



Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS

THURSDAY — 4 JUN 2020



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Events, Opportunities

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Minneapolis: estimate \$55M damages |
| SOURCE | https://apnews.com/5d30ac037347bb2ca2d19d590d42b2ad |
| GIST | <p>MINNEAPOLIS — Officials in Minneapolis say the looting and property damage that following the death of George Floyd has caused at least \$55 million in destruction.</p> <p>Vandals damaged or set fire to at least 220 buildings in the city where Floyd died, but that number is expected to go up, city officials said.</p> <p>Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey will ask for state and federal aid to help rebuild after the civil unrest. Until that happens, community members are pitching in to support Minneapolis neighborhoods.</p> <p>More than \$1 million has been raised to help businesses in north Minneapolis, WCCO-TV reported. The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition says it will announce how they plan to use the money in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The violence follows the death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck, ignoring Floyd's cries that he couldn't breathe.</p> <p>Prosecutors upgraded charges against the officer, Derek Chauvin, to second-degree murder on Wednesday and charged three other officers with aiding and abetting in the case that has rocked the nation with protests over race and police brutality.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Hong Kong protesters defy ban |
| SOURCE | https://www.afp.com/en/news/3954/hong-kong-protesters-defy-tiananmen-vigil-ban-doc-1sr4zk8 |
| GIST | <p>Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters defied a ban against gathering at a park to commemorate Thursday's anniversary of China's deadly Tiananmen crackdown, with tensions seething in the financial hub over a planned new security law.</p> <p>The semi-autonomous city had for three decades seen huge vigils to remember those killed when China's communist leaders deployed its military into Beijing's Tiananmen Square to crush a student-led movement for democratic reforms.</p> <p>This year's vigil was banned, with authorities citing coronavirus restrictions on group gatherings.</p> <p>But pro-democracy campaigners in Hong Kong, who have been waging a long struggle against what they see as China's tightening grip on the city, were determined to make their voices heard.</p> <p>Hundreds of people, including some prominent democracy leaders, broke through barriers at Victoria Park where the vigil is held each year just as night fell.</p> <p>"I've come here for the vigil for 30 years in memory of the victims of the June 4 crackdown, but this year it is more significant to me," a 74-year-old man who gave his surname as Yip told AFP inside the park.</p> |

"Because Hong Kong is experiencing the same kind of repression from the same regime, just like what happened in Beijing."

Some of the people in the park wore black t-shirts with the word "Truth" emblazoned in white. Others shouted pro-democracy slogans including: "Stand with Hong Kong".

Police maintained a presence near the park but did not move to disperse the protesters.

The defiant gathering came hours after pro-Beijing lawmakers in Hong Kong's legislature succeeded in passing a bill criminalising insults to China's national anthem.

- Neighbourhood, church vigils -

China's communist rulers forbid discussion on the mainland of the Tiananmen crackdown, during which hundreds -- by some estimates more than a thousand -- people were killed.

Hong Kong, which has been allowed liberties unseen on the mainland as part of its 1997 handover agreement with the British, had been the only part of China where such mass displays of remembrance were possible.

Organisers of commemoration events also called for residents to light candles of remembrance at 8pm (1200 GMT) wherever they were. Booths sprung up across the city to hand out candles as commuters made their way home on Thursday evening.

On the campus of Hong Kong University, students spent the afternoon cleaning a memorial to the Tiananmen dead known as "The Pillar of Shame".

Seven Catholic churches have also announced plans to host a commemorative mass on Thursday evening.

- Security and anthem laws -

Crowds have swelled at Hong Kong's Tiananmen vigils whenever fears have spiked that Beijing is prematurely stamping out the city's own cherished freedoms, an issue that has dominated the finance hub for the past 12 months.

The city was engulfed by seven straight months of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests last year -- rallies that kicked off five days after the last annual vigil.

In response to those demonstrations last month Beijing announced plans to impose the security law, which would cover secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign interference.

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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.

Opponents, including many Western nations, fear it will bring mainland-style political oppression to a business hub.

- Blackout on mainland -

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| | <p>But in mainland China, the crackdown is greeted by an information blackout, with censors scrubbing mentions of protests and dissidents often visited by police ahead of June 4.</p> <p>Police in Beijing prevented an AFP photographer from entering Tiananmen Square to record the regular pre-dawn flag-raising ceremony on Thursday and ordered him to delete some photos.</p> <p>The candle emoji has been unavailable in recent days on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform.</p> <p>The United States and Taiwan issued statements calling on China to atone for the deadly crackdown.</p> <p>"Around the world, there are 365 days in a year. Yet in China, one of those days is purposely forgotten each year," Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen tweeted.</p> <p>Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted a photo of him meeting prominent Tiananmen survivors as US racial justice protests continue.</p> <p>China's foreign ministry described calls for Beijing to apologise for the crackdown as "complete nonsense".</p> <p>"The great achievements since the founding of new China over the past 70 or so years fully demonstrates that the developmental path China has chosen is completely correct," spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Assessment: opportunists drive violence |
| SOURCE | https://uk.reuters.com/article/minneapolis-police-protests-extremists/update-2-us-assessment-finds-opportunists-drive-protest-violence-not-extremists-idUKL1N2DG1CM |
| GIST | <p>WASHINGTON, June 3 (Reuters) - President Donald Trump has blamed leftwing extremist groups for instigating nights of looting and violence in cities across the United States, but an intelligence assessment offers limited evidence that organized extremists are behind the turmoil.</p> <p>In part of a June 1 internal intelligence assessment of the protests seen by Reuters, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials said most of the violence appears to have been driven by opportunists.</p> <p>The assessment, prepared by the department's intelligence and analysis unit, said there was some evidence based on open-source and DHS reporting that the anti-fascist movement Antifa may be contributing to the violence, a view shared by some local police departments in public statements and interviews with Reuters.</p> <p>Reuters reviewed only a portion of the document and could not determine if it addressed the tactics of the groups involved in the protests in greater detail elsewhere.</p> <p>The part of the document seen by Reuters did not provide any specific evidence of extremist-driven violence, but noted that white supremacists were working online to increase tensions between protesters and law enforcement by calling for acts of violence against both groups. There was no evidence, however, that white supremacists were causing violence at any of the protests, the document said.</p> <p>DHS spokesman Alexei Woltornist said the agency would "hold those responsible for the unrest accountable," but did not specifically comment on the intelligence assessment.</p> <p>The White House and the Justice Department did not respond to requests for comment.</p> <p>People took to the streets to protest the killing of a black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer who pinned Floyd's neck under a knee for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis on May 25.</p> |

In the days that followed, protests in several U.S. cities descended into looting and clashes with police officers, who are using a variety of weapons here on protesters. Most protests have been peaceful, and on Tuesday night, there was less looting and vandalism and clashes were more sporadic even as crowds defied curfews.

Trump has cast part of the blame for violence on Antifa, which is not an organization but rather an amorphous movement that opposes authoritarianism.

ARREST RECORDS

As protests intensified over the weekend, U.S. Attorney General William Barr said violence in Minneapolis and other cities was being driven by “far-left extremist groups,” echoing comments Trump had made earlier. Barr said those causing the violence were traveling to hotspots from out of state without elaborating further.

Two Justice Department officials who declined to be identified told Reuters they had seen little evidence to support that claim.

Court and police records from some of the cities where violence erupted - Baltimore, Minneapolis and Washington - show most of the people the police had charged with rioting, property damage and violent offenses over the weekend lived either in those cities or in nearby suburbs. In Minneapolis, records show 25 of the 312 people booked into the county jail since May 26 listed addresses outside the state.

Still, some local and federal officials cited clear signs of organization behind clashes. A New York City Police Department official said protesters there prepared for a confrontation with police by using scouts, encrypted communications and arranging medical teams in advance.

“We’re seeing a lot of outside and independent agitators connected with anarchist groups who are deliberately trying to provoke acts of violence,” said John Miller, the head of the department’s intelligence unit.

One senior DHS official said there are “incredibly strong indications” that the violence in some cities was organized. The official cited allegations that New York City protesters tried to bring supplies of rocks, bottles and flammable liquids to protest areas and that protesters in at least two other cities tried to disrupt police radio transmissions.

In Las Vegas, assistant sheriff Christopher Jones said much of the looting and destruction was being caused by people taking advantage of the chaos. However, he also said graffiti and property damage which he described as targeting “capitalist structures” suggested Antifa involvement. He added that social media posts showed people expressing views “very consistent” with white supremacist ideology had intermingled with the crowd.

Federal authorities said they were beginning to identify people who helped turn the protests violent.

The Justice Department filed charges against an Illinois man, Matthew Rupert, after authorities said he posted a Facebook video in which he passed out what appeared to be explosive devices to protesters in Minneapolis, proclaiming at one point: “We came to riot.”

Prosecutors said police found more “destructive devices” in his car when he was arrested two days later in Chicago.

They did not say whether he claimed to identify with any particular group, either right wing or left wing. Rupert’s attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In New York, prosecutors charged three people with trying to use homemade incendiaries to burn police vehicles, but again did not identify them as belonging to any group.

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| | <p>SIGNS OF COORDINATION</p> <p>In addition to New York, police in other places said they saw signs that some of the attacks on officers and looting was more organized, though they stopped short of blaming particular groups.</p> <p>Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said on Sunday that a portion of the damage in that city had been caused by people “bent on further destruction,” and that some of the looters targeting stores had by the weekend organized themselves into “caravans” of cars.</p> <p>Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said that while protesters there were well coordinated it was “too early to tell” whether specific groups were orchestrating any of the rioting there. Outlaw said police were looking into “known agitators.”</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Portland mayor pledges police reform |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/massive-portland-protest-largely-peaceful-no-curfew-again/ |
| GIST | <p>PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — More than 10,000 people demonstrated peacefully in Portland in one of the largest U.S. protests Tuesday before police say late in the evening a group of several hundred broke away and engaged with police, who used flash-bang grenades and tear gas on them.</p> <p>Police Chief Jami Resch said Wednesday some people tried to tear down a fence protecting a police building and threw mortars, glass bottles, and baseball bats at officers who were trying to secure the fence.</p> <p>Protests have erupted across the globe over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week. Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded for air.</p> <p>Early Wednesday in Portland, police said a large group used barricades to block an intersection and pallets and other items were used to create a large pile. A bucket of what police believe to be an accelerant was poured on it and police said officers drove through the pile to prevent it from being ignited.</p> <p>Police also said Wednesday that police leaders are looking into a news video showing a police vehicle striking a barricade, causing people to jump out of the way and raising questions about how the Portland Police Bureau has interacted with crowds. Resch said Wednesday she had not seen the video and was unsure if that was a separate incident from the one involving the belief that accelerant was used, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.</p> <p>Officers arrested or detained more than 12 people before most people left the area around 2 a.m., police said. One firearm and a replica firearm were taken by police, authorities said.</p> <p>“There are many thousands of you who are not involved in violence and destruction and I thank you” Resch said. “I still hear your message and know the others who are engaging in criminal acts do not represent you. Many others aggressively engaged in acts of violence directed at the police tonight.”</p> <p>On Wednesday evening in Portland, news cameras showed a large crowd of protesters marching in the city and onto the Morrison Bridge chanting, “We can’t breathe,” “Black lives matter,” and at one point kneeling on the bridge. People along the route were handing out water and pizza, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.</p> <p>Noelani Johnson told the newspaper she decided to attend the protests for the first time.</p> |

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| | <p>“I’m here because I’m tired of feeling like an outcast in my country, and I want to see changes,” she said. “I think the turnout here has been really impressive. It shows that racism is finally being recorded, and that we’ve all had enough.”</p> <p>Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said via tweet late Wednesday afternoon that he had signed a pledge promoted by former President Barack Obama to address police use of force policies.</p> <p>“Signed,” Wheeler tweeted, tagging Obama. “Portland is ready.”</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Experts track data; reduce police violence |
| SOURCE | https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/experts-track-data-to-reduce-police-violence/2303032/ |
| GIST | <p>Some prominent Bay Area law enforcement officials now say that in wake of the tragic death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, all law enforcement departments nationwide should be required to turn over data showing how often their officers use force to make arrests or otherwise control the public.</p> <p>Currently no single agency, federal or state, tracks when, where, and how police use force to make arrests or who they use the force on. More than a dozen law enforcement officials agreed with data scientists at Seattle University in telling NBC Bay Area that centralized tracking of police use of force incidents can protect both police officers and the people they serve.</p> <p>Currently the FBI only collects data on deadly use of force from individual police departments and sheriff’s offices from around the country, some 18,000 different agencies in all. Providing data on the deadly use of force to the FBI is voluntary.</p> <p>While some individual agencies do their own analysis of use of force data experts and social scientists say those individual or private analyses can be restrictive because they only have one department’s data and the sample size can be small and therefore the conclusions are non-instructive. In other cases, experts say other law enforcement departments don’t analyze or even collect this specific data at all.</p> <p>Those experts say that should change.</p> <p>They say police officials can learn about unrecognized bias and more effective techniques, achieving better, less violent results by precisely tracking each use of force incident.</p> <p>“It’s one of the most critical pieces of information we can collect about the police,” said Dr. Matthew Hickman, Chairman of the Department of Criminal Justice at Seattle University. “We really do need systematic data collection to help establish the reality of police use of force.”</p> <p>“With these data, we can start to understand ... how use of force incidents evolve,” said Dr. Hickman. And we can learn “what are the characteristics of those incidents that are more or less likely to lead to injury. And hopefully lead to better policies and training so that we can try to minimize injury.”</p> <p>Because of that in 2015, Dr. Hickman teamed with a private company, Police Strategies LLC, also based in the Seattle area, to begin tracking data, voluntarily provided by police departments from around the country, showing precisely how, when and where police use force.</p> <p>“It [use of force data collection] should be nationwide,” said Dr. Hickman. “And that’s really the shame of all this, is that the federal government has been required for 25 years to collect data on the use of excessive force by police and report on it annually. And they’ve never done that.”</p> |

According to US Bureau of Justice Statistics an estimated 53.5 million people nationwide had contact with a police officer between 2014 and 2015, events including everything from home welfare checks to emergency calls, from traffic stops to car accidents, from criminal arrests to shootings.

The US Justice Department estimates only a small percentage of those interactions between police and the public involve use of force by the officers, either non-lethal or lethal.

Except for lethal use of force, no one really knows details about exactly how often, what kind of force and who the force is used against.

Dr. Hickman and his team want to change that, but right now, only 88 different police agencies out of an estimated 18,000 agencies nationwide, voluntarily provide their use of force data to this research project. Among those are Bay Area police departments in Daly City, San Jose, Capitola and, most recently, Vallejo.

“There's no standardization either statewide or certainly not nationally,” said Bob Scales, founding partner and current CEO of Police Strategies LLC. “You can't have an evidence-based policy or evidence-based training if you have no data to back it up.”

“Many agencies have put their officers through de-escalation training, but without the data to see a ‘before’ and ‘after’ of the training, we don't know if the training has had any impact on how officers behave and how they use force,” Scales said.

Scales comes from a strong law enforcement background and perspective. He served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County, was the Assistant Director for Public Safety for the City of Seattle and was the Director of Government Affairs for the Seattle City Attorney before leaving to build his start-up Police Strategies, LLC.

“What we do is we help agencies essentially unlock all of that data information and then we help, we analyze it and then we provide it back to the departments,” said Scales who also served as the Compliance Coordinator for the Seattle Police Department during its implementation of a Consent Decree with the U.S. Department of Justice to resolve allegations of misuse of force.

One example of data's impact on public safety: separate research conducted by the “Police Use of Force Project” shows that police departments which ban choke holds as acceptable techniques by their officers show significant reduction the number of use of force incidents that end in death for the public.

“Some agencies train their officers how to use this technique. And you have some agencies that prohibit the technique outright,” Scales said. “So we have this huge gamut of acceptable practices by police departments [around the country] for the same technique.”

“And [for] the agencies that do allow it, [the data shows] it's a very effective technique,” Scales told NBC Bay Area. “It has risks. It has dangers. The Minneapolis situation was not an acceptable use of that technique.”

“We banned the chokehold ... after, you know, after the unfortunate incident in New York with Eric Garner,” said San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia.

Chief Garcia says his department began giving Seattle University and Police Strategies, LLC their use of force data in 2015 to better track what his officers were doing right and what they could improve.

“To be able to see a transparent view of ‘this is what your officers are doing,’ ‘This is when they had to use force,’ ‘why they had to use force’ and ‘who they're using force on.’ I think that's incredibly important,” Chief Garcia told NBC Bay Area. And, you know, it's about time that I think (this data collection) is legislated really not just in California, but throughout” the country.

Because of what the historical data showed about using baton and other hard objects to subdue suspect, Chief Garcia and his police training officers began asking his patrol officers to use tasers more frequently to subdue unruly people rather using than batons or nightsticks.

While tasers remain controversial, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area where critics say police officers tend to deploy Tasers too quickly to de-escalate volatile situations, sometimes, with deadly consequences.

But the data collected during the last five years shows clearly that in San Jose, actual injuries to the public are down where tasers replaced batons and nightsticks.

“We’re seeing fewer fractures and serious bodily injuries because they were using the Taser rather than a baton,” said Scales.

The Seattle University/Police Strategies LL” data analysis also shows San Jose Police Department’s saw use of force incidents dropped 13.4% from 2015 to 2019, the time period that the tracking has been taking place. And some racial disparities appear to be diminishing during the same time period as well. Five years ago, when San Jose police arrested a Hispanic man, there was an 11% greater chance they would use force than when they arrested a white man. Today that Hispanic person has a 2% lower chance than a white person of seeing force used on him by a police officer.

The same goes for Black and Asian suspects. The percentage who experienced force matched the percentage of their arrest population.

“We have a lot more work to do. But I think the expectation is that we are moving that needle in that, you know, that this tool absolutely helps us do that,” Chief Garcia said.

The Police Use of Force Project, agrees with those numbers, but still gives San Jose an “F” grade for its deadly use of force noting that in 2018 Hispanics were 3.4 times more likely to have deadly force used against them than white people.

Right now, experts say the biggest problem with trying to improve police/public interaction outcomes is that there’s not enough data analytics in enough police departments nationwide to say what works and what techniques are effective.

While some individual agencies do their own analysis of use of force data, Scales and Hickman say those analysis are restrictive because they only have one department’s data and the sample size can be small and non-instructive. Other departments don’t analyze or even collect this specific data at all.

Scales agrees with Chief Garcia in saying that only if law enforcement departments are required to turn over these specific data points tracking details of their officers’ use of force incidents will real police reform take place.

“You shouldn’t implement any reforms if you’re if you’re unable to measure the impacts,” said Scales. “It may be good training. It may be bad training or maybe a waste of money. We don’t know without the data.”

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Seattle protests; criticism police mounts |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Seattle-mayor-to-meet-with-George-Floyd-protesters-15313761.php |
| GIST | SEATTLE (AP) — A sea of protesters packed streets in Seattle on Wednesday in a sixth straight day of demonstrations over the killing of George Floyd, amid increasing criticism of the police department's repeated use of tear gas and flash-bangs to disperse mostly peaceful crowds. |

By mid-afternoon thousands had descended upon City Hall, where police holding batons formed lines behind metal barricades. The demonstrators carried “Black Lives Matter” signs, called for cutting the department's budget and shifting the money to social programs, chanted for officers to remove their riot gear, and knelt or sat together as they surrounded the building.

After a weekend of chaos that saw police vehicles burned and stores looted, officers on Monday and Tuesday nights unleashed pepper spray, tear gas, flash bangs and rubber bullets to disperse crowds with little apparent provocation, compounding concerns about police power and racial injustice highlighted by Floyd's death in Minneapolis on May 25.

Floyd, a black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on his neck for several minutes, not lifting it even after Floyd stopped moving and pleading for air. It was another in a litany of unarmed black men killed by police in the U.S.

Protests and rioting have occurred in cities across the country and in Washington state, including in Olympia and Spokane. Demonstrators in Tacoma have also protested the March 3 death of a black man who was being held down by police, Manuel Ellis, after the medical examiner's office determined the restraint caused his death.

Ellis had an enlarged heart and methamphetamine in his system, and police said he attacked officers who tried to calm him down, The News Tribune reported. The four officers involved were placed on leave Wednesday.

Seattle leaders sought to address some of the concerns raised by the protesters. Mayor Jenny Durkan met with protest leaders, including former mayoral candidate Nikita Oliver, in City Hall before speaking with demonstrators outside for a second straight day.

“What we and you are protesting today is not just the death that we saw in Minneapolis,” Durkan told the crowd during a contentious appearance. “It is that that murder resonates over generations of black experience in America.”

But the crowd booed the mayor after she said some changes — including a planned requirement that officers not cover up their badge numbers, a concern of many demonstrators — would not happen overnight.

Durkan said Wednesday evening that she was ending the city-wide nightly curfews of the previous days after she and Police Chief Carmen Best met with community members who asked for it to be abolished.

“Chief Best believes we can balance public safety and ensure peaceful protests can continue without a curfew,” she said.

Durkan and Best, who is black, addressed the Community Police Commission on Wednesday. Best also addressed city council members, acknowledging concerns while also insisting that officers had a right to defend themselves from assault, noting that a small number of protesters had thrown water bottles and rocks at officers.

City Attorney Pete Holmes announced that he would withdraw a recent motion filed in federal court that sought to lift much of the reform-oriented consent decree that the police department has operated under since a 2012 settlement with the Justice Department. He noted that citizens had filed some 12,000 complaints over the department's handling of the protest, saying in a news release, “we are about to witness the most vigorous testing ever of our City’s accountability systems.”

Among the reports the city's Office of Police Accountability are reviewing are those of a young girl being tear-gassed, officers placing their knees on the necks of two people who were being arrested, and

protesters twice grabbing unattended rifles out of police cars before being disarmed by a television news crew's security guard. Many of those were captured on video.

Gov. Jay Inslee said Wednesday he was troubled by some of the police actions he had seen.

"It's just really important to have a full investigation of each one of those to figure out if something was awry and see if we can learn from and improve," he told a news conference. "Seattle has a very extensive way to do those investigations and those need to take place."

Durkan has a long history of working on police accountability issues; she served as a citizen observer on a Seattle police firearms review board in the late 1990s, and as Seattle U.S. attorney she brought the Justice Department investigation that found officers too quick to use force, leading to the consent decree.

Reviews by an independent monitor have determined that the changes under the consent decree have led to a stunning drop in how often police use force, but critics have said the department's actions of recent days demonstrate that not enough progress has been made.

"All weekend I saw peaceful and legal protests being terrorized by police officers while they laughed, smiled and made gestures to antagonize peaceful people," one participant, Patrick Burke, told the council's public safety committee Wednesday, saying he was shot in the spine with a less-than-lethal round.

Another commenter told the committee he, his wife and their 3-month-old son were inside their apartment in the Capitol Hill neighborhood Monday night when tear gas seeped inside. Their sleeping son began gagging and turned red from the exposure, he said. They fled to their car, and his wife doused their son's eyes with breast milk to ease the burning. They haven't returned home, he said.

City council members suggested that it's not enough for the department to review its actions and issue findings after the fact; because the protests are ongoing, it needs to change on the fly, they said. Council Member Teresa Mosqueda urged the police department to stop using blast balls, tear gas and pepper spray to control the crowds, saying that the disproportionate force only generates additional anger and more protests.

"I've never in 25 years of being in protests in the city of Seattle experienced such an indiscriminate use of tear gas, pepper spray and flash bombs against people who aren't doing anything wrong," said Council Member Lisa Herbold.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 SPD chief: changes crowd control tactics |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Seattle-police-chief-vows-changes-in-15315370.php |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best on Wednesday vowed to make sure her officers' badges are visible when they cover protests and agreed to look into crowd-control tactics, but she defended their need to wear protective equipment.</p> <p>"What we're seeing out here, it is unprecedented in terms of the level of anger, rage, disappointment, hurt, infuriated people coming together to really express their First Amendment rights of free speech and really talk about what's been highlighted for us through the death of George Floyd," she told members of the Community Police Commission during an online meeting.</p> <p>And while she's sickened by the horror of Floyd's death, she said she has a responsibility to protect lives, property and the officers.</p> <p>More than 12,000 complaints have been filed against the police since the protests began last week. A Minneapolis officer held Floyd face down on the street with his knee on his neck for almost nine minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air. The officer and three others face criminal charges.</p> |

The pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets the Seattle police used against protesters has served to re-traumatize those who came out express their outrage over police brutality across the country, commission members said.

The Commission was formed under a settlement agreement and consent decree in 2012 that followed a federal investigation into excessive force used by Seattle police. Its mission is to provide community-based oversight of the police department and ensure accountability.

“The pain felt today is sadly, not new,” said commission co-chair Rev. Aaron Williams. “Since the 2012 consent decree, 29 people have died as a result of police violence. Their families, friends and communities continue to feel the grief from their deaths.”

Co-chair Rev. Harriett Walden said there's never been a time in American history when the black community has not stood up for justice.

“It’s not fixed. It’s not going to be fixed until there’s a conversion of the heart, to see us as human. We’ve been fighting to be human ever since we were brought here,” she said.

Commission Executive Director Bessie Marie Scott said the process has left her exhausted.

“I have a black son and I dream sometimes about what will I do when I get a call, what will his funeral look like,” she said. “Every day is a day that I have him a day longer and I don’t know what the unknown is going to be.

“It’s crushing. It’s debilitating the extra layer of processing that I have from what he wears to where he goes to school, how he can be out, who can watch him,” she said. “I don’t think it’s anything that any parent should have to go through.”

Commissioner Colleen Echohawk said she's deeply disappointed with the police response to the protests.

“I’m heartbroken that we’ve spent so much time on police reform and it seems like none of that work has mattered,” she said. “It’s not a few bad apples. The barrel is poison.”

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan told the group “the murder of Mr. Floyd was the precipitating events for what we’re seeing in this nation but it was not the cause.

“The cause is rooted in the systemic racism of our nation,” she said.

Until there's true systemic change not just in policing but in every system in the country, “we will not be the country that we hold ourselves to be,” she said.

Durkan said she knows many on the commission distrust her personally and distrust the police, but she said she will always listen. Soon after Durkan began speaking, a commissioner cut her off and brought the discussion back to what happened on the streets of Seattle.

“Pepper spray. Flash balls,” said Walden. “At the drop of a hat we can go back to actually some place in time. My son got shot by a rubber bullet last night. He’s a journalist. He was out there filming what was really happening.”

The officers escalated the tension, she said, and failed to make arrests on Friday night when looting was happening.

Durkan said thousands of people were marching in Westlake Mall without incident, but a few blocks away, the mood was completely different. Cars were burned, people were hit with rocks and bottles. That's what sparked the police response, she said.

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| | <p>Best said she could not speak to some of the claims that have been made against officers, but she trusted the investigations being done by the Office of Police Accountability.</p> <p>“Not everything was perfect,” she said. “There will be things that probably should and will be done better. But this is our opportunity to do it.”</p> <p>While it was heart wrenching to see people who came out to express their pain, Best said she also saw people doing terrible things.</p> <p>“They're throwing rocks, they're throwing bottles, they're throwing water bottles that are frozen, they're throwing urine, they're throwing feces,” she said</p> <p>Williams asked why the officers need to be covered in military gear.</p> <p>“It's almost like it's an us-against-them mentality,” he said. There had been an effort to move police from being warriors to being guardians, “but what are they guarding?” he asked. “It seems like their guarding things rather than people.”</p> <p>Best said she understands that perspective, “but it's a fine line.”</p> <p>“We're trying to move away from that bit if there's rocks and bottles, it's hard to say ‘don’t put on a helmet.’ I don't want anybody hurt.”</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Militarization of police departments |
| SOURCE | http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20200603-militarization-has-fostered-a-policing-culture-that-sets-up-protesters-as-the-enemy |
| GIST | <p>The unrest sparked by the death of George Floyd after being pinned to the ground by the knee of a Minneapolis police officer has left parts of U.S. cities looking like a battle zone.</p> <p>Night after night, angry protesters have taken to the street. So too have police officers dressed in full riot gear and backed by an arsenal that any small military force would be proud of: armored vehicles, military-grade aircraft, rubber and wooden bullets, stun grenades, sound cannons and tear gas canisters.</p> <p>The militarization of police departments has been a feature of U.S. domestic law enforcement since the 9/11 attacks. What is clear from the latest round of protest and response, is that despite efforts to promote de-escalation as a policy, police culture appears to be stuck in an “us vs. them” mentality.</p> <p>Setting up the Enemy</p> <p>As a former police officer of 27 years and a scholar who has written on the policing of marginalized communities, I have observed the militarization of the police firsthand, especially in times of confrontation.</p> <p>I have seen, throughout my decades in law enforcement, that police culture tends to privilege the use of violent tactics and non-negotiable force over compromise, mediation, and peaceful conflict resolution. It reinforces a general acceptance among officers of the use of any and all means of force available when confronted with real or perceived threats to officers.</p> <p>We have seen this play out during the first week of protests following Floyd’s death in cities from Seattle to Flint to Washington, D.C.</p> <p>The police have deployed a militarized response to what they accurately or inaccurately believe to be a threat to public order, private property, and their own safety. It is in part due to a policing culture in which</p> |

protesters are often [perceived as the “enemy.”](#) Indeed teaching cops to [think like soldiers and learn how to kill](#) has been part of a [training](#) program popular among some police officers.

Arming up

Police militarization, the process in which law enforcement agencies have increased their arsenal of weapons and equipment to be deployed in an array of situations, began in earnest in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

In the years that followed, domestic law enforcement in the United States began a strategic shift toward tactics and practices that employed militarized responses to even routine police activities.

Much of this was aided by the federal government, through the [Defense Logistics Agency’s 1033 Program](#), which allows the transfer of military equipment to local law enforcement agencies, and the [Homeland Security Grant Program](#), which gives police departments funding to buy military-grade weapons and vehicles.

[Critics of this process](#) have suggested that the message sent to police through equipping them with military equipment is that they are in fact at war. This to me implies that there needs to be [an “enemy.”](#) In cities and, increasingly, suburban and rural areas, the enemy is often those “others” who are perceived to be criminally inclined.

The consequences of this militarized police mentality can be deadly, especially for black Americans.

A study of [police-involved deaths between 2012 and 2018](#) found that on average, police kill 2.8 men every day in the U.S. The risk of death at the hands of an officer was found to be between 3.2 and 3.5 times higher for black men compared to white men.

And there appears to be a correlation between militarization and police violence. A [2017 study](#) analyzed spending by police departments against police-involved fatalities. Summarizing their [results in The Washington Post](#), the authors of the study wrote: “Even controlling for other possible factors in police violence (such as household income, overall and black population, violent-crime levels and drug use), more-militarized law enforcement agencies were associated with more civilians killed each year by police. When a county goes from receiving no military equipment to \$2,539,767 worth (the largest figure that went to one agency in our data), more than twice as many civilians are likely to die in that county the following year.”

And it isn’t just individuals who suffer. Behavioral scientist [Denise Herd](#) has studied the community effect of police violence. Writing in the Boston University Law Review earlier this year, [she concluded](#) that “violent encounters with police produce a strong ripple effect of diminishing the health and well-being of residents who simply live in areas where their neighbors are killed, hurt, or psychologically traumatized.”

The trauma from the [video of George Floyd in clear distress while a uniformed officer knelt on his neck](#) is evident in the reaction it has provoked.

The need to address the escalation of police confrontations – both during protests and in individual encounters – was a focus of the last big push for police reform, after the killing of a unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. As with the case of George Floyd, it led to violent scenes in which protesters confronted militarized officers.

Just months after the Ferguson unrest, President Obama set up his [Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#). It recommended the implementation of training and policies that “emphasize de-escalation.” It also called on police to employ tactics during protests “designed to minimize the appearance of a military operation and avoid using provocative tactics and equipment that undermine civilian trust.”

By the evidence of the last few days, a number of police departments have failed to heed the message.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Tacoma protest for locals only |
| SOURCE | https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article243219361.html |
| GIST | <p>Fueled with anger and empowered by the call to justice, hundreds of people gathered at Wapato Lake Park Tuesday evening to remember young black men who died during recent encounters with Tacoma and Lakewood police.</p> <p>“This demonstration today isn’t about George Floyd,” speaker Thrett Brown told the crowd. “This isn’t about anyone outside of Tacoma. This is about the situations that occurred right here in Tacoma.”</p> <p>The nation has been wracked with unrest following the death of Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis on May 25.</p> <p>At Tuesday’s event, Katrina Johnson spoke to the many young people in the crowd.</p> <p>“We are not fighting for them,” Johnson said of the men memorialized on numerous signs held by the crowd. “They are already dead. We are fighting for you.”</p> <p>The Tacoma woman is the cousin of Charleena Lyles, a pregnant mother shot by Seattle police in 2017.</p> <p>“Welcome to the fight,” Johnson said. “You’ve got to join us. Because tomorrow, if nothing happens, another family will join us.”</p> <p>Johnson implored the crowd not to engage in violence.</p> <p>“I understand your anger,” she said. “But we have to do better than that.”</p> <p>During the protest held just outside a Tacoma police substation, passing cars honked almost continuously in support.</p> <p>“I want to tell my young people that you are more than a hashtag,” organizer Devitta Briscoe told the gathered crowd. “You deserve to breathe and you deserve to live.”</p> <p>Briscoe helps runs a website, notthistime.global, that seeks to reduce police violence.</p> <p>Some of the multiracial crowd carried signs with messages. “No justice, no peace, no racist police,” read one. Another said, “Justice 4 Bennie.” Bennie Branch was one of the men remembered at the event.</p> <p>Brown said black people can only do so much to end racism and social injustice.</p> <p>“It’s your responsibility,” he told white people in the crowd. “Black people shouldn’t be in the streets protesting. We should be healing.”</p> <p>But protest they did, walking from Wapato Park to Pacific Avenue where they took over the intersection by kneeling, raising their hands and chanting, “Hands up, don’t shoot.”</p> <p>Nearby, an armed security guard stood next to his vehicle, blocking the entrance to a marijuana store’s parking lot. The protesters paid him no attention.</p> <p>Other bystanders seemed awed by the group, filming the crowd with cell phones and in some cases, joining in.</p> |

Police shut down streets as the crowd, which doubled in size along the way, made its way back to the park. But every time the group neared an intersection, police left in an apparent deescalation maneuver.

The group remained peaceful during their march.

Family members of several of the men spoke during the bookend rallies. One was Fred Thomas, whose son, Leonard, [was killed by police in a 2013](#) while clutching his 4-year-old son during a SWAT standoff.

“Our son Leonard was unarmed. He never threatened himself, his son or the police,” Thomas said. “In fact after I told them I could get him out alive, they handcuffed me and took me to jail.”

Pierce County prosecutors found Leonard’s death justified to protect the child, but after his family sued, a jury in U.S. District Court found police committed 14 civil rights violations that night, including excessive force.

One of the police officers involved in the standoff, Mike Wiley, led an assault team that blew down the back door of the home and killed the family dog. His actions were singled out in the ruling as being particularly egregious and leading to Thomas’s unnecessary death.

Thomas’s family was [awarded \\$12.5 million](#).

On May 1, [Said Joquin](#), 26, was fatally shot during a traffic stop in Lakewood after allegedly running a stop sign.

Wiley, [who made the traffic stop](#), later said he noticed a gun on the driver’s side floorboard and requested backup.

Before more police arrived, Joquin “lowered his arms, causing the primary officer (Wiley) to believe the subject was reaching for the firearm,” investigators said. Police said a gun was recovered from Joquin’s vehicle.

Thomas said Tuesday he was speechless when he learned of Wiley’s involvement in Joquin’s death.

“It stopped me in my tracks,” Thomas said. “I couldn’t think straight. I couldn’t formulate my words.”

Thomas’s grandson, now 11, is trying to process the recent events in Minneapolis and around the country.

“He’s trying to deal with it, too,” Thomas said. “It ain’t easy right now. But, I can’t stay home. I want our voice to be heard.”

Brown told the crowd he was there to remember Branch and Manuel Ellis, another man killed by police. [Branch](#), 24, was killed Sept. 8 after being pulled over by a Tacoma officer on Portland Avenue.

After an altercation with Officer Ryan Bradley, Branch was shot multiple times and died at the scene. Investigators have not said why police shot Branch, but said the man had warrants out for his arrest and an Airsoft gun was found at the scene.

Branch was allegedly checking on his mother, who was homeless, when police stopped him. She spoke Tuesday.

“They killed my baby,” she told the crowd. “They did it right in front of me.”

[Ellis](#), 33, died March 3, hours after leaving a church revival.

Police said he approached a patrol car at the intersection of 96th Street South and Ainsworth Avenue and repeatedly struck the vehicle.

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| | <p>When the two officers got out of their vehicle, they said Ellis attacked them and struggled for several moments before being handcuffed.</p> <p>Within a minute of firefighters arriving on scene, Ellis stopped breathing and lost consciousness.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Stocks up 40% off pandemic lows |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/06/03/stocks-soar-investors-look-past-civil-unrest-home-economic-high-notes/ |
| GIST | <p>Wall Street wrapped up one of its most remarkable 50-day runs on Wednesday, posting a 40 percent advance that telegraphs optimism against the three-pronged downward pull of disease, civil unrest and economic deterioration.</p> <p>The Standard & Poor's 500 closed at 3,122.87, a gain of 42 points or 1.4 percent. The broad market's comeback from its March 23 low marks its best 50-day performance since 1933, according to Howard Silverblatt of S&P Dow Jones Indices.</p> <p>The Dow Jones industrial average swelled more than 527 points, a 2 percent advance that places the blue chips at 26,269.89. The Nasdaq composite rose 74 points, or 0.8 percent, to finish at 9,682.91. The tech-heavy index is up 8 percent on the year and within 2 percent of its all-time high.</p> <p>All three indexes are 40 percent above their pandemic lows after chalking up two straight months of gains, despite Depression-era unemployment numbers, a pandemic that has killed more than 105,000 Americans, and a week of upheaval in American cities following the death of another black man in police custody.</p> <p>"Despite the turbulence and turmoil in our economy from the health crisis, the resulting economic downturn, and civil unrest, the market is anticipating we will get through these problems and the underlying strength of the economy will emerge intact," said Ed Yardeni, president of Yardeni Research. "It's a ray of sunshine. We should all be heartened. It's better than seeing investors selling stocks, betting that we can't solve our problems and we are headed into a depression."</p> <p>Policymakers in the United States, Europe and Japan have rushed trillions in stimulus into their economies in an effort to forestall a depression because of the steep drop in business and social activity due to the pandemic. Economies have begun to revive, and fear appears to be receding as the number of coronavirus deaths slow and hopes for a treatment rise.</p> <p>Positive news is filtering through the economy. Personal incomes rose 10.5 percent, thanks largely to federal stimulus checks. First-time unemployment filings have leveled off. The housing market is on the rise, helped by record-low interest rates. Private payrolls shed 2.76 million jobs in May, ADP reported Wednesday, well below the 8.75 million that economists surveyed by Dow Jones had expected.</p> <p>Energy, financials and industrials have led the S&P stock sectors for more than a week on investor belief that the economy is on the road to recovery and will cure everything from low oil prices to empty cruise ships and airplanes.</p> <p>"Investors are embracing renewed signs of life in consumer spending as we see restaurants, airlines, hotels and real estate all appearing to turn a little bit of a corner," said Nicole Tanenbaum, chief investment strategist at Chequers Financial Management.</p> <p>But storm clouds remain due to the recent flare-up in U.S.-China tensions and widespread protests since George Floyd died May 25 in Minneapolis. And the economy is a long way from its pre-pandemic momentum, with 40 million unemployed, airline travel at a crawl and health officials cautioning that the virus could surge in the fall.</p> |

The U.S. unemployment rate stood at 14.7 percent in April — the worst since the Great Depression — and is expected to push toward 20 percent when the Labor Department releases May data on Friday.

Analysts signaled caution.

“Unrealistic expectations for a V-shaped economic and earnings recovery is driving stocks higher,” said Daniel Wiener, chairman of Adviser Investments.

Every index in Asia and Europe was positive, with most European markets pushing more than 2.5 percent higher. Continued declines in coronavirus cases in some of the hardest-hit countries, amid gradual steps toward normalcy, have raised confidence.

Manufacturing showed signs of stabilizing after four months of contraction, according to the Institute for Supply Management’s May report. Timothy Fiore, the ISM’s chair of the business survey committee, wrote that May was a “transition month” and a signal the country was getting back to work. Demand, however, “remains uncertain.”

Crude prices retreated after Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed to maintain production cuts through July. Energy consumption has been rising as shutdowns unwind, spurring more driving and air travel. U.S. oil futures fell 20 cents to \$36.61 a barrel — a 0.5 percent drop. World benchmark Brent crude slid 0.7 percent to \$39.27 a barrel. Oil prices have surged in the past month as production cuts chewed into a supply glut, but prices remain far below what most producers need to make a profit.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Unidentified law enforcement officers |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/06/03/dangerous-new-factor-an-uneasy-moment-unidentified-law-enforcement-officers/ |
| GIST | <p>After more than a week of unrest, tensions in a number of major U.S. cities has eased. The vandalism and looting that had often used large, peaceful protests as cover has faded; the eruption of violence at protests appears to be less common. The Associated Press reports that active-duty members of the military who were moved into Washington to help keep order would be moved back out, though that decision was later reversed.</p> <p>But it wasn’t only components of the Defense Department that had been brought to the nation’s capital to help with the “domination” that President Trump sought to display in the wake of the turmoil. Washington residents have also been confronted with a number of other heavily armed law enforcement officers who share an unexpected characteristic: Neither their affiliation nor their personal identities are discernible.</p> <p>On Tuesday, Mother Jones reporter Dan Friedman encountered these individuals, who gave no more specific identification than that they were associated with the Justice Department.</p> <p>Near the White House on Wednesday, MSNBC’s Garrett Haake had a similar encounter.</p> <p>So did the New Republic’s Matt Ford. When he asked the armed men if they were associated with the Bureau of Prisons based on an acronym on their uniforms, Ford was simply told, “Maybe.”</p> <p>As it turns out, each of these encounters was apparently with elements of the Bureau of Prisons, called to the region by Attorney General William P. Barr this week. Friedman confirmed with BOP that the men he encountered were with the agency; Haake’s Twitter followers picked out BOP insignia on their clothing.</p> <p>“The idea that the federal government is putting law enforcement personnel on the line without appropriate designation of agency, name, etc. — that’s a direct contradiction of the oversight that they’ve been providing for many years to local police and demanding in all of their various monitorships and</p> |

accreditation,” former New York City police commissioner William Bratton said in a phone interview with The Washington Post on Wednesday.

The prospect of government agencies involved in policing the city seeking to obscure their identities, Bratton said, was “very concerning.”

The vagueness of their identity and their disinterest in identifying themselves introduce specific challenges and risks, as former Army officer and FBI special agent Clint Watts explained in a phone interview with The Post.

For one thing, Watts pointed out, a civilian might refuse to respond to an order from a law enforcement official who doesn’t identify themselves in that way.

“If I go out and I pull out a gun and I say, ‘Freeze,’ and they say why, I would have to say, ‘I’m an FBI agent’ or law enforcement officer or whatever,” he said, “because otherwise they would be totally in the right to defend themselves potentially.”

He imagined his own reaction if he was on the street in New York or Washington and an unidentified officer pushed him with a shield: His instinct would be to fight back.

The added danger, particularly given the influx of officials in the area, is that law enforcement officers wouldn’t recognize one another. Bratton noted that one reason for identifiers is that officers would be able to recognize one another. Riot helmets often have identifying numbers on their backs in part for that purpose.

Watts described an incident shortly after he began at the FBI when an undercover agent who’d drawn his weapon was killed by another bureau employee who confused him with the perpetrator. Introduce scores of officers without identification into a volatile scenario and it’s easy to see similar (if less deadly) mistakes being common.

Particularly given another component of the moment. It’s not uncommon for civilians to dress in paramilitary gear and show up at the protests, often doing so as self-appointed assistants to police and other law enforcement officials.

“You can have this weird thing where you have these militia group guys just dressed up in their gear, which they like to do anyway, show up and just start pushing protesters around,” Watts said. “And if you’re a protester, you don’t know if you have to respond to this person.”

Granting unidentifiable law enforcement officials the ability to engage with and confront protesters functionally allows any unidentifiable individual to more easily pretend to be law enforcement. It introduces an opportunity for those looking to take advantage of the situation to target protesters or to cause disruptions.

The problem extends further. Consider the security hired to defend Saks Fifth Avenue’s flagship store in Manhattan.

It’s easy to envision a scenario in which protesters are confronted by other hired security and forced to determine in real time if they constitute an official arm of law enforcement or if they’re simply hired muscle. There are widely divergent ramifications for a protester’s potential responses to such confrontations, depending on who the other person is.

And there’s an overarching question here: Why? Why are these officers unwilling to identify themselves or their organization? There’s clearly some power dynamic at play, as demonstrated in the snide “maybe” Ford was offered. But it also inhibits accountability.

“If those officers engage in any type of misbehavior during the time that they are there representing the federal government, how are you to identify them?” Bratton said. “What is the need for anonymity in controlling crowd demonstrations?”

Such anonymity echoes the way in which enforcers in autocratic regimes have worked to avoid accountability. If you believe that you were unlawfully detained or assaulted by a law enforcement official, you can try to hold them to account. (Of course, the extent to which you’ll be able to do so is another question, one at the heart of the current protests.) But how do you hold someone accountable when you don’t know who they are or even who they work for?

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, a professor of history at New York University and an expert on authoritarianism, noted the lack of accountability introduced by the government of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet for the actions of loyalist forces.

“The government passed laws that allowed the service records of military men and police who had been involved in torture and abuses to be destroyed so that their records were swept clean,” she said. “Many authoritarian leaders issue amnesty that free service people, clean up their records so that their abuses are never known.”

