.

Beijing has denied the move was meant as economic coercion. But some lawmakers and security experts say the Victoria deal should be halted and reassessed in the rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

“The Victorian government’s Belt and Road activities are simply out of step with the new international and economic environment, including the now openly coercive directions that Beijing is taking with Canberra over trade and in government relations,” said Michael Shoebridge, a former top defense intelligence official. “The Victorian political leadership’s championing of the state’s tie-up with Beijing on infrastructure is a glaring wedge that Beijing is driving into Australia—at a time when national cohesion on dealing with the Chinese state is essential.”

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a television interview on May 24, threatened to “simply disconnect” from Australia, a defense ally and partner in the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network, if the deal affected the security of U.S. communications. The U.S. ambassador later clarified that Mr. Pompeo had said that he didn’t know the exact nature of the deal and that the security of Australia’s 5G telecommunications networks was a federal matter on which the U.S. and Australia are aligned.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Belt and Road is an economic-cooperation initiative that is “completely reasonable, lawful and aboveboard.”

Some Australian lawmakers say the Belt and Road program heightens the risk of foreign interference. “Victoria needs to explain why it is the only state in the country that has entered into this agreement,” said Peter Dutton, the home-affairs minister.

“It’s all about jobs; it is as simple as that,” Mr. Andrews, the state premier, told reporters. “I’m not going to go to the hundreds and hundreds of businesses who send more products to China than they ever have and say that they shouldn’t.”

Many countries, including France, Canada, Australia and India, are stepping up scrutiny of foreign investment amid the economic fallout from the coronavirus, concerned that foreign entities could swoop on strategic assets weakened by the pandemic.

Security agencies are also ramping up their warnings about potential malicious cyberattacks, citing critical infrastructure facilities such as power and water-distribution networks, as well as transport and communications grids, as potential targets.

Australia’s top military cyber-defense agency, the Australian Signals Directorate, warned recently that malicious actors are actively targeting health-sector organizations and medical-research facilities, possibly seeking information and intellectual property relating to vaccine development, treatments and research now of higher value and priority globally.

The agency didn’t specify, but it referred to Advanced Persistent Threat actors—the term given to the most sophisticated and well-resourced type of malicious cyber adversary usually associated with nations.

Mr. Shoebridge, a director of defense, strategy and national security at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan security think tank, said that although they may appear to be just concrete and steel, many new infrastructure projects are “laced with digital technologies.”

China has framed the Belt and Road initiative as a way to more closely integrate its economy with those across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, primarily through infrastructure projects. But security hawks say it is a coordinated campaign to extend its global political and military clout.

“They’re after a much deeper, much more intrusive partnership,” said Mr. Shoebridge. “Biotechnology is part of the People’s Liberation Army’s vision of a future military power. To say these things are just

	science and just civilian activity is to misunderstand the Chinese state and the breadth of activities under the Belt and Road.”
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Audit: CBP broke policy family separations</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/border-officers-broke-policy-separate-families-aud/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/border-officers-broke-policy-separate-families-aud/</a>
GIST	<p>Officers at border crossings between the U.S. and Mexico broke policy to separate dozens of illegal immigrant families during the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance policy in 2018, according to a new inspector general’s audit released Tuesday.</p> <p>Investigators said they still can’t be sure, two years later, how many families were actually separated because Customs and Border Protection’s data systems are plagued with “data reliability issues” that make it possible some separated families escaped attention.</p> <p>At the time, CBP’s chief of the Office of Field Operations, which staffs border crossings, said they separated seven families.</p> <p>In fact, the number was much higher — “at least 60 asylum-seeking families,” according to the inspector general’s review.</p> <p>And even though agency officials said at the time the separations were made for the child’s safety or because the parent was being prosecuted, the inspector general says in a majority of cases a parent’s prior immigration offenses were the real reason for separations.</p> <p>“Some of the separated children were as young as 5 months old, and at least one was still separated as of July 2019,” the inspector general found.</p> <p>The family separations enraged both Democrats and Republicans in Washington, and even drew a critique from first lady Melania Trump.</p> <p>The vast majority of separations came for families that snuck into the U.S. between official border crossings. Under the zero tolerance policy, thousands of parents were prosecuted for illegal entry and, because there are no facilities for families in the federal criminal justice system, the children were removed from their custody and turned over to the Health Department.</p> <p>Homeland Security officials at the time had urged migrant families to go to ports of entry to make claims of asylum, saying separations generally wouldn’t happen there unless there were extreme circumstances.</p> <p>Tuesday’s report says that didn’t turn out to be the case.</p> <p>Of 5,844 asylum-seeking families, at least 60 were separated. Only 25 of those “appeared to be consistent with CBP policy and public information at the time,” the audit says. Ten of those were prosecutions, 13 were because of the parents’ criminal history, and two were because of cartel involvement.</p> <p>The 35 other separations broke policy. All but one of those came in the Laredo field office’s area.</p> <p>Those 35 cases involved 40 children in total. Eight of them were still separated a month and a half later, and at least one case stretched more than 400 days.</p> <p>In its official response CBP said insisted it acted in the best interests of the children.</p> <p>“CBP is concerned the [inspector general’s] report implies that CBP personnel separated families without regard for the health, welfare, safety and reunification of inadmissible asylum-seeking applicants for</p>

	<p>admission, which is incorrect,” said Henry A. Moak Jr., whose title is senior component accountable official at the agency.</p> <p>Mr. Moak pointed to steps CBP took after a court order shut down the family separations to change its systems to track the issue in the future.</p> <p>The inspector general recommended CBP go back and re-examine its data to try to identify other separated families that might have been missed because of the agency’s chaotic systems. The agency agreed with that recommendation.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Stunned silence, angry protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/stunned-silence-angry-protest-world-watches-us-unr/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/stunned-silence-angry-protest-world-watches-us-unr/</a>
GIST	<p>U.S. angst over George Floyd’s death in police was once again the a focus of global attention, with 20 seconds of dead air from one world leader perhaps the most striking comment on the unrest engulfing the world’s most powerful nation.</p> <p>Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took a dramatic, unexpected 20-second moment of silence before carefully answering a reporter’s question on the U.S. protests and President Trump’s handling of the crisis, a string of pained expressions flickering across his face as he tried to formulate a reply.</p> <p>“We all watch in horror and consternation what’s going on in the United States,” a subdued Mr. Trudeau finally said during his daily news conference, noting Canada has racial problems of its own to confront.</p> <p>“It is a time to pull people together. ... It is a time to listen, to learn what injustices continue despite progress over years and decades,” he added, declining to directly criticize Mr. Trump.</p> <p>Demonstrations highlighting racial injustice have been seen around the globe as protesters in the Netherlands, U.K., Canada, Brazil, and New Zealand have joined calls for change.</p> <p>European Union’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said European countries have been “shocked and appalled” by the circumstances surrounding Mr. Floyd’s death.</p> <p>“All societies must remain vigilant, against the excess of use of force and ensure that all such incidents are addressed safely, effectively and in full respect of the rule of law,” Mr. Borrell told reporters in Brussels.</p> <p>“We have to be sure, everywhere, especially in societies which are based on the rule of law, democratic representation and respect for freedoms and liberties, that people who are in charge of taking care of the order are not using their capacities in the way that has been used in this very, very unhappy death of George Floyd,” he said. “This is an abuse of power, and this has to be denounced and combated in the States and everywhere.”</p> <p>German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also offered up support to peaceful protests and said the outcry following Mr. Floyd’s death is “more than legitimate.”</p> <p>“I can only express my hope that the peaceful protests do not continue to lead to violence,” Mr. Maas continued, “but even more express the hope that these protests have an effect in the United States.”</p> <p>Like their counterparts in the U.S., a large crowd of French protesters defied a police ban on large gatherings to protest the Floyd killing. Thousands reportedly also marched Tuesday in Australia and Sweden.</p>

	<p>A small protest even broke out outside the U.S. diplomatic mission in Tel Aviv, despite the fact Israel is one of the most pro-U.S. countries in the world.</p> <p>The demonstrators, who numbered over 200, held signs reading “Black Lives Matter,” “All Lives Matter” and “If you aren’t livid, you’re not listening.” Some carried placards with Mr. Floyd’s name written.</p> <p>Hong Kong’s pro-China leadership appeared to savor the irony of the U.S. policy struggling to get violent protest under control — following a long string of criticisms from the Trump administration over Hong Kong’s treatment of pro-democracy demonstrators.</p> <p>“We have recently seen these kind[s] of double standards most clearly with the riots in the United States,” Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam told reporters.</p> <p>“We can see how local authorities have reacted,” she continued. “But then last year when we had similar riots in Hong Kong, what was their position?”</p> <p>The Trump administration last year condemned weeks of anti-government protests in Hong Kong that repeatedly turned into violent clashes with police forces. Last week, the State Department announced it intends to end “special treatment” for Hong Kong in direct response to efforts by Beijing to impede on the city’s autonomy.</p> <p>“Foreign governments have been responding in a high-profile manner, some have threatened certain actions,” Ms. Lam said, “and I can only say that they are adopting double standards.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Peaceful protesters defy curfew</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/george-floyd-video-autopsy-protests.html?action=click&amp;module=Spotlight&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-2f9663d3">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/george-floyd-video-autopsy-protests.html?action=click&amp;module=Spotlight&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-2f9663d3</a>
GIST	<p>Protesters returned to the streets on Tuesday from California to Pennsylvania, while the nation’s capital sizzled with tension a day after a highly criticized episode outside the White House in which law enforcement officers used tear gas on peaceful protesters in order to clear a path for President Trump.</p> <p>The public spectacle on Monday and <a href="#">the arrival of dozens of military vehicles on Washington’s streets</a> on Tuesday seemed to underscore the president’s latest threat — to use the military to crack down on violence and looting — as it emerged that it was Attorney General William P. Barr who ordered officers to clear Lafayette Park on Monday in time for Mr. Trump to walk to a historic church and <a href="#">have his picture taken there</a>.</p> <p>On Tuesday night, more than 1,000 protesters remained near the park after a 7 p.m. curfew, facing police officers across a tall chain-link fence erected overnight.</p> <p>“You’re in the cage now!” one protester yelled. Another said, “Our tax dollars at work.”</p> <p>But the crowd remained peaceful in a mood that appeared to be taking hold in other cities, too. When a few demonstrators began to rock the fence, they were quickly stopped. “Use your words,” two women yelled. “Don’t do that.”</p> <p>The tensions earlier in the day in Washington reflected a nation on edge, ravaged by <a href="#">the coronavirus pandemic</a>, <a href="#">skyrocketing unemployment</a> and now a public reckoning with systematic racism and police brutality.</p> <p>Daily protests have spread to at least 140 cities, in a sprawling expression of anger and frustration after the killing in Minneapolis last week of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black security guard, who died after his</p>

neck [was pinned under a white police officer's knee](#) for nearly nine minutes. The officer has been charged with murder.

Though planned protests have largely been peaceful, the national unrest has also come with escalating tensions, including attacks on law enforcement, injuries and deaths of protesters and others on the streets, and widespread looting and destruction. Police officers in several cities have been fired or disciplined for using excessive force.

Officials across the country remained on guard Tuesday for another night of chaos. Here is the latest from around the country.

- **Philadelphia:** [Hundreds of protesters](#) gathered outside City Hall by Tuesday afternoon, after a night of explosive tension. Mayor Jim Kenney [defended a decision to use tear gas](#) on protesters Monday but [condemned a group of largely white men](#) who had been seen patrolling the largely white neighborhood of Fishtown holding baseball bats. "Armed vigilantism will not be tolerated moving forward," he said. However, no arrest has been made after the owner of a South Philadelphia gun shop opened fire early Tuesday morning on four men who smashed through the front door of his business, killing one of the men.
- **Atlanta:** Police and military personnel used tear gas to disperse a large crowd gathered near Centennial Olympic Park shortly after the city's 9 p.m. curfew, [according to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#). The crowd broke up soon after the confrontation.
- **New York:** Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that an 8 p.m. curfew would be imposed all week after a night of looting in Manhattan. He acknowledged that the previous 11 p.m. curfew had failed to quell the violence that marred the peaceful protests of previous days. After an [hourlong standoff between the police and demonstrators](#) at the entrance to the Manhattan Bridge, the protesters were eventually allowed to cross back to Brooklyn.
- **Charlotte, N.C.:** Protesters and police skirmished in the city center after the authorities ordered the crowds to disperse. Video showed police officers surrounding demonstrators and using stun grenades and pepper spray and pepper pellets, which was [criticized by a black state lawmaker](#) who represents Charlotte. The police said that they would [conduct an internal review](#) of the episode, but that [officers were hit by bottles and rocks](#), and that a protester [threw what they called a chemical agent at an officer on a bicycle](#). One protester who was arrested was in [possession of a military-style rifle and two 30-round magazines](#), the police said.
- **California:** Protesters [filled the streets of Hollywood](#) with chants of "Black lives matter," a crowd of [protesters gathered along a beach](#) in San Francisco and the city of Santa Monica enacted among the strictest curfews in the nation, starting at 2 p.m. local time. The Los Angeles Police Department made hundreds of arrests throughout the city Tuesday night, said a spokesman, Officer Tony Im.
- **St. Louis:** President Trump [tweeted his condolences](#) to David Dorn, a retired police captain whom the police said was shot by a looter at a pawnshop on Monday night. Mr. Dorn died the same night [four active-duty police officers were shot during protests](#).

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HEADLINE	06/02 Minnesota investigates Minneapolis PD
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/george-floyd-video-autopsy-protests.html?action=click&amp;module=Spotlight&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-4134343c">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/george-floyd-video-autopsy-protests.html?action=click&amp;module=Spotlight&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-4134343c</a>
GIST	<p>The state of Minnesota has started a human rights investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department, citing evidence of systematic discrimination against people of color, particularly black people, state officials announced on Tuesday.</p> <p>The state Department of Human Rights made a formal <a href="#">charge of discrimination</a> against the police force based in part on the May 25 death of George Floyd, which has sparked demonstrations across the country.</p>

The charge referred to a pattern of incidents in Minneapolis dating back at least 10 years that demanded investigations into the Police Department's training and policies, and its "use-of-force protocols."

"There is sufficient information to investigate whether the respondent utilizes systemic discriminatory patterns or practices towards people of color, specifically black community members, on the basis of race," the charge stated.

Investigations by the Department of Human Rights do not lead to criminal charges, but if investigators find wrongdoing, state officials can attempt to force changes in the Police Department's practices, which could include the state's suing the police force.

Also Tuesday, the Minneapolis school board voted [unanimously](#) to end its contract with the Police Department, a pointed response to the death of Mr. Floyd.

The school district is believed to be the first in the nation to sever its relationship with a police department, one advocacy group said, marking a significant victory for activists who have long argued that allowing officers in schools contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline that channels black and Hispanic students into the penal system at disproportionately high rates.

"This is the systemic change that this moment calls for," said Judith Browne Dianis, the executive director of the Advancement Project, a civil rights organization that has worked to get the police out of schools. "There can be convictions of the police officers, but at the end of the day we know that we need structural change. And the school board's decision gives us that type of victory."

In a unanimous vote during a special meeting held virtually on Tuesday, the board [adopted a resolution](#) saying that the actions of the Minneapolis police officers involved in Mr. Floyd's death "run directly counter to the values the district seeks in partners." The decision means that the school resource officers the department provides will no longer be present in schools.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Unpredictability: change in an instant</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/george-floyd-protests-minneapolis.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/george-floyd-protests-minneapolis.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage</a>
GIST	<p>If one element binds the <a href="#">demonstrations that have roiled the cities and towns of America</a> for the last week — beyond the full-throated cry for an end to racial and social injustice — it is the nerve-jangling unpredictability: the uneasy sense that everything could change in an instant.</p> <p>All that has been required is the firing of one rubber bullet. The spraying of one can of mace. The tossing of one lighted firecracker. One precipitating action.</p> <p>Take Sunday, for example, the last day of a difficult May. Hundreds of fraught confrontations played out across the country between protesters and police officers, some devolving into violence in a finger snap.</p> <p>In Atlanta, a mostly peaceful protest march turned into a hailstorm of tear-gas canisters after demonstrators toppled a fence. In Denver, a bearded young man in a sea of protesters crumpled to the ground when a projectile fired by the police struck him in the face. And in Washington, a tense standoff quickly became a conflagration that included a fire in the basement of a historic church that President Trump would briefly stand in front of for a photo op — presumably to convey order — the next day.</p> <p>Unpredictability infuses the air.</p> <p>And what does unpredictability smell like? It is the commingling of street sweat and fire smoke and tear gas. The smoke smacks of destruction, while the tear gas seems to set your face aflame, burning your throat and causing your eyes to tear so badly that it seems you may never stop crying.</p>



In this protracted state of unrest not seen in this country in a half-century, any certainty was absent, with the anger, fear and opportunism of demonstrations filling the void. Was that a firecracker or a gunshot?

Nights in America are now when the fever burns the hottest — a fever that set in on Memorial Day, when Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, [pressed his knee to the neck of George Floyd](#), a black man lying facedown on a Minneapolis street, for nearly nine minutes. The tactic was employed against a man accused of fobbing off a counterfeit \$20 bill, and whose death was captured in a widely disseminated video.

Mr. Chauvin was ultimately [charged with third-degree murder](#), but the demonstrations of fury triggered by the encounter have shown no signs of abating, with some protesters demanding the arrests of three other Minneapolis officers at the scene.

The horrific death of Mr. Floyd followed an all-too-familiar pattern of black boys and men being killed by the police; the names of others — Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown among them — are embedded in the American consciousness.

What's more, the demonstrations are taking place in the midst of another unsettling American reality. In little more than three months, the coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 100,000 Americans, pushed another 40 million into unemployment, and upended much of everyday life.

These realities now run like an undercurrent through hundreds of protests in small towns and large cities. Some were heated but peaceful. Some seemed relatively calm, only to explode into personal injury and property damage. And some devolved into chaos, causing the kind of damage that volunteers with brooms could not sweep away in the morning.

At a Sunday evening protest in Oakland, Calif., a 5-year-old boy named Chase Butler hung out the back window of his family's white minivan, his right hand raised in a fist, his left holding a cardboard sign that said: "Mama! I can't breathe. Don't shoot."

His father, Donovan Butler, 33, said he had had a talk — *the talk* — with his son. "The world we live in is not equal," Mr. Butler said he explained. "People look at us different."

More often, though, the talk on Sunday came in the form of chants and shouts and police orders barked through loudspeakers. More often, the dynamic was too fluid and uncertain to guarantee the safety of a 5-year-old boy, or even that of a family in a minivan.

In Atlanta, hundreds of protesters marched for miles in peace, chanting out their cries for justice. Then, at the edge of Centennial Olympic Park, an organizer warned them to veer away because demonstrators ahead of them were clashing with the police. Few listened, even as others warned them of tear gas and conflict.

"Oh, y'all going the wrong way," one man said. He received a few insults in return for his concern.

Then somebody tipped over a portable toilet at a construction site. Then people started chanting. Then a group of young, masked white men began tearing apart a blue-tarped fence that was blocking the street, ignoring a black woman's cries to stop because "They're going to blame it on us."

The fence came down, and hell broke loose. Firecrackers. Running. A plume of tear gas, its canisters clattering on the pavement. The burning of faces and eyes, the streams of tears and mucus, the only relief coming from a man squirting a milky solution from a bottle.

In Minneapolis, where Mr. Floyd was killed and where the protests began nearly a week earlier, a similar confrontation unfolded shortly after the 8 p.m. curfew — and, thus, with an air of inevitability.

As a beautiful sunset took shape, hundreds of vociferous protesters clustered near a gas station and Bobby & Steve's Auto World downtown, all but boxed in by walls of police officers wearing body armor and holding batons.

"We're just sitting ducks," a man said.

A committed group sat and knelt in the street and continued to chant. "We're saying we're sick of this!" a woman shouted into a megaphone, to which the crowd responded, "No justice, no peace."

A helicopter buzzed overhead, as the numbers of police officers and members of the National Guard multiplied.

Then, suddenly, at 8:43 p.m., the police fired tear gas into the crowd, a plume arcing across the sky. Stumbling and coughing, some demonstrators took cover behind gas pumps. Some held up their hands and chanted, "Hands up! Don't shoot!" And some took another form of action, filming it all on their cellphones.

With the warm air charged with the acrid smell of tear gas, the walls of the police began to close in. A few protesters tried to run, but soon realized there was no use; they were surrounded.

A young man with a skateboard ran across the gas station lot in a vain attempt to escape. He pleaded with a guardsman that he simply wanted to go home.

"You were supposed to go home an hour ago," the guardsman answered.

Then came a voice booming from the loudspeaker of an armored vehicle. "This is the Minnesota State Patrol," the voice said. "Lay down. You're under arrest. Get down on the ground."

Among those arrested was Kevin Trinh. He said that he had been hit in the thigh with a projectile, and that he had only come to the protests to take photographs.

"My mom is probably worried," Mr. Trinh said, his voice quavering. "I want my mom."

The police lined up the demonstrators, bound with flex cuffs, and led them to waiting vans. The process was strangely cordial; people who seemed like enemy combatants moments earlier were now just people talking.

But a peaceful resolution to an anxious standoff was not uniformly realized. At about the same time the confrontation in Minneapolis ended, a woman was shot in the arm in Walnut Creek, Calif., in the midst of the widespread looting of dozens of stores. The city, about 25 miles east of San Francisco, immediately imposed a curfew, with police officers sealing a freeway exit with flares and traffic cones.

In Washington, an ugly push-and-pull between protesters and the police continued. Demonstrators poured accelerants on a wooden pole supporting a "ROAD WORK AHEAD" sign and set it on fire in the middle of H Street, adding further fuel with branches wrenched from nearby trees. A small fire was also set in the basement nursery of the 204-year-old St. John's Church — known as the "church of presidents" — causing relatively minor damage.

The dull clunk of projectiles against the raised shields of police officers echoed through Lafayette Square, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. It was just one of the many jarring sounds of violence and vandalism unfolding a few hundred yards from where the President of the United States and his family were protected this night by a phalanx of National Guard troops.

Across the country and into the night, the unpredictability continued, now peaceful, now not.

	<p>In Seattle, demonstrators knelt before police blockades to convey their peaceful intent, and were rewarded with the invitation to continue their march of protest.</p> <p>In Los Angeles, troops holding M4 rifles stood on the steps of City Hall, while protesters taunted soldiers and police officers in the streets. One moment a woman was offering her hand to a soldier who accepted it — leading to a hug. The next, another woman was taunting a black officer, yelling, “Do you get bonuses to shoot black people?”</p> <p>In Denver, hundreds marched through streets thick with the cough-inducing remnants of tear gas. Protesters wore ski goggles and scuba masks to protect their eyes. Fireworks exploded overhead, emitting a sound that could easily be mistaken for gunfire.</p> <p>And in New York, well into Monday morning, people walked the streets of the SoHo neighborhood with armloads of goods just stolen from smashed-in luxury stores, as two New York Police Department vans drove down Houston Street. The officers inside those vans could be seen with their heads bowed.</p> <p>Over all, the night of uncertainty carried a strange feeling of anonymity. Many police officers were concealed behind riot-gear armor, with many protesters wearing masks and scarves, and not only because of the highly contagious coronavirus.</p> <p>It was as though the country could not quite recognize itself.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Protests spread; fears virus will too</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/world/live-coronavirus.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-d5ef677">https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/world/live-coronavirus.html?action=click&amp;module=Top%20Stories&amp;pgtype=Homepage#link-d5ef677</a>
GIST	<p>The protests against police brutality and racism that have spread across the United States since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis have spurred fears that they could result in a resurgence of the virus. Concerns have forced people sympathetic to the movement to weigh the risks of attending demonstrations, where there is often little social distancing.</p> <p>“The police violence against black people — that’s a pandemic, too,” said Kelli Ann Thomas, 31, a community organizer who joined protests in Miami. “People are willing to risk their lives, to risk their health, to show solidarity with black people.”</p> <p>Because of delays between exposure to the virus and symptoms, the effects of the protests on the spread of the virus will not be known for several weeks. But epidemiologists said the protests would almost certainly lead to more cases.</p> <p>Health experts know that the virus is far less likely to be spread outdoors than indoors. And masks reduce the chance of transmitting respiratory droplets that contain the virus. But yelling, shouting and singing can increase how far those droplets are projected. Crowds also increase the risk of transmission. Police tactics such as spraying tear gas — which causes people to cough — herding protesters into smaller areas for crowd control and placing arrested individuals in buses, vans and holding cells also increase the risk of infection.</p> <p>Tay Anderson, a protest leader and city school board member in Denver, said he had been worried about the disparate effects of the virus on black Colorado residents as thousands marched through the city and rested shoulder to shoulder on the lawn of the State Capitol in silent demonstrations to decry Mr. Floyd’s death.</p> <p>He put out a call on social media for all protesters to join him in getting tested for the virus on Saturday morning at the Pepsi Center, a concert arena where Denver has been running free, large-scale testing.</p>

“WE ARE STILL IN A PANDEMIC,” he wrote on Twitter.

In Los Angeles, where city leaders have voiced support for the right of demonstrators to gather, Mayor Eric Garcetti has warned the gatherings could become “super-spreader events” — not unlike during the 1918 flu pandemic when, after the first wave of infections, some cities held parades and large gatherings that led to a second, more deadly wave of infections.

New York officials, including Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, have raised similar concerns. “Express your outrage,” Mr. Cuomo said, referring to the protests. “But be responsible, because the last thing we want to do is see a spike in the number of Covid cases.”

As the city proceeds with plans to begin reopening on Monday, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Tuesday that he was “very worried” that the virus could be spreading at protests.

In interviews and on social media, many public health experts emphasized that police violence against black people in America was also a public health crisis. The anger at economic, social and health disparities fueling the protests, health experts said, was reflected in sharply higher rates of Covid-19 death and illness among black Americans. Several advised a “harm reduction” approach that would allow people to join the demonstrations in as safe a way as possible.

“Last week, all the news was about Covid; this week, all the news is about the protests,” said Eleanor Murray, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Boston University School of Public Health. “But really, these are two pieces of the same conversation.”

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HEADLINE	06/02 DEA conducts ‘covert surveillance’ protests
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/george-floyd-police-brutality-protests-government">https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/george-floyd-police-brutality-protests-government</a>
GIST	<p>The Drug Enforcement Administration has been granted sweeping new authority to “conduct covert surveillance” and collect intelligence on people participating in protests over the police killing of George Floyd, according to a <a href="#">two-page memorandum</a> obtained by BuzzFeed News.</p> <p>Floyd’s death “has spawned widespread protests across the nation, which, in some instances, have included violence and looting,” the DEA memo says. “Police agencies in certain areas of the country have struggled to maintain and/or restore order.” The memo requests the extraordinary powers on a temporary basis, and on Sunday afternoon a senior Justice Department official signed off.</p> <p>Attorney General William Barr issued a <a href="#">statement</a> Saturday following a night of widespread and at times violent protests in which he blamed, without providing evidence, “anarchistic and far left extremists, using Antifa-like tactics,” for the unrest. He said the FBI, DEA, US Marshals, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives would be “deployed to support local efforts to enforce federal law.”</p> <p>Barr did not say what those agencies would do, however.</p> <p>The DEA is limited by statute to enforcing drug-related federal crimes. But on Sunday, Timothy Shea, a former US attorney and close confidant of Barr’s who was named acting administrator of the DEA last month, received approval from Associate Deputy Attorney General Bradley Weinsheimer to go beyond the agency’s mandate “to perform other law enforcement duties” that Barr may “deem appropriate.”</p> <p>Citing the protests, Shea laid out an argument for why the agency should be granted extraordinary latitude.</p> <p>“In order for DEA to assist to the maximum extent possible in the federal law enforcement response to protests which devolve into violations of federal law, DEA requests that it be designated to enforce any federal crime committed as a result of protests over the death of George Floyd,” Shea wrote in the memo.</p>

“DEA requests this authority on a nationwide basis for a period of fourteen days.”

A spokesperson for the DEA declined to comment.

“Drug enforcement agents should not be conducting covert surveillance of protests and First Amendment protected speech,” said Hugh Handeyside, a senior attorney for the ACLU. “That kind of monitoring and information sharing may well constitute unwarranted investigation of people exercising their constitutional rights to seek justice. The executive branch continues to run headlong in the wrong direction.”

Three DEA sources told BuzzFeed News they are troubled by the memo and see it as an example of the Justice Department potentially abusing its power in an attempt to smear the protests and crack down on protected First Amendment activity.

The sources requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak with the media.

In addition to “covert surveillance,” the memo indicates that DEA agents would be authorized to share intelligence with local and state law enforcement authorities, to “intervene” to “protect both participants and spectators in the protests,” and to conduct interviews and searches, and arrest protesters who are alleged to have violated federal law.

A day after Shea’s memo was approved, President Trump [said](#) he is “mobilizing all available federal resources — civilian and military — to stop the rioting and looting, to end the destruction and arson, and to protect the rights of law-abiding Americans, including your Second Amendment rights.”

Under the Insurrection Act, the president has the authority to deploy the US military for domestic purposes. It has not been employed [since 1992](#), when troops were sent in during the Los Angeles riots.

There is a long history of federal agencies infiltrating and surveilling protest groups. During the protests in Baltimore in 2015 over the death of Freddie Gray, who died in police custody, the Department of Homeland Security [monitored](#) Twitter and other social media platforms for “intelligence” on the protesters. In Ferguson, Missouri, during the 2014 protests over Michael’s Brown’s killing by a white police officer, DHS planned to [“plug” federal officers into protests](#) to conduct surveillance and collect intelligence. And the FBI conducted [extensive monitoring and surveillance](#) of the Occupy Wall Street protest movement that began in 2011.

It’s unknown if the ATF, FBI, or other federal law enforcement agencies have been granted the same authority as the DEA.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Scrutiny: tech ties to law enforcement
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wired.com/story/protests-renew-scrutiny-tech-ties-law-enforcement/">https://www.wired.com/story/protests-renew-scrutiny-tech-ties-law-enforcement/</a>
GIST	<p><b>THE COLLECTIVE OUTRAGE</b> over the murder of George Floyd has led to nationwide <a href="#">protests</a>, renewed calls for police reform, and uncharacteristically swift support for racial equity from <a href="#">Silicon Valley leaders</a>.</p> <p>The backlash has been swift as well. Critics are calling out many companies now pledging support for Black Lives Matter, accusing them of failing to stop racist language on their platforms and, in some cases, enabling the over-policing and <a href="#">surveillance</a> that protesters now march against.</p> <p>Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos <a href="#">took to Instagram</a> last week to share an essay by the writer Shenequa Golding, commenting on the “long reach” of racial trauma. The next day, the <a href="#">official Amazon account</a> tweeted a message “in solidarity with the black community.” Amazon Web Services CEO Andy Jassy tweeted <a href="#">last week</a>, “What will it take for us to refuse to accept these unjust killings of black people?”</p>

But Amazon furnishes surveillance tools to police, including the widely criticized [facial recognition](#) product, Rekognition. The tool misidentifies darker-skinned people more often than lighter-skinned people, [according to](#) a report from AI researcher Joy Buolamwini. In 2018, the ACLU [found](#) the tool misidentified members of Congress as criminals, misidentifying black officials more often than white ones.

“Amazon tweeting support of ‘the fight against systematic racism and injustice’ is a textbook case of substituting virtue signaling for virtue,” said Evan Selinger, privacy scholar and professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology. “Not only have civil rights groups criticized Amazon for promoting a facial recognition tool to law enforcement that poses dire threats to minorities, but so have concerned shareholders.”

Jassy has [defended Rekognition](#), even as employees and numerous [racial justice organizations](#) opposed its sale to police. In an [all-hands meeting](#) in 2018, Jassy told employees, “if we find people are violating folks’ constitutional rights, they won’t be able to use the services any longer ... In a democracy it is also often the role and the responsibilities of the government to help specify what the guidelines and regulations should be about technology.”

There are no laws against police use of these surveillance tools, but Jassy’s comments speak to a flawed idea that inhibits efforts at police reform: These tools are acceptable because they aren’t illegal. In the wake of the protests, Trump [reportedly told](#) law enforcement, “you have to track” rioters, renewing concerns that police would use surveillance technology as part of their response to protest. Amazon didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Similarly, Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Sunday [voiced Google’s](#) “support for racial equality in solidarity with the Black community.” But, Google, too, has been criticized for supporting invasive policing tactics.

Civil rights organizations have called out Google’s practice of enabling “[geofencing warrants](#).” These warrants permit police to request from Google data on devices in the area surrounding a crime. Google initially supplies anonymous information for phones within the area specified by the warrant. After police narrow their suspects, Google supplies usernames and location data for the specific devices.

There’s scant evidence that geofencing [targets communities](#) of color specifically, but many have criticized the dragnet created when [devices far outside](#) of crime scenes are included. Geofencing warrants are often written using GPS coordinates, not street names and addresses. Critics say many [are overbroad](#) and include many more people than those reasonably near the scene of a crime.

It’s not clear how often police request geofencing warrants, but Google’s self-reported data on [government requests](#) show a big surge in search warrants, to roughly 20,000 last year from 10,000 in 2017. Starting in January, Google has charged police [up to \\$245](#) for data requests.

“Because of insufficient Fourth Amendment protections, GPS, text, social media, or search data from your Android phone might end up as evidence in a court case,” said Liz O’Sullivan, technology director of the privacy nonprofit Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, or STOP. “There is a lot more that big tech companies could be doing to protect the public interest, but instead we see gobs of lobbying money spent opposing legislation that might actually promote justice.”

