



Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



FRIDAY — 5 JUN 2020

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Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	06/04 Family: transparency in probe
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/tacoma-city-council-to-discuss-requesting-independent-review-of-manuel-ellis-death/
GIST	<p>The family of Manuel Ellis is tired.</p> <p>Tired of talking. Tired of crying. Tired of not getting answers.</p> <p>In an emotional news conference Thursday outside the County-City Building in downtown Tacoma, the Tacoma man's relatives criticized the ongoing investigation into Ellis' death and demanded better.</p> <p>"As a family, we want answers," said his mother, Marcia Carter. "No more talking."</p> <p>The family has been seeking information since Ellis died March 3 while being restrained by police, not long after saying, "Can't breathe."</p> <p>Four involved officers were placed on paid administrative leave Wednesday, for a second time, after a report from the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office became public. They are Christopher Burbank, 34; Matthew Collins, 37; Masyih Ford, 28; and Timothy Rankine, 31.</p> <p>Burbank and Collins are white. Ford is Black. Rankine is Asian.</p> <p>The officers had been placed on leave immediately after the death of Ellis, a Black man, then returned to duty.</p> <p>Medical examiners ruled Ellis' death a homicide and said he died from a lack of oxygen because of physical restraint.</p> <p>Methamphetamine intoxication and heart disease were listed as contributing factors.</p> <p>"From New York to Minnesota to Washington state to Tacoma, Wash., too many young African-American men have said their last words," said James Bible, the family's attorney. "And those last words have been 'I can't breathe' at the hand of police officers. That's what we have with Manny."</p> <p>He accused Tacoma police and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, which is investigating Ellis' death, of not being transparent and trying to paint Ellis in a negative light.</p> <p>The Tacoma Police Department has declined to comment on the specifics of the case while it is under investigation.</p> <p>On Thursday, Chief Don Ramsdell issued a statement.</p> <p>In part, it reads, "We are committed to the investigative process and the integrity of the findings. We have fully cooperated and have been transparent with the current ongoing, independent investigation and will continue to do so for any additional investigations. Our hope is that any investigations bring with them answers for everyone involved."</p> <p>Tacoma Police Union IUPA Local 6, which represents rank-and-file officers, posted a statement on its Facebook page Tuesday, praising its members' professionalism.</p> <p>"Whatever happens, we will work to protect due process rights and presumptions of innocence for all of you, including Chris, Matt, Masyih, and Tim," the post read. "As we continue to process everything that is</p>

going on in our communities right now, know that you are not alone, and that if you have any questions you can reach out to any member of your union board at any time.”

Loved ones have described Ellis as a jokester, a talented musician who played the drums at church four days a week and a loving father to his 18-month-old daughter and 11-year-old son.

They say he suffered from mental-health issues and struggled with addiction but was living in a clean-and-sober house and getting his life back on track.

The night he died, Ellis called his mother, brother and sister separately.

His last words to his mom, whom he called “madre,” were telling her he loved her.

“I can’t hear that ever again,” Carter said at the news conference, breaking into tears. “I won’t be able to hear that. My heart hurts.”

Carter said she cried for two months and 10 days straight, missing her son and desperate for answers about how he died.

On Thursday, the family was accompanied by members of the NAACP and Tacoma Action Collective.

Gerald Hankerson, president of the NAACP’s Alaska-Oregon-Washington State Conference, said he’s tired of “flashy words” from politicians and demanded change.

“A man was killed here at the hands of law enforcement, the people that you pay with your tax dollars,” Hankerson said. “How did you not know? A man died in your custody.”

Shortly after the news conference, the Tacoma City Council announced it will meet Friday to discuss requesting an independent review of Ellis’ death from Gov. Jay Inslee.

The news conference came on the heels of a vigil Wednesday night to honor Ellis, and days of protests against police brutality and racial inequality.

Many protesters and local activists have compared Ellis to George Floyd, a Black man who died May 25 as a white police officer in Minneapolis pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for nearly nine minutes.

Video of the incident showed Floyd saying he couldn’t breathe.

“If it wasn’t for me and Manny’s friend screaming at the top of our lungs, and George Floyd dying, this would have gotten brushed under the rug,” said Monet Carter-Mixon, Ellis’ sister. “I’m done. I don’t want to talk. I want answers for my brother, yesterday.”

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HEADLINE	06/03 Occupy Spokane event planned for Sunday
SOURCE	https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/spokane-county/spokane-protest-june-7/293-bffeda2a-646a-47ab-b207-0f74b3c09c0e
GIST	<p>Local organizers are preparing for another demonstration in Spokane this Sunday to protest the death of George Floyd. Details of the peaceful protest, or an exact location, however, remain unclear.</p> <p>Authorities, meanwhile, say they're aware of the event and plan to allow organizers to exercise their rights as long as the event remains nonviolent.</p> <p>An online event listing on Facebook titled "#GeorgeFloyd Peaceful Protest" had registered close to 800 planned attendees, with 1,600 more people saying they were interested in the event, as of Wednesday</p>

evening. The event, which was being organized by Occupy Spokane's Facebook page, is slated to start at 2 p.m.

Organizers hadn't provided any specifics of Sunday's protest, the location, or where demonstrators could march to.

In an online message to KREM, users with Occupy Spokane said that they sought to "bring this community back together." The Facebook page didn't respond to a message seeking further clarification of Sunday's event.

On the event page, Occupy Spokane posted that the group was working with Spokane's NAACP chapter to plan Sunday's event and that the two groups had coordinated last Sunday's protest in Spokane as well.

The Spokane NAACP chapter had also shared the Facebook event for Sunday's protest to their page.

Both authorities and city officials told KREM that they were monitoring the planned peaceful demonstration and were making plans to ensure safety at the event.

Brian Coddington, the city's communications director, told KREM that Spokane police officers were planning to observe Sunday's event from a distance and not infringe on the rights of anyone participating. Coddington said that the city was asking participants to be respectful like the initial group that start last Sunday's peaceful protest.

Should violence or property damage occur on Sunday, though, officers would be ready to respond. Coddington said that the city is always mindful of property damage and that officers would step in if violence happened.

Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich told KREM that his office was in a full planning phase with the city of Spokane to prepare for Sunday's peaceful protest.

On Wednesday, social media posts began circulating that showed an alleged Spokane Neo-Nazi calling for a "counter protest to Black lives matter and antifa" for Sunday's event. A tweet about the counter-protest from writer Nick Martin, who authors an online publication about hate and extremism in America, had received over 1,000 retweets as of Wednesday evening.

Sheriff Knezovich responded to Martin's tweet writing that if the white nationalist were to show up "and cause any problems he and his friends will find themselves in the Spokane County Jail."

Knezovich verified his comments with KREM on Wednesday, saying that if groups came to the peaceful protest to start trouble, they would be arrested.

Referencing the potential for counter-protesters to show up and remain peaceful, however, Knezovich pointed out that "the first amendment works for everybody, whether we like it or not."

Occupy Spokane posted on the protest's Facebook event page that organizers were making safety plans in light of a planned counter-protest.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Spokane: officer knelt on suspect's neck
SOURCE	https://www.krem.com/article/news/crime/spokane-police-investigating-kneeling-neck-arrest/293-b1a37181-6d28-4a5b-856e-b4a34ef59ea6
GIST	The Spokane Police Department is investigating a March arrest for which body camera footage shows an officer kneeling on the head and neck area of the suspect.

According to Spokane Police spokesperson Julie Humphreys, a March 2 arrest is being investigated by the department's Internal Affairs unit over concerns of the officers using a "prone cuffing technique." Body camera footage shows officers kneeling on the suspect, who says his name is "Cory", including one officer kneeling with their knee on the suspect's neck and head area.