The point isn’t necessarily that the lack of identification offered by the men in Washington is intended to facilitate abuse. It’s that it hampers accountability, intentionally or not, which itself makes abuse more likely to go unchecked. Officers of the law are accountable to the public, something that’s harder to achieve if you don’t know who they are.

What the current situation demands is clarity. Given the tension between law enforcement and the protesters and given the existence of those looking to amplify that tension either as cover for illegal looting or to commit vandalism against the state, it seems more important now than it normally is that the enforcement arm of the government be identified by agency and individually.

“The idea of having no identification whatsoever as to the agency that you belong to,” Bratton said, “is highly unusual and, from my perspective, not professional at all.”

Haake updated his assessment of the scene at the White House on Wednesday afternoon, reporting that the unidentified officers had been replaced by members of the National Guard, in uniforms including the D.C. flag.

But that didn’t last long.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Protesters: defund Seattle police |
| SOURCE | https://mynorthwest.com/1916442/seattle-rally-city-defund-the-police-community-solutions/ |
| GIST | <p>Unlike the daily protests and rallies that have been gathering in masse since the weekend, Wednesday afternoon’s rally on Capitol Hill featured speakers who are experienced organizers and well known social justice advocates in Seattle. The march was co-sponsored by No New Youth Jail, Decriminalize Seattle, Block the Bunker, Seattle Peoples Party, COVID-19 Mutual Aid, Trans Women of Color Solidarity Network, Asians for Black Lives, and many others. It focused on a single topic: defunding the Seattle Police Department.</p> <p>“One of the major demands of our movement right now is to defund and demilitarize the police,” community organizer, attorney and former Seattle mayoral candidate, Nikkita Oliver spoke to the Seattle City Council earlier in the day. “Seattle Police Department is unleashing flash bangs, mace, tear gas. They’re running into protesters with their bikes, they have very large sticks, they’re wearing riot gear. So the only option is to begin to defund and demilitarize. We’re calling for a 50 percent defund of the Seattle</p> |

Police Department and we demand that those dollars be invested in community based alternatives to incarceration, community based alternatives for public safety.”

Over the span of 48 hours, 17,000 people signed a petition, urging the city to cut the police budget in half. Oliver says that money would be better spent on affordable housing, community based anti-violence programs, universal childcare, free public transit, and mental health services. She thinks community programs are better suited to solving social problems than a police force.

“We know that when people are affected economically, when there is mass poverty in a community, it only promotes more struggle, more pain and the criminalizing of the things that we have to do to survive,” Oliver said.

Dr. Jacqueline Helfgott is a professor and director of the Crime and Justice Research Center at Seattle University.

“No, we don’t need to defund the police, we need to stop blaming the police for all of the problems we have in society,” Dr. Helfgott said.

She argues that a percentage of police money has already been diverted to social programs and work is being done to reform police departments.

“Nothing that’s been implemented is changing the fact that George Floyd was murdered by police,” said Dr. Helfgott. “Nothing in any of the police reforms that we’ve been doing has changed the fact that person after person after person of color has to feel like they can’t trust the police. However, an enormous amount of work has gone into creating change and policing systems in the United States. Is it perfect? No. Is it widespread? No. Yes, we are making gains. We are nowhere near where we need to go but if we throw it all out now we’re never going to get there.”

She says Seattleites are given a public safety survey every year, asking them to rank their concerns related to crime and public safety.

“Every single year people in Seattle are saying that we have a lack of police capacity,” said Dr. Helfgott. “People are identifying that we have issues across the city, but one of those issues is that we need more resources going into police and public safety, not less. We actually have data that people want to see more police on the street.”

The petition states: “Police reform efforts—from Minneapolis to Seattle—have failed. To stop police violence, the police must be reduced in size, in budget, and in scope. The police have never served as an adequate response to social problems. They are rooted in violence against Black people. In order to protect Black lives, this moment calls for investing and expanding our safety and well-being beyond policing.”

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Black Lives Matter Seattle King Co. |
| SOURCE | https://mynorthwest.com/1915254/black-lives-matter-seattle-king-county-comments-on-protests/ |
| GIST | <p>Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County issued a statement Wednesday, commenting on protests that have taken place in the region over the last five days.</p> <p>BLM Seattle-King County noted that it “has had no role in any of the protests that have occurred in the greater Seattle area,” while pointing out that it had urged its community members not to participate over concerns related to COVID-19.</p> <p>“Our board of directors was initially conflicted about whether to boost these demonstrations, as your safety is of utmost importance,” the organization detailed in a written statement. “Ultimately, we decided that the situation is too dangerous for us to encourage greater attendance at these in-person protests.</p> |

“To clarify, Black Lives Matter Seattle King County is not involved in the coordination or planning of any public, in-person gatherings, meetings, or protests,” it added.

BLM Seattle King County is one of at least two groups that operates in the region under the “Black Lives Matter” moniker. That being so, neither that group, [nor one that identifies itself](#) as “Black Lives Matter Seattle Original” on Facebook have claimed affiliation with recent protests.

This comes after Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan [told protesters downtown Tuesday](#) that she had spoken recently to organizers in the local black community. At this point, though, it’s unclear who exactly those meetings were with.

“Anyone representing themselves as Black Lives Matter Seattle to the Mayor, or the Chief of police during this past week has done so without our knowledge or consent — we do not know who those people are and they do not represent Black Lives Matter Seattle,” its statement continued.

BLM Seattle-King County did say that it is working to schedule meetings with Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best and Senator Patty Murray, and would like to speak with King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht, Rep. Adam Smith, and Gov. Jay Inslee.

The organization also expressed its support for “calls for action in response to the murder of George Floyd and other recent victims of police brutality.”

“We’re hurting, frustrated, scared, and enraged just like you,” it stated. “We understand the need to be together, to collectively mourn and rage.”

While again urging those looking to protest to “put your safety and health before anything else” amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it also thanked those who had donated to its bail fund, which has been used to help those arrested during recent protests, and for “ongoing bail relief.”

In the days ahead, the organization put forth five demands from local leaders:

- That Mayor Durkan end curfews “immediately”
- For the city to rescind its motion asking to end its ongoing federal consent decree
- To require all law enforcement to turn on body cameras “throughout the entirety of their shift”
- That the City of Seattle “establish a de-escalation team” in the wake of allegations of police misconduct during protests
- For City Council, state lawmakers, and Congress to “consider efforts to decrease funding for police”

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Mayor, PD chief meet protest leaders |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-mayor-jenny-durkan-to-meet-with-protest-leaders-today-as-demonstrators-prepare-for-sixth-day-of-action-after-george-floyds-death/#update-12821362 |
| GIST | <p>Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best sat down with protest leaders and longtime community activists at City Hall on Wednesday afternoon amid ongoing protests over police killings of Black people.</p> <p>The meeting gave people from different organizations a chance to speak and make demands but paused when Durkan went with community leader Nikkita Oliver, a onetime mayoral candidate, to address a crowd of demonstrators massed outside.</p> |

Standing with the mayor on the steps of City Hall, Oliver listed demands, urging Durkan to cut Seattle's police budget, redistribute the money to community programs, release jailed protesters and demilitarize the police.

Durkan delivered a speech, condemning the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and promising to work toward change. "I know I have enormous privilege," she said. "My ancestors came here from Ireland to seek freedom," unlike the ancestors of African Americans who "came here in shackles," Durkan added.

When the mayor returned to her meeting, Oliver told the crowd the mayor had not addressed the demands. Demonstrators chanted, "Nikkita for mayor," and the rally closed with a rendition of the Black National Anthem.

The meeting was closed to the press when it began, but Oliver livestreamed an initial segment on Facebook.

"We would like to see the police begin to defunded," said Oliver in the meeting, listing her first demand. She said there are grassroots movements that can respond to public safety needs.

The activists at the meeting also included Andre Taylor of the police accountability group Not This Time! and the brother of Che Taylor, who was shot to death by Seattle police in 2016, as well as two new leaders who have emerged at protests over the past week: Rashyla Levitt and David Lewis.

They spoke about their desire for real change in the culture of policing that has led to deaths of Black and brown people around the country and in Washington.

Levitt also alluded to criticism from some in the community who have questioned who she and Lewis are and why they are putting themselves forward as leaders. She said they were not attempting to steal the place of other leaders but felt passionate about what was going on and decided to speak out.

"We acknowledge we're new at this," Levitt said. "I've never done anything like this — ever. ...I'm here to support every single one of you."

Durkan spoke only briefly. It was hard to hear what she was saying on the livestream due to technical problems. "I want to listen to you," she said.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Seattle council critical SPD response |
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| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-mayor-jenny-durkan-to-meet-with-protest-leaders-today-as-demonstrators-prepare-for-sixth-day-of-action-after-george-floyds-death/#update-12824660 |
| GIST | <p>City Council members grilled Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best about the city's response to protests over the police killings of Black people Wednesday afternoon. The questions came after the council listened to public commenters and community panelists describe officers repeatedly deploying chemical weapons and other force against peaceful demonstrators.</p> <p>"I've never in 25 years of participating in protests experienced such an indiscriminate use of tear gas and pepper spray and flash bombs against people who are not doing anything wrong, with so little effort to de-escalate, negotiate with protesters, utilize peacekeepers ... and focus your efforts on people doing wrong," Councilmember Lisa Herbold told Best during a special public safety committee meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was held via video conference, but Herbold dialed in from her office in City Hall. As she addressed Best, she noted a massive crowd of protesters marching from Capitol Hill had just reached City Hall and could be heard chanting outside.</p> |

Minutes later, Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda asked whether Best would stop officers from continuing to use tear gas, flash-bang grenades and rubber bullets, stop arresting protesters and take immediate action against cops who were caught on video using excessive force.

Her questions went unanswered because Best, Deputy Mayor Mike Fong and Fire Chief Harold Scoggins had by then signed off to oversee the response to Wednesday's protests.

The council has yet to challenge emergency orders issued by Mayor Jenny Durkan and has yet to vote on any measures related to the situation.

Hours earlier in the meeting, public commenters described being terrorized by police during the protests and urged the council to make sweeping changes.

A middle school teacher said her students wanted to participate in the protests but were too scared of the police. A nurse described officers ratcheting up tensions by massing in riot gear.

A father described tear gas seeping into his Capitol Hill home.

"My 3-month-old son ... who was sleeping, was awoken from his sleep coughing, crying, spitting out mucus," he said, telling the council he and his wife and son fled in their car. "Mucus was bubbling out of his nose, he was bright red. ... My wife had to pour breast milk on his eyes."

Public commenters asked the council to stop the police from escalating situations and using tear gas at demonstrations. They also asked the council to defund the police, and some rebuked Mayor Jenny Durkan. "How dare Mayor Durkan allow something banned for use in war to be used on civilians," a commenter said.

The council also heard from a panel of Black community members, including Netsanet Tjirongo, who said Seattle's nightly curfew should be ended, and Dominique Davis, who said the police should be demilitarized.

"I was down there in a peaceful manner," Willard Jimerson said about one demonstration. "We still ended up with pepper spray in our mouths, nostrils and eyes."

Councilmember Mosqueda slammed Durkan for "gaslighting" protesters by insisting that officers have targeted only wrongdoers, and Councilmember Kshama Sawant said she would seek to ban Seattle police from using chemical weapons and rubber bullets. Councilmember Tammy Morales apologized "for the way this city has reacted to people merely trying to exercise their First Amendment rights.

Fong and Best said they were open to suggestions for how the police could better handle the protests, though the chief defended her officers. For hours each day and night, Seattle police have allowed nonviolent protests to proceed, she said, blaming the chaos that also has erupted each night on bad actors hurling concrete, fireworks and feces at officers.

Fong and Best said each instance of alleged police misconduct would be scrutinized, investigated and dealt with.

Councilmembers pushed back, with Dan Strauss noting officers Tuesday night used tear gas and flash bangs after some in a crowd lobbed water bottles at them.

"I don't need to have an investigation to understand that is out of balance," Strauss said. "There's not a place for military-grade weapons on our streets."

Councilmember Andrew Lewis questioned Best about the moment when police Monday night broke up a crowd on Capitol Hill that was chanting, "Take off your riot gear. We don't see no riot here."

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| | <p>Videos show pepper spray, tear gas and flash-bang grenades deployed without warning, after an officer grabs a pink umbrella from a protester. The police declared the situation a riot.</p> <p>Though some objects were thrown from the crowd, "I'm having a hard time seeing how that could be labeled a riot," Lewis said, arguing police shouldn't allow a bad-behaving protester minority to dictate how demonstrations play out.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Seattle mayor lifts daily curfew order |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-mayor-jenny-durkan-to-meet-with-protest-leaders-today-as-demonstrators-prepare-for-sixth-day-of-action-after-george-floyds-death/ |
| GIST | <p>Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best on Wednesday evening rescinded the city's daily curfew, which had been in effect since Saturday night.</p> <p>"Earlier today (Best) and I met with community leaders who asked us to end the curfew," Durkan tweeted just after 7 p.m. "Chief Best believes we can balance public safety and ensure peaceful protests can continue without a curfew."</p> <p>"For those peacefully demonstrating tonight, please know you can continue to demonstrate," she continued. "We want you to continue making your voice heard."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Seattle mayor: may change police tactics |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-mayor-jenny-durkan-to-meet-with-protest-leaders-today-as-demonstrators-prepare-for-sixth-day-of-action-after-george-floyds-death/ |
| GIST | <p>In a Seattle City Club interview Wednesday night, Mayor Jenny Durkan said some changes may need to be made to police tactics for demonstrations, particularly later at night.</p> <p>"In the peaceful protests, we've done really well," the mayor, who mostly has defended the city's response to protests over killings of Black men by police, told Civic Cocktail host Joni Balter.</p> <p>"But what we've seen is at the end of the night, when people need to disperse, we need to work on how we do it, because it has not ended well any night," she added, amid mounting criticism from some City Council members over officers regularly deploying pepper spray, tear gas and flash-bang devices.</p> <p>Monday and Tuesday nights, hours of nonviolent demonstrations involving thousands of people ended that way on Capitol Hill.</p> <p>Seattle's current crowd-management policies went through a court-approval process as part of the city's federal police-reform consent decree, Durkan said. But it's become clear another review is needed, and the Police Department's independent Office of the Inspector General will carry out that review, she said.</p> <p>"There's a huge amount of distrust in the community," she said. "We've got to get better at de-escalating that."</p> <p>Asked whether she would ban tear gas and flash-bang devices, Durkan said, "We have to look and find a different way," but didn't commit to that right away, noting officers came under attack Saturday night.</p> <p>Durkan told Balter, "We have to acknowledge the rage and grief we see not just in Seattle but across this country," describing Floyd's killing as "the tipping point" on a problem generations old.</p> |

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| | <p>The mayor said she agreed with a decision announced Wednesday by City Attorney Pete Holmes to withdraw Seattle's request to a U.S. judge that could have cleared the way for the termination of the consent decree.</p> <p>Durkan had supported the motion last month and since then. But she said Wednesday, "We need to take a pause ... With what's going on right now, we need to engage more people."</p> <p>Asked whether downtown business owners should have been warned ahead of Saturday's break-ins and looting to board up their windows, Durkan said, "I don't think anyone anticipated the level of destruction that was coming." She attributed the damage to people who wanted to "create destruction and violence and to start a fight with police."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Seattle protests continue; huge crowds |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-mayor-jenny-durkan-to-meet-with-protest-leaders-today-as-demonstrators-prepare-for-sixth-day-of-action-after-george-floyds-death/ |
| GIST | <p>Protests in the Seattle area over the death George Floyd continued for a sixth day Wednesday, resulting in highway closures and extended curfews throughout the state — though Seattle's was later rescinded when the mayor acknowledged the city's peaceful protest. A white police officer killed Floyd, a Black man, by pressing his knee onto Floyd's neck for around eight minutes.</p> <p>On Wednesday afternoon, Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best sat down at City Hall with protest leaders and longtime community activists to address the ongoing protests over police killings of Black people. Some activists at the meeting, including David Lewis — who has emerged as a leader at Seattle's protests over the past week — said they felt the meeting was successful.</p> <p>But others felt Durkan hadn't directly addressed some of their concerns. They wanted clearer responses to their ideas, one of which being that Seattle reduce its police budget and redistribute money to community programs. Another was that police release jailed protesters.</p> <p>Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes also announced Wednesday the city will withdraw its request to remove police force from federal oversight, a dramatic change that comes after six days of protests.</p> <p>Shortly after 7 p.m., after residents were told to stay in, Durkan rescinded the city's 9 p.m. curfew.</p> <p>As the night wore on, the protest scene in Capitol Hill Wednesday remained peaceful. A noticeable space stretched several feet between the crowd and the line of police and National Guard members — seen by some protesters as a de-escalating technique.</p> <p>1:30 am 'They can stand here all night if they want to': Capitol Hill protests have been peaceful, Seattle police say</p> <p>A Seattle police spokesman said early Thursday morning that if the night's protests stay peaceful, he doesn't expect law enforcement officials will issue a dispersal order as they have on previous nights.</p> <p>"There have been no breaking bottles tonight," said Seattle police spokesman Detective Patrick Michaud. "It's been really peaceful. No throwing rocks. It's been good."</p> <p>He added that officers have been rotating in and out of protest duty all night.</p> <p>"We would only give the order if it's not peaceful," Michaud said. "They can stand here all night if they want to."</p> |

Michaud also said officers would stay on duty “as long as protesters are there,” confirming their purpose was to secure the department’s East Precinct.

National Guard members boarded a bus and left the intersection around 1:30 a.m.

[12:07 am](#)

Capitol Hill protest crowd thins toward midnight

Like Tuesday night, Wednesday night's crowd at 11th Avenue and Pine Street continues to thin as the clock stretches past midnight.

On Tuesday, police used tear gas and flash-bang devices on protesters as the size and makeup of the crowd shifted late into the night and some threw things at officers.

[8:40 pm, Jun. 3, 2020](#)

Wednesday night's protest again fills the intersection of Pine Street and 11th Avenue

Wednesday night’s protest crowd at 11th Avenue and Pine Street, seen from above on June 3, 2020.

A massive crowd on Wednesday night once again packed into the intersection of Pine Street and 11th Avenue, which has become a kind of anchor point in the week's protests – as well as a site of police tear gas and flash-bang grenades late into the previous two nights.

By 8:30 p.m., the crowd had been chanting for hours in front of the same police barricades. As with Tuesday night, the people closest to the police barricades were holding umbrellas, a tactic borrowed from 2014 protests for increased democracy in Hong Kong.

Police, however, stood several yards back from the barricades. This set-up was in contrast to the protests on Monday night, during which police stood so close to protesters that an officer was able to [grab an umbrella](#) that was over the barricade. The moment the officer grabbed the umbrella was captured on video before police began deploying tear gas and flash-bangs.

Police and the National Guard restricted access to sidewalks on several sides of the intersection, and residents of the block were escorted to their buildings by law enforcement.

The crowd at the Pine Street and 11th Avenue intersection was smaller than Tuesday night's, but still dense enough that it stretched well down the block toward 10th Avenue and spilled north and south of the intersection.

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Seattle withdraws request to lift decree |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/after-days-of-seattle-protests-city-will-withdraw-request-to-remove-police-force-from-federal-oversight/ |
| GIST | <p>On the sixth day of major protests in Seattle over the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by a white police officer in Minnesota, city officials announced Wednesday they would withdraw a request that could have cleared the way to lift eight years of federal oversight of the Seattle Police Department.</p> <p>The dramatic change in the city’s approach capped a day of pressure from political leaders, community organizers and demonstrators who called for measures such as defunding and demilitarizing Seattle police. Meanwhile, the protests showed no signs of slowing: Thousands continued to march downtown and in Capitol Hill on Wednesday to oppose police brutality and call for racial justice.</p> |

The city also announced it would end nightly curfews, which had been scheduled to remain in effect through Saturday morning.

City Attorney Pete Holmes said Wednesday he has been closely monitoring the city's response to the demonstrations and the 14,000 complaints about police officers' actions during the protests – including the use of pepper spray, flash-bang devices and tear gas against some demonstrators – that have been made to Seattle's Office of Police Accountability (OPA), the watchdog agency that conducts internal investigations.

Noting “we are about to witness the most vigorous testing of our city's accountability systems,” Holmes said, “it's become clear to me that we need to pause before asking U.S. District Judge James Robart to terminate” a key portion of a 2012 federal consent decree “so that the City and its accountability partners can conduct a thorough assessment of SPD's response to the demonstrations.”

The city last month, in a motion filed jointly with the U.S Department of Justice, had asked Robart to find the city had met the requirements of a two-year period to show it has remained in compliance with the consent decree. The city cited the need to recognize the department's widely praised efforts to address Justice Department allegations of excessive use of force and biased policing and shift badly needed resources to the coronavirus crisis.

Before Holmes' announcement, Seattle City Council President M. Lorena González told The Seattle Times on Wednesday that she supported withdrawing the motion, saying much had changed since Floyd's killing.

“The sheer volume of ... complaints that are flowing from the Police Department's response and management of these demonstrations is reason enough for the city to take a step back,” González said.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said in a Seattle City Club interview Wednesday that she agreed with the decision to withdraw the city's request. She had supported the motion last month and since then. But she said Wednesday, “We need to take a pause ... With what's going on right now, we need to engage more people.”

She said in a statement Wednesday that the motion was not filed with the intent to end the consent decree.

But if approved, the request would have opened the door for the city to ask Robart to be released from oversight, while leaving it unclear how it planned to address his concerns.

The city still needs to address issues Robart flagged a year ago regarding the city's contract with the Seattle Police Officers Guild (SPOG), Durkan said. The judge cited an appeal process that allowed an arbitrator to lift the firing of an officer who had punched a handcuffed woman who had kicked him. A King County judge later reinstated the firing at the city's request.

Durkan pointed to a May 29 open letter from SPOG as a hopeful sign toward seeking consensus. It condemned the killing of Floyd, saying there was “no law enforcement or self-defense rationale” for the prolonged use of the officer's knee on Floyd's neck captured with cellphone video.

The letter said SPOG, which represents more than 1,200 officers and sergeants, recognizes that all police officers, possibly for years to come, will be held accountable.

Guild President Mike Nolan said Wednesday that he is on record saying he will “meet with anyone at any time.”

But Solan said he didn't have time to elaborate since he had been working long days protecting the community.

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| | <p>“I’d be happy to talk at a later time,” he said in an email, when the Police Department’s emergency staffing has ended and “law [and] order is restored.”</p> <p>In a video news conference Wednesday morning, City Councilmember Kshama Sawant, community leader Nikkita Oliver and other advocates called for the consent decree to remain in effect and criticized a “militarized” response to mostly peaceful protests. They said half the city’s police budget should be redirected to youth programs, affordable housing, health care and other uses.</p> <p>The Police Department’s budget is more than \$400 million this year, accounting for about a quarter of Seattle’s general-fund spending. The city has projected a budget gap of \$300 million this year, due to tax revenue streams reduced by coronavirus-caused business shutdowns.</p> <p>“There is absolutely no reason for police forces to be marching through the streets with military-grade equipment,” Oliver said in the news conference.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 More National Guard to train on protests |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/more-national-guard-members-to-train-on-protests-king-other-counties-apply-to-advance-in-phases-of-coronavirus-recovery-plan/ |
| GIST | <p>OLYMPIA — Even as he announced more National Guard soldiers would get trained in crowd control, Gov. Jay Inslee said Wednesday he was heartened that the protests rippling across Washington over the killing of George Floyd have seemed increasingly peaceful.</p> <p>In a news conference, Inslee applauded the leaders of demonstrations for working to make sure protests didn’t turn violent.</p> <p>“It appears to me there’s been a strong effort by the leaders of these protests to try to prevent people from hijacking their peaceful protests,” said the governor. “And it appears to me those things are working.”</p> <p>Still, the National Guard would train additional members to handle demonstrations, Inslee said, “so that they can provide safety.”</p> <p>“I think that is a prudent step; we need to be able to respond quickly to the need of local communities,” he said.</p> <p>Inslee’s remarks came as residents in Seattle, Olympia and elsewhere rallied for a sixth night of protests amid national outrage since Floyd was killed last week when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes.</p> <p>The governor also addressed a video that surfaced of a Washington State Patrol officer telling his colleagues, “Don’t kill them, but hit them hard,” as they prepared to clear demonstrators Tuesday evening from Seattle streets. The State Patrol has apologized for the remark.</p> <p>Inslee acknowledged law enforcement officers have difficult jobs, especially in tense situations where they sometimes get bottles thrown at them, “But we have to have high levels of standards for our State Patrol.”</p> <p>Inslee’s remarks come after Tuesday’s large, mostly peaceful demonstration in Seattle was broken up by police.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Tuesday night, hundreds gathered downtown in front of Olympia City Hall. Speakers shared stories about injustices they had experienced, talked with each other about institutional racism, and held impromptu dance parties set to Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G.</p> |

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| | <p>Olympia Police Department officers stayed largely out of sight, letting demonstrators speak and march, helping to avoid confrontation seen in city protests the two previous evenings.</p> <p>Later, demonstrators — most of whom wore masks but practiced little social distancing to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus — marched to the Capitol and took a knee in remembrance of Floyd.</p> <p>Police made no arrests Tuesday evening, according to Olympia Police Department Lt. Paul Lower. In a text message, Lower called it a “well organized protest” and said the department appreciated that.</p> <p>The north entrance and pillars at the top steps of the Capitol, however, were defaced with paint and chalk sometime Tuesday after 8 p.m., according to the state Department of Enterprise Services (DES).</p> <p>At least some of that graffiti appeared to have been there already when the demonstrators — most did not climb the steps up to the entrance and pillars — arrived around 9:45 p.m.</p> <p>“We are still assessing the damage, including clean-up costs,” wrote DES spokeswoman Linda Kent in an email. “It is safe to say that it will take tens of thousands of dollars to address.”</p> <p>The agency, which oversees the Capitol campus, was already able to start some of the repair work, Kent added, which “will include several lengthy applications of a poultice” to remove the paint.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Tacoma schools will layoff, reduce hours |
| SOURCE | https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/education/article243202021.html |
| GIST | <p>Tacoma Public Schools issued notices to hundreds of paraeducators on Monday they would be laid off, have reduced hours or be reassigned in the 2020-21 school year.</p> <p>The announcement, made earlier this week, led some union leaders to launch a petition asking district leaders not to make the cuts.</p> <p>Paraeducators said in a press release Monday that the cuts result in more than a 50 percent reduction in one-on-one support time with students and that the district was putting the right to basic education at risk.</p> <p>“In every Tacoma school we provide critical support to students, and these students haven’t gone anywhere,” said Glory Tichy, president of the Tacoma Federation of Paraeducators, in a statement. “It makes zero sense to me that Tacoma Public Schools has chosen to decrease so many position(s) and laid off numerous paraeducators when our students need us now more than ever. The district shouldn’t be trying to balance their budget on the back of basic education.”</p> <p>Out of more than 600 paraeducators employed by the district, 104 were notified they “might not have a job next year,” Tacoma Public Schools said in a statement Tuesday. Another 348 were issued notices for reduced hours or schedule changes.</p> <p>“We had to make our best estimate based on what we know now,” the district said in its statement. “And what we know as of today, based on guidance from OSPI, is full-time, face-to-face learning as we traditionally know it will not occur in the fall.”</p> <p>The decision was not based on budget issues but on what the best estimate of the number of students who will be at school at a given time and need paraeducator services, according to the district.</p> <p>“Our best estimate, as of today, is that we anticipate 50 percent of students on campus at a given time. Fewer students on campus will require fewer staff members,” TPS said.</p> |

That could change as the district monitors guidance from Gov. Jay Inslee and the health department for how schools will operate in the fall.

“We hope that a number of paraeducators will be able to be brought back in the fall based on the guidance for future school models and need,” the district said. “We will not bring back staff members if we don’t have work for them to do.”

Jazmyn Daniels, 25, was one of the paraeducators laid off after two years with the district. As a peer-inclusion paraeducator, she worked with about 30 preschool students, some of whom have autism or behavioral challenges. She told The News Tribune there were suspicions of layoffs coming.

“Everyone was kind of on edge,” Daniels said. “We knew there were going to be cuts, but we didn’t know how drastic it was going to be.”

When she got her notice on June 1, Daniels said she burst into tears and instantly thought of her students.

“My kids are my family,” Daniels said. “This is my family, and you’re kind of ripping me apart from them without really giving us an opportunity to do anything.”

Some paraeducators still employed will face reduced hours, with some losing employee-based health insurance because their hours now fall under the threshold to receive health insurance, she said.

Jessica Brennan, a paraeducator with the Tacoma School District, had her hours reduced by more than 50 percent.

“I have been with my student since she was in 5th grade and she will be a senior next year,” Brennan said in the press release. “My student is non-verbal. I am her voice and one of the only people she can communicate with in her life. By reducing my hours to only 14 hours a week from 35 hours, they have taken away my student’s ability to communicate. This is a tragedy for her and will be devastating.”

Katie Young, a parent of a 9-year-old and 11-year-old with individualized education plans (IEPs), was upset when she heard that one of her son’s paraeducator would be reassigned to a new school with fewer hours.

“When you have a kiddo with special needs, you build a different level of relationships in the school than a normal parent,” Young told The News Tribune. “My son sees his paras as full teachers ... They are the people that he can go to when he’s having a problem to get help immediately.”

As a whole, paras are there to help students off the bus, to help at lunch and at recess, Young said.

“You’re basically saying my kid’s not important — and that’s just not okay,” Young said.

Rebecca Badger has two children in the district, one who works with a para in kindergarten. As a parent, she worries students won’t be getting the level of education that they are entitled to by law.

“It’s hard to know, as a parent, how to prepare when the district is communicating ambiguously to paraeducators, and parents are trying to fill in the blanks right now,” Badger said. “As a parent of a child who is being obviously impacted... I feel left out.”

Tacoma Public Schools acknowledged the value of paraeducators who provide one-on-one support for students with special needs and said those IEPs will be honored.

“Our Student Services team analyzed every one-on-one para educator assignment required by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Every assignment will be fulfilled, and the paraeducator will stay with their student when the student is on campus, as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement,” the district said in a statement. “Since those students would not be on campus full time in the fall, we have

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| | <p>reduced the hours for those paraeducator positions. Again, if this changes, based on guidance, we will make the appropriate and necessary adjustments.”</p> <p>Arzu Forough, president and CEO of the Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy, spoke out about the cuts, saying for most students with significant disabilities, digital learning in absence of in-person paraeducator is not accessible. She added she has not heard of cuts of this scope from other districts across the state.</p> <p>“There’s a lot of ways Tacoma could address their budget shortfall but it should not happen on the backs of students who need these essential services,” Forough said.</p> <p>In response to why the district couldn’t find more funding from the administrative level, spokesperson Dan Voelpel said the district is already stretched to the max trying to adapt the district and its services to the new normal in the pandemic. In response to last year’s \$30 million budget deficit, the district cut 43 administrative positions, or 15 percent of the admin workforce, and have not hired any new administrative positions, he said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 DOH: 22,484 cases, 1135 deaths |
| SOURCE | https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243255756.html |
| GIST | <p>The Washington State Department of Health on Wednesday reported 327 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and six deaths.</p> <p>Statewide totals are now at 22,484 cases and 1,135 deaths, up from 22,157 cases and 1,129 deaths on Tuesday.</p> <p>King County continues to have the highest numbers in Washington, with 8,264 cases and 573 deaths. Snohomish County has 2,991 cases and 150 deaths, while Yakima County has 3,838 cases and 97 deaths. Pierce County reported a total of 1,988 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 28 cases that haven’t been assigned a county.</p> <p>Nineteen people with confirmed COVID-19 cases were admitted to Washington state hospitals on May 26, 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 3,578 on Wednesday.</p> <p>Washington state has conducted 377,327 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 | 06/03 Tacoma mayor vows answers Ellis death |
| SOURCE | https://mynorthwest.com/1916521/tacoma-police-manuel-ellis/ |
| GIST | Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards addressed on Wednesday the ruling on the death of Manuel Ellis, a 33-year-old black man who died while he was being restrained by Tacoma police officers on March 3. |

Manuel Ellis died of respiratory arrest, due to hypoxia, the Tacoma Tribune reports. The Pierce County Medical Examiner determined Ellis' death was a homicide.

"I cannot imagine the pain that continues with the Ellis family loss, but I do know that our community wants both answers and justice, and so do I, and so does this entire council and administration," she said in a press conference. "In the face of longstanding racism and recent national events, we are devastated to have the death of Manuel Ellis become part of this national conversation."

At the time of their late night encounter with Ellis, officials said Ellis was suffering from excited delirium, the Tribune reports. They added that that may have been why Ellis allegedly banged on an officer's patrol car and tried to attack two officer who were trying to calm him down. The autopsy also revealed that Ellis had drugs in his system.

In the police recording, Ellis could be heard saying, "Can't breathe."

Woodards, who was out marching with protesters in Tacoma this week, says all four cops are on leave. She promises transparency and swift accountability, and pleaded with protesters to stay peaceful as they march and not let this detract from much needed change.

"What I have seen in the newspaper today is deeply troubling to our city, and to me as an African American woman who represents this city. We will be transparent. We don't have all the answers today ... I know you want answers, and so do I, and we will get those answers."

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Unemployment fraud spreads across US |
| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/unemployment-fraud-spreads-across-u-s-as-coronavirus-boosts-claims-11591189201?mod=hp_major_pos1#cxrecs_s |
| GIST | <p>States across the country are being hit by unemployment-benefit fraud that could amount to billions of lost dollars, reflecting the vulnerabilities that workers and governments face in the midst of historically high levels of jobless claims related to the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>In recent days, states including North Dakota, Maine and Pennsylvania have said they detected cases or attempts of unemployment fraud, largely tied to identity theft.</p> <p>A surge of unemployment claims, which total more than 40 million since mid-March, is one reason that states are more vulnerable to fraud during the pandemic. Another, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Office of Inspector General, is the way some states have been implementing a new federal program to process unemployment claims from independent contractors and self-employed people.</p> <p>Scott Dahl, the inspector general for the U.S. Labor Department, said at least \$26 billion in unemployment insurance payments could be wasted during the pandemic.</p> <p>"A large portion of that will be pocketed by fraudsters instead of going to legitimate workers," Mr. Dahl said Monday at a briefing with the House Subcommittee on Government Operations.</p> <p>Unemployment fraud can take many forms, including identity theft or a claims recipient "knowingly submitting false information" or "knowingly continuing to collect benefits when ineligible," according to the Labor Department. Many states rely on outdated technology systems and vulnerable web portals that make them more susceptible to fraudulent claims, according to security experts.</p> <p>In one case that officials are investigating, more than three dozen health-care workers' identities were allegedly stolen, Mr. Dahl said. He said fraudsters allegedly used the stolen identities to file illegitimate unemployment claims in multiple states.</p> |

The U.S. Secret Service issued a memo last month saying a Nigerian fraud ring was targeting state unemployment systems. The Secret Service highlighted Washington as the hardest-hit state but said there was evidence attacks had occurred in North Carolina, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Florida.

“It is extremely likely every state is vulnerable to this scheme and will be targeted if they have not been already,” the Secret Service memo said. The tactics described resembled attempts to file fraudulent income-tax returns, a problem the Internal Revenue Service and states have faced for years.

The Secret Service said hundreds, if not thousands, of “mules,” or intermediaries that help launder stolen money out of the country, appeared to be supporting the fraud scheme, in some cases unknowingly. Local and national banks, as well as credit unions, have been targets.

The Labor Department estimated that in 2019 about 10% of unemployment payments were “improper,” or ones that shouldn’t have been made, and 3% were fraudulent.

Mr. Dahl said the share of improper payments could be potentially much higher during the coronavirus crisis given the amount of federal money flowing into the unemployment system in response to the economic downturn. The U.S. Treasury sent out more than \$48 billion in unemployment payments in April, greater than three times the amount paid at the monthly peak of the 2007-09 recession, according to a Brookings Institution analysis.

Vance Lucas, an Oklahoma City resident, said he received a prepaid debit card for unemployment benefits in the mail in mid-May, even though he was still fully employed and had never filed a claim.

The computer programmer quickly sent an email to the Oklahoma labor department to report the fraudulent claim. Mr. Lucas also reported the case to the police and froze his credit.

“I was definitely very concerned,” he said. “I wanted to take really quick action since I’m in the middle of buying a house.”

Elliot Lewis, assistant inspector general at the Labor Department, said in a memo that some states weren’t requiring workers who applied for unemployment aid under the new program for independent contractors to provide evidence of their wages, such as a pay stub.

Without this wage requirement, which is typical of another emergency unemployment program, the new program for independent contractors “presents substantial risks of the likelihood of loss of millions of taxpayer dollars,” Mr. Lewis said in the memo to the assistant secretary of the Employment and Training Administration, the federal agency that oversees unemployment insurance.

Maine’s new federal program for contractors has exposed it to unemployment fraud. Maine officials warned that scammers were exploiting its new program to file fraudulent unemployment claims by using some residents’ personal information.

In Pennsylvania, state officials detected attempted unemployment scams tied to its program for independent contractors and self-employed people.

State labor departments have been setting up fraud task forces in conjunction with state attorneys and the federal government to address the increase in fraud.

Oklahoma is one such state. It detected and prevented the payment of 100,000 fraudulent claims in the amount of \$35 million during the pandemic, said David Ostrowe, an Oklahoma state official involved in the investigation.

Mr. Ostrowe said the state detected identity fraud, in which fraudsters used bots to penetrate the state’s unemployment application site and be approved for a bank card. The fraudsters would then siphon the

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| | <p>funds outside of Oklahoma. To stem the flow of such fraud, Oklahoma put in a standard antibody measure that requires applicants to verify that they aren't a robot.</p> <p>Another type of unemployment fraud is related to Oklahoma's suspension of employer notification of unemployment claims to speed up the delivery of payments during the pandemic. Eliminating that step likely means the state is paying people who aren't eligible for benefits, Mr. Ostrowe said.</p> <p>Lyn Adams, executive director of Oklahoma Children's Theatre, has been reporting fraudulent claims to Oklahoma's fraud department through a state-supplied email address.</p> <p>Though the theater she operates had to shut down because of the coronavirus, none of her nine full-time employees had been laid off, which raised red flags when she began receiving letters under names of unemployment applicants she didn't recognize.</p> <p>Within a span of about three weeks, Ms. Adams said she received about 30 fraudulent claims. "When this kind of deception rears its ugly head, just really disgusting to me," Ms. Adams said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Russia: Snowden residency extended |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/3/russia-let-fugitive-nsa-leaker-edward-snowden-stay/ |
| GIST | <p>The Russian government has extended the residence permit of renegade National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.</p> <p>The official TASS news agency, quoting a law enforcement source, said the residency permit was automatically extended until June 15 after it expired on April 30.</p> <p>Mr. Snowden is wanted in the United States for his role in taking some 1.7 million NSA documents and giving them to news organizations and anti-secrecy groups. The former NSA contractor fled to Moscow from Hong Kong in 2013.</p> <p>He was charged in 2013 with two counts of espionage and theft of government property.</p> <p>The TASS report said Mr. Snowden submitted all required paperwork for the residency extension in mid-March and later that month the Russian Interior Ministry automatically extended all residency permits because of the efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>"Later, a decision will be made about whether it should be extended by three more years upon Snowden's request and in line with the current legislation," the report quoted the source as saying.</p> <p>Moscow approved a three-year residency permit in August 2014 and extended another three years in 2017. Mr. Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, said his client has been staying indoors to observe self-isolation during the pandemic.</p> <p>Mr. Snowden has been hailed a hero by some and a traitor by others for his leaks, which exposed and compromised many top-secret NSA operations, including some surveillance activities.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Beijing: China leader new world order |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/3/coronavirus-will-make-china-leader-new-world-order/ |

China's propaganda machine is telling the Arab world that the coronavirus pandemic will propel the communist regime to a "leading role in the new world order," supplanting the United States.

The prediction from broadcaster Li Gang on China's Global Television Network (CGTN) Arabic TV presents a new twist in the communist regime's daily social and TV media battle with the Trump administration.

Beijing, after admitting in January 2017 that the virus sprouted in and spread from the city of Wuhan, has told a different story to the world. In previous propaganda, narrators have blamed the U.S. military for planting the virus in Wuhan and said the U.S. maintains a network of secret bio-labs around the world from which the germ was released. There is no evidence for either claim.

The Trump administration, predominantly Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and trade adviser Peter Navarro, repeatedly has accused China of covering up how the virus spread. They say the regime deliberately let Chinese travelers carry the virus outside China to the U.S. and Europe, while locking down movement at home.

"What that did over a six-week period is allow hundreds of thousands of Wuhanians basically to get on aircraft and seed the world," Mr. Navarro said on Fox News' "Hannity" last month.

"While they were doing that — and this is just disgusting — what they did was they vacuumed up all of the world's masks, gloves, goggles, personal protective equipment, 2 billion masks," he added. "That's why in Milan, New York and other places, our people didn't have them."

At one point in mid-January, China told the world the coronavirus was not contagious for humans — a claim the Trump administration says was a knowing lie.

Mr. Li said on the May 30 CGTN broadcast that the Trump aides are lying, according to a translation by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

"I believe that the Trump administration launched this campaign against China for several reasons," Mr. Li said. "First of all, the corona crisis has exposed America's failure in fighting the virus, even though the American health system is the strongest in the world. The Trump administration has faced accusations due to this failure."

Mr. Li said China is preparing for "post-coronavirus conflict."

"Because China has proven its ability to control the coronavirus, this campaign should be considered as an American preemptive strike against China, in preparation for the post-coronavirus conflict. The balance of power in the world is expected to change when the coronavirus crisis is over," Mr. Li said. "A lot has been said about the progress of China, which will take a leading role in the new world order at the expense of America's power and position."

He accused Mr. Trump of trying to cover "his failure and incompetence and to evade his own responsibility."

That line is similar to what Democrats say in Washington. They generally refrain from criticizing China and call the Trump administration's anti-Beijing comments a diversion.

China is trying make inroads in the Middle East, particularly the oil-rich Persian Gulf region, as it also forms closer ties with Iran, whom the U.S. calls the world's greatest state sponsor of terrorism.

Arab Gulf states view Iran as a threat to its energy sector and shipping lanes.

Part of China's sales pitch is that it, not America, will be the new dominant player in the world.

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| | In 2018, the Trump administration essentially branded the China Global Television Network as propaganda, forcing it to register as a foreign agent with the U.S. Justice Department. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 US suspends Chinese airline flights |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/3/trump-administration-suspend-chinese-passenger-fli/ |
| GIST | <p>The Trump administration said Wednesday it will suspend operations of all Chinese passenger airlines traveling to the U.S., citing similar restrictions imposed by Beijing in the midst of a tit-for-tat diplomatic war that has escalated sharply in recent days.</p> <p>The world's two biggest economies are clashing on multiple fronts, from ongoing trade disputes and the handling of the coronavirus pandemic to China's looming crackdown on pro-democracy forces in Hong Kong.</p> <p>The order — which applies to Air China, China Eastern Airlines Corp., China Southern Airlines Co., Hainan Airlines Holding Co., Sichuan Airlines Co. and Xiamen Airlines Co. Chinese — punishes Beijing for what U.S. officials said were violations of a pact that allowed frequent nonstop flights between the U.S. and China as bilateral trade grew.</p> <p>The U.S. Transportation Department said Wednesday that China had violated the Air Transportation Agreement, and that Beijing has “impaired the operating rights of U.S. carriers and denied U.S. air carriers the fair and equal opportunity to exercise their operating rights.”</p> <p>Until China relents, “we will allow Chinese carriers to operate the same number of scheduled passenger flights as the Chinese government allows ours.”</p> <p>Delta Airlines said in a statement that the carrier “supports and appreciates the U.S. government’s actions to enforce our rights and ensure fairness.”</p> <p>United Airlines spokesman Frank Benenati said in a statement, “We look forward to resuming passenger service between the United States and China when the regulatory environment allows us to do so.”</p> <p>China’s Civil Aviation Agency in March said it was imposing one flight-per-week limits on foreign airlines in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Both airlines last month said they had hoped to resume more regular flights to China in June and have been encouraging Chinese officials to allow the carriers to restart service.</p> <p>Before the coronavirus outbreak, over 300 flights were conducted between the U.S. and China. The bulk of airlines limited or suspended service amid the pandemic, but Chinese airlines continued to operate about 20 flights per week across the Pacific in February and more than 30 in March.</p> <p>The two U.S. airlines are aiming to resume service to China in October, but it remains unclear how long the orders will remain in place.</p> <p>Experts have cautioned that the move could exacerbate an already tense relationship between the world’s two largest economies.</p> <p>The State Department outraged Chinese leaders last week by declaring that Hong Kong no longer has the legal and economic freedom that the Chinese government promised under its treaty with Britain that gave the former colony back to Beijing in 1997, setting the stage for possible new economic sanctions.</p> |

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| | <p>Chinese media accused Mr. Trump of hypocrisy with his sanctions over Hong Kong's protests, citing the turmoil that has engulfed a number of U.S. cities in the wake of the killing of a black man in police custody in Minneapolis last month.</p> <p>The department said President Trump could put the order into effect within two weeks, but some private analysts say the White House has yet to show it will impose serious real-world sanctions on Beijing or Hong Kong.</p> <p>Mr. Trump "said that his administration would "begin the process" of eliminating various forms of "special treatment" in its relations with the United States," Mr. Lardy wrote in a new analysis released Wednesday.</p> <p>"But because exports to the United States of goods produced in Hong Kong account for only one-tenth of 1% of Hong Kong's output, even if higher tariffs cut this flow entirely, the effect on the Hong Kong economy would be imperceptible."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 NKorea lashes out at US; 'setting sun' |
| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/asia/north-korea-united-states-china.html?action=click&module=Latest&pgtype=Homepage |
| GIST | <p>SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea lashed out at both Seoul and Washington on Thursday, threatening to scrap key parts of agreements with South Korea and comparing the United States to a setting sun being eclipsed by China.</p> <p>The attack on the United States comes as President Trump is in an increasingly bitter standoff with China, blaming it for the spread of the coronavirus and threatening action over its weakening of Hong Kong's autonomy. And it follows Mr. Trump's sputtering efforts to court the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, and get North Korea to give up its nuclear arms.</p> <p>In a statement carried by state media, North Korea also highlighted the unrest that has been consuming the United States over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.</p> <p>"Demonstrators enraged by the extreme racists throng even to the White House," said the statement published by Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's main state-run newspaper. "This is the reality in the U.S. today. American liberalism and democracy put the cap of leftist on the demonstrators and threaten to unleash even dogs for suppression."</p> <p>The statement, from an arm of the North's ruling Workers' Party, excoriated Mike Pompeo, the American secretary of state, for criticizing the Communist Party of China during a televised interview on Sunday. In the interview, Mr. Pompeo accused the Chinese party of being "intent upon the destruction of Western ideas, Western democracies, Western values."</p> <p>Mr. Pompeo also said that the United States could work with its allies around the world, including South Korea, to "ensure that the next century remains a Western one modeled on the freedoms that we have here in the United States."</p> <p>The statement carried by Rodong Sinmun said Mr. Pompeo's remarks showed that "he is nervous over the plight of the U.S. on the downhill side" in relation to an ascendant China.</p> <p>"Pompeo, who has been deeply engrossed in espionage and plot-breeding against other countries, has become too ignorant to discern where the sun rises and where it sets," the statement read.</p> <p>North Korea also fumed over another development: the recent release of anti-North Korean leaflets by defectors from the North, who used balloons to send them across the inter-Korean border. North Korea has</p> |

[long bristled](#) at this [propaganda tactic](#), as well as [radio broadcasts](#) from defectors in the South that depict Mr. Kim as a cretinous dictator toying with nuclear weapons.