Google did not respond to a request for comment.

Some companies are being called out for developing products criticized for enabling over-policing and surveillance of nonwhite communities. For example, when the official accounts for [Salesforce](#) and [Github](#) tweeted support for Black Lives Matter, many people online [pointed out](#) the company’s [contracts](#) with Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



Nextdoor, a community-based social networking app, [tweeted its support](#) for Black Lives Matter, prompting [immediate criticism](#). For [years](#), Nextdoor's leadership has [faced accusations](#) that its users [racially profile](#) people of color and [accuse them](#) of crimes.

In a statement to WIRED, Nextdoor said racial profiling on the app declined after it began using algorithms to detect racist speech and required more detailed information if a user wants to report someone as suspicious. "Just one incident is too many, and we remain committed to the hard work," the company said.

Criticism extended beyond concerns over working with police. On Monday, Reddit cofounder and CEO Steve Huffman [voiced his support](#) for Black Lives Matter in an open letter to employees. Hours later, former CEO Ellen K. Pao accused Huffman of ignoring the racist trolls on the platform and, more seriously, of profiting from white supremacy.

"You don't get to say BLM when Reddit nurtures and monetizes white supremacy and hate all day long," [she tweeted](#). As interim CEO in 2015, Pao pushed to [ban some of](#) the most flagrant subreddits, prompting backlash from longtime users. When Huffman succeeded her as CEO, he [instead opted for](#) a more hands off approach in which "communities ... set appropriate standards around language for themselves." A spokesperson for Reddit said the company has banned racist subreddits and that Reddit now displays [a warning screen](#) to visitors of its most infamous subreddit, r/thedonald, a pro-Trump forum.

Likewise, Facebook continued to face criticism after executives, including CEO Mark Zuckerberg, met with civil rights leaders Monday night. Zuckerberg on Monday said Facebook would donate [\\$10 million](#) to racial justice organizations and noted that the original video of Floyd's death was posted to Facebook. But [Zuckerberg has](#) declined to take action against President Trump's "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" message, cross-posted from Twitter, where it was flagged with a warning label. Outraged employees organized [a virtual walkout](#) and spoke publicly against the decision.

[In a statement](#) after Monday's meeting, the leaders of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Color of Change connected the violence against protesters and Zuckerberg's decision. The Facebook CEO "did not demonstrate understanding of historic or modern-day voter suppression, and he refuses to acknowledge how Facebook is facilitating Trump's call for violence against protesters," the statement read.

In a statement a Facebook spokesperson said the company was "grateful that leaders in the civil rights community took the time to share candid, honest feedback with Mark and Sheryl" Sandberg, the company's chief operating officer.

"I think we might look at it as what is sometimes called 'performative wokeness' by these companies, and issuing a statement that they 'stand with the Black community' is the absolute least they can do," said Chris Gilliard, an independent researcher studying surveillance and racism.

"Many of these companies generate profit either by the exploitation of Black labor and/or by amplifying hate and extremism that directly harms Black folks," he says. "If Amazon truly felt that Black lives matter, they would change the way they treat their workforce, stop selling Rekognition, and discontinue selling Ring doorbells. If Facebook truly stood with the Black community, they would eradicate the rampant white supremacy on their platform."

Because there aren't robust rules governing the fair use of emerging policing tools, company policy is very important. In lieu of government regulation, how executives write and interpret their companies' relationships with law enforcement can vary widely, either to align with reform-focused civil rights movements or against them.

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HEADLINE	06/03 China warns Britain against interfering
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.afp.com/en/news/3954/china-warns-britain-interfering-hong-kong-will-backfire-doc-1sr59c3">https://www.afp.com/en/news/3954/china-warns-britain-interfering-hong-kong-will-backfire-doc-1sr59c3</a>
GIST	<p>China warned Britain on Wednesday that interfering in Hong Kong will backfire, after the former colonial power vowed to give sanctuary to locals who may flee the city if a controversial security law is passed.</p> <p>The United States and Britain have enraged Beijing with their criticism of planned national security legislation that critics fear would destroy the semi-autonomous city's limited freedoms.</p> <p>British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has further angered Beijing by suggesting that it had time to "reconsider" the plan, which could soon be enacted after the proposal was endorsed by China's rubber-stamp parliament last week.</p> <p>Prime Minister Boris Johnson, meanwhile, said London would not "walk away" from Hong Kongers worried by Beijing's control over the international business hub.</p> <p>Johnson wrote in a column for The Times newspaper and the South China Morning Post that he would offer millions of Hong Kongers visas and a possible route to UK citizenship if China persists with its national security law.</p> <p>Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Beijing had lodged "serious representations" with London over Raab's remarks, which "grossly interfered" in Hong Kong's affairs.</p> <p>"We advise the UK to step back from the brink, abandon their Cold War mentality and colonial mindset, and recognise and respect the fact that Hong Kong has returned" to China, Zhao said at a regular briefing.</p> <p>Zhao said London must "immediately stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs and China's internal affairs, or this will definitely backfire."</p> <p>Hong Kong has been rocked by months of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests over the past year.</p> <p>In response Beijing has announced plans to introduce a sweeping national security law covering secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign interference.</p> <p>China says the law -- which will bypass Hong Kong's legislature -- is needed to tackle "terrorism" and "separatism" in a restless city it now regards as a direct national security threat.</p> <p>But opponents, including many Western nations, fear it will bring mainland-style political oppression to a business hub that was supposedly guaranteed freedoms and autonomy for 50 years after its 1997 handover to China from Britain.</p> <p>"I raised it on the Five Eyes call yesterday -- the possibility of burden sharing if we see a mass exodus from Hong Kong," Raab told lawmakers, referencing the intelligence-sharing alliance between the five powers.</p> <p>- 'Path to citizenship' -</p> <p>In his column, Johnson wrote that if China proceeds to justify the "fears" of Hong Kongers, "then Britain could not in good conscience shrug our shoulders and walk away; instead we will honour our obligations and provide an alternative."</p> <p>About 350,000 people in Hong Kong currently hold British National (Overseas) passports, which allow visa-free access to Britain for up to six months.</p> <p>Another 2.5 million people would be eligible to apply for one.</p>

Johnson said Britain could allow BN(O) holders to come for a renewable period of 12 months "and be given further immigration rights, including the right to work, which could place them on a route to citizenship".

Britain says it views the proposed law as a breach of the 1984 agreement with Beijing ahead of the handover guaranteeing Hong Kong's freedoms and a level of autonomy -- a deal that formed the bedrock of its rise as a world class finance centre.

"Britain does not seek to prevent China's rise," Johnson wrote. "It is precisely because we welcome China as a leading member of the world community that we expect it to abide by international agreements."

But Zhao said the Sino-British agreement "does not contain a single word or clause that gives the UK any responsibility for Hong Kong after its handover".

His comments came as political tensions are rising in Hong Kong once more.

On Wednesday lawmakers in the city's pro-Beijing weighted legislature restarted debate on a law that would criminalise insults to China's national anthem.

The bill is likely to be passed on Thursday -- a day when Hong Kongers will also mark the anniversary of Beijing's 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, despite city authorities banning the traditional annual vigil because of the coronavirus.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Tense protest turns emotional in NC
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article243193151.html">https://www.newsobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article243193151.html</a>
GIST	<p>Police in Fayetteville, North Carolina, made a surprising move Monday during a tense stand off with protesters seeking justice in the case of George Floyd, who died after being restrained by police in Minneapolis.</p> <p>All 60-plus officers knelt before the marchers on Murchison Road.</p> <p>Video of the moment had been viewed more than 14,000 times on Twitter and got 15,000 reactions on Facebook as of Tuesday morning.</p> <p>“As a show of understanding the pain that is in our community and our nation regarding equality, the #FayPD took a knee to show that we also stand for justice for everyone,” <a href="#">the department wrote</a>. “We are committed to listening and treating everyone with dignity and respect.”</p> <p>Witnesses say some officers and protesters responded to the move with tears.</p> <p>“The protesters first got mad when asked to step back, but once the officers knelt down, it was on. Men and women alike started crying and then cautiously came toward the police officers to shake their hands,” <a href="#">Mimamo Monika posted on Facebook</a>.</p> <p>“These are moments that will go down into history and will be taught to future generations.”</p> <p>The <a href="#">three-hour march ended</a> when the officers knelt, “with hugs and hand shakes between the officers and protesters,” WTVD reported.</p> <p>Instances of <a href="#">police kneeling</a> and even hugging protesters have been reported sporadically around the nation as protesters have demanded changes in the way law enforcement interacts with black people, McClatchy News reports.</p>

A single officer was cheered by protesters after kneeling [over the weekend in Lexington](#), Kentucky, and [a line of city officers holding shields knelt](#) in front of demonstrators Monday in Atlanta, CNN reported.

Police in Fayetteville, the home of Fort Bragg, [have come under fire](#) in the past days for a slow response to violent protests Saturday, the Fayetteville Observer reports. Buildings were damaged and stores looted, the newspaper said.

Such acts of violence and looting have been carried out by smaller groups during mostly peaceful — and lawful — gatherings and marches, authorities say. The vast majority of the protesters across the nation have been “[peaceful demonstrators calling for change](#),” law enforcement officials told ABC News.

Fayetteville was under a curfew Monday, [with no vehicles or pedestrians](#) allowed into uptown from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Tuesday.

Social media reacted to the dozens of officers taking a knee was largely one of gratitude. Some called it a sign of respect, while others called it a “show of leadership.”

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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Philippines retain US military agreement</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/03/asia/philippines-us-agreement-south-china-sea-intl-hnk/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/03/asia/philippines-us-agreement-south-china-sea-intl-hnk/index.html</a>
GIST	<p><b>Hong Kong (CNN)</b>The Philippines has reversed its decision to end an important military agreement with the United States as territorial <a href="#">tensions with China heat up in the South China Sea</a>.</p> <p>President Rodrigo Duterte had decided to retain the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) "in light of the political and other developments in the region," said Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. in a social media post Tuesday.</p> <p>The agreement, signed in 1988, gives US military aircraft and vessels free entry into the Philippines and relaxes visa restrictions for US military personnel.</p> <p>The Philippine government gave the US 180 days' notice to <a href="#">end the deal</a> in February, suggesting that Manila needed to rely on its own resources for its defense. On Tuesday, the US welcomed the change of heart.</p> <p>"Our long-standing alliance has benefited both countries, and we look forward to continued close security and defense cooperation with the Philippines," said a statement from the US Embassy in Manila.</p> <p>The Philippines was once home to two of the America's largest military bases outside of the US: Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station.</p> <p>Although those ceased to be US bases in the early 1990s, US forces still had access to them under the VFA and Manila maintained strong military ties with Washington.</p> <p>But over the past few years, Duterte has been tilting away from those historical ties with the US and toward China, which has offered a closer economic relationship with Manila.</p> <p>"I need China. More than anybody else at this point, I need China," Duterte said before flying to China in April 2018.</p> <p>Compared with his predecessors, Duterte has viewed the Philippines' ongoing territorial dispute over the South China Sea as more negotiable.</p>

Both the Philippines and China are among several nations with overlapping claims to the sea, or parts of it. China claims almost all of the South China Sea's 1.3 million square miles as its own despite other claimants having borders that are far closer to the disputed waters.

Last year, Duterte said he had been offered [a controlling stake in a joint energy deal](#) by Chinese President Xi Jinping in exchange for ignoring an international arbitration in Manila's favor on the South China Sea.

In 2016, a tribunal in [The Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines](#) in a maritime dispute, concluding China has no legal basis to claim historic rights to the bulk of the South China Sea.

China, however, has been stepping up its military presence on islands also claimed by the Manila.

In the past two months, the People's Liberation Army has moved advanced anti-submarine warfare and reconnaissance aircraft to Fiery Cross Reef, known as Kagitingan in the Philippines, in the Spratly Islands chain.

Beijing has also made Fiery Cross part of its southern Hainan province, creating two new administrative districts covering the South China Sea that are headquartered in the Paracel Islands, another island group with disputed claims.

Additionally, China has maintained a presence of [maritime militia vessels around Thitu Island](#), the largest Philippine occupied island in the Spratly archipelago, for well over a year, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

An average of 18 Chinese vessels have been around the island each day, according to an AMTI satellite analysis published in March, hampering Philippine attempts to build up infrastructure there.

On Wednesday, Locsin indicated that the Philippines sees the US playing a role in the region for some time to come.

"We look forward continuing our strong military partnership with the United States, even as we continue to reach out to our regional allies in building a common defense towards enduring stability, peace and continuing economic progress and prosperity in our part of the world," he said.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Reports: police turn to aggressive tactics</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/police-protests-use-of-force/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/police-protests-use-of-force/index.html</a>
GIST	<p>(CNN)As protests over police brutality erupt across the United States, reports are on the rise of officers responding with tear gas, rubber bullets and other forceful tactics.</p> <p>In some cases, police leaders say violence in the streets leaves them with no other choice. And President Trump has pushed for local officials to ramp up their show of force. But protesters and police critics argue that some officers are escalating tensions with their actions.</p> <p>"They're making the argument for the demonstrators, that American policing remains unreformed and out of control," says Alex Vitale, a professor of sociology at Brooklyn College who studies police response to protest.</p> <p>It's a fast-moving situation, with dramatically different scenes unfolding in different cities, and even -- at times -- on different blocks. Some officers have garnered praise for showing solidarity with protesters by kneeling beside them, or for defusing tensions by talking face-to-face with demonstrators.</p>

"That's what people in the community want. They really want to be joined with their police department. They want to feel a sense of trust," says Cedric Alexander, a CNN law enforcement analyst and former president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

But Vitale says some police departments have been sending a much more aggressive message.

"I'm surprised at the scale of it, that so many departments across the country are taking this zero-tolerance, quick escalation stance towards the demonstrators," he says. "They very quickly escalated to tear gas and charging crowds. ... They did not go that extra mile to try to keep things from escalating out of control."

Here's a look at some of the forceful ways we've seen officers around the country responding to protests:

### **Some are firing tear gas**

What started as peaceful protests last week over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis have sometimes turned violent. In many cities, stores have been looted and police have been pelted with rocks and bottles. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

Video footage and photos from protests across the country -- from a park outside the White House to the streets of Minneapolis -- show law enforcement firing tear gas into crowds of people. Sometimes the tear gas is being fired in response to violence and looting, and sometimes protesters allege it's being fired without provocation.

"In the 1960s and '70s we saw a lot of use of tear gas, and mostly police departments learned a lesson -- that tear gas almost always makes the situation worse," Vitale says. "And now all of a sudden, they're just letting it fly all over the place."

Vitale is the coordinator of the Policing and Social Justice Project, which has called for police funding to be cut, arguing that using the money for other programs like increased school counselors and drug treatment would do more to keep residents safe.

He says the firing of tear gas is one telling example of the ways police are not only inflaming tensions in the streets, but bolstering the case he and other critics have been making.

"This is a gross overreaction," he says.

Police across the country have defended their decisions to use tear gas.

"We applaud those who stand up and protest against police brutality, because we do, too, and we stand with them. But last night, peaceful protests began, but that is not how it ended," Dallas Police Chief U. Reneé Hall told reporters Saturday after officers deployed tear gas during protests the night before. "And what I want you to be clear about with me today, so there is no ambiguity, this department will not tolerate rogue vandalism. We will not tolerate tearing up our city. We will not tolerate tearing up our communities and bringing hurt, harm or danger to individuals who are protesting, and definitely not the ones who are protecting the residents of this community."

According to the Dallas Morning News, Hall said the decision to use tear gas was made because property was being vandalized, bricks were thrown at officers and tires were slashed on police squad cars.

### **Some are accused of using excessive force**

Authorities in several cities have said they're investigating allegations that some officers have used excessive force in their responses to protests.

In Atlanta, two officers were fired after police say they broke the windows of a vehicle, yanked two protesters out of the car and tased one of them.



The police chief in Louisville, Kentucky, was fired after officials say they discovered two police officers involved in the fatal shooting of a man during a protest had not activated their body cameras. An investigation is ongoing and the officers themselves have not been charged.

The police chief in Salt Lake City, Utah, says an investigation is underway after video footage showed an officer knocking down a man with a cane at a protest there.

And in Seattle, city council members are calling for the police chief to answer questions about how officers handled protests over the weekend.

"The very thing that everybody was protesting, excessive police force, was met by a militarized response," council member Teresa Mosqueda said, according to CNN affiliate KIRO. Police there say they're investigating thousands of complaints about their response to the protests.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo says he's asked the state's attorney general to investigate after videos surfaced showing what the governor called "disturbing actions" by officers during protests.

Footage from New York showed a police truck plowing into a crowd, an officer brandishing his gun amid protesters and an officer pushing a woman.

"I think some of the actions of the NYPD have exacerbated the anger. There are videos of some NYPD actions that are very disturbing," Cuomo said in a briefing on Monday. "There are videos of NYPD cars driving into a crowd that are very disturbing, pulling a mask down off a person to pepper spray them, throwing a woman to the ground, it's on video, it's on video. The looting is on video, so is NYPD activity on video."

The governor's comments drew a swift rebuke from the president of the city's police union, who accused Cuomo of "wrongly blaming the chaos on the cops."

"Police officers are being run down, knocked down and almost shot on a nightly basis," Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch said in a statement.

CNN law enforcement analyst James Gagliano, a retired FBI supervisory special agent, said when looking at the video of the NYPD vehicle plowing into protesters, it's important to remember officers have been facing tremendous pressure and physical attacks.

"I can't get into the individual cops' minds, except to think that the night before, a Molotov cocktail had been thrown in a police vehicle with four police officers in New York City," Gagliano said. "I'm guessing that they were nervous about what was happening. Things were being thrown at their vehicle. There was no way out. Somebody stepped on the gas. It's unfortunate. It's awful. We don't want to see any harm, anybody hurt, but this right now, this -- it's like a war zone in this country."

### **Many are wearing riot gear**

But even when no tasers are drawn and no shots are fired, some say some officers are behaving in a way that spurs more violence rather than calming the situation.

One case in point, they say: officers wearing riot gear.

"Equipping officers in a manner more appropriate for a battlefield may put them in the mindset that confrontation and conflict are inevitable," said Rachel Ward, National Director of Research at Amnesty International USA, in a statement. "US police across the country are ... exacerbating a tense situation and endangering the lives of protesters."

Vitale told CNN it's easy to see how tensions escalate.

"Imagine you're angry and in front of you is a police officer in his regular uniform. Now imagine you're angry, and what's in front of you is a police officer in a helmet and a shield and a military-grade vehicle behind him," Vitale says. "You're much more likely to throw a rock. It just dehumanizes the whole situation."

Police leaders have cautioned that protective gear is necessary to keep officers and the public safe.

In Boston, after a city councilor criticized police for wearing what she described as "riot gear" to a protest, the police commissioner defended his officers on Twitter.

"The officers after being attacked by objects thrown at them by violent protestors, were ordered to put on protective helmets, not riot gear," Boston Police Commissioner William Gross wrote. "The Officers were in uniform not riot gear. Four officers, your constituents, were injured. One hospitalized. Ty (thank you) for caring."

### **Some are arresting and assaulting journalists**

Through it all, reports of journalists being arrested and assaulted while covering the protests have also been growing.

A photographer in Minneapolis said she was blinded by a rubber bullet. In Louisville, an officer fired what appeared to be pepper balls at a reporter for local TV station WAVE 3 News. The incident was broadcast live on the air.

In some cases, authorities have apologized, like Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz did after CNN's Omar Jimenez and his team were wrongfully arrested in Minneapolis last week.

Some journalists have also reported being attacked by protesters.

Human rights and advocacy organizations warn that attacks against the press are a troubling sign.

"When journalists are attacked, societies are attacked," UN Secretary General António Guterres said on Twitter. "No democracy can function without press freedom nor can any society be fair without journalists who investigate wrongdoing and speak truth to power."

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Paris police, protesters violent clash</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/world/paris-police-unleash-tear-gas-rioters-spark-fires-hurl-debris">https://www.foxnews.com/world/paris-police-unleash-tear-gas-rioters-spark-fires-hurl-debris</a>
GIST	<p>Riot <a href="#">police</a> in <a href="#">France</a> were met with flying pieces of debris as they fired tear gas into a crowd of protesters in Paris that had gathered at an unauthorized assembly on Tuesday and had started fires.</p> <p>Thousands of people gathered to protest police militarization and racial injustice, according to The Associated Press.</p> <p>The Paris rally reportedly paid tribute to Adama Traore, a French black man who died while in police custody. The protests come as various protests have also broken out within the United States over the death of Minneapolis man George Floyd.</p> <p>"When you refuse to treat the problem of racism ... it leads to what we see in the United States," Dominique Sopo, head of French activist group SOS Racisme, told The AP. "The case of George Floyd echoes what we fear in France."</p> <p>Floyd died May 25 while in <a href="#">police</a> custody when <a href="#">Minneapolis</a> after then-officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes in a moment caught on cellphone video. On Friday afternoon,</p>

	<p>Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman <a href="#">announced</a> that Chauvin had been charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.</p> <p>Freeman claimed the evidence against Chauvin includes video footage from a bystander, body camera footage, witness statements and a preliminary medical examiner's report.</p> <p>Attorney General <a href="#">William Barr</a> released a statement Saturday addressing the death of <a href="#">Floyd</a>, saying that the federal government could step in to assist local entities if maintaining public order became an issue.</p> <p>The news of the Paris rioters comes on the same day that federal government sources in the U.S. also claim to be contemplating a move against Antifa agitators, in an effort to arrest top-ranking officials within the organization.</p> <p>There is concern that the radical left-wing group's organizers might attempt to steer the current activity in various cities to suburban and rural neighborhoods, only to be met with armed citizens.</p> <p>"Antifa knows this," a government intelligence source who spoke on the condition of anonymity <a href="#">told Fox News</a>. "Local and state authorities have to get a grip on this because if it moves to the suburbs, more people will die."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 NYC: police massive show of force</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/cops-reclaim-new-york-in-massive-show-of-force-against-george-floyd-protesters?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/cops-reclaim-new-york-in-massive-show-of-force-against-george-floyd-protesters?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>Extraordinary scenes of peaceful <a href="#">protesters being tear gassed outside the White House</a> on Monday only drew more demonstrators out on Tuesday, many of whom ignored curfews in Washington, New York City and 26 other cities to protest police brutality and the death of George Floyd for the eighth night in a row.</p> <p>At least <a href="#">60,000 turned out in Floyd's hometown of Houston</a> for a peaceful memorial, while protesters in D.C. gathered at a newly installed fence guarding the White House chanting "peaceful protest" and "fuck your curfew" as the 7 p.m. curfew neared. In Detroit, small scuffles between protesters and police ensnared at least one reporter, who was <a href="#">placed on the ground</a> in zip ties until someone shouted, "She's media!" Tear gas was deployed in Brockton, Massachusetts, after protesters hurled objects including fireworks and glass bottles.</p> <p>Perhaps the most remarkable turnaround was in New York City where, after a horrific night on Monday in which up to 2,000 looters ran riot through Manhattan robbing stores and lighting fires, the NYPD finally seemed to get an upper hand.</p> <p>Police cars lined the streets of SoHo—where <a href="#">dozens of luxury stores were destroyed and looted on Sunday and Monday nights</a>—and arrested a handful of alleged looters, including two people who attempted to enter a Louis Vuitton store. Some sporadic looting around lower Manhattan appeared to be stamped out.</p> <p>One NYPD officer, when asked by The Daily Beast how the night was going, said: "Well, for one, we all are out tonight. I think tonight will be more calm."</p> <p>The city brought its curfew forward from 11 p.m. to 8 p.m. after Monday's anarchic scenes, in which hundreds of stores were trashed and police were severely outnumbered. NYPD Chief Terence Monahan said 700 alleged looters were arrested on Monday.</p> <p>"They had a lot of people out here. We had a lot, they had more," he told CNN on Tuesday night. "It was cat and mouse all day. The problem [is] they're back out here again tonight."</p>

Before nightfall, at least two massive groups of protesters marched through New York, one of which staged a sit-in outside Gracie Mansion, the official residence of Mayor Bill de Blasio. By 8 p.m. officers were out in force and police SUVs blared warnings for people to go home.

Ride-share companies were banned from operating, and share bikes were locked once the curfew hit. Confusion reigned as hundreds of protesters from Brooklyn walked over the Manhattan Bridge at about 9:30 p.m. to be met by a line of heavily armed riot police blocking their entry into lower Manhattan. One person yelled, "It's a trap!" while others chanted, "No justice, no peace." After an hours-long standoff, protesters turned around.

"We were having such a good protest. Everything was going smooth and even after the curfew deadline passed, we still continued with minimal pushback from the cops," 26-year-old server Jazmine told The Daily Beast. "When we went on the Manhattan Bridge—which for me was my way home—all of a sudden we were met by a line of like 50 officers. They didn't let us pass."

Ali Martin, a 24-year-old Bronx resident, claimed to be among a handful of people who negotiated with officers to allow protesters stuck on the bridge to be able to turn around and exit in Brooklyn.

"We don't have to fight to make justice," he told The Daily Beast. "We has to negotiate with the cops, peacefully, in order for them to make sure we unite as one and make sure everything goes as planned."

Hours earlier in Brooklyn, a Black Lives Matter flag was hoisted up a pole out in front of the Barclays Center and a protest organizer, who declined to give his name, urged people to go home before curfew.

"The police don't care about people's safety. You can see what's happening everywhere. You can be peaceful, they'll hit you with a baton," he said. "So if curfew hits, go home... Let's not even try to test the boundaries, because they'll get someone hurt. We came out here tonight and showed our love. The next step is voting."

In Washington, several protesters said the Monday gas attack on the peaceful protesters inspired more people to come to the White House on Tuesday.

"It was aggressive, but look what we got now," said Washington resident Drex Jones, gesturing at the crowd. "It's all love. D.C. United right now."

D.C. Council chairman Phil Mendelson, who came with two other council members to watch the protests, agreed that it had driven more people to come out. "I think it's provocative," he said.

Tensions increased after 10 p.m. when some protesters in Lafayette Park began shaking the newly installed fence back and forth. Other protesters yelled at them to stop as National Guard soldiers and police moved closer to the front of the fence.

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HEADLINE	06/03 SKorea reopening schools despite spike
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-korea-reopening-schools-spike-cases-71037069">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-korea-reopening-schools-spike-cases-71037069</a>
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea on Wednesday reported 49 new cases of COVID-19, continuing a weekslong resurgence of the virus as the government defended its decision to reopen schools despite health risks.</p> <p>The figures announced by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on brought national totals to 11,590 cases and 273 deaths. All but one of the new cases were reported from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where hundreds of infections have been linked to entertainment venues, church gatherings and a massive e-commerce warehouse.</p>

Mayors and governors in the greater capital area have shut thousands of nightclubs, hostess bars, karaoke rooms, churches and wedding halls to slow the spread of the virus.

Some entertainment venues in Seoul, Incheon and Daejeon began collecting the personal details of their customers through smartphone QR codes this week so they could be located easily when needed, a requirement that will be expanded nationwide on June 10.

Despite the spike in transmissions, the government has been pushing ahead with a phased reopening of schools, which began with high-school seniors on May 20.

Class openings were planned Wednesday for nearly 1.8 million children -- high-school freshmen, middle-school juniors and third- and fourth-grade elementary kids.

The Education Ministry couldn't immediately confirm how many schools had to delay their openings because of virus concerns. But it said that 519 schools so far have been forced to go back to remote learning.

Keeping schools closed would have been a difficult political decision in a country where teenagers are thrown into hyper-competitive school environments because graduating from elite universities is seen as crucial to career prospects. But some critics say that would have been the right decision for public health interests and that officials are risking the safety of children and their families.

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said that the country kept schools open even during the 1950-53 Korean War.

"I believe that we cannot fail the dreams and future of our children because of the current difficulties," Chung said during a virus meeting.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Experts watch: Rio de Janeiro reopens</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/experts-watch-rio-de-janeiro-economy-starts-reopen-71029901">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/experts-watch-rio-de-janeiro-economy-starts-reopen-71029901</a>
GIST	<p>RIO DE JANEIRO -- Rio de Janeiro, one of the cities worst hit by COVID-19 in Brazil, slowly started to reopen on Tuesday, more than two months after non-essential businesses were forced to shut down in order to limit the spread of the new coronavirus.</p> <p>As of June 1, Rio had more than 30,000 confirmed cases and 3,671 deaths. In May, the city's hospitals and intensive care units filled up, and patients infected by the virus were placed on a growing waiting list.</p> <p>Some people ventured onto the beach on Tuesday even though they officially remained closed, while surfers and swimmers were allowed to get into the sea for the first time in weeks.</p> <p>Sports activities in training centers resumed behind closed doors.</p> <p>In the first of the plan's six phases, most street shops will remain closed, with a few exceptions, such as car and furniture stores. Restaurants and bars also remain shut to the public, and are only allowed to open for take-away and delivery.</p> <p>City officials said Monday that they will monitor the situation and, if necessary, backtrack on some measures. The plan was approved unanimously by the scientific board, they said.</p> <p>Many health experts have welcomed the cautious, step-by-step approach adopted by Mayor Marcelo Crivella, but some fear the opening is happening too soon.</p>

	<p>Official data show that on June 1, the city registered 118 new deaths from COVID-19 and 1,142 confirmed new cases.</p> <p>Fiocruz, Brazil's leading, state-run health research institute, warned last week that the curve of new infections was still growing in the state of Rio de Janeiro, and that loosening containment measures in one municipality could threaten neighboring cities.</p> <p>"The plan is very good," said Celso Ramos Filho, a professor in epidemiology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro who has been advising city officials on the pandemic response. "But I think we could have waited a little longer, at least one more week."</p> <p>Ramos said hospitalizations and deaths were going down in Rio, an encouraging sign, but waiting another week would have allowed experts to see whether the downward trend continued.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Major telecoms award 5G contracts Europe</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bell-telus-give-5g-contracts-europeans-huawei-shut-71030061">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bell-telus-give-5g-contracts-europeans-huawei-shut-71030061</a>
GIST	<p>TORONTO -- Two of Canada's three major telecommunication companies announced Tuesday they've decided not to use Chinese tech giant Huawei for their next-generation 5G wireless network.</p> <p>Bell Canada announced that Sweden-based Ericsson will be its supplier and Telus Corp. later announced that it had also selected Ericsson and Nokia. Rogers already has a longstanding partnership with Ericsson.</p> <p>Canada and its security agencies have been studying whether to use equipment from Huawei as phone carriers prepare to roll out fifth-generation technology. 5G is designed to support a vast expansion of networks to facilitate medical devices, self-driving cars and other technology.</p> <p>Huawei is the world's biggest supplier of network gear used by phone and internet companies, but has long been seen as a front for spying by China's military and its highly skilled security services.</p> <p>The U.S. has urged Canada to exclude Huawei equipment from their next-generation wireless networks as they claim Huawei is legally beholden to the Chinese regime. The United States and Australia have banned Huawei, citing concerns it is an organ of Chinese military intelligence — a charge the company denies.</p> <p>"We look forward to the federal government completing its 5G review and making an evidence-based decision about Huawei's role in helping build Canada's next-generation wireless networks," Huawei spokesman Alykhan Velshi said in an email.</p> <p>The Canadian government is studying the use of Huawei as Canada and China are locked in a political dispute. China's imprisonment of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor is widely seen as retaliation for the arrest in Canada of Huawei senior executive Meng Wanzhou on a U.S. extradition warrant. A Canadian judge ruled last week the U.S. extradition case against a senior Huawei executive can proceed to the next stage.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 UK: ready to accept Hong Kong citizens</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uks-johnson-pledges-hong-kong-citizens-needed-71036967">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uks-johnson-pledges-hong-kong-citizens-needed-71036967</a>



GIST	<p>HONG KONG -- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Wednesday that the United Kingdom stands ready to open the door to almost 3 million Hong Kong citizens as the city's leader arrived in Beijing for meetings on a planned national security law that has many worried about their futures.</p> <p>Johnson, in a column published online by a Hong Kong newspaper, said the security law would curtail freedoms in Hong Kong and conflict with China's obligations under its agreement with the United Kingdom to take back the former British colony in 1997.</p> <p>"Many people in Hong Kong fear their way of life – which China pledged to uphold – is under threat," he wrote in the South China Morning Post. "If China proceeds to justify their fears, then Britain could not in good conscience shrug our shoulders and walk away."</p> <p>China shocked many of Hong Kong's 7.5 million people when it announced earlier this month that it would enact national security laws for the city, which is guaranteed a high level of autonomy outside of foreign and defense affairs.</p> <p>Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, a supporter of the move, arrived in Beijing on Wednesday morning for meetings with central government officials on the planned laws. China could enact the laws later this month or at the end of August, analysts have said.</p> <p>About 350,000 Hong Kong citizens hold British National Overseas passports, a legacy of the colonial era, and 2.5 million others are eligible to apply for them, Johnson said in his column. Long lines have formed at DHL courier offices in the city since the announcement as some people rush to apply for or renew their BNO passports.</p> <p>Johnson, echoing earlier statements by Cabinet ministers, said that if China imposes a national security law, Britain would allow holders of these passports to remain for 12 months on a renewable basis and given the right to work, placing them on a possible path to UK citizenship.</p> <p>"This would amount to one of the biggest changes in our visa system in British history," he wrote, adding, "I hope it will not come to this."</p> <p>BNO passport holders currently can stay for only up to six months.</p> <p><a href="#">Return to</a> <a href="#">Top</a></p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Putin signs Russia nuclear deterrent policy</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/putin-signs-russias-nuclear-deterrent-policy-71020311">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/putin-signs-russias-nuclear-deterrent-policy-71020311</a>
GIST	<p>MOSCOW -- President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday endorsed Russia's nuclear deterrent policy which allows him to use atomic weapons in response to a conventional strike targeting the nation's critical government and military infrastructure.</p> <p>By including a non-nuclear attack as a possible trigger for Russian nuclear retaliation, the document appears to send a warning signal to the U.S. The new expanded wording reflects Russian concerns about the development of prospective weapons that could give Washington the capability to knock out key military assets and government facilities without resorting to atomic weapons.</p> <p>In line with Russian military doctrine, the new document reaffirms that the country could use nuclear weapons in response to a nuclear attack or an aggression involving conventional weapons that "threatens the very existence of the state."</p> <p>But the policy document now also offers a detailed description of situations that could trigger the use of nuclear weapons. They include the use of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction against Russia or its allies and an enemy attack with conventional weapons that threatens the country's existence.</p>

In addition to that, the document now states that Russia could use its nuclear arsenals if it gets “reliable information” about the launch of ballistic missiles targeting its territory or its allies and also in the case of “enemy impact on critically important government or military facilities of the Russian Federation, the incapacitation of which could result in the failure of retaliatory action of nuclear forces.”