Over the last week, protests have taken place across the country and here in Spokane over the death of George Floyd, a black man in Minneapolis, after a police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes.

The footage, which the department released after "community concern," shows five officers arresting a man in Riverfront Park. The suspect can be heard saying he is in pain and says he is having trouble breathing multiple times.

At one point the man says, "Why are you doing it like that? You could have been way more gentle."

The arrest happened after a park ranger called for assistance and was "heard stating he was fighting with the subject," according to Humphreys. The park ranger "continued to have trouble handling the subject," according to Humphreys.

According to Humphreys, the "prone cuffing" technique took place for about a minute and claims that the officer re-positioned his stance to take pressure off the suspect's neck after being asked.

Spokane police didn't release what started the confrontation or what crime the suspect had committed that led to the initial arrest.

The suspect can be seen bleeding from his elbow. More body camera footage of the arrest can be found on the [Spokane Police Department's Vimeo page](#).

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HEADLINE	06/04 Seattle: changes in protest response
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/home/seattle-police-chief-officer-badge-numbers-will-be-prominently-displayed/4VWM6IHL5E7BGX25SEOPT6WFQ/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Thursday marked the seventh day of protests in Seattle. It comes after the largest protest Wednesday, which for the first time was entirely peaceful, and continued into the early morning hours.</p> <p>Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best announced in a press conference Thursday five changes that have already happened or are being worked on, in direct response to the people marching in the streets.</p> <p>1) Visible badges</p> <p>Chief Best announced changes to the mourning badge policy. She ordered officers not to cover their badge numbers with the mourning black tape used as a symbol of respect to fallen officers but to move them to allow for visibility. She said sergeants would get new badges that display numbers.</p> <p>“We’ve heard people, we understand, we want to make sure we’re being transparent. That people don’t have the belief we’re trying in any way to hide who we are,” Best said.</p> <p>2) No more curfew</p> <p>The city officially lifted the curfew Wednesday night, saying how speaking with community leaders helped them realize it looked like the state was silencing voices.</p> <p>“We want them to know they can come out, stay as long as they want to,” Best said Tuesday night, after talking directly with protestors at 11th and East Pine.</p>

3) Keeping federal consent decree

The City Attorney's Office also dropped the effort to lift federal oversight of the Seattle Police Department after hearing the community say SPD isn't ready.

"We will continue to have the same kind of scrutiny as we look for additional ways to increase transparency and accountability," Durkan said.

There were two more items mentioned in the press conference Durkan and Best said they are actively working on.

4) Body cameras and protests

Durkan addressed many of the protestors' requests to have SPD body cameras turned on to record the protests.

"I believe we can and should change this policy," Durkan said. She said the rule was put into place by city council to make sure the state cannot surveil people, but that she plans to meet with community leaders and city council on Friday to discuss re-examining the law.

"SPD is ready to turn those cameras on as soon as the work is done," Durkan said.

5) Crowd dispersal using force

One common demand from protestors is for Seattle police to stop using measures like flashbangs and tear gas, among other tools.

The mayor said she is asking the inspector general to review the city's policies of crowd management, set in 2017, which allows police to use those measures.

"The use of force in demonstrations as well as how the accountability systems must always be scrutinized. We must make sure the public has trust in it," Durkan said.

People protesting Thursday said they want more — like what officers will do differently when someone is being arrested — but they are hopeful the movement is making a difference.

"I think we're getting there. When we have this many people with a common goal and vision, and this much passion, I'm definitely optimistic about it," said Taylor Cassell, a protestor at Cal Anderson Park on Thursday.

Durkan said there are no plans to defund SPD by 50%, as some protestors demanded on Wednesday, but acknowledged there is much more work to do.

"Just because we've made real gains, it does not mean we are finished," Durkan said.

Best also said they have implemented more de-escalation techniques when responding to protestors, like standing farther back from the barrier and crowd. She said upon suggestions from a protestor and citizen journalist, they plan to bring loudspeakers to big gatherings to better communicate with crowds.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Protests continue foreseeable future
SOURCE	https://www.newsweek.com/what-george-floyd-protestors-around-country-want-order-end-demonstrations-1508809

GIST

Crowds took to the streets nearly a week ago in a rage after the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, but as the protests move into their next phase, the question of what it will take to quell them—what exactly that would look like—is gaining new urgency.

The answer is both simple and complicated. Above all, the protesters say they are looking for justice. But what justice looks like varies by city, by incident, and according to the community's history with police.

Protesters in major cities across the country told Newsweek protests will continue for the foreseeable future with the outcome tied to what reforms and serious efforts are made to combat police brutality. Organizers acknowledged, however, they cannot last forever, and activism will continue even once fierce protests die down. Activists added that once the intense daily protests fade, the job of forcing police departments to adopt the reforms they've been calling for for years will continue.

"Most of us are not sleeping at night since May 25," Michelle Gross, president of Minneapolis-based Communities United Against Police Brutality, told Newsweek. "That's not sustainable. I keep telling people I'm an organizer for protests, but also an organizer once the protests are over. When this is over don't go home and say 'I did my bit.'"

In Minneapolis, where officer Derek Chauvin, has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of Floyd, protestors are looking for police reforms in a city where more than 60 percent of victims in Minneapolis police shootings from 2009 to 2019 were black.

Gross's group sent Newsweek an unpublished, 19-page document with their recommendations, including requiring police to carry their own professional liability insurance, robust civilian oversight of police, and a disciplinary reset mechanism.

The group said the disciplinary measures, including termination, are often reduced in arbitration through an argument that this conduct didn't lead to discipline in the past. The reset mechanism means that use-of-force policies would be revamped "with clear consequences for violations and a declaration that past practices no longer apply."

"This work will last until systemic racism is uprooted in police departments across America," Nekima Levy, a Minneapolis civil rights lawyer and Black Lives Matter activist, told Newsweek about her expectation for how long the protests will continue. "Until they change training procedures, criteria for evaluating police officer candidates, provide psychological evaluations once a year, and root out officers with domestic violence issues, you're going to continue seeing these problems."

In New York City, activists called for Mayor Bill de Blasio to defund police, with \$1 billion in the NYPD budget being targeted by activists, as well as lawmakers, and even those close to de Blasio. Similar demands have been made in other major cities, such as Chicago.

Comptroller Scott Stringer wrote a letter asking for the NYPD budget to be slashed by \$1.1 billion over four years, to go instead to communities that have disproportionately been affected by police brutality issues and the coronavirus outbreak. More than 200 current and former de Blasio staffers also asked for the \$1 billion cut, but for 2021 alone.

"Where we are right now with all four cops charged and arrested, that's just the beginning because George Floyd's arrest never should have happened," Nelini Stamp of the Working Families Party, told Newsweek. The party is coordinating with Black Lives Matter organizers and calling to defund the NYPD by \$1 billion as part of a 110-group coalition led by Communities United for Police Reforms. They argue that the money could be invested in social service and safety net programs, instead.

On Wednesday, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said he would not be adding the more than \$600 million to the LAPD budget that was planned, with \$100 million to \$150 million being stripped from the budget. Altogether, Garcetti said \$250 million from the budget would be reallocated to communities of color to "invest in jobs, in education and healing."

Carmen Perez, is in the unique position of coordinating protests with her group Justice League in New York and in Los Angeles, where she has been living during the pandemic. She also works with Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, which has called for defunding police, closing down jails, and demanding Los Angeles district attorney Jackie Lacey resign because of her record around prosecuting cases involving LAPD officers.

Pointing out that the NYPD handed out summonses to blacks and Latinos, while white people in parks received masks, Perez told Newsweek the COVID-19 outbreak has fueled the protests around the country because people are home and cannot turn a blind eye to their social media feeds and TVs.

"We're all home due to COVID, we can't ignore it. It's been shock after shock after shock and in black communities that have been over-policed during COVID, you're beginning to see this escalation," she said.