In another statement carried Thursday by Rodong Sinmun, Kim Yo-jong, Mr. Kim's sister and his de facto spokeswoman, assailed the propaganda campaign. "What matters is that those human scum hardly worth their value as human beings had the temerity of faulting our supreme leadership and citing 'nuclear issue,'" Ms. Kim said.

If South Korea does not stop the leaflets, Ms. Kim said, North Korea could scrap an agreement between Mr. Kim and South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in, to operate [a joint liaison office](#) and cease all hostile military acts along the border.

Mr. Kim and Mr. Moon [agreed](#) to ease tensions and improve relations during two summit meetings in 2018. Setting up the liaison office and [ending cross-border propaganda](#) were part of those agreements. But anti-North activists in the South, mainly defectors, have resumed their leaflet campaign in recent months.

Inter-Korean relations have chilled rapidly since Mr. Kim's second summit meeting with President Trump, held in Vietnam in February of last year, [ended without an agreement](#) on how to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program or when to ease United Nations sanctions imposed on the country. North Korea's economic isolation has deepened since the global coronavirus outbreak.

Reacting to Kim Yo-jong's statement, Yoh Sang-key, a spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry, criticized the defectors for raising tensions by releasing the leaflets. He also said that most of the leaflets had ended up south of the border, creating a trash problem.

Mr. Yoh indicated that South Korea was working on legislation to curtail the leaflet campaign.

[Park Sang-hak](#), head of Fighters for Free North Korea, a defectors' organization that has sent leaflets across the border, said the group would continue to do so.

"We are no longer slaves of North Korea, we are citizens of a free South Korea with an obligation to speak the truth," Mr. Park said. He called the Unification Ministry a "spokesman for North Korea."

Ms. Kim's statement about the propaganda reflects "Pyongyang's desire to drive a wedge between the South Korean government and civil society," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Another black man dies: 'I can't breathe' |
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| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/us/manuel-ellis-tacoma-police-homicide.html |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE — A black man who called out "I can't breathe" before dying in police custody in Tacoma, Wash., was killed as a result of oxygen deprivation and the physical restraint that was used on him, according to details of a medical examiner's report released on Wednesday.</p> <p>The Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office concluded that the death of the man, Manuel Ellis, 33, was a homicide. Investigators with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department were in the process of preparing a report about the March death, which occurred shortly after an arrest by officers from the Tacoma Police Department, said the sheriff's spokesman, Ed Troyer.</p> <p>"The information is all being put together," Detective Troyer said. "We expect to present it to the prosecutor at the end of this week or early next week."</p> <p>Mr. Ellis died from respiratory arrest, hypoxia and physical restraint, according to the medical examiner's office. The report listed methamphetamine intoxication and heart disease as contributing factors.</p> |

Police officers encountered Mr. Ellis, a musician and father of two from Tacoma, on the night of March 3 as they were stopped at an intersection. They saw him banging on the window of another vehicle, Detective Troyer said.

Mr. Ellis approached the officers, Detective Troyer said, and then threw an officer to the ground when the officer got out of the vehicle. The two officers and two backup officers who joined — two of them white, one black and one Asian — handcuffed him.

“Mr. Ellis was physically restrained as he continued to be combative,” the Tacoma Police Department said in a statement on Wednesday.

Detective Troyer said he did not know all the details of the restraint the officers used — they were not wearing body cameras — but said he did not believe they used a chokehold or a knee on Mr. Ellis’s neck. They rolled him on his side after he called out, “I can’t breathe.”

“The main reason why he was restrained was so he wouldn’t hurt himself or them,” Detective Troyer said. “As soon as he said he couldn’t breathe, they requested medical aid.”

Detective Troyer said the call for aid came four minutes after the officers encountered Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Ellis was still breathing when medical personnel arrived, Detective Troyer said. He was removed from handcuffs while personnel worked on him for about 40 minutes, Detective Troyer said. He was then pronounced dead.

Family members said Mr. Ellis was the father of an 11-year-old son and 18-month-old daughter. He was a talented musician at his church. The family said it was heartbroken and angry by his death.

“While we are in immense pain, we rest our hope in the community of committed freedom fighters that we are now joining,” the family said. They were holding a vigil for Mr. Ellis on Wednesday night.

Brian Giordano, a close friend of Mr. Ellis, said that the two usually spoke several times a day and that Mr. Ellis had videochatted with him two hours before his death. He had been excited about a church service he had attended and proud of how he had played drums during the service, Mr. Giordano recalled.

He said it would be uncharacteristic of Mr. Ellis to act in the violent way described by the police.

He was living in a clean-and-sober house and was getting his life back together, he said. “He was always uplifting,” Mr. Giordano said. “He was always on the up-and-up about taking care of people.”

The death comes as protests have spread around the nation over the case of George Floyd, a black man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police last week. Minnesota officials have charged all four officers in that case, including Derek Chauvin, who kept his knee on Mr. Floyd’s neck for nearly nine minutes during the arrest.

Forensics experts who conducted a private autopsy for Mr. Floyd’s family concluded that another officer’s knees on Mr. Floyd’s back contributed to making it impossible for his lungs to take in sufficient air.

Mayor Victoria Woodards of Tacoma said on Wednesday that she would take appropriate steps based on the findings of the sheriff’s investigation.

“We will learn the results of that investigation even as our country reels from the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and too many others,” Ms. Woodards said.

Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington said the issue was a top priority for him.

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| | “We will be pushing to make sure there is a full and complete investigation of that incident,” Mr. Inslee said. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Claim: Antifa planned insurgency in Nov. |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/3/antifa-planned-anti-government-insurgency-george-f/ |
| GIST | <p>Activists of the far-left Antifa movement began planning to foment a nationwide anti-government insurgency as early as November as the U.S. presidential campaign season kicked off in earnest, according to a law enforcement official with access to intelligence behind the shadowy group.</p> <p>The radical movement has emerged as a key focus for investigators in the wake of violent protests and looting across the country after the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis, according to U.S. law enforcement officials and private security experts.</p> <p>The law enforcement official would not speak on the record about Antifa’s plans as the election season heats up, but longtime analysts of the group say such a move would be entirely in character.</p> <p>“Antifa’s actions represent a hard break with the long tradition of a peaceful political process in the United States,” said former National Security Council staff member Rich Higgins. “Their Marxist ideology seeks not only to influence elections in the short term but to destroy the use of elections as the determining factor in political legitimacy.”</p> <p>Added Joe Myers, a former Defense Intelligence Agency official and counterinsurgency expert, “President Trump’s election and revitalization of America are a threat to Antifa’s nihilist goals. They are fomenting this violence to create havoc, despair and to target the Trump campaign for defeat in 2020.”</p> <p>More generally, senior Trump administration officials and private analysts are warning that the radicals have rushed to exploit recent anti-police protests to set into motion a program of widespread civil unrest, a program that involves using the protests for looting and burning inner cities with the help of criminals and street gangs.</p> <p>Far from a centrally organized movement, Antifa is a shadowy “anti-fascist” political front of loosely organized, quasi-underground activists known for wearing black-clad outfits and masks who see destructive street violence as a political tool.</p> <p>In recent days, the group interspersed its operatives among protests set off by the police killing of a handcuffed Mr. Floyd.</p> <p>Mr. Trump has singled out Antifa for the violent protests. The president said Monday that “in recent days, our nation has been gripped by professional anarchists, violent mobs, arsonists, looters, criminals, rioters, Antifa and others.”</p> <p>White House National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien said U.S. officials are pressing for more intelligence on the group’s activities in light of the events of recent days.</p> <p>“The president and the attorney general want to know from [FBI] Director [Christopher] Wray what the FBI has been doing to track and dismantle and surveil and prosecute Antifa,” Mr. O’Brien said. “And if that hasn’t been happening, we want to know what the plan is going forward.”</p> <p>Mr. Myers argued that Antifa clearly meets the criteria for being labeled a terrorist and insurgent movement.</p> <p>“It is employing organized violence for political ends: destruction of the constitutional order,” he said.</p> |

‘Direct action’

What makes the shadowy group unique is its willingness to use of violence, what Antifa organizers and sympathizers call “direct” action in support of the anarchist and Marxist-Leninist agenda. That often involves setting fires, looting, throwing bricks and bottles at police, and in one case the apparent use of a milkshake laced with quick-dry cement in attacking an opponent in the face.

Antifa initially was focused in West Coast cities such as Portland, Oregon, and Berkeley, California. Antifa supporters later took part in demonstrations during the inauguration of Mr. Trump in January 2017.

However, security officials said the coordinated, national-level riots inspired by Antifa in recent days are unprecedented.

In New York, a senior police official provided the first details of how radical anarchists like those with Antifa came from outside the city and intentionally incited protesters to violence.

John Miller, deputy police commissioner for intelligence and counterterrorism, told NBC New York that the radicals’ operations included organized scouts, medical teams and an arsenal of rocks, bottles and accelerants.

The material was used by hard-core activists interspersed among the protesters who would break away from larger demonstrations to commit acts of violence and vandalism.

Mr. Miller, who did not mention Antifa by name, said he has high confidence in intelligence assessment of the activities. They included strong indicators that the violent protesters had made preparations. Antifa also used encrypted communications as part of the planning.

“Before the protests began, organizers of certain anarchist groups set out to raise bail money, and people who would be responsible to be raising bail money, they set out to recruit medics and medical teams with gear to deploy in anticipation of violent interactions with police,” Mr. Miller said.

“They prepared to commit property damage and directed people who were following them that this should be done selectively and only in wealthier areas or at high-end stores run by corporate entities,” he added.

A New York City police spokeswoman confirmed Mr. Miller’s information and said the operations of the rioters included a complex network of scouts on bicycles who would move ahead of demonstrators and identify locations with minimal police presence. At those locations, extremists were able to easily vandalize or burn vehicles using Molotov cocktails.

Antifa’s leftist agenda calls for supporting so-called social justice movements. Among the liberal-left causes espoused by the group are issues of racism and police misconduct, support for Muslim minorities and backing the transgender rights movement.

Attorney General William Barr said peaceful and legitimate protests against Mr. Floyd’s death were “hijacked by violent radical elements.” He singled out Antifa for special criticism.

“Groups of outside radicals and agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate, violent and extremist agenda,” Mr. Barr said on Sunday.

FBI counterterrorism officials have been monitoring Antifa and similar violent groups for years. In a bid to obscure its actions, Antifa has begun using cover names such as Black Lives Matter, Smash Racism, Abolish ICE and others.

Communist roots

The name Antifa is derived from the Moscow-based Communist International that in 1933 directed the Soviet-led Communist Party USA to form the American League Against War and Fascism. That group was patterned after Germany's Antifascist Action — or Antifa — formed in 1932.

CPUSA leader Manning Johnson testified to Congress in 1953 that the goal of the front group was never the abolishment of fascism, but rather "the subversion and subsequent overthrow of the United States."

The National Security Council's Mr. O'Brien described Antifa foot soldiers as "militant radicals who come into our cities and cross state lines."

"They're organized and use Molotov cocktails and fireworks and gas to burn down our cities, especially businesses in minority neighborhoods. It's got to be stopped," he said.

Mr. Higgins, the former NSC staffer, sees Antifa as a significant tool of leftist and communist political warfare.

"Antifa's goal is nothing less than fomenting revolution, civil war and silencing America's anti-communists," said Mr. Higgins, a former Pentagon irregular warfare expert. "Their labeling of Trump supporters and patriots as Nazis and racists is standard fare for left-wing communist groups."

The ideology of Antifa is at its center Marxism-Leninism, he said.

"Antifa is currently functioning as the command and control of the riots, which are themselves the overt utilization of targeted violence against targets such as stores — capitalism; monuments — history; and churches — God," he said.

Until the riots, the FBI paid little attention to left-wing radical groups and other subversive organizations because of the overwhelming focus of people and investigative resources on the Islamic State and al Qaeda terrorist groups. Social media sites such as Facebook also say they have taken down some provocative posts by right-wing groups posing as Antifa members.

Additionally, the bureau has put a much heavier emphasis on investigating right-wing extremists even though these groups are smaller than those like Antifa, Mr. Higgins said.

Skepticism

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, South Carolina Republican, said he is skeptical about the prominence of Antifa's role in the recent unrest despite the administration's concerns.

"We will try to find out how organized this violence is," Mr. Graham said. "But I am old enough to remember 1968, and Antifa was not around in 1968, that I know of."

Antifa also gets support from some academics. Walter F. Heinecke, a University of Virginia associate professor of education, helped secure permits for counterprotests that included Antifa and other groups in 2017 against the Unite the Right political rally for white nationalists, although Mr. Heinecke asserted that he did not knowingly back the anarchist group's participation.

Asked whether he supports the movement, Mr. Heinecke said, "I am against fascism, so if Antifa means against fascism, then generally, yes."

Mr. Heinecke emphasized that he is "not technically a member of an Antifa organizing group, and I don't speak for any Antifa organization."

"I like to think all Americans are against fascism, and if so they are anti-fascists," he said.

Mr. Heinecke said Mr. Trump and Mr. Barr have made no mention of white nationalists taking action against a black church.

“We don’t hear the equivalent cries from Trump and Barr about extreme right-wing agitators attempting to turn this into a race war,” he said.

“They are opportunistically looking for the Antifa as boogeyman to deflect the real issue: There is an insurrection going on in this country against the racist culture and structure.”

Harvard Divinity School Professor Cornel R. West has praised Antifa for protecting him and other protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

Antifa and its supporters call its operating methods direct action.

Mark Bray, author of “Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook,” argues that “militant anti-fascism” is a reasonable response to what he sees as the rise of right-wing politics.

“It is an unabashedly partisan call to arms that aims to equip a new generation of anti-fascists with the history and theory necessary to defeat the resurgent Far Right,” Mr. Bray said.

Andy Ngo, a journalist who was beaten by Antifa activists last year, has closely monitored the activities of the group. He recently wrote that the riots around the country are “glimmers of the full insurrection the far left has been working toward for decades.”

Mobilization and disinformation

The death of Mr. Floyd in Minneapolis was a pretext for launching the Antifa insurgency, he said. “In a matter of hours after the video of Floyd began circulating the internet, militant Antifa cells across the country mobilized to Minnesota to aid Black Lives Matter rioters,” he said.

Mr. Ngo said Antifa supporters have spread disinformation that it is white supremacists and nationalists who are to blame for the rioting. So far, no evidence has emerged linking right-wing extremists to the violence.

Antifa has been operating relatively unimpeded by law enforcement in recent years despite its use of violence, and many analysts credit the movement’s support and sympathy from the liberal left of American political and media establishment.

“One reason is that so many Democrat leaders have children and family members who are active participants in the Marxist movement, with many of them being members of Antifa, insofar as one can be a member,” said Mr. Higgins, the former NSC official.

Jeremiah Ellison, son of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, tweeted his support for Antifa on Sunday. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio had his daughter arrested in New York with protesters, and Sen. Tim Kaine’s son Woody also was affiliated with Antifa, Mr. Higgins said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat, condemned Antifa after its activists sparked riots in Berkeley several years ago.

But in a now-deleted 2018 tweet, Mr. Ellison, then-deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee, posted a photograph of an Antifa handbook with the statement that the manual should “strike fear in the heart of @realDonaldTrump.”

Asked about the tweet Sunday, Mr. Ellison told reporters that the tweet about Antifa was meaningless.

“It means nothing. Look, I was at a bookstore, and I saw a book,” said Mr. Ellison. “It means nothing.”

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| | <p>The FBI, which is in charge of countering domestic security threats posed by foreign intelligence services or domestic terrorists, has largely avoided focusing on Antifa. A search of the FBI website produces no results for Antifa.</p> <p>The FBI investigated three Antifa activists suspected of beating a Unite the Right protester in Charlottesville three years ago, but no charges were brought.</p> <p>Kenneth deGraffenreid, who was deputy national counterintelligence executive during the George W. Bush administration, said the FBI has not been engaged in effective domestic counterintelligence for years.</p> <p>“The FBI has not had a meaningful domestic counterintelligence capability for many years,” Mr. deGraffenreid said. “They’ve been distracted or politically corrupted.”</p> <p>An FBI spokeswoman declined to comment.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Reopenings, protests reignite pandemic? |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/3/george-floyd-protests-reopenings-threaten-reignite/ |
| GIST | <p>The COVID-19 pandemic is entering a complicated, hold-your-breath stage as states work to stamp out flare-ups and hope their hospitals can handle an anticipated rise in cases as their economies reopen and Americans socialize again.</p> <p>The New York City region that endured the worst of the pandemic is doing far better, though parts of California and Texas are reporting increases in cases. Hospitals in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area are filling with COVID-19 patients and are concerned about a spike in cases after protests over the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>Many of the protesters are young and less vulnerable to COVID-19, though marchers could catch the coronavirus while gathering and further spread it in minority communities that are already reeling from the pandemic, scientists say.</p> <p>Newly confirmed cases are rising in more than a dozen states, sometimes because of increases in testing, and clusters of hot spots are erupting in rural areas with prison and meat-processing plants that are vulnerable to outbreaks.</p> <p>The U.S. is approaching 2 million confirmed infections and faces a complex struggle to hold down transmissions that increased with frightening speed earlier this year.</p> <p>“If I were to describe the pandemic in the United States overall now, it would be that there are low embers burning within the metropolitan areas and there are little sparking fires heading off all over the heartland,” said William Hanage, an associate professor of epidemiology at Harvard University. “Numbers are hovering around steady, but we have to remember that is reflecting a decrease in the Northeast and a slow increase which is replacing that elsewhere.”</p> <p>Experts said they should be able to tell by the latter half of June whether efforts to reopen and mingle once again have resulted in a spate of new infections.</p> <p>“The metric that is most firm, even though it is delayed, is hospitalizations of people with lab-confirmed COVID-19,” said William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University. “If that starts to tick up, then we start to frown because it means there is, indeed, more transmission out there.”</p> |

About 40,000 COVID-19 patients were in U.S. hospitals at the start of June, up from 34,000 in mid-May.

Many states, especially in the Northeast, are reporting fewer hospitalizations, and more than a dozen have relatively steady numbers. A handful are showing upticks, however.

Hospitalizations in Arizona surpassed 1,000 for the first time Monday, sparking debate about actions after lifting the state's stay-at-home order in mid-May.

"A state like Arizona is concerning. The scope of the rise and the velocity is concerning," former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told CNBC. "It's going to be very hard, though, for a lot of these governors to go backward and start implementing mitigation again.

"They're probably going to tolerate a higher level of infection than we were willing to on the first go-round, and that just sets up more risk," he said.

Flare-ups in some states, he said, could "reseed" parts of the country with the coronavirus.

Hospitals in Montgomery, Alabama, and in Minnesota also have been taxed recently with COVID-19 patients.

"We are getting closer and closer to being overly full," Caitlin Eccles-Radtke, an infectious disease physician at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, told MedPage Today.

The national conversation has pivoted to protests after the death of Mr. Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Still, the coronavirus that dominated global headlines since the start of the year remains a challenge, infecting 1.8 million people and counting in the U.S. and killing more than 107,000.

States are trying to make sure high-risk populations are tested. That includes prison inmates, meat processing workers and nursing home residents. The Trump administration recently announced data linking 26,000 deaths to nursing homes across the country.

The pandemic also continues to have an outsized effect on minority populations.

Federal data shows black Americans, who make up 13% of the population, account for 23% of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. and account for more than half of infections in multiple Southern states.

Experts say the racial disparities are results of underlying health issues in minority populations, and frustrations with the U.S. response to COVID-19 are further fueling protests over racial injustice.

Some parts of the country are reporting good news.

New York, the hardest-hit state, reported fewer than 1,000 new cases on June 1, compared with about 4,000 on May 1 and 8,000 on April 1. Although the numbers in New York are still much higher than other parts of the country, the trend line is positive.

"The tri-state region actually looks very good right now," Dr. Gottlieb told CNBC.

New York officials said buses and subway lines will have social-distancing decals and hand sanitizers in stations when the city begins to lift restrictions next week.

In Pennsylvania, a large number of counties will move Friday to the "green phase," which eases many restrictions and lets businesses move from 50% capacity under the yellow stage to 75%. Areas of southeastern Pennsylvania and Philadelphia will enter the yellow phase, in which some business may open but teleworking is mandated "where feasible."

“We continue to see around 500-700 cases a day, and these are among different populations, but long-term care facilities remain a concern that we are continuing to assist,” Pennsylvania Health Department spokesman Nate Wardle said.

Scientists are worried that the coronavirus will strike in a “second wave” this fall after a potential lull in transmission because of hot and humid weather, yet it is starting to wreak havoc in Latin America as countries in the Southern Hemisphere enter winter.

Disease trackers are looking backward to try to get a better sense of overall exposure to the coronavirus since the start of the outbreak. They are producing statistical averages based on serological testing that checks for antibodies.

Exposure ranges widely, from an estimated 2% of the population in Boise, Idaho, to roughly 20% in New York City, based on figures compiled by the American Enterprise Institute.

Elsewhere, antibody testing suggests roughly 17% of London’s population has been exposed, compared with 10% in Paris and Wuhan, China, about 6% in Miami and nearly 5% in Los Angeles.

The virus was discovered in Wuhan in December and spread around the globe in the early months of this year, upending American life as President Trump urged people to work and learn at home and avoid large gatherings.

Governors issued a patchwork of state-at-home orders that closed most businesses while allowing food and other essential services to continue.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said emergency department visits plummeted by 42% in the early pandemic period from late March to late April compared with similar dates in 2019 as people hunkered at home. The biggest declines were among children younger than 14, females and residents of the Northeast region, the CDC report said, suggesting the illness scared people away from seeking care.

“The striking decline in ED visits nationwide, with the highest declines in regions where the pandemic was most severe in April 2020, suggests that the pandemic has altered the use of the ED by the public,” the agency said.

The CDC said hospitals should maintain clear triage procedures to keep COVID-19 patients separate from other emergency room patients. Health care providers also should set up telephone lines to help people swiftly understand whether they need to report to the emergency room for injuries or other conditions, the agency said.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 NYPD tough approach peaceful protesters |
| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/nyregion/nyc-protests-george-floyd.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage#link-5a1820dc |
| GIST | <p>Many protesters defied the curfew, and the police made dozens of arrests.</p> <p>As a citywide curfew fell on New York Wednesday for a third night, large numbers of protesters flouted the requirement that they clear the streets by 8 p.m.</p> <p>Defiance of the curfew had increased since Tuesday, when several large groups continued to demonstrate long past the deadline.</p> <p>The crowds in Brooklyn and Manhattan who were demonstrating against police brutality and systemic racism on Wednesday were bigger. And the police were quicker to enforce the clampdown than they had been before, moving swiftly to disperse demonstrators from rainy city streets and to arrest those who failed to clear out.</p> |

In Downtown Brooklyn, officers hemmed in demonstrators on Cadman Plaza, then charged at them with seemingly little provocation, according to New York Times reporters at the scene.

In Manhattan's East Midtown area, officers shoved protesters onto sidewalks and arrested those who would not disperse.

Terence A. Monahan, the Police Department's chief of department, explained the tough approach while speaking to reporters in Midtown.

"When we have these big crowds, especially in this area, especially where we've had the looting, no more tolerance," he said. "They have to be off the street. An 8 o'clock curfew — we gave them to 9 o'clock. And there was no indication that they were going to leave these streets."

Mayor Bill de Blasio, in a radio interview on WBLS just after 8:30 p.m. as the police were beginning to make dozens of arrests, said the curfew appeared to be having "a calming impact" and was "allowing things to get back to a better place."

"There is protest out there," he said, "but it is consistently peaceful."

Later on Wednesday, after the police had made most of the arrests across the city, Mr. de Blasio called into MSNBC for an interview, but he was not asked about the police department's enforcement of curfew and he did not discuss it.

A police spokesman said that officers had made an unspecified number of arrests after the curfew began but declined to provide further details.

The police's approach appeared to be even more robust than the one they employed on Tuesday, when they managed to tamp down the kind of looting and vandalism that broke out in Manhattan and parts of the Bronx on Sunday and Monday.

As of 9:30 p.m., Chief Monahan said, no looting had been reported in the city.

Not all of the protesters were met with the same show of force. Two large groups marched in largely residential neighborhoods of Brooklyn until about 11 p.m. The police broke up the bigger group soon after that, making several arrests.

Riot police descend on a crowd in Brooklyn.

For more than two hours on Wednesday night, hundreds of protesters marched through Downtown Brooklyn peacefully, with cyclists helping to direct traffic and organizers calming anyone who tried to confront the police.

The group stopped at courthouses and chanted for justice, altering their path to avoid a direct confrontation with officers who could be seen in the distance blocking access to the Manhattan Bridge. It was 8:45 p.m., almost an hour past curfew, when the group marched to Cadman Plaza.

A single line of riot police confronted the crowd, which numbered in the hundreds, at Cadman and Tillary Street. The protesters stood peacefully, their hands up, chanting for justice.

Behind them, police cars swarmed in and hundreds of officers in riot gear poured onto the plaza. By the time organizers tried to turn the protesters around to leave, they were surrounded.

At around 9 p.m., officers holding shields and batons moved in from all sides. The protesters, tense but composed, held up their hands. "Don't shoot," they chanted

The standoff quickly devolved into chaos as officers began to pushing the crowd backward out of the plaza and into another line of police. Swinging their batons, they struck one woman on the knee. A young man's head bled profusely after he was hit. His hands shook as he reached for the back of his skull, and saw how bloody it was.

Two nurses and a medic tugged the injured people to the edges of the crowd, seeking shelter in a small groove of a concrete building as the police advanced. One woman began to lose consciousness, and her friends called desperately for an ambulance.

Then the police surged again.

The protesters screamed that people were bleeding and needed help, but the officers did not acknowledge them and began to swinging their batons again. They struck protesters and shoved them around, sending the young man with the bleeding head to the ground.

The police continued to push through the plaza, and scuffles broke out as protesters fell backward. A downpour started, and the protesters who were left cleared out in seconds.

Jumaane Williams, the city's public advocate, posted [a video](#) that showed the police moving protesters off the plaza forcefully, with some officers doing so with shoves and batons.

"I can't believe what I just witnessed & experienced," [he wrote on Twitter](#). "The force used on nonviolent protesters was disgusting. No looting/no fires. Chants of 'peaceful protest.'"

The police brought a peaceful march from Gracie Mansion to an abrupt halt.

A march that began after a peaceful vigil on Wednesday night near Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official residence on Manhattan's Upper East Side, ended two hours later with dozens of protesters corralled into a van after they refused to get off the streets.

Hundreds of people had gathered outside Carl Schurz Park at 7 p.m. for a rally that opened with nearly 30 minutes of silence.

A young man began the vigil with brief remarks and quoted the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; protesters remained quiet throughout as the authorities, barely visible, stayed at a distance.

"We are all just fed up," the man said, words the crowd repeated.

Seva Galant, 19, was among those who addressed the group, which had been forced away from the mansion by police officers who had surrounded the area with metal barricades.

"I don't want to die. Life is good. I want to live," Mr. Galant said. "Stop letting them kill us. I am not property — I am a man. Don't let them kill me."

Around 7:30 p.m., the silence was broken when the crowd erupted in cheers. Soon afterward, the crowd began to disperse, with hundreds of demonstrators making their way downtown, chanting protest slogans as the curfew fell.

As they moved south, pausing occasionally to take a knee, a number of police officers followed behind and a helicopter traced their path overhead.

By 9 p.m., the rally filled several blocks of Third Avenue near 50th Street. Protesters linked arms and then raised their hands over their heads, chanting "hands up, don't shoot" as officers wearing riot helmets and batons trailed them on the sidewalk.

The group paused again to take a knee. Then the police pushed into the crowd, shoving protesters out of the street and onto the sidewalk. With tension high and rain falling, many people raised their hands again

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| | and began to leave. Officers surrounded the remaining protesters, and about 60 people were arrested, Chief Monahan said. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Confirmed virus cases rising in 16 states |
| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/world/coronavirus-live.html#link-aa8fa01 |
| GIST | <p>Police brutality, protests and unrest may have knocked the pandemic from the lead of many U.S. newscasts, but the outbreak is continuing to spread. Even as some Northeast states are seeing improvements, daily case numbers are reaching new highs in others.</p> <p>That is partly a consequence of the country's vastly expanded testing capacity. Earlier in the pandemic, when test kits were scarce, many people who contracted the virus were not tested and not included in official counts.</p> <p>Here is a look around the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In California, daily case reports exceeded 3,000 twice in the past week, a threshold the state had not crossed before. In Northern California, six chief health officers said in a statement that they were "encouraged by what we are seeing in some areas and concerned about what we are seeing in others." As more businesses were allowed to reopen, they said, "each decision we make involves difficult trade-offs." • Arizona, Tennessee, Wisconsin, at least 12 other states and Puerto Rico are also seeing an upward trend of newly reported cases, and some are reaching new highs. • In Mississippi, the 439 cases announced Saturday were the most yet on a single day. In Alaska, which has so far avoided the worst of the virus, cases have soared to their highest levels in recent days. • The Trump administration said that it planned to block Chinese airlines from flying into or out of the United States starting on June 16, after the Chinese government effectively prevented U.S. airlines from resuming service between the countries. • In Dallas County, Texas, case numbers have continued to rise, and the 16 deaths announced on Tuesday were the most of any day so far. Clay Jenkins, Dallas County's chief elected official, said there was also no improvement in data on hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions. He called for residents to use caution even though restrictions had eased. • Chicago moved to its third phase of reopening, which eases restrictions on businesses combined with new precautions. Child care centers are reopening, but children are screened for signs of illness, and parents and teachers must wear face coverings. Restaurants will reopen with outdoor dining only. Riders will be encouraged to wear face masks while using public transportation. • In most of New York State outside of New York City and its suburbs, restaurants can offer outdoor dining starting Thursday. In New Jersey, outdoor dining can start on June 15. An additional 112 virus-related deaths were reported in New Jersey and 49 deaths in New York. • In Florida, the governor said most of the state could start a second reopening phase on Friday, allowing movie theaters, bars and concert halls at 50 percent capacity, and gyms at full capacity. Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, where the brunt of the state's cases have been, will remain in Phase 1. • As moviegoing has essentially ceased around the country, AMC Theaters, the largest theater operator in the world, said in a financial filing on Wednesday that "substantial doubt exists about our ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time" because of the disruption caused by the pandemic. |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Protesters hail new charges; not enough |
| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/us/live-george-floyd-protests-today.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage#link-d0b9e95 |

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| GIST | <p>Minnesota officials charged three more former police officers on Wednesday in the death of George Floyd and added an upgraded charge against the former officer who pressed his knee to Mr. Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes.</p> <p>From coast to coast, protesters had a consistent reaction to the announcement: It's great news, they said — and it's not nearly enough. There need to be convictions. There needs to be systemic change.</p> <p>"I think it's going to be a really long fight, not just in Minnesota but in cities around the country," said Izzy Smith, an educator from the South Side of Minneapolis who was among those demonstrating at the site where Mr. Floyd was arrested last month.</p> <p>"This is a marathon, not a sprint," she added, "so it's keeping the foot on the gas but keep it steady."</p> <p>Nearby, Marquise Bowie said of the charges: "That's good. It ain't going to bring the man back, though. It's a start."</p> <p>Some protesters expressed disappointment that the officer who pressed on Mr. Floyd's neck had been charged with second-degree murder rather than first-degree, or that action against the other officers was not taken sooner.</p> <p>"It's about damn time," said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights lawyer and protest organizer in Minneapolis. If not for the outrage that had rocked the country, she said, "these officers never would've been charged."</p> <p>At a protest on the North Side of Chicago, Jonathan Mejias said he was gratified by the news — to a point.</p> <p>"It's just one piece," he said. "The world needs to know that it doesn't end with resolving this one case. There are too many more out there."</p> <p>Byron Spencer, handing out water and burgers to protesters outside Los Angeles City Hall, said he was both "elated and defeated" by word of the new charges. He said he had seen countless surges of outrage over police brutality against black men, only to have it happen again.</p> <p>"I'm 55, I'm black and I'm male — I've seen the cycle," he said. "It's almost like PTSD constantly having this conversation with my son."</p> <p>Cierra Sesay reacted to the charges at a demonstration in the shadow of the State Capitol in Denver. "It's amazing, it's another box we can check," she said. "But it goes up so much higher. It's about the system."</p> <p>In San Francisco, Tevita Tomasi — who is of Polynesian descent and described himself as "dark and tall and big" — said he regularly faced racial profiling, evidence of the bigger forces that must be overcome.</p> <p>On Wednesday, he distributed bottled water at what he said was his first demonstration, but one that would not be his last. What would stop him from protesting?</p> <p>"They would have to shoot me."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 'Boogaloo' movement gains traction |
| SOURCE | https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/03/us/boogaloo-extremist-protests-invs/index.html |
| GIST | (CNN) Benjamin Ryan Teeter was at his home in Hampstead, N.C., when the call to action came. It was an alert from the heart of the raging protests in Minneapolis, posted on an online forum by a fellow member of the Boogaloo movement, a loosely knit group of heavily armed, anti-government extremists. |

The "alert" was from a man who had a run-in with the Minneapolis police while on the frontline of the police-brutality protests set off by the death of George Floyd.

"He caught mace to the face," said Teeter, and "put out a national notice to our network."

After Teeter -- who goes by Ryan -- said he saw the online posting, he and a handful of other Boogaloo friends in the area mobilized.

They grabbed their guns -- mostly assault rifles -- hopped into their vehicles, and made the 18-hour trek to Minneapolis.

The Boogaloos are an emerging incarnation of extremism that seems to defy easy categorization. They are yet another confounding factor in the ongoing effort among local, state and federal officials to puzzle out the political sympathies of the agitators showing up to the mostly peaceful George Floyd rallies who have destroyed property, looted businesses, or -- in the case of the Boogaloos who descended on Minneapolis -- walked around the streets with assault rifles.

Boogaloo members appear to hold conflicting ideological views with some identifying as anarchists and others rejecting formal titles. Some pockets of the group have espoused white supremacy while others reject it. But they have at least two things in common: an affinity for toting around guns in public and a "boogaloo" rallying cry, which is commonly viewed as code for another US civil war.

Megan Squire, a computer science professor at Elon University in North Carolina who monitors online extremism, said the movement started in obscure online platforms.

It "is now growing on mainstream platforms, and in this moment of protest it is starting to move offline," she said. "It resembles the militia movement that came before it, which has been well documented as a force for promoting violence."

Teeter, in an interview with CNN, said he identifies as an anarchist. His mission in Minneapolis, he said, was to protect protesters from police abuse and white supremacists, whom he deprecates.

"If people are going to initiate deadly force against us, we need to be willing and able to initiate deadly force in return," Teeter, 22, said.

Despite the presence of Teeter, and he said a dozen or so of his compatriots, federal, state and local officials have put forth little evidence so far to suggest widespread organization and mobilization by any one ideological group. A CNN review of the backgrounds of those arrested during the first three days of protests in Minneapolis did not surface any obvious links to known organizations.

Some police said they suspect that much of the rioting and looting was perpetrated not by ideological extremists, but smaller groups of criminal opportunists seeking to profit by stealing merchandise.

"These are straight up criminals. These are not protestors," said one high-ranking LAPD official. In Los Angeles, he said, roving bands of thieves drove around in cars and communicated by cellphone, identifying businesses to loot.

Still, there are some documented reports of group-affiliated individuals from the left and right of the extremist spectrum mingling amid the less organized.

In Nevada, federal prosecutors this week charged three men who allegedly identify with the Boogaloo movement with possessing a "Molotov cocktail" explosive and conspiring to "cause destruction during protests in Las Vegas," according to a press release from the US Attorney's Office.

Stephen T. "Kiwi" Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis, all of whom have military experience, had attended a protest on May 29 honoring George Floyd in Las Vegas, according to the

criminal complaint. Parshall allegedly tried to encourage violence by "telling protesters that peaceful protests don't accomplish anything," the complaint states. The three men were arrested on their way to a second Floyd-related demonstration the following day, allegedly armed with a Molotov cocktail, according to the records.

Gun-toting Boogaloo members also have appeared at George Floyd protests in Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Dallas, Atlanta and elsewhere, according to The Washington Post.

Known for sporting Hawaiian shirts and arriving to public protests heavily armed, the decentralized Boogaloo movement -- sometimes referred to as the "Boogaloo Bois" -- is often associated with the far-right.

But it is far from a cohesive group, said J.J. MacNab, a fellow at George Washington University who studies anti-government extremism.

"While there are pockets of white supremacist Boogaloos, the younger and bigger groups are generally not," she said in a recent Twitter thread. "While there are Boogaloos that support police, the younger and bigger groups detest them. While there are Boogaloos that want to discredit protests angry at the murder of a black man, there are younger Boogaloos that are incensed by the murder and want to join the protests."

MacNab added that such internal divisions don't always play out according to age.

"They share jargon, outfits, a love of firearms, and a desire to use violence to gain power, but they don't actually share a common goal once power is achieved," she said.

The origin of the name is thought to trace back to a 1980s movie sequel about breakdancing called "Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo." The term "boogaloo" in recent years has caught on as a sly online reference to social unrest and a desired second civil war.

"The boogaloo meme" is a "joke for some," but "acts as a violent meme that circulates instructions for a violent, viral insurgency for others," says a white paper released in February by the Network Contagion Research Institute, a group of independent researchers who monitor misinformation and hate speech, in association with Rutgers University.

"Termed the 'boogaloo,' this ideology self-organizes across social media communities, boasts tens of thousands of users, exhibits a complex division of labor," says the report, and "evolves well-developed channels to innovate and distribute violent propaganda."

There are signs that adherents have been venturing out of the chat rooms and into the real world, most notably at various reopen demonstrations during the Covid-19 lockdowns. In April, a Boogaloo devotee was arrested in Texas for allegedly attempting to find and kill police officers while filming on Facebook Live, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The movement seems to have gained considerable traction in recent months.

The Tech Transparency Project of a non-profit watchdog group called Campaign for Accountability released a report this spring concluding that more than 60% of the 125 identifiable Boogaloo groups on Facebook have sprung up since January, and picked up steam after the onset of the Covid-19 lockdowns.

To talk to Teeter -- who also recently attended protests decrying the Covid-19 lockdown -- is to get a sense of just how profoundly scrambled the Boogaloo ideology can be.

"I'm a member of the LGBT community," said Teeter, who describes himself as a non-voting "left anarchist...People think I'm part of a Nazi group; I'm not."

But, he added, "I don't think people should be forced to bake the cake," referring to a US Supreme Court case that stemmed from the refusal of a Christian owner of a bakery in Colorado to provide a wedding cake for a gay couple.

In Minneapolis, Teeter said, he and others in his group stood sentry with firearms outside of mom-and-pop shops, but in solidarity with the black community in opposition to police brutality.

"We are very careful to make sure that people realize that we are on their side. We are here to defend them ... Once people realize that we are on their side and we are here to protect them, everybody has been -- almost everybody -- has been very happy to have us here."

Teeter said he was home schooled, but did not complete college despite being offered scholarships. "I've always been able to self-educate," he said. "We have the Internet. You can learn anything you want to learn for free."

He has had some brushes with the law. He said on a recent podcast that he's been to jail "eight or nine" times, though he suggested at least some of those incidents involved actions related to his activism.

An administrator for the New Hanover County criminal court in North Carolina told CNN that Teeter has a pending charge from January of 2019 for discharging a firearm in city limits. Teeter told CNN it was an accidental discharge that occurred while he was cleaning the weapon.

His social media posts appear consistent with his idiosyncratic political persuasions: photos of himself in a flak jacket or participating in the reopen protests, and memes lamenting police brutality, celebrating black men with guns, ridiculing both President Trump and Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden, and glorifying the Boogaloo movement and the notion of "coming civil conflict."

Extremism experts say other militias are starting to adopt the Boogaloo moniker.

A report on the "Militia-sphere" released Tuesday by the Network Contagion Research Institute said militias such as Oath Keepers and Three Percenters "now share the same boogaloo meme both in the virtual and real world."

Squire said there appears to be a generational divide in the Boogaloo movement, with the younger subset having been steeped in meme culture online, and the older group looking for a rebrand.

"It's like an updated, younger take," she said. "And so that's appealing to the guys who are in the actual meme-ing, very online age group, right. But it's also appealing to these older guys, who are kind of stale."

Squire, who tracks the online chatter of groups such as Boogaloo, alerted CNN about Teeter's trip to Minneapolis. She said he is emblematic of the younger subset. But according to the social media data she monitors, Squire said Teeter stands out for having taken the initiative to drive all the way to Minneapolis.

"We've seen less of that -- driving across the country -- because the protests have erupted in more places," she said. "And so these guys that were on the fence about whether or not to go, they can just stay where they are and just do the local protest."

Teeter, by contrast, is proactive, Squire said.

"He's committed," she said. "He's a vanguard."

On the streets of Minneapolis, Teeter said his group hasn't always been "kitted out" with guns drawn. During the day, when the protests have been more peaceful, Teeter said, he and his ilk have blended in with the crowds, chanting along.

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| | He said they often bring out their weapons later in the day and into the evening, "once things start to get dark." |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Black Lives Matter NY: war on police |
| SOURCE | https://www.foxnews.com/us/black-lives-matter-plans-war-on-police-ny-leader-says |
| GIST | <p>The Black Lives Matter movement will develop an armed branch of “peace officers” to combat police brutality in black communities during the so-called “war on police,” according to one of its leaders.</p> <p>Protests broke out across the country following the death of unarmed Minneapolis black man George Floyd while in police custody, bringing the BLM movement back into national focus. In an interview with the Daily Mail, BLM New York chapter Chairman Hawk Newsome described how the group plans to follow in the footsteps of the Black Panthers Party by matching fire with fire – when necessary.</p> <p>“We’re talking about self-defense. We’re talking about defending our communities,” Newsome said. “You know what it’s like to see a taser pointed at a 7-year-old, you know what it’s like to see a 67-year-old black woman ... pepper sprayed and pushed to the ground?”</p> <p>“We are preparing and training our people to defend our communities.”</p> <p>Newsome attended a national conference in Los Angeles of party leadership to discuss how the movement can create a “pathway forward” for people. The plan, called “Black Opts” for Black Opportunities, details how the movement can help to liberate black people.</p> <p>“We have black Special Forces officers advising us, and we will teach and train people in our communities, the Black Opts department of Black Opportunities,” Newsome said.</p> <p>The move is reminiscent of the Black Panthers Party, which created "peace officers" who open-carried firearms while patrolling black communities in order to deter police brutality. Newsome confirmed that the BLM "peace officers" would also be armed and open carry guns in states that allow it.</p> <p>“We pattern ourselves after the Black Panthers, after the Nation of Islam, we believe that we need an arm to defend ourselves,” Newsome explained. “We will build and train peace officers to keep the peace in our communities, to defend our communities, to keep our communities safe.”</p> <p>The New York chapter is at the forefront of the movement, the largest of the 40 chapters the organization operates globally, according to its website. Newsome, who worked as a project manager at a law firm before becoming full-time activist, claimed his chapter has grown into one of the most effective ones in the world.</p> <p>Newsome says his chapter is raising funds for a “war chest” and plans to build a headquarters in an unused church in New York.</p> <p>“When we start talking about black opportunities and building our war chest to defend ourselves from the war on the poor. .. to defend ourselves against the war that is anti-blackness in America, then people will have to meet a certain criteria.”</p> <p>The “blueprint” for the way forward will be unveiled in Times Square in New York on Sunday at 12 p.m. and delivered to communities across the country.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Minneapolis PD complaints hit high 2018 |
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| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/minneapolis-police-misconduct-complaints-record-high-2018/ |
| GIST | <p>Since the death of George Floyd, the Minneapolis man who lost his life after a police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes, protests have erupted nationwide over racial injustices and police brutality. Data from the city shows the officers' actions may have been part of a growing trend of misconduct in the midwestern police department.</p> <p>New complaints of misconduct against the Minneapolis Police Department hit a record high in 2018, jumping 41.5% to 569 from 402 in the year prior, according to the city's most recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Since the city began recording data on misconduct complaints in 2003, the number has steadily increased, from a low of 68 in 2008 to a more than seven-fold increase a decade later, the financial documents show. Data for 2019 is not yet available.</p> <p>According to the same financial documents, as of December 31, 2018, the city was at the center of four cases "that allege injury or wrongful death, as a result of police misconduct," and in May 2019 it settled another wrongful death claim for \$20,000. These cases, it noted, were outside of what the city would consider the normal number and amount of legal claims.</p> <p>An email to the Minneapolis Police Department requesting comment was not immediately returned.</p> <p>All four officers involved in Floyd's death have been fired from the Minneapolis Police Department. Derek Chauvin, who pressed his knee into Floyd's back, was originally charged with manslaughter and third-degree murder, which was increased to second-degree murder on Wednesday afternoon. The remaining three former officers were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.</p> <p>On Tuesday, Minnesota's Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan announced that the Minneapolis Police Department was under investigation by the state's Department of Human Rights. The investigation, which is a charge of racial discrimination, will look into the department's practices, policies and procedures over the past 10 years, according to CBS Minnesota. At the conclusion of the investigation, the police department will be required to make the changes ordered by the Department of Human Rights.</p> <p>"This is one piece of the puzzle to getting justice for George Floyd and all black Minnesotans who have not been served or protected by the Minneapolis Police Department," Flanagan said at a press conference announcing the investigation.</p> <p>Floyd's death has reignited the Black Lives Matter movement, prompting widespread protests against racial injustice and racially-motivated police misconduct. Those demonstrations have resulted in more than 13,500 arrests to date in 43 cities around the United States, according to a CBS News estimate, reflecting how much police activity has surrounded the protests.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 LA Pride march against police brutality |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/los-angeles-pride-parade-solidarity-protest-march-against-police-brutality/ |
| GIST | <p>As Los Angeles celebrates 50 years since its first Pride parade, organizers of the event announced a change of plans on Wednesday. The parade was initially canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, but now it's back on — as a protest against racial injustice and police brutality.</p> <p>Christopher Street West (CSW), the nonprofit that organizes the annual parade, said a solidarity march will replace the parade on Sunday, June 14, in response to "racial injustice, systemic racism and all forms of oppression." Last month, organizers canceled the event and moved the celebrations online to prevent further spread of COVID-19.</p> |

Since the death of [George Floyd](#) last week, [protests have erupted](#) in cities across the U.S. and [around the world](#). Hundreds of arrests have been made in Los Angeles alone, despite the protests being characterized as largely peaceful.