The reference to a non-nuclear strike as a possible trigger for nuclear retaliation reflects longtime Moscow concern about U.S. military plans.

The buildup of conventional forces near Russia's borders and the deployment of missile defense assets and space-based weapons are among the threats identified by Moscow in the new document.

U.S.-Russia relations are at post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis, the accusations of Russian meddling in the U.S. 2016 presidential election and other differences.

Amid the tensions, the Kremlin has repeatedly voiced concern about the deployment of U.S. and allied forces in the Baltics and NATO drills near Russia's borders.

Russian officials have cast the U.S.-led missile defense program and its plans to put weapons in orbit as a top threat, arguing that the new capability could tempt Washington to strike Russia with impunity in the hope of fending off a retaliatory strike.

In 2018, Putin revealed an array of new weapons that he said would render U.S. missile defense useless. They include the Avangard hypersonic vehicle capable of flying 27 times faster than the speed of sound and making sharp maneuvers on its way to target to dodge the enemy's missile shield. The first unit armed with the Avangard entered duty in December.

Another doomsday weapon that Putin has mentioned is the nuclear-armed and atomic-powered Poseidon underwater drone capable of causing a devastating tsunami near an enemy coast. Its tests are continuing.

Last year, both Moscow and Washington withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The only U.S.-Russia nuclear arms control agreement still standing is the New START treaty, which was signed in 2010 by U.S. President Barack Obama and then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The pact limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

Russia has offered to extend the New START, which expires in February 2021, while the Trump administration has pushed for a new arms control pact that would also include China. Moscow has described that idea as unfeasible, pointing at Beijing's refusal to negotiate any deal that would reduce its much smaller nuclear arsenal.

Russian diplomats said the Avangard could be included in the New START if it's extended. They also voiced readiness to open talks to discuss the Poseidon and other new weapons along with prospective U.S. strategic assets.

In a call with members of his Security Council over the weekend, Putin warned that the New START treaty is bound to expire, but “the negotiations on that crucial issue, important not just for us but for the entire world, have failed to start.”

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HEADLINE	06/02 Louisville restaurant owner fired gun first?
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/david-mcatee-appears-fired-gun-prior-death-police/story?id=71028584">https://abcnews.go.com/US/david-mcatee-appears-fired-gun-prior-death-police/story?id=71028584</a>
GIST	Authorities in Louisville, Kentucky, released additional video footage Tuesday showing what they claim is <a href="#">David McAtee</a> , who was shot dead by law enforcement earlier this week, firing his gun first.

McAtee, who owned YaYa's BBQ near the corner of South 26th Street and Broadway, and whose mother called him a "[community pillar](#)," was shot and killed at around 12:15 a.m. Monday outside of his business.

The Louisville Metro Police Department and National Guard were working to disperse protests throughout the city when they were dispatched to break up a large crowd at Dino's Food Mart across the street from McAtee's business, according to police, who say the officers were returning fire when McAtee was killed.

Interim Chief of Police Robert Schroeder said during a press conference Tuesday that [additional video footage](#) taken from McAtee's business and an adjoining business "appears to show McAtee firing a gun outside his business door as officers using pepper balls to clear Dino's lot approached his business."

LMPD Training Division commander Maj. Paul Humphrey said that based on the video it appears McAtee fired his gun first, but that they still have to "put all the piece of the investigation together."

Both Humphrey and Schroeder said there are other questions left to answer, such as why McAtee fired his gun, where police were at the time he fired, whether authorities found a gun on McAtee, and if he was shooting at law enforcement or other shooters.

The incident is currently being investigated by local and state authorities while the National Guard does a review of its own members.

Humphrey said authorities have yet to piece together the sequence of events that led to McAtee's death, as there is no audio of the incident and the officers involved haven't yet been interviewed. He said officers are normally interviewed a day or two after the incident so that they have time to seek legal counsel.

Schroeder assumed the position of chief of police on Monday after Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer announced that former Chief Steve Conrad would be fired ahead of his planned July 1 retirement. The move came after he said he discovered that none of the police officers involved in McAtee's death had their body cameras activated.

Both LMPD officers who were involved in the incident have been placed on administrative leave pending the investigation, Schroeder said Monday.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Seattle Capitol Hill protest turns chaotic</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mostly-peaceful-george-floyd-protests-continue-in-seattle-area-drawing-crowds-calling-for-racial-justice/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mostly-peaceful-george-floyd-protests-continue-in-seattle-area-drawing-crowds-calling-for-racial-justice/</a>
GIST	<p>Protests over <a href="#">the death of George Floyd</a>, a Black man who was killed by a white police officer who kneeled on his neck in Minneapolis, continued for a fourth day Monday in Seattle, with one having an all-too-familiar outcome: a violent confrontation with police.</p> <p>Several hundred protesters marched from downtown Seattle to the police department's East Precinct on Capitol Hill, where they started calling for Mayor Jenny Durkan to meet them there. At one point, a couple of officers took a knee with protesters.</p> <p>With metal barricades separating them from police, protesters chanted the names of people killed by police and repeated their demand for the mayor to appear. "We want Durkan," they shouted.</p> <p>Just after 9 p.m., the protest erupted into violence, with police using flash-bang grenades and tear gas to send protesters running from the scene. "Crowd has thrown rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers and is attempting to breach barricades one block from the East Precinct," Seattle police tweeted.</p>

One protester later confirmed objects were thrown at police, but said the officers' response — flash bangs and tear gas — was disproportionate.

[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.

Protesters regrouped about a block away from the precinct and remained there while others returned downtown at 10:30 p.m.

Earlier, Durkan had called for another curfew beginning at 6 p.m., while shopping centers and police departments around the Puget Sound area prepared for the possibility of looting or violence. The city of Kirkland recommended all businesses close at 1 p.m., and the Alderwood mall in Lynnwood also closed early.

In downtown Seattle on Monday, protesters started congregating around 3 p.m. at Westlake Park. The day began with chants and speakers, who made their message of nonviolence clear, before the group started marching toward Seattle City Hall.

Summer Karaskova, who sat outside City Hall with her 6-year-old daughter, said she came out "to be counted" and to "demonstrate to my daughter there is an option in times of crisis."

Floyd's death has driven huge crowds to the streets because "it is impossible to interpret more than one view," she said. "The truth of that moment was undeniable and too horrific to ignore."

Karaskova said she wanted to see police join the demonstration "and walk with us."

"That's the first healing act that could be possible," she said.

Another protester, Meraf Geberehiwot, said he was marching with "overwhelming grief, overwhelming anger."

"This is a breaking point, a tipping point," Geberehiwot said. "My spirit is unsettled."

As the protesters made their way to the East Precinct, both directions of Interstate 5 in Seattle were briefly closed Monday due the possibility of protesters walking onto the freeway.

Other protests took place in Renton, Tacoma and Olympia. In Olympia, police used flash-bang devices to clear away groups of people protesting outside City Hall.

In Seattle's University District, many businesses were boarded up while police maintained a presence at the University Village shopping center, clearing customers out of the area.

A spokeswoman for the shopping center said all restaurants and businesses were closed at 2 p.m. out of an "abundance of caution" after police told her a protest could take place there Monday afternoon. Most University Village storefronts, including Piatti and Victoria's Secret, had been boarded up by 3 p.m. QFC, which isn't officially part of University Village, was also closed and boarded up.

Around 4:30 p.m., several people smashed windows at a nearby Safeway and ran inside before quickly fleeing. An alert from the University of Washington urged people to avoid the area, reporting that one person had been injured and taken to the hospital. No arrests had been made as of 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, a separate group of about 40 people started marching down an alley between QFC and Safeway, but were stopped and eventually pushed back by a line of police.

The scene calmed down quickly, some protesters said, leaving the group peacefully sitting in the parking lot to face off against police.

Jay Cole, a 17-year-old student at Mountlake Terrace High School, said she advocated for a peaceful gathering, but that some people feel looting is “the only way they’ll listen.”

She said she wasn’t one of the people who started smashing Safeway windows.

“I’m here to get justice, not only for George Floyd, but all people who were unarmed and killed by police,” Cole said.

UW students Betzy Villa and Asael Diaz also joined the peaceful protest in the Safeway parking lot. At one point, the two laid down with the rest of the group for nine minutes, signifying about the same amount of time former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck while Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down on a city street on May 25. A medical examiner on Monday classified Floyd’s death as a homicide, saying his heart stopped as police restrained him and compressed his neck.

“This is what feels right in order for change to happen because there’s so much oppression and racism,” Villa, 21, said.

Diaz, 20, said he was frustrated with the violence and looting that had happened over the weekend during protests in Seattle because he felt it took away from protesters’ main message of racial justice.

“What’s the point of going to college and you learn about all of these things, but you don’t ever get to act upon it,” Diaz said. “We hear about these justice movements and the people who suffered through them.” Now, Villa added, students like her can be a part of them.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Tacoma: peaceful protests turn destructive</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://q13fox.com/2020/06/02/tacoma-businesses-damaged-after-a-day-of-peaceful-protests-turns-disruptive/">https://q13fox.com/2020/06/02/tacoma-businesses-damaged-after-a-day-of-peaceful-protests-turns-disruptive/</a>
GIST	<p>TACOMA -- A long day of peaceful protests in Tacoma turned disruptive and destructive as night fell Monday, leaving several State Street businesses cleaning up shattered storefronts and other damage Tuesday morning.</p> <p>Area youth hosted a <a href="#">peaceful protest Monday</a> to show people the fight toward change can be done peacefully. Students also provided free handmade face masks to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>People of all races, ages and backgrounds participated in the peaceful protests at Wright Park, but the marches later moved to SR-16 and I-5 in Tacoma, disrupting traffic after curfew and prompting Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodard to take to the streets and plead with protesters to go home.</p> <p>Dan Ricketts, a Tacoma resident who lives above Carmen Beer Co., said as marchers moved along State Street, he saw people getting out of cars with bats.</p> <p>"The protest was peaceful. This was people ruining the place," Ricketts said.</p> <p>While Tacoma was trying to move protesters off of freeways, Seattle's afternoon of peaceful protests was declared <a href="#">a riot</a> around 9 p.m., three hours after the citywide curfew took effect.</p> <p>Seattle police said the incident commander declared the incident a riot after they said the crowd threw "rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers" and were "attempting to breach barricades one block from the East Precinct."</p>

	<p>“Officers deployed less-lethal munitions and a mobile line of bike officers was established to disperse the crowd,” police said in a statement. There were no immediate reports of arrests.</p> <p>North of downtown, near the University Village shopping mall, police barricaded a grocery store’s windows after some people smashed them.</p> <p>Earlier Monday Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said while the damage from weekend protests that turned violent must be condemned and those responsible prosecuted, “we will not allow that to obscure the justice of the underlying protest.”</p> <p>Inslee said that people are justifiably outraged following the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota and emphasized the constitutional right to protest. But he said that “violence and destruction has no place in this.”</p> <p>“We just can’t allow violence to hijack peaceful protest,” Inslee said at a news conference.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Omaha: no charges death black protester</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/omaha-bar-owner-jake-gardner-held-in-shooting-of-black-protester-james-scurlock-has-gun-arrests?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/omaha-bar-owner-jake-gardner-held-in-shooting-of-black-protester-james-scurlock-has-gun-arrests?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>OMAHA—Protesters came out by the hundreds on Monday evening after prosecutors in this Nebraska city decided not to charge a white bar owner who shot a young black man to death during unrest two nights earlier.</p> <p>“We will not let others antagonize us or scare us. We’re also not going to accept people who degrade us as a people,” Tyreese Johnson, 20, told The Daily Beast.</p> <p>Kimana Barnett, 18, came out with her friends after seeing news about the shooting on social media. “You never hear about something like this in Omaha. It’s supposed to only happen in big cities,” she said. “This was, like, a what-the-fuck moment.”</p> <p>The protest in the Old Market section was initially a peaceful scene, with some of the many cops taking a knee in solidarity with the crowd.</p> <p>But things turned ugly after a curfew passed and some water bottles were thrown, with officers and National Guard members surging in and arresting people—including journalists exempt from the curfew—en masse.</p> <p>Protesters in Omaha are angry that Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine chose not to bring charges against a white bar owner who killed a black man.</p> <p>The city had been bracing for trouble all day, with businesses and offices downtown closing up even before Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine announced Jake Gardner would not be charged for killing James Scurlock, 22, during a confrontation on Saturday night.</p> <p>“The actions of the shooter, the bar owner, were justified,” Kleine said at a press conference. “This decision may not be popular,” he added.</p> <p>At a press conference, Kleine played several video clips of a minute-long confrontation that unfolded between Gardner, the owner of The Hive and The Gatsby nightspots, and a small group of young people.</p> <p>The footage showed Gardner, a 38-year-old ex-Marine, and his 68-year-old father standing outside The Gatsby, where windows had been broken as <a href="#">protests stemming from the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis</a> devolved into vandalism.</p>



The father walked down the street to confront the young black men, shoved one of them, and then got “decked” and pushed back about 10 feet, Kleine said.

The younger Gardner then confronted the group and showed that he was carrying a gun, Kleine said. Suddenly, the video shows, two of the young people charged at Gardner and knocked him into a puddle on the street—at which point he fired two shots he claimed were warnings.

The duo ran off, and then “James Scurlock jumps on top on him,” Kleine said. Gardner “fired over his back” and hit Scurlock in the clavicle, killing him.

Kleine said Gardner gave police and prosecutors his version of events: “He begged and pleaded for this person to get off. This person was trying to get at his gun.”

“He says, I was in fear for my life so I fired the shot,” the prosecutor added.

Scurlock’s father, who is also named James, told reporters that he wanted a grand jury empaneled to examine the evidence and make a decision.

“I honestly feel that if Mr. Gardner’s father would have kept his hands to himself, the incident wouldn’t have happened in the beginning,” he said.

“What I want is justice, not a quick answer.”

State Sen. Justin Wayne noted that Kleine acknowledged Gardner’s permit for a concealed weapon was expired, but that he would not be charged in connection with that.

“In this community, we prosecute black and brown individuals a lot more for things like we just watched,” [Wayne said](#). “We watched a video where anybody else would have gotten charged with something.”

Even before showing the videos, Kleine had castigated local politicians for calling it a “cold-blooded murder” and said reports on social media that racial slurs were used were not supported by the video or by testimony from Scurlock’s friend and a protester.

He also said that a few minutes before the killing, Scurlock was caught on video vandalizing the lobby of a building down the street. “But I don’t think that’s relevant at this time,” Kleine added.

The death of James Scurlock was on the mind of many protesters who gathered near the spot where he was shot dead during a night of chaos.

For his part, Gardner has been arrested on criminal charges at least four times, public records show.

In 2013, police picked him up on assault and battery charges, and also hit him with a count of failing to tell an officer he had a concealed handgun. The gun charge was dismissed in a plea deal that saw him pay \$200 in fines.

In 2011, after being nabbed for alleged reckless driving, he was also charged with carrying a concealed weapon, which was downgraded to disturbing the peace in a plea deal that resulted in a \$200 fine.

Gardner’s record also includes two arrests from 1998 and 1999, one for reckless driving and one for third-degree assault, and a number of traffic offenses.

Court records that would provide details of each arrest were not available. Gardner’s family declined to comment, and refused to provide The Daily Beast with the name of his attorney.

	<p>Scurlock also had a criminal record—but that almost certainly would not have been known to Gardner. It included a one-day jail sentence for misdemeanor assault in 2019 and 90-day sentence for misdemeanor domestic assault in February. A 2014 armed robbery charge was downgraded to burglary, public records show.</p> <p>A self-described Libertarian, Gardner had been a source of controversy in Omaha well before last weekend.</p> <p>In 2016, he caused a furor when he wrote on Facebook that transgender women should have had their “appendage” removed if they want to use female bathrooms.</p> <p>“I’m asking transgender folk to use the unisex... bathroom,” he told the <i>World-Herald</i> at the time. “I don’t think it’s a big ask.”</p> <p>The Hive had also been the target of several complaints on social media that it discriminated against black patrons, with one person tweeting that Gardner personally refused entry to her black husband while letting her white brother go in.</p> <p>Last year, the State Liquor Authority <a href="#">issued a warning to Gardner</a> for failing to cooperate with police who were investigating a possible assault on site.</p> <p>He has been up front about his political and philosophical views. In 2017, while in Washington to attend President Trump’s inauguration, <a href="#">he was interviewed about</a> the Women’s March then underway.</p> <p>“Everyone has a right to speak their mind,” he said, wearing a Trump sweatshirt, with his dog Bron in a MAGA vest. “Everyone loves the dog until they see the vest,” he said of the marchers.</p> <p>He posted a photo in 2017 of himself and Bron posing with Donald Trump Jr. with the caption: “Here’s a guy who returns my emails 100 percent of the time, every time. #FAKENEWS #BRONANDDON.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Mayor issues NYC 8pm curfew for week</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/de-blasio-issues-8-pm-new-york-city-curfew-for-rest-of-the-week?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/de-blasio-issues-8-pm-new-york-city-curfew-for-rest-of-the-week?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>New York City’s 8 p.m. curfew will be in place through the remainder of the week, and the city will also be adding more police officers to cover the protests, Mayor de Blasio said Tuesday.</p> <p>The earlier curfew comes after the city implemented an 11 p.m. curfew on Monday following fires and looting in several downtown stores Sunday night. The chaos continued on Monday evening, with widespread looting in midtown Manhattan and reports of attacks on cops amid peaceful protests. “We saw vicious attacks on police officers. That is wholly unacceptable. That does not represent the people of this city. Anyone who attacks a police officer attacks all of us,” de Blasio said Tuesday.</p> <p>The NYPD had already doubled its presence on Monday in the areas most affected by violence, according to <a href="#">CBS New York</a>. The number of arrests nearly doubled Monday evening, rising from 400 arrests Sunday night to 700 last night.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 EU: Russia should not rejoin G7</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eu-russia-rejoin-g7-trump-plan-71016966">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eu-russia-rejoin-g7-trump-plan-71016966</a>

GIST	<p>BRUSSELS -- The European Union on Tuesday joined a growing chorus of members of the Group of Seven major economic powers to insist that <a href="#">Russia</a> must not be allowed back into the fold, after U.S. President <a href="#">Donald Trump</a> said that he plans to invite the country to a G7 summit next fall.</p> <p>Trump said Saturday that he is postponing next month's G7 summit, and plans to invite <a href="#">Russia</a>, Australia, South Korea and India when it does take place. Trump told reporters that he feels the current makeup of the group is "very outdated" and doesn't properly represent "what's going on in the world."</p> <p>The G7 members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the <a href="#">United Kingdom</a> and the United States, while the 27-nation EU, the world's biggest trading bloc, also takes part. Russia was suspended in 2014 from the then G8 following its invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea.</p> <p>EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that Russia should not be allowed back in until it "changes course and the environment allows for the G8 again to have a meaningful discussion, and this is not currently the case."</p> <p>Borrell said that it's up to Trump, as G7 chair, "to issue guest invitations, and guest invitations reflect the host priorities. But changing membership, or changing the format on a permanent basis, is not the prerogative of the G7 chair."</p> <p>Borrell said G7 members "sit together because they share values, interests and commitments," and he insisted that given the coronavirus pandemic "cooperation among like-minded partners is crucial even more in such difficult times."</p> <p>On Monday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that Russia's "continued disrespect and flaunting of international rules and norms is why it remains outside of the G7 and why it will continue to remain out."</p> <p>British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, said the U.K. would "look at the detail of what the U.S. is proposing," and also noted that it's customary for the host to invite other leaders as guests. Asked whether Russia should be let back in, he said "we're yet to see evidence of changed behavior that would justify its readmittance."</p> <p>German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that she will not personally attend a meeting in the U.S. if Trump goes ahead with it unless the course of the pandemic changes by then.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Police face scrutiny, violence w/protests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/tough-place-now-us-police-face-scrutiny-violence/story?id=70994492">https://abcnews.go.com/US/tough-place-now-us-police-face-scrutiny-violence/story?id=70994492</a>
GIST	<p>While police officers across the country have come under scrutiny for a series of ugly encounters with protesters demanding justice in the wake of the white officer-involved killing of African American <a href="#">George Floyd</a> in Minneapolis, law enforcement veterans say controversial videos capturing what appears to be excessive use of force don't tell the whole story or take into account agitators and brazen criminals capitalizing on the chaos.</p> <p>Demonstrations across the country have turned violent and deadly for U.S. police officers who find themselves walking a delicate balance between protecting protesters' First Amendment rights and guarding property from being looted and destroyed.</p> <p>A police officer was shot and critically wounded in Las Vegas Monday night when a peaceful demonstration turned violent, authorities said. The officer, whose name was not immediately released, was engaging with protesters near the Circus Circus Hotel &amp; Casino when the shooting occurred, officials said.</p>

In a second incident in Las Vegas, police shot a suspect they alleged was wielding multiple weapons outside a courthouse. The man was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

In St. Louis, four officers were shot and wounded during a protest that drew several thousand people and turned into a free-for-all in which fireworks and gas were hurled at police and mobs began looting businesses, officials said.

In New York City, video emerged of an officer being attacked by a group of men in the Bronx who appeared to throw a heavy object at the officer while he was on the ground. Several officers were struck by cars Monday night and there was widespread looting and vandalism across the city, including at luxury stores in Rockefeller Center and the Upper East Side, according to the [New York Police Department](#) (NYPD). At least 500 arrests were made Monday night and into Tuesday morning in New York, where a curfew went into effect at 11 p.m. Monday.

On Friday night, Dave Patrick Underwood, a Federal Protective Service contract officer, was shot and killed at the federal building in Oakland, California. Underwood was slain while on duty and the FBI says shots were fired by an unidentified person in a vehicle. Authorities are investigating whether it was tied to a protest.

"This is what we're looking at right now. It's a tough place to be in right now," Robert Boyce, the retired chief of detectives of the NYPD and an ABC News contributor, said of police on the front lines of American discord.

Eddie Johnson, the former Chicago police superintendent, added that police are juggling two volatile situations: legitimate protesters venting their anger in a peaceful way and violent agitators bent on destruction.

"That's unfortunate because it takes away from the real message of how police interact with people in general, especially people of color, African Americans," Johnson told ABC News. "It's completely taken away from that message and now all the focus is on violence and it's a shame."

Nearly 800 people were arrested in Chicago during protests over the weekend when groups split off from demonstrations and began looting and vandalizing businesses, police said.

On Monday afternoon, President Donald Trump, who critics say has fueled some of the violence with inflammatory tweets suggesting protesters could be shot for looting, said he has seen enough and [threatened to use the military](#) to quell the violence. In a White House Rose Garden speech, with protesters assembled right outside the gates, Trump implored governors across the nation to boost the presence of National Guard troops in cities to "dominate the streets."

"As we speak, I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, assaults and the wanton destruction of property," he said. "We will end it now."

The president said he is "ally of all peaceful protesters" while at the same time the National Guard and police were using force to disperse a peaceful protest outside the White House gates so Trump could cross the street to a vandalized St. John's Episcopal Church to be photographed holding a Bible.

Jarrold Burguan, the former police chief of San Bernardino, California, and an ABC News contributor, said police commanders nationwide are weighing how much leeway to give legitimate protesters. But when conditions deteriorate, decisions have to be made to protect lives and property, he said.

"When things turn violent and when things have reached kind of the point that we are at now, you realize that the only way to really, truly put it down is to truly respond with force and find a way to stop the looting and stop the violence that's happening," Burguan said in an interview on [the ABC News podcast "Start Here."](#)

### **Caught on video**

But in some cases, police officers trying to keep a lid on rising tensions while allowing peaceful protests to go on have been caught on camera seemingly committing the very acts people are protesting against.

In Seattle, a video surfaced over the weekend showing a police officer with his knee on the neck of a pinned protester, an act that was similar to circumstances surrounding Floyd's May 25 death. Protesters screamed for the officer to remove his knee until a colleague pushed it away. The incident is under investigation.

In Atlanta, two police officers were fired and three others were yanked off the streets and placed on desk duty after they were caught on video deploying stun guns on two black college students who were in a car simply driving home from a protest, authorities said.

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a police officer was suspended after a video showed him pushing a kneeling black woman to the ground during protests.

In New York, police officers are under investigation after video footage surfaced of them using their vans to ram a crowd of protesters in Brooklyn after demonstrators hurled projectiles at their vehicles and used a metal barricade to block their path. In a separate incident, a New York City police officer is now the subject of an internal investigation after he was recorded on video aggressively shoving a female protester to the ground for apparently getting too close to him.

"One of your biggest fears is that it only takes one officer on that front line to lose his cool because ... he's got people yelling at him," Burguan said. "Maybe you got a water bottle thrown at him whatever it might be. It just takes one officer to lose their cool and pull out their pepper spray or start poking people with their baton or start doing things that are gonna agitate the crowd that's going to make your job infinitely more difficult. And I guarantee you that there are chiefs all over the country that are going to evaluate the actions of their specific officers and how things went down. And there's going to be that due process [in] those investigations that happen on the backside."

Not only do officers assigned to skirmish lines have to deal with protesters screaming obscenities in their faces, they also have to cope with agitators who infiltrate legitimate demonstrations in order to wreak havoc and career criminals bent on looting businesses, Boyce said.

"To be quite honest with you, these anarchists are very well organized, they're anti-everything -- anti-religion, anti-capitalism, anti-globalism, you name it they're anti," he continued. "They want a complete breakdown of structure and that's what we're kind of going through right now."

### **'Professional agitator'**

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn, New York, identified one of three protesters arrested on suspicion of tossing Molotov cocktails at NYPD vehicles as someone known to police across the county as a "professional agitator." Prosecutors, according to court records, say Samantha Shader has previously been arrested 11 times in 11 different states since 2011 for allegedly committing acts of violence and resisting arrest.

Shrader was charged with federal crimes of causing damage by fire and explosives to police vehicles. She has not yet entered a plea and remains in federal custody.

Two other suspects charged in the firebombings of police vehicles, Colinford Mattis and Urooj Rahma, are licensed attorneys who have attended prestigious universities and law schools, according to court records. They, too, were charged with federal crimes of causing damage by fire and explosives to police vehicles, but have yet to enter a plea and remain in federal custody.

"As such, the defendants were well aware of the severity of their criminal conduct when they decided to hurl a Molotov cocktail at an NYPD vehicle and to incite others to do the same," federal prosecutors said in court documents.

Shader was photographed in a car holding what appeared to be a Molotov cocktail at the scene of one of the New York firebombings, authorities said.

"The defendant's criminal conduct was extraordinarily serious," prosecutors alleged of Shader in court papers. "She hurled a Molotov cocktail at an NYPD vehicle with emergency lights on and occupied by four police officers, causing damage to the vehicle and putting the officers' lives in serious danger."

Boyce, who retired from the NYPD in 2017 after a 35-year career with the department, said on Friday night alone 47 police vehicles were torched and 30 officers were injured when peaceful protests turned violent.

He said that while he empathizes with protesters seeking justice for Floyd's killing, he added that the demonstrations are drawing a more nefarious element and police officers are often caught in the middle and often goaded into ambushes or provoked into aggressive behavior that gets caught on viral videos.

He said roving bands of well-organized anarchists have been stockpiling bricks, bottles and gasoline bombs in areas where they know protests will occur and then striking at the optimum moment, usually when news media is on hand to witness their actions.

"You have Molotov cocktails, you have bricks and bottles being thrown at police officers," Boyce said. "These are riots right now. This has been completely hijacked."

U.S. Attorney General William Barr used similar language on Saturday to describe the chaos on the streets of American cities in the wake of the Floyd killing.

"The voices of peaceful protests are being hijacked by violent radical elements," Barr said in a televised statement at the Department of Justice.

"Groups of outside radicals and agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate and violent agenda. In many places it appears the violence is planned, organized and driven by anarchic and left extremist groups, far-left extremist groups using Antifa-like tactics, many of whom traveled from outside the state to promote the violence," Barr said.

### **Chemical attacks**

The Homeland Security Bureau Southeast Florida issued a bulletin on Sunday to federal and state authorities in South Florida listing the incidents in which police officers have been attacked with unknown chemicals during protests over the weekend. In Philadelphia on Saturday, police officers reported sustaining chemical burns during protests, according to the agency, while in Miami people were spotted mixing chemicals in water bottles during a demonstration there. In Fort Lauderdale, dozens of people pelted police with plastic bottles containing unknown fluid, the agency reported.

"After the Molotov cocktail attack Friday night, law enforcement remains concerned that protests could give cover to 'agitators' looking to use chemicals or gasoline to injure police," according to the bulletin obtained by ABC News.

"I think that people forget, citizens forget these cops are human too and they don't get paid to get spit on, get bricks thrown at them and the new thing of the day is to throw water bottles at them," Johnson said.

"Now that water bottle could contain water or various other things. They don't get paid to be punching bags out there. But the majority of the cops do a really good job at showing restraint."



Johnson said that during his 31 years in law enforcement, he has encountered groups of anarchists crossing state lines to cause trouble in Chicago.

"They would come from out of town with the one thought of agitating police and what they do is they bait police into doing something or being overly aggressive then they sue," Johnson said. "And they use that money to continue traveling around the country and causing headaches everywhere they go. So we do have professional people who travel around the country and do nothing but stir up these incidents."

He said he is encouraged to see instances across the country in which legitimate protesters have called out agitators in the act of causing disturbances.

"The real protesters who are trying to change things, they don't want that message getting clouded with agitators out there just to create chaos," Johnson said. "Our real protesters aren't trying to clash with the police. They're trying to get a message out there and they don't want that message to get conflated with violence."

Johnson noted that many U.S. officers on the front lines of the protests are black and face additional dynamics of weighing their own experience with racism in law enforcement agencies and doing their jobs and watching the backs of their colleagues.

"If you saw that video of George Floyd's life being snuff out and you think that's OK and you're a cop then you need to turn in your badge right away because there's nothing that I saw that was right about that," said Johnson, who is African American. "Now having said that, I understand people protesting so vigorously because we do have to have change, we do have to create a culture that everybody is looked at equally, not just treated equally, but looked at equally. And their lives have the same value that anybody else lives have. So I empathize with that."

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, an organization comprised of police chiefs from the nation's largest cities, released a letter to its members on Monday, saying, "We need to hear what America is telling us right now."

"The death of George Floyd was, by any measure of professional policing unnecessary, avoidable and criminal," the letter says.

The letter referred to other notable cases in which black lives have been "unjustly lost" to the hands of police, including Eric Garner in New York in 2014, Walter Scott in South Carolina in 2015 and Philando Castile in Minnesota in 2016.

"Each of these cases raised different concerns, but collectively they add new and painful chapters to our history that compels all of us to take inventory and be held accountable," the letter says.

"It will take strong leadership from all of us as well as collaborative partnerships from leaders from all walks of life and all levels," the letter continues. "Actions matter and so do words. Provocative statements create tension that lead to danger for police officers and the public. During challenging times, leaders need to reassure and calm, not instigate and stoke discord. Let us be the example for all leaders to follow. More than anything, this is a time for us to help facilitate healing, learning, listening and then dialogue, particularly in communities of color."

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HEADLINE	06/01 Surveillance, privacy debate heats up
SOURCE	<a href="https://news.trust.org/item/20200601172643-uqtp5/">https://news.trust.org/item/20200601172643-uqtp5/</a>
GIST	MILAN/NEW YORK, June 1 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Chaotic demonstrations over race and policing that swept through the United States over the past week have fuelled a debate over the growing use of surveillance technology by security forces in protests worldwide and its impact on privacy.

Peaceful protests over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died while in police custody in Minneapolis last week, swelled into scenes of [violence in the United States](#) over the weekend and also broke out in London and other world cities.

The unrest has drawn a large response from security forces in the United States, raising concerns from privacy groups about the use of new surveillance tools that activists say risk stifling people's right to protest.

"All the technology we have been warning about for a while are starting to come to fruition in these protests," said Dave Maass, a senior investigative researcher at digital rights group the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).

"They're bringing out the whole range".

Here is what you need to know about surveillance and privacy during protests:

#### WHAT TOOLS HAVE BEEN USED TO MONITOR PROTESTERS?

While monitoring protests is nothing new, authorities' ability to potentially identify those in attendance from distance and without detection has increased in recent years.

Among new technologies deployed by police forces in countries like Germany, the United States and Britain, are [real-time facial recognition cameras, phone tracking tools known as IMSI catchers and drones](#), according to privacy groups.