Chicago activists are also pushing for police reform, centered on enacting Civilian Police Accountability Council legislation. One petition—which has garnered 60,000 supporters—calls for the city council to have the ability to hire and fire the police superintendent, the head of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, members of the police board, and determine Chicago police policy, including disciplinary measures and the firing of officers and convening of grand juries.

Campaign Zero, led by Ferguson protester DeRay Mckesson, launched an 8CantWait campaign Wednesday with eight policies the group says have been proven to decrease police violence by 72 percent, including banning strangleholds and chokeholds, requiring de-escalation and a warning before shooting, banning shooting at moving vehicles, and exhausting all alternatives before shooting.

Some activists like Gross say they don't plan to continue marching for the rest of their lives, highlighting the urgency of the work ahead of them, but others say that's exactly why they're in the fight, despite worries that President Donald Trump's law and order approach to having the military stamp out protests in American cities could lead to a long, hot, dangerous summer of protest.

"We can not just stop with a few reforms around policing," Tanya Watkins, lead director of Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation in Chicago, told Newsweek. "The entire system has to be admonished and dismantled and that is long-term work."

"It's going to be a consistent summer of action," Perez, who protested the deaths of Eric Garner in New York and Mike Brown in Ferguson, said. "A righteous summer—because what happened to George Floyd is not new to us."

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HEADLINE	06/05 France: revived anger over custody death
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/af0e0b7800eec1c189fdaa3012191d33
GIST	<p>PARIS (AP) — Churning U.S. protests over the death of George Floyd have revived anger in France over police violence, systemic racism and the complicated case of Adama Traore, a black Frenchman who died in police custody in July 2016.</p> <p>For Traore's family, the Floyd protests have also revived their hopes for change.</p> <p>"During the coronavirus, people had a pause in their lives. They filmed scenes of police violence and they realized they were living in a country where there is violence every day against people of color," his sister, Assa Traore, said.</p> <p>Over 20,000 people flouted a police ban and protested vociferously Tuesday in Paris to call for justice for both Traore and Floyd, and similar protests are planned around France this weekend.</p>

“As long as police aren’t convicted, we will keep coming out in the streets,” Traore’s sister told The Associated Press.

Traore’s family believe three police officers piled on top of him and pinned him to the ground on his stomach after his arrest, and he asphyxiated. Lawyers for the officers deny police were at fault, and it remains unclear exactly at what moment, or where, he died. Unlike with Floyd, there is no video or recording, which has made judging the case harder. Four years later, no one has been charged.

French researchers have documented how police disproportionately target minorities for ID checks, and Traore’s supporters are not the only ones to accuse police of overstepping their authority.

Three days after Floyd died, another black man writhed on the tarmac of a Paris street as a white police officer pressed a knee to his neck during an arrest, this time captured on video.

Outrage is growing. But while in Paris some demonstrators clashed with police, Traore’s sister focused on the peaceful majority. She encouraged those who “have the luck not to be victims of this violence” to denounce it. “Don’t remain spectators.”

After four years of back-and-forth autopsies and grassroots activism for her brother’s cause, she described the pain and power of seeing video of police kneeling on Floyd. He died after an officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

“These images that chilled the planet give the world an image of what happened to my brother,” she said.

Traore’s family says the same thing happened to him, and that he, too, repeated: “I can’t breathe.”

On that hot July night in 2016, Adama Traore, a 24-year-old construction worker of Malian origin, was walking with his brother Bagui in Beaumont-sur-Oise, about 25 kilometers north of Paris, where their large family grew up.

They were approached by plainclothes police officers who had identified Bagui in relation to another case, according to news reports at the time citing classified investigation documents. Adama tried to run because he had no ID on him.

He was later detained by the three gendarmes, put in a police car and taken to a police station. Within three hours of his arrest he was dead, according to the reports. He was still handcuffed when paramedics arrived.

The officers involved claimed they respected “necessary use of force.”

Local authorities were accused of a coverup after claiming Traore suffered a heart attack linked to a pre-existing infection.

Local prosecutor Yves Jannier was quoted by Le Monde at the time as saying that Traore “fainted during the trip” to the police station and emergency workers couldn’t revive him.

Jannier also said that Traore had a “very serious” infection that had “impacted multiple organs.”

A second autopsy was completed shortly afterward that contradicted the first and determined his death was caused by asphyxiation.

Since then there have been multiple expert reports that disagree on the basic facts of the case.

Yet another expert report was released last week exonerating the police officers — but it was then quickly contradicted by another medical expert assessing the case on behalf of Traore’s family.

Last week's medical report "confirms that the death of Adama Traore is not linked with the conditions of his arrest," Rodolphe Bosselut, the gendarmes' lawyer, told the AP.

He said he is confident that the three police officers "have no responsibility" in Traore's death and that the causes were linked to pre-existing medical conditions, stress, hot weather and cannabis use.

Traore's sister said three gendarmes weighing a total of 250 kilograms (550 pounds) pressed on her brother, though there is no indication that police used the same technique as they did with Floyd.

She describes the official medical reports as obfuscation by a "war machine" of police, medical experts and a judicial system stacked up against descendants of France's former colonial empire living in low-income neighborhoods on the periphery of French cities.

She has led the family's fight for clarity and justice, and described going to schools and universities to raise awareness and donations and gradually learning from climate activists and other protest movements about how to make their voice heard.

This week, she said, she's been in contact with Black Lives Matter activists in the U.S. and other countries.

"The combat for Adama is for all the Adamas, all the black and Arab youth who are targeted by police," she said. "The police don't have the right to decide if they live or die."

Tuesday's protest, she said, "was just a foretaste" of what's to come.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Study: violent cops cause violent protests
SOURCE	https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/04/43839908/research-says-violent-cops-cause-violent-protests
GIST	<p>You will be shocked, simply SHOCKED, to learn that after decades of researching effective methods for police response to large crowd actions, researchers have found — and you're never going to believe this — that when cops show up in military gear and get aggressive, they actually make protest violence <i>worse</i>!</p> <p>That's one of the findings in "New Directions in Protest Policing," a 2015 paper that reviews decades upon decades of police history and the conclusions of multiple separate commissions. Police that dress like they're going to war, who try to control First Amendment expression rather than facilitate it, and who act in arbitrary ways can inflame violence and jeopardize their own safety and that of the public.</p> <p>The paper was written by Edward R. Maguire, an Arizona State University professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and it dives all the way back to the nation's founding and the civil unrest that led to the creation of the United States.</p> <p>He notes that in the last 50 years, police responses have shifted between a couple of different models: In the '60s and '70s, there was the "escalated force" model, which assumed that protesters would be compliant if they saw that they were hopelessly outmatched by the police; that was followed in the '80s and '90s by the "negotiated management" model, in which police remained in close communication with protesters so that neither side was surprised by the other; then the '90s gave rise to the "command and control" model in which police saw their role as dominating protests no matter how much force is required.</p> <p>We have Seattle police to thank, in part, for the development of "command and control" (Miami played a role as well). The 1999 WTO protests in Seattle were decentralized, and police had few protest leaders to communicate with; so they launched into mass arrests and deploying chemical agents. Gosh that sounds familiar.</p>

As it turns out, when crowds see police as unfair, unpredictable, and a threat, people no longer regard cops as legitimate authorities and are more likely to disobey. So when Fargo's [deputy police chief is caught inciting riots](#), for example, or when Colorado police are seen [firing the first shot at people](#) who are just standing around, they're endangering everyone.

So what's a better approach? According to the paper, there's a bunch of steps cops should take instead of showing up for war: They should view their role as facilitating the protest, rather than regulating it; communicate with protesters throughout by taking off the riot gear and walking with the crowd; and differentiate between bad actors and peaceful protesters.