Activists plan to assemble peacefully June 14 at 10 a.m. local time at Hollywood Blvd. and Highland Ave. in Los Angeles, near the location of the first-ever legal Pride Parade that took place in 1970, one year after the [uprising at the Stonewall Inn](#) in New York. In a [news release](#) Wednesday, organizers highlighted the overlapping missions of Pride and the Black community.

"Fifty years ago Christopher Street West took to the streets of Hollywood Blvd in order to peacefully protest against police brutality and oppression," said Estevan Montemayor, president of the CSW Board of Directors.

"It is our moral imperative to honor the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who bravely led the Stonewall uprising, by standing in solidarity with the Black community against systemic racism and joining the fight for meaningful and long-lasting reform."

It's unclear whether the march is a collaboration with Black Lives Matter. The L.A. division of the organization did not immediately respond to CBS News' request for comment.

Many supporters expressed their [concerns](#) on [Twitter](#) over holding a mass gathering while the city is still under partial lockdown orders. Organizers stressed the importance of wearing face masks, in accordance with California Department of Public Health guidelines, but did not specify if any special coronavirus-related safety measures would be put in place.

Health officials have warned that a resurgence of cases in cities where protesters gathered could lead to a need for further shutdowns.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Police scanner apps surge popularity |
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| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/news/police-scanner-apps-are-surging-in-popularity-one-developer-is-donating-the-proceeds/ |
| GIST | <p>As thousands of people across the U.S. protest against police brutality, police-scanner apps have surged in popularity.</p> <p>One such app, 5-0 Radio Police Scanner, shot up the charts to become the most popular paid app in the Apple App store over the weekend, in both paid and free categories. Some half a million people downloaded the app in the past several days, its developer, Allen Wong, told CBS News.</p> <p>Rival apps like Police Scanner Radio & Fire and Citizen also rose to be in the top-10 list on both Google Play and the Apple App store. They have since fallen but remain in the top 30.</p> <p>Police scanners, which tap into particular frequencies used by law enforcement and emergency response services, cost several hundred dollars, making them inaccessible to many people. Scanner apps and websites like Broadcastify, use public feeds connected to such apps. Many are free or cost a few dollars.</p> <p>Wong, who created 5-0 Radio Police Scanner more than 10 years ago, initially started listening to police scanners because he wanted to be a cop as a kid and was curious about their work. He told CBS MoneyWatch that he hoped the app would grow the community of people who listen to police, as well as increase understanding between police and the public.</p> <p>While both the \$5 paid version of the app and the free version of the app have had bursts of popularity before, including during the Boston Marathon bombings of 2013, the current surge in downloads is unprecedented, Wong said. Several million people used the app over the weekend, which saw 500,000</p> |

new downloads, he said. Wednesday might turn out to be the busiest day yet, with 145,000 people downloading the app — within striking distance of the peak on Saturday.

On Monday, Wong announced that he would donate proceeds from the app to antiracist groups, including the Equal Justice Initiative.

"It's important that we acknowledge the outrage justifiably provoked by the killing of George Floyd," Wong wrote on Facebook. "We should not continue standing by the sidelines while ignoring those who are facing racial injustice. We must go beyond returning to the status quo and instead build a future where everyone's human rights are protected."

Wong also donated proceeds after the Boston Marathon bombing, he told CBS News.

"I actually don't like when 5-0 Radio becomes unusually popular, because it usually means that some terrible event is happening," Wong said via email. "The way I've dealt with this is to try to help and donate the proceeds to various charities that help the cause."

He added, "It's the least that I could do. Even though my app inherently makes more during tragedies, I don't like making profit from tragedy. I'm already in a comfortable position, and want to lift up others so they can get here, too."

It's not just protesters, or those looking to avoid them, who may want to listen in on police communication. Wong has heard from people who've used his app to avoid tornadoes, or from partners and spouses of emergency personnel who use his apps to keep tabs on their loved ones, he said.

During times of heightened police activity, the general public could benefit from hearing what's going on with police, if only to avoid a traffic jam, said John Banzhaf, a professor of public-interest law at George Washington University in Washington, D.C..

"If I were in a major city, I would want to know where's the action going on, what is traffic going to be like?" Banzhaf said. "I would detour around the White House, but would I detour around 14th Street and U, or some other route?"

He added, "There is a general public interest in things being open, whether those are things like courts, the legislative functions, or policing."

In recent years, some police departments have moved to [encrypt](#) their radio communications, citing the safety of officers as a reason. But just in recent days, public listening to police scanners has revealed some questionable banter.

Police in New York were overheard talking about plans to "shoot" a crowd and to "run over" a crowd, Gothamist [reported](#) Monday. In Chicago, voices on a police scanner reportedly discussed allowing a shooting to play out and not intervene. Both police departments have said they're investigating the transmissions.

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Protesters: new charges just a start |
| SOURCE | https://www.thedailybeast.com/lets-keep-fighting-george-floyd-protesters-say-new-charges-are-just-a-start?ref=home |
| GIST | The decision to arrest three more officers in the death of George Floyd and increase charges for the first did little to diminish the street protests that have exploded across the country over the past week. |

And whether it was New York, or Washington, or Minneapolis, those marching and kneeling and observing moments of silence on Wednesday said the demonstrations—and the accompanying unrest—would not end any time soon.

“We need to be out here, as much as we are. If we keep up the pressure we can get the change that we want,” Devante Newsome, 26, who lives in southwest D.C., told The Daily Beast.

Newsome, who is black and Filipino, said he had been on the streets of Washington—which had begun to resemble an armed camp, with soldiers and [even prison cops out in force](#)—every day since Saturday.

The new legal action announced in Minneapolis was “a start,” he said. “But we want change to start from the top. We want change to come from the inside. That’s the only way it’s going to change. But it’s a start.”

In Brooklyn, New York, a 15-year-old who gave his name as Amadou said, “This is one situation out of like 1,000. There’s a lot of my brothers and sisters that still don’t have their justice.”

And in the Flatiron district of Manhattan, Christopher John, 40, said simply, “Let’s just keep fighting.”

Across the country—whether the result of the charges in Minneapolis, curfews, or sheer exhaustion—protests took on a calmer vibe in many places on Wednesday. In Washington, the air filled with both the whirl of a helicopter flying above and the sound of thousands singing “Lean on Me,” using phones to light up the dusk.

As night fell, there was none of the widespread looting or arson seen in major cities earlier in the week, though police-protester relations had not exactly warmed up. (“Donald’s bitches!” some protesters chanted at a police line not too far from the White House.)

And the air was still thick with the potential for chaos. In New Orleans, police unleashed what appeared to be gas or smoke to disperse a peaceful protest crowd that had streamed onto an interstate,

In downtown Brooklyn, as a crowd of about 400 walked near Cadman Plaza, a knot of young people surrounded a cop car, holding up a “Suck my dick” sign.

Officers rushed them and grabbed one, and then as many as 200 officers surged in. A half-dozen more people were arrested, a few bikes were tossed, a young woman hit by a baton ended up on the ground, where she was tended to by a firefighter. A tense standoff between cops and protesters ensued where peace had prevailed minutes before.

A downpour dispersed the restive crowd. “The rain is an amazing deterrent,” one cop said to another.

In Los Angeles, the turnout was massive: thousands filling Spring Street in downtown to chant the names of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, the black woman killed in Louisville during a possibly illegal police search.

They wore almost all black, spurts of color coming from signs emblazoned with slogans: “I can’t breathe,” “Black Lives Matter,” and “I have a right to exist.” Several marchers beat drums; another held a megaphone, leading the crowd in call and response. Cars lined the nearby streets, honking in support.

While Floyd was very much on the protesters’ minds and signs, the target of that rally was Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey, who has been blasted for resistance to prosecute officer-involved shootings and also disgraced Democratic donor Ed Buck, who is accused in the drug-related deaths of black men.

In Minneapolis, protesters had gathered during the day at the spot where Floyd, 46, was killed last Monday. In the evening, several hundred converged on the boarded up headquarters of the police and fire union to call for the resignation of the police union president, Bob Kroll.

Already a divisive figure in Minneapolis, Kroll has come under increased scrutiny since a letter to police union members surfaced in which he said the officers now under arrest for Floyd's killing were fired from their jobs without "due process." In the same letter, Kroll said protesters were part of a "terrorist movement" and that "the media will not air" the "violent criminal history of George Floyd." (Floyd spent five years in prison for an armed robbery and has several other charges in his past, The Daily Mail reported last week, although it's unclear whether any of the officers involved in his killing knew that at the time.)

Former Minneapolis police chief Jenee Harteau on Monday called on Kroll to resign, saying he is a "disgrace to the badge."

Standing on both sides of University Avenue in the city's Northeast neighborhood, protesters called on passersby to honk their horns in support, which many did.

"I'm hoping that this will put pressure on Minneapolis police, because they elect him and they can remove him," said Laurel Turrek, 48. "We don't know if the governor has any power to help get him out, but he's been working without oversight for a very long time."

Kroll has a controversial history. In 2007, five black officers sued him for racial discrimination, alleging racist practices within the Minneapolis Police Department, and noting that Kroll called Attorney General Keith Ellison, who is Muslim, a "terrorist." (The same lawsuit alleged that Kroll wore a white power patch on his motorcycle jacket.)

Kroll has also said he isn't bothered by any of the shootings he was involved with during his time as an officer with the department, and attended a Trump campaign rally in which he decried Barack Obama's "oppression of police." He argued a president Trump would allow officers to "put the handcuffs on the criminals instead of us."

Across from the exact spot where Floyd died, a large crowd gathered in the parking lot of a shuttered gas station to hear Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) speak. She was barely visible in the middle of a scrum, but her voice boomed from a PA.

"What we want is the ability to not just breathe, but to live and thrive," she said to cheers. "From the days of enslavement, to having African Americans lynched, to Jim Crow and now to police brutality, this needs to end, and we do that by recognizing the problem."

When she was done, a speaker pleaded for residents to go home in groups, reminding them a curfew was going into effect at 10 p.m.

Major cities across the U.S. had been under curfew for several days, but enforcement was relaxed in many places on Wednesday night. Los Angeles said it would lift its curfew on Thursday if all remained calm.

In Detroit, where police have arrested hundreds of protesters across the week, Police Chief James Craig let the crowds stay out past curfew, saying he wanted to "support these young people having their voices heard."

He took note of what had happened in Minneapolis earlier in the day, when state Attorney General Keith Ellison announced the new charges against all four cops involved in Floyd's deadly arrest.

"This is a day of celebration," Craig said.

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HEADLINE

06/03 Mexico: new daily high coronavirus deaths

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| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/mexico-reports-day-high-1092-coronavirus-deaths-71058237 |
| GIST | <p>MEXICO CITY -- The coronavirus toll in Mexico soared to a new daily high Wednesday, with the health department reporting 1,092 test-confirmed deaths — more than double the previous one-day record and in line with numbers in the United States and Brazil.</p> <p>The announcement was an embarrassment for officials, who have consistently predicted that cases in Mexico were about to start leveling off. The country began a gradual re-opening of industrial and business activity Monday.</p> <p>Officials rushed to say that many of the new confirmed deaths had occurred days or even weeks ago and were being announced now because of delays in processing tests or other reasons.</p> <p>But such delays have presumably been a constant reflected in every previous daily tally. Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell did not cite any specific clearing of testing backlogs in previous days that would explain the Wednesday spike.</p> <p>“We have had a very substantial increase in mortality,” López-Gatell said, ascribing the delay in reporting deaths to “various reasons.”</p> <p>Mexico has largely seen daily death tolls of 300 to 400, after seeing the previous one-day high of 501 deaths May 26.</p> <p>The number of new confirmed cases rose by 3,912, pushing Mexico's total for the pandemic into six figures, at 101,238. But Mexico has performed very little testing — about 250,000 tests in a country 125 million people — and officials acknowledge that the actual number of cases is probably many times higher.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Las Vegas casinos reopening |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/las-vegas-reopening-coronavirus-casino-closure-71060678 |
| GIST | <p>LAS VEGAS -- The casino coronavirus closure is ending, with cards to be dealt, dice to roll and slot jackpots to win again starting Thursday in Las Vegas and throughout Nevada.</p> <p>Hotel-casinos in suburban Sin City planned to be first to open at 12:01 a.m., followed later in the morning by a restart of the iconic Bellagio fountain and reopenings of many neighboring resorts on the Las Vegas Strip.</p> <p>Wynn Resorts pushed back its planned opening to daylight hours in a nod to ongoing nighttime protests over George Floyd's death in Minnesota. Floyd, a black man, died after a white officer pressed his knee into his neck.</p> <p>There are big hopes for recovery from an unprecedented and expensive shutdown prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>“There’s a tremendous amount on the line, not only for casinos, but for the community and the state,” said Alan Feldman, a longtime casino executive now a fellow at the International Gaming Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. “This is an extremely important moment.”</p> <p>Casino resorts that had been famously always open were shuttered in mid-March after Gov. Steve Sisolak’s emergency order closed nonessential businesses to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p> |

Property owners, state regulators and Sisolak, a Democrat who has been criticized for the closure, are balancing health concerns against the loss of billions of dollars a month in gambling revenue and unemployment that topped 28% during an idled April.

They're betting that safety measures — disinfected dice; hand sanitizer and face masks; limited numbers of players at tables; temperature checks at entrances to some resorts; touchless cellphone check-ins — will lure tourists back.

"I'm optimistic that customers will see that gaming properties invested time and effort to welcome them back to a safe and entertaining environment," state Gaming Control Board chief Sandra Douglass Morgan said Wednesday.

The regulatory board required detailed health safety plans by last week, before giving the go-ahead to reopen.

Feldman said he thinks it will take a long time to recover.

"This is going to be a pretty long, slow climb," said Feldman, who was with MGM Resorts when Las Vegas experienced an abrupt air travel stop after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, and later a crippling plunge in business during the Great Recession over a decade ago. "I'm hopeful it is a consistent climb, without setbacks."

Recovery from the recession took years — reaching best-ever numbers last January and February, when taxable casino winnings were at \$1 billion each month and unemployment was at an all-time low of 3.6%.

By April, unemployment reached 28.2%, topping figures in any state even during the Great Depression. Casino winnings were near zero.

The biggest casino operators, MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment, won't immediately open all their Strip properties. Executives said they want to see how many show up.

The first to arrive are expected to be area residents, then motorists from nearby U.S. states followed by air travelers.

"The market still relies heavily on air traffic, and the longer stays in Vegas are usually tied to mass social gatherings, including conventions ... concerts and fights, all of which may take longer to recover," UBS analyst Robin Farley said.

Convention halls, nightclubs, swimming pool parties and arena spectacles will remain mostly dark.

"It may be a little different," MGM Resorts International chief executive Bill Hornbuckle said during a recent walk-through of the Bellagio casino floor. "But I think it will be memorable, personable and special."

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Pakistan, India virus cases, deaths spike |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/latest-pakistan-india-coronavirus-cases-deaths-spike-71061450 |
| GIST | <p>ISLAMABAD — Pakistan reported a record single-day spike in coronavirus-related deaths with 82 new fatalities and 4,688 cases that it says resulted from increased testing in the past 24 hours.</p> <p>Pakistan's outbreak has grown steadily since the country's first case in February. Since then, 1,770 people have died and 85,264 have tested positive.</p> |

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| | <p>As many as 901 patients were listed in critical condition at hospitals Thursday. The country has barely 3,000 intensive care beds serving a population of 220 million.</p> <p>Pakistan for the first time conducted over 20,000 tests in the past 24 hours. It has done more than 615,000 tests after increasing its testing capacity from only two labs in February.</p> <p>The spike comes after Prime Minister Imran Khan eased lockdown restrictions over expert's recommendations to maintain them to prevent the spread of the virus. Authorities have blamed people not adhering to social distancing regulations for the growing outbreak.</p> <p>NEW DELHI — India's COVID-19 fatalities have passed 6,000 after registering 260 deaths in the last 24 hours.</p> <p>The country registered 9,304 new cases in yet another record single-day spike in infections, raising its totals to 216,919 cases with 6,075 deaths, the Health Ministry reported Thursday.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Health Ministry said it was ramping up the testing across the country and has performed 4 million. It said the daily capacity was almost 140,000 tests done through 480 government and 208 private laboratories.</p> <p>India's infections have spiked in recent weeks, mostly in its cities. The coastal state of Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected, with 74,860 cases and 2,587 deaths. The state capital is densely crowded Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital.</p> <p>India is the seventh worst-hit nation by the pandemic.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 New Zealand on verge eradicating virus |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/latest-zealand-verge-eradicating-virus-71061654 |
| GIST | <p>WELLINGTON, New Zealand - New Zealand is on the verge of eradicating the virus from its shores after it notched a 13th straight day with no reported new infections.</p> <p>Only a single person in the nation of 5 million people is known to still have the virus, and that person is not hospitalized. However, it remains likely that the country will import new cases once it reopens its borders, and officials say their aim remains to stamp out new infections as they arise.</p> <p>The country has already lifted many of its virus restrictions and could remove most of those that remain, including limiting crowd sizes, next week. Just over 1,500 people have contracted the virus during the outbreak, including 22 who died.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 WHO: 100,000 new cases 5 straight days |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/Health/coronavirus-updates-us-100-million-doses-vaccine-end/story?id=71038663 |
| GIST | <p>There have been more than 100,000 COVID-19 cases reported for each of the past five days, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.</p> <p>The Americas continue to account for the most cases, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a daily COVID-19 press briefing in Geneva.</p> |

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| | <p>Central and South America are experiencing "accelerating" COVID-19 epidemics, the WHO said, particularly in Haiti. There is also intense community transmission in Brazil, Peru and Nicaragua.</p> <p>Brazil has the second-highest number of confirmed cases in the world, with more than 555,000, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the number of cases in Europe continues to decline, the WHO reported.</p> <p>"Yesterday saw the fewest cases reported in Europe since the 22nd of March," Tedros said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Syria: US sanctions 'economic terrorism' |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-wave-us-sanctions-economic-terrorism-71041060 |
| GIST | <p>DAMASCUS, Syria -- The Syrian government condemned Wednesday a new wave of U.S. sanctions against the country, calling the measures "economic terrorism" that will increase the suffering of the Syrian people.</p> <p>A Foreign Ministry statement said Washington's so-called Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which goes into effect this month, is based on "lies and fabricated claims by enemies of the Syrian people."</p> <p>The act, which gained bipartisan support in Congress in December, envisages sanctions on Syrian troops and others responsible for atrocities committed during Syria's civil war and funding for war crimes investigations and prosecutions. President Donald Trump later signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes the Caesar act, into law.</p> <p>Caesar is a code name for a Syrian forensic photographer who took thousands of photographs of victims of torture and other abuses and smuggled them out of the country. The images, taken between 2011 and 2013, were turned over to human rights advocates, graphically exposing the scale of the Syrian government's brutal crackdown.</p> <p>The bill applies sanctions to those who lend support to "the Assad regime's military efforts" in the war, and grants authorities to the U.S. secretary of state to support entities collecting evidence and pursuing prosecutions against those who have committed war crimes in Syria.</p> <p>It gives the U.S. another means to punish Syrian President Bashar Assad and his allies with sanctions. The U.S. has already imposed sanctions on Assad and a number of his top officials, but the new authority allows foreign companies to be targeted if they are found to be supporting repression.</p> <p>Syria's economy is facing a major crisis with the Syrian pound at a record low of more than 1,800 pounds to the dollar. Before the conflict began in March 2011, the dollar was worth 47 pounds.</p> <p>The Syrian statement said the U.S. sanctions are a "flagrant violation to the most simple human rights and international laws."</p> <p>At a time when the world is uniting to focus on the fight against coronavirus, it said, "the American administration ... continues the policy of hegemony and arrogance on the international arena."</p> <p>The Foreign Ministry said Syria has vowed to confront the Caesar act, urging the international community to work on removing all "illegitimate unilateral sanctions."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Rare accord among bitter Venezuela rivals |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/virus-forges-rare-accord-bitter-venezuelan-rivals-71046118 |
| GIST | <p>CARACAS, Venezuela -- President Nicolás Maduro and Venezuela's opposition, led by Juan Guaidó, have agreed to a measures for battling the new coronavirus to be overseen by international health workers, a first step in years toward cooperation between bitter political rivals for the benefit of the country.</p> <p>While focused narrowly on the pandemic response, experts said Wednesday the agreement opens a window of hope for tackling Venezuela's overarching political stalemate that has left the once-wealthy oil nation in deepening economic and social crisis.</p> <p>Geoff Ramsey of the Washington Office on Latin America think tank said it's the first major agreement successfully forged in recent years between Maduro and the opposition.</p> <p>"It's hard to overstate how important this is for Venezuela," Ramsey said.</p> <p>Venezuelans are increasingly losing patience with the lack of progress in finding a political solution, he said, adding that this agreement could next lead to more badly needed humanitarian assistance and create momentum for negotiations for a political solution to the crisis.</p> <p>"If they can negotiate a humanitarian accord, the next step would be to negotiate conditions for free and fair elections," Ramsey said. "It seems like both Maduro and the opposition are beginning to see that they can't simply sit back with their arms folded and blame the other side."</p> <p>The one-page agreement signed June 1 says both sides will work in coordination to find funds for fighting the coronavirus. It is signed by Maduro's health minister, Dr. Carlos Alvarado, and Dr. Julio Castro, who represents the Guaidó-led National Assembly.</p> <p>It was also signed by Dr. Gerardo de Cosío, the head of the Venezuela office of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, which will oversee the cooperation.</p> <p>"This document is, I hope, a step to move forward to a level of collaboration of both sides," Dr. De Cosio told The Associated Press. "This is one milestone of many more to be reached."</p> <p>Venezuela has been in a political crisis for years, and early last year Guaidó claimed presidential powers as head of the National Assembly, backed by the U.S. among nearly 60 nations, which say Maduro holds power illegally due to an undemocratic election.</p> <p>The crisis had left much of Venezuela without reliable water, electricity, gasoline and health care long before the pandemic. So far, officials report 1,819 coronavirus cases and 18 deaths, but some fear it could easily overwhelm Venezuela's hospitals.</p> <p>This new agreement most immediately could influence a divisive debate inside the opposition over whether to participate in legislative elections expected later this year. Some sectors of the opposition have been seeking an agreement with Maduro to overhaul the electoral council and allow international observers, among other conditions.</p> <p>While the coronavirus agreement raised hopes of more to come, Maduro's government and the opposition have repeatedly agreed in recent years to hold negotiations, but each time they ended in failure without advances.</p> <p>U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the announcement of an agreement and encouraged the parties "to implement this agreement in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.</p> |

The U.N. chief also urged them “to build on this foundation to continue seeking common ground to overcome the country’s protracted crisis,” Dujarric said.

Guaidó’s opposition coalition said that the agreement is the result of “several months of struggle” and allows the World Health Organizations agency to receive the funds approved for humanitarian aid without it going to enrich a few in power or to be used as political blackmail.

Opposition lawmaker Miguel Pizarro, who represents the National Assembly's humanitarian efforts in Washington, said this was not an agreement with the Maduro government or the beginning of political negotiations with it. Rather, it sets basic terms for a humanitarian response to reduce suffering and death among Venezuelans, he said.

“Without a doubt, it is an important step,” Pizarro said.

While Maduro jubilantly announces arrivals of medical supplies from allies such as China and Russia, he has consistently rejected U.S. offers of humanitarian aid, calling them an underhanded attempt to destabilize his rule. The opposition has been similarly reluctant to work with Maduro officials to distribute the aid that has trickled in from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Roman Catholic Church and other sources, seeing it as a tool of coercion.

But over the past year, as efforts to unseat Maduro have stalled and social conditions have worsened, the opposition has quietly eased its objections to working through the socialist government in the belief that regular Venezuelans will benefit and to prepare for eventually assuming power itself one day.

Maduro's vice president of communications, Jorge Rodriguez, in a Tuesday night state TV address read the agreement aloud while holding it up as a willingness by the government to work with the opposition.

“Let’s set politics aside and talk about fighting the coronavirus,” he said. “This is a good start to work that we can deepen to combat COVID-19 together.”

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 China tightens ban Tiananmen vigil |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tiananmen-anniversary-marked-crackdown-hk-vigil-ban-71058953 |
| GIST | <p>BEIJING -- China tightened controls over dissidents while pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong and elsewhere sought ways to mark the 31st anniversary Thursday of the crushing of the pro-democracy movement centered on Beijing’s Tiananmen Square.</p> <p>That came after authorities in Hong Kong took the extraordinary move of canceling an annual candlelight vigil in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's Victoria Park for the first time in 30 years.</p> <p>Authorities cited the need for social distancing amid the coronavirus outbreak, despite the recent reopening of schools, beaches, bars and beauty parlors. Hong Kong has had relatively few cases of the virus and life has largely returned to normal in the city of 7.4 million.</p> <p>However, China has long detested the vigil, the only such activity allowed on Chinese territory to commemorate victims of the crackdown, which remains a taboo subject on the mainland. Hundreds, possibly thousands of people were killed when tanks and troops assaulted the center of Beijing on the night of June 3-4, 1989 to break up weeks of student-led protests seen as posing a threat to authoritarian Communist Party rule.</p> <p>“We all know the Hong Kong government and the Chinese government really don’t want to see the candle lights in Victoria Park,” said Wu'er Kaixi, a former student leader who was No. 2 on the government's most-wanted list following the crackdown.</p> |

“The Chinese Communists want us all to forget about what happened 31 years ago. But it is the Chinese government themselves reminding the whole world that they are the same government which 31 years ago suppressed the peaceful demonstrators and in the last year, the same government doing the same in Hong Kong,” he told The Associated Press in Taiwan, where he now resides.

Tiananmen Square, where thousands of students had gathered in 1989, was quiet and largely empty on Thursday. Police and armored vehicles stood sentry on the vast surface the square. Few pedestrians lined up at security checkpoints where they must show ID to be allowed through as part of mass nationwide surveillance measures aimed at squelching any dissent.

The cancellation of the vigil also comes amid a tightening of Beijing’s grip over Hong Kong, with the National People’s Congress, China’s ceremonial parliament, moving to pass national security legislation that circumvents Hong Kong’s local legislature and could severely limit free speech and opposition political activity.

In Hong Kong, a law is being passed to make it a crime to disrespect China’s national anthem and 15 well-known veteran activists were arrested and charged with organizing and taking part in illegal demonstrations. Those actions are seen as part of a steady erosion of civil rights Hong Kong was guaranteed when it was handed over from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

“The ban comes amid an alarming acceleration of attacks on the autonomy of Hong Kong and the undermining of the rights and freedoms of the Hong Kong people guaranteed under Hong Kong and international law” Sharon Hom, executive director of Human Rights in China, said in a statement.

Despite the ban on the vigil, the Asian financial hub was bracing for “pop-up” protests of the type that raged around the city during months of anti-government protests last year that often led to violent confrontations between police and demonstrators.

Thousands have been arrested over the demonstrations, which were sparked by proposed legislation that could have seen suspects extradited to mainland China where they could face torture and unfair, politically biased trials.

The Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic and Democratic Movements of China that organizes the annual vigil has called on people around the city to light candles at 8 p.m. (1200 GMT) and plans to livestream the commemorations on its website www.64live.org.

Other vigils, virtual and otherwise, are planned elsewhere, including in Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy whose government called again this year for Beijing to own up to the facts of the crackdown.

That drew a strong response from Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, who called the statement “complete nonsense.”

“As to the political disturbance that occurred in the late 1980s, the Chinese government has had a clear conclusion. The great achievements that we have achieved ... have fully demonstrated that the development path China has chosen is completely correct, which conforms to China’s national conditions and has won the sincere support of the Chinese people,” Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo marked the crackdown anniversary on Tuesday, a day after federal forces used tear gas to clear peaceful protesters from a park in front of the White House.

Pompeo tweeted criticism of China and Hong Kong for banning the vigil before meeting privately with a group of Tiananmen Square survivors at the State Department. That too drew criticism from China.

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| | <p>Alongside the exchanges of rhetoric, China's small, beleaguered dissident community has again come under greater scrutiny from the authorities. Many have been placed under house arrest and their communications with the outside world cut off, according to rights groups.</p> <p>China has released the last of those arrested for directly taking part in the Tiananmen demonstrations, but others who seek to commemorate them have been rearrested for continuing their activism.</p> <p>They include Huang Qi, founder of website 64 Tianwang that sought to expose official wrongdoing. Reportedly in failing health, he is serving a 12-year-sentence after being convicted of leaking state secrets abroad.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Virus strands merchant ships crews at sea |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/coronavirus-strands-merchant-ship-crews-sea-months-71060365 |
| GIST | <p>ATHENS, Greece -- For nearly four months, Capt. Andrei Kogankov and his oil tanker crew haven't set foot on dry land. With global travel at a virtual standstill due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Russian captain was forced to extend his normal contract. He still doesn't know when he'll be able to go home.</p> <p>Countries across the world have imposed lockdowns, shut borders and suspended international flights to curb the spread of the new coronavirus. The move was deemed essential to prevent rampaging contagion, but merchant ship crews have become unintended collateral damage.</p> <p>About 150,000 seafarers are stranded at sea in need of crew changes, according to the International Chamber of Shipping. Roughly another 150,000 are stuck on shore, waiting to get back to work.</p> <p>"In some ways, they've been the forgotten army of people," said Guy Platten, secretary general of the ICS. "It's not a tenable position to keep on indefinitely. You can't just keep extending people," said Platten.</p> <p>With more than 80% of global trade by volume transported by sea, the world's more than 2 million merchant seafarers play a vital role.</p> <p>"They're out of sight and out of mind, and yet they're absolutely essential for moving the fuel, the food, the medical supplies and all the other vital goods to feed world trade," Platten said.</p> <p>International shipping organizations, trade unions and shipping companies are urging countries to recognize merchant crews as essential workers and allow them to travel and carry out crew changes.</p> <p>"Our challenge now is to get a very strong message to governments. You can't expect people to move (personal protective equipment), drugs and all the issues that we need to respond to COVID, and keep cities and countries that are in lockdown fed, if you don't move cargo on ships," said Steve Cotton, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation, or ITF. "They've got to recognize the sacrifice seafarers are making for our global society."</p> <p>Kogankov is seven months into a four-month contract and was supposed to be replaced in mid-March in Qatar. But a few days before he arrived, Qatar imposed a lockdown and banned international flights.</p> <p>From there to South Korea, Japan, South Korea again and on to Singapore and Thailand, each time the same story: Lockdown. No flights. No going home.</p> <p>The uncertainty and open-ended extension of his contract — and with it the responsibility for his 21-man crew and a ship carrying flammable cargo — is taking its toll.</p> |

“When you are seven months on board, you are becoming physically and mentally exhausted,” Kogankov said by satellite phone from Thailand. “We are working 24/7. We don’t have, let’s say, Friday night or Saturday night or weekends. No, the vessel is running all the time.”

Officers sign on for three to four months, the rest of the crew for around seven months. But they always have an end date. Take that away, and suddenly the prospect of endless workdays becomes a strain.

“We’re gravely worried that there could be a higher increase of incidents and accidents. But we also are seeing a high level of what I would describe as anxiety and frustration,” Cotton said. “If you don’t know when you’re going to get off a ship, that adds to a high level of anxiety that really is quite demoralizing.”

Unless governments facilitate crew changes, Cotton warned, “it’s difficult for us to convince the seafarers not to take more dramatic action, and ... stop working.”

It’s not just crew changes that are problematic during the pandemic. Getting medical help for seafarers has also become difficult, as Capt. Stephan Berger discovered when one of his crew fell ill — not with coronavirus.

Lockdowns in successive ports made visiting a doctor impossible. It took multiple phone calls and the combined efforts of a Dubai paramedic, Berger and the German ship-owning company to eventually get the necessary care for the crewmember, who was hospitalized for three weeks.

Of the 23 people aboard Berger’s Berlin Express, 18 were due for a crew change when it moored in Valencia, Spain, in late May. The officers had extended what were normally three-month contracts to four and five months, while the mostly Filipino crew had been on board for eight or nine months, instead of three or four.

Despite this, morale has been good, Berger said.

Nobody is particularly happy with the contract extensions, “but we have to take it as it is,” he said. “It feels sometimes like a prison.”

Ship-owning company Hapag-Lloyd was doing everything it could to arrange crew changes and managed to arrange for the seven European crew members to sign off in Barcelona on May 30, Berger said. But there are still no flights home for the Filipino crew.

“We are very much hidden. We are on board our vessels, and the people might see the big ships coming in and out of the ports, but very seldom they see the people who are operating the ships,” Berger said. “We hope that people would recognize it a little bit more now.”

On another Hapag-Lloyd container ship, apprentice Hannah Gerlach was to sign off in mid-March in Singapore. But even as her vessel headed to Asia, it was clear that wouldn’t happen. Gerlach packed her bags for an earlier departure from Sri Lanka, but by the time she arrived, so had the lockdown.

“I definitely miss my family very much. ... And I miss just these moments of a normal life, to have the possibility to go out for a walk, to the forest, to ride the bicycle,” Gerlach said. “You don’t know any more when your contract will end, when you have the chance to see your family again.”

David Hammond, founder of the Human Rights at Sea organization, said many seafarers “have really been at the end of their tether” due to contract extensions. “The reality is that until there is global cooperation among states and shipping entities then crew change is going to be very problematic.”

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HEADLINE

06/03 NOBLE: ‘sweeping changes; police reform’

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| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/anymore-head-black-police-chiefs-group-calls-nationwide/story?id=71041580 |
| GIST | <p>The head of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives called for "sweeping changes and police reform" as she reacted to the nationwide protests taking place over the killing of George Floyd.</p> <p>"The emotions and feelings that we see expressed out on the streets of cities all across the country are felt in a way that are substantiated," Durham Police Chief C.J. Davis, who is president of one of the leading black law enforcement groups in the nation, said in an interview with "Good Morning America" on Wednesday.</p> <p>"There have been years and years of systemic racism in law enforcement," she added.</p> <p>Davis called on police forces across the country to "continue to work with our protesters and individuals in our communities so they can have the opportunity and the space to express themselves."</p> <p>At the same time, she said that "we have to take care of our community."</p> <p>"We've got to continue to work together so that these types of opportunities to heal are done in a way where everyone is respected," Davis said.</p> <p>Davis also said she has been advocating for a nationwide ban on chokeholds and the neck restraint that was used by a Minneapolis police officer on Floyd.</p> <p>"We also need nationwide standards," she said.</p> <p>Police policies cannot be treated like a "smorgasbord," she went on, "where agencies have an opportunity to say, we will take chokeholds, or no, we won't take chokeholds."</p> <p>She called for nationwide accreditation to ensure that "every agency, large and small, have the best practices in place."</p> <p>"We don't want to see this anymore," Davis said. "So we definitely need some standards in our police reform."</p> <p>New York City Police Department Chief Terence Monahan echoed Davis' sentiments, saying that law enforcement leaders have "to be able to take a good hard look at their agencies and see what they need to do to be able to bridge that gap between their cops and their communities."</p> <p>Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, who is in the process of helping Floyd's family plan funeral arrangements, said police chiefs are "going to put those reforms forward."</p> <p>"Then we're going to let the people in the community know which Democrat and which Republican and which Independent voted, how they voted," he said. "Because they're going to have to make a choice, we're not going to let them vote in the dark."</p> <p>Acevedo noted that for people in the community who are "hurting" and want change, "we're going to offer them that change."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 ACLU lawsuit: police attack journalists |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/aclu-files-lawsuit-alleging-attacks-journalists-covering-george/story?id=71042027 |

The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota filed a lawsuit on behalf of journalists that it says were attacked by law enforcement while covering the protests over the killing of George Floyd.

The suit was filed on behalf of journalist Jared Goyette who was shot in the face with a rubber bullet on May 27 while covering the demonstrations in Minneapolis. The ACLU is seeking class action status.

"Actions like this make protesters, people trying to advocate for change, more vulnerable because journalists provide a witness and police are aware of that," Goyette said in a statement. "Without journalists there, police or other people in power can feel a sense of impunity that no one will see what's happening anyway."

"Everyone needs to know people are watching," he added.

Goyette repeatedly told police that he was a member of the press there to cover the demonstrations, according to the ACLU of Minnesota.

"The power of the people is rooted in the ability of the free press to investigate and report news, especially at a time like this when police have brutally murdered one of our community members," Teresa Nelson, the ACLU-MN legal director, said in a statement.

"Police are using violence and threats to undermine that power, and we cannot let that happen," Nelson added. "Public transparency is absolutely necessary for police accountability."

The suit was filed overnight on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota against the city of Minneapolis and some of its police and department of public safety officials. It seeks an order declaring the actions unconstitutional and prohibiting law enforcement from attacking journalists again as well as damages for injuries.

"We will review the allegations and take them seriously," Minneapolis city attorney Erik Nilsson said in response to the lawsuit. "We continue to support the First Amendment rights of everyone in Minneapolis."

The Minnesota State Patrol told ABC News in a statement that it "recognizes the importance of the media in covering the civil unrest that is occurring in our communities."

"When conducting law enforcement operations to restore order and keep people safe, it can be difficult for officers to distinguish journalists from those who are violating a curfew order or not complying with commands to leave an area," the agency said. "During the past week, the State Patrol has worked hard to ensure journalists who have been arrested have been released promptly upon identification."

The statement added that they are reviewing incidents involving their troopers in an effort to prevent similar incidents in the future, but are unable to discuss specifics of pending litigation.

As protests over the killing of Floyd roil the nation, a number of journalists covering the news say they have been indiscriminately arrested, tear gassed or shot with rubber bullets by local law enforcement.

The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, an advocacy and research group that records reported attacks on journalists, says it is investigating hundreds of instances of attacks on members of the press covering the Floyd protests. The group says the majority of those aggressions have been from police.

Brian Hauss, a staff attorney with the ACLU, said it is the "first of many lawsuits the ACLU intends to file across the country."

"We are facing a full-scale assault on the First Amendment freedom of the press," Hauss said in a statement. "We will not let these official abuses go unanswered."

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Timeline: impact George Floyd's death |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/timeline-impact-george-floyds-death-minneapolis/story?id=70999322 |
| GIST | <p>"Say his name" and "I can't breathe." Words that have become a national chorus in the days following the death of George Floyd, a black man killed while in police custody in Minneapolis on Memorial Day.</p> <p>In demonstrations that have drawn thousands in cities across the country and abroad, protesters have called for police reform while mourning the death of yet another unarmed black person in the U.S.</p> <p>With an investigation into Floyd's death currently underway and protesters continuing to call for justice, here's a timeline of major events that have unfolded so far:</p> <p>May 25: George Floyd dies in police custody George Floyd, 46, is arrested shortly after 8 p.m. after allegedly using a fake \$20 bill at a local Cup Foods. He dies while in police custody. A disturbing cellphone video later posted to Facebook shows an officer pinning Floyd to the ground with his knee on Floyd's neck while a handcuffed Floyd repeats "I can't breathe." The video goes viral.</p> <p>May 26: Responding officers fired as protests begin Civil rights attorney Ben Crump announces he is representing Floyd's family and "will seek justice." The four officers involved in Floyd's death are fired. Demonstrators gather at the Third Precinct and the site of the incident in what becomes the first night of protests in Minneapolis.</p> <p>May 27: Protests spread to other cities Demonstrators in other cities, including Los Angeles and Memphis, start to march in outrage over the death of Floyd. In Minneapolis, peaceful protests turn violent as fires and looting break out and cops attempt to disperse crowds with rubber bullets and tear gas.</p> <p>May 28: Governor activates National Guard In the wake of the previous night's protests, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz signs an executive order activating the Minnesota National Guard. In the coming days, other governors will follow suit as tensions escalate.</p> <p>May 29: Officer arrested and charged in Floyd's death Derek Chauvin, the officer seen in the video kneeling on Floyd's neck, is arrested and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in Floyd's death. The charges carry a maximum of 35 years in prison combined. Floyd's family calls for first-degree murder charges, and that the remaining three officers be arrested and charged.</p> <p>Walz issues a curfew for the entire Twin Cities region; at least a dozen cities will issue curfews as mostly peaceful protests feature bouts of violence and looting in the coming days. President Donald Trump sparks controversy when, in response to the violent unrest, he tweets that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Twitter flags the tweet, saying it violates its rules about "glorifying violence."</p> <p>May 31: Prosecution changes hands Walz announces that the state's attorney general, Keith Ellison, will take over prosecutions in Floyd's death from the county prosecutor. Thousands protest peacefully across the country, though some demonstrations continue to be marred by acts of vandalism and clashes with police, including near the White House.</p> <p>June 1: Autopsy results revealed Floyd's legal team says an independent autopsy determined that his death was a homicide caused by asphyxia "due to neck and back compression that led to a lack of blood flow to the brain." The result is contradictory to the official autopsy from Hennepin County, which declared the death a homicide caused by a cardiopulmonary arrest.</p> |

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| | <p>Ellison tells SiriusXM's "The Joe Madison Show" that he is "very seriously looking" at prosecuting the other officers in the case, but that the process could take months.</p> <p>June 2: Civil rights charge filed against Minneapolis police Minnesota's Department of Human Rights files a civil rights charge related to Floyd's death and launches an investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department. The investigation will examine the "policies, procedures, and practices over the past 10 years" to determine if the police department "has engaged in systemic discriminatory practices towards people of color and ensure any such practices are stopped," a statement said.</p> <p>June 3: All 4 officers now charged in Floyd's death The other three officers involved in the incident have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and manslaughter, both felonies, court records show. Chauvin also received an additional second-degree murder charge, a felony, according to court records.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 NYC healthcare workers kneel in solidarity |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/nurses-health-care-workers-kneel-solidarity-protesters/story?id=71054377 |
| GIST | <p>As thousands of protestors marched for justice amid the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, a handful of essential health care workers took pause to genuflect in solidarity.</p> <p>Health care workers near New York City's Union Square took a knee to honor protesters calling for an end to police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's death while in police custody in Minneapolis on May 25.</p> <p>"We gotta let the world know, we're here and we're not going anywhere," Yvette Courts, a health care worker at Lenox Hill Hospital told ABC News. "That's why I feel this movement is important."</p> <p>Courts said that conversations about racial challenges with her African American son, Joshua, have been compounded by discussions of news and recent events.</p> <p>"It's just a lot that we have to explain to our kids and, as a parent, I definitely need him to understand what's going on," she said. "This is not something that we can sit here and close the door on."</p> <p>"If we act like this never happened, move on, keep accepting it, keep accepting it, sometimes we just can't accept it, sometimes we have to fight, you know?" she added.</p> <p>As the coronavirus pandemic swept the nation, New Yorkers quickly found creative ways to show their support for front-line workers, like with a citywide round of applause at 7 p.m. every night.</p> <p>"The clapping was for us fighting COVID," she said. "Then all of the sudden, this happened. So why not kneel? You know, why not sit there and show that we are in unison with them? Why not show that we're united?"</p> <p>Nyishah Samaniego, a registered nurse at Lenox Hill, spoke of the similarities between the COVID-19 pandemic and racism.</p> <p>"What's happening right now as far as the racial injustice and equality and police brutality, that is also a pandemic. And we need to treat it as such," Samaniego said. "It starts with us doing this. We have to do better."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Floyd autopsy: cardiac arrest; Covid-19 |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/george-floyd-protest-updates-arrests-america-approaching-10000/story?id=71038665 |
| GIST | <p>The death of George Floyd, a black man who died on Memorial Day after he was pinned down by a white Minnesota police officer, has sparked outrage and protests in Minneapolis and across the United States.</p> <p>The Hennepin Medical Examiner's office released the full 20-page autopsy of George Floyd and revealed that he had previously tested positive for COVID-19, but was likely asymptomatic when he died in late May.</p> <p>The report said he initially tested positive for COVID-19 back on April 3. A post mortem nasal test was performed on Floyd on May 26, one day after his death, and it came back positive for 2019-nCoV RNA.</p> <p>"Since PCR positivity for 2019-nCoV RNA can persist for weeks after the onset and resolution of clinical disease, the autopsy result most likely reflects asymptomatic but persistent PCR positivity from previous infection," the report said.</p> <p>Floyd's death, first released earlier this week, was listed as "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression" with hypertensive heart disease, fentanyl intoxication and methamphetamine listed as additional conditions.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 King County seeks modified Phase 1 |
| SOURCE | https://q13fox.com/2020/06/03/king-county-applies-for-modified-phase-2-reopening/ |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE -- King County has asked the state to approve its plan for a modified Phase 1 opening under the governor's plan to reopen the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>According to King County, public health officer Dr. Jeff Duchin has signed off on a plan that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow all recreation that's permitted in Phase 2 - including outdoor activities with five or fewer people from outside your household - like camping, trips to the beach, etc. • allow fitness studios to open for one-on-one sessions • allow restaurants to open indoor seating at 25 percent capacity • allow hair stylists and other salons to open at 25 percent capacity <p>"Our plan to safely reopen our region's economy is based on the latest data, recommendations by Public Health experts, and insight from communities and businesses," King County Executive Dow Constantine said in a news release. "We are ready to take the next careful step toward an equitable recovery that benefits everyone who calls King County home."</p> <p>Initially, only counties with a population of less than 75,000 and no new cases of COVID-19 over three weeks could apply for a quicker reopening. But Inslee has since modified those metrics, allowing those with fewer than 10 new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period to apply for a variance from the order.</p> <p>Some larger counties, including Pierce and Snohomish, had argued the case count requirement was too strict and that their counties were ready to advance.</p> <p>Now, counties can apply to move to the next phase or to add new business activity, with the applications assessed on several targets, including whether the counties have had fewer than 25 new cases per 100,000 residents over a two-week period.</p> <p>So far, 26 counties have been approved for Phase 2 reopening, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining manufacturing • Additional construction phases |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-home/domestic services • Retail • Real estate • Professional services/office-based businesses • Hair and nail salons/barbers • Pet grooming • Restaurants and taverns (at <50% capacity) • Gatherings with up to five people from outside your household per week. • Outdoor recreation with five or fewer people from outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.) <p>Once counties have been in Phase 2 for at least three weeks they can apply to move to Phase 3, which expands group gatherings to 50 or less, including sports activities, and allows restaurants to increase capacity to 75%. Gyms and movie theaters could reopen at half capacity, but nightclubs and entertainment venues will still remain closed during this phase.</p> <p>Eight counties - Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens and Wahkiakum - are now eligible to apply for Phase 3.</p> <p>Most public interactions resume in the final phase, with bars, restaurants and entertainment and sporting venues returning to their regular capacity.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Tri-Cities armed group protect businesses |
| SOURCE | https://komonews.com/news/local/thousands-of-armed-citizens-form-group-to-protect-businesses-in-tri-cities |
| GIST | <p>KENNEWICK, Wash. - More than 5,300 residents of the Tri-Cities in Eastern Washington have joined a group to protect area businesses from vandals in the past 24 hours.</p> <p>The group is called "Defend the Tri" and police and business owners say they're all for it, as long as everybody follows the rules.</p> <p>Group founder Dylan Tafoya wanted to get out there after vandals began showing up, taking advantage of crowded protests to damage local businesses.</p> <p>But these gun advocates might not be who you think.</p> <p>"We want to see all the people we can protesting," says Tafoya. "Many of the people that were standing outside protecting these buildings have also taken part in the community protests."</p> <p>Including one of the group's founders.</p> <p>"It's not that we're out to scare anybody it's simply to prevent the destruction of property," he explains. "Communication is a really important part of all levels of protesting in this day and age."</p> <p>Tafoya says the group knows they're not the police.</p> <p>"We're not here to interfere with (police). We're here to 100% obey their directions no matter what," he says.</p> <p>Lt. Aaron Clem with Kennewick police says what the group is doing is legal and protected in the U.S. Constitution.</p> |

"Washington is an open-carry state," he says. "Anytime you get two opposing groups, there's concern. But anytime any of them have firearms then our concerns go up."