Last Friday, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agency flew a surveillance drone normally used for border patrols over Minneapolis, the city at the hub of the last wave of protests.

The CBP said the drone "was preparing to provide live video to aid in situational awareness at the request of our federal law enforcement partners" but was diverted back upon reaching the city as authorities realised it was no longer needed.

Kuda Hove, a policy officer at Privacy International, said the use of the drone was an example of how easy it was for some governments to repurpose military grade surveillance equipment to monitor and discourage the exercise of civilian rights.

#### WHAT ARE THE PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS OF SURVEILLANCE IN PROTESTS?

Privacy activists worry that by making it harder for protesters to remain anonymous, surveillance technology deployed by authorities around the globe could have a chilling effect on demonstrations, dissuading people from participating.

From facial recognition cameras to phone tracking devices, monitoring tools could also be abused to prosecute activists and dissenters and target vulnerable groups and minorities, according to Privacy International.

"Planning and participating in protests requires us to communicate freely and confidentially without unlawful interference," said programme director Ilia Siatitsa.

"New surveillance technologies are radically transforming the ability of authorities to monitor protests. They are already capable of conducting generalised, invisible, real-time surveillance of protests, from a distance, without people knowing or consenting."

#### HOW ARE PROTESTERS DEFYING SURVEILLANCE?

Face masks have become increasingly common at protests across the world, particularly in Hong Kong where anti-government demonstrators have also resorted to tearing up "smart" lamp posts equipped with surveillance cameras.

	<p>Artists and fashion designers have come up with other <a href="#">wearable devices</a>, like sunglasses and decoy T-shirts, promising to cheat cameras and provide people with a veil of anonymity.</p> <p>Some privacy groups have also been advising would-be protesters to ditch smartphones and cars when going to a demonstration to avoid GPS tracking and automatic plate readers.</p> <p>A "surveillance self-defence" guide by EFF provides other tips, such as putting mobile devices on airplane mode and using encrypted messaging services to communicate.</p> <p>Activists in the United States have also warned protesters against filming fellow demonstrators and sharing the footage online to avoid providing security forces with additional information.</p> <p>"We must consider the value and danger of cellphones during these protests which is why we encourage people to only film the police, or leave their phones at home," said Jacob Crawford, the founder of WeCopWatch, an organization that trains communities and activists to monitor police.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 UK warns China over Hong Kong</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-protests-britain-china/uk-warns-china-do-not-cross-the-rubicon-on-hong-kong-idUSKBN2391H8">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-protests-britain-china/uk-warns-china-do-not-cross-the-rubicon-on-hong-kong-idUSKBN2391H8</a>
GIST	<p>LONDON (Reuters) - The United Kingdom warned China on Tuesday not to cross the Rubicon over Hong Kong, saying the People's Republic should step back and adhere to its international obligations over the former British colony.</p> <p>"The ball is in the court of the government in China, it has a choice to make here," British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told parliament.</p> <p>"It can cross the Rubicon and violate the autonomy and the rights of the people of Hong Kong or it can step back, understand the widespread concern of the international community and live up to its responsibilities as a leading member of the international community.</p> <p>"We don't seek to prevent China's rise, far from it, we welcome China as a leading member of the international community and we look to engage with China on everything from trade to climate change," Raab said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 America's racial inequality in numbers</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://news.trust.org/item/20200601213023-p1dkx/">https://news.trust.org/item/20200601213023-p1dkx/</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON, June 1 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Protests over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died while in police custody in Minneapolis last week, have spread to dozens of cities in the United States and other world cities.</p> <p>Floyd's death, at the hands of a white police officer who knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, has reignited anger over longstanding social and economic inequality between the country's white and black communities.</p> <p>More than 40 million black people live in the United States, making up about 13% of the nation's population.</p> <p>From education to home ownership, here are eleven statistics that show inequality among black and white Americans:</p>

- Black adults, especially black men, are far more likely to end up in jail than white adults. In 2018, there were 1,501 black prisoners for every 100,000 black adults - [more than five times](#) the rate among whites.
- About three in every five black men say they have been unfairly stopped by the police because of their race, according to a 2019 survey by the Pew Research Center. Also, about eight in every ten black people, with at least some college education, say they have been discriminated against because of their race.
- The home ownership gap between blacks and whites has widened since 2004 and black families are less likely than white families to own their own house. Today, 41% of black households own their own homes, compared with nearly 72% for whites.
- Black households have only 10 cents in wealth for every dollar held by white households, according to 2016 data. In 2016, the median wealth of non-Hispanic white households was \$171,000 - 10 times the wealth of black households (\$17,100).
- COVID-19 has disproportionately affected black men and women in terms of deaths from the disease and unemployment rates during the pandemic.
- By the end of May, the COVID-19 [mortality rate for black Americans](#) (1 in 1,850) was 2.4 times as high as the rate for white Americans (1 in 4,400).
- In April, the [black unemployment rate](#) was nearly 17% compared with a white unemployment rate of 14%.
- Over the past two decades, the wage gap between black and white workers has grown significantly. For example, in 2018 the [median weekly earnings for full-time workers](#) was \$694 for black Americans, compared to \$916 for white Americans.
- In 2017, black women earned less than white women, with the median annual earnings for full-time black women workers was just over \$36,000 - 21% lower than that of white women.
- Black women in the United States are [more than 3 times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes](#) than white women.
- Black students are less likely to graduate from high school than white students. In 2018, 79% of black students graduated from high school in comparison to 89% among white students.

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## Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	06/02 Canada foreign intel, cybersecurity laws
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.justsecurity.org/70519/a-deep-dive-into-canadas-overhaul-of-its-foreign-intelligence-and-cybersecurity-laws/?web_view=true">https://www.justsecurity.org/70519/a-deep-dive-into-canadas-overhaul-of-its-foreign-intelligence-and-cybersecurity-laws/?web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>Following the release of documents by Edward Snowden, many of the Western governments whose agencies' activities were implicated in the leaks raced to update and modernize their national security legislation. Such legislation was, in at least some cases, designed to clearly establish the legality of activities and operations that had been already undertaken for many years in near-absolute secrecy. In June 2019, the Canadian government passed major national security legislation, which massively overhauled how Canada's signals intelligence agency and cybersecurity agency, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), could lawfully operate. Those updates are found in <a href="#">Bill C-59</a>: An Act respecting national security matters. This Bill promises to extend and amplify the kinds of activities that the CSE can undertake in the coming decades.</p> <p>C-59 is a complex, omnibus bill that amended, updated, or replaced elements from 20 other pieces of existing legislation, while also creating several altogether new pieces of legislation. With nine parts, it covers a vast range of issues in the area of national security law — from information-sharing between federal agencies and the maintenance of Canada's no-fly list, to criminal law terrorism provisions. Prominent among its changes were dramatic reforms to the mandate, capabilities, and authorization frameworks of the CSE. These reforms and new powers are covered in <a href="#">Part 3</a> of Bill C-59: The Communications Security Establishment Act (CSE Act), and are accompanied by Parts <a href="#">1</a> (the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency (NSIRA) Act), and <a href="#">2</a> (the Intelligence Commissioner Act). This article examines each aspect of the CSE's updated mandate, as well as the associated accountability, review, and oversight components of the new legislation.</p>

## **A Reformed Mandate**

The CSE Act expanded the CSE's mandate from three to five parts. In addition to the categories of foreign intelligence, cybersecurity, and assistance, C-59 added two aspects to the establishment's mandate: defensive cyber operations (section 18) and active cyber operations (section 19). It also created two new mechanisms: a review body, replacing the Security Intelligence Review Committee with the NSIRA; and an oversight mechanism, replacing the Office of the CSE Commissioner with the Office of the Intelligence Commissioner.

### ***Foreign Intelligence***

One element of the CSE's mandate is to acquire and use information from the global information infrastructure — functionally, any kind of system, process, or equipment that is involved in the production of communications or information — for the purpose of collecting foreign intelligence (CSE Act, section 16). Accompanying operations include targeted and mass/bulk surveillance activities aimed at acquiring intelligence about foreign individuals, states, organizations, or terrorist groups as they relate to international affairs, defense, or security (CSE Act, section 2). The CSE Act makes explicit that information can be acquired covertly, including with the assistance of foreign entities, and that such information can be acquired and used, as well as also analyzed and disseminated (*CSE Act*, section 16).

Where the CSE is of the view that its foreign intelligence-related activities could contravene Canadian law, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (CSE Act section 22(3)), it must seek a foreign intelligence authorization through written application by the chief of the CSE to the Minister of National Defence (CSE Act, sections 26(2)(b), 33(1)). Such an application must set out the facts and provide reasonable grounds for the minister to conclude: first, the activity being authorized is reasonable and proportionate to the objective and nature of the activities — meaning that the minister believes the information sought could not reasonably be acquired by other means (CSE Act, section 34(2)(a)) — and second, that information acquired and identified as “relating to a Canadian person or person in Canada is used, analysed or retained only if the information is essential to international affairs, defence, or security” (CSE Act, section 34(2)(c)). The CSE is not, however, required to seek or operate under a ministerial authorization (and its protections) where it is of the view that its activities will not violate Canadian law.

After the minister issues a foreign intelligence authorization, the intelligence commissioner must approve the authorization in writing for it to be valid (CSE Act, section 28(1)). Authorizations remain valid for up to one year and can be extended by the minister for up to one additional year. The decision to extend an authorization is not subject to review by the intelligence commissioner, though a new authorization must be issued after the additional year (CSE Act, section 36).

The CSE Act introduces an additional safeguard by requiring the chief of the CSE to notify the minister if there has been a significant change in the facts set out in the original application, and requiring the minister to bring this change to the attention of the intelligence commissioner and the NSIRA (CSE Act, section 37). The intelligence commissioner may then re-examine the authorization and potentially repeal it or require amendments.

### ***Cybersecurity and Information Assurance***

The CSE also provides advice, guidance, and services to protect the Government of Canada's electronic information and information infrastructures, as well as electronic information and information infrastructures explicitly designated as being of importance to the Government of Canada (CSE Act, section 17(a)). Activities under this mandate include acquiring, using, and analyzing information from the global information infrastructure and other sources to provide the aforementioned advice, guidance, and services (CSE Act, section 17(b)).

While subparagraph 17(a)(I) of the CSE Act largely replicates the CSE's previous cybersecurity mandate, subparagraph 17(a)(II) creates a new framework for the minister to designate privately held electronic information and information infrastructures as being “of importance” to the Government of Canada under subsection 21(1). Subsection 21(1) is open-ended, granting the minister discretion to designate any non-

government electronic information, infrastructure information, or class thereof as “important” and bringing it within the scope of the CSE’s cybersecurity and information assurance mandate.

Under this aspect of the CSE’s mandate, a ministerial authorization is only required if activities would contravene Canadian law or a “reasonable expectation of privacy of a Canadian person or person in Canada,” (CSE Act, 22(4)). Accordingly, ministerial authorizations can grant access to infrastructure and thereby authorize the CSE to acquire “any information originating from, directed to, stored on or being transmitted on or through” that infrastructure (CSE Act, 27(1) and (2)) in order to help protect the infrastructure per the circumstances described in [paragraph 184\(2\)\(e\)](#) of the Criminal Code on communications interception. Only information that is necessary to identify, isolate, prevent or mitigate harm to government or critical non-government information or infrastructure may be authorized. In addition, these activities are permissible only following the written request from the infrastructure owner (CSE Act, 33(3)). Furthermore, information may only be retained as long as is reasonably necessary (CSE Act, section 34(3)(a) and (c)), and information identified as relating to a Canadian or person in Canada may only be analyzed, used, or retained if essential (CSE Act, section 34(3)(d)).

Per sections 44 and 45, the CSE may disclose information to persons designated by the minister where such disclosure is necessary to protect federal institutions’ electronic information and infrastructure or any critical non-governmental electronic information and infrastructure. Section 44 is limited in application to information “acquired, used or analysed” during activities carried out under the cybersecurity mandate, limiting the ability of the CSE to disclose any Canadian data it might acquire through its foreign intelligence or assistance mandates to data that is applicable to cybersecurity purposes. In terms of oversight and control, the minister and the intelligence commissioner must approve the cybersecurity authorization, with the minister subsequently responsible for issuing a ministerial order authorizing the disclosure of the obtained information that relates to a Canadian or person in Canada.

### ***Defensive and Active Cyber Operations***

The CSE Act added two aspects to the establishment’s mandate in the form of “defensive cyber operations” and “active cyber operations.” They are included together because the activities that can be authorized and their authorization frameworks are broadly similar.

The “defensive cyber operations” aspect of the mandate enables the CSE to conduct activities “to help protect federal institutions’ electronic information and information infrastructures” as well as other electronic information and information infrastructures which have been designated as being of importance to the Government of Canada under subsection 21(1) (CSE Act, section 18). The “active cyber operations” aspect enables the CSE to carry out activities “to degrade, disrupt, influence, respond to or interfere with the capabilities, intentions or activities of a foreign individual, state, organization or terrorist group as they relate to international affairs, defence or security” (section 19).

Under section 31, the activities that can be authorized under either aspect of the mandate are the same and may include:

- (a) gaining access to a portion of the global information infrastructure;
- (b) installing, maintaining, copying, distributing, searching, modifying, disrupting, deleting or intercepting anything on or through the global information infrastructure;
- (c) doing anything that is reasonably necessary to maintain the covert nature of the activity; and
- (d) carrying out any other activity that is reasonable in the circumstances and reasonably necessary in aid of any other activity, or class of activities, authorized by the authorization.

The aforementioned “activities” are quite permissive and set out the legal basis to authorize state-sponsored hacking and other activity backed by “anything that is reasonably necessary.”

Compared to foreign intelligence and cybersecurity activities, there are significant differences in the authorization framework for active and defensive cyber operations. The chief of the CSE must still make a written application (CSE Act, section 33(1)) that sets out the facts from which the minister is able to conclude there are reasonable grounds to believe that the authorization is necessary and that the conditions for issuing it in subsection 34(4) are met (CSE Act, section 33(2)). However, unlike in the course of



foreign intelligence or cybersecurity related activities, the minister does not need to seek the approval of the intelligence commissioner in the case of cyber operations for the authorization to be valid. Activities under the defensive cyber operations aspect of the mandate can be authorized by the minister alone, who needs only to consult with the Minister of Foreign Affairs (CSE Act, section 29(2)). In cases concerning the active cyber operations aspect of the mandate, the activities can only be authorized if the Minister of Foreign Affairs has requested that the authorization be issued or has consented to its issue (CSE Act, section 30(2)). Further, the CSE may not acquire information under the cyber operations authorization aspect of the establishment's mandate unless a separate authorization has been issued pursuant to its foreign intelligence or cybersecurity and information assurance mandates (CSE Act, section 34(4)).

### ***Technical and Operational Assistance***

The technical and operational assistance aspect of the CSE's mandate authorizes the use of CSE expertise, resources, and surveillance capabilities to assist federal law enforcement and security agencies (CSE Act, section 20), as well as to support the activities of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence (CSE Act, section 20). When relying on this aspect of its mandate, the CSE has the same authority as the agency or department it is assisting, and is subject to the same limitations as the assisted agency or department (CSE Act, section 25(1)), such as the conditions of a warrant. In addition, these kinds of activities are not required to operate under a ministerial authorization, nor do these activities require approval from the intelligence commissioner. CSE personnel who carry out activities under this aspect of the agency's mandate also enjoy the same exemptions, protections, and immunities as a person employed by the agency to which the CSE is providing assistance (CSE Act, section 25(2)).

Activities taken under the CSE's mandate to provide technical and operational assistance may be directed at Canadian persons or persons in Canada, as well as portions of the global information infrastructure within Canada, to the extent the assisted agency is authorized to do so.

### **Review, Oversight, and Independent Control**

#### ***Review***

Bill C-59 replaced the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC) — which was principally responsible for conducting review of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) — as well as the CSE Commissioner (OCSEC) — which provided review of the CSE — with the NSIRA. The NSIRA is empowered to trace national security and intelligence activities across different agencies (e.g., Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canadian Border Services Agency, Communications Security Establishment). The agency is mandated to evaluate, in part, whether the CSE is in compliance with the law as well as the overall reasonableness and necessity of the establishment's use of its powers (NSIRA Act, section 33(2)(b)). This mandate provides the NSIRA a robust baseline against which to assess and evaluate the activities of the CSE.

While the NSIRA may theoretically access “any information that is in the possession or under the control of any department” in the course of its reviews (NSIRA Act, section 9), there may be some gaps where Canada's intelligence bodies act in concert with foreign allies and the CSE cannot be said to be in possession or control of certain documents. Given the high frequency with which the CSE interoperates with foreign agencies, this interpretation could limit NSIRA's ability to evaluate the CSE's activities. As the agency releases its reviews, the extent to which this is a real limitation, if at all, will become clear.

Under section 54 of the CSE Act, the CSE may enter into “arrangements” with peer intelligence agencies to cooperate, share information, or otherwise further its mandate, though it is unclear in the legislation what, precisely, is meant by an “arrangement.” The Canadian Journalists for Free Expression have raised concerns about this, [writing](#), “[d]ata made available by foreign partners may potentially be acquired in a manner that bypasses safeguards under which the CSE normally operates—in other words, it may be data which the CSE would otherwise require an authorization from the Minister and Intelligence Commissioner to collect on its own.” This means there is a possibility that “arrangements” with foreign partner agencies may provide the CSE with greater access to information on Canadians than it would otherwise have. Again, however, whether this is an issue, or becomes an issue in practice, will only become apparent as the NSIRA conducts its reviews of the CSE's activities and the sources of the data that are used to fuel CSE's operations. For clarity, while the CSE is prohibited from requesting that its partners conduct any activity

that the CSE itself is not authorized to conduct, the concern is that partner agencies — of their own motivation and without direction or suggestion from the CSE — might provide information to the CSE about a Canadian or person in Canada without the agency having been aware of the given person(s)' affiliation with Canada.

### ***Oversight and Control***

The intelligence commissioner has the power to review some ministerial authorizations, including those by which the CSE acquires information, and conclude whether the basis upon which these authorizations were issued or amended is reasonable (Intelligence Commissioner Act, sections 13-16). The commissioner must approve any foreign intelligence and cybersecurity ministerial authorizations before the CSE can undertake any activities further to these authorizations, save for in emergency circumstances (CSE Act, section 40(2)).

The commissioner can act as an independent control of the CSE's activities on the basis that the commissioner can refuse to approve ministerial authorizations related to the foreign intelligence and cybersecurity aspects of the CSE's mandate. Notably, however, decisions of the commissioner can only be appealed where she or he rejects a ministerial authorization — and not where an authorization has been approved that perhaps should not have been. Further, there is no functional framework for amici, intervenors, or public interest organizations to challenge decisions or provide adversarial input. The commissioner also lacks the order-making powers necessary to allow her or him to prevent the CSE from carrying out any activity or compel it to undertake certain measures beyond those contained in the Ministerial authorizations. Nor are all classes of the CSE's activities subject to the commissioner's oversight, and when authorizations are approved they will presumably provide a general framework for activities undertaken. Combined, this means that the commissioner may be limited in her or his ability to comprehensively provide oversight or impose conditions on specific applications of ministerial authorizations, which might only come to light when confronted with specific classes of programs undertaken by the CSE.

### **C-59 Is Here. Now What?**

Ultimately, C-59 represents a major change in the national security landscape in Canada and raises significant implications for signals intelligence, offensive and defensive cyber activities undertaken by the Canadian government, and for cybersecurity writ large. There is broad consensus amongst government stakeholders that new cybersecurity tools and capabilities were needed to deter threats, and many of C-59's updates are consistent with contemporary practices of Canada's democratic allies. Yet the legislation also raises several questions. For example, potential risks may arise from the fact that the intelligence commissioner is not required to approve CSE offensive or defensive cyber operations. Also, whether or not the NSIRA will truly have access to all of the information related to actions taken by the CSE in concert with foreign allies, when CSE itself may not have access to these documents, remains to be seen. Moreover, it is unclear what is meant by the CSE's updated ability to "degrade, disrupt, influence, respond to or interfere with the capabilities" of non-Canadian entities "as they relate to international affairs, defence or security" (CSE Act, section 20). Other questions revolve around definitions of key terms, like "publicly available information," "reasonable," "acquire," and "international affairs," including the question of the extent to which some terms should be intentionally vague so as to allow flexibility.

As newly minted legislation, how it will be applied in practice remains to be seen. C-59 is to be examined upon parliamentary review every three years, meaning its first review should occur by 2022. The utility of that review will, in part, depend on the effectiveness of the new review apparatus that was created alongside the update to the CSE's mandate, guaranteeing that some of the most important actors in how the CSE Act is evaluated in 2022 will depend on the dedication, competence, and potential willingness to speak truth to power by the CSE's review and oversight bodies.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Exposed: 8Belts 100,000 e-learners
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.hackread.com/8belts-exposes-data-of-100000-e-learners/?web_view=true">https://www.hackread.com/8belts-exposes-data-of-100000-e-learners/?web_view=true</a>

<p><b>GIST</b></p>	<p>8Belts database was hosted on a misconfigured Amazon Web Services (AWS) S3 bucket.</p> <p>VpnMentor's cybersecurity research team led by researchers Noam Rotem and Ran Locar discovered a data breach involving popular Spanish e-Learning platform 8Belts.</p> <p>Researchers claim that the data got exposed because it was stored on a misconfigured Amazon Web Services (<a href="#">AWS</a>) S3 bucket. Thousands of e-learners from across the globe might be affected as a result of this breach.</p> <p>8Belts is a popular online language learning platform offering courses in French, Chinese, German, and French. With the data breach, it is estimated that private details of at least 100,000 e-learners including national identity numbers, full names, email IDs, and contact information could be at risk of cyber frauds and identity thefts.</p> <p><i>"The earliest records stated from 2017 and included long lists of 8Belt user details. Stored in CSV format, each of these lists contained the different forms of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data for individual 8Belts users," researchers noted in their <a href="#">findings</a> published on Friday.</i></p> <p>Since the data was stored on an unsecured cloud-based database, it was accessible to anyone having the right IP address. The database was discovered on April 16th while they were looking for exposed databases on the internet.</p> <p>The researchers tried to contact 8Belts on 20 April and 22 April but received no response. Meanwhile, the researchers also contacted <a href="#">AWS</a> so that they could inform 8Belts. On 28 April, the said database was taken offline.</p> <p>They further revealed that the database contained information of users from almost every country. It is worth noting that 8Belts claims to have an impressive client-base comprising of the likes of mobile communications firm Huawei, sports goods manufacturer Decathlon, and transnational auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.</p> <p>However, a majority of the user records found in the database belonged to Spanish-speaking countries.</p> <p><a href="#">Return to</a> <a href="#">Top</a></p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>06/02 Cisco: Nexus switches w/serious flaw</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/cisco-warns-these-nexus-switches-have-been-hit-by-a-serious-security-flaw/?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.zdnet.com/article/cisco-warns-these-nexus-switches-have-been-hit-by-a-serious-security-flaw/?&amp;web_view=true</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Cisco has warned customers with Nexus switches running its NX-OS software to install updates to address a serious flaw that allows a remote attacker to bypass network access controls and route malicious internet traffic to internal networks.</p> <p>This bug, tracked as CVE-2020-10136, can be used to trigger a denial of service on affected Nexus switches or, more worryingly, route traffic from an attacker's machine to a target's internal network after bypassing input Access Control Lists (ACLs) for filtering incoming internet traffic.</p> <p>Several of Cisco's widely used Nexus switches harbor a flaw that causes the device to "unexpectedly decapsulate and process IP in IP packets that are destined to a locally configured IP address, even when no tunnel configuration is present".</p> <p>The <a href="#">IETF RFC 2003 specification for the IP-in-IP tunneling protocol</a> allows for IP packets to be wrapped or encapsulated inside other IP packets, with the traffic remaining unencrypted at all times.</p>

Vijay Sarvepalli of the US CERT Coordination Center (CERT/CC) [explains that the protocol unwraps the inner IP packet](#) and forwards it through IP routing tables, but a device becomes vulnerable if it accepts these packets from anywhere without restrictions.

"An IP-in-IP device is considered to be vulnerable if it accepts IP-in-IP packets from any source to any destination without explicit configuration between the specified source and destination IP addresses," writes Sarvepalli.

And that's the problem affecting multiple Cisco Nexus NX-OS devices that support IP-in-IP packet encapsulation and decapsulation: they aren't meant to decapsulate and process any IP in IP traffic to a device's tunnel interface unless it's been manually configured with ACL inbound tunnel controls.

"A successful exploit could cause the affected device to unexpectedly decapsulate the IP in IP packet and forward the inner IP packet. This may result in IP packets bypassing input access control lists (ACLs) configured on the affected device or other security boundaries defined elsewhere in the network," [Cisco notes](#).

"Any input ACL configured on an inbound interface of the affected device is evaluated against the IP fields on the carrier IP packet prior to decapsulation; it would not be evaluated on the passenger IP packet," Cisco further explains.

"This may result in the passenger IP packet bypassing the intended ACL filtering. This may also allow the passenger IP packet to bypass other security boundaries that might be defined in the network path to the affected device in the presence of network filtering techniques that only inspect the outer IP header and not the inner IP packet."

Beyond this, an attacker who repeatedly exploits the bug can cause the device's network stack to crash, resulting in a denial of service on the affected switch.

Cisco has given the bug a severity score of 8.6 out of a possible 10.

CERT/CC says the bug could result in a reflective distributed denial-of-service attack, information leakage and network control bypass.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 DABANGG new timing channel attack</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.securityweek.com/new-technique-improves-effectiveness-timing-channel-attacks?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.securityweek.com/new-technique-improves-effectiveness-timing-channel-attacks?&amp;web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p><b>Two researchers have discovered a new timing channel attack technique that remains effective even if multiple processes are running on a system.</b></p> <p>Called DABANGG (the Hindi word for fearless), the newly proposed technique improves the effectiveness of flush-based attacks such as Flush+Reload and Flush+Flush, researchers Anish Saxena and Biswabandan Panda from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur claim in a <a href="#">research paper</a>.</p> <p>According to them, the majority of <a href="#">flush-based attacks</a> are accurate in controlled environments, where only the attacker and victim processes run on the system by sharing OS pages. When additional processes are running on multi-core systems, however, the attacks lose efficiency due to noise.</p> <p>The dynamic nature of core frequency (depending on system load), and the relative placement of victim and attacker threads in the processor (based on logical and physical cores) are the two root causes affecting the accuracy of flush-based attacks, as they affect the cache latency calibration step of the attack.</p>

The two researchers propose a series of refinements that would make “flush attacks resilient to frequency changes and thread placement in the processor, and therefore system noise.”

These refinements apply to pre-attack and attack steps, and ensure latency change awareness. When tested against standard Flush+Reload and Flush+Flush attacks across multiple scenarios ([side-channel](#) based keylogging, AES secret key extraction, covert channel, and [Spectre](#)), the new technique yields improvements in both [F1 score](#) and accuracy, the researchers claim.

These attacks involve flushing a cache line address using *clflush*, waiting for the flushed address to be accessed, and reloading or flushing the flushed cache line address to measure latency. The issue with these attacks is the precise identification of the difference in execution latency of *clflush* and *reload* instructions. Also of high importance in the effectiveness of the attack is the sleep step.

“On average, across eight possible combinations of compute, memory, and I/O noise, a single-character based key-logging attack using LLC as a side-channel show that Flush+Reload and Flush+Flush provide F1 scores of 42.8% and 8.1%, respectively. In a covert channel attack, Flush+Reload and Flush+Flush attacks suffer from maximum error rates of 45% and 53%, respectively,” the researchers say.

The newly proposed technique improves latency calibration and attacker’s waiting (sleeping) strategy, thus ensuring that the cache access latency threshold remains consistent and resilient to system noise.

Proposed DABANGG refinements include the use of calibration tools to “capture the stepped frequency distribution of the processor while distinguishing a cache hit from a miss;” the use of victim-specific parameters to identify the victim’s memory access pattern; and the use of compute-intensive functions for “a better grip over waiting period.”

By employing these refinements, the researchers argue, the attacker becomes frequency-aware and victim-aware. By making the attacker aware of the victim’s behavior, the effectiveness of the attack can be increased, the researchers say.

[DABANGG](#) is a timing channel attack that is resilient to system noise and can improve the effectiveness of attacks such as Spectre (which uses a cache covert channel). The attack works with both Intel and [AMD processors](#) and can be used even against non-Linux systems.

Essentially, DABANGG attacks are flush-based attacks, meaning that all of the mitigation techniques that apply to Flush+Reload and Flush+Flush attacks are applicable to DABANGG refined attacks.

“The improved, noise resilient DABANGG-enabled attacks pose a significant challenge to the micro-architectural security community. DABANGG-enabled attacks have all of the perks of flush based attacks while being significantly more accurate and precise, making the flush based attacks more practical,” the researchers conclude.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Office 365 phishing scams on rise
SOURCE	<a href="https://cyware.com/news/beware-microsoft-office-365-phishing-scams-hitting-your-inboxes-are-on-the-rise-2c75a237">https://cyware.com/news/beware-microsoft-office-365-phishing-scams-hitting-your-inboxes-are-on-the-rise-2c75a237</a>
GIST	Microsoft Office 365 adoption at the organization level is continuing at a strong pace. With such a massive user base, this multisystem platform has become a target-rich environment for cybercriminals looking to steal login credentials and other confidential information.  <b>Why phishers love Office 365?</b>



As it is entirely cloud-based, users can access their emails, files, and Office programs (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Sway, and Excel) from any location and any device. Moreover, it includes other online file storage and collaboration systems like OneDrive and SharePoint. Altogether, they represent a hive of sensitive data and files that phishers are looking to exploit.

#### What are the impacts?

- Office 365 credentials are a prime commodity on the black market as they can allow cybercrooks to gain access directly into company networks.
- With a single set of legitimate Office 365 credentials, a phisher can conduct phishing attacks from within an organization to steal business-related critical data or trade secret or financial information.

#### How bad is it during the COVID-19?

- With the transition to remote work and online learning, institutions of higher education, companies, and governmental organizations have witnessed an increased risk of phishing scams that target Office 365 services.
- A phishing campaign attempted to steal victims' Office 365 credentials by masquerading as a subpoena from the [Supreme Court](#). The phishing email included a phishing page hosted on the domain 'invoicesendernow[.]com' that stole credentials from users.
- Cybercrooks used a fake notification from [Microsoft Teams](#) in an effort to trick people into revealing their Microsoft Office 365 user names and passwords.
- A phishing email purporting to be from [Financial Industry Regulatory Authority \(FINRA\) officers](#) duped members of the organization to share their credentials for Microsoft Office or SharePoint.
- Employees working from home were targeted in a fake [Zoom phishing campaign](#) designed to pilfer their Office 365 credentials.
- A phishing campaign that leveraged various [Office 365 services](#) such as Sway, OneNote and SharePoint, redirected victims to different phishing sites created for gathering their login details.

#### What's more frightening?

Microsoft recently revealed that attackers have already started adapting their phishing campaigns to use the [newly updated design](#) for Microsoft 365 sign-in pages. The new sign-in design was updated in February and rolled out during the first week of April.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Microsoft: new PonyFinal ransomware
SOURCE	<a href="https://cyware.com/news/microsoft-warns-of-new-ponyfinal-ransomware-9c02677e">https://cyware.com/news/microsoft-warns-of-new-ponyfinal-ransomware-9c02677e</a>
GIST	<p>A <a href="#">series of tweets</a> have been issued by the security team at Microsoft, warning companies to implement protections against a new ransomware that has been active for the past two months.</p> <p><b>What is happening</b></p> <p>PonyFinal - a Java-based ransomware - has suddenly galloped into the wilds and the reins are being held by none other than humans. This ransomware is <a href="#">manually propagated</a> by the threat actors. The ransomware is <a href="#">delivered</a> via an MSI file containing two batch files – one that creates a Java Updater file and another that runs the PonyFinalJAR 9payload – as well as the payload itself.</p> <p>Recent appearances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This ransomware is involved in highly targeted attacks against targets in the U.S., India, and Iran.</li><li>• PonyFinal has been repeatedly targeting the healthcare sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li></ul> <p><b>There are other ransomware groups</b> similar to PonyFinal in the fact that they are all human-operated and have been targeting the healthcare sector. Other similar threat actors include <a href="#">REvil</a>, <a href="#">LockBit</a>, <a href="#">RagnarLocker</a>, <a href="#">Maze</a>, and <a href="#">NetWalker</a>.</p>



	<p><b>Expert opinions</b></p> <p>According to experts, PonyFinal uses a secure encryption scheme and encrypted files cannot be recovered in any way. As per <a href="#">Microsoft</a>, the ransomware attackers have compromised target networks for several months and have been biding their time for the perfect opportunity to monetize their attacks.</p> <p><b>With the global pandemic</b> expediting toward virtualization of almost every task, it has opened a breeding ground for threat actors. The ransomware attacks during a global crisis have affected every sector, including the healthcare and financial sectors, and it is an ongoing phenomenon. These threat actors have no regard for the disruption caused by them in the delivery of essential services.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Crooks impersonate Google for fraud</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://cyware.com/news/cybercriminals-impersonating-google-to-target-remote-workers-328b6018">https://cyware.com/news/cybercriminals-impersonating-google-to-target-remote-workers-328b6018</a>
GIST	<p>Cybercriminals often use popular and trusted brand names to trick users into sharing login credentials. In recent times, the attackers have impersonated many web services such as Microsoft Outlook, and Google Docs to harvest data to commit fraud or launch campaigns.</p> <p>What the latest report says</p> <p>According to a new report by <a href="#">Barracuda Networks</a>, between January 1 and April 30, 2020, Google file sharing and storage websites and brand names were used in 65% of nearly 100,000 form-based attacks, making up 4% of all spear-phishing attacks in the first four months of 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The attackers leverage brand names of <a href="#">Google</a> services to trick their victims: storage.googleapis.com (25%), docs.google.com (23%), storage.cloud.google.com (13%), and drive.google.com (4%).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Microsoft</a> brands were also used for impersonation in 13% of attacks: onedrive.live.com (6%), sway.office.com (4%), and forms.office.com (3%).</li> <li>• The other sites including sendgrid.net (10%), mailchimp.com (4%), and formcrafts.com (2%) were also used in the impersonation attacks.</li> </ul> <p>Other attempts of impersonation of popular brands</p> <p>Hackers have been using a variety of phishing campaigns to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to distribute malware, steal credentials, and scam users and organizations out of money. Within May 2020, attackers launched many phishing campaigns and impersonated several popular brand names.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The attacker impersonated the collaboration software provider, <a href="#">LogMeIn</a> by sending fake yet legitimate-looking emails and directed users to a phishing site to compromise LogMeIn account login credentials.</li> <li>• The attackers used newly updated designs for <a href="#">Azure AD and Microsoft 365</a> sign-in pages to launch phishing attacks. Attackers quickly adapted the changes made to resources and updated their tactics to make the attacks a lot more convincing.</li> <li>• A phishing attack was launched on <a href="#">Magellan Health</a> employees and clients and exfiltrated their data and used a custom-malware to steal login credentials and passwords.</li> <li>• The attacker impersonated <a href="#">Zoom</a> in a phishing campaign, by crafting a convincing email and landing page that mimicked meeting notifications from Zoom, in order to steal Microsoft credentials of employees.</li> <li>• In an impersonating attack, attackers sent an automated <a href="#">Microsoft Teams</a> notification email to steal the credentials of relevant accounts.</li> </ul>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Mobile phishing attacks rise sharply</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.darkreading.com/mobile/mobile-phishing-attacks-increase-sharply/d/d-id/1337982">https://www.darkreading.com/mobile/mobile-phishing-attacks-increase-sharply/d/d-id/1337982</a>
GIST	Enterprise strategies for combating phishing threats may soon need to include formal plans for dealing with mobile device-focused social engineering campaigns.