These lessons aren't exactly rocket science or brand new. Accounts of Seattle PD's mistakes in 1999 read as though they could have been written in the last few days:

"Members of the public, including demonstrators, were victims of ill-conceived and sometimes pointless police actions to 'clear the streets,'" wrote a Seattle City Council committee after the WTO actions. "Inquiry found troubling examples of seemingly gratuitous assaults on citizens... by officers who seemed motivated more by anger or fear than professional law enforcement."

Norm Stamper, the Seattle Chief of Police who was forced to resign afterwards, said, "We used chemical agents, a euphemism for tear gas, against nonviolent and essentially nonthreatening protesters. The natural consequence of which [is] that we were the catalyst for heightened tension and conflict rather than peacekeepers."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Portland, other cities rethink school police
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/6th-night-of-protest-in-portland-oregon-attracts-thousands/
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's largest school district will no longer have police officers in its schools and joins a handful of urban districts from Minneapolis to Denver that are rethinking their school resource officer programs amid national outrage over the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero said Thursday that Portland Public Schools needed to "re-examine our relationship" with the police in light of protests over the death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for nearly nine minutes.</p> <p>The district of more than 49,000 students joins Minneapolis, which severed ties with its school resource officers on Tuesday. Districts in St. Paul, Minnesota and Denver are considering doing the same. Protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, have made the end of the school resource officer program in their district one of their demands.</p> <p>Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said Thursday that he would also discontinue using school resource officers in two smaller metropolitan districts under a program that costs the city \$1.6 million a year.</p> <p>The move is in response to the demands of thousands of protesters, many of them young, who have filled the streets of Oregon's largest city for six consecutive nights. Having the officers in high schools has been a touchy topic for several years in this liberal city. Students have protested in recent years for an end to the program, at one point even overwhelming a school board meeting.</p> <p>"Leaders must listen and respond to community. We must disrupt the patterns of racism and injustice," Wheeler said Thursday of the most recent demonstrations. "I am pulling police officers from schools."</p> <p>The presence of armed police officers in schools is a contentious one. While many Portland residents applauded the decision, others raised immediate concerns about student safety in the event of a school</p>

shooting or other emergency. Wheeler said the city would make sure officers could respond rapidly in an emergency.

The move is “a knee-jerk reaction,” and the decision by a few districts to stop their programs could snowball — to the detriment of students nationwide, said Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, whose association represents about 10,000 dues-paying officers.

There are an estimated 25,000 school resource officers nationwide, he said.

“What happened last Monday is atrocious. I don’t know how someone who wears a uniform, like I used to do, could get to that point. That’s evil,” Canady said of Floyd’s death. “But ... I think there’s some shortsightedness here. When it’s done right, the SRO program really is the epitome of community-based policing. I hate to see the baby thrown out with the bathwater.”

Beyond their law enforcement role, the model for school resource officers endorsed by the U.S. Justice Department enlists them also as mentors, informal counselors and educators on topics ranging from bullying to drunk driving with the goal of promoting school safety.

But critics of the concept say the officers’ presence can also lead to the criminalization of students, particularly students of color, who may be labeled as troublemakers for things such as not paying attention in class, using a cellphone or other minor infractions. In 2015, a school resource officer in South Carolina was caught on video flipping a female student to the floor and dragging her across a classroom after she refused to surrender her cellphone.

Nationwide, 43% of public schools had an armed law enforcement officer present at least once a week in the 2015-2016 school year, the last time the National Center for Education Statistics released data on this topic.

Properly trained officers work closely with school administrators, Canady said. Generally there is an understanding that anything short of illegal activity should be handled by school officials, he said.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Schools report: major facilities problems
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2020-06-04/schools-plan-to-reopen-as-watchdog-finds-major-facility-problems
GIST	<p>WHEN THE PHILADELPHIA Federation of Teachers sent its 13,000 members a survey about their biggest concerns for reopening schools, it was inundated with a recurring theme: If school facilities aren't in better condition, I'm not coming back.</p> <p>"To use the sinks in the bathroom, one must hold the faucet on with one hand, making it impossible to thoroughly wash hands," one teacher replied, with others commenting that some faucets didn't work at all and that bathrooms almost always lacked soap.</p> <p>"The air quality is a concern," another wrote. "The windows barely open to allow for appropriate ventilation."</p> <p>One wrote simply that Philadelphia schools "cannot deal with facilities without a pandemic."</p> <p>Philadelphia is hardly alone. More than half of the country's 13,000 school districts need to update or replace multiple building systems in their schools, according to a new Government Accountability Office report published Thursday.</p> <p>Those facilities issues include, among other things, more than 40% of school districts that need to update or replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in at least half of their schools – an</p>

estimated 36,000 schools nationwide – that if left unaddressed could lead to indoor air quality problems and mold. In some cases these problems have already caused schools to adjust their calendar year or shutter entirely.

Parts of the HVAC system at one school GAO investigators visited in Rhode Island, for example, were nearly 100 years old. Another school in Michigan used an original boiler from the 1920s to heat the building. And officials in one Michigan school district told GAO investigators that about 60% of their schools do not have air conditioning.

The nationwide survey from the GAO, federal government's independent watchdog – the first evaluation of the country's K-12 schools the agency has conducted in more than two decades – comes as President Donald Trump continues to pressure governors to reopen schools in order to breathe life back into the economy, and puts another major task on school administrators' to-do list as they make preparations to reopen against the backdrop of a global pandemic that's killed more than 100,000 people in the U.S.: Address outstanding facilities issues seen by some as key to reopening schools in the wake of the coronavirus

"I know we can't stay home forever," one Philadelphia teacher wrote, "but our schools are woefully underprepared – in many respects, through no fault of their own – to deal with the challenges ahead, and sacrificing actual human lives because people are getting antsy at home is something I won't personally be a part of."

There is no national database or record keeping of infrastructure issues in schools, and therefore no way to provide any type of precise estimate as to how many schools lack basic facilities like hot water and working ventilation systems. In fact, according to the GAO report, more than one-third of school districts had not or didn't know whether they had assessed the conditions of their facilities in the last 10 years. School officials in districts that had not conducted a facilities check in the last 10 years told GAO investigators that they hadn't done so because of lack of available funding and instead assessed school conditions through other mechanisms, such as "informal walkthroughs."

And despite K-12 schools being the second biggest total infrastructure expense behind highways, the last time the federal government tried to assess the state of school facilities was in 2014, when the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) found that roughly one-third of all public schools rated their bathrooms, plumbing, ventilation and filtration systems and as in fair or poor condition.

"The concerns about water and air are ones that we hear a lot about whether or not people are dealing with a pandemic," Anisa Heming, director of the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council, says.

"I know a lot of people are concerned about running water for hand washing," Heming says. "The thing we're hearing a lot about related to the pandemic is the number of faucets available. If you need all students to wash their hands frequently and at certain times, if there are only four sinks on a floor then that's a logistical nightmare."

"School buildings are not really built for what public health guidance is saying we should all be doing to keep ourselves healthy," she says.

School administrators and advocates for increased federal investment in school facilities hope the GAO report will provide a push to members of Congress and Trump administration officials to more seriously consider long standing pleas for federal support.

"Even prior to COVID, this is something that's been a huge issue of advocacy for me," Janice Jackson, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, says.

Chicago Public Schools has \$3.4 billion in deferred maintenance needs, more than half of which is characterized by city officials as a "critical need."

"We need to ensure our buildings are structured to keep children safe, warm and dry," Jackson says. "Particularly in large cities like Chicago, and in cities where the need is great and the over reliance on local property taxes is just not sufficient, we need additional revenue streams so we can continue to update our portfolio of schools."

Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions doesn't recommend any specific facilities upgrades, and instead focuses on human activity to slow the spread of the virus – things like handwashing, using hand sanitizer and maintaining the recommended social distancing of 6 feet. But Jackson says in light of the pandemic, she and other city school officials are revisiting certain capital projects.

Part of the problem, Jackson says, is that the average age of school buildings in Chicago is 80 years old – double the national average of schools buildings.

"While we have beautiful buildings that have been maintained well, we still need additional and frequent and regular investment in those schools in order to preserve them," Jackson says. "We need to make sure that when children walk into schools they feel respected and they feel like they have a fighting chance. So many school buildings in our country make them feel like they don't have that chance."

School facility woes are not only confined to urban school districts. In fact, the 2014 NCES school facilities analysis showed that the number of public schools that rated their bathrooms, plumbing, ventilation and filtration systems and as in fair or poor condition jumped not just among city schools, but also among schools with lots of poor students, schools with enrollments of less than 300 students, schools located in towns and schools with low minority enrollment.

"This is a national problem," says Mary Filardo, executive director of the 21st Century School Fund and coordinator of the National Council on School Facilities. "It's equal opportunity miserable."

Filardo, who's been spearheading weekly webinars with state directors and district officials about the operational aspects of reopening schools, says there's more at stake now than ever.

"Part of why COVID-19 is highlighting these issues is because there is a standard from which people are looking at schools," Filardo says. "We haven't been meeting these standards in regular times. How are we going to be meeting them now?"

Filardo, Jackson and others hope the GAO report provides some leverage for federal infrastructure support in a new round of coronavirus relief as well as the Rebuild America's Schools Act, legislation introduced last year by Sen. Jack Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat, and Rep. Bobby Scott, a Virginia Democrat, which would pump \$100 billion into schools through a federal-state match to address physical and digital infrastructure needs.

"Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, outdated and hazardous school buildings were undermining the quality of public education and putting students and educators at risk," Scott said in a statement. "Now, the pandemic is exacerbating the consequences of our failure to make necessary investments in school infrastructure. This report offers clear, irrefutable evidence that we must launch an urgent, nationwide effort to rebuild America's schools."

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HEADLINE	06/05 Capitol Hill protest upbeat, peaceful
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-area-protests-march-during-seventh-day-of-action-after-george-floyds-killing-draws-massive-crowd-around-city-hall/#update-12829076
GIST	Seattle's Capitol Hill protest remained upbeat and peaceful past midnight near the police department's East Precinct, with demonstrators talking, playing music and dancing with each other.

	<p>Around 12:45 a.m., the group saw a brief, tense moment when an explosion suddenly went off in the crowd, prompting people to duck and start running. Moments later, a couple of people began throwing water bottles over the barricade at police, multiple livestreams showed.</p> <p>Officers pulled up their shields and held their line. Umbrellas went up on protesters' side of the barricade.</p> <p>“This is a warning order,” one officer announced to the crowd. “We are prepared to respond to any force you use against us. Please respect the police line. Do not throw objects at the police.”</p> <p>Many protesters seemed to try to calm the crowd down.</p> <p>“We want peace,” they chanted.</p> <p>Details about what prompted the incident weren’t immediately clear.</p> <p>Shortly after 1 a.m., the scene calmed, and the group returned to their dance circle. Around 1:20 a.m., a man slipped past the barricade to lay flowers in front of the police line.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/05 Virus aboard 2 seafood factory trawlers
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/american-seafoods-has-25-new-cases-of-covid-19-among-crew-aboard-2-factory-trawlers/
GIST	<p>Test results released Thursday evening have identified 25 COVID-19 cases among the crew of two factory trawlers operated by Seattle-based American Seafoods.</p> <p>These cases aboard the American Triumph and the Northern Jaeger were confirmed Thursday evening as the vessels moored in Bellingham to offload frozen fish. They were announced by the Whatcom County Department of Health, and follow test results last week in Bellingham that confirmed a larger COVID-19 outbreak among 86 of 126 crew aboard a third American Seafoods vessel — the American Dynasty.</p> <p>This is more bad news for the region’s seafood industry, which is struggling to keep COVID-19 off fishing vessels and also limit its spread among shore-based processing workers employed in Northwest and Alaska coastal communities.</p> <p>The large number of cases aboard the American Dynasty underscores how easily the virus can spread aboard a fishing vessel, where many workers labor long hours in close quarters to one another. That vessel returned to Seattle earlier this week, and most of the crew who tested positive are housed in lodging acquired by King County for COVID-19 patients.</p> <p>The smaller number of COVID-19 positive crew from the American Triumph and the Northern Jaeger will stay at an isolation facility in Bellingham, according to a statement released by the Whatcom County Health Department.</p> <p>“This is a dynamic and evolving situation,” the statement said. “More information will be provided as it becomes available.”</p> <p>Seattle-based American Seafoods earlier this week confirmed the Northern Jaeger and American Triumph crews would be screened for COVID-19 in Bellingham. On Thursday night, a company spokesperson did not release a statement, and it was unclear how many of the positive cases were among American Triumph crew, and how many involved the Northern Jaeger crew. There also was no information released about the number of crew employed on each vessel.</p>

American Seafoods operates a fleet of six factory trawlers that catch and process fish off Washington and Alaska. The three vessels that have had outbreaks were involved in a spring harvest of Pacific Whiting off the Pacific Northwest coast, and have been scheduled to head north to Alaska for the summer season to fish for Bering Sea pollock.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, seafood companies have worked with health consultants to come up with plans to try to keep the virus from their boats, as well as processing plants in Alaska communities, where there are serious concerns the industry will spread the pandemic onshore.

American Seafoods' plan involves at least a five-day quarantine as well as testing crew members for the infection and the presence of antibodies, according to a company spokesperson. Only those who test negative have been allowed to board vessels.

"The health and safety of our crew, employees, and the communities where we operate is always the top priority for us," said Mikel Durham, American Seafoods chief executive, in a statement released earlier this week.

Some companies have opted for full 14-day quarantines, along with testing.

They include Seattle-based Trident Seafoods, which operates vessels and a network of Alaska processing plants.

Joe Bundrant, chief executive officer of Trident Seafoods, said even with the two-week quarantine, he still worries.

"There is so much unknown about this virus," Bundrant said Thursday.

Seafood company employee quarantines are likely to get more scrutiny in the weeks ahead as the COVID-19 outbreaks grow in the Northwest and Alaska.

This week in the small Alaska coastal town of Whittier, 11 seafood processing workers have tested positive for COVID-19. Those workers were the first confirmed cases in that community, according to the Anchorage Daily News.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Health officials support Seattle protests
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/after-months-of-pleading-for-coronavirus-social-distancing-health-officials-supportive-of-protests-black-lives-matter-calls-them-too-dangerous/
GIST	<p>Just a couple weeks ago, it would have been the stuff of public health professionals' nightmares: Thousands of people clustered together amid a pandemic, chanting, shouting, and, after police hit them with tear gas, coughing.</p> <p>But that was before Minneapolis police officers killed George Floyd, and before the week of protests against police violence and institutional racism that have erupted in Seattle and across the nation.</p> <p>Since then, local public health professionals and leaders have supported the protests, both tacitly and explicitly, despite the increased risks of new coronavirus outbreaks and despite the protests violating their own guidelines.</p> <p>Infectious disease experts at the University of Washington wrote a letter, that ultimately circulated nationally and drew more than 1,200 signatures, saying that protests against systemic racism "must be supported."</p>

They wrote that the protests, even amid the pandemic, are “vital to the national public health and to the threatened health specifically of Black people in the United States.”

Public Health — Seattle & King County, as it applied for a variance to the state’s reopening plan which would allow outdoor gatherings of no more than five people, also offered tacit support to the protests, which have drawn thousands to gather together.