Clem says they're aware of the group and there's an ongoing conversation with organizers, ensuring members heed all legal laws, limitations and responsibilities.

Jerrod Lindblom with Red Mountain Kitchen says it's important to know the difference between protesting instead of looting or destruction.

"I fully support the protests and believe a lot of the community does have a right to feel upset," he says. "I just really hope we continue to find ways to discuss it that don't involve any looting or destruction of property."

The small-business owner says the world is a scary place right now, so he appreciates folks protecting his investment the right way.

"Watching everybody come together has really helped show the good side of humanity," he says. "One of the things that was very heartwarming was to watch a lot of the community come together over the last couple days."

Lt. Clem says it's an emotional situation for all parties involved.

"I think what we're seeing now is people standing up to defend those properties that have nothing to do with the protest or why people are protesting," he says. "If you don't count the people that're doing it for the wrong reason and instead focus on the protesters doing it for the right reasons and I don't think there will be any issues."

Clem says law enforcement officers encourage people to legally exercise their rights to assemble.

"That's uniquely American," he says. "To be able to protest and create reform inside your communities. And we encourage that as long as it's done legally."

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| HEADLINE | 06/02 Revising Washington's opening phases |
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| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/life/which-phase-is-your-county-in-and-what-can-you-do-under-the-modified-phase-1-of-washingtons-reopening/ |
| GIST | <p>Slowly but surely, Gov. Jay Inslee's four-phase plan to reopen Washington has taken effect throughout the state. Inslee unveiled 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 May 29, 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 here.</p> |

King County is in the [process of applying](#) for modified Phase 1.

As your county moves through the various phases, [here's](#) 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 [the state's four-phase plan](#). Note that the answers depend on the phase your [county](#) is in, and dates are subject to change.

Counties cleared for Phase 2 as of Monday:

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.

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| PHASE 1 | PHASE 2 | PHASE 3 | PHASE 4 |
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| HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to stay home OUTDOOR RECREATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking GATHERINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">NoneDrive-in spiritual service (one household per vehicle) TRAVEL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Essential travelLimited nonessential OPEN BUSINESSES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Essential businessesExisting construction may resumeLandscapingAuto, RV, boat salesRetail (curbside pick-up orders only)Car washesPet walkers | HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to stay home OUTDOOR RECREATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Activities involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.) GATHERINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">With no more than 5 people outside your household per week TRAVEL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Essential travelLimited nonessential OPEN BUSINESSES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ManufacturingAdditional construction phasesIn-home domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.)Retail (in-store with restrictions)Real estateProfessional services/office-based (telework strongly encouraged)Hair and nail salons/barbersPet groomingRestaurants at less than 50% capacity, party size max of 5 | HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to stay home OUTDOOR RECREATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Group sports (5-50 people)Recreational facilities at less than 50% capacity (gyms, pools, etc.)Spectating professional sports (horseracing, baseball, etc.) GATHERINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">With no more than 50 people TRAVEL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Resume nonessential travel OPEN BUSINESSES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Restaurants/taverns at less than 75% capacity, party max of 10Bar areas inside restaurant/taverns at less than 25% capacityMovie theaters at less than 50% capacityCustomer-facing government services (telework strongly encouraged)LibrariesMuseumsAll businesses except nightclubs or events larger than 50 people | HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Public interactions, with social distancing OUTDOOR RECREATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open GATHERINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gatherings with over 50 people TRAVEL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open OPEN BUSINESSES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">NightclubsConcert venuesLarge sporting eventsUnrestricted staffing of worksites, with social distancing and good hygiene |

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

HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:

- Continue to stay home

OUTDOOR RECREATION:

- Hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking

GATHERINGS:

- None
- Drive-in spiritual service (one household per vehicle)

TRAVEL:

- Essential travel
- Limited nonessential

OPEN BUSINESSES:

- Essential businesses
- Existing construction may resume
- Landscaping
- Auto, RV, boat sales
- Retail (curbside pick-up orders only)
- Car washes
- Pet walkers

The criteria counties must meet to enter Phases 2

COVID-19 ACTIVITY:

- Infection rate below 25 new cases per 100,000 residents over 14 days.
- Flat or decreasing trend in hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM READINESS:

- Less than 80% licensed beds occupied by patients.
- Less than 10% licensed beds occupied by suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

TESTING:

- Average number of tests per day in past week must be 50 times the number of cases.
- Less than 2 days from symptom onset to specimen collection.

CONTACT TRACING:

- 90% of cases reached by phone or in person within 24 hours of receipt of positive lab test report.
- 80% of contacts reached by phone or in person within 48 hours of positive lab test report on case.

PROTECT THE VULNERABLE:

- Number of outbreaks reported by week
- 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)

26 counties already at Phase 2

PHASE 2

HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS:

- Continue to stay home

OUTDOOR RECREATION:

- Activities involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.)

GATHERINGS:

- With no more than 5 people outside your household per week

TRAVEL:

- Essential travel
- Limited nonessential

OPEN BUSINESSES:

- Manufacturing
- Additional construction phases
- In-home domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.)
- Retail (in-store with restrictions)
- Real estate
- Professional services/office-based (telework strongly encouraged)
- Hair and nail salons/barbers
- Pet grooming
- Restaurants at less than 50% capacity, party size max of 5

Source: Office of the Governor

THE SEATTLE TIMES

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Phase 3: 8 counties eligible to apply |
| SOURCE | https://komonews.com/news/coronavirus/8-counties-in-wash-now-eligible-to-apply-for-phase-3-reopening |
| GIST | <p>OLYMPIA, Wash. - Eight counties in Washington state are now eligible to apply to enter Phase 3 of the governor's economic reopening plan, with further easing of coronavirus restrictions, officials said Wednesday.</p> <p>The eight counties are Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens and Wahkiakum. All eight are predominantly rural counties with low numbers of coronavirus infections.</p> <p>Five of the counties moved to Phase 2 on May 8; the other three moved to Phase 2 on May 11. Under Gov. Jay Inslee's reopening plan, all eight became eligible to apply for Phase 3 status as of Wednesday, June 3.</p> <p>It's not clear whether any of the eight have actually applied for the waiver.</p> <p>A ninth county, Whitman, will be eligible to apply to enter Phase 3 on Friday.</p> <p>Counties approved for Phase 3 can reopen pools and other recreational facilities at 50% capacity or less, allow gatherings of up to 50 people and resume nonessential travel.</p> <p>In addition, counties in Phase 3 can reopen restaurants at less than 75% capacity, bars at up to 25% capacity, indoor gyms and movie theaters at less than 50% capacity and all other businesses except for nightclubs and events with more than 50 people.</p> <p>Libraries and museums also are allowed to reopen under Phase 3.</p> |

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Oregon Phase 2 reopening begins Friday |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/oregon-loosening-virus-restrictions-for-restaurants-pools/ |
| GIST | <p>SALEM, Ore. — Oregon’s phase 2 coronavirus reopening plan will begin as early as Friday and includes loosening current restaurant restrictions, opening pools and expanding outdoor gatherings to 100 people.</p> <p>Gov. Kate Brown planned a news conference late Wednesday morning with state health leaders to discuss the next steps ease restrictions from her stay-at-home directives.</p> <p>Thus far, 20 counties in Oregon are under review by the governor’s office to enter phase 2, including Deschutes, Jackson and Lane, according to the state’s reopening dashboard. Currently, gathering limits are set at 25 people. Under phase 2, gatherings will be increased to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors, said Gina Zejdlik, Brown’s deputy chief of staff.</p> <p>“We are also opening up more sectors in a limited way, like movie theaters and churches can open and expand their occupancy as long as they are in strict compliance with physical distancing, sanitation and occupancy limitation,” Zejdlik said.</p> <p>Restaurants, which are currently required to close at 10 p.m., will be allowed to stay open until midnight.</p> <p>Zejdlik said the governor’s office is still taking the approach of continuing to limit returning to work and strongly recommends that people continue to work remotely if possible.</p> <p>In order to enter phase 2, counties must meet Oregon’s safety and preparedness prerequisites for reopening.</p> <p>All counties are currently in phase 1 except for Multnomah County, which has yet to apply and is taking a more deliberative approach because of its size, density and diversity.</p> <p>As of Tuesday, at least 157 people in Oregon have died from the coronavirus and more than 4,300 in the state have tested positive for the disease.</p> <p>For most, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Pierce Co. ME report: ‘Can’t breathe’ death |
| SOURCE | https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/cant-breathe-tacoma-police-restraint-manuel-ellis-caused-his-death-me-reports/ZPHQGNCCTZB7BLXBJJSDEN5THQ/ |
| GIST | <p>TACOMA, Wash. — Manuel Ellis died in handcuffs while being restrained on the ground by Tacoma police.</p> <p>At the time of his March 3 death, officials said the 33-year-old appeared to be suffering from excited delirium, which often includes attempts at violence, unexpected strength and very high body temperature. They said that might have explained why Ellis allegedly banged on a patrol car and attacked two officers trying to calm him down.</p> |

Although Ellis, an openly struggling addict, had drugs in his system when he died, the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office has determined Ellis died of respiratory arrest due to hypoxia due to physical restraint.

Hypoxia is a deficiency in the amount of oxygen reaching body tissues.

Contributing factors included methamphetamine intoxication and dilated cardiomyopathy, commonly known as an enlarged heart.

"The harshest of realities is George Floyd is right here in Tacoma, and his name is Manny," attorney James Bible, who is representing Ellis' family, told The News Tribune.

The Medical Examiner ruled Ellis' death a homicide, which legally means he was killed by another person. Fatal police shootings, for instance, are generally determined to be homicides. It is up to prosecutors to decide if police acted lawfully and if the homicide was justifiable or a criminal act was committed.

That process is ongoing in Ellis' death.

Handcuffed in the street

Protesters in Tacoma have marched for several days against police brutality and racial inequality, demanding justice for Floyd, Ellis and others who have died at the hands of police.

There are similarities in the deaths of Ellis and [Floyd](#), who died in Minneapolis a week after a white police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes.

Both were black men handcuffed in the street after police encounters. Both died after lapsing into unconsciousness. Both died due to a lack of oxygen while being restrained.

Monet Carter-Mixon, Ellis' sister, learned about the autopsy findings Tuesday and said she wasn't surprised.

"He's another black man that's been victimized and killed by the police," she told The News Tribune. "I have been saying this whole time I knew the police officers killed my brother. I know there's no way what they said happened actually killed him."

On the night Ellis died, he played drums at a church revival.

He called his mother, brother and sister individually to share the joy he was feeling.

Then he hung out with his landlord and her husband, leaving just before 11 p.m. to walk to a nearby convenience store for a snack.

Police encountered Ellis on his walk home at 11:22 p.m.

They say he was harassing a woman at the intersection of 96th Street South and Ainsworth Avenue and pounding on her car window. He also tried to open the doors of occupied vehicles, police said.

When two officers in the area asked him what he was doing, Ellis allegedly told them he had warrants and wanted to talk to them.

Then he repeatedly struck their patrol car.

The two officers inside notified dispatch they needed priority backup then got out of the car.

“He picked up the officer by his vest and slam-dunked him on the ground,” Ed Troyer, spokesman of the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department, which is investigating the incident, told The News Tribune on Tuesday. “He never tried to run, he engaged with the officers and started a fight.”

There was a struggle before police got Ellis handcuffed on the ground.

Officers called for paramedics at 11:25 p.m.

Within a minute of firefighters arriving on scene, Ellis stopped breathing and lost consciousness. Paramedics performed CPR for 40 minutes, but he was pronounced dead at the scene, investigators said.

Cause of death recently confirmed

His cause of death was initially listed as pending while medical examiners ran toxicology tests. The News Tribune learned during routine reporting Tuesday that the findings came back May 11.

This week, Tacoma police identified the four officers involved in restraining Ellis as Christopher Burbank, 34; Matthew Collins, 37; Masyih Ford, 28; and Timothy Rankine, 31.

Burbank and Collins are white. Ford is black. Rankine is Asian.

They have been on the force four and a half years, five years, two years and two months, and one year and 10 months, respectively.

Police Chief Don Ramsdell said he is still awaiting investigators’ final report on Ellis’ death and sent condolences to his family.

“The safety of our community and everyone we serve is our foremost concern, and we regret that an individual lost his life under these unfortunate circumstances,” Ramsdell said in a statement to The News Tribune.

All four officers were placed on paid administrative leave after the incident. They since have returned to duty.

The case being put together by the Sheriff’s Department is expected to be forwarded to the Pierce County Prosecutor’s Office by next week.

Prosecutors will then review it and determine whether criminal charges are warranted or if the officers acted lawfully.

Mayor Victoria Woodards said her office is reviewing the Medical Examiner’s report after receiving it Tuesday.

“We also know we will learn the results of that investigation even as our country reels from the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and too many others,” Woodards said in a statement to The News Tribune. “We look forward to the Sheriff’s swift completion of the investigation, and we will take appropriate steps based on the findings.”

‘Can’t Breathe’

A 12-minute [police radio recording](#) taken the night of Ellis’ death and posted online by Tacompton Files gives a glimpse into his encounter with officers.

Police can be heard asking for hobbles. They call for an ambulance and tell dispatchers Ellis will need to be strapped down.

At one point, Ellis can be heard yelling, “Can’t breathe.”

Tacoma police said they cannot comment on the recording because the case is still an active investigation. Sheriff's investigators confirmed the recording and said there also is a video of the incident logged into evidence that will be forwarded to prosecutors.

A musician and father of two

Ellis was an addict recently diagnosed with mental health issues and trying to straighten out his life by worshipping God and searching for a landscaping job, loved ones said.

"He had his demons like we all did, but he was making strides to do the right thing," Carter-Mixon said. "He was a good man and a good person. He was loved by everyone."

Ellis was known for his musical talents. He played the piano, keyboard and drums.

He doted on his 18-month-old daughter and 11-year-old son and helped his sister raise her children.

"He raised his daughter and his nieces and nephews with the understanding that because they were black their conduct must reflect the understanding that being killed by police was a very real possibility for them and would always be justified by the broader society," his family wrote on a [GoFundMe page](#) raising money for legal costs. "Still, we never thought we would see him dead at the hands of the police."

Close to 500 people have donated to the cause, raising nearly \$18,000.

Tacoma Action Collective and Ellis' family is holding a vigil in his honor at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the stop sign at 96th Street South and Ainsworth Avenue, where Ellis died.

Participants are asked to bring candles and signs, wear masks and practice social distancing.

"While Tacoma has come together peacefully to have hard conversations about the change that needs to happen to save African-American lives, we have seen how the tension of this issue and these lost lives have spilled over into more violence," Woodards said.

"We will not sit back and allow national tensions to bleed into the progress we are striving to achieve. Together, we will serve as an example that we can move forward as a community if we are united in purpose and love."

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Tourist towns balance fear, survival |
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| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/business/cannon-beach-other-tourist-towns-balance-fear-survival-in-make-or-break-summer/ |
| GIST | <p>CANNON BEACH, Ore. (AP) — As the coronavirus raced across America, this quaint seaside town did what would normally be unthinkable for a tourist destination.</p> <p>Spooked by a deluge of visitors, the tiny Oregon community shooed people from its expansive beaches and shut down hundreds of hotels and vacation rentals overnight. Signs went up announcing that the vacation getaway 80 miles (129 kilometers) from Portland known for towering coastal rock formations was closed to tourists — no exceptions.</p> <p>"It was unprecedented," said Patrick Nofield, whose hospitality company Escape Lodging owns four hotels in Cannon Beach and abruptly laid off more than 400 employees in March. "We really went into survival mode."</p> <p>Now, with summer looming and coronavirus restrictions lifting, the choices facing Cannon Beach are emblematic of those confronting thousands of other small, tourist-dependent towns nationwide that are</p> |

struggling to balance their residents' fears of contagion with economic survival. It's a make-or-break summer in these vacation spots — and the future is still terrifyingly unclear.

"How do you regulate people inundating your town on a day-to-day basis?" Nofield said. "One of the great things about Oregon is our beaches are free to all. We don't want to take away people's rights, but how do we manage it and still stay safe? That's the thing."

Answering that question is especially critical for small, rural towns like Cannon Beach, which are too far from major cities to benefit from their economies and remote enough that they worry about medical care should infections spike again. Far-flung communities that are gateways to national parks or fly fishing or hiking destinations have similar concerns, said Carl Winston, director of the Payne School of Hospitality and Tourism at San Diego State University.

"How do you diversify if you are Cannon Beach and all the others? There's not a lot of possibility there," said Winston, who has watched his students' summer internships in resort towns dry up. "The question is, how much is survivable for them?"

Clatsop County, which is home to Cannon Beach and other small coastal towns, has just 45 confirmed cases of the coronavirus so far. But Portland — Oregon's largest city — is less than two hours away and saw its hospitals overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients during the pandemic's peak. Hundreds of tourists also come to Cannon Beach from Seattle, where the virus first took hold in the U.S.

The nation has reported more than 106,000 coronavirus deaths, nearly a third of the worldwide total of over 380,000, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

The annual influx of visitors is a concern for this tight-knit community, best known for the iconic coastal formation Haystack Rock and where a large percentage of its 1,700 year-round residents are older and more susceptible to COVID-19. That was one of the factors influencing the decision to shut down the town so abruptly after huge crowds swarmed its beaches on a warm March weekend, said Jim Paino, executive director of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The City Council held an emergency meeting and took immediate action, making headlines across the region a day before Gov. Kate Brown issued her own statewide stay-at-home order on March 23.

"The big fear is the people who don't respect the safety measures. That was probably the biggest fear in our community at the moment — and it is still," Paino said. But "the businesses are what drive our economy, and if we lose too many, we're going to lose the character of Cannon Beach and the reason everybody loves coming here."

For two months, the town was a ghost of itself, a tableau of desolate streets and shuttered businesses. The closure forced at least four businesses to shut their doors for good, and hundreds of workers — almost all locals — were laid off. Cannon Beach relies on a hotel lodging tax for nearly three-quarters of its general fund and stands to lose hundreds of thousands to the pandemic.

The town reopened on May 15 and its hotels took bookings 10 days later, and on a recent warm, sunny day, Cannon Beach appeared to be coming back to life.

American flags hung on almost every street corner, families flew kites on the beach, people lingered over lunch at local brewpub and a line formed at a hamburger shop. Popular businesses like Bruce's Candy Kitchen were bustling again, with customers watching through a glass window as the owner's son-in-law pulled saltwater taffy on a giant wheel. Tourists filled the sidewalks, sometimes making social distancing difficult.

Yuri Vidal is celebrating his restaurant Crepe Neptune's ninth summer season, and he needed to reopen to survive. But he said he's also afraid of bringing the coronavirus home to his family.

“Right now, we’re just gonna work as hard as we can,” Vidal said. “I have a feeling that’s what everybody’s going to be doing to catch up from missing spring break — and the unknown is that it all could shut down again.”

But tourists do not always equal customers, another hard lesson Cannon Beach is learning.

Gwen Partlow drove from Portland for a few hours of respite and kite-flying with her sister, parents and two sons, ages 5 and 2. The family packed their own picnic and headed straight for the sand, making sure to stay 6 feet (2 meters) from others.

The only money they would spend would be on ice cream, she said.

“I heard they started opening, but we didn’t come with the intention of going to any businesses,” Partlow said. “We’re hoping to just stay outside.”

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 ‘Don’t kill them, but hit them hard’ |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/washington-state-patrol-apologizes-after-officer-tells-his-team-dont-kill-them-but-hit-them-hard-in-reference-to-seattle-protesters/ |
| GIST | <p>The Washington State Patrol has apologized after video surfaced of an officer telling his team, “Don’t kill them, but hit them hard,” while preparing to clear protesters from the streets in Seattle’s Capitol Hill on Tuesday evening.</p> <p>The video was taken shortly before 7:45 p.m. Tuesday by Krystal Marx, executive director of Seattle Pride, who had stopped by her office on East Pine Street between 11th and 12th avenues earlier that day to wait for a UPS shipment, only to be trapped inside for a time by the heavy law enforcement presence.</p> <p>“I had my window open in my office so I could hear what was going on and when it would be safe to go home,” Marx said in an interview Wednesday. “I heard officers beneath me saying, ‘Hit ’em hard, hit ’em hard.’” She grabbed her phone and started recording.</p> <p>Then, one officer, who appeared to be briefing the troopers on rules of engagement with protesters, made the “Don’t kill them, but hit them hard” comment, said Marx, who also is a Burien City Council member and deputy mayor.</p> <p>“I remember shaking,” said Marx, who wonders why the officer would need to talk about hitting protesters or feel it necessary to remind troopers not to kill people. “Why not say, ‘Restrain them, calmly’?” she said.</p> <p>The troopers, clad in riot gear, had gathered in the area of continuing protests about the death George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis who was killed by a police officer who knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes during an arrest.</p> <p>Marx posted video of the patrol incident to her personal Twitter account, and it swiftly went viral, garnering more than 1 million views by 10 a.m. Wednesday.</p> <p>Twitter users responded, some with comments praising police aggression, others with horror. One wrote: “Hit them hard but don’t kill them? Just maim and disfigure, am I right officer?”</p> <p>WSP spokesman Chris Loftis, in a statement released Wednesday morning, said the officer was trying to motivate, reassure and prepare his team for a difficult task.</p> <p>He said officers were getting ready to conduct a “push technique” designed to actively force “aggressive, non-compliant, and threatening protesters away from a designated area. That type of physicality takes motivation and focus as well as balance and restraint. The team leader’s intent of motivating and</p> |

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| | <p>reassuring his troopers was commendable but his word choice, especially when considered outside of the context of his team's immediate challenges, was not."</p> <p>The statement added: "WSP is aware of the video and apologizes for the poor choice of words by one our team leaders preparing his troopers for a possibly confrontational situation. We hope the public will accept that apology and we ask for grace and understanding as our troopers are serving in tense situations of danger and difficulty.</p> <p>"They are doing so with courage, commitment and compassion, but not always with perfection. As disappointed as we are that a word choice might obscure that work, we are proud of how our agency and others have worked to protect the rights of free speech and peaceful demonstration throughout this unprecedented period of statewide demonstrations."</p> <p>Marx said she has not yet heard directly from the Patrol but wants the organization to listen to the voices of marginalized communities as it considers its response to the incident.</p> <p>"I want them to listen to our communities of color, our black and brown communities, the ones that are protesting out of fear and rage and exhaustion at how they have been treated for a very long time — to hear how to do better and incorporate that into their everyday operations," she said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Seattle's riot more likely homegrown |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/dont-buy-the-outside-agitator-trope-arrest-records-suggest-seattles-riot-was-more-likely-homegrown/ |
| GIST | <p>The story of the protests and riots of 2020 is only just beginning to be written. But already one major theme has emerged from various leaders and among parts of the public.</p> <p>Which is that the violence is somebody else's doing.</p> <p>President Trump first fixed racially charged blame on "thugs," and then decided that roving but organized left-wing anti-fascists were the ones fomenting the violence nationwide. To get at this, his attorney general vowed to prosecute anyone who crosses state lines to participate in rioting.</p> <p>Locally our leaders have been less specific while still pointing the finger generally at outside agitators. "What we can't have is people coming into this city and literally tearing it up," said Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best, seeming to suggest the looting and property damage of last weekend originated from somewhere else.</p> <p>Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan parsed the blame by race. She said that "much of the violence and destruction, both here in Seattle and across the country, has been instigated and perpetuated by white men" who are "co-opting peaceful demonstrations."</p> <p>A couple of Republican candidates for governor suggested the riots were even financed from elsewhere. Joshua Freed called them "paid rioters," while Tim Eyman dubbed them "Soros' brownshirts," referring to a conspiracy theory that this is all the work of liberal philanthropist George Soros.</p> <p>Minnesota officials, incredibly, contended at first that three-fourths of the rioters there were out-of-state interlopers, ranging from white supremacists to anarchists (they later walked this back).</p> <p>I took a look at the Seattle Police Department's preliminary roster of arrests made in our downtown rioting last weekend (more arrests are likely to be made). The first thing that jumps out is that whatever else this riot was, it was homegrown.</p> |

Only two of this preliminary round of arrestees had out-of-state driver's licenses. Police listed general addresses for 62 of the people picked up Saturday and Sunday for looting, assault and other crimes. All the rest are from Washington state. Twenty-three have Seattle addresses, while the others are from close-in Puget Sound cities such as Kent, Federal Way, Bremerton or Sea-Tac. Three are from Eastern Washington cities. Eighteen of the arrestees show that no address has been determined yet (so I guess it's still possible these will prove to be the mastermind outside agitators everybody is looking for).

As for Durkan's notion that the rioting was carried out by white men, there is a bit of justification for her claim, but the data still is murkier than her official take.

Of 21 arrests for assaulting an officer, for instance, 15 involve white suspects — though six of these suspects are women, leaving nine white men. Four assaults were allegedly done by Black men, and one allegedly by an Asian man.

The people arrested for looting are a cross section of the city, however. Seattle police only list race as an identifying characteristic for 11 of 38 looting suspects. But of those, three are white, three are Black, three are Native American and two are Hispanic.

I don't know what it means that the looting was apparently done by a rainbow coalition — other than that these riots aren't going to be that simple to pigeonhole.

The reason I'm laboring over all this is that riots and associated protests are by their very nature complex. The purpose of a protest is the message, and sometimes riots carry messages, too (famously they are "the language of the unheard," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.). But not everybody who shows up shares the same goals or is speaking in the same tongue. Of course not — it's hard to get a condo board to speak with one voice, let alone 10,000 disparate people in the streets.

So it makes it easy to use this "outside agitator" trope as a form of spin, or as propaganda. It can serve to subtly let police off the hook, both for letting a riot spin out of control or for cracking down too hard on the peaceful protesters. Nationally, it can be employed to inflame political divisions (needless to say, that's what Trump is using it for).

The reality is that provocateurs have been showing up and smashing stuff at different protests around Seattle for decades. As the arrest records show, they live here, so it would have been far more surprising if they *hadn't* come. They also were hardly the only people looting and smashing things. Did you see that across the lake, in Bellevue, the looting there has been blamed not on anarchists or political actors [but on an old-fashioned street gang?](#)

My plea in all this is: Don't fall for the imposed narratives. Seattle's protest was a homegrown movement, and yes, it was our riot, too. The easy theories are designed more to disown or to distract than to enlighten. In the end, I'm not sure I've ever seen a story being manipulated in so many directions in which most everybody actually seems to agree on the important, central things: that George Floyd was brutalized and wrongly killed by police, and that we've got a ton of work to do to make things right.

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| HEADLINE | 06/02 Tacoma teens organize peaceful protest |
| SOURCE | https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/tacoma/tacoma-protests-peaceful-civil-unrest-george-floyd/281-f504f03e-eb14-4047-93df-bae7bc371c66 |
| GIST | <p>TACOMA, Wash. — The organizers behind an overwhelmingly peaceful demonstration against police brutality in Tacoma's Wright Park was the work of two high school classmates at Tacoma School of the Arts.</p> <p>The protest attracted hundreds of protesters and included speakers, marching, and several "die-ins," in which protesters lay blocking sidewalks or intersections to mark the death of George Floyd.</p> |

"The turnout was way better than I would've imagined and it kind of turned into the people's protest," said the lead organizer, 15-year-old Olivia Borcharding, who will be a sophomore at Tacoma School of the Arts in the fall. Her friend and fellow organizer, 17-year-old Kennedy Wilcox, will be a senior in the fall.

"Seeing that many people really opened my eyes and showed me how much people cared," said Wilcox. Both Borcharding and Wilcox remained anonymous in the lead-up to the protest, hoping to center the message rather than themselves.

Hours after the protest, video showed what appeared to be a small group of rogue vandals shattering the window of Bellevue Gold Coin in Tacoma. The windows of a handful of businesses on Pacific Avenue were also shattered and later boarded up.

In a statement, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards said in part: "We need more allies. We need more peaceful demonstration and expression of what we believe to be just. We need to join together in saying that enough is enough and then take action to back those words."

Borcharding and Wilcox said they understand the anger some people are feeling.

"I'm not going to condone it," Borcharding said. "but I'm not going to say it's wrong."

Wilcox said she has plans to run for her school's Black Student Union. Borcharding said she is considering how to move forward with another, more inclusive protest that will involve grassroots community activists.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 'Eerie' parallel taking knee; renews debate |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/eerie-parallel-knees-george-floyds-death-renews-debate/story?id=70981946 |
| GIST | <p>Protests against the deaths of unarmed black men and women at the hands of law enforcement have often revived conversations surrounding Colin Kaepernick, but the killing last week of George Floyd has brought Kaepernick back into the debate in a stark way.</p> <p>The images of a police officer kneeling on Floyd's neck as the Minnesota man called out that he can't breathe have sparked advocates, athletes and celebrities to draw a direct visual parallel to Kaepernick's kneeling protest against police brutality, with side-by-side photos going viral on social media.</p> <p>LeBron James was among those to share the parallel images on Instagram, topped with the words, "This ... is why."</p> <p>"Do you understand NOW!!!!!! Or is it still blurred to you??" the Los Angeles Lakers star wrote in the caption. Printouts of that same image have also been held up during protests around the country.</p> <p>Kaepernick, a former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, became the first NFL player to take a knee on the football field during the playing of the national anthem in 2016 to protest police brutality.</p> <p>"It's this sort of eerie similarity in the position that Kaepernick physically took, and the position that the officer had assumed on the neck and the head of George Floyd," Marc Lamont Hill, an activist and professor of media studies and urban education at Temple University, told ABC News.</p> <p>"It was almost like the flip side of it, that Kaepernick was taking a knee for justice and this man was taking a knee in ending the life of a black man in the very fashion that Colin Kaepernick was protesting and trying to put a spotlight on," he said.</p> |

Amid the unrest, even some police officers and top brass have taken a knee in the streets alongside protesters in solidarity against the killings of unarmed black people.

Floyd was apprehended by police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota, last Monday. According to the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office, Floyd's death was a homicide caused by "a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by law enforcement officer(s)."

An independent autopsy ordered by George Floyd's family found his death was a "homicide caused by asphyxia due to neck and back compression that led to a lack of blood flow to the brain," according to early findings from the examination released Monday.

Derek Chauvin, who was fired from the Minneapolis Police following the incident, has been charged with third-degree murder in connection with Floyd's death. Chauvin had his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, including about three minutes while Floyd was unresponsive, according to court documents.

George Floyd remembered by friends and family as hardworking 'gentle giant'

Three other officers who were on the scene -- Thomas Lane, J.A. Kueng and Tou Thao -- have not been charged but an investigation is still ongoing, according to Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison.

"You can't stop thinking about that," said sports journalist and ABC News contributor Christine Brennan. "The side-by-side visuals are everything, and because we are such a visual society, because photos and video matters so much to us ... that then brings Colin Kaepernick back into the conversation in a big way. If people had forgotten him or pushed him out of their memory, [Kaepernick] has come flooding back because of the visual, and then because he was right."

Kaepernick, who hasn't played in the NFL since 2016, sparked a movement after first taking a knee on the field in August 2016, with several other athletes following his example -- the first of which was then-teammate Eric Reid. It is widely viewed that Kaepernick was blacklisted from the NFL due to his on-field protest.

Over the past couple of seasons, on-field protests have waned, but Reid -- along with players Kenny Stills and Albert Wilson -- has continued to take a knee.

Brennan said we "don't know" whether this wave of protests will have an impact on the football field this coming season, but she is "stunned" the NFL has not signed Kaepernick. "One would think that a team would want to sign him if only for the symbolism of the message that would be set, especially to young people," she said.

Kaepernick filed a grievance against league owners in 2017 alleging that they colluded to ensure that he remained unsigned. The lawsuit has been settled.

The NFL on Saturday released a statement from commissioner Roger Goodell, who offered condolences to the family of George Floyd and said that the league was "greatly saddened by the tragic events" amid nationwide protests.

"The protesters' reactions to these incidents reflect the pain, anger and frustration that so many of us feel," Goodell wrote, adding that the protests "underscore" that "there remains much more to do as a country and as a league."

Hill noted that the statement "didn't offer any criticism, any outrage" and did not mention "the killing of anybody" or words like "racism" or "police violence."

Reid, who is now a free agent, and Stills both criticized the statement, with Reid appearing to mock the NFL's social change initiative, which was launched in January 2019 amid mounting backlash over Kaepernick's absence.

Through the initiative, the NFL partnered with the Players Coalition and other organizations, including Jay-Z's Roc Nation, on social justice campaigns.

But with Kaepernick still unsigned, those efforts have been viewed as an effort to save face by activists and players who have continued to take a knee.

Hill said the NFL's statement during the protests is in "sharp contrast" to how Kaepernick has been treated.

"He became persona non grata in the NFL. He was treated as an enemy of the state, and I mean that quite literally when you look at the response of Donald Trump to him," Hill said. "Donald Trump had more words of outrage for Kaepernick than he did for the killer, the killer of George Floyd."

Asked about the criticism, a spokesperson for the NFL told ABC News on Tuesday that league is "in daily contact with our national social justice partners to listen, understand and generate new ideas of how we can help use the platform of the NFL to help improve relations with law enforcement. We are working closely with the clubs and players to provide more grants and programs that can be adapted in local communities."

"Our clubs and players have worked extensively to provide training sessions, community gatherings and ride-alongs with players and local police departments, as well as team-facilitated volunteer programs that involve police officers and underserved youth," the spokesperson added. "We are committed to working with players, clubs and partners to make positive change in our communities."

Kaepernick, who founded his own social justice organization, has spoken out in support of activists and started a legal defense fund to provide legal representation to those protesting in Minneapolis.

President Donald Trump, who has been silent on Kaepernick and the NFL's handling of the protests for more than a year, clearly took a side in this divisive debate by repeatedly lambasting players who took a knee in a years-long feud with the NFL.

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Cyber Awareness

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 New Ursnif malware delivery campaign |
| SOURCE | https://securityintelligence.com/news/excel-4-0-macro-functionality-incorporated-into-ursnif-delivery-campaigns/?web_view=true |
| GIST | <p>Security researchers discovered a new Ursnif malware delivery campaign leveraging Excel 4.0 macro functionality.</p> <p>In an analysis of one Ursnif delivery campaign dating back to January, Morphisec discovered that many of the malicious files leveraged .xlsm as their extension. They also had “3” as their detection score, a rating that is too low to have static heuristic-based approaches label the files as suspicious. That caused many detection-based solutions to miss the files.</p> <p>Once opened, the files leveraged text to ask that users enable editing and content. This technique helped the files to evade OCR heuristic detection methods more effectively than if the files had used an image to issue the same request.</p> <p>Enabling the content activated a defining ability of Excel 4.0: the use of macro worksheets to deploy XLM macros. In this case, the heavily obfuscated sheet was hidden and leveraged several “RUN” commands before ending with some “CALL” and “EXEC” instructions. Those instructions ordered the Excel 4.0 macros to download Ursnif/Gozi via the Win32 API function.</p> <p>Other Attacks Involving Ursnif</p> |

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| | <p>Security researchers have detected several other Ursnif campaigns over the past year. Back in August 2019, for instance, Fortinet spotted a new campaign that used Microsoft Word documents to spread a new variant of the malware.</p> <p>In January 2020, the SANS Internet Storm Center picked up on a malspam campaign that preyed on German users with password-protected ZIP archives carrying the threat. Most recently in April 2020, Zscaler observed an attack campaign that embraced mshta instead of PowerShell for its second-stage payload before ultimately delivering Gozi.</p> <p>Defend Against Malicious Macros</p> <p>Security professionals can help defend against malicious macros by implementing logging and reviewing logs for suspicious activity that could be indicative of a malware infection. Companies should also invest in ongoing security awareness training so that employees will be less inclined to open email attachments carrying malicious macros.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 WordPress sites face large-scale attack |
| SOURCE | https://www.zdnet.com/article/large-scale-attack-tries-to-steal-configuration-files-from-wordpress-sites/?&web_view=true |
| GIST | <p>Hackers have launched a massive campaign against WordPress websites over the past weekend, attacking old vulnerabilities in unpatched plugins to download configuration files from WordPress sites.</p> <p>The goal of the attack was to use old exploits to download or export wp-config.php files from unpatched websites, extract database credentials, and then use the usernames and passwords to take over databases.</p> <p>Ram Gall, a threat analyst at Wordfence, a provider of web application firewall (WAF) services, said that last weekend's attack was of massive proportions when compared to what the company was seeing on a daily basis.</p> <p>Gall said "this campaign accounted for 75% of all attempted exploits of plugin and theme vulnerabilities across the WordPress ecosystem."</p> <p>According to an attack chart WordFence published today part of a threat alert, the config-grab attacks tripled any other form of attack against WordPress sites.</p> <p>Gall said Wordfence blocked more than 130 million exploitation attempts on its network alone, which targeted more than 1.3 million WordPress sites, however, the attacks are believed to have targeted even many more other sites, not covered by the company's network.</p> <p>The Wordfence engineer said the attacks were carried out from a network of 20,000 different IP addresses. Most of these IPs were also previously used in another large-scale campaign that targeted WordPress sites at the start of May.</p> <p>During the first campaign, the threat actor used a batch of XSS (cross-site scripting) vulnerabilities and attempted to insert new admin users and backdoors on targeted sites.</p> <p>The first campaign was also similarly massive in scale, as the group's XSS attacks outweighed all the XSS attacks carried out by other groups combined...</p> <p>Gall believes the two campaigns, albeit they targeted different vulnerabilities, have most likely been orchestrated by the same threat actor.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Lawsuit: Google tracked Incognito Mode |
| SOURCE | https://www.darkreading.com/endpoint/google-faces-\$5b-lawsuit-for-tracking-users-in-incognito-mode/d/d-id/1337997?&web_view=true |
| GIST | <p>A proposed class-action lawsuit filed earlier this week accuses Google of violating users' privacy by collecting their data while they searched the Web in "incognito mode," or private browsing.</p> <p>The lawsuit seeks at least \$5 billion, Reuters reports. A complaint filed in federal court alleges Google collects data via Google Analytics and Google Ad Manager, along with other applications and plug-ins, to learn more about where people browse and what they view on the Web. This data collection occurs whether or not someone clicks a Google-supported ad, the report notes.</p> <p>By furtively collecting data from users browsing in private mode, the lawsuit alleges, Google has misled millions of people into thinking their information and habits were private when they were not. Google "cannot continue to engage in the covert and unauthorized data collection from virtually every American with a computer or phone," the complaint stated.</p> <p>The proposed lawsuit likely includes millions of users who browsed the Web in incognito mode since June 1, 2016. It seeks \$5,000 in damages per person for violations of federal wiretapping and California privacy laws.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 'Return' of fraudulent wire transfers |
| SOURCE | https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2020/06/03/fraudulent-wire-transfers/?web_view=true |
| GIST | <p>Ransomware gangs targeting businesses are currently getting more public attention, but scammers trying to trick employees into performing fraudulent wire transfers are once again ramping up their efforts, US-headquartered law firm BakerHostetler has warned.</p> <p>BEC scams and fraudulent wire transfers</p> <p>The same tactics have been employed by BEC scammers for years, but businesses of all sizes continue to fall for them.</p> <p>The scam is usually discovered when the accounting department of a company starts seeing an increase in accounts receivable for one or more customers, then follows up on the outstanding invoices.</p> <p>The customer reports that they have already paid the invoices and provides proof of the wire transfer, but the document shows that the money transfer was made to the worn bank account. The customer says they've followed the accounting department's instructions, after receiving an email with "new" wire instructions from them.</p> <p>"The email, of course, is not from the accounting department but from a fraudster," the lawyers explained.</p> <p>"Sometimes the bad actor compromised an accounting department employee's email account to find customers, steal invoices and gain an understanding of the cadence and manner of billing emails. Sometimes the bad actor compromised the customer's email account for the same purpose and then used an email that looked enough like the vendor's accounting department email address to trick the customer. But whatever the method of access and communication, the two entities share the same outcome: Money has been paid to bad actors, and it is highly unlikely that it will be recouped, even with law enforcement intervention."</p> <p>Prevention</p> <p>The worst thing about these schemes is that they are easily thwarted by setting up certain policies and low-cost technical measures.</p> |

For example: companies should consider enabling [multi-factor authentication](#) for web-based email access so that scammer can't exploit phished credentials to take over business email accounts.

Blocking access to company email accounts from internet provider addresses that resolve to countries where the company does not have employees is also a good idea, and so is setting up alerts that are triggered when the email account is accessed from two locations within a time span that would not allow for travel between the two locations, the lawyers advise.

On the other hand, scammers may choose not to compromise legitimate business email accounts but set up rogue ones that are made to look like they are owned by the business.

Employees who deal with payments should be taught about the danger presented by these emails, instructed on how to spot red flags, and regularly reminded to always verify all requests to change bank account information by calling a known telephone number for that customer, vendor or business partner (definitely not a phone number included in the email!).

Finally, a business might be wise to these tricks, but it costs them nothing to raise awareness and educate customers and business partners by sending an email delineating all this information and good advice.