Mobile security vendor Lookout analyzed data gathered last quarter from smartphones and tablets running its software and found a 66.3% increase in the rate at which corporate users in North America encountered mobile phishing compared with fourth quarter of 2019. Globally, the increase was around 37%.

Lookout attributed the increase in the first quarter of 2020 largely to the high number of phishing campaigns centered on the COVID-19 pandemic. But even without that immediate impetus, mobile-focused campaigns have been ticking steadily upward over the last several quarters, Lookout's data shows. The vendor found that organizations in regulated industries such as healthcare, financial services, professional services, and manufacturing in particular tend to get attacked more heavily than organizations in other sectors.

Mobile phishing is a problem that organizations can no longer afford to ignore, Lookout said in a report this week summarizing the results of its analysis. "Considering the consistent growth in mobile-focused phishing campaigns, encounter rates, and tap rates where the target actually follows the link, organizations must understand the landscape and put proper measures in place" to mitigate risk, Lookout said. The need for controls is especially urgent because of the recent increase in mobile device use by employees forced to work from home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Lookout.

Data breaches resulting from mobile phishing can easily cost organizations millions of dollars in financial damages. The actual amount depends on the number of mobile devices, the kind of mobile operating systems in use, the potential number of data records accessed, and whether the devices were managed or not, Lookout said. Using a risk assessment tool and a quantitative risk assessment model called the Monte Carlo method, Lookout determined the cost of a data breach to a company with 10,000 mobile devices to be \$35 million.

Hank Schless, senior manager of security solutions at Lookout, says bad actors are employing a variety of ways to deliver phishing lures to enterprise smartphones and tablets. Unlike phishing threats directed at laptop and desktop devices, roughly 85% of mobile phishing campaigns are delivered outside of email, he says. Common tactics include the use of SMS messages, gaming apps, and messaging platforms such as Facebook Messenger.

Leveraging social engineering to appear as an executive or internal team member is a common phishing practice, he says. "Additionally, we've observed that devices with G Suite and Microsoft Office 365 have double the encounter rate with mobile phishing attempts than those without these two productivity suites."

Even if attackers are not sure which of these two suites an organization might be using, they know there is a high likelihood it will be using some kind of a collaboration platform. An attacker can phish a target's corporate credentials by simply attaching a link or document to an email that looks like a protected Google or Microsoft Word doc coming from an internal team member, Schless says.

#### High Success Rate

According to Lookout, the rate at which mobile users click on links in mobile phishing messages is higher than the rates on laptop and desktop devices. One major reason is that mobile-focused phishing scams are harder to detect. The telltale signs of a phishing email that many users might recognize on a laptop screen are harder to detect on smartphones and tablets because of the smaller form factors.

The speed at which most users operate with their mobile devices and the fact that most users don't know how to preview a link on a mobile device before clicking on it are other major concerns. Many phishing lures in the mobile environment — such as those that might spoof a bank account login page or an employee login portal — are also very authentic looking and capable of fooling a less-than-alert mobile device user.

The widening acceptance of personal devices for work-related purposes is another issue. Over the next two years, some three in four mobile devices used in enterprises will be personally owned, Lookout said,

	<p>quoting analyst firm Gartner. The shift will expose organizations to greater risks from careless data handling and from overly permissive application access settings.</p> <p>"Spotting phishing lures is tough," Schless says. "In the age of social media and messaging platforms, it's not difficult for a malicious actor to create a fake profile and share links."</p> <p>As with phishing emails, any mobile communication from an unfamiliar source with a request to follow a link or open a document needs to be treated with suspicion. "If the message appears to come from someone you recognize but seems like a strange ask or takes you to a strange site, get in contact with that person directly and validate the communication," he says. "In a time of remote work, it's even more important to validate any sort of strange communication."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 eBay-like auction site for stolen data</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/revil-ransomware-creates-ebay-like-auction-site-for-stolen-data/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/revil-ransomware-creates-ebay-like-auction-site-for-stolen-data/</a>
GIST	<p>The operators of the REvil ransomware have launched a new auction site used to sell victim's stolen data to the highest bidder.</p> <p>REvil, otherwise known as Sodinokibi, is a ransomware operation that breaches corporate networks using exposed remote desktop services, <a href="#">spam</a>, <a href="#">exploits</a>, and <a href="#">hacked Managed Service Providers</a>.</p> <p>Once established on a network, they quietly spread laterally through the company while stealing unencrypted data from workstations and exposed servers.</p> <p>When they gain administrative access to a domain controller, they proceed to deploy the ransomware to encrypt all of the computers on the network.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the REvil operators released a data leak site that is used to publish a victim's data if a ransom is not paid.</p> <p>Named the 'Happy Blog,' the ransomware gang uses the site to post samples of the stolen data and then threaten to release the actual files.</p> <p><b>REvil data leak site</b> Historically, after a few days, the ransomware operators post a link to the stolen data so that other threat actors can use it for free.</p> <p><b>Stolen data auctioned to the highest bidder</b> In May, <a href="#">REvil started leaking the data</a> for the celebrity law firm Grubman Shire Meiselas &amp; Sacks (GSMLaw) after a ransom was not paid.</p> <p>As part of these leaks, the ransomware gang claimed to have data about President Trump and auctioned it with a starting price of \$1,000,000.</p> <p>They later <a href="#">claimed to have sold the President's data</a> and warned that they would auction data belonging to Madonna in the future.</p> <p>To continue generating revenue when a victim does not pay, the REvil operators have launched a new section on their data leak site used to conduct auctions.</p> <p><b>New REvil auction site</b> Currently, the ransomware operators are auctioning off the stolen data for two companies.</p>

The first is a U.S. food distributor whose auctioned data has a starting price of \$100,000 but can be bought immediately at a "Blitz price" of \$200,000.

The second victim is a Canadian agricultural company whose auction starts at \$50,000 and has a buy now of \$100,000.

To bid on an auction, bidders must agree to the following rules.

To bid on an auction, you must register for each auction separately.

After registration, you will need to make a deposit of 10% of the starting price. At the end of the auction the amount will be refunded (except for blockchain commission).

If you have not paid your bid on the winning auction, you will lose your deposit. This is to ensure that none of the bidders make fake bids.

All computational operations are performed in the cryptocurrency Monero (XMR).

By clicking Continue you confirm that you agree to the terms above. You will be given a username/password and details of deposit payment.

### **Bidding interface**

In their auction site announcement, the operators hinted that other auctions are coming soon with the statement, "And we remember the Madonna and other people. Soon."

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HEADLINE	06/03 YouTube channel access in high demand
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/youtube-channel-access-in-high-demand-on-hacker-forums/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/youtube-channel-access-in-high-demand-on-hacker-forums/</a>
GIST	<p>An increasing number of offers for stolen YouTube credentials has been noted recently on hacker and cybercrime forums, where access to accounts is sold in bulk.</p> <p>Sellers advertise large lists of credentials that are verified for the availability of a YouTube channel and subscriber count.</p> <p><b>Subscriber count makes the price</b></p> <p>Cybercriminals have found value in YouTube channels a long time ago, providing them a new audience to expose to fraudulent activities ranging from scams to advertising.</p> <p>Others simply hijack the channels and ask the legitimate owner to pay a ransom to get it back. YouTube community support is filled with complaints from users that lost access to their channel and were demanded a ransom.</p> <p>The data comes mostly from infected computers, phishing campaigns, or logs of credentials. It is combed for logins to specific services and then auctioned on forums.</p> <p>Researchers at IntSights external threat intelligence company <a href="#">found</a> that there's an increased demand in YouTube credentials on underground markets, which also fuels data verification side businesses.</p> <p>The value of the lists offered is proportional to the subscriber count. For instance, the bidding for a channel with 200,000 subscribers starts at \$1,000 with a step of \$200.</p>

One post advertised an auction a log for 990,000 YouTube active channels that started at \$1,500; anyone paying \$2,500 got it without contest. The seller was looking to cash in fast, like other actors, for fear of victims reporting the mischief and reclaiming access to their accounts.

A set of 687 YouTube accounts, broken down by subscriber count, was available for a starting price of \$400 and a \$100 step. Anyone willing to pay \$5,000 would get it on the spot.

Another actor was looking to sell credentials for more than 25 YouTube channels, some with over 100,000 subscribers for a starting price of \$600 and a step of \$100. They also offered to sell it immediately to whoever paid \$2,000.

### **Social engineering**

Etay Maor, IntSights' Chief Security Officer, says that the surge of YouTube logs likely originates from databases with Google credentials and infected computers.

Users reporting account hijacking to YouTube often complain that they were tricked into downloading malicious software on their computers.

"They pretended to be sponsors for youtube, once I tried to visit their website, a keylogger/spyware software was downloaded to my browser. They changed my password, removed my known devices, removed my recovery phone number and e-mail within about 2 mins tops. They then tried to extort me to send them btc or they would sell my channel" - [extorted YouTube channel owner](#)

Another victim reported a [similar story](#), with fraudsters pretending to look for collaborators.

Maor says that attackers in the past relied on sophisticated phishing campaigns and reverse-proxy toolkits that defeated Google's two-factor authentication (2FA).

No mention of 2FA from the sellers could mean that the stolen credentials are for accounts where this security option was inactive.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Ransomware gangs form extortion cartel</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/ransomware-gangs-team-up-to-form-extortion-cartel/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/ransomware-gangs-team-up-to-form-extortion-cartel/</a>
GIST	<p>Ransomware gangs are teaming up to extort victims through a shared data leak platform, and the exchange of tactics and intelligence.</p> <p>In November 2019, the Maze Ransomware operators transformed ransomware attacks into data breaches after they <a href="#">released unencrypted data</a> of a victim who refused to pay.</p> <p>Soon after, they launched a dedicated "Maze News" site used to shame their unpaid victims by publicly releasing stolen data.</p> <p><b>Maze data leak site</b></p> <p>This extortion tactic was quickly adopted by other groups, which now includes thirteen active <a href="#">ransomware operations known to leak stolen data</a> if not paid.</p> <p><b>Ransomware cartel formed</b></p> <p>The Maze gang is once again stirring up the threat landscape by creating a cartel of ransomware operations to share resources and extort their victims.</p> <p>Today, BleepingComputer was told by cyber intelligence firm <a href="#">KeLa</a> that the Maze operators added the information and files for an international architectural firm to their data leak site.</p>

What made this leak different was that the info was not from a Maze ransomware attack, but rather by another enterprise-targeting ransomware operation [known as LockBit](#).

LockBit is a Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) that began operating in September 2019 as a private operation.

They have since begun marketing themselves on Russian hacker forums where they encourage malware distributors and hackers to apply to their operation.

To learn more about this collaboration between Maze and LockBit, BleepingComputer contacted the Maze operators.

Maze confirmed that they are working with LockBit to share their experience and data leak platform. They also stated that another ransomware operation would be joining their collaborative group in the coming days.

"In a few days another group will emerge on our news website, we all see in this cooperation the way leading to mutual beneficial outcome, for both actor groups and companies."

"Even more, they use not only our platform to post the data of companies, but also our experience and reputation, building the beneficial and solid future. We treat other groups as our partners, not as our competitors. Organizational questions is behind every successful business," Maze told BleepingComputer.

When we asked Maze if they received a revenue share from any payments driven by their platform, we were told that they could not share these details.

They did state that they are in discussion with other ransomware groups to join this collaborative effort to generate ransom payments.

"We will post one new another group in a few days, and we await also few others to come in upcoming weeks," Maze operators stated.

With the [average ransom payment over \\$100,000](#), and some [victims allegedly paying millions](#), enterprise-targeting ransomware operations working alone have been very successful.

By joining forces to share advice, tactics, and a centralized data leak platform, ransomware operations can focus more on creating more sophisticated attacks and successful extortion attempts.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Mystery: expiring Sectigo web certificate
SOURCE	<a href="https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2020/06/02/the-mystery-of-the-expiring-sectigo-web-certificate/">https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2020/06/02/the-mystery-of-the-expiring-sectigo-web-certificate/</a>
GIST	<p>There's a bit of a <a href="#">kerfuffle</a> in the web hosting community just at the moment over an expired web security certificate from a certificate authority called <i>Sectigo</i>, formerly Comodo Certificate Authority.</p> <p>Expired certificates are a problem because they cause the web server that relies on them to show up as "invalid" to any program that tries to do the right thing and verify the validity of the site it's connecting to. But this problem isn't Sectigo's fault – indeed, the company has had a warning about the <a href="#">impending problem</a> available for a while now, explaining what was about to happen and why.</p> <p>The problem comes from what's known as <i>backwards compatibility</i>, which is a jargon way of saying "trying to support old software reliably even though it really ought to have been upgraded to a newer and more reliable version".</p>



When your browser visits a website, it's almost certain to be using HTTPS, short for secure HTTP, which means using the *Transport Layer Security* protocol (or TLS for short) to encrypt and validate the connection.

As you probably know, TLS doesn't vouch for the content that's ultimately served up by a web server – crooks can use TLS to deliver malware “securely” if they like – but it is nevertheless a vital part of everyday browsing.

Not only does it shroud your traffic from surveillance and snooping, it stops someone in between you and the server you're visiting from tampering with the content on the way out or back. (Because rogues of this sort can be anywhere along the network path, it's known colloquially as a MiTM attack, short for *man-in-the-middle*.)

Of course, if crooks could trivially issue certificates in the names of other websites, MiTM attacks would still be easy, even with TLS, because the crooks could put a fake site half way along the network path to the real one, and you would be unable to tell it from the real deal.

So, to make it harder for crooks to mint a web certificate in your name, you need to get your certificate vouched for by someone else, known as a *certificate authority*.

You then present your certificate and their certificate, and they vouch for you; if their certificate is, in turn, vouched for by your browser itself (i.e. is in a list of already-trusted-certificates-that-can-sign-other-certificates), then your browser will automatically accept your certificate because it'd been signed by someone that the browser already trusts.

This forms a *chain of trust*.

What this means is that every browser (or every operating system on behalf of the browsers you might use) needs to have access to an up-to-date list of what are called *root certificates*, which is the name given to certificates that aren't vouched for by anyone else, but that are explicitly trusted to vouch for others.

Intermediate certificates

Obviously, the part of a root certificate that's called the *private key*, which is used for signing purposes, needs to be kept extra-super-secure, because replacing or re-issuing root certificates is a much trickier exercise than updating or issuing so-called leaf certificates – the ones that go with your website and typically only last anywhere for 3 months to 2 years anyway.

To make it easier and safer to sign and distribute new keys, most leaf certificates use a chain of three links, not just two, to “prove” their validity.

There's the leaf certificate that vouches for your website; there's an *intermediate certificate* that vouches for your leaf; and then the intermediate certificate is vouched for by a root certificate that is itself magically imbued with vouching power because it is trusted directly by your browser or your operating system.

Root certificates therefore often have long lifetimes, typically 10 or 20 years, and the assumption is that everyone will have plenty of time to stop relying on old root certificates long before they expire.

But old software programs, and old operating systems, have long shelf-lives too, and old software programs, tied to an old database of trusted root certificates, often end up relying on ageing root certificates in their so-called “chain of trust” long after they should.

So, even if you do the right thing and ask your certificate authority – the company that's vouching for you – to use their latest intermediates and their latest root certificates every time you renew your certificates, which is usually at least once a year, you might end up confusing customers with old software (possibly even with old software of your own manufacture).

That's because old software that hasn't yet been taught about the latest and greatest root certificates that are available – because it's not getting reliably updated, for example – will keep on trusting the old root certificates you are keen to move away from, even as they edge towards expiry, yet will keep on rejecting the new ones as “untrusted” even though the new ones have years of life left in them.

Ironically, then, the newer and fresher your chain of trust, the less reliable your certificates will seem to old-timer programs out there.

#### Cross-signing

What many companies do, to support both ends of the equation, is what's called *cross-signing*, where they denote two different intermediate certificates to vouch for your leaf certificate, one signed by an old root; the other by a new one.

The idea is to please most of the people most of the time.

Of course, that can make your security situation seem better than it is.

Old and possibly insecure web clients – which will include all sorts of software tools other than browsers, notably including autoupdate programs and licence-checking tools that are supposed to keep the software running correctly – will give you a false sense of being “up to scratch”.

When the tired old root certificate expires, software that has never heard of the all-new root certificate that replaced it will simply stop working. (Unless it isn't checking the validity of your web certificate at all, but that's increasingly rare because it's easy for researchers to detect and will guarantee bad publicity if they do.)

It's worse than that

But, as Andrew Ayer of SSLMate explains, the situation is [worse than that](#).

Technically speaking, certificate chains where there's a choice of cross-signed intermediate certificates, can be “resolved” more than one way.

You can follow the old-style intermediate certificate to the now-expired root certificate, or you can try the other way home, validating with the new-style intermediate and correctly determining that it is signed by a new and valid root.

Ideally, newer certificates should trump older ones, so that as long as one of the certificate chains checks out, the leaf certificate should be accepted.

But, as Ayer explains, some older TLS software (or some older versions of current TLS libraries) fail if the first certificate chain they try has expired, even though trying again with fresher data would find that the HTTPS connection was valid.

That's the trouble here – even though one of Sectigo's backwards-compatible root certificates has now expired, some web software is still relying on that old root certificate, which expired on 30 May 2020, even though it already knows about the new root certificate and should be verifying the certificate chain as valid.

What to do?

If you are getting web connection errors on software that was working fine until the end of last month, where the error lists an invalid certificate called AddTrust External CA Root, you need to take action.

You may need to update the software that's trying to make the connection, or its root certificate “trust store”, or both.

	<p>If you're stuck, consult your vendor – and if you are the vendor because it's your own software, you may need to consider upgrading to a more modern TLS programming library that handles web certificate verification in a more future-proof way.</p> <p>Ayer has some advice in his blog article – notably, if you are using a TLS library that ought to validate Sectigo certificates but isn't doing so, you may be able to fix the problem simply by deleting the now-expired AddTrust External CA Root certificate – which is no use anyway but may nevertheless get in the way – from the certificate database on your computer.</p> <p>The expired certificate was replaced a decade ago (!) by one denoted USERTrust RSA Certification Authority, so many TLS libraries do know about the “new” root certificate perfectly well; the problem is that they still know about the old one too, and get hung up on it even though it serves no purpose any more.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Ransomware gang claims NASA IT breach</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-gang-says-it-breached-one-of-nasas-it-contractors/">https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-gang-says-it-breached-one-of-nasas-it-contractors/</a>
GIST	<p>The operators of the DopplePaymer ransomware have congratulated SpaceX and NASA for <a href="#">their first human-operated rocket launch</a> and then immediately announced that they infected the network of one of NASA's IT contractors.</p> <p>In a blog post published today, the DopplePaymer ransomware gang said it successfully breached the network of Digital Management Inc. (<a href="#">DMI</a>), a Maryland-based company that provides managed IT and cyber-security services on demand.</p> <p>According to the company's press releases, DMI's customer list includes several Fortune 100 companies and many government agencies, among them NASA [<a href="#">1</a>, <a href="#">2</a>].</p> <p>It is unclear how deep inside DMI's network the DopplePaymer gang made it during their breach, and how many customer networks they managed to breach.</p> <p>Three DMI spokespersons did not answer phone calls from ZDNet seeking comment for this article.</p> <p>The thing that appears to be clear is that they got their hands on NASA-related files, suggesting they breached DMI's NASA-related infrastructure.</p> <p>To support their claims, the DopplePaymer operators posted 20 archive files on a dark web portal the group is operating.</p> <p>The archives include everything from HR documents to project plans, as can be seen from a screenshot ZDNet took of one of the files. Employee details included in these files matched public LinkedIn records.</p> <p>Furthermore, the DopplePaymer gang also posted a list of 2,583 servers and workstations that hackers claim are part of DMI's internal network, and which they have encrypted and are now holding for ransom.</p> <p>The purpose of releasing all these files is for extortion. The DopplePaymer ransomware crew is <a href="#">one of several ransomware gangs that operate "leak sites"</a> where they publish data from hacked companies.</p> <p>DopplePaymer operators first share small samples like the one they shared today, and in case the victim isn't intimidated and still refuses to pay the file decryption fee, they leak all files as revenge.</p>

	Such extortion tactics have been employed since December 2019, and today, they also saw a major change when the operators of the REvil (Sodinokibi) ransomware gang added a kink in this tactic by <a href="#">launching an eBay-like auction site</a> where they're selling the stolen victim data instead of giving it away for free.
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Tech group lawsuit against executive order</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/06/02/lawsuit-trump-executive-order-social-media/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/06/02/lawsuit-trump-executive-order-social-media/</a>
GIST	<p>A Washington-based tech group supported by Facebook, Google and Twitter filed a lawsuit against President Trump on Tuesday, alleging that his <a href="#">executive order</a> targeting social media giants threatens to “curtail and chill constitutionally protected speech” during the presidential election.</p> <p>The challenge brought by the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) marks the <a href="#">first major legal test</a> of Trump’s directive, which paves the way for federal agencies to investigate and penalize some of Silicon Valley’s most popular platforms over the way they police politically oriented posts, photos and videos across the Web.</p> <p>Trump <a href="#">issued the controversial directive</a> last week, just days after Twitter took the rare step of fact-checking one of his tweets. The president blasted the move as political censorship, accusing the social media company of something it and other major technology companies long have denied.</p> <p>In its lawsuit, the CDT said the White House had <a href="#">run afoul of the First Amendment</a>, which “prohibits government officials from using government power to retaliate against an individual or entity for engaging in protected speech.” Even though Trump’s order has not taken full effect, the CDT said the mere existence of the policy could “chill” speech, undermining efforts by Facebook, Google and Twitter to ensure that their platforms are used responsibly during the presidential race.</p> <p>“We see the executive order as very clear retaliation that’s designed to deter social media companies from fighting misinformation and voter suppression,” said Alexandra Givens, the leader of the CDT. The group filed its lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, asking it to invalidate the whole of the order.</p> <p>Facebook and Google declined to comment. Twitter praised the lawsuit in an <a href="#">unsigned tweet</a>, while blasting the president’s order as “reactionary and politicized.” All three companies have given money to the CDT in the past, the group’s <a href="#">public statements indicate</a>.</p> <p>The White House referred requests to the Justice Department, which did not immediately respond.</p> <p>The lawsuit reflects long-simmering acrimony between the Trump administration and the Silicon Valley social media sites that have become critical tools in his own political arsenal. Trump is one of the most popular, influential users on services including Facebook and Twitter, but he is also one of their most controversial, attacking critics and spreading falsehoods that might have run afoul of those companies’ rules if he did not serve as the commander in chief.</p> <p>Twitter long resisted calls to discipline Trump, saying that even his most incendiary comments should be available for users to view and share without restriction. But the company took a more aggressive approach beginning last week, after Trump <a href="#">falsely linked mail-in ballots</a> with election fraud. Twitter opted to append a label to his tweets, directing users to news stories that fact-checked Trump’s claims.</p> <p>The president responded throughout the week by repeatedly accusing Twitter of censorship, a battery of attacks that culminated in the executive order he signed Thursday. The directive chiefly takes aim at a <a href="#">provision of law known as Section 230</a>, which for decades has spared tech giants from being held liable</p>

	<p>for the content posted by their users — and the decisions those companies make about the posts, photos and videos to leave them intact or take them down.</p> <p>“We’re here today to defend free speech from one of the greatest dangers,” Trump said before signing the document.</p> <p>Ultimately, it is up to two independent agencies to determine how, exactly, Trump’s executive order will be implemented. A wide array of Democratic lawmakers, free-speech activists and conservative advocacy groups, however, all have condemned Trump for an order they see as unconstitutional and dangerous to the future of free expression on the Web. The CDT, for its part, called the executive order “retaliatory” in the lawsuit it filed Tuesday.</p> <p>In the meantime, Trump and Twitter have continued to clash. On Friday, the president <a href="#">drew the company’s latest rebuke</a> after he condemned demonstrators in Minneapolis as “THUGS,” threatened military intervention there and predicted that local looting could lead to “shooting.” In response, Twitter took the unprecedented step of limiting the public’s ability to view and share Trump’s tweet, which the company said had glorified violence.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Google: scientists access cellphone data</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/google-gives-scientists-access-300-million-peoples/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/google-gives-scientists-access-300-million-peoples/</a>
GIST	<p>Google tracked the locations of 300 million people and gave the data to a handful of scientists whom the company deemed worthy. But exactly who has the data, what data the scientists have and what they will do with it is a bit of a mystery.</p> <p>Google began handing over users’ data to the scientists before the coronavirus outbreak and has continued giving them special access during the pandemic. In May, the scientists published a paper revealing that the data was “aggregated from over 300 million smartphone users” and “cover nearly all countries and 65% of Earth’s populated surface.”</p> <p>The smartphone users were not aware they were being studied, according to the paper, which was published in Nature Human Behavior. In other scientific studies, participants are actively observed. Users who opted into Google Location History on their smartphones had their locations collected from a variety of signals on their devices, including through Wi-Fi, GPS and cellphone tower triangulation.</p> <p>“We first apply machine learning to location data points to segment them into semantic ‘trips,’” the 11 scientists wrote. “The system automatically finds trips by taking into account a variety of signals, such as timing of location points, dwell times, and other factors. This, for example, includes stops at airports and other locations on a multi-stop international itinerary.”</p> <p>The scientists who have published on some of the data found that the U.S. and Mexico have “one of the busiest borders,” and the most restrictive borders are between Turkey and Armenia, Morocco and Algeria, and Israel and Gaza, according to the paper, which is accessible via ResearchGate.</p> <p>Weather and daylight patterns also affect physical movement, and the scientists said people are most active in July and August.</p> <p>“Peaks outside this period mostly coincide with national and/or religious holidays such as Easter, the Hajj, and Thanksgiving in the United States,” the scientists wrote. “Unsurprisingly the lowest frequency of movement is observed in January.”</p> <p>Otherwise, nobody besides the scientists and Google knows what else can be gleaned from the information.</p>

The scientists say the aggregated data is available to those who want access upon “reasonable request” by contacting the authors and filling out a request form that Google will approve or deny. Google said it provides data to research institutions, not governments, and enters into agreements with those using the data to block them from sharing it with others.

“The mobility data set is based on aggregate, anonymized location data, and has been made available to a small set of academic researchers to help understand the spread of COVID-19,” a Google representative said in a statement.

Google has allowed the public to see certain data in its “COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports,” which are compiled to help public health officials, doctors and others examine how to tailor social distancing policies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The mobility reports are searchable online by country and region.

Rachel Bovard, senior adviser to the right-leaning Internet Accountability Project, said she has concerns about how Google handles users’ data.

“Google has a troubling pattern of accumulating massive troves of personal data on individuals without any transparency regarding what they’re doing with it or with whom it is being shared,” Ms. Bovard said. “The company is a serial violator of user privacy and has largely been unaccountable for it. Congressional oversight isn’t just warranted; it is needed.”

Arizona sued Google last week for allegedly using deceit and unfair business practices to get its users’ location data. Arizona’s complaint said people who disabled the location tracker still had their movements tracked and that Google confused users attempting to opt out of the location tracking.

“While Google users are led to believe they can opt out of location tracking, the company exploits other avenues to invade personal privacy,” Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich said. “It’s nearly impossible to stop Google from tracking your movements without your knowledge or consent.”

Some privacy experts are not fretting about Google’s data collection. Ryan Calo, a University of Washington law professor, said concerns could involve the fairness of access to the data and the terms involved in accessing it, but he thinks there is not much cause for concern.

“I don’t see a lot of reason to worry. It is not as though Google is telling researchers where specific people are or have been,” Mr. Calo said in an email. “It looks like the data is aggregated and, as a researcher, I am in favor of access to industry data if the privacy harms can be mitigated.”

Zach Graves, policy head at the Lincoln Network technology policy advocacy group, said he has not seen the data at issue but he favors making such information accessible to researchers.

“I generally think it’s a good idea to allow broad public interest/research exemptions for use of this sort of data,” Mr. Graves said in an email. “Of course, it’s important they also adhere to industry best practices to remove personally identifiable information and limit the possibility of such information getting leaked.”

Google also has collaborated with Apple on a contact-tracing project that uses a Bluetooth-based system on phones to monitor users’ potential exposure to coronavirus-infected people. The companies have said the technology does not collect location information and requires users to opt in to participate.