And Gov. Jay Inslee, who for months has been both pleading with and ordering people to stay home to slow the spread of the virus, has had a different message with regard to the protests. Instead of asking people to stay home, he’s asked that they wear masks and try to keep some distance amid the crowds.

“I’m very hopeful people will remain committed both to justice in our society and survival against COVID-19,” Inslee said Wednesday. “We ought to be able to do both at the same time.”

Inslee and others have noted that the protests are outside and there’s a growing consensus that transmission of the virus is significantly less likely outdoors.

Dr. Jared Baeten, vice dean of the UW’s School of Public Health, was one of dozens of UW faculty, medical students and staff to sign the letter calling for support for the protests, despite the risks of gatherings.

Baeten said that COVID-19 and structural racism are both epidemics and both public health emergencies, and both need to be addressed simultaneously.

“Of course there is tension but these are two epidemics that are layered on each other,” Baeten said, citing higher infection and death rates among people of color.

Baeten said he was expecting spikes in infection rates, but pointed to the broader pattern of increased economic and social activity, not just the protests.

“If we see spikes, which we will,” Baeten said, “it is not solely because of the protests.”

Jennifer Balkus, an assistant professor of epidemiology at UW and another signatory, said it was a risk to gather and recognized the concern of a spike in infections. But, she said, institutional racism is “a public health crisis that’s been with us for decades.”

“Despite the fact that we’re in a pandemic, it’s critical to be talking about these issues and acting on these issues and speaking out and people gathering for protests are an important way to effect change,” Balkus said.

But as epidemiologists and public health experts are supporting the protests, the local branch of Black Lives Matter is being far more cautious.

Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County, which said it has not been involved in planning the protests, published a [protest safety guide](#) for those that do participate.

“Do not underestimate how dangerous the virus is. At the time of this writing, it has killed more than 100,000 people in the United States,” the guide says. “Situations where people are shouting or singing can spread more of the virus into the air.”

“Ultimately, we decided that the situation is too dangerous for us to encourage greater attendance at these in-person protests,” said Marlon Brown, a board member of Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County. “While we have not led or organized direct protests at this time, we understand why people are marching for Black lives. We see you. We hear you. We appreciate you.”

Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security, said the sheer number of personal exposures in some places could push infections beyond what [contact tracers at local health departments can handle](#).

“A mass gathering is a mass gathering,” Adalja said. “When people are socially interacting and unable to social distance, shouting, and being sprayed with agents that caused them to cough, it is a simple biological fact the transmission events are going to occur.”

King County on Wednesday [applied](#) to move forward in reopening segments of the economy that have been shut down to stem the spread of the virus. The county still has not met all the criteria to move to Phase 2 of reopening, but is asking to go to a “[modified Phase 1](#).” If the application is approved, social gatherings would be “allowed outdoors only with five or fewer people outside the household.”

Of course, the protests that have flooded downtown Seattle for the last week have already violated that standard many times over. But the county’s public health department, after months of pleading with people to stay home, seemed to give its blessing to the protests.

“We can’t let COVID-19 distract us from our resolve,” [wrote Patty Hayes](#), the department’s director. “Let us join together in King County and show how it is possible to break down the historical institutional racism that affects our communities every day.”

The health department published [its own guide of questions and answers about protests](#). It is less stringent than what Black Lives Matter advised. It urges people to wear masks, try to stay six feet apart, carry hand sanitizer and stay home if they feel sick. It neither encourages nor discourages people from attending.

“The violence against black and brown bodies is the antithesis of the right to health,” Sharon Bogan, a spokeswoman for Public Health — Seattle & King County, wrote in an email. “The impact of systemic racism has been, and continues to drive health inequities.”

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HEADLINE	06/04 National Guard deployed in Tacoma
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article243287721.html
GIST	<p>National Guard troops have been assigned to provide security at the County-City Building in Tacoma from 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday.</p> <p>The action was requested by County Executive Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County communications director Libby Catalinich said.</p> <p>The 30 National Guard Members will surround the building at 930 Tacoma Avenue S. in light of two planned protests for Friday, Catalinich confirmed. They will not be armed, she said.</p> <p>The County-City Building is home to a number of courtrooms, the Sheriff’s Department, the Executive’s office and other city and county departments.</p> <p>A #SayTheirNames protest is scheduled for 1 p.m. and a Black Lives Matter demonstration is scheduled at 4 p.m., according to a flyer about upcoming protests that is circulating on Facebook. The flyer anticipates 100 and 50 attendees, respectively.</p> <p>Tacoma has had protests throughout the week over the deaths of George Floyd and recent news of Manuel Ellis, whose death was deemed a homicide by the Pierce County Medical Examiner’s Office.</p> <p>Pierce County Superior Court said it would close its doors at noon Friday “in response to planned protests and other gatherings in and around the County-City Building campus,” court officials said in a press release.</p>

	<p>Remote hearings will happen as scheduled. Those hearings and criminal arraignments for the rest of the day will be broadcast online.</p> <p>Emergency domestic violence protection order petitions won't be accepted after 11 a.m.</p> <p>Anyone who can't make a scheduled court time – including attorneys, defendants, witnesses and litigants – needs to contact the court.</p> <p>Pierce County District Court said in a press release that its public counters would also be closed Friday.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 WA, OR join fight: sue emissions rollback
SOURCE	https://crosscut.com/2020/06/rife-flawed-science-or-and-wa-fight-trumps-emissions-rollback
GIST	<p>Oregon and Washington have joined 26 states and cities in suing the Trump administration over a new rule that weakens emission standards for cars and trucks.</p> <p>In a lawsuit filed last week, the states argue that the new federal rule relaxing fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks isn't scientifically sound, increases public health risks and violates the federal Clean Air Act.</p> <p>In a statement, Washington Department of Ecology Director Laura Watson said the federal government "cooked the books" in its rush to pass a rule that was "rife with flawed science, shaky math and faulty conclusions."</p> <p>Environmental regulators in Oregon and Washington say the rule undermines their ability to reach state goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks.</p> <p>"This rule would mean dirtier cars and dirtier air for years to come, risking public health, increasing greenhouse gas emissions and threatening our future," Watson said. "We hope the courts will force federal agencies to roll back this toxic rule."</p> <p>Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said the new rule stops the progress that the federal Clean Car Standards have been making since 2010.</p> <p>"This is yet another example of the federal government protecting big oil and big polluters over the wishes of states like Oregon that prioritize protecting our environment," Rosenblum said. "By eliminating the Clean Car Standards, the federal government is turning back years of hard work meant to reduce carbon emissions and save families money."</p> <p>After the new rule was finalized in April, Richard Whitman, director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, criticized the Trump administration for making such a controversial move during the coronavirus pandemic and noted many car manufacturers were fine with the existing fuel efficiency standards.</p> <p>He said the new standards will lead to new vehicles being 20% less efficient by 2025 with higher emissions that contribute to climate change and other air quality problems, such as ozone.</p> <p>The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said federal officials considered hundreds of thousands of public comments on the new rule before finalizing it with the goal of striking a balance between protecting the environment with reasonable targets for the auto industry and supporting the economy.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Labor council ultimatum to SPOG
SOURCE	https://crosscut.com/2020/06/labor-council-seattle-police-union-address-racism-or-get-out
GIST	<p>The largest labor coalition in King County is giving the Seattle Police Officers Guild an ultimatum: acknowledge and address racism in law enforcement and in their union or risk being kicked out of the group.</p> <p>In a vote Thursday, executive members of the King County Labor Coalition — a sort of union of unions — passed a resolution laying out tasks for the police guild, which represents over 1,000 rank-and-file officers.</p> <p>SPOG must state that racism is an issue in law enforcement and within its own organization. The union must participate in workgroups focused on addressing racism in the union. It must commit to police contracts that do not evade accountability. And there must be consequences when professional standards are not followed and harm is done.</p> <p>Jane Hopkins, executive vice president of SEIU 1199, said she wants to hear the head of the union, Mike Solan, say, “Black lives matter,” and to mean it.</p> <p>The labor council is basically giving the police union one last opportunity to reform itself. SPOG has until June 17 to meet these demands, or the council will vote on whether to throw it out of the organization.</p> <p>The resolution also calls on Mayor Jenny Durkan to move swiftly and prioritize strong police accountability in the next round of labor negotiations with the union and to reconsider investments in law enforcement.</p> <p>The resolution is a dramatic turnaround for the labor council, which welcomed the police union into its ranks in late 2014 and had fought on its behalf ever since. Labor council representatives even hosted a press conference in 2018, calling on the Seattle City Council to ratify a new contract with the police union.</p> <p>But things have changed, said Nicole Grant, executive treasurer-secretary of the labor council. While she once believed bringing police into the labor movement would foster community engagement and reflection on racism, she now has her doubts.</p> <p>“After what we’ve all experienced as a city over the last couple of weeks, do I feel as confident in that vision of everybody coming together and meeting at the level of our humanity and really changing things?” she said. “As beautiful as that vision is, I find myself clinging to it less. I have an obligation to hear what community leaders are saying to the labor movement and to hear what Black union members are saying to the labor council and to be accountable to them and their vision.”</p> <p>Protests have roiled Seattle for nearly a week, thrusting the issue of race and policing into the public narrative in a way not seen since at least the Ferguson, Missouri, protests of 2014, and perhaps never.</p> <p>The pressure is already having an effect. Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes said yesterday he would not ask to remove federal oversight of the Seattle Police Department.</p> <p>As the protests have swelled, so too have calls for the labor council to remove SPOG from its ranks.</p> <p>“So long as they’re a part of the Martin Luther King County Labor Council, you will always have to be at SPOG’s beck and call,” Nikkita Oliver, a community leader and former candidate for mayor, said to a large crowd of protesters Wednesday. “We ask you to expel them.”</p> <p>The Highline Education Association recently voted to call for SPOG’s ouster from the labor council. A petition from union members of color has garnered over 500 signatures and was delivered to the labor</p>