You've been scammed, now what?

Recouping the fraudulently transferred funds once an employee falls for the scam might end up to be a challenging endeavor.

The sooner the company discovers the incident, the better for your chances of getting back the money. You have to notify your bank immediately and report the incident to law enforcement.

If you're in the US and the fraudulent wire transfer has been made to a domestic bank account, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)'s Recovery Asset Team might be able to get it back for you.

"During its inaugural year, the team assisted in the recovery of over \$300 million lost through on-line scams, boasting a 79% return rate of reported losses," the FBI [boasted](#) earlier this year.

It's also important to find out whose email account was compromised by the scammers.

Not only is this important to decide who will "eat" the loss if the money can't be recovered, but also because companies whose email account(s) have been compromised might have more to lose than just money: the scammers might have accessed personal and business information residing in the account and might use it to perpetrate additional fraud.

Also, the lawyers noted, "the business whose email was compromised may have additional legal obligations based on state or federal data breach notification laws or contractual clauses with other business partners."

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Coincheck crypto exchange targeted |
| SOURCE | https://hotforsecurity.bitdefender.com/blog/coincheck-cryptocurrency-exchange-targeted-by-hackers-customer-emails-exposed-23439.html?web_view=true |
| GIST | <p>Japanese cryptocurrency exchange Coincheck has announced that earlier this week hackers managed to access some emails sent to the firm by its customers.</p> <p>Reading (with a little help from Google Translate) press announcement, it appears an attacker accessed the DNS records for the coincheck.com domain at the firm's third-party domain registrar, and was able to change the records to forward incoming emails to the hackers.</p> |

As a result of this event, some emails the cryptocurrency exchange received between May 31 to June 1 could be illegally accessed by an unauthorised party. Clearly such emails would contain the sender's email address (which could later be abused by criminals), but Coincheck warned that they could also include the following personal information:

- Name
- Registered address
- Date of birth
- Phone number
- ID Selfie

In all, the cryptocurrency exchange believes that around 200 customers had their emails exposed by the incident.

Coincheck says that the domain records have now been amended, and says it has asked its domain registrar to investigate what went wrong, and how a hacker might have been able to access the account. Questions I would be asking is whether Coincheck was using a unique, hard-to-crack password to secure its account at the domain registrar. But even a good strong password can still be phished.

For that reason I would like to believe that Coincheck was further securing its domain registrar account (and the critical DNS records it manages) with two-factor authentication.

Unfortunately, not all domain registrars support 2FA – something which has [caught out companies in the past](#).

Past victims of DNS hacking have included [WhatsApp](#), [Lenovo](#), and Bitcoin wallet service [Blockchain.info](#).

Coincheck itself is no stranger for being on the receiving end of unwanted attention from hackers. In January 2018 the cryptocurrency exchange suffered a [massive hack](#) which saw it lose more than \$500 million worth of digital coins.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 APT exploits Exim MTA flaws |
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| SOURCE | https://securityaffairs.co/wordpress/104209/hacking/russia-apt-exim-flaws.html?web_view=true |
| GIST | <p>Several flaws in the Exim mail transfer agent (MTA) have been exploited by Russia-linked hackers, hundreds of thousands of servers are still unpatched.</p> <p>Russia-linked threat actors have exploited several vulnerabilities in the Exim mail transfer agent (MTA) in their campaigns.</p> <p>Last week, the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) warned that Russia-linked APT group tracked Sandworm Team has been exploiting a critical vulnerability (CVE-2019-10149) in the Exim mail transfer agent (MTA).</p> <p>According to the NSA, hackers belonging to the Unit 74455, under the Russian GRU Main Center for Special Technologies (GTsST), are exploiting the CVE-2019-10149 issue after an update was issued in June 2019.</p> <p><i>The actors exploited victims using Exim software on their public facing MTAs by sending a command in the "MAIL FROM" field of an SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) message.</i> states the advisory.</p> <p>Russian state-sponsored hackers leverage the vulnerability to download a shell script from a domain under their control and use it to "add privileged users, disable network security settings, update SSH</p> |

configurations to enable additional remote access, execute an additional script to enable follow-on exploitation.”

NSA recommends patching Exim servers immediately by installing version 4.93 or newer.

Now security firm RiskIQ revealed that threat actors had exploited two other Exim vulnerabilities in the same campaign. The two issues are:

- a remote code execution vulnerability tracked as CVE-2019-15846, it impacts version 4.92.1 and earlier and was patched in September 2019;
- a DoS and code execution flaw tracked as CVE-2019-16928, it impacts versions 4.92 through 4.92.2.

In May, RiskIQ experts [identified](#) more than 900,000 vulnerable Exim servers. Most of the servers were running version 4.92, this means that they were patched against the CVE-2019-10149 issue, while they were still impacted by the other two vulnerabilities.

Experts noticed that many servers were updated in May, but there are still hundreds of thousands of vulnerable servers.

“The vulnerabilities leveraged impact Exim Internet Mailer version 4.87 – 4.92. Searching RiskIQ’s internet intelligence database, from May 1, 2020, RiskIQ has observed over 900K vulnerable Exim instances.” reads the [analysis](#) published by RiskIQ.

Querying Shodan search engine for vulnerable Exim servers we can verify that there are [more than 250,000 installs running version 4.91](#) and [over one million servers running version 4.92](#).

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Attackers target industrial organizations |
| SOURCE | https://cyware.com/news/attackers-targeting-industrial-organizations-with-steganographic-techniques-1410e7a8 |
| GIST | <p>With an aim to steal employee credentials, cybercrooks are aiming at organizations in the industrial sector and targeting them in sophisticated attacks.</p> <p>Why such a hoo-ha?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to Kaspersky’s ICS CERT team, hackers targeted industrial suppliers in Japan, Italy, the UK, and Germany in highly-targeted attacks.• Through these attacks, cybercriminals delivered spearphishing emails containing Microsoft Office documents with malicious macro codes to execute PowerShell scripts.• This technique is called steganography, which the attackers used to dodge detection and control tools that would circumvent malicious downloads. <p>There’s more to dig</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By creating messages and documents in specific languages, the attackers discovered the geographical locations of the targets.• The purpose of the initial PowerShell script is to download an image from randomly chosen addresses on Imgur or Imgbox hosting services and extract the payload.• The concealed payload in the image is encoded using Base64, encrypted with RSA, and again encoded with Base64. An intentional error in the script creates an exception message, which is the decryption key. The exception message depends on the language used by the target’s operating system.• The data hidden in the images decrypts to another PowerShell script that reveals a type of Mimikatz open-source application for obtaining access credentials on Windows. <p>Steganography is not new</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2019, Trend Micro observed a LokiBot variant using steganography when it alerted a Southeast Asian company about a possible threat. The company received an email enclosing an attachment allegedly from an Indian confectionery company. • The UK-based security firm, Sophos, discovered a botnet, dubbed MyKingz, that used steganography techniques to conceal a malicious .exe file inside an image of pop singer Taylor Swift in 2019. • A security researcher from Bromium discovered ransomware embedded in a downloadable Super Mario image in 2019...Using steganography, the hackers sent emails enclosed with spreadsheets that had malware and a macro embedded in it. <p>Why should you care?</p> <p>By employing steganography and public image hosting services, threat actors can easily bypass network security solutions and let their payload go undetected. The custom exception message evades an automatic analysis of the malware...Avoiding steganographic attacks begins with blocking initial access. Shielding against attack vectors by training employees to detect suspicious messages is an essential step toward an improved security approach.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 New malware targets air-gapped systems |
| SOURCE | https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/kaspersky-ids-sophisticated-new-malware-targeted-at-air-gapped-systems/d/d-id/1337998 |
| GIST | <p>'USBCulprit' is one of several tools that suggest previously known Cycldek group is more dangerous than previous assumed, security vendor says.</p> <p>A likely China-based threat actor called Cycldek, which security researchers have previously dismissed as a somewhat marginal group with relatively unsophisticated capabilities, may be considerably more dangerous than previously thought.</p> <p>That's security vendor Kaspersky's analysis after a new examination of the threat group's malware toolset and operations. In a report this week, Kaspersky researchers describe finding numerous nuggets of, until now, unknown information suggesting that Cycldek operators have an extensive foothold in the networks of several high-profile targets in Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. Since at least 2018, the group (aka Goblin Panda and Conimes) has been using a variety of new tools, tactics, and procedures in attacks against government agencies in these countries, Kaspersky says.</p> <p>Among the new tools is one called USBCulprit, which appears designed for use in air-gapped environments where systems are not directly accessible from an external network. According to Kaspersky, its analysis shows the malware is capable of stealing targeted data from an infected system and passing it on to connected USB drives. The malware is programmed to copy itself selectively to certain USB drives so it can move laterally to other air-gapped systems each time an infected USB drive is inserted into one.</p> <p>Mark Lechtik, senior security researcher at Kaspersky, says USBCulprit has no capability of communicating over the network and can only pass any information it has stolen to physical media. The fact that it profiles the network connectivity of the infected system and copies this information along with stolen documents to removable drives suggests it was mostly designed to target air-gapped machines, he says.</p> <p>"To deploy USBCulprit on an air-gapped system, the USB would have to be physically connected to it and an operator would have to manually launch the malware's executable, either on purpose or by mistake," Lechtik notes. The US-led Stuxnet cyberattack that physically destroyed numerous centrifuges at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant in 2012 is believed to have begun this way, with someone inserting a weaponized USB into a critical system at the facility.</p> |

What is not clear, however, is the tactic that Cycldek operators are using to exfiltrate data from USBs. It's quite possible that copying data to the USBs is the end game and the attackers are manually collecting the drives later.

Data Exfiltration

But somewhat puzzlingly, Kaspersky's analysis shows that USBCulprit is also able to dump stolen data from a connected USB drive to a local disk on systems that contain a special marker file named "1.txt" in a specific path, Lechtik says. This is true regardless of whether the system is connected to the network.

"We know that systems that were previously marked with the special '1.txt' file [are] theoretically capable of exfiltrating the data somehow," he says.

Kaspersky has been unable to find any evidence of how these specially marked systems then exfiltrate the stolen data.

"We can assume that it is either being done by another piece of malware that we don't have visibility on or that the USBs were picked up by a human handler after data was copied to them, avoiding the need to issue it over the network," Lechtik says.

What's also not clear is the specific data Cycldek operators are going after with USBCulprit. The malware collects documents based on file extensions and where the documents are located on the system — for example, Desktop, Recent Document, and other directories. The malware doesn't appear to be distinguishing files based on actual content, so there is no way of identifying the nature of documents that Cycldek might be fetching from air-gapped systems in government organizations.

The operators of Cycldek appear to have been using USBCulprit at least since 2014 and modifying it ever since. The latest version contains a feature that suggests the malware's functionality can be extended with new modules as needed.

Kaspersky researchers observed the malware being used by what appears to be two separate groups under the Cycldek umbrella. Available data suggests a certain level of cooperation and shared tools between the two entities. But the infrastructure being used and the behaviors on infected systems by each of them are different, Kaspersky says.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 RATs 101: scurry thru remote access pipes |
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| SOURCE | https://www.darkreading.com/edge/theedge/rats-101-the-grimy-trojans-that-scurry-through-remote-access-pipes/b/d-id/1337996 |
| GIST | <p>Remote access trojans (RATs) may not induce the same sort of nightmares as angry cannibal rats, but they can still be terror-inducing if they hit your network and workstations. Because there's nothing like turning control of your resources over to someone you don't know to make the job of IT security completely rat-tastic.</p> <p>There are many different RATs and they tend to share several special characteristics. Whether the RAT is SubSeven, Back Orifice, ProRat, Turkojan, Poison-Ivy, CyberGate, DarkComet, Optix, Shark, or Vortex RatAs (among hundreds) the "trojan" part of their name implies that they arrive on the victim's computer disguised as a legitimate or innocuous program. It also implies that the computer's user has played an active role in bringing the trojan to their system, usually by downloading a file from a malicious web site or clicking on a link in a malicious email message.</p> <p>Once installed, the RAT begins the "remote access" part of its life when it "phones home" to a command and control (C&C) server that will govern its future actions. This outbound call is critical because most enterprise networks are set up to be far more lenient about the network ports used and traffic sent from inside the enterprise to the outside world, than from the outside world to enterprise computers. Just to</p> |

make itself more difficult to detect, a RAT will often use the network port associated with a legitimate communication or remote access application, such as those used by network engineers for remote system management. And once the connection is established, the RAT may hold it open to bi-directional traffic for as long as necessary.

So far, the RAT hasn't done anything truly awful, but that's about to change. Once the C&C server is contacted, it will send the malicious payload to the RAT and begin its "real" work, which can be a keylogger, privacy invader (through webcam and microphone), botnet participant, cryptominer, or just about anything else. Once the RAT has opened the conversation from inside the network, virtually anything can flow over the connection. And, for the criminal, it gets better.

The growth of "malware as a service" has seen criminals take over victims' computers and maintain them as assets, renting them out to clients for a variety of purposes. Once infected with a RAT, a computer can be a cryptominer one day and a spam-spewing bot the next. If a keylogger can grab account credentials for banking and other applications, that's just additional revenue for the criminal.

So what can an organization do about RATs? The good news is that RATs aren't typically a quickly evolving variety of malware, so most anti-malware software can recognize and quarantine the applications. From the network side, IDS/IPS systems should be able to flag or shut down outbound traffic to unusual or unknown servers, or communication using atypical ports.

Of course, the most effective anti-RAT program begins with teaching users not to visit shady web sites, click on suspicious links, or open attachments delivered via dodgy email messages. In each of these cases, the effort will have the additional benefit of slowing the spread of other, non-rattine, malware.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Chasing RobbinHood: an evolving threat |
| SOURCE | https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/chasing-robbinhood-up-close-with-an-evolving-threat/d/d-id/1337994 |
| GIST | <p>A security researcher details how RobbinHood has changed and why it remains a threat for businesses to watch.</p> <p>It has been over a year since ransomware-as-a-service RobbinHood appeared in a major attack against the city government of Baltimore. While initially described as amateur and unsophisticated among cybersecurity pros, the ransomware has since changed in ways that make it a threat to watch.</p> <p>James Jackson, an independent researcher who aided a global shipping firm in the aftermath of NotPetya and currently works for a multinational intelligence and consulting business, has been analyzing RobbinHood to trace its evolution. He discovered 19 RobbinHood binaries and linked six to confirmed attacks. The research led him to identify four distinct versions of the RobbinHood ransomware, each of which demonstrates growth in functionality and maturity.</p> <p>"In a very short period of time, [RobbinHood] has rapidly advanced," Jackson says. "The fact they've escalated and refined their attack in a very short period of time, and developed an exploit with a malicious driver, indicates expertise and gearing up."</p> <p>Version 0.1 of RobbinHood, used to target the cities of Baltimore and Greenville, is considered the most simplistic and unsophisticated. It functions to stop computer services that could stop it from running, encrypt local files, and deploy a ransom note demanding payment in exchange for the files' return. It's noisy and noticeable, Jackson says, and the attackers only implemented crude means from preventing security researchers from analyzing the malware in a sandbox.</p> <p>"The overarching theme from version one of the malware is that it was incredibly simplistic and it was fraught with problems and errors," he explains. Despite the damage it caused Baltimore, early analysis of</p> |

RobbinHood revealed "juvenile naivety that was difficult to ignore," he wrote in a blog post. From there, RobbinHood underwent a series of minor and significant changes.

There are many reasons why RobbinHood's attackers may have been motivated to improve. One driver may have been the ease of recovery. "They've realized not only is the ransomware unsophisticated and amateur, but that's having a direct impact on the profitability of this enterprise," Jackson says. Of the six Bitcoin addresses he discovered, five belonged to v0.1 and none had ever contained any funds. This could indicate early versions were not successful.

Version 0.2 appeared in mid-June 2019, slightly more advanced than its predecessor. In this edition, attackers made it harder to extract embedded text from inside the malware. Function names were obfuscated, and the text listing services to stop was encoded. The second version also tried to kill running processes before encryption and had a function to clear Windows Event Logs, though Jackson points out this never seems to execute in ransomware attacks.

RobbinHood operators waited longer to launch version 0.3, which arrived in late January 2020 with a reference to a "RobinHood2" folder and dropped the obfuscation, though embedded text was still encoded. This version was built to erase event logs and use pattern matching to find and stop services, which made it more effective in finding and disabling security software.

Jackson notes erasing event logs is interesting, as there are more important forensic artifacts they don't delete. This could indicate they are intentionally deleting evidence and are bad at it, or they're deleting evidence to hinder response. Both possibilities could be significant in profiling the group: The former indicates low sophistication; the latter, a strong "arsonist" trait, he adds.

Bringing Bigger Changes: v0.3 to v0.4

Version 0.4 appeared only a few months later, in late April, but brought the biggest change to RobbinHood since its 2019 launch. As Jackson points out in his writeup, a comparison of the internal functions in v0.1 and v0.4 revealed the two versions share only 23% of the same code.

This version references a folder dubbed "RobbinHood6.1" and brought additional functions and design improvements. It returns to using a hard-coded list of services and processes to block; however, the list was adjusted to stop services that constantly write data to a computer. This boosts the reliability of encryption, he notes, and minimizes the likelihood of data loss. Versions 0.3 and 0.4 also attempt to change all user account passwords on the system.

Between v0.3 and v0.4, RobbinHood's operators became more concerned with services that could compromise the encryption process, Jackson says. They also created and weaponized a malicious driver to handle this for them. RobbinHood attacks seen during this time exploit a legitimate and digitally signed hardware driver to delete security tools before encrypting files.

The group has demonstrated the ability to decrypt data, he adds. However, there is a higher likelihood that decryption may not be possible even with the group assistance. RobbinHood's encryption process involves using public keys to encrypt a randomly generated AES key and attacker that data to the target file. If an error occurred, the AES key may not be recoverable.

One malicious feature in v0.4 is its ability to identify and remove files prior to encryption. The logic is seemingly targeting backups; however, it may capture data victims may want decrypted. The Ryuk ransomware attackers use manual tactics to delete backups, Jackson points out as an example of another group's strategy. The automated tactic here is comparatively less effective: RobbinHood looks for files with specific extensions, which he says has a low chance of working. If they improve on their handling of backups, there may be more people forced to pay ransom.

"The execution of attackers is interesting in that it's no replacement for what the Ryuk attackers do when they manually target and destroy backup services, which is always going to be much more effective," he explains. The RobbinHood attackers "have some skills up their sleeve, but the way they execute is

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| | <p>relatively ineffective." Jackson has not seen evidence indicating RobbinHood attackers have tried to manually identify and delete backups. He does note that the group demonstrates concern with leaving behind forensic evidence.</p> <p>At the moment, there is insufficient evidence to conclude who is behind RobbinHood or where they are located, Jackson says. While there are some hints in how these attacks are launched, it's easy for operators to adjust components and techniques to mislead security researchers.</p> <p>"One of the big issues with attribution is ... it's so easy to put those details there on purpose or run a black-flag operation and make it seem like a malware is coming out of country X when it's coming out of country Y," he says.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Netwalker ransomware continues assault |
| SOURCE | https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/netwalker-ransomware-continues-assault-on-us-colleges-hits-ucsf/ |
| GIST | <p>The Netwalker Ransomware operators claim to have successfully attacked the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), stolen unencrypted data, and encrypted their computers.</p> <p>UCSF is a research university located in San Francisco, California, and is entirely focused on health sciences. According to the U.S. News & World Report's college rankings, UCSF ranks #2 in medical schools for research and #6 in best medical schools for primary care.</p> <p>Over the past week, the Netwalker Ransomware operation has been targeting U.S. colleges and threatening to release their data</p> <p>On May 28th, Netwalker posted on their data leak that they had encrypted Michigan State University, and if a ransom was not paid, they would publicly release stolen data if not paid. This deadline has come and gone, and the ransomware operators have publicly released their data.</p> <p>Next, they claimed to have attacked Columbia College of Chicago, and once again threatened to release the stolen data if not paid.</p> <p>Today, Netwalker states that they allegedly attacked another U.S.-based college, University of California San Francisco.</p> <p>UCSF entry on Netwalker's data leak site As part of this leak, the threat actors have posted screenshots of some of the stolen files.</p> <p>These images include student applications with social security numbers, a spreadsheet, and folder listings that appear to contain employee information, medical studies, and financials.</p> <p>Leaked student application with SSN BleepingComputer has contacted the University of California San Francisco to confirm the attack but has not received a reply.</p> <p>Netwalker is becoming a bigger threat Starting as the Mailto ransomware in October 2019, the ransomware rebranded as Netwalker in February 2020.</p> <p>Netwalker has steadily been making a name for itself as it continues to announce a steady stream of successful attacks, including one against the Australian transportation company Toll Group,</p> |

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| | <p>This ransomware operation is known to target exposed Remote Desktop Services and use spam to gain access to enterprise-networks where it then steals unencrypted files before encrypting the computers.</p> <p>As their latest disclosed victims have all been colleges, it may indicate a vulnerability in a commonly used application or device, or simply exposed Remote Desktop servers.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 This 'wallpaper' will crash Android phone |
| SOURCE | https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/mobile/this-wallpaper-will-crash-your-android-phone-don-t-try-it/ |
| GIST | <p>In what can be described as a truly mysterious phenomenon, an image of a picturesque lake, when set as wallpaper on select Samsung and Google Pixel devices, causes the phone screen and the device to go nuts.</p> <p>Multiple users have verified the findings and provided speculations, yet no one knows precisely as to why.</p> <p>Disclosed by Twitter user Ice universe (@UniverseIce), their tweet warned, "Never set this picture as wallpaper, especially for Samsung mobile phone users! It will cause your phone to crash!"</p> <p>Along with the user's video showing the persistently flickering screen, Twitter user Sebastian (@seb3153) advised the flaw affected certain Google Pixel phones.</p> <p>"Samsung has received feedback on this type of bug in mid-May and has resolved this issue. Just wait for the subsequent firmware update and do not take the risk," stated Ice universe.</p> <p>In some cases, the device hangs altogether, and the only way to get it to work is a hard factory reset, using hardware buttons.</p> <p>Bogdan Petrovan, Android Authority's editor and journalist, also provided a video demonstrating the bug and stated it impacted his Google Pixel 2, but not a Huawei Mate 20 Pro.</p> <p>"I tested it myself," Petrovan said. "First, foolishly, on my daily driver, the Mate 20 Pro, which doesn't appear to be affected. I was able to replicate the issue on a Google Pixel 2. After setting the image in question as a wallpaper, the phone immediately crashed. It attempted to reboot, but the screen would constantly turn on and off, making it impossible to pass the security screen."</p> <p>The original image (MD5: f96ea0f4c081b9cc15d77d547864e219 SHA1: 24906e972db53c8b10dd630e186ce1afcfa005b) can be obtained from Google's official bug report filed June 2nd, 2020.</p> <p>The image has the ICC Profile description Google/Skia/E3CADAB7BD3DE5E3436874D2A9DEE126</p> <p>Wallpaper-profile.icc</p> <p>For analysis, I've extracted and provided the complete ICC profile file. The image does not appear to contain any apparent malicious payload that could otherwise cause an image parser to malfunction.</p> <p>A "personal take" as to what may cause this issue, provided by Davide Bianco to Android Authority, reads: "The main issue right here is that SystemUI only handles sRGB images for the wallpaper and doesn't have any check against non-sRGB wallpapers. This can lead to a particular crash in the ImageProcessHelper class, as a variable used to access an array goes over the array bounds."</p> <p>Bianco is referring to the getHistogram() method, and he is the developer who submitted the bug report and a proposed patch.</p> |

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| | <p>Meanwhile, 9to5Google developer Dylan Roussel says that his Android 11 seemed immune to the flaw as it converted the picture to sRGB before processing it. This conversion, of course, led to a loss of color in the image but also squashed the bug.</p> <p>"I also tried crafting my own broken image with photoshop or gimp, but SysUI always converted the image to the safe color space, leading to no crash (but a loss of colors ofc)," stated Roussel. "I even tried extracting the broken image color profile and using it in a new image, but still couldn't get SysUI to crash."</p> <p>If the flaw exists in Android's image parsing classes, this opens up a stronger possibility of Denial of Service (DoS) attacks.</p> <p>Granted, in the case of this bug, user action is a prerequisite to the attack, i.e., the user has to first set the mysterious image as a wallpaper, effectively crashing affected devices.</p> <p>What if the same image parser is being used by the Gallery app or messaging apps like WhatsApp? Should that be the case, malicious actors could crash your device by simply sending you an innocuous image.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Malicious Android apps double |
| SOURCE | https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/malicious-android-apps-double/ |
| GIST | <p>The number of malicious Android apps detected in the first three months of the year is double that of the same period last year, according to new data from Upstream.</p> <p>The mobile technology company's Secure-D platform discovered over 29,000 malicious apps on the Google platform in Q1 2020 versus around 14,500 in Q1 2019.</p> <p>What's more, nine of the top 10 most popular malicious apps of the first three months of 2020 were available at some point on Google Play. Around 30% of the top 100 for 2019 were also available on the official marketplace.</p> <p>Cyber-criminals are increasingly hiding their malware in leisure apps such as games, social, news and video players, to appeal to the large numbers of users now stuck at home.</p> <p>Upstream said its security platform blocked 89% of the 326 million mobile transactions it processed because they were fraudulent. Many (32 million) were related to use of Snaptube, a video downloader app which was found to be engaging in mass advert and premium service subscription fraud which could have cost unwitting users tens of millions of dollars.</p> <p>In fact, Upstream said the number of global transactions it blocked as fraudulent increased 55% from Q1 2019 to 2020.</p> <p>It also revealed that the number of infected mobile devices it detected increased 7% to 11.2 million.</p> <p>"With the majority of the world having shifted indoors, there were some darker forces acting to make a profit from the lockdown situation. At Secure-D, we've seen a sharp increase in bad actors publishing 'leisure' apps on the Google Play Store, which trick users into subscribing for premium services," explained Geoffrey Cleaves, head of Secure-D at Upstream.</p> <p>"Being in lockdown also means prepaid customers will find it difficult to get out the front door to top up their data bundles. In the meantime, malware could be eating into those data bundles. I suspect we may see a drop in mobile internet traffic, and successful billing attempts, in predominantly prepaid developing markets while lockdowns are in force."</p> |

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Nuclear missile sub-contractor breached |
| SOURCE | https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberattack-on-us-nuclear-missile/ |
| GIST | <p>Confidential documents have been swiped from a US military nuclear missile contractor in a cyber-attack, according to Sky News.</p> <p>Today the news service reported that cyber-criminals were able to gain unauthorized access to the computer network of New Mexico company Westech International.</p> <p>The attack is believed to have been carried out by the threat group MAZE, which made the headlines last month after claiming to have attacked Minnesota egg supplier Sparboe Companies with ransomware.</p> <p>Headquartered in Albuquerque's Louisiana Boulevard, Westech was established in 1995 by founder Dr. Betty Chao to provide services to federal agencies and commercial enterprises. The company has a staff of 150 employees hired to carry out various Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DoD) contracts at 15 locations in 11 American states.</p> <p>Westech, as a sub-contractor for Northrup Grumman, provides critical support for the United States' Minuteman III nuclear deterrent. The intercontinental ballistic missile LGM-30G Minuteman III is a three-stage missile with a range of over 6,000 miles.</p> <p>As of February 2018, America's ICBM force consisted of 400 Minuteman III missiles located at the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana; and the 91st Missile Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota.</p> <p>Westech provides engineering and maintenance support for the Minuteman III ICBMs.</p> <p>According to Sky News, files stolen from Westech in the cyber-attack have been leaked online. The files appear to contain sensitive data, including company emails, payroll, and what Sky describes as "personal information."</p> <p>Westech confirmed that the company had been hacked and that its computers had been encrypted. No information was shared regarding when the attack took place or how the criminals gained entry to Westech's computer system.</p> <p>A spokesperson for Westech told Sky News that an investigation into what data the criminals had accessed and exfiltrated was still ongoing.</p> <p>"We recently experienced a ransomware incident, which affected some of our systems and encrypted some of our files," said the spokesperson.</p> <p>"Upon learning of the issue, we immediately commenced an investigation and contained our systems. We have also been working closely with an independent computer forensic firm to analyze our systems for any compromise and to determine if any personal information is at risk."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Critical SAP ASE flaws |
| SOURCE | https://threatpost.com/critical-sap-ase-flaws-complete-control-databases/156239/ |
| GIST | Researchers warn of critical flaws in SAP's Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise software. |

Researchers are urging users to apply patches for several critical vulnerabilities in SAP's Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE). If exploited, the most severe flaws could give unprivileged users complete control of databases and – in some cases – even underlying operating systems.

ASE (previously known as Sybase SQL server) is SAP's popular database management software, targeted for transactional-based applications. ASE is used by more than 30,000 organizations globally – including 90 percent of the top banks and security firms worldwide, [according to SAP](#).

Researchers disclosed six vulnerabilities that they discovered while conducting security tests for the latest version of the software, ASE 16 (SP03 PL08). While SAP has released patches for both [ASE 15.7 and 16.0 in its May 2020 update](#), researchers disclosed technical details of the flaws on Wednesday, saying “there is no question” that the patches should be applied immediately if they haven't been already.

“For the last several years there have been relatively few security patches for SAP Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE),” said Trustwave researchers [in a Wednesday analysis](#). “New security research conducted by Trustwave revealed a bunch of vulnerabilities in the current version of SAP's flagship relational database product. Historically, SAP ASE is widely used by the financial sector in the US and other countries.”

The most severe vulnerability, [CVE-2020-6248](#), has a CVSS score of 9.1 out of 10. The flaw stems from a lack of security checks for overwriting critical configuration files during database backup operations. That means any unprivileged user who can run a DUMP command (used by database owners to back up the file system to storage devices) can send a corrupted configuration file, resulting in potential takeover of the database. This file will then be detected by the server and replaced with a default configuration – which allows anyone to connect to the Backup Server using the login and an empty password.

“The next step would be to change the sybmultbuf_binary Backup Server setting to point to an executable of the attacker's choice,” said researchers. “Subsequent DUMP commands will now trigger the execution of the attacker's executable. If SAP ASE is running on Windows, the code will run as LocalSystem by default.”

Another critical flaw ([CVE-2020-6252](#)) was discovered affecting Windows installations of the SAP ASE 16. That bug exists in a small helper database (SQL Anywhere) used by the SAP ASE installation to manage database creation and version management. Specifically, the issue is in the Cockpit component of ASE, which is a web-based tool for monitoring the status and availability of SAP ASE servers. The issue stems from the password, used to login in to the helper database, being in a configuration file that is readable by any Windows user.

“This means any valid Windows user can grab the file and recover the password to login to the helper SQL Anywhere database as the special user utility_db and then issue commands like CREATE ENCRYPTED FILE to overwrite operating system files (remember, the helper database runs as LocalSystem by default!) and possibly cause code execution with LocalSystem privileges,” said researchers.

In another issue, researchers found clear text passwords in the ASE server installation logs: “The logs are only readable to the SAP account, but will completely compromise the SAP ASE when joined with some other issue that allows filesystem access,” they said.

Researchers also found two SQL injection flaws that could be abused to allow privilege escalation. One ([CVE-2020-6241](#)) exists in global temporary tables in ASE 16, while the other ([CVE-2020-6253](#)) stems from the WebServices handling code of ASE.

The final bug discovered was an XP Server flaw ([CVE-2020-6243](#)) that could allow authenticated Windows users to gain arbitrary code execution (as LocalSystem) if they can connect to the SAP ASE.

“Organizations often store their most critical data in databases, which, in turn, are often necessarily exposed in untrusted or publicly exposed environments,” said researchers. “This makes vulnerabilities like

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| | these essential to address and test quickly since they not only threaten the data in the database but potentially the full host that it is running on.” |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 ZLoader-laced emails target unemployed |
| SOURCE | https://threatpost.com/zloader-laced-emails-unemployed-victims/156222/ |
| GIST | <p>Researchers are warning of spear-phishing emails with CV lures that spread the ZLoader malware, which steals banking credentials from victims.</p> <p>Cybercriminals are taking advantage of the massive uptick in unemployment across the U.S. in a recent spear-phishing campaign, which targets victims desperate for jobs with banking credential-stealing malware.</p> <p>Researchers recently uncovered emails that distributed malicious files masquerading as resumes and CVs. The files, attached in Microsoft Excel format, were sent via email with subject lines such as: “applying for a job” or “regarding job.” As victims opened the attached files, they were asked to “enable content.”</p> <p>After enabling, victims were given the infamous ZLoader malware, which has previously been distributed via spear-phishing campaigns taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic. ZLoader is a banking malware designed to steal credentials and other private information from users of targeted financial institutions. The malware can also steal passwords and cookies stored in victim’s web browsers.</p> <p>“With the stolen information in hand, the malware can allow threat actors to connect to the victim’s system and make illicit financial transactions from the banking user’s legitimate device,” said Check Point researchers, in a Thursday post.</p> <p>This campaign is only the latest targeting those who have lost jobs, particularly as unemployment rates are soaring across the U.S., with more than 40 million Americans filing for first-time unemployment benefits at the end of May.</p> <p>Other campaigns were also discovered, including one that used medical-leave forms to deliver the IcedID malware. In this campaign, malicious documents were sent with names like “COVID -19 FLMA CENTER.doc” in emails with subjects such as “The following is a new Employee Request Form for leave within the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).”</p> <p>The malware used redirection attacks that leveraged local proxies to redirect victims to malicious websites, as well as web-injection attacks that present fake content overlaid on the original pages. Either way, ultimately, the IcedID trojan was downloaded to steal victims’ financial data.</p> <p>Overall, researchers noted that they have seen new malicious domains popping up in conjunction with these unemployment numbers: “We previously reported that because of high unemployment rates, people became vulnerable to scams and phishing attacks involving relief package payments,” said researchers. “We found that in May, 250 new domains containing the word ‘employment’ were registered. 7 percent of these domains were malicious and another 9 percent suspicious.”</p> <p>Campaigns are continually taking advantage of the unemployment surge in the U.S. A few weeks ago, infamous business email compromise (BEC) group called Scattered Canary (a highly-organized Nigerian cybergang) was discovered to have submitted hundreds of fraudulent claims with state-level U.S. unemployment websites and coronavirus relief funds. Researchers who tracked the fraudulent activity said cybercriminals may have made millions so far from the fraudulent activity. Since April 29, Scattered Canary has filed more than 200 fraudulent claims on the online unemployment websites of eight U.S. states; including at least 174 fraudulent claims with the state of Washington, for instance, and at least 17 fraudulent claims with the state of Massachusetts, they said.</p> |

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 St Louis police: fake GoFundMe accounts |
| SOURCE | https://www.foxnews.com/us/st-louis-police-fake-gofundme-george-floyd-riots-david-dorn |
| GIST | <p>The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department is warning the public to be aware of several fake GoFundMe accounts created in the name of retired police captain David Dorn who was murdered during riots in the city this week.</p> <p>Police say, none of the pages have been authorized by his family, and authorities are in the process of taking them down.</p> <p>Dorn was shot and killed by a looter overnight while working as a security guard at Lee's Pawn and Jewelry on Martin Luther King Drive. He was 77.</p> <p>If anyone would like to donate, the family said people can give money toward the reward through CrimeStoppers or donate to BackStoppers in Dorn's honor.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Teen creates website; tracks US protests |
| SOURCE | https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/avi-schiffmann-mercero-island-2020-protest-website/281-ce836801-e1e5-467c-aba8-0546498bd89b |
| GIST | <p>Avi Schiffmann, the Mercer Island high school student who gained an international following with a website he built to track the coronavirus pandemic, has launched a new site with information about protests currently happening across the United States.</p> <p>2020protests.com was built in response to the wave of civil unrest that has swept the nation in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, by a white police officer in Minneapolis on May 25.</p> <p>The site contains a clickable list of every U.S. state plus Washington, D.C., and each link provides details about protest locations, cities where the National Guard has been deployed, curfew times, social media addresses, and resources for donating to such causes as the Official George Floyd Memorial Fund, black-owned businesses, bail funds, and various petitions.</p> |
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Terror Conditions

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Feds: 'Boogaloos' conspired w/explosives |
| SOURCE | https://www.thedailybeast.com/three-boogaloos-wanted-to-topple-the-government-by-throwing-molotov-cocktails-at-george-floyd-protests-fbi?ref=home |
| GIST | <p>Three Nevada men with prior U.S. military experience and links to a right-wing extremist group conspired to set off explosives at a recent protest against police brutality to "create civil unrest and rioting" and spark violence between police and protesters, federal prosecutors say.</p> <p>Stephen Parshall, alias "Kiwi," Andrew Lynam, and William Loomis are each being held on a \$1 million bond for terrorism-related charges.</p> <p>According to a complaint filed by the Nevada U.S. Attorney's Office, the group was "potentially planning terroristic activity" when they brought Molotov cocktail materials to a Las Vegas protest over the death of George Floyd.</p> |

All three have identified themselves as members of the “[Boogaloo](#)” movement, an extremist group that dreams of sowing discord to spark a violent uprising and government overthrow, according to prosecutors. The group also boasts military training: Lynam is described as a member of the Army Reserves, Parshall was a Navy sailor, and Loomis was an enlisted member of the Air Force.

All three face both federal and state charges. On the federal level, they are charged with conspiracy to damage and destroy by fire, and explosive and possession of unregistered firearms. In Nevada, they face charges of felony conspiracy, terrorism and explosives possession.

Lynam and Parshall had initially set their sights on a protest against Nevada’s shelter-in-place orders, allegedly attending one such rally in early April while armed with pistols and assault rifles and scoping it out for possible disruption, prosecutors said. It was there that they allegedly told an FBI informant of their desire to topple the government. The two met Loomis at the demonstration and inducted him into their group.

On a hike in late April, the trio allegedly discussed a plan to incinerate a Forest Ranger station near Lake Mead as a trial run for an eventual plot that would prove so burdensome and costly to the government as to dismantle it entirely. The complaint states the extremists hoped to detonate explosives at power stations along the border between Arizona and Nevada and that they even scouted one owned by NV Energy as a possible target in addition to a specific Ranger station.

Parshall and Lynam allegedly hatched a plan to detonate fireworks, smoke bombs, and noise makers at another demonstration against Nevada’s coronavirus precautions to confuse police and panic the public, though Parshall called off the plot just a few days before the gathering.

Parshall, Lynam, and Loomis turned their attention to the riots and protests that erupted in May after the alleged murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police. They attended the demonstrations while armed, taunting police, according to the FBI. The complaint states that Parshall became upset when no violence occurred, as he felt he needed physical conflict to enact the plan.

Prosecutors say they planned to execute their plans against the backdrop of widespread protests to “create civil unrest and rioting.”

“They wanted to use the momentum of the George Floyd death in police custody in the City of Minneapolis to hopefully stir enough confusion and excitement, that others see the two explosions and police presence and begin to riot in the streets out of anger,” the complaint states.

They allegedly brought Molotov cocktail materials—gasoline in glass Calypso lemonade bottles and ripped rags. Law enforcement found shotguns, fireworks, assault rifles, extra ammunition magazines, and flammable hairspray in their vehicles. They had intended to target police and protesters.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Coronavirus spreads in Taliban bastions |
| SOURCE | https://news.yahoo.com/uphill-task-taliban-virus-spreads-militant-bastions-065340894.html |
| GIST | <p>The Taliban boasted of their readiness to fight the deadly coronavirus when it first reached Afghanistan, but now the insurgents are struggling to curb its spread in their strongholds.</p> <p>For months, Habib Rahman, a resident of a Taliban-controlled area in the south of the country, has been unable to test whether his persistent cough is due to the virus.</p> <p>"I have a cough, fever and chest pain," said Rahman, 32, who owns a grocery store in Helmand province.</p> <p>"There is neither a centre here to diagnose or treat coronavirus patients, nor is there any effort to create awareness of the disease.</p> |

Official figures show Afghanistan has more than 17,000 confirmed cases -- including thousands in Taliban-controlled territories.

But an overall shortage of testing kits, medical supplies and a dilapidated health system were compounding problems in tackling the spread, said Ahmed Saeedi, an independent analyst.

Years of war have left Afghanistan with a crumbling health sector, hampering the government's fight against COVID-19.

In an attempt to bolster their narrative that they can run Afghanistan better than the struggling administration, the Taliban launched a campaign to tackle the virus in March.

They posted images online showing insurgents distributing masks and soap to villagers -- albeit without any social distancing.

In one image, masked militants wearing white protective suits check residents' temperatures and explain about personal hygiene as a machinegun is seen on a nearby table.

- Disbelief about virus -

The virus entered Afghanistan as infected migrants returned from neighbouring Iran, the region's worst-hit country, and the Taliban ordered hundreds of returnees into quarantine.

In some areas they controlled, the insurgents allowed government health officials to monitor the virus's spread -- something rare for a group blamed for the deaths of dozens of medics over the years.

But in recent weeks, residents from provinces such as Kunduz, Helmand, Uruzgan and Kandahar -- where the Taliban hold sway over large areas -- complain they have been abandoned to their fate.

In Kunduz, where the militants fought a fierce night battle before a short nationwide ceasefire last month, insurgents have barred medics.

"They said they would handle the virus on their own," said Sebghatullah, a doctor from a nearby district, worried about the residents' lack of awareness when it came to personal hygiene.

Haji Qudratullah, a resident of Helmand, said he recently saw a group of Taliban fighters film a promotional video at a neighbourhood clinic, but they never returned.

"I have not seen anybody do anything to raise awareness about the virus here," he said.

Taliban commanders insist they are helping fight the virus.

"People who are suffering from high fever, cough and body pain... are taken to Trinkot," said Hafez Mohammad, a Taliban commander, referring to the capital of Uruzgan province.

Even during the Taliban's rule in the late 1990s, Afghanistan's health sector was hit by poor infrastructure, little international aid and underpaid medics.

The disease is also sweeping through the Taliban itself, with several high-level militants believed to be sick with COVID-19, according to international media reports. The group deny any of their senior leaders are ill.

- 'Transgression against religion' -

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| | <p>In his annual message marking the Eid holiday, the Taliban's top leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, urged people to seek medical help for the disease.</p> <p>But he also insisted the virus was caused by mankind's "transgression against Allah's religion".</p> <p>To stop the virus, people should "seek forgiveness from Allah and stop violating his commands", Akhundzada said.</p> <p>Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the militants had distributed booklets explaining how to prevent infections.</p> <p>"Our mobile teams, using motorcycles, are taking people with symptoms to the hospitals," Mujahid told AFP.</p> <p>Experts, however, said the insurgents faced an uphill task.</p> <p>"There is no ambulance or a professional team that can take their samples or treat these suspected patients," health official Hamid Ahmadi said.</p> <p>Residents, meanwhile, say they have little information on what to do.</p> <p>"Many people are complaining from flu-like symptoms... we don't know why," said Haji Abdul Bari in Helmand.</p> <p>"Nobody has told us about the symptoms of corona. We don't know anything about it."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Stopping an attack in planning stages |
| SOURCE | https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/infrastructure-security/what-tampa-terror-arrest-teaches-about-stopping-an-attack-in-the-planning-stages/ |
| GIST | <p>On May 27, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that Muhammed Momtaz Al-Azhari of Tampa, Fla., was charged “with attempting to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization, namely, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).” The announcement provided an overview of the charges and gave appropriate praise to the agents working to mitigate the threat this individual posed. However, it is when reading through the affidavit that the full extent of Al-Azhari’s actions are realized (all case details presented here are FBI allegations in the criminal complaint). Al-Azhari had a criminal history that includes prior terrorism charges in Saudi Arabia, had acquired multiple firearms in recent months, was an admirer of the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooter, and expressed a desire to carry out a similar act of violence. He also researched and scouted potential targets in the Tampa area, to include beaches and other public locations. Some of these pieces of information were obtained through FBI discreet investigative actions, but others were observed and reported on by other individuals. And in this instance, the process of removing a threat worked.</p> <p>Whether knowingly or not, threat actors conduct a series of actions that we term the Hostile Events Attack Cycle (HEAC). This process allows threat actors to identify, plan, and execute an attack. In some instances, this will also involve an escape. This process also allows organizations to potentially identify times in which threat actors are vulnerable and could lead to disruption or mitigation. Looking at this specific case and overlaying the HEAC can be a useful way to appreciate and call out examples to enhance training for employees. This attention could provide increased awareness for the organization and work to reduce the risk to an organization.</p> <p>It is also of note that Al-Azhari’s sister was killed by police officers outside of Temple Terrace City Hall in Florida on May 29 after pulling a knife on an officer.</p> |

Phase 1 – Initial Target Consideration. In this phase, it is not essential for the threat actor to settle on a target location, but to begin that process to identify potential locations that will impact the rest of the planning and preparation. While there is no indication that Al-Azhari communicated with ISIS, or formally swore to or pledged allegiance to the group, he had a clear affiliation to the group. He was captured on FBI electronic surveillance as stating, “I pledge allegiance to Sheik Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi when you consider what I’m about to do,” but there was no official allegiance video sent to the group or any affiliates. Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi is recognized as the current leader of ISIS. Based on his search results, it would be a fair assessment to conclude Al-Azhari was planning a lone-wolf, mass shooting. Related to a motive, FBI electronic surveillance captures two instances. In one, Al-Azhari is heard listening to a recording that stated, “This is a revenge for Muslims.” In the second instance, which appeared to be a rehearsal for a hostage type of attack, he made a video in which he states: “God willing, the exalted. This is revenge for my brothers Al Muwahideen [the monotheists] in Guantanamo in general, and for my brother [redacted] in particular. God willing, he may be praised and exalted. God willing, this is a revenge for all my Muslim brothers in Iraq and al-Sham [Syria] and everywhere.”