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HEADLINE	06/02 College Board: no at-home version SAT
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/college-board-suspends-plans-for-at-home-sats-2020-06-02/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/college-board-suspends-plans-for-at-home-sats-2020-06-02/</a>



GIST	<p>With the outlook of the 2019-2020 academic year unclear because of the <a href="#">coronavirus pandemic</a>, College Board announced in April that they would plan an at-home version of the SAT so high school students can take their exams safely. But on Tuesday, College Board announced that an at-home testing plan will have to wait, and students will continue to test at designated centers this fall.</p> <p>College Board announced that an at-home version of the test would require "three hours of uninterrupted, video-quality internet" access, the company said in a <a href="#">press release</a> Tuesday, and that it can't guarantee all students will have that kind of access.</p> <p>"The College Board will continue to develop remote proctoring capabilities to make at-home SAT possible in the future," College Board said. "It will also continue to deliver the SAT online in some schools but will not introduce the stress that could result from extended at-home testing in an already disrupted admissions season."</p> <p>The company plans to continue working on at-home tests that can be implement in the future.</p> <p>"We know demand is very high and the registration process for students and families under this kind of pressure is extremely stressful," College Board CEO David Coleman said in the statement. "There are more important things than tests right now. In making these difficult decisions we focused on reducing the anxiety that students and families are experiencing this year. We therefore are asking our member colleges to be flexible toward students who can't submit scores, who submit them later, or who did not have a chance to test more than once."</p> <p>College Board is also asking <a href="#">colleges</a> to help the "millions of students" who couldn't take the SAT this spring due to COVID-19. College Board publicly asked colleges to accept SAT scores "as late as possible in their processes," equally consider students who cannot take the exam because of the ongoing pandemic, and recognize that "students who do submit scores may not have been able to take the test more than once," which includes students who took the test before their senior year.</p> <p>Because of the numerous canceled testing dates this spring and summer, many students have rushed to sign up for the earliest planned testing dates. College Board said that in many areas, August and September testing dates are already full or getting close to being so. They tweeted Friday that students registering for a test that day could expect delays because of "a greater volume than usual of students trying to register."</p> <p>More than half of the testing seats available in August in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington State, and New Jersey, have been filled.</p> <p>College Board has had its fair share of criticism this year.</p> <p>Last month, the company faced significant backlash over its at-home Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The new format of the test reduced an entire academic year's worth of information down to a few questions. Thousands of students who took the tests experienced technological issues that prevented them from submitting answers, and had to sign up to retake their exams. The company blamed "<a href="#">outdated browsers</a>" for the issue.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 NKorea denies US hacking allegations</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cyberscoop.com/north-korea-issues-blanket-denial-us-hacking-accusations/">https://www.cyberscoop.com/north-korea-issues-blanket-denial-us-hacking-accusations/</a>
GIST	<p>The North Korean government issued a statement denying U.S. allegations that hackers used cyberattacks to raise money on Pyongyang's behalf.</p> <p>U.S. and international cybersecurity officials, along with private sector specialists, <a href="#">have accused North Korean hackers</a> of infiltrating global financial networks, stealing from ATMs, and demanding ransoms in</p>

	<p>bitcoin as part of a wider effort to help the government evade sanctions. The FBI, along with the departments of Homeland Security, Treasury and State, <a href="#">issued an advisory</a> in May warning that North Korean hackers had used an array of malicious software tools to continue their operations.</p> <p>“We know well that the ulterior intention of the United States is to tarnish the image of our state and create a moment for provoking us by employing a new leverage called ‘cyber threat’ together with the issues of nuke, missiles, ‘human rights,’ ‘sponsoring of terrorism’ and ‘money laundering,’” North Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said <a href="#">in a May 28 statement</a>.</p> <p>“The previous incidents of cyberattack which the U.S. had linked to us were clearly proven to be the acts of international hackers, and even the experts in the U.S. have officially admitted them. It is none other than the U.S. that does not hesitate to abuse even the modern civilization – the creation of humankind – as a means of plots and fabrications in a bid to taint the countries of their ‘disliking’ with all sorts of slanders and disgrace.”</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Justice in 2018 <a href="#">charged a North Korean</a> computer programmer with hacking Bangladesh’s Central Bank, an attack that resulted in the theft of \$81 million. Investigators also have blamed North Korea for the WannaCry ransomware outbreak, and in a series of attacks against cryptocurrency exchanges, <a href="#">causing \$571 million</a> in losses.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/01 Anonymous aims for relevance; old data</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cyberscoop.com/anonymous-george-floyd-minnesota-police/">https://www.cyberscoop.com/anonymous-george-floyd-minnesota-police/</a>
GIST	<p>Anonymous, the once-formidable hacking collective, continued its transformation into a cohort of social media opportunists over the weekend by claiming to “leak” files and personal information that, in some cases, has been available for years.</p> <p>Anonymous said it retaliated against the Minneapolis police department for the <a href="#">May 25th killing of George Floyd</a> by publishing email addresses and passwords apparently stolen from a police website. The information was previously taken in prior data breaches, then re-packaged to appear to be a new batch, according to Troy Hunt, owner of Have I Been Pwned, which tracks stolen credentials.</p> <p>Of the 798 email addresses included in the Anonymous database, 689 are unique, the rest being duplicates. Of that 689, 659 were already available in the Have I Been Pwned database, Hunt <a href="#">said in his analysis</a>, and those email addresses were leaked an average of 5.5 times. Many seem to have originated in the 2012 breach at LinkedIn, he added.</p> <p>Anonymous-affiliated Twitter accounts attracted thousands of impressions on social media in the latest example of the group seizing on headlines in an attempt to boost its credibility.</p> <p>“[A]nger shouldn’t mean throwing logic and reason out the window and I cannot think of a time when fact-checking has ever been more important than now, not just because of the Minneapolis situation, but because so much of what we see online simply can’t be trust,” Hunt wrote in a blog post. “So by all means, be angry, but don’t spread disinformation and right now, all signs point to just that – the alleged Minneapolis Police Department ‘breach’ is fake.”</p> <p>Word of the fabricated breach coincided with ongoing uncertainty about who may have been behind <a href="#">a reported cyberattack</a> against Minnesota state government websites. Governor Tim Walz said Sunday that “a very sophisticated denial of service attack was executed on all state computers” occurred on Saturday.</p> <p>Those claims later proved to be overblown, as state officials repelled the manufactured surge in traffic within hours.</p>

	<p>Distributed denial-of-service attacks once were an Anonymous trademark. Among the group's most notable attacks was a 2008 internet protest in which they flooded the church of Scientology with web traffic, knocking sites offline. Similar efforts against the Vatican in 2012, international governments and other targets earned the group headlines.</p> <p>In this case, Anonymous did not claim credit for the attack against Minnesota websites. However various accounts threatened retaliation against police in Minneapolis for the Floyd killing, and to intervene "if and when it becomes necessary" as protests continue.</p> <p>Anonymous' activity now follows similar exaggerations in 2019. The activist collective functions as a series of loosely-affiliated individuals and operations, and members often renounce each others' activities.</p> <p>However, in February of last year, an offshoot calling itself "Operation Death Eaters" claimed to steal secret files belonging to Jeffrey Epstein, the billionaire pedophile. In that case, <a href="#">Anonymous worked to amplify</a> Epstein's "Little Black Book" of associates, and published allegations from a lawsuit accusing Epstein and Donald Trump of sexually assaulting an underage girl.</p> <p>Many of the same allegations already were available in court documents. Epstein's network of associates, including his associations with Trump, had been detailed in <a href="#">a 2015 Gawker article</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Sekhmet claims IT firm 'hit very hard'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.databreaches.net/sekhmet-ransomware-team-claims-to-have-hit-international-it-firm-very-hard/">https://www.databreaches.net/sekhmet-ransomware-team-claims-to-have-hit-international-it-firm-very-hard/</a>
GIST	<p>Sekhmet ransomware operators claim to have hit an international IT firm, <a href="#">Excis</a>, "very hard." The attack reportedly occurred on May 30, and the threat actors are pressing hard to get the firm to pay an undisclosed amount of ransom.</p> <p>The attack was revealed yesterday on Sekhmet's website.</p> <p>"Excit Ltd hit very hard by Sekhmet" the threat actors claim.</p> <p><i>We are sharing a big part of their data since their director <b>Finn Lyskov</b> said that we do not have any important data, so be it</i> the threat actors wrote on their website.</p> <p><i>Their It managers are <b>highly unprofessional</b> and we will continue to perform attacks on this company and <b>Mr. Kunal Amodkar</b> will never be able to patch or fix the vulnerabilities which we exploited and look what this company claims on their website services they provide:</i></p> <p><b><i>Securing banks and military sites</i></b>  <b><i>Implementing security policies</i></b>  <b><i>Firewalls</i></b>  <b><i>Site to site encryption</i></b>  <b><i>Server security</i></b>  <b><i>Software security</i></b>  <b><i>Infiltration testing</i></b>  <b><i>Emergency response in the event of a security breach</i></b></p> <p>The threat actors also name some of the firm's corporate clients and suggest that they will contact them to alert them that their data was compromised because it was on Excis servers "completely unprotected."</p> <p>As part of their strategy, Sekhmet has made two archives of data available to the public to download — but not the passwords to those archives. They threaten to release the passwords tomorrow if their demands are not met.</p>

	There is no indication on Excis's site of any incident or problem. DataBreaches.net sent an inquiry to Excis last night to ask for their comment on the situation, but no reply was received as of the time of this publication. This post will be updated when a response is received.
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 CCPA enforcement begins in July</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://securityboulevard.com/2020/06/ccpa-enforcement-begins-in-july-and-this-time-its-for-real/">https://securityboulevard.com/2020/06/ccpa-enforcement-begins-in-july-and-this-time-its-for-real/</a>
GIST	<p>The California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) went into effect at the turn of the year. But come July 1, we're expecting CCPA will have truly arrived. July marks the expiration of the six-month CCPA compliance grace period when regulators will begin enforcing CCPA compliance, although some are calling for an extension due to COVID-19.</p> <p>But whether enforcement comes sooner or later, for organizations found to be out of compliance with CCPA, <a href="#">things could get dicey – and pricey.</a></p> <p>Those found in violation of CCPA stand to incur a \$7,500 fine for each intentional violation. Non-intentional violations are less onerous, but still costly, at \$2,500 each. But it's the potential civil litigation that will really make an impact. For each consumer impacted by CCPA non-compliance, organizations stand to face up to \$750 in civil damages <i>per consumer</i>.</p> <p>Organizations are, or should be, working to comply with CCPA – and protect their reputations and businesses. This requires a fair amount of time, effort and resources. But that's the cost of business, customer trust, personal data privacy and, some say, <a href="#">democracy.</a></p> <p>Why California implemented the CCPA CCPA, which was <a href="#">signed into law in June 2018</a>, came in the wake of <a href="#">the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal</a>. That involved the misuse of consumer data in an attempt to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election.</p> <p>This event and other high-profile data breaches put the spotlight on data privacy and security. <a href="#">Articles</a>, <a href="#">podcasts</a>, <a href="#">programs</a> and <a href="#">speeches</a> proclaimed the end of privacy and <a href="#">the end of trust</a>. There was a widespread call for privacy protection regulation, and California responded with the CCPA.</p> <p>CCPA provides California residents with the right to demand that companies disclose what data those organizations have collected about them. Californians also can activate their CCPA rights by requesting that companies delete their personal data. Under CCPA, organizations that receive such requests must comply or incur penalties. People who live in California also can forbid companies from sharing their personal data with third parties.</p> <p>How encryption now figures Late last year, California's leaders expanded on CCPA with an amendment that specifically refers to encryption. The first part of <a href="#">Section 1798.29 of Assembly Bill 1130</a> begins as follows: <i>Any agency that owns or licenses computerized data that includes personal information shall disclose any breach of the security of the system following discovery or notification of the breach in the security of the data to any resident of California (1) whose unencrypted personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person, or, (2) whose encrypted personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person and the encryption key or security credential was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person and the agency that owns or licenses the encrypted information has a reasonable belief that the encryption key or security credential could render that personal information readable or usable.</i></p> <p>What that means for organizations and compliance</p>

That means businesses that use encryption to safeguard California residents' data cannot solely rely on the fact that their data is unreadable to unauthorized entities. They must also safeguard the associated encryption keys or security credentials to be in compliance. Encryption protects sensitive information including financial data, government IDs and Social Security numbers by making it unreadable, but if you fail to protect the encryption keys it's like [locking your front door and leaving the keys under the mat](#). So, while it is very likely that more organizations will invest in encryption solutions to meet CCPA requirements, they cannot forget to also invest in solutions that also protect and manage their encryption keys and credentials.

The implementation of CCPA also means consumers are becoming increasingly aware of data privacy and encryption. So, business investment in encryption and key management solutions is about more than simply meeting compliance requirements. It's also about serving a community that wants to do business with organizations that take care in handling their personal data.

That community extends far beyond California. When businesses employ encryption and key management, they are better positioned to win and keep customers everywhere.

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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Burkina Faso food woes deepen</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/88953df7719e45abeca779894f8d4db6">https://apnews.com/88953df7719e45abeca779894f8d4db6</a>
GIST	<p>TOUGAN, Burkina Faso (AP) — Islamic extremists chased Adama Drabo and his family from their land in western Burkina Faso, forcing them to abandon a year's worth of crops.</p> <p>Now that food is rotting in storage in the village, too dangerous for him to retrieve, even as the family is forced to survive on meager government rations. Drabo already has lost his 20-year-old son, who was killed by a roadside bomb.</p> <p>"Security is getting worse, and this year we won't be able to cultivate and it will be a big problem," he said. His future looks bleak if he and his family cannot return to their land.</p> <p>Violence linked to jihadists has spread from Burkina Faso's north to its western breadbasket in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, pushing thousands like Drabo to hunger and threatening to cut off food for millions more in the country on the edge of the Sahara Desert. The fertile land produces large amounts of rice and maize, according to the government.</p> <p>Humanitarian groups are concerned that the coronavirus pandemic could exacerbate an already dire situation in Burkina Faso, one of the most impoverished countries in the world.</p> <p>"If production goes down in this area and if movement restrictions due to the coronavirus drive up food prices in the markets, it could push numbers of severely vulnerable people to double or triple," said Julia Wanjiru, communications coordinator for the Sahel and West Africa Club, an intergovernmental economic group.</p> <p>Food insecurity already affects 2 million people in Burkina Faso, according to the latest report from its government and aid groups. Coronavirus is also spreading, with 884 reported cases and 53 deaths as of Monday.</p> <p>While the government has lifted restrictions on movement between cities, its borders with Mali, Niger and Ivory Coast remain closed, making the importation of food more expensive.</p>

The small town of Tougan is sheltering nearly 6,000 displaced people with new arrivals daily, according to Lassina Sougue, who directs the government's humanitarian response in Sourou province. The situation is similar in some other small towns.

He said the communities are resilient and showing solidarity. But on a recent trip to Boucle Du Mouhoun, at least a dozen people coming from three different provinces all said they were worried about food and access to their land.

Anticipating a food crisis, the United States has doubled this year's funding to World Food Program for Burkina Faso, to \$21 million and is set to announce an additional \$7 million in the coming weeks, according to an official with close knowledge of the situation. The official was not authorized to talk to reporters and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Boucle du Mouhoun has seen five roadside bomb attacks this year, compared with two in all of 2019, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, which collects and analyzes such information.

There also are fears that the attacks are becoming more sophisticated because of training by foreign jihadists. A high-ranking foreign security official said extremists from Syria and Libya came to Burkina Faso in January and showed local jihadists how to make remote-controlled bombs. The security official was not authorized to speak to journalists and thus spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some security analysts think the increase in violence is an extremist strategy to cut off the country's food supply and deepen grievances against the government.

"It's logical and disturbing that armed groups target the region responsible for the largest cereal production in the country," said Christian Poonwah, director of Safer Access Consulting, an international security company in the capital, Ouagadougou.

"If prices for grains rise because production was compromised, it could have severe repercussions for public perception of the government and play directly in their (the extremists') favor."

Reports of jihadists burning granaries and looting food warehouses at schools in the region are rising, he said.

Other experts think violence is escalating because jihadists are being squeezed out of the border areas between Mali and Burkina Faso by international and regional military operations.

They appear to be using Boucle du Mouhoun as a bridge to expand operations southwest toward coastal countries like Ivory Coast, where attacks also have increased this year, said Flore Berger, a Sahel research analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The crisis in Burkina Faso already has displaced about 850,000 people, leaving many sustenance farmers unable to feed their families.

Seni Lzouma, 41, fled the north after his village was attacked by gunmen. For nearly a year, he's been asking local authorities to help him find land in Kossi province, where he lives with wife and three children.

"The community leaders said all the farms and all of the land in town was occupied," he said, pointing to a patch of land beside the small house that the family is renting.

He's been trying without success to grow food from the sandy soil.

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HEADLINE	06/02 ISIS recent audio diatribe about Qatar
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/the-curious-case-of-isis-recent-audio-diatribe-about-qatar/">https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/the-curious-case-of-isis-recent-audio-diatribe-about-qatar/</a>
GIST	<p>In an unusual twist, ISIS spokesperson Abu Hamza al-Qurashi broke ranks with previous statements by al Qaeda, its affiliates, and ISIS in singling out and threatening Qatar, rather than their usual targets Saudi Arabia or Western powers in an audio statement released by ISIS's al Furqan media outlet on May 28, 2020.</p> <p>This is the first time that a leader of ISIS has threatened Qatar, albeit the threats came in the last two minutes of the <a href="#">40-minute audio file</a>. Prior to the threat, Qurashi spoke about the current COVID-19 pandemic causing widespread deaths among Western countries whose militaries brought down the territorial ISIS Caliphate, likening it to scriptural accounts of the plagues that Moses brought upon Pharaoh in ancient times. Qurashi pointed out that the pandemic was killing civilians from Western coalition countries at a similar rate to those killed by airstrikes in Mosul and Raqqa.</p> <p><a href="#">Hassan Hassan, Director of the NonState Actors Group of the Center for Global Policy</a> tweeted that "This focus on Qatar is unprecedented," and states that it is very unusual for ISIS to fail to blame and threaten Saudi Arabia in their strategic communications, and that he could find no clear justification from the point of ISIS to issue such threats pointedly aimed at Qatar while leaving the rest of the Gulf nations out of it.</p> <p>Qurashi finished his statement by attacking Qatar's role in the U.S.-Taliban peace deal, though he also criticized the Taliban for signing the deal. He then blasted Qatar for hosting a U.S. air base and accused Qatar of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood-backed groups in Syria that fought against ISIS. Qurashi also claimed that Qatar financed factions in Iraq and Syria that were backed by the U.S. and that Qatar has worked quietly against ISIS, in consort with various "apostate" forces. Harkening to before ISIS spread its Caliphate into Syria, Qurashi also warned Qatar that ISIS still remembers Qatar's support for the Sahwat, the U.S.-backed Awakening Councils that fought ISIS when it was still al Qaeda in Iraq. Lastly, he attacked Qatar for allegedly supporting Shia governments and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with billions of U.S. dollars. He then recited from the Holy Quran, saying, "In the end, Allah will support the true believers against the agents of the apostate."</p> <p>That ISIS would issue threats against Qatar for brokering the Taliban peace deal with the U.S., supporting a U.S. base, or having a working relationship with Iran is understandable from ISIS's point of view, nor are threats toward others for such actions rare. It is interesting, however, to single out Qatar without mentioning Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates or other Gulf supporters to the U.S.-led coalition to defeat ISIS. Even more, ISIS's claim that Qatar funds the Muslim Brotherhood and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard is a narrative most often put forth by Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. <a href="#">In June 2017, those same countries, along with Bahrain and Egypt, imposed a blockade on Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism, including the Muslim Brotherhood and Iran</a>. After three years, the blockade has not been lifted, and that ISIS would echo the claims of countries it has declared to be run by apostate governments is puzzling. Two days after Qurashi's message was released, <a href="#">rumors that Qatar was withdrawing from the Gulf Cooperation Council</a> (composed of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman) were refuted by Qatar.</p> <p>Aside from curiously targeting Qatar, in the message ISIS calls for more attacks, insisting that their fight rages on and urging its fighters around the world to prepare their strength and seek vengeance on the "enemies of God." Qurashi emphasized this goal in his statement by threatening that "recent attacks [in Iraq] are only a taste of what's coming," warning the U.S., which is withdrawing troops from Iraq, that "your war with us is long." The statement also reiterated ISIS leader Caliph Abu Ibrahim's message to ISIS supporters to "prepare plans and increase operations," to take revenge for harmed Muslims, and to free imprisoned ISIS fighters.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/02 Islamist extremists, white supremacists
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/how-islamist-extremists-and-white-supremacists-try-to-exploit-civil-unrest/">https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/how-islamist-extremists-and-white-supremacists-try-to-exploit-civil-unrest/</a>
GIST	<p>Regardless of differences in ideology, Islamist extremists and white supremacists share operational characteristics – particularly when it comes to recruitment and taking advantage of current events in shaping a message that they hope will lure new followers and spur them to take action on behalf of the movement, whether that materializes in physical attacks, battling in the online space or otherwise acting as an influencer to spread that ideology.</p> <p>Islamist extremist propaganda and white supremacist propaganda reflect similar themes and memes in the ways they recruit and incite, contributing to the internet’s ample open-source library of D.I.Y. extremist training and incitement – from posters to videos, from social media to magazines – that bridges group allegiances and ideologies. At times they mimic each other’s memes, promote ideological dominion, urge copycats to emulate infamous attacks, threaten the social media companies that try to rein in their propaganda, praise and promote attacks that have recently occurred, circulate machismo-saturated training camp videos, and heavily traffic in anti-Semitism.</p> <p>One key shared characteristic of recruitment is how Islamist extremists and white supremacists both try to appeal to grievances, hoping that potential recruits who might not otherwise join their movements could be pushed over the edge with targeted psychological messaging. Similarly, both groups seize on current events to promote core anti-government and retribution themes, trying to appeal to would-be recruits as if they’re soldiers in a cultural or kinetic war – as one recruitment propaganda poster from the neo-Nazi Feuerkrieg Division put it, “Turn your sadness into rage.” Islamist extremists and white supremacists hope to seize on the energy of current events whether it’s white supremacists using debates over Confederate monuments or Islamist terror groups using Western military operations – and both ideological movements trying to <a href="#">use the coronavirus pandemic</a> to their advantage – to steer some of that fury into their movements to stoke anger and gain new recruits.</p> <p>Both groups will similarly see today’s unrest as an opportunity to try to insert their messaging, with Islamist extremists disregarding the fact that the protests are based on goals of ending systemic racism and encouraging police reform and white supremacists disregarding – or particularly enraged by – the fact that many whites are protesting alongside people of color. Extremists exploit, and both groups will use whatever messaging contortions are necessary as they try to grow their ranks on the back of civil instability.</p> <p><b>Islamist Extremists</b></p> <p>On Aug. 9, 2014, 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot by police in Ferguson, Mo., sparking demonstrations and the chant “hands up, don’t shoot” to protest the killing that culminated in a wrongful death settlement. The summer 2015 issue of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s <i>Inspire</i> magazine tried to appeal to protesters in the African-American community in an article vowing to “take practical steps to avoid targeting you in our operations” if people of color would in turn fight the government and try to stop U.S. aid to Israel. In the piece tagged “The Blacks in America,” al-Qaeda featured a photo of Abraham Lincoln next to the headline, “The Rights of Blacks: Their State and Challenges.” The terror group also used Michael Brown’s high school graduation photo in the article, and talked about the in-custody death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore and the Charleston church massacre.</p> <p>Al-Qaeda slammed Fox News for their portrayal “that the crime of the officer was nothing but a general mistake that had nothing to do with racism or religion” in the Brown shooting as the channel “has always been supporting the Anglo-Saxon community, no matter the case.” The terror group added that “such attacks against Afro-Americans will continue to rise,” and slammed then-President Obama for framing incidents in terms of gun violence. “O Afro-Americans, it is a pity that you play a part in this oppression against Muslims. You are the ones who elect those who promise to continue waging war with us in our lands. You are the ones who elect those who promise to protect Israel, who aggressively and unjustly occupy our lands,” the article continued. “This is a historic chance for you to review your actions, and to take a stand against these crimes in the face of these fanatics.”</p>

Al-Qaeda said they sympathized with “the oppression and injustices directed towards you” but insisted they were still justified killing blacks in terror attacks: “We advise you to move out of big cities that represent the economy, politics or military strength of America like New York and Washington.” The article then encouraged revolt starting with demonstrations and the “second approach” of “forming small groups that will be responsible for assassinating, targeting these racist politicians.” The terror group said they would “bring to you military consultation” via the magazine, as “one may refer back to the previous issues to find appropriate military ideas.”

This was perhaps one of the most overt appeals for the attention of those protesting shootings at the hands of police officers, and presenting it as an article in English-language *Inspire* ensured that it lives in perpetuity on the internet for easy access. Al-Qaeda isn’t the only group to attempt to capitalize on officer-involved shootings, though: the Ferguson events unfolded soon after the declaration of the caliphate, and as ISIS carved out its online operations relying on adherents who to this day push messaging and conduct recruitment on social media they [hijacked hashtags](#) being used by activists tweeting about the shooting. “Hey blacks, ISIS will save you,” said one tweet, while another vowed to “send u soldiers that don’t sleep” if protesters vowed allegiance to ISIS; another message that circulated online “From #IS 2 Ferguson” said that “we heard your call, we are ready to respond.” And a nearly hourlong 2016 Al-Shabaab video tried to convince African-Americans to come join their ranks and flee “racial profiling and police brutality” in the United States.

### **White Supremacists**

While the Islamist extremist threat is based on a pattern of groups remotely latching onto incidents of police shootings, the white supremacist threat is also mired in current events. Law enforcement was already on guard for how white supremacists could take advantage of the instability caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and how they could use the virus to foster racism and recruitment. Agencies were warned in a recent Joint Intelligence Bulletin about the potential for violent reactions to conspiracy theories circulating about the pandemic, including the branding of the deadly virus as a government hoax, and noted that militia extremists have discussed online preparing for a potentially violent response. Minority-operated businesses that remain open and other exposed racial or religious minorities “are likely at particular risk,” the bulletin warned, adding that “as the number of Americans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic grows, the threat posed by [domestic violent extremists] and hate crime actors towards minorities and other targets of their violence will likely increase” and extremists “will likely continue to seek to exploit the pandemic by using violence themselves or encouraging others on social media and messaging applications to use violence.”

Now with the one-two punch of a destabilizing pandemic and civil unrest sparked by the death of a black man at the hands of a white police officer, white supremacists are taking advantage of the crisis to not only woo recruits but to wedge themselves into chaos, often with the goal of contributing to societal collapse. White supremacists and Islamist extremists at times share the belief of accelerationism: that societal collapse will hasten their aims to construct either a white or Islamic civilization out of the ruins.

A Department of Homeland Security [memo](#) to law enforcement noted that on May 27, two days after George Floyd died after a Minneapolis police officer detained him using a knee to the neck, “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.” Twitter [removed](#) an account linked to white nationalist group Identity Evropa or the American Identity Movement, known for its recruitment efforts on college campuses, that was posing as antifascist and Black Lives Matter supporters and encouraging violence: “Tonight we say ‘F— The City’ and we move into residential areas... the white hoods... and we take what’s ours.” The *New York Times* [reported](#) Sunday that in at least 20 cities “members of hate groups or far-right organizations filmed themselves, sometimes heavily armed or waving extremist symbols, at demonstrations.” A Facebook post from Richmond, Va., showed two young white men holding a “boogaloo” flag “behind an African-American woman with a hand-lettered sign reading ‘A knee is the new noose!’”

	<p>Minnesota's Department of Safety Commissioner John Harrington said Saturday that there were individuals linked to white supremacist groups among those who had been arrested for looting and vandalism the previous night, and said officials were investigating white nationalist groups encouraging followers online to use the protests to stoke chaos. The threat is acute: DHS' Homeland Security Advisory Committee noted in its <a href="#">latest report</a> that six of the 67 terror attacks in the United States in 2018 were lethal, and "all six of these attacks involved elements of far-right ideologies, primarily white supremacy." The DHS Strategic Framework for Combating Terrorism and Targeted Violence <a href="#">rolled out</a> in September called white supremacist violent extremism "one of the most potent forces driving domestic terrorism" today.</p> <p>St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter said that aside from the protesters peacefully expressing their sadness and anger, "there seems to be another group that are using Mr. Floyd's death as a cover to create havoc." That havoc may not just consist of burning cars and looted shops, but groups latching onto the protests as a chance to stir chaos, amplify their messaging and hook new followers – an opportunistic tactic with which both white supremacists and Islamist extremists are familiar.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Afghan official: Kabul mosque bombed</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-official-kabul-mosque-bombed-dead-wounded-71023890">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-official-kabul-mosque-bombed-dead-wounded-71023890</a>
GIST	<p>KABUL, Afghanistan -- A bomb exploded inside a mosque in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday, killing two people, including the mosque's prayer leader, and wounding two others an Afghan official said.</p> <p>Tariq Arian, spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said the bomb targeted the Wazir Akber Khan Mosque at around 7:25 p.m., when worshipers had gathered for evening prayers.</p> <p>Mullah Mohammad Ayaz Niazi was one of two people killed in the attack, Arian said. He was wounded in the attack and died later at a hospital.</p> <p>Niazi was a well known cleric who was active as Friday prayer leader at the mosque.</p> <p>No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Islamic State group has been active in Kabul in recent weeks and has in the past carried out attacks inside mosques in <a href="#">Afghanistan</a>.</p> <p>Taliban insurgents have never carried out an attack inside of a mosque.</p> <p>The IS claimed responsibility for the roadside bomb attack against a bus belonging to a local TV station in Kabul on Saturday, killing two employees of the station.</p> <p>Attacks against worshippers have increased in <a href="#">Afghanistan</a>: Last month, an unknown number of attackers stormed a mosque in northern Parwan province, killed 11 worshipers and wounded several others.</p>
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## Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Still struggle to get unemployment checks</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/washington-unemployed-continue-to-struggle-to-get-unemployment-checks/281-998b8ccd-327f-4fe8-99d9-bbf68a42de1f">https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/washington-unemployed-continue-to-struggle-to-get-unemployment-checks/281-998b8ccd-327f-4fe8-99d9-bbf68a42de1f</a>
GIST	<p>Those receiving Washington state unemployment say the agency continues to struggle.</p> <p>Even those who were on unemployment well before claims swelled with COVID-19 driven layoffs.</p> <p>"Things were chugging along no problem, then all of these hiccups came," say Joe Zaccaria of Everson.</p>

The security consultant who has worked on big projects such as Los Angeles International Airport, says except for a two week job in March, ironically to help with COVID-19 planning job, he's been on state unemployment since last fall when the LAX job ended.

He files every week, usually just after midnight Saturday night. He and others have said that before the crisis, the system was reliable.

"The money would be wired to my account, and the money would be cleared on Monday or Tuesday," he said. "And last week the money didn't come through till the end of the week."

There is little doubt that Washington's Employment Security Department has been slammed with new claims.

The department hired hundreds of new workers to process claims, upgraded its computer system and other steps in anticipation of the flood of new claims brought on by the economic crisis that followed coronavirus.

Then the Washington Employment Security Department was socked with hundreds millions of dollars in fraud, much of it from overseas hackers, which caused the department to require more diligence in approving new claims.

But people told KING 5 the state has been asking people who've already had claims to provide even more documentation to verify who they are.

Faith Hansen said her husband who's been on unemployment was asked for more information.

"There should be no problem verifying his information at all!" Hansen wrote. "It has already been 3 weeks! We can't sit and starve. Please help."

Josh Black also has seen delays.

"Then two weeks ago I was asked to verify my ID which I did immediately. I haven't seen any money since," he wrote.

Zaccaria says he was told he would receive the extra \$600 a week in federal help and is still waiting for retroactive payments for the weeks that he filed.

He is frustrated that the money has arrived at different times and in different amounts.

"I'm sure state workers and everyone else appreciate being paid on the same date," he said. "And it's become very difficult to point where now I'm being dinged by my bank for overdraft fees because the unemployment (check) is not there from Employment Security."

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HEADLINE	06/02 Armed person VA hospital? Mistaken ID
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-police-investigating-armed-person-at-seattle-medical-facility">https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-police-investigating-armed-person-at-seattle-medical-facility</a>
GIST	<p>Seattle police said reports of an armed man inside the VA Hospital in south Seattle were the result of a case of mistaken identity, authorities said.</p> <p>Officers were called to the Seattle VA Medical Center, located in the 1600 block of Columbian Way, around 10:15 a.m. after receiving reports of an armed person inside the sprawling medical complex.</p>



	<p>Several police officers responded to the scene and there were reports that the facility was on lockdown as police investigated.</p> <p>Following an investigation of about an hour, police posed on social media that the report resulted from a "case of mistaken identity" by a witness. It was not immediately clear who the person was mistaken for.</p> <p>No injuries were reported.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>06/02 Medical helicopter targeted D.C. protesters</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2020/06/02/helicopter-protest-dc/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2020/06/02/helicopter-protest-dc/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>On the battlefield, the roar of helicopter blades paired with a Red Cross is salvation for wounded troops and civilians.</p> <p>But the thwomping blades of military helicopters, including one with Red Cross markings, were part of a low-flying show of force over Washington's streets Monday night — an incident now under investigation.</p> <p>Numerous videos on social media showed an unarmed Lakota medevac helicopter hovering over demonstrators. Its Red Cross markings, visible on the aircraft's belly and side, was flown by the Washington D.C. Army National Guard. Another helicopter snapped tree limbs and sent people scurrying from the deafening roar, the New York Times reported.</p> <p>The use of a helicopter with Red Cross markings was an abuse of global norms that could help erode its neutral symbolism, military justice experts said.</p> <p>"This was a foolish move," said Geoffrey Corn, a former Army lawyer and professor at the South Texas College of Law in Houston. "The symbolic significance of the Red Cross is pervasive: It denotes a 'noncombatant' function of the armed forces."</p> <p>The National Guard has been used to augment police across the country, defense officials have insisted, including 18,000 Guard members in 29 states and the District mobilized in response to unrest after the death in police custody of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week.</p> <p>The use of a helicopter's rotor wash, the downward rush of air from its rotors, is a common military tactic to incite fear, disperse crowds and warn of other capabilities, like rockets and guns, said Kyleanne Hunter, a former Marine Corps pilot who flew Cobra attack helicopters in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Hunter, now a senior adjunct fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, said she flew low over civilian vehicles to disperse them ahead of convoys in Iraq.</p> <p>And after reviewing videos of the helicopter, she concluded that it flew far too low to be on a surveillance mission.</p> <p>"You add more military equipment, you get more military tactics," she said. "It's to provoke and incite rather to protect and serve."</p> <p>Maj. Gen. William J. Walker, commander of the D.C. National Guard, has directed an investigation into the "low-flying maneuver," a spokesman said Tuesday evening. The decision to use the maneuvers was authorized by the highest levels of that command, the Times reported.</p> <p>Guard members were among the local and federal law enforcement officers that cleared out Lafayette Square on Monday to allow President Trump a photo op at a nearby church, but they did not have, and did not fire, tear gas or rubber bullets, defense officials said.</p>



But the use of medevac helicopters during demonstrations after curfew stunned justice experts, who said the Red Cross symbolizes mercy.

“Misuse of the Red Cross symbol is prohibited even during peacetime by the First Geneva Convention, to which the U.S. is a party,” said Rachel E. VanLandingham, a former Air Force attorney and professor at the Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles.

Linking the symbol with law enforcement, VanLandingham said, can weaken its “effectiveness as signifying medical and humanitarian assistance, a symbol of trust that is needed to give those vehicles with that symbol needed access where they are needed during armed conflict.”

It is unclear whether the helicopter was one of few available. VanLandingham said it might have been prudent to consider covering up the Red Crosses before flight.

The use of the helicopter also may violate Army regulations, Corn said, including domestic operations that outline the use of medical resources for “the evacuation of patients, movement of medical supplies and personnel, and support of search and rescue activities.”

Flying low in urban areas presents numerous risks to the pilots, crew, aircraft and people on the ground, Hunter said, factors that are typically considered before flying such a mission.

Helicopters are not as aerodynamic as airplanes, so in the event of a malfunction, pilots need to assess their altitude, speed and weight before calculating what to do. One solution, Hunter explained, is to rotate the aircraft so air can move over the blades — an attempt to control the helicopter into a crash landing.