council Tuesday, said Isaura Jiménez Guerra, a White Center teacher and union member, who helped start the petition.

“We’re worried about the ways in which a police union does not offer accountability for police officers but obscures and obstructs accountability for them,” said Jiménez Guerra, adding that the police union should not be given more chances to improve, but removed immediately.

Police unions — which lean more conservative — have long had a precarious relationship with the much more progressive labor community. Calls to separate the two are not new.

“These tensions are not new and exist everywhere in the country,” said retired Judge Anne Levinson, who acted as auditor of the Seattle Police Department’s accountability system for years.

But as eyes turn toward police accountability, the role of police contracts has received new scrutiny and calls to disband their unions have increased.

“People are right to wonder why the police union views its role as protecting officers who’ve engaged in misconduct rather than seeing their role as helping to ensure that the public is treated with dignity, respect and fairness,” Levinson said. “That’s what the rest of the labor movement is about: how to improve the lives of the broadest cross-section of community as possible.”

In Seattle, the relationship between police and the labor community was uncommonly close. The police guild joined in 2014 on the urging of its former president, Ron Smith, and the ties grew closer when Kevin Stuckey, who is Black, took over as president.

Stuckey made a show of advocating for labor causes outside of his own, including on behalf of new scheduling laws before the Seattle City Council and for nurses striking outside of Swedish hospital.

In turn, he and his union received strong backing from the labor council in favor of their new contract.

Stuckey, however, was swept out of his position earlier this year, losing his seat in a landslide to the more hardline Mike Solan. Grant said she’s had only minimal contact with Solan since. Solan did not respond to a request for comment.

Lisa Dugaard, executive director of the Public Defender Association, said there was a hopeful period where it looked like the cooperation was producing good results.

“But by 2018 that tentative relationship was in the trash heap,” she said. “It seemed as though SPOG suddenly devalued the relationship with the civil rights community and retreated to a more traditional view of their own self-interest. It was sad to see the window for partnership close after so much effort.”

Hopkins of SEIU 1199, which represents medical health professionals, said she too was hopeful that the cooperation could bring the police union along toward self-reflection about racism and relationships with the community. But she’s been dissatisfied, a feeling that has crystalized for her in the past week. She’s hopeful the ultimatum will produce results, but she needs to be convinced.

“There needs to be a true change,” said Hopkins, who is Black. “The way to do that is actually accepting that ‘yes, we are a racist organization and we are going to do what we can to make sure we dismantle that in our organization.’ ”

SPOG was slated to begin new negotiations with the city in April, although they have delayed that start. As Seattle and the police department continue to limp forward under the eyes of a federal judge, the results of that bargaining have taken on new significance. If the next contract doesn’t include strong enough accountability measures, neither the public nor the judge will be pleased.

	<p>Looking back on the labor council's advocacy for SPOG's contract, Grant said she has second thoughts — even regret.</p> <p>"I know it seems like a dramatic change of course," said Grant. "And it is. It is a dramatic change of course."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 D.C. protests getting bigger more diverse
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-protests-over-the-death-of-george-floyd-have-grown-bigger-and-more-diverse-thats-not-an-accident-experts-say/2020/06/04/92806226-a677-11ea-b473-04905b1af82b_story.html
GIST	<p>They didn't have a plan at first. Five friends determined to join protests over the police killing of George Floyd arrived in downtown Washington on Saturday with one goal: Get to the White House.</p> <p>As they walked south toward the bright white pillars in the distance, the group began to call out to passersby — people out for walks or jogs, some curiously eyeing the young people brandishing signs and face masks, marching with their fists held high.</p> <p>"Walk with us," called Jasmine Grobes, 27. "Come on! Walk with us."</p> <p>By the time they reached the metal barricades around Lafayette Square, that group of five had swelled to nearly 50 times that number. Many returned the next day. More arrived the next and the day after that.</p> <p>Though the issues at the core of these protests are not new, experts said, the diversity of the crowd and the sustained momentum is. Several longtime protesters have wondered: Why now? Experts cite a confluence of factors, including a mainstreaming of protests, a backlash to citywide vandalism, the response to a fortified Washington, frustration with the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic and a growing recognition of unequal treatment of black people.</p> <p>After peaceful protesters were forced from Lafayette Square — often referred to as "the people's park" — by federal officers wielding gas and pepper bullets before President Trump's Monday photo op at St. John's Episcopal Church, the number of demonstrators ballooned.</p> <p>Each night, departing protesters have called out to police, "see you tomorrow."</p> <p>By Wednesday, thousands had gathered downtown. The crowd was made up of families, couples, retirees, teenagers, stay-at-home moms, professionals and military veterans. They marched until almost 3 a.m.</p> <p>Rashawn Ray, a sociology professor at the University of Maryland and a fellow at the Brookings Institution, said if momentum continues, the demonstrations could mark a turning point in the larger movement against systemic racism that would mirror shifts from the civil rights movement in the late 1960s.</p> <p>"The speed at which the movement for black lives has been able to diversify what the protest crowd looks like speaks, on one hand, to the fact that maybe there are a lot of people who want to see racial equality and want to see our country live up to its highest potential," he said. "On the other hand, it also speaks to the ways the world around that movement has changed."</p> <p>For several years, the Black Lives Matter movement and organization has led protests and digital awareness campaigns in response to the killing of black men and women around the country, beginning around the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012.</p>

While many of the names of the dead have become nationally recognized — Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile and others — for years, large-scale protests associated with the movement failed to gain sustained traction in white circles.

Then the 2016 election happened, and a new era of protesting began.