Phase 2 – Initial Surveillance. During the investigation, the FBI was able to determine Al-Azhari searched online for various hotels, casinos, major pedestrian areas, resorts and amusement parks, “busy beaches,” and state parks. Additionally, Al-Azhari searched for concert houses, which the FBI assessed was a reference to the November 2015 Paris complex coordinated terrorist attack, during which the Bataclan theater was attacked during a concert. Connecting with ISIS ideology and tactics, it would be reasonable to believe that Al-Azhari recognized the potential impact a similar attack could have as part of his planning considerations. It was also noted in the affidavit that Al-Azhari listened to various propaganda pieces and speeches that included strong language and inspiration, notably, “To fight the kuffar [disbelievers/non-Muslims] and to leave marks on them by defeating them to satisfy the hearts of the true believers.”

Phase 3 – Target Selection and Phase 4 – Intense Surveillance. Despite indicators that suggest Al-Azhari may have narrowed his search, there does not appear to be conclusive evidence that he made a final determination on a specific target. It is notable that he did make a two-hour round trip to Honeymoon Island State Park “without actually stopping or leaving his vehicle.” The FBI felt this was a strong indication that he was assessing this location for a possible attack. Additionally, he conducted additional searches on public places and beaches, which could indicate additional potential targets.

The goal of Phase 3 is for the hostile actor to take all the information gathered to this point and to decide on the ultimate target. The hostile actor will be able to conceive when the attack could occur, the type of security, and the amount of impact the attack will have, which will drive the actions of Phase 4 (Intense Surveillance). Building upon the initial surveillance, the phase will include additional surveillance that will go into more detail and could involve a lot more “time on target,” or time spent observing and getting to know the target in-depth. This allows the hostile actor to learn as much as possible and help lock down the attack plan and any unknowns in order to make sure the attack can accomplish the goals. Taking all the information developed to date, the attacker will formalize the plan and begin to build the various phases of the attack/pre-attack, to include logistics planning, actions at the target, and post-attack (escape/evasion/death).

Phase 5 – Planning and Rehearsals. Without question, this is the most extensive aspect of what we know about the hostile actor and what he may have planned. With the benefit of electronic and physical surveillance techniques employed by the FBI, it was well established that Al-Azhari had conceived the general plan and was readying himself for action.

- He actively attempted to acquire firearms and ammunition for his plan, ultimately collecting three weapons from various locations. He also searched for solvent traps (firearm cleaning systems), and silencers.
- He sought out firearms and self-defense training. This in and of itself may not be a reportable incident, but when considered with all other indicators it does raise the potential threat.
- He actively searched for firing ranges.
- He looked up information related to “how to find a GPS tracker on your vehicle” as well as conducted several surveillance detection measures when he was under FBI surveillance. These

measures included Al-Azhari executing routes that may have been designed to identify potential surveillance. He was obviously a novice, as the FBI was still able to track him during these periods without being identified.

- Al-Azhari conducted several searches for disguises.
- FBI electronic surveillance captured Al-Azhari rehearsing various phrases including:
 - “Know America. Today is your emergency. Today we kill from you guys like you killed from us. I pledge allegiance to Sheik Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi when you consider what I’m about to do.”
 - “This is custom, USA, inshallah [God willing], I shoot, inshallah.” Al-Azhari was also captured reciting verses from the Quran: “Do they not then earnestly seek to understand the Quran, or are their hearts locked up by them? Those who turn back as apostates after Guidance was clearly shown to them- the Evil One has instigated them and busied them up with false hopes. This, because they said to those who hate what God has revealed, ‘We will obey you in part of (this) matter’; but God knows their (inner) secrets. But how (will it be) when the angels take their souls at death, and smite their faces and their backs?”
- Al-Azhari also made videos that may be a dry run of his attack:
 - He was observed singing as he showed off his guns. “We have a local (which could mean ‘homemade’) silencer and the bullets are 9mm. To raise to the highest levels is a must for every crusader. This is 9mm, thank God. Will be used against God’s enemies. And this .22. Of course, .22 of a hundredth of inches, not millimeter. I ask God the almighty to enable me and give me a duty that God will be happy with, and God is able to do that.”
 - Another video depicts him wearing a face mask, holding a long weapon (possibly an Uzi) pointing the gun. He appears to address an audience of potential victims, speaking in both in English and in Arabic as he praises Allah and talks about revenge for his “brothers” in Guantanamo, Iraq, Syria and everywhere.

The last three phases of the HEAC were not realized because of the arrest of Al-Azhari; however, these areas are still worth reviewing as if he were to have continued his timeline.

Phase 6 – Pre-Attack Operations. This phase is focused on ensuring supplies and equipment are ready for the attack. Based on known information in the affidavit, it appeared that Al-Azhari had accumulated the weapons for his attack, but it does not appear that any additional supplies were gathered. This may indicate that the actual attack was not immediate, but also that additional supplies were not necessary. This phase is one of the less defined and more flexible elements of the Attack Cycle in that the attacker will need to do their pre-attack checks and inspections to ensure all the pieces of the attack are prepared and ready. Additionally, the threat actor will start to focus on their own internal preparation in order to get mentally prepared for what is to come.

Phase 7 – Attack and Phase 8 – Escape. The attack obviously represents the culmination of all the planning and preparation and will ultimately define the hostile actor moving forward. Meanwhile, the escape is a phase that may never be realized or carried out by all threat actors. Some attackers will plan for the escape, while others may accept that their calling will be to sacrifice their life in the execution of the attack and in an effort to make it successful. And some attacks will plan for an escape but will not be able to complete that action based on law enforcement or security responses.

In this particular case, there is no indication that Al-Azhari planned to escape. That does not mean he did not plan for an escape, but rather that none was noted in the evidence. However, based on the evidence, it is believed he planned to target a public location with an ability to inflict a maximum amount of casualties. He may have planned a hostage type of situation (as described in various videos he took during Phase 5), which may not always allow for an escape situation.

Suspicious Indicators. Hindsight is always 20/20, and especially in this case where there was a significant amount of electronic and physical surveillance actions taken by the FBI to reveal some of the deeper-seated issues in the case. However, there were some indicators that may have been evident in interactions with other individuals – coworkers, associates, or friends. Normally, family may also be in a position to

identify suspicious activities and behaviors, but the affidavit revealed that Al-Azhari's father may have been arrested with him in Saudi Arabia and would likely not be in a position or may not be willing to report on a family member.

- **Previous arrest/conviction.** Al-Azhari was convicted in Saudi Arabia of terrorism charges involving a plan to travel to Syria to participate in jihad and to join terrorist groups fighting the Syrian government. The conviction included possession of extremist propaganda, holding extremist views, and attempting to join a terrorist organization, namely Jaysh al-Islam. The conviction also accused him of conspiring with two other individuals, including his father, to commit those crimes and he was sentenced to serve three years in prison in Saudi Arabia.
- **Online Activity.** This included searching for and participating in websites, forums, chatrooms that discussed the Islamic State (ISIS), ISIS activity, and tactics related to attacks. It is likely that most of these activities occurred when Al-Azhari was alone, but it is not beyond reason to believe a person may not have stumbled upon Al-Azhari reviewing these materials in some sort. These include:
 - Website that hosts unofficial propaganda and photographs related to ISIS, news updates related to the group, and blogs on how to donate to the group.
 - Materials containing information on military operations carried out by Caliphate fighters in Iraq, Syria, and Nigeria.
 - Sites containing information on ISIS fighters, martyrs, and propaganda. It is also worth noting that he had also downloaded a video related to the "perversion of al Qaeda," which may indicate he was actively deciding which group he was going to align with.
 - Links to training videos including street fighting, urban warfare, improvised explosive devices (IED), poison.
 - Training to make IEDs or other explosive devices.
- **Co-worker Observations.** Some of the employees at Home Depot had expressed concern about statements that Al-Azhari had made concerning Islam, guns, and violence.
 - One employee said Al-Azhari often spoke of Islam at work and conveyed views that were passionate and aggressive. In reference to the 9/11 attacks, Al-Azhari said he believed that Americans got what they deserved that day.
 - Al-Azhari spoke to another co-worker about the concept of jihad, which was explained as defending Islam.
 - Al-Azhari informed one employee he had kept a 9mm handgun in the center console of his car and that he had shown the employee the gun one night during a work break.
 - In one incident, Al-Azhari noticed police vehicles parked outside of the store and became anxious and constantly looked out of the front window and doors. Al-Azhari told an employee that he needed to go home. Before leaving, he gave the employee two names and phone numbers, telling the employee to contact those people if he got arrested after he left work.
 - An employee told corporate security that Al-Azhari openly tried to convince employees to share his religious belief.
 - An employee noted that that Al-Azhari spoke negatively and passionately about the U.S. and homosexuality.
 - When discussing guns with an employee, Al-Azhari said that he did not want to undergo a background check for firearms and that he would grind the serial number off a gun.
 - Al-Azhari discussed his imprisonment in Saudi Arabia with an employee.
 - Another employee told corporate security that Al-Azhari asked several questions about weapons – specifically, how to obtain a firearm, how to obtain a firearm suppressor and how another employee had claimed Al-Azhari had once pulled a firearm on a different co-worker while at work.
- **Interest with Previous Mass Shootings/Shooters.** Al-Azhari had strong beliefs about homosexuality and appeared to have a strong interest with the Pulse nightclub shooting, which resulted in the deaths of 49 people in June 2016. In addition, he appeared to have interest in Omar Mateen. Taking all of this into consideration, as well as the upcoming Pride month activities and Pulse nightclub anniversaries, it is possible Al-Azhari could have been targeting an event that would coincide with these events. Anniversaries and symbolism can play an important role for threat actors, especially ones tied to strong ideologies. Some of the below were observed from FBI

surveillance activities, but nonetheless could have been manifested in other aspects of his life, for example in employee conversations, as noted above.

- Search for cemetery where the Pulse nightclub shooter, Omar Mateen, is buried.
- An image captured on his phone with the word “USA” written in the sky, likely by an airplane. The words “Oh Allah destroy” appeared handwritten on a white piece of paper that was being held above “USA,” with palm trees visible in the background.
- A search for Pulse nightclub on multiple occasions followed by an image on Al-Azhari’s phone that captured several photos of the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.
- A search for a YouTube video titled “Police release audio of 911 calls made by Orlando nightclub shooter” as well as a screenshot with a text transcription of Omar Mateen’s 911 calls from the Pulse shooting.
- Physical surveillance that followed Al-Azhari driving by the Pulse nightclub at 2 a.m., which is notable because that is the time when the Pulse attack occurred.

As noted above, identifying suspicious incidents or behaviors may help disrupt or mitigate the potential for a hostile event. Incorporating these examples into organizational training can help show the importance of being alert and aware, and then knowing how to report suspicious incidents or behaviors for **appropriate intervention**. This means that organizations help establish the conditions and processes that can work towards ensuring the safety of you and your colleagues. DHS’s [pathway to violence](#) looks at:

- Being aware of **drastic changes in attitude** toward others.
- Taking note of any **escalations in behavior**.
- **Providing any information that may help facilitate intervention** and mitigate potential risks.

HEAC remains one of the most dangerous and disruptive events an organization or community can face. With all the recent focus rightfully on the health crisis, and recovery, we are still only a year removed from some of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history, and certainly the worst mass shootings in a short period of time around the world. With everything else going on, it can be easy to overlook this deadly threat. Planning and preparedness is a continuous process and prevention cannot be passive.

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Suspicious, Unusual

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Testing sites forced to close; civil unrest |
| SOURCE | https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/scores-of-testing-sites-forced-to-close-because-of-vandalism-in-civil-unrest/2020/06/03/e6d9fa54-a4e6-11ea-b473-04905b1af82b_story.html |
| GIST | <p>At 1:30 a.m., Michael and Joan Kim were jolted awake by an alarm. Lying in bed, they grabbed their iPhones and watched what a security camera had captured moments before: the back of a U-Haul van ramming through the glass side wall of the Grubb’s pharmacy they own in Southeast Washington, cold medicine, allergy pills and bandages flying as wooden shelves splintered and crashed to the floor.</p> <p>The Anacostia drugstore is one of four the Kims own in the District, and each has suffered damage during the past nights of unrest. It is not just structural harm left behind. The Anacostia store, targeted early Monday by the battering U-Haul, and the Kims’ pharmacies in Georgetown and on Capitol Hill also have been part of a federal program of free tests for the coronavirus.</p> <p>They are among 70 such sites across the country that had to close because of destruction from civil unrest, according to figures compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The department began the Community-Based Testing Sites program in March. Most of the testing locations were chosen because they are in what public health officials call “socially vulnerable” neighborhoods.</p> <p>“Our urban areas are being disparately hit by the virus, and then they are getting disparately hit by the violence,” said Michael R. Caputo, HHS’s assistant secretary for public affairs. “And the result is a community that is truly in need for testing capacity losing that capacity.”</p> |

Health officials' consternation about the vandalism taking testing sites out of commission coincides with condemnation by President Trump, who blurred the line between looting and peaceful protests across much of the country over the Memorial Day death in Minneapolis of George Floyd while in police custody.

On Tuesday, the president tweeted, "The lowlifes and losers are ripping you apart," as he urged New York City officials to call up the National Guard.

The day before, he said from the White House Rose Garden, "I am your president of law and order and an ally of all peaceful protests." Moments later, Attorney General William P. Barr ordered law enforcement officers to clear nearby streets of largely peaceful protesters by using smoke canisters, pepper balls, riot shields, batons and rubber bullets, so that Trump could walk to a historic church earlier set afire.

HHS officials place the damage to testing sites — all private stores participating in the government program — in a more healing context. "Testing capacity is a necessary component to the recovery of the nation," Caputo said.

Deputy Surgeon General Erica G. Schwartz, in charge of a Community-Based Testing Site task force, added, "I think even one being closed" is a problem.

Pharmacies and public health experts share that view.

The National Pharmacists Association issued a statement Wednesday, decrying reports of damage and looting of its members. "These are all family-owned businesses that have been serving people in their communities for years, and sometimes generations, and have been on front lines of health care during the covid-19 pandemic," the trade group said.

Leana S. Wen, a visiting professor at George Washington University, was Baltimore's health commissioner in 2015, the year the death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray while in police custody triggered protests in the city that escalated into violence. A dozen pharmacies were looted or burned, she recalled, and some of Baltimore's clinics and community health centers "for days couldn't open for safety concerns. . . . We had to figure out transportation for patients, if they needed dialysis or chemotherapy [and] couldn't wait a week."

"When infrastructure is destroyed, some of the infrastructure is the health infrastructure," Wen said. And Baltimore's interruptions in health services, she said, were not during a pandemic.

According to HHS figures, at least nine health centers in five states have been damaged in the past nights of unrest, including in Sacramento, Denver and Philadelphia, as well as in Minnesota, where Floyd died. And at least six health centers in five states were closed because of their proximity to protests.

The 70 testing sites — out of 424 in the program — that closed because of unrest are in 17 states, plus the District. They include four Rite Aids in Philadelphia and four Walgreens in Chicago.

James Garrow, spokesman for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, called the Rite Aid closings regrettable but said the city has more than 50 coronavirus testing sites.

Wen said, however, the temporary or permanent closing of testing sites could leave people wary of coming to get tested at places that had been vandalized. And the sudden shuttering of testing site, she said, could make it harder for health authorities to identify a potential increase in coronavirus cases stemming from the demonstrations. "We shouldn't feel comforted if we don't see an uptick. There may be a reason why the numbers aren't being captured," she said.

Across the country, officials have been concerned that days and nights of protests, with demonstrators close together and encountering police and the National Guard, could be breeding grounds for the virus to spread.

Over the weekend, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms (D) told her city's protesters that they should get tested for the coronavirus as soon as possible.

The Minnesota Department of Health updated its testing guidance Tuesday, adding that groups at high priority for getting a test include "people who have participated in any large gatherings, including but not limited to protests, community clean up and recovery efforts, vigils, [and] neighborhood defense meetings." The guidance said such people should get tested regardless of whether they have symptoms of the coronavirus.

In recent weeks, as testing shortages during the pandemic's first months began to ease, some states were finding that the numbers of people coming to find out if they are infected was falling below recommendations of public health experts. Testing to identify new cases, combined with tracing the contacts of those infected, are widely regarded as critical to safely lifting stay-at-home orders.

On Wednesday, about half of the testing sites forced to close had reopened, according to figures from HHS, which runs the testing initiative with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "They are absolutely committed to getting back up," said Schwartz, the deputy surgeon general.

Two of the three pharmacies owned by the Kims — the District's only participants in the Community-Based Testing Site program — are not among those that have resumed testing. Taken together, the three had been giving about 90 tests a day. The pharmacies canceled appointments, but Tuesday "people were still coming up to be tested," said Joan Kim, the co-owner and vice president.

Grubb's Care Pharmacy on Capitol Hill, founded in 1867 and one of the oldest pharmacies in the nation, reopened for tests at 10 a.m. Wednesday, even after another break-in Tuesday night. About 15 people had come for tests by midday, said Michael Kim, the company's president.

At the Grubb's in Anacostia and at Morgan Care Pharmacy, Georgetown's oldest, "we are not planning on resuming testing," he said. "Too much damage, the staff, just the logistics of everything. It's a lot."

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 ER visits plunged amid pandemic |
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| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/world/coronavirus-live.html#link-7a483401 |
| GIST | <p>As the virus spread, visits to emergency rooms in the United States decreased 42 percent over four weeks in April, compared to the same period in 2019, according to a new analysis released Wednesday by the C.D.C. The declines were greatest among children 14 and younger, women and in geographic areas like the Northeast.</p> <p>While there were high numbers of emergency room visits because of the virus, including an increase in visits related testing for infectious diseases and for pneumonia, these were outweighed by the steep declines in visits that typically make up trips to the emergency room.</p> <p>The C.D.C. also noted that there had been a recent rebound in visits, but the volume of visits remained significantly lower. Visits to the emergency room were down 26 percent in the last week of May, compared with a year earlier.</p> <p>The agency's report highlights the monthslong decline in general hospital care as the virus took hold and overwhelmed some hospitals. Across the nation, hospitals stopped performing elective procedures, whether a routine mammogram or a knee replacement, even if they were not experiencing a surge in Covid-19 patients. While hospitals have slowly begun resuming care, many patients, concerned about potential infection, continue to avoid them.</p> |

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| | <p>While E.R. treatment for complaints of minor ailments were far fewer this year, agency officials pointed to a more disconcerting drop in the number of people seeking emergency care for chest pain, including those undergoing a heart attack. There were also declines in children requiring emergency help for conditions like asthma.</p> <p>C.D.C. officials also said the drop in emergency room visits could affect people's ability to get care when they have no other alternative sources.</p> <p>The analysis of visits from the National Syndromic Surveillance Program, which collects real-time electronic health data, representing nearly three quarters of all U.S. emergency room visits, was published in an early release of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report by the C.D.C.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Wipes, masks plague sewers, drains |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/epidemic-wipes-masks-plague-sewers-storm-drains-71060978 |
| GIST | <p>PHILADELPHIA -- Mayor Jim Kenney kicked off a recent briefing on Philadelphia's coronavirus response with an unusual request for residents: Be careful what you flush.</p> <p>Between mid-March, when the city's stay-at-home order was issued, and the end of April, most of the 19 sewer and storm water pumping stations in Philadelphia had experienced clogs from face masks, gloves and wipes residents had pitched into the potty, Kenney said.</p> <p>"Please do not flush any of these items down the toilet," the mayor said.</p> <p>Officials in other U.S. cities and rural communities — and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — have issued similar pleas as wastewater plant operators report a surge of stopped-up pipes and damage to equipment.</p> <p>The problem has sharpened the longstanding clash over whether wipes are suitable for flushing.</p> <p>While drain clogs aren't new, most of the more than 15 cities contacted by The Associated Press said they've become a more costly and time consuming headache during the pandemic. Home-bound Americans are seeking alternatives to bathroom tissue because of occasional shortages, while stepping up efforts to sanitize their dwellings and themselves.</p> <p>"When everyone rushed out to get toilet paper and there was none ... people were using whatever they could," said Pamela Mooring, spokeswoman for DC Water, the system in the nation's capital.</p> <p>Sanitary sewer overflows jumped 33% between February and March in Houston because of clogs from rags, tissues, paper towels and wipes, said public works department spokeswoman Erin Jones.</p> <p>In Murfreesboro, Tennessee, crews are cleaning sewage pumping stations a couple of times a week that previously needed it once a month, said John Strickland, manager of the treatment facility.</p> <p>At Beale Air Force Base in Northern California, a squadron that usually deals with airfield maintenance and weaponry disposal has been yanking wipes from the base's plumbing.</p> <p>"Our airmen are working 16-plus hours to unclog the pipe systems and that takes them out of the mission and puts a strain on the rest of the team," Master Sgt. Destrey Robbins said in an article on the Beale website.</p> <p>By flushing the wrong things, people are taxing infrastructure that's already deteriorating, said Darren Olson, vice chairman of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Committee for America's</p> |

Infrastructure. “Your latex glove may not be the thing that causes a clog, but you are adding to the burden.”

Hundreds of areas, like a portion of Philadelphia, have combined sewage and stormwater systems so sanitation officials say that means discarded masks and gloves that litter sidewalks and parking lots can also reach and help gum up treatment plants.

Olson said masks and gloves thrown in the street can travel through storm drains in separate systems to lakes and other waterways.

George Leonard, Ocean Conservancy’s chief scientist, said he’s concerned discarded personal protective equipment could wash out to sea and eventually add to “the plastics burden that the ocean is already suffering from.”

Costs of clearing, cleaning and restarting equipment are mounting for utilities.

To reduce the likelihood of clogs, WSSC Water — a wastewater utility that serves nearly 1.8 million customers in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties in Maryland — installed about 27 debris grinding pumps over the last decade at a cost of \$1.5 million.

“At one wastewater pumping station alone, one that does not have grinder pumps, we have seen an increase of 37,000 pounds of wipes during January–March 2020 compared with the same time period in 2019,” said utility spokeswoman Lyn Riggins.

Michigan’s Macomb County spent \$50,000 in 2018 removing a “fatberg” of debris, oils and grease that was 100 feet long and 11 feet wide, said Candice Miller, public works commissioner. The suburban Detroit community also spent millions to install screens that snag thousands of pounds of wipes weekly.

Municipal officials say the solution’s simple: Put nothing in toilets but human waste and toilet paper.

“Don’t be fooled by wipes packaging claims that these products are flushable,” DC Water said in a March advisory. “They are not.”

The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, which represents hundreds of companies including major wipes producers, agrees most wet wipes are unsuitable for toilet disposal and says they’re labeled as such.

But one type is designed to perform the same functions as toilet paper and merits the “flushable” label, said Dave Rouse, president of the industry group.

These cellulose wipes begin breaking down immediately and dissolve within hours, Rouse said.

“These wipes are incapable of causing the kinds of problems that wastewater operators are accusing them of,” he said.

Critics contend “flushable” wipes don’t biodegrade as manufacturers claim.

In Macomb County outside Detroit, maintenance workers are removing two tons of wipes per week from one pump station, and officials say some clearly are the “flushable” variety.

This month, the county sued wipe manufacturers, alleging voluntary flushability standards are based on testing that doesn’t reflect actual conditions in a sewer system.

In March, Washington became the first state to adopt requirements for the size, placement and visibility of “Do Not Flush” warnings on wipes that manufacturers and local officials agree should not go down toilets. Similar legislation is under consideration in California.

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| | <p>Meanwhile, many cities are using public education campaigns to make their case against flushing pandemic debris.</p> <p>The message may be getting through, says El Paso, Texas water utility spokesman Carlos Briano. Before the media blitz, emergency maintenance teams were dispatched about seven times a day to clear pipes. Now, it's once a day.</p> <p>"It's slowed, but it's still not pre-pandemic," Briano said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Russia: state emergency Arctic region |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/russia-declares-emergency-arctic-huge-diesel-leak-turns/story?id=71042651 |
| GIST | <p>Russian authorities have declared a state of emergency in an Arctic region after a huge fuel tank ruptured and leaked 20,000 tons of diesel into rivers, turning them blood red.</p> <p>A massive reserve fuel tank belonging to a thermal power station burst on Friday near Norilsk, a remote city in northern Russia about 180 miles above the Arctic Circle.</p> <p>The tank, in an industrial zone owned by the Russian mining conglomerate Norilsk Nickel, contained around 20,000 tons of diesel, and most of that has leaked into nearby rivers and a reservoir in the Taimyrskii Dolgano-Nenetskii district, according to Russian emergency officials.</p> <p>Videos and photographs taken from above show large swathes of two rivers, the Ambarnaya and Daldykan, having turned a bright red. The pollution is so visible that it can be seen in satellite images on Russia's equivalent of Google Maps, Yandex Maps. Environmental campaigners are warning of potential longterm harm to the area.</p> <p>President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday declared the spill a federal emergency and criticized regional authorities for not responding sooner. The Krasnoyarsk region, which includes Norilsk, announced a local state of emergency on Sunday, two days after the leak occurred.</p> <p>Officials blamed the delay in reacting to the leak on the local authorities' failure to inform them of the scale of the incident.</p> <p>Alexander Uss, governor of the Krasnoyarsk region, a massive Siberian territory that includes Norilsk, told Putin in a televised video call on Wednesday that he had only discovered the seriousness of the situation when local people posted videos on social media.</p> <p>That prompted an unusually irritated response from Putin, who demanded to know why it had taken two days for authorities to learn of the disaster.</p> <p>"What, we're going to learn about emergency situations from social media now, are we?" Putin told Uss.</p> <p>When the leak first happened, Krasnoyarsk's emergency ministry told reporters a car had crashed into the fuel tanks, causing a fire, but no major leak was mentioned. It later was discovered that the car had caught fire after it was covered by the huge flood of leaking fuel.</p> <p>Anatoly Tsykalov, vice president of the Krasnoyarsk regional government, told the Russian news outlet RBC earlier in the week that the environmental damage could have been lessened if local officials told them sooner.</p> |

"If the signal had come on time, it would be have been possible to send equipment," Tsykalov told RBC. He said workers could have created a dam on the slopes beneath the tank to prevent the fuel reaching waterways that feed into the larger rivers.

Russia's Prosecutor General's Office on Wednesday said a criminal probe had been opened into possible charges of environmental damage. The director of the power station's turbine section has been detained as a suspect, it said, and its general director has been issued a warning.

The World Wildlife Fund, which helped sound the alarm about the spill, said on Wednesday that workers had now managed to stop the diesel from spreading to a nearby lake by using floating barriers.

But "the successful localization of the slick does not mean that polluting substances haven't got into the lake," Aleksey Knizhnikov, WWF Russia's director for environmentally responsible business, was quoted in a post by the group. He said the most toxic components of diesel fuel dissolve easily in water, meaning barriers can't stop them.

In a [video published by local media](#), a man is seen scooping water out of the polluted river and then lighting it on fire.

"The consequences of such accidents, especially in the north, reverberate for a long time. It means the death of fish, the contamination of birds' feathers and the poisoning of animals," Sergey Verkhovets, WWF Russia's coordinator for arctic projects, said in a separate statement. Indigenous reindeer herders nearby also could suffer greatly.

Russia's minister for emergency services, Yevgeny Zinichyev, told Putin on Wednesday that workers had so far removed 100 tons of fuel and polluted concrete from the area, but that cleaning the polluted waterways would require considerable work. He said 100 more emergency workers would arrive on Thursday to assist. The governor, Uss, said his region had no experience dealing with a leak of such scale. The leak appears to be one of the most serious environmental accidents in the region in recent years involving Norilsk Nickel, which has been behind previous spills.

The cause of the fuel tank's rupture is still being investigated. Norilsk Nickel has suggested the tank may have collapsed because permafrost beneath it could have thawed [after an exceptionally warm winter](#). Russia saw record warm temperatures this year, and in some regions virtually no snow.

"What we can suggest is that as a result of the abnormally mild temperatures, a melting of the permafrost could have happened that led to the partial subsiding of the support on which the tank sits," Sergey Dyachenko, the company's first vice president, said in a statement.

Melting permafrost has become a significant issue in the region as temperatures warm because of climate change. Many buildings in Norilsk are built without foundations, directly onto the normally rock-hard frozen soil. But in recent years, top layers of the permafrost have thawed, [causing buildings to sink or become structurally unsound](#).

It is not the first time, however, that rivers near Norilsk Nickel's facilities in the area have been severely polluted. In 2016, the company acknowledged that flooding at one of its metal plants near the same area had caused a leak [which also turned a river bright red](#). The company had initially denied any involvement in the river's pollution.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Looters hit 100 Seattle businesses |
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| SOURCE | https://komonews.com/news/local/over-100-seattle-businesses-hit-by-looters-during-weekend-protests |
| GIST | <p>The latest numbers show 101 businesses were hit by looters in Seattle from Friday to Monday during protests in the wake of George Floyd's death.</p> <p>That's according to experts from the Downtown Seattle Association. They said it will take millions of dollars overall for stores and restaurants in the city to make repairs and rebuild.</p> <p>While businesses are grateful demonstrations in the last few days have been largely peaceful, they are preparing for anything should these protests take a turn.</p> <p>"It was so scary, it's just this helpless feeling of there's nothing we can do," said Jamie Munson.</p> <p>Munson is the owner of Simply Seattle, a business already struggling under COVID-19. Now his economic stress is multiplied after looters swept through his store Saturday.</p> <p>Munson said it'll take between \$10,000 to \$20,000 to recover altogether, delaying the eventual opening of his shop by a matter of weeks for whenever King County moves to phase 1.5.</p> <p>"It is such a good movement, it is such a great protest, and the voices need to be heard, but then to have it end in destruction and violence and people hurt and that's just not what anyone wants all around," Munson said.</p> <p>The newest numbers released by the Downtown Seattle Association show that the majority of damages this weekend happened on Saturday in what's called the "retail core;" this area extends roughly from Stewart to Seneca Streets between 2nd and 7th Avenues. That's where 69 businesses were hit by looters.</p> <p>Twenty businesses suffered damages Friday in Chinatown International District. At least eight businesses were targeted by looters in recent days on Capitol Hill. In total, four businesses were struck in Belltown.</p> <p>Don Blakeney with the Downtown Seattle Association said businesses are seeing if insurance can help with these latest setbacks, adding that coming up with a long-term game plan on how to recover economically will take coordination.</p> <p>"We're going to need all the city and the county and the business community all kind of in alignment about how to do that successfully," Blakeney said.</p> <p>KOMO News followed-up with Bellevue Square which got significant damages Sunday from looters.</p> <p>In total, they said just over 20 percent of their stores and restaurants were hit by looters. They said it's too early to determine how these damages may impact the timing of their eventual reopening under a modified phase one.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 SPD: most rioters, looters from western WA |
| SOURCE | https://q13fox.com/2020/06/03/spd-most-rioters-looters-from-western-washington/ |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE -- This pandemic sent countless businesses and employees into near total shutdown after Governor Jay Inslee's stay-at-home order went into effect.</p> <p>Businesses that managed to hang on these past few weeks were counting on returning to some sense of normalcy as restrictions are soon to lift and move ahead into new phases.</p> <p>But this weekend's riots, arsons and looting in the downtown core may just be the tipping point for some companies that were already hanging on by a thread.</p> |

Last Friday and Saturday, rioters trashed businesses in the downtown core and the international district and other neighborhoods.

Exactly how much damage was caused in terms of dollars is still being figured, but the Downtown Seattle Association says it is likely in the millions.

Dozens of people were arrested, but according to SPD records, only a handful accused of wreaking havoc were from out of town.

One by one, charges ranging from arson, assault, burglary, obstruction and illegal weapons were handed down to those caught up in this weekend's mayhem.

Investigators say one suspect threatened to shoot officers, others were caught red-handed looting including one suspect busted by SPD holding \$40,000 in stolen merchandise from a jewelry store.

"The impact could do more harm than people might imagine," said Don Blakeney from the DSA.

The organization says businesses who so far survived the shutdown may not survive the catastrophic losses from theft and damage.

"I think we already had a tipping point before this. We had businesses already closing," he said.

Vandals also hit the International District hard.

"Kind of speechless right now," said Eric Chan, owner of Jade Garden.

All told, between the shutdown and vandalism, the DSA worries some companies may never recover.

"I haven't heard of anybody attributing this to a closure, but that could be something that could happen," said Blakeney.

Seattle police say out of nearly 60 arrested this weekend, only a few were from out of state – and while investigators aren't sure where some call home, most of those who landed in jail are from western Washington, including two dozen from Seattle, five from Tacoma, three from Lakewood, with some coming into the city as far from Shelton, Spokane and Richland.

For some it may be a relief to learn throngs of outsiders aren't to blame for this weekend's destruction, it may be less of a relief to know the blame falls on our neighbors.

All while the DSA says employers and workers are counting on the fallout to not overshadow an economy already ill from a virus.

"With that challenge, how does recovery take shape knowing we have a bit of repair to do?" said Blakeney.

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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Arrests in protests over 10,000 |
| SOURCE | https://apnews.com/bb2404f9b13c8b53b94c73f818f6a0b7 |
| GIST | PHOENIX (AP) — More than 10,000 people have been arrested in protests decrying racism and police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's death, according to an Associated Press tally of known arrests across the U.S. |

The count has grown by the hundreds each day as protesters spilled into the streets and encountered a heavy police presence and curfews that give law enforcement stepped-up arrest powers.

Los Angeles has had more than a quarter of the national arrests, followed by New York, Dallas and Philadelphia. Many of the arrests have been for low-level offenses such as curfew violations and failure to disperse. Hundreds were arrested on burglary and looting charges.

As cities were engulfed in unrest last week, politicians claimed that the majority of the protesters were outside agitators, including a contention by Minnesota's governor that 80 percent of the participants in the demonstrations were from out of state.

The arrests in Minneapolis during a frenzied weekend tell a different story. In a nearly 24-hour period from Saturday night to Sunday afternoon, 41 of the 52 people cited with protest-related arrests had Minnesota driver's licenses, according to the Hennepin County sheriff.

In the nation's capital, 86 percent of the more than 400 people arrested as of Wednesday afternoon were from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

It is not known how many of the people arrested were locked up — an issue at a time when many of the nation's jails are dealing with coronavirus outbreaks. The protesters are often placed in zip-ties and hauled away from the scene in buses.

In Los Angeles, an online fundraising campaign has gathered \$2 million so far to help more than 3,000 people arrested in demonstrations since Floyd died on May 25 in Minneapolis.

Kath Rogers, executive director of the Los Angeles office of the National Lawyers Guild, said she was surprised by the huge number of arrests in that city. The office is calling on those arrested to be in contact so they can be part of the group's mass defense. So far, they have heard from about 400 people, she said.

She said some people had been swept up in the arrests because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time, like a woman who was simply going for an evening walk and wasn't part of the protest. Or a young man who was taking pictures of the looting with his phone and then was arrested for looting.

"I've been here for two years and we go to hundreds of demonstrations, but I've never seen rubber bullets flying like this, tear gas used this way," she said.

Los Angeles Chief Michel Moore told the city's Police Commission Tuesday the bulk of the arrests, about 2,500, were for failure to disperse or curfew violations.

The rest were for crimes including burglary, looting, assaults on police officers and other violence, Moore told the panel, which functions as the police department's civilian oversight board.

The only other U.S. city with an arrest toll that comes close to Los Angeles' is New York, with about 2,000, according to AP's tally.

A Los Angeles group called the Peoples City Council Fund as of Wednesday night had gathered more than \$2 million for arrested protesters there through the online fundraising platform gofundme. More than 46,000 people donated mostly small amounts, some just \$10 or \$20.

Fundraiser organizers said hundreds of thousands of the dollars raised will go to Black Lives Matter LA as well as the National Lawyers Guild, a progressive group that has been defending civil rights activists since the 1930s.

The AP tally didn't take into account any additional arrests still unreported from Wednesday evening.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Threats, attacks on 5G telecom engineers |
| SOURCE | https://www.theverge.com/2020/6/3/21276912/5g-conspiracy-theories-coronavirus-uk-telecoms-engineers-attacks-abuse |
| GIST | <p>Naveed Qureshi always knew his job was important, but as a telecoms engineer working in East London, it didn't always feel that way. He spent each week patrolling his patch of the city, riding out in his van to maintain the miles upon miles of copper wire and fiber optic cable that kept the capital online. Schools, hospitals, and businesses all relied on this invisible network, and with the pandemic forcing people to work from home, there was more strain on the system than ever before. His job felt undeniably essential. He just wished it wasn't dangerous, too.</p> <p>Since the UK entered lockdown in March, engineers like Qureshi had unwillingly found themselves on the front line of a strange global crusade. Conspiracy theorists had linked the spread of the novel coronavirus to the installation of new 5G mobile networks, with some claiming the cellular network weakened the immune system and allowed the virus to thrive, while others said 5G masts were broadcasting the virus through the ether (all "crackpot" claims, to quote the UK government). The thing these theories have in common is that they give people someone to blame. And though some of that paranoia comes from a reasonable mistrust of large corporations and institutions, the end target was always workers like Qureshi, out on the street in high-visibility vests, just trying to do their job.</p> <p>Most incidents could be classified as harassment. Shouted insults, death threats, and the like. But others were more violent. Razor blades and needles had been hidden behind posters on telephone poles, waiting to catch unwitting hands. Attackers had set cellphone masts on fire and shared the videos on social media to the applause of fellow conspiracists. According to figures shared with The Verge by industry body Mobile UK, there were more than 200 incidents of abuse against telecoms engineers since March 30th and more than 90 arson attacks against mobile infrastructure.</p> <p>All this was in the back of Qureshi's mind when, on a Tuesday morning in April, a woman approached the side of his van, parked near a high street in a northeastern district of the capital called Walthamstow, and gestured for him to roll down the window.</p> <p>"What are you doing?" she asked, bluntly.</p> <p>Qureshi, a quiet man in his forties with soft eyes and a closely cropped haircut, explained that he needed to climb the telephone mast behind him to fix a fault, but couldn't say more because of customer privacy.</p> <p>"Oh, okay..." said the woman, "but you're lying."</p> <p>Qureshi nodded and smiled, trying to keep things polite, but in his head alarms were going off as he thought to himself: Please don't be 5G. Please don't be 5G. Please don't be 5G.</p> <p>The woman started talking about radiation and microwaves, about the harmful effects of electromagnetic signals on the body, how signals from 5G — there it was — broke down blood cells like acid. She had plenty of stats to back up her argument, much of which Qureshi recognized from the copypasta conspiracy messages passed around social media. She boasted that, unlike him, she'd actually done her reading on the subject. Even though Qureshi had been professionally trained in this work, he knew it was fruitless to argue. Any point he brought up would be shot down by the woman's self-fulfilling rationalization that Qureshi was part of a global conspiracy.</p> <p>Normally, Qureshi enjoys the public's curiosity about his job, particularly children. When he's working on a cabinet — anonymous green metal boxes, seen on most UK streets, that provide street-level access to the nation's network — people always ask questions. Sometimes they're curious enough to stop and watch over Qureshi's shoulder as he works.</p> <p>In each cabinet there are thousands and thousands of copper wires, encased in different colored plastic. Each one connects the underground telephone and internet lines to individual properties, and maintaining</p> |

these junctions is a big part of an engineer's job. Opening a new cabinet is a lottery. Sometimes the wires inside are neat and tidy: a pleasure to trim and replace as necessary. Other times they resemble a desk drawer crammed full of old computer cables: a tangled and unruly mess which takes hours to bring to order.

Each time Qureshi opens a cabinet, people ask him the same question: "How do you know what's going on in there?" And every time, he gives the same answer: "Practice."

In Walthamstow, though, there wasn't any friendly banter. As the woman ranted, Qureshi began to worry about the stories he'd heard from fellow engineers. There have been threats aplenty, kicks and punches thrown at vans. One engineer was even spat at and had to self-isolate after developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. How far would this woman take things?

After vocalizing her theories, she seemed content in having passed on the message. Eventually, she got tired or bored and moved on down the road, and Qureshi resumed his work, counting himself lucky that it hadn't escalated further.

Like most other engineers in the capital, Qureshi works for Openreach, a subsidiary of BT Group, the country's largest internet supplier and a former nationalized monopoly. Each morning, he logs onto the Openreach app to receive a list of jobs in his designated area. Sometimes it'll mean climbing a telephone pole, other times he'll be lost in the puzzle of a malfunctioning cabinet. The work is varied, he says, and all the better for it.

But hours later in Leyton, Qureshi was coming to the end of his cabinet job when the woman reappeared. This time, he says, she seemed more agitated and approached him with a friend.

She raised her voice almost immediately: "'You're killing people. You know what you're doing. How could you do this?'"

He tried to follow company training and not engage with the accusations, but the woman was getting more and more upset. 5G was causing the symptoms of COVID-19, she told him, and he was secretly installing the high-speed network under instructions from the local council.

The woman was beginning to drag in bystanders at this point. She corralled a group of men who were drinking in the street and pointed Qureshi out to them. "He's the one who's killing everyone," she told them. "He's spreading all this virus."

The crowd was split. Some didn't seem to care, while others were on the woman's side, or at least bored enough to go along with it. They began to edge closer, cans of beer in hand. Qureshi could see them looking over at him, and he heard their voices drift down the street toward him. "Murder," "killer," "watch out." The woman was now screaming and flagging down cars in the street. More people were stopping, trying to work out what was going on.

At this point, thought Qureshi, it was time to leave. He called his manager, who told him to pack up his kit and get out of there quickly. (London's Metropolitan Police confirmed to The Verge that the alleged incident had been reported to them, and that while inquiries were currently continuing, no arrests had been made.)

Looking back at the ordeal, Qureshi says the most aggravating thing wasn't the intimidation itself or the disruption to his work. It was the sheer lack of understanding from the crowd. He was working on their street to fix their internet, to keep their phones and laptops working during a time of crisis. Didn't they know that? As he told them: "It could be your service I'm working on."

But the most galling evidence that Qureshi's accusers didn't know what they were talking about still irritates him: he wasn't even working on 5G. In fact, he's never worked on 5G. His employer, Openreach, doesn't directly maintain mobile networks at all: they mostly repair home internet and telephone lines. It

didn't matter. He, like the scores of other engineers who have been abused by conspiracy theorists, was targeted all the same. 5G and the novel coronavirus may be invisible threats, but workers like Qureshi offer tangible targets.

Easter weekend was a busy one for the UK conspiracy theorists. While some people were adapting to a bank holiday stuck at home and Sunday church services over Zoom, no fewer than 20 phone masts were targeted in the UK in suspected arson attacks.

Mobile operators blamed the attacks on the 5G conspiracy and noted that because of the slow rollout of the high-speed network, most of the infrastructure hit was actually providing 3G and 4G coverage, not even the newer 5G. Up and down the country, firefighters rushed to put out blazes, and telecoms engineers worked overtime to restore lost service. Vodafone UK, one of the mobile operators affected by the attacks, noted that the equipment targeted included a mast providing mobile connectivity to a temporary hospital built for COVID-19 patients.

"It's heart-rending enough that families cannot be there at the bedside of loved ones who are critically ill," wrote Vodafone UK CEO Nick Jeffery on LinkedIn. "It's even more upsetting that even the small solace of a phone or video call may now be denied them because of the selfish actions of a few deluded conspiracy theorists."

Although Mobile UK tells The Verge that attacks like these seem to be slowing, they were initially coordinated on social media. In a now-deleted Facebook group called "5G TOWER FIRE COMP," users shared maps of potential targets, commenting "you know what to do" underneath them. One post from an admin of the group compiled a tally of arson incidents by city with the title "5G Tower Fire Table Championships sponsored by EE & VODAPHONE" and the call to arms: "THERE IS A LEAGUE LET'S GOOOOOOOO!!!!" And when a 70-foot tower was set ablaze in Birmingham, a video of the incident was dropped in the group with the text "Birmingham 1- 0 West Bromwich Albion. 🍀 An excellent opener from Birmingham, they're on fire at the moment," and the hashtag #5GisGenocide. (The tower was providing 4G service.)

The UK certainly hasn't been alone in suffering arson attacks, with similar incidents reported in the Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, Italy, Cyprus, and Sweden. It does, however, seem to have seen more than any other nations, perhaps as a result of incubating a particular viral strain of the conspiracy.

Adherents in the UK have spread their messages not just via social media but through local government, celebrity endorsements, and even mainstream news. The UK's TV regulator, Ofcom, for example, had to rebuke the presenter of a popular morning news show for "undermining viewers' trust in advice from public authorities and scientific evidence" in a segment covering the arson attacks after he said it was easy to dismiss links between 5G and the novel coronavirus "because it suits the state narrative."

Part of the reason for the speedy embrace of the conspiracy is that it builds upon existing networks of misinformation, says Grace Rahman, online fact-checking lead for UK charity Full Fact. Bogus claims about the health dangers associated with cellphone signals go back years, she says, and have been linked to the 5G rollout pretty much since the first equipment began to be installed.

"We first checked something to do with 5G half way through 2019," Rahman tells The Verge, referencing a viral image that supposedly shows a man in a hazmat suit cleaning a 5G mast. "Their interpretation was that he's wearing a hazmat suit to protect himself against 5G. In actual fact he was almost certainly cleaning bird poo."

The link between 5G and the novel coronavirus began to appear sometime in mid-January, when people began to connect Wuhan as the original source of the outbreak and an early testing site for 5G. (Rahman notes that other big cities had similar trials without similar outbreaks, while Iran, which also had an early outbreak of COVID-19, doesn't have 5G networks at all.)

Once the UK entered lockdown in March, though, the theories began to spread faster than ever on social media.

“As the lockdown measures became a lot more serious, it did feel like the conspiracy theories were also becoming more extreme with it,” says Rahman.

Engineers who spoke to The Verge spoke about incidents of abuse related to the conspiracy theory reported a similar change in the mood on the street. People are cooped up, they said, frustrated about the new restrictions, stuck at home, and looking for an explanation that made sense.