But the presence of protesters on the ground, buildings on all sides and a low altitude would make such a maneuver “virtually impossible” in the event of engine failure, Hunter said. The best a pilot could hope for at that altitude, she said, is minimizing injuries on the ground.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Rubber bullets can blind, maim, kill
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/rubber-bullets-used-at-protests-can-blind-maim-or-even-kill?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/rubber-bullets-used-at-protests-can-blind-maim-or-even-kill?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>In cities across the country, police departments have attempted to quell unrest spurred by the death of George Floyd by <a href="#">firing rubber bullets into crowds</a>, even though five decades of evidence shows such weapons can <a href="#">disable, disfigure and even kill</a>.</p> <p>In addition to rubber bullets—which often have a metal core—police have used tear gas, flash-bang grenades, pepper spray gas and projectiles to <a href="#">control crowds of demonstrators demanding justice for 46-year-old George Floyd</a>, who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck, while other officers restrained his body. Some peaceful demonstrations have turned violent, with people smashing windows, setting buildings afire and looting stores.</p> <p>The use by police of rubber bullets has provoked outrage, as graphic images have flashed on social media showing people who have lost an eye or suffered other injuries after being hit.</p> <p>A <a href="#">study</a> published in 2017 in the <i>BMJ</i> found that 3% of people hit by rubber bullets died of the injury. Fifteen percent of the 1,984 people studied were permanently injured by the rubber bullets, also known as “kinetic impact projectiles.”</p> <p>Rubber bullets should be used only to control “an extremely dangerous crowd,” said Brian Higgins, the former police chief of Bergen County, New Jersey.</p>

“Shooting them into open crowds is reckless and dangerous,” said Dr. Douglas Lazzaro, a professor and expert in eye trauma at NYU Langone Health.

In the past week, a [grandmother in La Mesa, California](#), was hospitalized in an intensive care unit after being hit between the eyes with a rubber bullet. Actor [Kendrick Sampson](#) said he was hit by rubber bullets seven times at a Los Angeles protest.

In Washington, D.C., the National Guard allegedly fired rubber bullets Monday to disperse [peaceful protesters near](#) a historic church where President Donald Trump was subsequently photographed.

[In a statement](#), Attorney General William Barr defended the actions of local and federal law enforcement officers in Washington, saying they had “made significant progress in restoring order to the nation’s capital.”

Barr did not mention the use of tear gas or rubber bullets.

Freelance photographer Linda Tirado said she was [blinded by a rubber bullet](#) at a protest in Minneapolis. In an email, Minneapolis Police Department spokesperson John Elder said, “We use 40 mm less-lethal foam marking rounds. We do not use rubber bullets.”

Elder didn’t mention the brand name of the foam marking rounds used by Minneapolis police. But [a website](#) for the “Direct Impact 40 mm OC Crushable Foam Round” depicts a green, bullet-shaped product described as a “point-of-aim, point-of-impact direct-fire round.” The site says the projectiles are “an excellent solution whether you need to incapacitate a single subject or control a crowd.”

No one knows how often police use rubber bullets, or how many people are harmed every year, said Dr. Rohini Haar, a lecturer at the University of California-Berkeley School of Public Health and medical expert with Physicians for Human Rights. Many victims don’t go to the hospital.

Police are not required to document their use of rubber bullets, so there is no national data to show how often they’re used, said Higgins, now an adjunct professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. There are no nationally agreed-upon standards for their use.

When aimed at the legs, rubber bullets can stop a dangerous person or crowd from getting closer to a police officer, Lazzaro said.

But when fired at close range, rubber bullets can penetrate the skin, break bones, fracture the skull and explode the eyeball, he said. Rubber bullets can cause traumatic brain injuries and “serious abdominal injury, including injuries to the spleen and bowel along with major blood vessels,” said Dr. Robert Glatter, an emergency physician in New York City and a spokesperson for the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Firing rubber bullets from a distance decreases both their force and their accuracy, increasing the risk of shooting people in the face or hitting bystanders, Lazzaro said.

Physicians for Human Rights, a nonprofit advocacy group based in New York, has called for rubber bullets to be banned.

The British military developed rubber bullets 50 years ago to control nationalist rioters in [Northern Ireland](#), although the United Kingdom stopped using them decades ago. Rubber bullets are used by Israeli security forces against Palestinian demonstrators. [French police](#) were criticized for using rubber bullets last year after dozens of “yellow jacket” demonstrators were blinded and [hundreds were injured](#).

“Rubber bullets are used almost every day somewhere in the world,” Haar said. “Using them against unarmed civilians is a huge violation of human rights.”

	<p>Many “less than lethal” police weapons can cause serious harm, according to <a href="#">Physicians for Human Rights</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—<a href="#">Acoustic weapons</a>, such as sound cannons that make painfully loud noises, can damage hearing.</li> <li>—<a href="#">Tear gas can</a> make it difficult to see and breathe.</li> <li>—Pepper spray, while painful and irritating, doesn’t cause permanent damage, Lazzaro said.</li> <li>—Pepper spray balls, which have been used to quell recent protests, can be deadly when used incorrectly.</li> </ul> <p>In 2004, <a href="#">a 21-year-old Boston woman</a> was hit in the eye and killed by a <a href="#">pepper spray pellet</a> fired by police to disperse crowds celebrating the city’s World Series win.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Disorientation devices that create loud noises and bright lights, known as <a href="#">concussion grenade or flash-bangs</a>, can cause severe burns and blast injuries, including damage to the ear drum. Panicked crowds can cause crush injuries.</li> <li>—<a href="#">Water cannons</a> can cause internal injuries, falls and even frostbite during cold weather.</li> <li>—Physical force, such as hitting someone to subdue them, causes about 1 in 3 people to be hospitalized, said Dr. Howie Mell, a spokesperson for the American College of Emergency Physicians and former tactical physician, who worked with SWAT teams.</li> </ul> <p>Rubber bullets are less harmful than subduing people by “physical force or regular bullets, Mell said. “But we’re firing a lot more of them this week than we usually do.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Tropical storm sets new Atlantic record</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/tropical-storm-cristobal-forms-in-gulf-of-mexico/750223">https://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/tropical-storm-cristobal-forms-in-gulf-of-mexico/750223</a>
GIST	<p>Tropical Storm Cristobal, the third named storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, formed over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico Tuesday afternoon. The newly-formed Cristobal continued unleashing torrential rainfall across portions of Mexico and central America on Tuesday, threatening serious flooding and mudslides. As of early Wednesday morning, it churned across the the southwestern Gulf about 25 miles north-northwest of Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph.</p> <p>Tropical Storm Warnings were in effect for Campeche to Puerto de Veracruz in Mexico on Tuesday morning, with tropical storm conditions already occurring in portions of the warning area.</p> <p>With the upgrade to tropical storm status, a new record has been set for the Atlantic basin. Cristobal has now become the earliest occurrence of a third named system in the Atlantic basin during any hurricane season in recorded history. The <a href="#">2016 season previously held the record</a> for the earliest-ever third tropical storm, and it was Tropical Storm Colin, which formed on June 5, that helped that year go down in the history books.</p> <p>The name Cristobal was most recently used in 2014. That year, Cristobal did not form until late August. The same list of names is used every six years, unless a storm is unusually strong or deadly and it's subsequently retired.</p> <p>Compared to the 2019 hurricane season, the Atlantic basin reached the C-named storm months faster. <a href="#">Tropical Storm Chantal formed</a> on Aug. 20 last year over the open Atlantic before weakening three days later.</p> <p>The water in the Gulf of Mexico is plenty warm enough to support further tropical strengthening. Sea surface temperatures were in the low- to mid-80s F in the Bay of Campeche, the region where the storm was spinning, as of Tuesday. <a href="#">Wind shear</a>, or the shifting of winds with altitude, is low over the southwestern Gulf of Mexico -- yet another factor that favors strengthening of the system.</p> <p>As the system meanders back over land, heavy rainfall will be the chief impact, regardless of strength.</p>

	<p>"The most immediate concern is for torrential rainfall that can trigger life-threatening flooding and mudslides in southeastern Mexico, Belize and northern Guatemala much of this week," said AccuWeather Meteorologist Courtney Travis. Rainfall spanning Monday to Thursday is forecast to average 250 to 500 millimeters (10-20 inches) with an AccuWeather Local StormMax™ of 760 millimeters (30 inches).</p> <p>"The heaviest rainfall is likely to occur along some of the immediate coastal areas and over the higher terrain across the interior," stated AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Rob Miller.</p> <p>Based on the slow-moving nature of the storm and it's potential to unload tremendous rain and unleash disastrous flooding, the <a href="#">AccuWeather RealImpact™ Scale for Hurricanes</a> will be a one for Cristobal.</p> <p>Rough surf is likely to become a concern for bathers in the region, and building seas can threaten boating and fishing interests in southeastern Mexico and Belize.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 China delayed releasing Covid-19 data</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/3c061794970661042b18d5aeaed9fae">https://apnews.com/3c061794970661042b18d5aeaed9fae</a>
GIST	<p>Throughout January, the World Health Organization publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to the new coronavirus. It repeatedly thanked the Chinese government for sharing the genetic map of the virus “immediately,” and said its work and commitment to transparency were “very impressive, and beyond words.”</p> <p>But behind the scenes, it was a much different story, one of significant delays by China and considerable frustration among WHO officials over not getting the information they needed to fight the spread of the deadly virus, The Associated Press has found.</p> <p>Despite the plaudits, China in fact sat on releasing the genetic map, or genome, of the virus for more than a week after three different government labs had fully decoded the information. Tight controls on information and competition within the Chinese public health system were to blame, according to dozens of interviews and internal documents.</p> <p>Chinese government labs only released the genome after another lab published it ahead of authorities on a virologist website on Jan. 11. Even then, China stalled for at least two weeks more on providing WHO with detailed data on patients and cases, according to recordings of internal meetings held by the U.N. health agency through January — all at a time when the outbreak arguably might have been dramatically slowed.</p> <p>WHO officials were lauding China in public because they wanted to coax more information out of the government, the recordings obtained by the AP suggest. Privately, they complained in meetings the week of Jan. 6 that China was not sharing enough data to assess how effectively the virus spread between people or what risk it posed to the rest of the world, costing valuable time.</p> <p>“We’re going on very minimal information,” said American epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove, now WHO’s technical lead for COVID-19, in one internal meeting. “It’s clearly not enough for you to do proper planning.”</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 another meeting.</p> <p>The story behind the early response to the virus comes at a time when the U.N. health agency is under siege, and has agreed to an independent probe of how the pandemic was handled globally. After repeatedly praising the Chinese response early on, U.S. President Donald Trump has blasted WHO in recent weeks for allegedly colluding with China to hide the extent of the coronavirus crisis. He cut ties with the</p>

organization on Friday, jeopardizing the approximately \$450 million the U.S. gives every year as WHO's biggest single donor.

In the meantime, Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to pitch in \$2 billion over the next two years to fight the coronavirus, saying 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 instead portrays an agency now stuck in the middle that was urgently trying to solicit more data despite limits to its own authority. 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 and cannot independently investigate epidemics within countries. Instead, it must rely on the cooperation of member states.

The recordings suggest that rather than colluding with China, as Trump declared, WHO was kept in the dark as China gave it the minimal information required by law. However, the agency did try to portray China in the best light, likely as a means to secure more information. And WHO experts genuinely thought Chinese scientists had done "a very good job" in detecting and decoding the virus, despite the lack of transparency from Chinese officials.

WHO staffers debated how to press China for gene sequences and detailed patient data without angering authorities, worried about losing access and getting Chinese scientists into trouble. Under international law, WHO is required to quickly share information and alerts with member countries about an evolving crisis. Galea noted WHO could not indulge China's wish to sign off on information before telling other countries because "that is not respectful of our responsibilities."

In the second week of January, WHO's chief of emergencies, Dr. Michael Ryan, told colleagues it was time to "shift gears" and apply more pressure on China, fearing a repeat of the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome that started in China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people worldwide.

"This is exactly the same scenario, endlessly trying to get updates from China about what was going on," he said. "WHO barely got out of that one with its neck intact given the issues that arose around transparency in southern China."

Ryan said the best way to "protect China" was for WHO to do its own independent analysis with data from the Chinese government, because otherwise the spread of the virus between people would be in question and "other countries will take action accordingly." Ryan also noted that China was not cooperating in the same way some other countries had in the past.

"This would not happen in Congo and did not happen in Congo and other places," he said, probably referring to the Ebola outbreak that began there in 2018. "We need to see the data. ....It's absolutely important at this point."

The delay in the release of the genome stalled the recognition of its spread to other countries, along with the global development of tests, drugs and vaccines. The lack of detailed patient data also made it harder to determine how quickly the virus was spreading — a critical question in stopping it.

Between the day the full genome was first decoded by a government lab on Jan. 2 and the day WHO declared a global emergency on Jan. 30, the outbreak spread by a factor of 100 to 200 times, according to retrospective infection data from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus has now infected over 6 million people worldwide and killed more than 375,000.

"It's obvious that we could have saved more lives and avoided many, many deaths if China and the WHO had acted faster," said Ali Mokdad, a professor at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

However, Mokdad and other experts also noted that if WHO had been more confrontational with China, it could have triggered a far worse situation of not getting any information at all.

If WHO had pushed too hard, it could even have been kicked out of China, said Adam Kamradt-Scott, a global health professor at the University of Sydney. But he added that a delay of just a few days in releasing genetic sequences can be critical in an outbreak. And he noted that as Beijing's lack of transparency becomes even clearer, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's continued defense of China is problematic.

"It's definitely damaged WHO's credibility," said Kamradt-Scott. "Did he go too far? I think the evidence on that is clear...it has led to so many questions about the relationship between China and WHO. It is perhaps a cautionary tale."

WHO and its officials named in this story declined to answer questions asked by The Associated Press 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 in compliance with the organization's rules and regulations 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 the 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.

"Since the beginning of the outbreak, we have been continuously sharing information on the epidemic with the WHO and the international community in an open, transparent and responsible manner," said Liu Mingzhu, an official with the National Health Commission's International Department, at a press conference on May 15.

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The race to find the genetic map of the virus started in late December, according to the story that unfolds in interviews, documents and the WHO recordings. That's when doctors in Wuhan noticed mysterious clusters of patients with fevers and breathing problems who weren't improving with standard flu treatment. Seeking answers, they sent test samples from patients to commercial labs.

By Dec. 27, one lab, Vision Medicals, had pieced together most of the genome of a new coronavirus with striking similarities to SARS. Vision Medicals shared its data with Wuhan officials and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, as reported first by Chinese finance publication Caixin and independently confirmed by the AP.

On Dec. 30, Wuhan health officials issued internal notices warning of the unusual pneumonia, which leaked on social media. That evening, Shi Zhengli, a coronavirus expert at the Wuhan Institute of Virology who is famous for having traced the SARS virus to a bat cave, was alerted to the new disease, according to an interview with Scientific American. Shi took the first train from a conference in Shanghai back to Wuhan.

Shi Zhengli works with other researchers in a lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. (Chinatopix via AP) The next day, Chinese CDC director Gao Fu dispatched a team of experts to Wuhan. Also on Dec. 31, WHO first learned about the cases from an open-source platform that scouts for intelligence on outbreaks, emergencies chief Ryan has said.

WHO officially requested more information on Jan. 1. Under international law, members have 24 to 48 hours to respond, and China reported two days later that there were 44 cases and no deaths.



By Jan. 2, Shi had decoded the entire genome of the virus, according to a notice later posted on her institute's website.

Scientists agree that Chinese scientists detected and sequenced the then-unknown pathogen with astonishing speed, in a testimony to China's vastly improved technical capabilities since SARS, during which a WHO-led group of scientists took months to identify the virus. This time, Chinese virologists proved within days that it was a never-before-seen coronavirus. Tedros would later say Beijing set "a new standard for outbreak response."

But when it came to sharing the information with the world, things began to go awry.

On Jan. 3, the National Health Commission issued a confidential notice ordering labs with the virus to either destroy their samples or send them to designated institutes for safekeeping. The notice, first reported by Caixin and seen by the AP, forbade labs from publishing about the virus without government authorization. The order barred Shi's lab from publishing the genetic sequence or warning of the potential danger.

Chinese law states that research institutes cannot conduct experiments on potentially dangerous new viruses without approval from top health authorities. Although the law is intended to keep experiments safe, it gives top health officials wide-ranging powers over what lower-level labs can or cannot do.

"If the virologist community had operated with more autonomy...the public would have been informed of the lethal risk of the new virus much earlier," said Edward Gu, a professor at Zhejiang University, and Li Lantian, a PhD student at Northwestern University, in a paper published in March analyzing the outbreak.

Commission officials later repeated that they were trying to ensure lab safety, and had tasked four separate government labs with identifying the genome at the same time to get accurate, consistent results.

By Jan. 3, the Chinese CDC had independently sequenced the virus, according to internal data seen by the Associated Press. And by just after midnight on Jan. 5, a third designated government lab, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, had decoded the sequence and submitted a report — pulling all-nighters to get results in record time, according to a state media interview. Yet even with full sequences decoded by three state labs independently, Chinese health officials remained silent. The WHO reported on Twitter that investigations were under way into an unusual cluster of pneumonia cases with no deaths in Wuhan, and said it would share "more details as we have them."

Meanwhile, at the Chinese CDC, gaps in coronavirus expertise proved a problem.

For nearly two weeks, Wuhan reported no new infections, as officials censored doctors who warned of suspicious cases. Meanwhile, researchers found the new coronavirus used a distinct spike protein to bind itself to human cells. The unusual protein and the lack of new cases lulled some Chinese CDC researchers into thinking the virus didn't easily spread between humans — like the coronavirus that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, according to an employee who declined to be identified out of fear of retribution.

Li, the coronavirus expert, said he immediately suspected the pathogen was infectious when he spotted a leaked copy of a sequencing report in a group chat on a SARS-like coronavirus. But the Chinese CDC team that sequenced the virus lacked specialists in the molecular structure of coronaviruses and failed to consult with outside scientists, Li said. Chinese health authorities rebuffed offers of assistance from foreign experts, including Hong Kong scientists barred from a fact-finding mission to Wuhan and an American professor at a university in China.

On Jan. 5, the Shanghai Public Clinical Health Center, led by famed virologist Zhang Yongzhen, was the latest to sequence the virus. He submitted it to the GenBank database, where it sat awaiting review, and notified the National Health Commission. He warned them that the new virus was similar to SARS and likely infectious.

“It should be contagious through respiratory passages,” the center said in an internal notice seen by the AP. “We recommend taking preventative measures in public areas.”

On the same day, WHO said that based on preliminary information from China, there was no evidence of significant transmission between humans, and did not recommend any specific measures for travelers.

The next day, the Chinese CDC raised its emergency level to the second highest. Staffers proceeded to isolate the virus, draft lab testing guidelines, and design test kits. But the agency did not have the authority to issue public warnings, and the heightened emergency level was kept secret even from many of its own staff.

By Jan. 7, another team at Wuhan University had sequenced the pathogen and found it matched Shi’s, making Shi certain they had identified a novel coronavirus. But Chinese CDC experts said they didn’t trust Shi’s findings and needed to verify her data before she could publish, according to three people familiar with the matter. Both the National Health Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology, which oversees Shi’s lab, declined to make Shi available for an interview.

A major factor behind the gag order, some say, was that Chinese CDC researchers wanted to publish their papers first. “They wanted to take all the credit,” said Li Yize, a coronavirus researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

Internally, the leadership of the Chinese CDC is plagued with fierce competition, six people familiar with the system explained. They said the agency has long promoted staff based on how many papers they can publish in prestigious journals, making scientists reluctant to share data.

As the days went by, even some of the Chinese CDC’s own staff began to wonder why it was taking so long for authorities to identify the pathogen.

“We were getting suspicious, since within one or two days you would get a sequencing result,” a lab technician said, declining to be identified for fear of retribution.

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On Jan. 8, the Wall Street Journal reported that scientists had identified a new coronavirus in samples from pneumonia patients in Wuhan, pre-empting and embarrassing Chinese officials. The lab technician told the AP they first learned about the discovery of the virus from the Journal.

The article also embarrassed WHO officials. Dr. Tom Grein, chief of WHO’s acute events management team, said the agency looked “doubly, incredibly stupid.” Van Kerkhove, the American expert, acknowledged WHO was “already late” in announcing the new virus and told colleagues that it was critical to push China.

Ryan, WHO’s chief of emergencies, was also upset at the dearth of information.

“The fact is, we’re two to three weeks into an event, we don’t have a laboratory diagnosis, we don’t have an age, sex or geographic distribution, we don’t have an epi curve,” he complained, referring to the standard graphic of outbreaks scientists use to show how an epidemic is progressing.

After the article, state media officially announced the discovery of the new coronavirus. But even then, Chinese health authorities did not release the genome, diagnostic tests, or detailed patient data that could hint at how infectious the disease was.

By that time, suspicious cases were already appearing across the region.

On Jan. 8, Thai airport officers pulled aside a woman from Wuhan with a runny nose, sore throat, and high temperature. Chulalongkorn University professor Supaporn Wacharapluesadee's team found the woman was infected with a new coronavirus, much like what Chinese officials had described. Supaporn partially figured out the genetic sequence by Jan. 9, reported it to the Thai government and spent the next day searching for matching sequences.

But because Chinese authorities hadn't published any sequences, she found nothing. She could not prove the Thai virus was the same pathogen sickening people in Wuhan.

"It was kind of wait and see, when China will release the data, then we can compare," said Supaporn.

On Jan. 9, a 61-year-old man with the virus passed away in Wuhan — the first known death. The death wasn't made public until Jan. 11.

WHO officials complained in internal meetings that they were making repeated requests for more data, especially to find out if the virus could spread efficiently between humans, but to no avail.

"We have informally and formally been requesting more epidemiological information," WHO's China representative Galea said. "But when asked for specifics, we could get nothing."

Emergencies chief Ryan grumbled that since China was providing the minimal information required by international law, there was little WHO could do. But he also noted that last September, WHO had issued an unusual public rebuke of Tanzania for not providing enough details about a worrisome Ebola outbreak.

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

Ryan noted that China could make a "huge contribution" to the world by sharing the genetic material immediately, because otherwise "other countries will have to reinvent the wheel over the coming days."

On Jan. 11, a team led by Zhang, from the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center, finally published a sequence on virological.org, used by researchers to swap tips on pathogens. The move angered Chinese CDC officials, three people familiar with the matter said, and the next day, his laboratory was temporarily shuttered by health authorities.

Zhang referred a request for comment to the Chinese CDC. The National Health Commission, which oversees the Chinese CDC, declined multiple times to make its officials available for interviews and did not answer questions about Zhang.

Supaporn compared her sequence with Zhang's and found it was a 100% match, confirming that the Thai patient was ill with the same virus detected in Wuhan. Another Thai lab got the same results. That day, Thailand informed the WHO, said Tanarak Plipat, deputy director-general of the Department of Disease Control at Thailand's Ministry of Public Health.

After Zhang released the genome, the Chinese CDC, the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences raced to publish their sequences, working overnight to review them, gather patient data, and send them to the National Health Commission for approval, according to documentation obtained by the AP. On Jan. 12, the three labs together finally published the sequences on GISAID, a platform for scientists to share genomic data.

By then, more than two weeks had passed since Vision Medicals decoded a partial sequence, and more than a week since the three government labs had all obtained full sequences. Around 600 people were infected in that week, a roughly three-fold increase.

Some scientists say the wait was not unreasonable considering the difficulties in sequencing unknown pathogens, given accuracy is as important as speed. They point to the SARS outbreak in 2003 when some Chinese scientists initially — and wrongly — believed the source of the epidemic was chlamydia.

“The pressure is intense in an outbreak to make sure you’re right,” said Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealthAlliance in New York. “It’s actually worse to go out to go to the public with a story that’s wrong because the public completely lose confidence in the public health response.”

Still, others quietly question what happened behind the scenes.

Infectious diseases expert John Mackenzie, who served on a WHO emergency committee during the outbreak, praised the speed of Chinese researchers in sequencing the virus. But he said once central authorities got involved, detailed data trickled to a crawl.

“There certainly was a kind of blank period,” Mackenzie said. “There had to be human to human transmission. You know, it’s staring at you in the face... I would have thought they would have been much more open at that stage.”

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On Jan. 13, WHO announced that Thailand had a confirmed case of the virus, jolting Chinese officials.

The next day, in a confidential teleconference, China’s top health official ordered the country to prepare for a pandemic, calling the outbreak the “most severe challenge since SARS in 2003”, as the AP previously reported. Chinese CDC staff across the country began screening, isolating, and testing for cases, turning up hundreds across the country.

Yet even as the Chinese CDC internally declared a level one emergency, the highest level possible, Chinese officials still said the chance of sustained transmission between humans was low.

WHO went back and forth. Van Kerkhove said in a press briefing that “it is certainly possible there is limited human-to-human transmission.” But hours later, WHO seemed to backtrack, and tweeted that “preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission” – a statement that later became fodder for critics.

A high-ranking official in WHO’s Asia office, Dr. Liu Yunguo, who attended medical school in Wuhan, flew to Beijing to make direct, informal contacts with Chinese officials, recordings show. Liu’s former classmate, a Wuhan doctor, had alerted him that pneumonia patients were flooding the city’s hospitals, and Liu pushed for more experts to visit Wuhan, according to a public health expert familiar with the matter.

On Jan. 20, the leader of an expert team returning from Wuhan, renowned government infectious diseases doctor Zhong Nanshan, declared publicly for the first time that the new virus was spreading between people. Chinese President Xi Jinping called for the “timely publication of epidemic information and deepening of international cooperation.”

Despite that directive, WHO staff still struggled to obtain enough detailed patient data from China about the rapidly evolving outbreak. That same day, the U.N. health agency dispatched a small team to Wuhan for two days, including Galea, the WHO representative in China.

They were told about a worrying cluster of cases among more than a dozen doctors and nurses. But they did not have “transmission trees” detailing how the cases were connected, nor a full understanding of how widely the virus was spreading and who was at risk.

In an internal meeting, Galea said their Chinese counterparts were “talking openly and consistently” about human-to-human transmission, and that there was a debate about whether or not this was sustained. Galea

reported to colleagues in Geneva and Manila that China's key request to WHO was for help "in communicating this to the public, without causing panic."

On Jan. 22, WHO convened an independent committee to determine whether to declare a global health emergency. After two inconclusive meetings where experts were split, they decided against it — even as Chinese officials ordered Wuhan sealed in the biggest quarantine in history. The next day, WHO chief Tedros publicly described the spread of the new coronavirus in China as "limited."

For days, China didn't release much detailed data, even as its case count exploded. Beijing city officials were alarmed enough to consider locking down the capital, according to a medical expert with direct knowledge of the matter.

On Jan. 28, Tedros and top experts, including Ryan, made an extraordinary trip to Beijing to meet President Xi and other senior Chinese officials. It is highly unusual for WHO's director-general to directly intervene in the practicalities of outbreak investigations. Tedros' staffers had prepared a list of requests for information.

"It could all happen and the floodgates open, or there's no communication," Grein said in an internal meeting while his boss was in Beijing. "We'll see."

At the end of Tedros' trip, WHO announced China had agreed to accept an international team of experts. In a press briefing on Jan. 29, Tedros heaped praise on China, calling its level of commitment "incredible."

The next day, WHO finally declared an international health emergency. Once again, Tedros thanked China, saying nothing about the earlier lack of cooperation.

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

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## Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	06/02 Seattle arrests: 82 on police list
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/what-were-learning-about-who-was-arrested-this-weekend/281-3f39c39b-cce4-4c66-b029-0b334b440f08">https://www.king5.com/article/news/what-were-learning-about-who-was-arrested-this-weekend/281-3f39c39b-cce4-4c66-b029-0b334b440f08</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Tuesday morning, many of those arrested during the weekend unrest made their first appearance before a judge.</p> <p>The hearing was originally scheduled Monday, but delayed a day by a threat and subsequent courthouse closure.</p> <p>Many peaceful protests demanding justice for George Floyd and police accountability proceeded in the past few days, but acts of violence and destruction in downtown did lead to some arrests.</p> <p>Officials have previously said they believe the violence to be the work of outside instigators.</p> <p>Photographers were barred from showing the suspects' faces by the court.</p> <p>Seattle Police previously said at least 55 people were arrested Saturday, when dozens of businesses and buildings in downtown were vandalized and looted.</p> <p>A spreadsheet, updated June 1, provided to KING 5 by the Seattle Police Department shows 82 entries for arrests. One of those is a non-arrest — the theft of two AR-15s from an SPD car — suspect listed as unknown. Those rifles were recovered.</p>

	<p>The listed charges are mainly assault on officers, obstruction and burglary.</p> <p>Some of the information was incomplete, but it is what SPD is working off as it catalogs the weekend's events, a spokesperson said. The department was not able to provide greater detail when asked about the blank spaces on the sheet.</p> <p>Chief Best previously said investigators were having some difficulty identifying suspects who were arrested. She also said some were consistent with antifa, but was gathering more information.</p> <p>The majority of people arrested appear to be from Washington – just 22 are not identified as in-state residents. Some of the IDs are attributed to public databases.</p> <p>A significant share are listed as White as well – 32 according to the sheet, with 8 indicated as Black. It is important to note, more than 30 entries are either blank for race or unknown.</p> <p>SPD said officers are not determining the race of those arrested, but taking it either from IDs on them, or if they self-identify.</p> <p>A spokesperson noted the department has been getting a lot of pressure to release these figures.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 FBI: triple homicide Yakima County</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/fbi-investigating-triple-homicide-in-yakima-county/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/fbi-investigating-triple-homicide-in-yakima-county/</a>
GIST	<p>PARKER, Yakima County — The FBI is investigating a triple homicide in the Yakima Valley town of Parker.</p> <p>The Yakima Herald-Republic said sheriff's deputies were called to a house in Parker shortly after 6:20 p.m. Monday.</p> <p>Sheriff's spokesman Casey Schilperoort said three people were fatally shot, and the suspected shooter has been taken into custody.</p> <p>Federal investigators are taking the lead in the case because the suspect is a tribal citizen.</p> <p>Yakima County Coroner Jim Curtice said the victims were two men and a woman, and autopsies are being scheduled. Curtice is waiting to complete notification of the victims' relatives before releasing names.</p> <p>Their deaths bring the total number of homicides in Yakima County this year to 20.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Most wanted China fugitive extradited US</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/man-with-ties-to-seattle-area-extradited-to-u-s-to-face-money-laundering-charges/">https://www.seattletimes.com/business/local-business/man-with-ties-to-seattle-area-extradited-to-u-s-to-face-money-laundering-charges/</a>
GIST	<p>More than a decade ago, Chinese national Jianjun Qiao gained entry to the United States on a special visa program designed to create local jobs and his purported wife later <a href="#">bought a five-bedroom home</a> in Newcastle.</p> <p>But after years on the run as one of China's most wanted fugitives, Qiao, 56, was extradited from Sweden to Los Angeles on Friday to face charges he committed fraud on immigration documents while using U.S.-purchased properties as part of a multimillion-dollar money-laundering scheme. His supposed wife, Shilan</p>



Zhao, 56, already pleaded guilty to immigration fraud in 2017, telling federal authorities she and Qiao had actually divorced years before applying for EB-5 immigrant investor visas as a married couple.

Qiao pleaded not guilty in a Los Angeles courtroom Monday. A trial date has been set for July 28.

The case spotlights a federal EB-5 job creation program that has become [a popular path for immigrants](#) seeking U.S. green cards. Up to 10,000 permanent residency visas can be allotted annually to foreigners and their immediate families if they invest in a U.S. enterprise that creates at least 10 U.S. jobs; the vast majority of recipients have been from China.

Invest In The USA, [an EB-5 trade association](#), has estimated the program funded more than \$2 billion in recent Puget Sound region development projects. Approved investors, spouses and children get provisional residency visas that can be made permanent if they demonstrate the required job creation.

But critics have likened it to immigrants buying their way into the country, with a cottage industry of corporations regularly traveling to China to make pitches to lure investor capital. Among them: The sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law and special adviser Jared Kushner, whose [family connections were touted](#) during one such overseas visit.

In her guilty plea, Zhao admitted using a phony marriage certificate and false documents indicating the money she planned to spend had been legally obtained through her partial ownership in two flour companies.

The cash-for-visas program used to require a minimum investment of \$1 million, or \$500,000 in designated Targeted Employment Areas. The Trump administration recently raised those investment thresholds to \$1.8 million and \$900,000, respectively, and has faced pressure from Republican lawmakers to suspend the program as part of an expanded immigration crackdown.

Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, said the case involving Qiao, Zhao and the Newcastle home is one of only a handful to be prosecuted since the EB-5 program began in 1990. Sweden's high court last summer [rejected an extradition request](#) to return Qiao to China on grounds he might be persecuted there because he'd joined a banned political party before fleeing that country in 2011.

Once the Swedish court freed Qiao, U.S. officials had him rearrested in Stockholm days later before its own extradition bid. The extradition was granted and Qiao was escorted by U.S. Marshals on a flight that arrived in Los Angeles on Friday.

A joint investigation by the Department of Homeland Security and the Internal Revenue Service alleged Qiao (aka Feng Li) used his decadelong position as director of a grain storehouse in China to embezzle millions of dollars from 2008 to 2011 and launder it through properties purchased in the United States. One of those properties was the 3,660-square-foot Newcastle residence, purchased in 2012 for \$525,000 by his then-ex-wife Zhao; Zillow estimates the property is now worth \$1.2 million.