“They just want to blame someone,” says Qureshi. “They see these deaths on the news, every day there’s big spikes, a thousand deaths. Possibly their loved ones could have been one of those stats. And so I can understand that. But to point the finger at just anyone... Who’ll be the next target?”

Teasing apart the precise beliefs of any 5G conspiracy theorist is as difficult as sorting the cables in a haphazard telecoms cabinet, but there are some shared items of faith among adherents. Pretty much all of those involved suggest that the dangers of 5G have been underestimated while the threat of the pandemic has been overexaggerated.

These beliefs succeed partly because they fit into an established corpus of conspiracy and pseudoscience, says Rahman. Fears about 5G dovetail neatly with both the anti-vax movement and libertarian fears about a New World Order. And in both the US and the UK, this energy has been fostered by more mainstream political figures who want to end the lockdown not necessarily because they believe the pandemic is fake, but because of worry about economic costs or perceived infringement of civil liberties.

Rahman says the situation has not been helped by the fact that, in the early weeks at least, finding reliable information about COVID-19 was difficult. Even the name “coronavirus” created misinformation, as it refers to a whole group of existing viruses with different histories and characteristics, says Rahman. “That was a bit of a nightmare, because so much of what we were fact-checking was based on scientific papers about other coronaviruses.”

As a report from the World Health Organization noted in February, the pandemic has been accompanied by a “massive infodemic.” This takes the form of an “over-abundance of information — some accurate and some not — that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it.” One historian of science compared the situation to the 17th century, noting that “we are living in a moment of ground-zero empiricism, in which almost everything is up for grabs” — including, it seems, non-scientific explanations. It’s an environment of unknowns that breeds conspiracy, and an environment of conspiracy that inspires violence.

TelecomsTelecoms engineers know a lot about this. The green cabinets they spend so much time in and that attract so many stares are reminders of how little most of us know about the work they do.

The internet and its many delights have always thrived on this ignorance. We’re encouraged as consumers to ignore the human labor that enables the conveniences that we enjoy. Food, shopping, and transportation all arrive at the push of a button, but the network of warehouse workers, kitchen staff, and delivery drivers that make these transactions possible are hidden from view. It’s only when the system breaks down that their work becomes more visible.

This dual state of awareness — of familiarity with the product and ignorance of the process — has helped make telecoms engineers a target for conspiracy theorists. If you see an engineer like Qureshi out on the street, with their fluorescent jacket and branded van, you know they’ve got something to do with the internet, even if you don’t know exactly what it is. They’re the human point of access in an otherwise inscrutable network, and so become a target for your anger. You can’t kill the network, but you can attack the nearest node.

“They don’t want to hear from us,” Ollie (not his real name), an Openreach technician from Wales, tells The Verge. “They don’t actually want us to explain what’s going on. They’re right and we gotta listen to them. That’s it.” Toward the end of April, Ollie was shouted at in the street when on a job and accused of murder by a 5G conspiracy theorist.

In the case of the 5G conspiracy, this haze of ignorance has been aided and abetted by the mobile operators themselves. The 5G hype train has been rolling for years, with fake 5G logos in phones and fanfares for networks that only work on a few streets. Ads shout about 5G’s “revolutionary potential” and promise it will bring a self-driving car to every home and a robot surgeon to every hospital. There’s a lot of talk about what 5G will supposedly do, but very little about what it actually is, which allows people to ignore the simple, even tedious truth: it’s the internet, but faster. And more to the point: it involves a lot of equipment that breaks and has to be fixed by actual people.

This knowledge gap, deliberately obfuscated by slick marketing, gives space for conspiracy. If the root appeal of a conspiracy theory is that it simplifies the world’s messy truths, what could be a better way to explain the pandemic, a story of endless complexity that involves viruses, globalization, and human biology? The 5G conspiracy paves over this with a simple narrative of harmful technology forced on the public by an uncaring elite.

It’s not a particularly imaginative tale, but it doesn’t have to be. It’s so attractive that it can even appeal to the people it implicates. Marius, a telecoms engineer The Verge spoke to, says that even he initially believed the conspiracy.

“It’s worrying,” he tells The Verge. “I’ve had friends on the phone, going ‘Argh, this 5G thing,’ and everyone’s scared because they don’t know what’s happening.” Although he initially found the evidence compelling, Marius says the story just didn’t add up when he thought about it. “I was thinking, if it really was 5G then people should be falling down [dead] all the time, because it’s everywhere,” he says.

Openreach says it’s made educating the public about its networks a top priority. The solution? More marketing, of course. Openreach launched a two-week national advertising campaign that highlighted the key worker status of its engineers and the importance of their work during the pandemic. It’s also issued new guidance to staff on dealing with potentially abusive situations, and put in place a new safe word protocol where engineers can call managers and use a predefined safe word to have backup sent to their location.

Staff The Verge spoke to said they felt supported in their work and that managers were quick to respond to potential trouble. But there’s a sense of unease when they go to work each day.

“There’s always someone you can ring: your manager, the police, an engineer round the corner,” says Ollie. “But you’re also thinking, ‘Is the next person going to take it a step further? If some boys are saying they’re going to light the van [on fire], are they actually going to light the van next time?’”

Ollie says that in his personal experience, members of the public were generally friendly toward the engineers and appreciated the work they do. “Every day you get someone who thanks you, or for instance we’ve had people leave Celebrations [chocolates] on the front of our vans. You know, little things like that,” he says. But, like others, he feels there is often a lack of understanding.

“You want to tell them, ‘Do you understand what we’re doing?’” says Ollie. “‘Do you really know what we’re doing today? We’re working in that nurse’s home because she needs to keep up with her patients. We’re working on that doctor’s house because he needs to prescribe medicine.’ I’ve done work for a teacher because she needed Skype to teach her children.”

Qureshi says he often thinks about the value of his work during the UK’s weekly “clap for our carers.” Every Thursday at 8PM, households around the country applaud from windows and doorsteps to show appreciation for key workers. Although this category officially includes Qureshi, he says he doesn’t think everyone would make that judgement.

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| | <p>The NHS is “doing a remarkable job and no one comes close to what they’re doing,” he says. “But there is another world outside that. And there are people out there, not just us; postmen, the police — they’re risking their lives as well. They’re clapping and we’re not being mentioned. I can only speak as an engineer, but I know what I do and I know the difficulties of it.”</p> <p>And the work is difficult. When the pandemic is over and the applause has stopped — whether it’s for engineers like Qureshi or not — the labor that is so often overlooked will still be needed: to maintain the network and keep things running so everyone else doesn’t have to think about it</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/02 Fake armed National Guard caught |
| SOURCE | https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/national/article243219041.html |
| GIST | <p>A heavily armed California man dressed like a National Guard soldier was arrested outside Los Angeles City Hall on Tuesday morning and has been booked on charges of impersonating a Guard member, media outlets report.</p> <p>State and city officials called in the National Guard on May 30 to help maintain order during ongoing protests over the death of George Floyd, according to ABC 7.</p> <p>Floyd, a black Minneapolis man, died in handcuffs while a white police officer pressed his knee against Floyd’s neck. Floyd’s death has since been ruled a homicide.</p> <p>Protesters have been gathering outside LA City Hall for several days, and did so again Tuesday morning, outlets report.</p> <p>Gregory Wong, 31, was arrested at around 1:30 a.m., after catching the attention of real National Guard soldiers who noticed something was off about his uniform, police told NBC 4.</p> <p>Wong was booked on suspicion of manufacturing or possession of an illegal assault weapon, according to the outlet.</p> <p>Authorities don’t know what Wong’s intentions were, FOX 11 reported. He was carrying a rifle, a pistol and spare ammunition, the station said.</p> <p>Hundreds flocked to the area later in the day to demonstrate and were joined by LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, the outlet reported.</p> <p>Wong is from Northern California but recently moved to Los Angeles, according to KFBK.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Police: West Seattle shooting |
| SOURCE | https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/man-seriously-injured-in-west-seattle-shooting/ |
| GIST | <p>Police are investigating a shooting near the West Seattle Junction that left a 32-year-old man with serious injuries Wednesday night.</p> <p>Officers responded to reports of a shooting in the 4800 block of Erskine Way Southwest around 11 p.m., according to the Seattle Police Department.</p> <p>The man was transported to Harborview Medical Center in serious condition, said Seattle Fire Department spokesman David Cuerpo.</p> <p>No further information was immediately available.</p> |

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Ex-UAW head pleads guilty; embezzlement |
| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/former-uaw-president-pleads-guilty-to-embezzlement-charges-11591213966?mod=hp_lead_pos6 |
| GIST | <p>A former United Auto Workers president pleaded guilty Wednesday to embezzlement of union funds and racketeering, marking the highest-profile conviction yet in the government's yearslong investigation into labor corruption within the auto industry.</p> <p>Gary Jones, who left the top post in November during contract talks with the Detroit auto makers, was accused earlier this year of conspiring with other UAW officials to embezzle more than \$1 million to pay for private villas, expensive cigars, golf outings and other luxuries.</p> <p>The spending was then covered up with fake receipts and fraudulent expense reports, according to charging documents filed with a Michigan federal court in March.</p> <p>Federal prosecutors say the alleged misconduct carried out by Mr. Jones and the other union officials spanned nearly a decade and was part of an illegal racketeering scheme that could potentially expose the UAW to federal oversight.</p> <p>His conviction, now the 14th in the criminal probe led by the U.S. attorney's office in Detroit, is likely to further strengthen the Justice Department's hand in proving—as the government contends—that corruption at the UAW was widespread and systemic, said Peter Henning, a law professor at Wayne State University.</p> <p>The 63-year-old Mr. Jones is the highest-ranking UAW official to be prosecuted in the federal investigation, which became public in 2017 and initially focused on misuse of funds for an employee-training center jointly operated by the UAW and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV.</p> <p>During a live-streamed federal court proceeding Wednesday, Mr. Jones also pleaded guilty to tax fraud, in addition to the embezzlement and racketeering charge.</p> <p>The charges carry a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison, but federal prosecutors are recommending a maximum of nearly five years with the possibility to reduce that sentence if Mr. Jones's cooperation is significant.</p> <p>"I apologize to my UAW family for the betrayal of their trust and pray they will forgive me," Mr. Jones told the court during the hearing.</p> <p>UAW President Rory Gamble in a statement condemned Mr. Jones's actions and those of former union officials who have been convicted. Mr. Gamble said the union has implemented reforms aimed at preventing misconduct.</p> <p>Mr. Jones was named president in 2018 and led the UAW through contract talks with General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. last fall, including calling a 40-day strike at GM that shut down the company's U.S. factories and sent thousands of workers to the picket lines. He resigned before bargaining with Fiat Chrysler was finished.</p> <p>Mr. Jones's guilty plea is the latest blow to the nearly 400,000-member union, which has in recent years struggled to increase its influence and win back the trust of rank-and-file workers unsettled by the corruption charges. After first focusing on dealings between UAW officials and their counterparts at Fiat Chrysler, the federal probe has more recently centered on corruption within the top ranks of the UAW, ensnaring multiple high-ranking officials.</p> |

Matthew Schneider, the U.S. Attorney in eastern Michigan, has previously said the latest convictions raise the possibility that the government could seek oversight of the union—an approach that was used to force the Teamsters to sever ties with organized crime.

In a statement Wednesday, Mr. Schneider said that the guilty plea from Mr. Jones shifts his office's investigation to a new phase that is focused on reforming the UAW, and that he plans to meet with Mr. Gamble to discuss possible changes. A UAW spokesman confirmed that Mr. Gamble plans to meet with Mr. Schneider.

The inclusion of racketeering in the charges against Mr. Jones and other UAW officials signals prosecutors are looking to build a case under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, known as RICO, said Mr. Henning, the law professor.

“Gary Jones pleading guilty is very significant” because he was the president, the highest-ranking official at the UAW, Mr. Henning said. “Prosecutors can use this guilty plea against the union in a civil RICO case.”

A UAW spokesman declined to comment on the possibility of a RICO case against the union.

When Mr. Jones was charged earlier this year, prosecutors alleged that a group of UAW leaders, including Mr. Jones, established master accounts at hotels and resorts to pay for the personal use of private villas, high-end liquor and other luxuries. The spending was allegedly misrepresented as serving union business, including paying for conferences and meetings, according to court filings.

Mr. Jones resigned last fall as the UAW's governing board sought to remove him over allegations he and another top union official provided false and misleading expense reports to the union's accounting department. Mr. Jones's lawyer at the time said he was leaving voluntarily.

Last August, Mr. Jones was one of several UAW officials whose houses were searched by federal agents. The California home of his predecessor, Dennis Williams, who served as the UAW's president from 2014 to 2018, was also searched.

Mr. Williams hasn't been charged with wrongdoing. His attorney hasn't returned requests for comment on the search.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Chicken industry executives indicted |
| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/chicken-industry-executives-including-pilgrim-s-pride-ceo-indicted-for-price-fixing-11591202113?mod=hp_lead_pos5 |
| GIST | <p>The chief executive of one of the country's biggest chicken producers and three other industry executives were indicted Wednesday on charges they conspired to fix prices on chicken sold to restaurants and grocery stores, the Justice Department's first charges in a continuing criminal antitrust probe.</p> <p>Pilgrim's Pride Corp. CEO Jayson Penn and a former company vice president, Roger Austin, were charged in the one-count indictment, returned by a federal grand jury in Denver. Colorado-based Pilgrim's, majority owned by Brazilian meat conglomerate JBS SA, is the nation's second-largest chicken producer. Also charged were the president of Georgia-based Claxton Poultry Farms, Mikell Fries, and a vice president, Scott Brady.</p> <p>The indictment, filled with alleged instances of cozy discussions about pricing and text messages about holding the line on bids to customers, charged the executives with colluding to fix prices and rig bids from 2012 to 2017. The charges also referenced other unnamed executives and chicken suppliers and suggested the sharing of pricing information extended beyond the alleged discussions between Pilgrim's and Claxton.</p> |

Neither Pilgrim's nor Messrs. Penn and Austin responded to requests for comment. A Claxton spokesman declined to comment. The companies have previously denied allegations of coordinating prices.

The charges sent share prices across the \$65 billion chicken industry sharply lower. Pilgrim's dropped 12%, and shares of chicken companies Tyson Foods Inc. and Sanderson Farms Inc. fell 3.8% and 6.2%, respectively.

The indictments come amid growing concern among farmers, grocery stores and restaurants that declining competition among a smaller number of big meatpackers is pushing up meat prices for consumers while reducing farmers' and ranchers' income. Some of the country's biggest grocery chains, including Walmart Inc., Kroger Co. and Albertsons Cos., sued chicken companies last year, alleging anticompetitive practices.

"Executives who cheat American consumers, restaurateurs and grocers, and compromise the integrity of our food supply, will be held responsible for their actions," U.S. Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim, the Justice Department's antitrust chief, said.

The Justice Department said its efforts in the probe are continuing.

The indictment painted a picture of rival executives who kept close contact and weren't shy about sharing—and coordinating—pricing strategies in bids to chicken buyers.

When a restaurant chain in late 2012 was soliciting bids for dark meat for the coming year, Mr. Austin, then working for Pilgrim's, called Claxton's Mr. Brady, himself a former Pilgrim's employee, after both companies had submitted bids, according to the indictment.

After the call, the Justice Department alleged, Mr. Brady told Claxton's Mr. Fries that Mr. Austin had urged Claxton to raise its prices.

"Tell him we are trying!" Mr. Fries said in a text message, according to the complaint. Mr. Brady responded, "Will do."

Pilgrim's and Claxton that December both signed supply deals with the buyer, at or near the prices that Messrs. Austin and Brady had discussed, the Justice Department said.

While negotiating chicken prices with a purchasing cooperative in August 2014, Pilgrim's Mr. Austin and Claxton's Mr. Brady again talked about holding firm on prices, the indictment alleged, and both companies signed deals with the customer.

In the fall of 2014, the indictment alleged, Mr. Penn texted with a Pilgrim's colleague about ongoing price negotiations with a nationwide fast-food chain. The Pilgrim's employee told Mr. Penn that a competing chicken company's bid was higher than Pilgrim's, and that the competitor wasn't negotiating further. "They are listening to my direction," the Pilgrim's employee told Mr. Penn.

"Who is they?" Mr. Penn texted back. "If they is illegal don't tell me." The Pilgrim's employee clarified that he was referring to Mr. Austin, who also was involved in the negotiations.

As negotiations with the fast-food chain progressed, the complaint said, Mr. Penn told Pilgrim's then-CEO that the chain should "pay market price plus the special A-Hole Premium." Pilgrim's CEO at the time was Bill Lovette, who retired in March 2019.

In other alleged communications included in the indictment, Mr. Penn in November 2014 likened a rival poultry company to "the town drunk" for selling cheap chicken and running short of supply. "They need to pay so they start acting appropriately," Mr. Penn allegedly said after the rival sought to buy more chicken from Pilgrim's.

Collusion accusations have shadowed the poultry industry since late 2016, when restaurant companies and other poultry buyers sued major poultry producers, accusing them of illegally coordinating operations to inflate prices.

The chicken companies, including Pilgrim's, Claxton, Tyson Foods, Sanderson Farms and Perdue Farms Inc., have denied those allegations and are fighting the civil lawsuits. They said that supply and demand factors drove poultry prices higher over the years, including rising domestic consumption and exports.

The Justice Department's probe into chicken pricing came to light last year when government attorneys sought to intervene in that continuing litigation, seeking evidence from plaintiffs' attorneys and requesting a pause on further evidence-gathering to protect a grand jury's investigation. The Justice Department later issued subpoenas to Tyson, Pilgrim's, Sanderson and other poultry producers. The companies said they would cooperate with the government's requests.

Wholesale chicken prices climbed 11% from mid-2012, when the U.S. Agriculture Department began calculating national prices for whole chickens, until the end of 2018. Chicken prices fell about 27% from the start of 2019 through the end of February 2020 as chicken companies ramped up production and expanded plants, anticipating bigger exports after new trade deals were finalized.

The National Farmers Union said the indictment showed the need for stronger antitrust enforcement in agriculture. Price-fixing translates to lower prices paid to farmers, while inflating consumers' food costs, said Rob Larew, the Washington-based group's president.

The chicken industry is dominated by a handful of companies after decades of consolidation. The five largest companies control 61% of U.S. chicken production, according to Watt Global Media, an industry publication. Tyson, the largest, represents 21%.

Colorado-based Pilgrim's represents about 17% of the U.S. market, according to Watt, and the company estimates it produces globally about 13 billion pounds of chicken annually. Claxton, based in Georgia, estimates that it produces about 300 million pounds of chicken a year.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Criminal charges set up legal battle |
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| SOURCE | https://www.wsj.com/articles/criminal-charges-in-george-floyds-death-set-up-legal-battle-11590791419 |
| GIST | <p>Prosecutors will face a challenging legal battle in pursuing criminal charges against the Minneapolis police officers involved in the killing of George Floyd.</p> <p>With remarkable swiftness amid violent unrest, prosecutors in Hennepin County announced charges on Friday against one of the white officers involved, accusing Derek Chauvin of third-degree murder and manslaughter. Mr. Chauvin was arrested and taken into custody.</p> <p>Video footage showed Mr. Floyd passing out while pinned on the pavement under Mr. Chauvin's knee during an arrest, touching off waves of protests, looting and rioting.</p> <p>Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who took over the case earlier this week, added a charge of second-degree murder Wednesday. He also filed charges of aiding and abetting second-degree murder against three other former officers.</p> <p>"Every single link in the prosecutorial chain must be strong," Mr. Ellison said. "Winning a conviction will be hard." He cautioned that it will take months for prosecutors to be ready to take the case to trial.</p> |

To support [a second-degree murder charge](#), prosecutors don't have to show the killing was premeditated or intentional. But they need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officer caused the death while committing or trying to commit a felony assault, according to Minnesota law.

For a third-degree murder charge, Minnesota prosecutors need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officer caused the death by acting with a "depraved mind without regard for human life," while charges against the other former officers require prosecutors to prove that they intentionally helped Mr. Chauvin murder Mr. Floyd.

The video alone may not be enough evidence to secure a conviction, said Richard Frase, a criminal-law professor at the University of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis.

Mr. Chauvin's arrest came less than a week after the incident and before the local medical examiner's office has completed an autopsy and determined the cause of death.

In comparison, it took the same prosecution team eight months to bring third-degree murder and manslaughter charges against another Minneapolis officer who fatally shot an unarmed Australian woman in 2017. That officer was convicted and sentenced last year to 12½ years in prison.

Investigators will need to compile additional evidence beyond the explosive video that much of the public has seen, including witness statements, said Joe Van Thomme, a city prosecutor in Minneapolis and former chairman of the local bar association's criminal law committee.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner said Monday it had determined that Mr. Floyd's [death was a homicide](#), caused by "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." Its autopsy results also indicated heart disease, fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use, but the examiner didn't cite them as contributing to the cause of death.

Private medical examiners hired by Mr. Floyd's family also ruled the death a homicide, but said the cause was mechanical asphyxia, the result of Minneapolis police officers compressing his neck and back.

Along with the local investigation, the U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division is also examining Mr. Floyd's death.

The federal criminal statute commonly used to prosecute police misconduct requires proof an officer on the job not only acted with excessive force but willfully violated someone's constitutional rights. A misperception or poor judgment alone isn't enough to get a conviction.

Federal prosecutors have charged hundreds of law enforcement officers with civil-rights violations over the last decade.

Such federal probes can take months or even years to complete. And some of the most controversial use-of-force cases never yielded criminal charges or convictions.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 PD releases personnel files of 4 charged |
| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/us/live-george-floyd-protests-today.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage#link-24c739a9 |
| GIST | The Minneapolis Police Department late Wednesday released 235 pages of personnel records for the four former officers charged in George Floyd's killing on May 25, all of whom were fired after video of his death emerged the next day. |

Three of the officers, Thomas Lane, 37, J. Alexander Kueng, 26, and Tou Thao, 34, were [charged on Wednesday](#) with aiding and abetting second-degree murder, court records show. Mr. Kueng was in custody on Wednesday. The authorities said they were in the process of arresting Mr. Lane and Mr. Thao. The fourth officer, Derek Chauvin, 44, who was [arrested last week](#), now faces [an increased charge of second-degree murder](#).

Many of the pages of the personnel files were heavily redacted, but they revealed details of the officers' lives before joining the department and during their time on the force.

Derek M. Chauvin

Mr. Chauvin appears to have been reprimanded and possibly suspended after a woman complained in 2007 that he needlessly removed her from her car, searched her and put her into the back of a squad car for driving 10 miles an hour over the speed limit.

Mr. Chauvin [was the subject of at least 17 misconduct complaints over two decades](#), but the woman's complaint is the only one detailed in [79 pages of his heavily redacted personnel file](#). The file shows that the complaint was upheld and that Mr. Chauvin was issued a letter of reprimand.

"Officer did not have to remove complainant from car, Could've conducted interview outside the vehicle," read the investigators' finding.

In one part of the records, the discipline imposed is listed as "letter of reprimand," but Mr. Chauvin was also issued a "notice of suspension" in May 2008, just after the investigation into the complaint ended, that lists the same internal affairs case number.

Investigators wrote that there was no audio of the incident and that the dash cam "had been turned off during course of stop."

The records say Mr. Chauvin admitted to leaving a microphone in the squad car during the traffic stop and "did not check" the dash cam at the start of his shift.

In applying to the Minneapolis Police Department, Mr. Chauvin said he had served as a member of the U.S. Army, working for a time as a member of the military police. He also said he had worked as a security guard and as a cook for McDonald's and another restaurant in the mid-1990s. The records said he was hired by the department in January 2001 as a part-time community service officer.

J. Alexander Kueng

Mr. Kueng had been an officer with the department for less than six months. He joined the force as a cadet in February 2019 and became an officer on Dec. 10, 2019, his personnel records show. He had previously worked as a community service officer with the department while he earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

He also worked as a security guard at a Macy's and stocked shelves at a Target, and graduated from Minneapolis's Patrick Henry High School in 2012.

Otherwise, most of [his personnel file](#) was blacked out, including basic details like whether he had a driver's license, whether he lived in Minneapolis, whether he had any convictions for a long list of crimes and whether he is a U.S. citizen.

His file shows that he was terminated on May 26, the day after Mr. Floyd's death, at 4:45 p.m. It says he was fired for substandard performance, misconduct and violations of the city's use-of-force policy, including failure to stop another officer from applying inappropriate force.

Thomas K. Lane

Mr. Lane did not graduate from high school, [his files shows](#), but he went on to get his G.E.D., then an associate degree from Century College, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in criminology.

He was accepted to the police academy in January 2019 but started working in the criminal justice system in 2017 as a probation officer. Mr. Lane previously worked a series of different jobs, from restaurant server to Home Depot sales associate. He volunteered at Ka Joog tutoring, working with Somali youth in Cedar Riverside.

Tou Thao

Mr. Thao held jobs at McDonald's, at a grocery store as a stocker and as a security guard before being hired in 2008 as a community service officer in Minneapolis. But he worked there less than two years before being laid off in late 2009 because of budget cuts. Almost two years later, in 2011, he was recalled, then hired as a police officer in 2012.

Mr. Thao graduated in 2004 from Fridley High School and attended North Hennepin Community College, where he studied for an associate degree in law enforcement but never graduated, [according to his file](#).

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Suspect in Madeleine McCann case |
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| SOURCE | https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/world/europe/madeline-mccann-missing-germany-portugal.html |
| GIST | <p>BERLIN — After more than a decade of inquiries in at least three European countries, a German sex offender is under investigation on suspicion of murder in the 2007 disappearance of Madeleine McCann, a British girl who went missing at age 3 from a hotel room in Portugal, authorities in Germany said Wednesday.</p> <p>The 43-year-old man, whose identity was not released, lived in Portugal off-and-on from 1995 to 2007.</p> <p>He has a criminal record for sexual abuse of children, and is currently in prison serving a sentence for an unrelated sexual crime and a drug offense, Christian Hoppe, a criminal investigator at Germany's Federal Criminal Police, said on public television on Wednesday night.</p> <p>On May 3, 2007, Madeleine, who was about to turn 4, disappeared while staying at a holiday resort with her family and a group of their friends in Praia da Luz, a seaside town in the Algarve region of Portugal. Her parents said they left her asleep with her siblings, twins who were 2 at the time, while they ate in a nearby restaurant.</p> <p>The girl's disappearance dominated European headlines for years and sparked an international manhunt. Millions of dollars were offered in rewards to help find her abductor or abductors; her parents, Kate and Gerry McCann, both Roman Catholics, appealed to Pope Benedict XVI for help.</p> <p>Celebrities, including the soccer star David Beckham, made appeals for her to be found. The author J.K. Rowling later helped Ms. McCann write a book about her daughter's disappearance.</p> <p>The Portuguese police were accused of bungling an initial investigation that failed to produce concrete leads and instead added to the controversy by including Madeleine's parents as suspects.</p> <p>For years, the couple kept their daughter's name in headlines in the hope of finding her alive. Their high-profile campaign crisscrossed Europe and fueled dozens of reports of sightings and false alarms from Spain to Belgium to Morocco.</p> <p>But in his appearance on Wednesday on a German unsolved crimes TV show, Mr. Hoppe, of the German police, dashed any hopes that she might be still be found, 13 years later.</p> |

The evidence discovered, he said, leads “to the assumption that Madeleine was the victim of a homicide.”

Still, even with a suspect identified, the crime is still being investigated, and Mr. Hoppe appealed to viewers to call in with any possible recollection or tip they had, in hopes of finally resolving the case. “Even the most minor detail is of great meaning,” he said.

A German police statement released on Wednesday promised 10,000 euros, or \$11,233, to anyone providing information that helps to solve the case and provided a link where photographs or other possible evidence could be submitted.

In London, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Stuart Cundy, said, “We are committed to do everything we can to establish what happened and to find Madeleine.”

Criminal investigators in Germany, Britain and Portugal had been working the case for years, with no leads.

The current suspect was listed among hundreds of possible suspects back in 2007, but there was not enough information to open an investigation, Mr. Hoppe said. In 2013, a broadcast of the same German public television show, “File Number XY Unresolved,” appealed to the public for information about the case and the suspect’s name came up again.

Still, the information was insufficient to take action, Mr. Hoppe said.

But after the 10-year anniversary of Madeleine’s disappearance, Detective Chief Inspector Mark Cranwell, who is leading the Met Police investigation into the case in Britain, said his investigators received more information about the German suspect.

Working off that tip, the German authorities returned to the man and gathered enough evidence to allow prosecutors in the city of Braunschweig — near the man’s last home in Germany before he moved to Portugal — to open a preliminary investigation that could lead to homicide charges.

“It’s more than 13 years since Madeleine went missing and none of us can imagine what it must be like for her family, not knowing what happened or where she is,” Detective Chief Inspector Cranwell said in a statement.

The German suspect, who would have been 30 at the time of Madeleine’s disappearance, had worked in restaurants, but also had a record of break-ins at hotels and dealing drugs in the region where Madeleine’s family was on vacation.

The night she vanished, the suspect had a long telephone conversation from the area near Praia da Luz with a person on a Portuguese cellphone, who police are urging to come forward as a witness.

They are also appealing to anyone who might have noticed one of two conspicuous vehicles the suspect used at the time. One was a maroon Jaguar XJR 6, with a German license plate that was changed several times, including the day after Madeleine disappeared.

The other was a white-and-yellow Volkswagen camper van with a Portuguese license plate he is believed to occasionally have lived in but did not own.

Investigators have ruled out the owner of the van as an accomplice. But they said they believed the suspect may have been using the vehicle on the day of Madeleine’s disappearance.

On the television show on Wednesday, Mr. Hoppe also showed images of a living room with a brown leather sofa and a wooden beam in the center of the room, as well as another of a low-slung whitewashed home in the Algarve region where the authorities believe the suspect may have stocked stolen goods.

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| | <p>By showing the pictures, they hoped to jog peoples' memories about places they believed to be critical to the investigation.</p> <p>"We do not rule out that in addition to the perpetrator, there are people who have knowledge about the course of events of the crime," Mr. Hoppe said. "Perhaps even about where the body was deposited, without having been involved in the crime."</p> <p>In a statement distributed by the police in London, the McCanns said, "All we have ever wanted is to find her, uncover the truth and bring those responsible to justice. We will never give up hope of finding Madeleine alive but whatever the outcome may be, we need to know, as we need to find peace."</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 NYPD: 1 officer stabbed; 2 shot |
| SOURCE | https://www.foxnews.com/us/police-officer-shot-in-brooklyn-hours-into-new-yorks-curfew |
| GIST | <p>A New York City police officer was randomly attacked and stabbed in the neck late Wednesday while patrolling in Brooklyn, which resulted in a struggle that caused two additional officers to suffer gunshot wounds.</p> <p>Police said at an early news conference Thursday that a preliminary investigation indicated a male suspect walked up to the officers casually and whipped out the knife. They said the officers involved had been assigned to an anti-looting post to prevent people from breaking into stores.</p> <p>"That officer was stabbed in the left side of his neck, thank God, missing an artery," New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said.</p> <p>He called it a "completely cowardly, despicable, unprovoked attack on a defenseless police officer."</p> <p>Two additional officers were struck in the hand by gunfire during the incident, police said. They were rushed to Kings County Hospital and are expected to survive.</p> <p>Nearby officers later heard the gunshots and responded to find the suspect brandishing a gun, which police said was likely taken from an officer. The suspect was shot multiple times at the scene later described by Shea as "chaotic." He added that 22 shell casings were recovered following the incident.</p> <p>"I think we are all fed up with what we're seeing and many levels. This violence has to stop," Shea said.</p> <p>New York City has been trying to get a handle on the widespread unrest after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. The shooting occurred nearly four hours after the city's strict 8 p.m. curfew.</p> <p>Mayor Bill de Blasio went to the hospital after the confrontation to check on the officers, according to a spokesperson. He later spoke at the press conference on Thursday.</p> <p>"Thank God all our officers will recover," de Blasio said. "It's another example of what it means every day for men and women of the NYPD to protect all of us."</p> <p>Video purportedly of the incident on Twitter showed streets filled with police cars at the scene, while multiple gunshots could be heard.</p> <p>"No matter what else is happening around us, we've got to be there for each other," the mayor added. "Officers protect us. We have to respect, support, protect them. We've got to find a way to move forward no matter how much is thrown at us. The coronavirus and everything else."</p> |

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| | <p>New York City has been roiled by days of protests over police brutality. It didn't appear that the unprovoked incident was related to the demonstrations. There were peaceful marches and protests throughout the day Wednesday, but police moved in to break them up when the curfew took effect.</p> <p>Several large marches in other parts of Brooklyn had continued after the curfew that authorities imposed to stop stores from being damaged and ransacked.</p> <p>The incident comes after a shocking video posted on social media Tuesday showed a New York City police officer being struck by a vehicle in what appeared to be a deliberate hit-and-run. Shea said the officer was still in intensive care, "but recovering slowly."</p> <p>"We have to find a way to come together and move forward," de Blasio said. "Tonight is a story of bravery, courage, and thank god the story ends with a day soon when officers will leave this hospital and go home to their families."</p> <p>An investigation into the Brooklyn incident is ongoing. Shea said an update will be provided later today.</p> <p>He didn't speculate on the alleged stabber's motive, who was not identified, but Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch blamed anti-police rhetoric during the protests.</p> <p>"Are we surprised? Are we surprised we're here in the hospital again? Did we doubt because of the rhetoric we're hearing, the anti-police rhetoric that's storming our streets, are we surprised that we got this call? I'm not. We said it's going to happen," he said.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/04 Police: thieves exploit protests; steal |
| SOURCE | https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/george-floyd-death-protests-unrest-disorder-2020-06-03/ |
| GIST | <p>Police say many smash-and-grab thefts that coincided with protests have been carried out by caravans of well-coordinated criminals capitalizing on chaos. They use social media to communicate with each other and do things to distract and throw police off their trail.</p> <p>The wave of crime has followed largely peaceful demonstrations, and law enforcement experts note that it has happened in big and small cities and in rural areas.</p> <p>Thieves often target high-end shops as officers are assigned to prevent protests from becoming unruly and enforce curfews.</p> <p>In the San Francisco Bay Area, a band of thieves stole nearly 75 vehicles from a dealership.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Car plows thru Newport Beach protesters |
| SOURCE | https://www.foxla.com/news/car-careens-through-crowd-of-peaceful-protesters-in-newport-beach-driver-in-custody |
| GIST | <p>NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. - Peaceful protesters in Newport Beach had to flee from the scene Wednesday afternoon as a vehicle careened through the crowd.</p> <p>The incident happened on Balboa Blvd. near 7th Street.</p> <p>FOX 11's Stephanie Stanton was live on air when the incident unfolded. You can hear dozens of people shouting "get out of the way" and "oh my God" before the car drove past them.</p> |

The vehicle is a white Mini Cooper with Arizona license plates. Just minutes after the incident, police apprehended the driver. SkyFOX was over the scene as police pulled over a Mini Cooper with windshield damage and took a man into custody.

The suspect has been identified as Don Wallace, a Newport Beach resident in his 50's.

A Good Samaritan alerted our FOX 11 crew of the man's arrest. He said he witnessed it from his balcony and came out to help.

"I saw him lying to the police, trying to say the protesters were hitting his car and assaulting him. And I saw it from my balcony so I went to set it straight. It was purposeful. I saw him step on that gas, I saw him hit people, roll by, children were running. That guy didn't care. No lives mattered to him," he told to Stephanie Stanton.

Another witness told us he threw his bike in the way to avoid getting hit.

"The rage on his face, he was determined to kill somebody. He went right through me, I threw my bike in between me and the car before it hit me. I looked to the right and he kept spinning down and there were three children right in the way," said Brandon Yamawaki who witnessed the entire incident.

Yamawaki was livestreaming the protest on Twitter when the crash happened.

It appears no one was seriously injured or hurt.

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| HEADLINE | 06/03 Mexico: lawmaker killed after abduction |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/missing-mexican-lawmakers-body-found-abduction-71044155 |
| GIST | <p>MEXICO CITY -- The body of a missing Mexican congresswoman from the western state of Colima has been found in a hidden grave more than a month after armed men abducted her, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday.</p> <p>López Obrador expressed his condolences to the family of Anel Bueno, a 38-year-old legislator from his Morena party.</p> <p>Armed men took Bueno on April 29 while she was promoting health measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus in Ixtlahuacán, Colima.</p> <p>During a morning news conference in Campeche, along Mexico's Gulf coast, the president said that one suspect was in custody.</p> <p>The Colima state prosecutor's office said in a statement Wednesday that the lawmaker's body was found in a grave with the bodies of three men. The bodies were found Monday, but the remains of the lawmaker were not identified until Tuesday.</p> <p>Additional genetic testing of the remains was planned. Relatives were informed Wednesday, it said.</p> <p>Colima Gov. José Ignacio Peralta said those responsible would be found, and that the state security chief had resigned.</p> <p>The announcement came one day after Peralta confirmed that seven bodies found inside a vehicle in the port of Manzanillo were seven missing state police officers from neighboring Jalisco state.</p> |

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| | <p>“We still don’t know the causes, just that there is someone in custody and there is already a statement about who was responsible,” López Obrador said.</p> <p>Local press had quoted the lawmaker’s mother as saying that the family waited more than two weeks to speak publicly on recommendation of the Attorney General’s Office.</p> <p>Colima has faced a high level of violence due to organized crime in recent years, giving it the highest murder rate in Mexico.</p> <p>Politicians have been targeted before. In 2017 Ixtlahuacán’s mayor, Crispín Gutiérrez, was killed. Last July, the mayor of the port of Manzanillo was attacked with gunfire, but escaped unharmed.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 China: kindergarten knife attack; 39 injured |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/39-injured-knife-attack-china-kindergarten-71061149 |
| GIST | <p>BEIJING -- A school security guard injured at least 39 people in a knife attack at a kindergarten in southern China on Thursday morning, state media reported. The motive remains unknown.</p> <p>The attack was an eerie throwback to deadly attacks at schools in China over past years that prompted security upgrades and that authorities have blamed largely on people bearing grudges or who had unidentified mental illnesses.</p> <p>The local government in the Guangxi region’s Cangwu county said 37 students and two adults suffered injuries of varying degrees in the attack.</p> <p>Chinese state media identified the attacker as a security guard at the school surnamed Li. The suspect had been detained while an investigation was underway, they said.</p> <p>State broadcaster CCTV said 40 had been injured, three seriously, including the head of the school, another security guard and a student.</p> <p>In earlier attacks, a woman wielding a knife injured 14 children at a kindergarten in the western city of Chongqing in October 2018.</p> <p>Almost 20 children were killed in school attacks in 2010, prompting a response from top government officials and leading many schools to add gates and security guards.</p> <p>Chinese law restricts the sale and possession of firearms, and mass attacks are generally carried out with knives or homemade explosives.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 GVA: record mass shootings in May |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/number-mass-shootings-record-research-group/story?id=71042373 |
| GIST | <p>There were 59 mass shootings in May, the highest monthly total ever tallied since the Gun Violence Archive (GVA), a nonprofit research group, began tracking the data in 2013.</p> <p>GVA defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot, not including the shooter.</p> <p>Forty people were killed in mass shootings in May and 249 were shot, a period during which much of the country was practicing social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> |

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| | <p>On May 17 in Saint Matthews, South Carolina, three family members, including a 12-year-old, were killed and another was wounded in a domestic violence incident, police said.</p> <p>According to police, 13 people were shot during one incident following a memorial service for another murder victim in Bogalusa, Louisiana, on May 16.</p> <p>On May 13, five people were shot in Albuquerque, New Mexico, including a woman who was seven months pregnant, according to local news reports.</p> <p>May's total for mass shootings is double any previous month's total this year.</p> <p>GVA has tracked 158 mass shooting incidents year-to-date with 641 people shot and 146 people killed.</p> |
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| HEADLINE | 06/03 All officers involved Floyd death charged |
| SOURCE | https://abcnews.go.com/US/george-floyd-protest-updates-arrests-america-approaching-10000/story?id=71038665 |
| GIST | <p>Three other former Minnesota police officers have been charged in the death of George Floyd, court records show.</p> <p>Thomas Lane, 37, Tou Thao, 34, and J Alexander Kueng, 26, were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting manslaughter, according to the court records.</p> <p>The maximum punishment for each is no more than 10 years of prison.</p> <p>Lane and Kueng were the first two officers at the scene at 8:08 p.m., according to a criminal complaint. A 911 call had come in about a man allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill to buy merchandise at Cup Foods, the complaint read.</p> <p>Floyd was in the driver's seat of a car by the time Lane and Kueng arrived, and when the officers approached the vehicle, Lane at one point pulled his gun, the complaint read. Lane put his gun back in its holster after Floyd put his hands on the steering wheel.</p> <p>Floyd was then pulled out of the car, handcuffed, and sat on a sidewalk, according to the complaint. Floyd said "calm" at the time and said "thank you man" to Lane.</p> <p>When Lane asked Floyd if "was on anything," Lane noted that there was "foam at the edges" of Floyd's mouth.</p> <p>Officers then tried to put Floyd in a squad car after informing him he was under arrest, but he stiffened up and fell to the ground, according to the complaint. Floyd told the officers he was not resisting, but did not want to get in the back seat and was claustrophobic.</p> <p>Chauvin and Thao then arrived at the scene in a separate car.</p> <p>They all tried to force Floyd into the backseat, during which time Floyd said he could not breathe, according to the complaint.</p> <p>Chauvin eventually pulled Floyd out of the passenger side of the squad car at 8:19 p.m. and Floyd fell to the ground face down, still handcuffed, according to the complaint.</p> <p>"Officer Kueng held Mr. Floyd's back and Officer Lane held his legs. Officer Chauvin placed his left knee in the area of Mr. Floyd's head and neck. Mr. Floyd said, 'I can't breathe' multiple times and repeatedly</p> |

said, 'Mama' and 'please,' as well. At one point, Mr. Floyd said 'I'm about to die.' Officer Chauvin and the other two officers stayed in their positions," the complaint reads.

Thao got a hobble restraint from the squad car to restrain Floyd, but the officers decided not to use it and stayed on top of Floyd.

Thao also "became concerned about a number of citizens who had gathered" so he stood between the citizens and the officers on top of Floyd, which is what Thao is seen doing on the video of Floyd's death, according to the complaint.

Floyd's movements and sounds stopped at 8:24 p.m.

At 8:25 p.m., body camera video appears to show Floyd ceasing to breathe or speak. Lane asks, "want to roll him on his side" and Kueng checks Floyd's right wrist for a pulse, but says he cannot find one.

"None of the officers moved from their positions," the complaint reads.

Two minutes after that, Chauvin removed his knee from Floyd's neck and an ambulance arrives. Floyd was pronounced dead at the Hennepin County Medical Center.

Benjamin Crump, the attorney for Floyd's family, called the charges a "bittersweet" moment for the family.

"This is a significant step forward on the road to justice, and we are gratified that this important action was brought before George Floyd's body was laid to rest," Crump said in a statement. "That is a source of peace for George's family in this painful time."

Gov. Tim Walz called the charges "a meaningful step toward justice for George Floyd. But we must also recognize that the anguish driving protests around the world is about more than one tragic incident."

Attorney General Keith Ellison said the charges against the three other officers were "justified by the facts and the law." He said he was not swayed by public pressure and his goal is justice for Floyd.

"George Floyd mattered. He was loved. His family was important. His life had value and we will seek justice for him and you," Ellison said at a press conference. "The very fact that we have filed these charges means we believe in them."

Arrest warrants were issued for Lane, Thao and Kueng. Ellison said one of the officers was already in custody and the others should be this afternoon. ABC News confirmed that Kueng was that detained officer.

3:04 p.m.: Charges increased for Chauvin to 2nd-degree murder

The charges against former Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin have been increased to second-degree murder, court records show.

Chauvin, who was the officer seen on video with his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, was charged last week with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

All three charges are felonies.

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| SOURCE | https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/riot-data-court-documents-describe-assaults-spd-officers-listing-suspects-by-race-hometown/UMJWXPdGRVFGNKBNUdGSIAPJQM/ |
| GIST | <p>SEATTLE — More than 70% of the suspects arrested for crimes ranging from assaulting officers to looting to vandalism in Saturday's downtown riot came to Seattle from outlying areas, according to arrest records obtained by KIRO-7 from the King County prosecutor's office.</p> <p>Documents indicate that 24 of the 81 suspects arrested for felony or gross misdemeanor are from Seattle. The rest are from areas dotting every part of the state and beyond, including Yakima, Spokane, Richland, Portland, Oregon, and Anaheim, California.</p> <p>And on Sunday, when Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan defined the accused looters by race, data proves she was correct.</p> <p>"They are young white males," Durkan said. "These were not the acts of allies. These were acts of people who came with their own intention to destroy, to injure and to cause chaos."</p> <p>Court data shows 21 of those arrested are listed as white males, and 11 are white females. While many of those jailed are listed to be of unknown race, only eight of 81 arrested are described as African American.</p> <p>According to prosecutor documents, 22 were arrested for assaults against officers.</p> <p>Documents indicate that a 20-year-old suspect "(assaulted) officers during the riot while armed with a shotgun, threatening to kill officers." Another suspect "(punched) an officer in the head, and also hit an officer with a bottle. He was armed with bolt cutters and a knife."</p> <p>Documents detail the arrest of another suspect who "ran up behind (an) officer and punched him several times in the head and upper body."</p> <p>Seattle police may have only arrested a small fraction of those seen smashing windows and looting, but among those arrested for looting, prosecutors say, "One suspect was outside a looted (store) in possession of \$40,000 in stolen merchandise."</p> <p>Prosecutors are expected to formally charge many of the suspects Wednesday.</p> |
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