A federal grand jury indictment in July 2014 alleged Zhao in 2008 used phony documents to claim marriage to Qiao despite their having divorced in China in 2001. Provisional visas were approved for the couple and one of their sons a year later, after she had indicated plans to spend \$500,000.

By mid-2011, Zhao applied for a permanent visa.

In early 2012, according to the indictment, the couple had \$2.2 million in money Qiao had stolen from the grain storehouse deposited in a Canadian bank account and used some of it to buy the Newcastle home under a company called S&O Investments LLC. The indictment said documents showed Zhao owned 98% of the company and her son 2%.

China's government alleges Qiao embezzled a total of \$11 million and has more aggressively targeted officials said to have fled the country with stolen money since President Xi Jinping came to power in 2012. The federal agencies in the United States, assisted by the Chinese police and prosecutors in their investigation, allege the trail of Qiao's illicit withdrawals from the grain storehouse began in 2008 after Zhao applied for the couple's visas.

A Swedish television station reported Qiao had been living in Sweden under a different name since the grand jury indictment against him was unsealed in March 2015 and his ex-wife arrested.

It doesn't appear Qiao lived in the Seattle area at any point — he became a citizen of the Caribbean nation of St. Kitts and Nevis in 2012 and the indictment alleges he also bought three residences and several parcels of land near Los Angeles, plus a condominium in New York — though Zhao still resides here. She faces up to six months in prison as part of a plea deal to cooperate with authorities and forfeit the Newcastle home and other properties.

Sentencing is set for Aug. 17, and the Newcastle home and other properties will be sold once that takes place.

Zhao's lawyer, Kirk Davis, said his client had been unaware of the other properties beyond the Newcastle residence. Davis said she accepts responsibility for her role and has cooperated fully, as agreed.

"From our perspective, she's indicated she is responsible for her conduct and she's been waiting patiently for whatever needs to happen next," Davis said.

Davis added, "She was the wife. She was not involved in his transactions. She wasn't the main mover in that thing. But certainly she became aware of certain facts as things went on."

A superseding indictment against Qiao in December 2018 alleged he conspired to commit immigration fraud and internationally laundered millions of dollars through banks in China, Hong Kong and Singapore. If convicted on all counts, he faces up to 55 years in federal prison.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Feds charge 2: firebombing Minn. bldg.</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/feds-charge-two-for-firebombing-minnesota-building-during-protests?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/feds-charge-two-for-firebombing-minnesota-building-during-protests?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>They're bringing in the big guns now.</p> <p>The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) made its first known intervention on Monday into the spiraling crisis in Minnesota, following the <a href="#">killing of George Floyd</a> by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. The federal agency charged two men with firebombing a county building in the town of Apple Valley on Friday, and with possessing Molotov cocktails "not registered to them in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer."</p> <p>The criminal complaint, brought against Garrett Ziegler and Fornandous Henderson, coincided with warnings from <a href="#">President Donald Trump</a> and <a href="#">U.S. Attorney General William Barr</a> of increased federal involvement in local law enforcement efforts to counter the violence that has wracked multiple American cities.</p> <p>The ATF's deposition leans heavily on the findings of the Apple Valley Police Department, which arrested Ziegler and Henderson early on May 29, moments after an explosion at the Dakota County Western Service Center. The center contains mostly local judicial facilities and municipal offices. But the ATF complaint notes that it also houses a passport office and provides voter registration assistance and serves as a polling place—which the agency asserted makes it a site of "interstate or foreign commerce," thus</p>

justifying federal intervention. Further, the ATF claims at least one tenant of the building receives federal funding.

The local cops reported picking up Ziegler's dropped car keys in the parking lot shortly after responding to a fire alarm at the county building, then encountering the pair as they walked along the road just blocks away. After an unsuccessful alleged escape attempt by the two men, police took them into custody. Police described the pair as sooty, and on opening Ziegler's car said they discovered bottles of lighter fluid and rubbing alcohol, an empty box for Mason jars, removed price tags for bandanas, and a receipt for nail polish.

The ATF cites an analysis it conducted, and another by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which determined these materials were similar to those used in the Molotov cocktails that hit the Dakota County Western Service Center. It also notes that Henderson related to the AVPD that he and Ziegler had attended protests in Minneapolis near the site of Floyd's killing, although the agent involved described elements of his story as "implausible."

Besides accusing Ziegler and Henderson of aiding and abetting one another and damaging the building, the ATF noted that a Molotov cocktail "is a destructive device and a firearm."

"As such, Molotov cocktails must be registered on the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR), which is maintained by the ATF," the deposition reads, adding that a query of the database did not turn up any Molotov cocktails licensed to either man.

Efforts to reach Ziegler and Henderson were not immediately successful. The complaint identifies the former as an employee of the Minnetonka Target store where several of the items in his car were purchased.

The deposition alludes to "several individuals," all unnamed, whom it alleges participated in similar attacks on public and private buildings.

The *Sun-Thisweek*, a local outlet, [reported on the damage to the building shortly after the incident occurred](#), and the subsequent arrests. But the perpetrators' names and the involvement of federal authorities and of the ATF in particular, have not been previously revealed.

Apple Valley sits due south of the Twin Cities, and is home to 55,135 people and the Minnesota Zoo.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Minnesota homes w/BLM signs threatened</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/minnesota-homes-with-blm-signs-are-receiving-death-threats?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/minnesota-homes-with-blm-signs-are-receiving-death-threats?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>As <a href="#">protests continue to rage</a> over the <a href="#">death of George Floyd</a>, residents of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and a nearby suburb are receiving threats over the Black Lives Matter signs on their properties and over their support of anti-racist causes.</p> <p>Julie Reuvers, a single mother of two in Roseville, between Minneapolis and St. Paul, woke up Saturday morning to find a handwritten note tucked inside her door.</p> <p>"In light of Rioters with Blm signs I would be in The best intrest [sic] of your safty [sic] to Remove your sign Because Pay Back is Coming," read the ominous message, written in black marker on a sheet of white computer paper.</p> <p>Reuvers, 47, called the Roseville Police Department, which has since fielded reports of nearly identical missives and is investigating, the <a href="#">department tweeted Monday</a>. Because she feared for her children's</p>

safety, Reuvers decided with a heavy heart to take down her homemade Black Lives Matter sign, which had been propped inside her front window.

She alerted neighbors to the unsettling discovery on the Nextdoor platform, and on Sunday morning, another resident reported receiving a similar letter with matching handwriting: “Your neighbors are sick of riots and your SJW Shit. Your sign ‘Bullshit Matters’ comes down or you and your Home will Burn real Quiet while you sleep in it!”

According to Reuvers, this homeowner seemed to be targeted over a Social Justice Warrior poster on his property. “We don’t know who’s leaving notes, but find comfort in continuing to teach our children our values,” Reuvers [said in a tweet](#) about the second threat. A third neighbor on Nextdoor reported finding a note on her windshield, Reuvers said.

On Monday, a fourth neighbor named Ashley Weller shared a note someone left on her front door, discovered by one of her sons who’d just arrived home from a sleepover, this one in red ink: “Your neighbors have grown sick of your fucking riots and Bullshit matters signs Remove move them or we Torch your Home and cars real Quiet with lighter fluid while you sleep! We have Had Enough!”

In an interview with The Daily Beast, Ashley said her son found the first letter inside the door at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. Weller and her wife, Cat, did a sweep of their property, looking outside her house for any signs of vandalism or possible arson, Ashley said. She later spotted a second note on her car—which wasn’t there earlier in the morning—while she cleaned up her yard.

*“Our first death threat. Our kids can’t remove their blackness, so we can’t remove our signs.”*

The couple, who have four adopted children of color, described the threats in a series of Facebook posts. “Our first death threat. Our kids can’t remove their blackness, so we can’t remove our signs,” Ashley Weller wrote Monday. She said they reported the notes to police and added, “We would love your fire extinguishers if you don’t need them right now.”

The second note, on the vehicle behind the Wellers’ home, declared, “Yeah we were here too. Take your SJW Bullshit signs down or we burn you in your sleep! You mother fuckers want a war you will get one.” (Several commenters on a Facebook post pointed out the alleged similarities in handwriting between the threats and photos of handwritten signs and notes posted online by Cat Weller. Ashley said that allegation was a “blatantly false accusation” that is “absolutely disheartening and ridiculous.”)

Reuvers told The Daily Beast that she’d never met Weller until Monday, when she returned home from an errand and spotted a woman in her front yard speaking with police. Reuvers got the impression that authorities planned to check Weller’s letter for fingerprints.

“Ours appeared to be distinctly different, not in handwriting, but that the threats were more intense,” Ashley Weller said. She added that the note-writers “do appear to be the same person” because of the “handwriting and grammar mistakes.”

Since discovering the threats, friends started a GoFundMe and raised \$1,600, which the Wellers used to purchase and install security cameras on their home. On Monday evening, the Wellers were boarding up windows at the home. The Wellers also phoned the FBI, which arrived at their home to take statements.

Cat Weller, in a Facebook post, vowed not to be deterred: “I will not take down my flag or signs. But I will fill up my kids pool, collect flood lights, cameras, and patrol my house.”

“Talking with the 2 other neighbors who received threats with similar language,” Cat Weller wrote Monday afternoon, in a post that suggested she wouldn’t hide from the author of the warnings. “Come over anytime you want. We have chairs posted all around the yard. Feel free to come help us post watch. Help us remove wood and bricks from around the house if you have a truck. Ice for a cooler is helpful. Water is appreciated. We have ZERO fire extinguishers at this point. Hope to find some.”

“WHAT AM I MISSING?” she concluded.

So far, neighbors have collected at least five of the paper threats. On Sunday night, a woman who lives in far south Minneapolis shared a handwritten note that was left on her boyfriend’s car, which bears a bumper sticker reading, “Make racists afraid again.”

“You are being watched and recorded,” the note, whose writing appears different from those found in Roseville and St. Paul, read. “Highly advise that you stay where you are.”

Identical notes were found on the cars of two roommates.

The notes come at a time of heightened fear and paranoia about outsiders flocking to the Twin Cities to wreak havoc in communities protesting police brutality. The threatening notes have only added to that heated atmosphere, which is contributing to a dizzying rumor mill on social media about sightings of white supremacists.

“I wanted to share this broadly so people can see what’s happening,” Reuvers said. “I have no desire to be in the limelight. I just want people to be aware and be safe.” She said the focus should be on justice for George Floyd and “restoring our communities, but some people are causing havoc in other ways.”

Reuvers said she also contacted the FBI over her threat. Kevin Smith, a spokesman for the agency’s Minneapolis office, could not confirm the complaints from Reuvers and the Wellers, but said, “I can tell you that our office has multiple teams of agents fanning out across the Twin Cities tracking down leads and following up on information we are receiving from the public about violent activities during this period of time.”

Smith added, “We continue to urge people to send us photos and videos at [fbi.gov/violence](https://www.fbi.gov/violence) as well as to call in tips at 1-800-CALLFBI.”

Roseville Police Lt. Erika Scheider told The Daily Beast that over the weekend, her department took three different reports from as many households who received the notes. Detectives are working on getting fingerprints from the threats and could also send them to the state crime lab. (The Wellers’ complaint was filed with St. Paul police.)

Scheider said cops don’t have a suspect at this time. “We’re asking people to help by looking at their doorbell and surveillance systems to see if they captured a vehicle in the neighborhood so we can follow up,” she said.

Roseville police also boosted their nighttime patrols and are canvassing the community to see if anyone’s security cameras captured anything suspicious. “We want people to call 911 to report things,” including “suspicious vehicles,” Scheider said.

Marc Olson, who lives in the St. Paul neighborhood of Como, just next to the city of Roseville, said there is “a general sense of unease” among neighbors regarding the hate mail. Neighbors of Olson’s—a couple who has received a threatening note but declined to comment out of fear of repercussions—told Olson they were “doubling down” on Black Lives Matter signs, Olson said, “Because fuck them.”

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HEADLINE	06/02 LAPD, FBI collect looting video footage
SOURCE	<a href="https://news.yahoo.com/lapd-fbi-collecting-protest-looting-130053032.html">https://news.yahoo.com/lapd-fbi-collecting-protest-looting-130053032.html</a>
GIST	Police officers have watched from skirmish lines as protesters and others have stolen from businesses, thrown rocks, ignited fires and bashed in streetlights with skateboards.

More than 1,000 people were arrested in Los Angeles alone over the weekend, but officials say they have not given up on tracking down others.

The Los Angeles Police Department has been collecting evidence throughout the protests sparked by the death of George Floyd. That evidence is mostly in the form of video footage that could be used to identify individuals and bring charges against them in the future.

The FBI on Monday put out a nationwide call for pictures and videos that could help identify people "actively instigating violence" at protests across the country decrying Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police.

This strategy has been used in the past, including during melees that followed Lakers victories in downtown Los Angeles, as well as in other cities that have experienced unrest, such as Baltimore.

But it is also generating concern.

Nikhil Ramnaney, head of the union that represents Los Angeles County public defenders, expressed concern that funneling footage to local law enforcement agencies or the FBI in the hope of catching looters could allow law enforcement to use facial recognition technology to identify peaceful protesters in the area.

"If government agencies are stockpiling large repositories of film, in light of what's going on with widely available facial recognition technology, I wouldn't be surprised if those technologies were used on those crowd-sourced contributions," he said. "If you're sourcing footage from people, you could pull metadata from that footage that could also tell you who was present at that scene."

Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst for the Speech, Privacy and Technology Project at the ACLU, said the FBI "should also seek video of wrongdoing by police officers" if it is gathering video from protests.

"There have been plenty of reports and videos of abusive police and National Guard behavior," he said. "They shouldn't retain any video of people exercising their 1st Amendment rights who aren't breaking the law."

Police have acknowledged missteps and said they are already investigating at least one incident in which onlookers recorded a police vehicle driving into protesters before speeding away.

While not every cop on the street was wearing a body camera in recent days, as specialized units don't have them, thousands of officers in areas with severe looting and vandalism were wearing them and recording hours of footage, said Josh Rubenstein, an LAPD spokesman.

Police also have been provided footage from residents and business owners, not to mention the slew of images they can access on social media and in other media.

"Where it's being brought to our attention, or where we are able to capture any evidence of people committing crimes, that is being captured for further investigation," Rubenstein said.

Most of the protests over Floyd's death, which occurred after former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin held a knee on Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes, have been peaceful. But some have taken a darker turn as looters have used the marches as cover to steal from stores.

Arrest records reviewed by The Times show the LAPD booked just 14 people on looting-related offenses on Friday and Saturday, even as dozens of stores downtown and in the Fairfax district were being pillaged both days. On Sunday, more than 120 people were taken into custody for looting, records show. Hundreds of people also were arrested for violating nightly curfews put in place by Mayor Eric Garcetti in an effort to quell the unrest.



Officials have said those intent on causing harm or stuffing their pockets and cars with stolen goods took advantage of the legitimate protesters, using them as cover. The more successful those individuals were in stealing, and the more violent they were in their destruction, the more likely it is they will be pursued in coming investigations.

Law enforcement officials said they are likely to focus on major crimes that caused extensive damage or injuries, and on individuals who committed multiple crimes or were part of a group committing multiple crimes. But they also could choose to charge and prosecute others whose actions were brazen or cruel.

Many people wore masks, but others did not. And even those with a mask on in one video may be identifiable in another, in a moment when they let their mask down.

Similar work is likely to be conducted by other agencies beyond Los Angeles.

Officials in Long Beach placed the blame for looting that marred an otherwise peaceful protest Sunday in the city's downtown area on "organized criminals" who had been "hitting other cities" in the area, according to Mayor Robert Garcia.

Long Beach police arrested 75 people on Sunday, many for violations of a citywide 8 p.m. curfew. But both Garcia and city Police Chief Robert Luna promised to work with federal partners to review surveillance footage to track down looting suspects in the future.

"There were a whole lot of cameras out there," Luna said Monday. "If you were looting and we have your license-plate number and your face, we're gonna come after you."

Some residents and business owners said they welcome such work by police, because outsiders who drove into their neighborhoods and destroyed storefronts should be held accountable and were not over the weekend. Some say police stood by and did nothing as looters destroyed businesses already on the brink of closing for good after being shuttered for weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Steve Soboroff, a member of the civilian Police Commission that oversees the LAPD, said he understands people's frustrations that there was a lack of police presence as some crimes were occurring over the weekend. But, he said, police were in a difficult position and had to pick their priorities, and LAPD Chief Michel Moore rightly prioritized lives and keeping people safe over confronting every looter.

"The job of the department, of the chief, is a high-wire act right now. There's not a lot of space in there to do it right," Soboroff said. "What's wrong is over-policing, and what's wrong is under-policing."

But people in Los Angeles should know that in terms of holding accountable those who abused legitimate protests for their own criminal means, the battle is not over, Soboroff said.

"Arrests aren't over just because a person isn't out there anymore," he said. "I don't think the department is going to make a decision to say, 'OK, let's just forget about all that and start over,' because you saw some really dangerous stuff."

Returning to investigate and prosecute crimes at a later date, when the department isn't stretched thin and officers aren't in dangerous situations, makes sense, Soboroff said.

"Are we going to get into a shootout in a shoe store, or are we going to take video and figure all of this out later?" he said.

In an era of smartphones and pervasive government and business surveillance systems, using footage to retroactively target criminals who escaped immediate arrest in moments of widespread unrest is not without precedent.

	<p>In 2015, after looting and arson broke out in Baltimore following the death of another black man, Freddie Gray, from injuries suffered in police custody, the Baltimore Police Department formed a task force to identify suspects. Multiple federal agencies lent a hand, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.</p> <p>In the following weeks and months, officials brought charges against people for burning down a CVS, burning down a liquor store, slashing a fire hose and looting pharmacies. Some were sentenced to years in federal prison.</p> <p>"When the evidence proves that criminals destroyed property and jeopardized lives, they must be held accountable," said Rod Rosenstein, at the time the Maryland U.S. Atty., after the man who burned down a liquor store was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay \$380,000 in restitution.</p> <p>Multiple federal agencies said they stand ready to assist local law enforcement in Los Angeles and other localities as well.</p> <p>U.S. Atty. Nicola Hanna said federal prosecutors in Los Angeles are "confronting this outlaw behavior" by working with the FBI and local police "to identify cases in which federal charges could be appropriately filed."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/03 Alabama officer fatally shot in standoff</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/alabama-police-officer-50-fatally-shot-during-standoff-with-gunman-at-motel-report">https://www.foxnews.com/us/alabama-police-officer-50-fatally-shot-during-standoff-with-gunman-at-motel-report</a>
GIST	<p>An <a href="#">Alabama</a> police <a href="#">officer</a> was fatally shot Tuesday night during a standoff with a gunman at a motel.</p> <p>A man and a woman were later arrested near a Super 8 motel in Moody, Ala., according to FOX 6 in Birmingham.</p> <p>The circumstances leading up to the shooting weren't immediately clear.</p> <p>Moody police Sgt. Stephen Williams, 50, was pronounced dead after being taken to a hospital.</p> <p>"I heard like an AK-47," Amar Fouda, who was staying at the motel, said. He hid in the bathtub and eventually went to the window when he saw police lights, according to AL.com. "I saw one of the officers, he was down."</p> <p>Williams was a 23-year law enforcement veteran and had been with the department for three years, <a href="#">FOX 6</a> reported.</p> <p>"He was awesome. He was a good man. A good person; funny to be around," Moody police Chief Thomas Hunt said, according to the <a href="#">Trussville Tribune</a>. "All I can ask is for everyone to be in prayer for the Williams family and the Moody Police Department."</p> <p>"Moody Police Sergeant Stephen Williams' end of watch has come much too soon," Northern District of Alabama U.S. Attorney Jay Town said in a statement. "Our condolences and prayers are with his family, friends, and fellow officers. His loss is a loss for all of Alabama. This serves as yet another heartbreaking and stark reminder of the perils encountered by law enforcement each day."</p> <p>Williams was a father of three, according to <a href="#">AL.com</a>.</p> <p>No other details were immediately available.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/02 Mexico: \$1.1B cartel bank accounts 'frozen'
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-finds-links-billion-cartel-money-71031516">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-finds-links-billion-cartel-money-71031516</a>
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Mexican financial regulators said Tuesday they have frozen the bank accounts of 1,939 people and companies believed to be linked to movements of about \$1.1 billion in Jalisco drug cartel money.</p> <p>The country's anti-money laundering agency said it worked with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to identify the 1,770 people and 167 companies caught up in the financial dragnet, dubbed "Operation Blue Agave." Blue agave is the cactus-like plant used to make tequila, which is the signature drink of Jalisco, the cartel's home state.</p> <p>Mexico's Financial Intelligence Unit said the investigation involved "the main leaders, financial operators, relatives, businesses, lawyers and public servants that used corruption to benefit the illegal activities of this organized crime group."</p> <p>The unit reported that thousands of suspect domestic transactions were detected, which moved the equivalent of about \$666 million.</p> <p>Dubious international transfers were found to have moved about \$330 million, and another \$137 million in suspect U.S. dollar cash transactions had been found. The money is believed linked to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, a hyper-violent group that has fought its way to the forefront of the Mexican underworld.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/02 Why George Floyd initially detained?
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/nationwide-protests-return-focus-george-floyd-initially-detained/story?id=71004393">https://abcnews.go.com/US/nationwide-protests-return-focus-george-floyd-initially-detained/story?id=71004393</a>
GIST	<p>As <a href="#">protests continue</a> around the country in the wake of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis in late May, there's been further examination of why he was stopped by police in the first place.</p> <p>The events <a href="#">leading up to Floyd's death</a> at the hands of Minneapolis police officers stemmed from a call to police about a phony \$20 bill.</p> <p>Around 8 p.m. on May 25, an employee of the Cup Foods convenience store called 911 alleging that a customer used the counterfeit bill to pay for cigarettes and that the person appeared drunk, according to the 911 log released by the Minneapolis Police Department. The employee went to the car outside the store where the customer was sitting and asked him to return the cigarettes, but was denied, according to the 911 call transcript.</p> <p>The employee described the customer as a 6-foot-6 black man, which was Floyd's height, and repeated to the 911 operator that he appeared drunk.</p> <p>Around eight minutes later, Minneapolis police officers Thomas Lane and J.A. Kueng arrived at the shop and approached Floyd and two others in the car, according to the criminal complaint. A few minutes after that officers Derek Chauvin and Tou Thoa arrived to help arrest Floyd, which led to Chauvin placing his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, the criminal complaint said.</p> <p>All four officers were fired and, but as of Tuesday afternoon, Chauvin is the only one to have been arrested. He was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Minnesota's Department of Human Rights filed civil rights charges against the Minneapolis Police Department Tuesday.</p>

	<p>Mahmoud Abumayyaleh, the owner of Cup Foods, said in <a href="#">a Facebook post</a> on May 28 he was not in the store during the incident, and the store has called the police in the past about counterfeit bills.</p> <p>However, police officers never confronted any of the customers in any previous instances where the store called 911 for a phony bill, according to Abumayyaleh.</p> <p>"Most of the times the patron doesn't know the bill is fake and normally all the authorities want to know is where they got it from," he said in the post.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 NYPD searching for looters, vandals</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/nypd-detectives-actively-hunting-looters-vandals-george-floyd/story?id=71036694">https://abcnews.go.com/US/nypd-detectives-actively-hunting-looters-vandals-george-floyd/story?id=71036694</a>
GIST	<p>The New York Police Department's Intelligence Bureau is collecting license plate numbers from vehicles that carried vandals, looters and thieves <a href="#">around Manhattan in the last two days</a>, a police official told ABC News.</p> <p>Some of those already being tracked down were seen outside storefronts with sledgehammers, crowbars and power tools in brazen shows of planning and organization as they used the ongoing <a href="#">protests over the death of George Floyd</a> as cover for their crimes.</p> <p>One of the numerous police reports from eyewitnesses came from Carla Murphy, who lives in Chelsea. Murphy, in an interview Tuesday, said she started hearing commotion from mobs of people along her street and neighboring streets about 10:30 p.m. Monday night. She first watched from her building and then went down to the street and saw organized groups of people working together to break in to store after store in the West Side neighborhood.</p> <p>"Cars would drive up, let off the looters, unload power tools and suitcases and then the cars would drive away," she said. "Then the cars would come back pick them up and then drive off to the next spot. They seemed to know exactly where they were going. Some of the people were local, but there were a lot of out-of-towners."</p> <p>Murphy said she saw license plates from New Jersey and Pennsylvania and drivers had not even tried to hide their tags.</p> <p>By the time Murphy said she got through to 911, dispatchers said they would send police but they were swamped. She then went to the 10th Precinct, where she said a cop told her, "Yeah, we're getting the resources to get over there."</p> <p>They didn't show up until 1 a.m., she said.</p> <p>Officials acknowledged what was obvious from live news reports: They were overwhelmed as the looting broke out Monday night. But by Tuesday night, police brass had already put out orders to use the extraordinary technological arsenal available to the NYPD to hunt down those who turned protests into open season on merchants from local liquor stores to Macy's flagship.</p> <p>New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo was critical of the NYPD's response to looting during a press conference Tuesday.</p> <p>"The NYPD and the mayor did not do their job last night. I believe that," Cuomo said. "The police in <a href="#">New York City</a> were not effective in doing their job last night. Period."</p> <p>Detectives in New York City have access to a wide network of city-owned license-plate readers and security cameras on top of thousands of private-sector surveillance systems that are looped in to the NYPD</p>

	<p>architecture. Investigators are also collecting surveillance images from as many vandalized and looted stores as possible as they try to identify the suspects.</p> <p>The culprits are believed to be a combination of outside agitators, career criminals and gang members. Police said many of the perpetrators seemed to display a talent for staying a step ahead of cops with an elaborate scouting and signaling system built on text messages, social media apps and lookouts.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Police chief slain amid store looting</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/small-town-police-chief-killed-officers-cities-wounded/story?id=71017820">https://abcnews.go.com/US/small-town-police-chief-killed-officers-cities-wounded/story?id=71017820</a>
GIST	<p>A retired St. Louis police captain who became a small-town police chief was found fatally shot early Tuesday outside a pawn shop that was looted after protests over <a href="#">the death of George Floyd</a> turned violent.</p> <p>David Dorn, 77, was discovered on the sidewalk in front of Lee's Pawn &amp; Jewelry in St. Louis around 2:30 a.m., said Police Commissioner John Hayden. He said Dorn, who retired from the St. Louis Police Department in 2007 and had been serving as police chief of Moline Acres, Missouri, since 2008, was killed when he apparently tried to stop the looting of the shop.</p> <p>"David Dorn was exercising law enforcement training that he learned here," Hayden said. No further details were immediately released.</p> <p>His widow, Ann Marie Dorn, <a href="#">told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch</a> that her husband was a friend of the pawn shop's owner and frequently checked on the business when alarms went off.</p> <p>The death came on a <a href="#">brutal night for police</a> across the country.</p> <p>A Las Vegas police officer on life support was last listed in critical condition after being shot Monday night attempting to disperse a large crowd of protesters outside a casino, authorities said.</p> <p>An officer was attacked in New York City, and four cops were shot in St. Louis as demonstrations across the nation in the aftermath of George Floyd's death have turned increasingly violent for both protestors and police.</p> <p>At least five deaths have occurred during the widespread unrest, according to <a href="#">The New York Times</a>.</p> <p>The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officer was critically wounded engaging with violent protesters outside the Circus Circus Hotel &amp; Casino on the famed Las Vegas Strip. Separately, police fatally shot a heavily armed man who appeared to be wearing body armor outside a federal courthouse nearby.</p> <p>"This is a sad night for LVMPD family and a tragic night for our community," LVMPD Sheriff Joe Lombardo said at a news conference. "With these protests, which are leading to riots, one tragedy is only leading to another."</p> <p>Lombardo said his officers were being pelted with rocks and bottles.</p> <p>"Our officers were attempting to get some of the protesters in custody when a shot rang out and our officer went down," he added.</p> <p>The wounded officer was taken to Las Vegas University Medical Center, where he was in "extremely critical condition."</p>

A suspect was arrested by a SWAT team, but that person's name wasn't immediately released, Lombardo added.

While LVMPD officers were investigating the shooting, officers guarding the Foley Federal Building were confronted by an armed man around 11:22 p.m., Lombardo said. That suspect, who appeared to be wearing body armor, had multiple firearms.

"During the interaction, the subject reached for his firearm and our officers engaged him," Lombardo said. The suspect, who hasn't yet been identified, died at the hospital. It's unclear whether that individual had been among the protestors, Lombardo added.

The four officers wounded in St. Louis on Monday night were shot near police headquarters, where clashes with rioters lasted well into the night.

"They were standing near a line and all of a sudden they felt pain," Police Commissioner Hayden said during a news conference Tuesday morning. "They were just standing there. So some coward fired shots at officers, and now we have four in the hospital ... and thank God they're alive. Can we make some sense out of this? ... This is horrible."

The officers, ranging in age from 28 to 52, suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Before the shootings, demonstrators hurled rocks and fireworks at police, and some officers had gasoline dumped on them, Hayden added.

Meanwhile in New York City, video emerged that appeared to show an officer being attacked with a heavy object by a group of men in the Bronx. The New York Police Department said it made nearly 700 arrests Monday night as looting and vandalism targets included stores at Rockefeller Center and some in the Upper East Side. A curfew of 11 p.m. had been put in effect.

"We saw stuff last night that we will not accept. And we can fight back, and we will fight back," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a news conference on Tuesday. "I have confidence in the people of New York City, I have confidence in the leaders in communities, I have confidence in the NYPD."

"There's a lot of people trying to express fear, a lot of people trying to tear down, a lot of people say they don't believe in the people of this city, they don't believe in people in our communities, they don't believe in our police officers. To hell with all of them. I don't care if they're left or right or center -- I am sick of people attacking New York City."

Floyd died May 25 in Minneapolis. His final moments were captured in a searing video of a white officer with his knee on Floyd's black neck as he pleaded for his life. "I can't breathe," Floyd said.

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HEADLINE	<b>06/02 Portland protests: guns seized; 12 arrests</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/police-seize-firearms-make-arrests-during-portland-protests">https://komonews.com/news/local/police-seize-firearms-make-arrests-during-portland-protests</a>
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. — Police say a group of about 100 protesters grew violent at the end of <a href="#">otherwise peaceful demonstrations in Portland</a> Monday, resulting in officers arrested more than 12 people.</p> <p>According to Portland Police Bureau, thousands of people participated in two largely peaceful demonstrations Monday during the fourth day of protests over the death of <a href="#">George Floyd</a>. One group gathered in Pioneer Courthouse Square earlier in the day and traveled to Waterfront Park. The second group gathered at Revolution Hall in Southeast Portland before crossing over the Burnside Bridge into downtown.</p>



Police said they spoke with organizers of the group and demonstrators and had a productive conversation. The demonstrators marched peacefully to Pioneer Courthouse Square. After a peaceful rally at the square, the group marched back over the Burnside Bridge.

Law enforcement said at 11:30 p.m., they made it clear they expected the participants to peacefully disperse.

Police said shortly before midnight, a group of about 100 protesters gathered at Southwest 4th Avenue and Southwest Salmon Street in downtown Portland and started throwing items at officers, including glass bottles and rocks.

One officer suffered minor injuries, police said.

Police said they used a sound truck to tell the protesters they were involved in an unlawful assembly and needed to disperse. When they didn't, officers used crowd control munitions to break up the crowd.

While doing this, police said they saw drivers moving through the streets and providing protesters with supplies. Traffic officers stopped one driver but before they could take her into custody, police said she crashed into several vehicles while trying to flee. She sped away, police said, and their Air Support Unit tracked her.

Officers used spike strips to stop her near Southeast 14th Avenue and Southeast Franklin Street. One officer suffered minor injuries while arresting the driver.

In total, police arrested more than 12 adults Monday night into Tuesday morning. They seized two firearms from people who were arrested.

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HEADLINE	06/02 Atlanta charges 6 officers; forceful arrests
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/atlanta-police-officers-charged-forceful-arrests-college-students/story?id=71023836">https://abcnews.go.com/US/atlanta-police-officers-charged-forceful-arrests-college-students/story?id=71023836</a>
GIST	<p>Six Atlanta police officers have been charged after forcefully pulling two college students out of a car, smashing its windows and using a stun gun in the course of an arrest as <a href="#">protests</a> continued nearby, a prosecutor announced Tuesday.</p> <p>Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said that arrest warrants were issued for Lonnie Hood, Roland Claud, Mark Gardner, Armond Jones, Willie Sauls and Ivory Streeter for the caught-on-camera incident.</p> <p>Howard said Hood, Sauls, Streeter and Jones repeatedly used stun guns on Messiah Young and Taniyah Pilgram and pulled them from the vehicle. They were variously charged with aggravated assault and criminal damage to property.</p> <p>Young suffered a fracture of his wrist and received 24 stitches for a large gash. Howard said Young was charged with eluding the police and released on a signature bond. Pilgram was not charged.</p> <p>"I feel a little safer that these monsters are off the street and no longer able to terrorize anyone else from this point on," said Young at the press conference on Tuesday. "We just hope there is a change in the police culture."</p> <p>After the video went viral on social media, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms called for Young's charges to get dismissed and fired officers Gardner and Streeter. The rest of the officers are on desk duty. Howard is giving the officers until June 5 to turn themselves in.</p>

	"We will ask for a \$10,000 signature bond as they are trying to limit the amount of people in jail as the coronavirus pandemic is still an issue in Georgia," said Howard.
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