The day after Trump was inaugurated, hundreds of thousands of women gathered in Washington to voice their opposition. Many marched for the first time, and some haven't stopped.

In the years Trump has held office, protests in the District and around the country have increased in frequency and size. The National Park Service estimates more than 700 permitted protests descend on the nation's capital each year.

The issues vary widely. So, too, have the types of participants.

Youth-led protest movements, such as the worldwide push to decrease global carbon emissions to slow climate change, have trained participants in civil disobedience. Dana R. Fisher, a University of Maryland sociology professor who studies protest movements and routinely surveys participants, said more people than ever are using disruptive tactics — including being arrested, holding sit-ins and blocking traffic.

All the while, Black Lives Matter community organizers have continued to shine a light on police use of force and the criminal justice system's impact on black communities. They have partnered with other organizations to sponsor marches and champion causes such as women's rights or the humane treatment of immigrants.

"The intersectional issues that people care about is coming to bear," Ray said. "Young people today have friends who are black and friends who are gay and friends who are trans, and they are seeing in real time how these friends are treated differently in society or could be in danger."

The video of Floyd's final moments showed him pinned to the ground for more than eight minutes as onlookers pleaded with police. Floyd cried out for his mother. Then, he went limp.

Ray said the power of seeing "a dead body on the ground" may have mobilized masses who have held recent protests in cities from Washington to Salt Lake City.

"Almost everyone in America saw that video, in a way that was very similar to how Americans in the 1950s all saw Emmett Till's body in a casket after he was lynched," Ray said. "They watched George Floyd's body under the knee of that police officer while he called out for his mama, who has been dead for two years. That does something to people mentally, emotionally."

When Attorney General William P. Barr personally ordered law enforcement to remove protesters near the White House this week, millions of Americans watched as officers launched riot-control munitions at peaceful demonstrators before the president strolled through an empty Lafayette Square.

Until that moment, people such as Leslie Calamese, 50, had not considered joining the protests outside the White House — they seemed too violent, too big. Too much gas directed at protesters, too much uncertainty.

But after watching from her home in Woodbridge, Va., Calamese changed her mind.

On Tuesday, she stood with her three children — Kacy, 12; Kamryn, 14; and Kennedy, 17 — explaining what to do if the peaceful atmosphere turned.

"We felt helpless just sitting home, watching what happened out here," Calamese said. "We'll leave well before curfew, but I thought it was important for them to experience this."

It was the girls' first protest.

"I was nervous at first," Kennedy said. "But I'm glad we came."

Calamese, who spent much of the day on edge watching police for any sign of escalation, said she was shocked by the diversity of the crowd.

"This generation is different than past generations," Kennedy said. "It was a whole melting pot, and it was really inspiring because everyone is starting to see how this is not okay."

Several demonstrators said they wanted to show the government and the media, which had replayed images of vandals setting fires and shattering storefronts, that the protests were overwhelmingly peaceful and most wanted no part in violence.

By Tuesday, the group had self-patrolled. Protesters who stepped out of line to toss water bottles at police or shake the tall fence erected around Lafayette Square were shouted down by chants of "peaceful protest."

One man, who ripped the 16th Street NW street sign from the top of a lamp post, was booed by the crowd and carried off by protesters who yelled, "get out of here" and "don't give [police] a reason!"

Grobes and Aaron Covington, 26, whose group of friends has coalesced into a nascent organization, have found a rhythm. Every day, the group leads a march through Washington.

They stop every nine blocks for nine minutes — a nod to the nearly nine minutes the Minneapolis officer knelt on Floyd's neck — as some at the front take turns giving speeches or leading chants through a megaphone.

Organizers said a hallmark of these marches is the way the crowd grows as it moves — with people joining in from their homes or pausing on their way to work to cheer them on. One woman exiting a supermarket loaded her bags in a car before bringing her children to join the procession, Covington said.

By Tuesday, he had begun to go hoarse.

As the crowd turned up the historical U Street NW corridor, he looked around and spotted a white man nearby exuberantly chanting "black lives matter." He held out the megaphone.

"You want it?" Covington said. "Go ahead, take it."

The man held the speaker to his lips and continued the drum beat.

"Black lives matter," he chanted.

"Black lives matter," the crowd called back.

Covington and his friends stood back, watching the scene. At first, he said, he was struck by the newness of it, a white man leading a crowd of many colors down a street in the District calling for the equal treatment of black people.

"Then I thought, you know what? I'm tired. I'm tired of marching. I need a break," he said. "This is our struggle, yes. It's something we own, but it's not something we bought. It's about time other kinds of people step up and help us carry this."

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SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/06/04/nursing-homes-coronavirus-deaths/
GIST	<p>New federal data released Thursday reflect the rising death toll from covid-19 at the nation's nursing homes and the desperate need at thousands of facilities for critical personnel and basic supplies.</p> <p>More than three months after the coronavirus began sweeping through U.S. nursing homes, thousands of homes are still underequipped for the continuing onslaught, the data show.</p> <p>So far, the number of nursing home deaths attributed to covid-19 has reached nearly 32,000 residents and more than 600 employees, and both counts are sure to rise: About 12 percent of the nation's 15,000 homes have not yet reported figures. The new numbers, building on data released Tuesday that showed about 26,000 resident deaths, include the death toll from more homes.</p> <p>The data offer a statistical portrait of an industry at the center of the pandemic's fury unable to properly care for its 1.4 million residents: Nearly 2,000 facilities reported a shortage of nursing staff and more than 2,200 said they lack enough aides, according to the data.</p> <p>The figures on basic supplies are similarly dire: More than 250 nursing homes lack any surgical masks and another 800 are within a week of running out. More than 2,000 are a week away from running out of gowns and more than 800 are a week away from depleting hand sanitizer supplies. More than 500 lack any N95 masks used to prevent infection, according to the data.</p> <p>"We have failed the residents and we have failed the staff as a society," said Michael Wasserman, president of the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine.</p> <p>Nursing homes with stringent infection control and adequate staffing were better equipped to prevent the spread of the coronavirus once it struck, Wasserman said, but even the best nursing homes lacked personal protective equipment and access to testing.</p> <p>"This is something the CDC should have been studying from the beginning," he said.</p> <p>The federal government's decision to provide information about outbreaks at nursing homes comes after more than a dozen states refused to make public the same information, spurring lawsuits across the United States.</p> <p>As of the end of May, 14 states were not disclosing information about the pandemic's impact on nursing homes, according to a survey by USA Today. In some states — including Arizona and Idaho — media organizations have filed lawsuits demanding the information, arguing that the public ought to know which nursing homes have outbreaks. In other states, legal pressure has led to public release of the information. In Florida, for example, state officials released more information following a lawsuit drafted by the Miami Herald and supported by other media organizations including The Washington Post.</p> <p>The federal government eventually stepped into the dispute, requiring more public disclosure about the nursing home outbreaks. In April, the U.S. agency that oversees nursing homes — the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services — issued a rule calling for nursing homes to report information on coronavirus cases and deaths among residents and staff to the agency.</p> <p>"We wanted to be as transparent as possible with the American people," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said Thursday.</p> <p>The data released Thursday covers nearly 9 in 10 of the country's 15,000 federally certified nursing homes. It does not include assisted-living centers and other types of eldercare facilities not certified and inspected by the CMS. The data includes information on cases and deaths per home as well as shortages of staff and PPE, which some homes have blamed for their high rates of infection.</p>

The data also will be used by researchers to study one of the central mysteries about the ravages of the virus at the nation's nursing homes: Why did the virus run rampant at some nursing homes, infecting most residents, while at other facilities the effects of the virus have been minimal?

Industry associations have argued that nursing homes are blameless and that no amount of preparation could have prevented an outbreak at any home. Instead, they say, the outbreaks tended to happen at larger homes in communities where the virus is widespread. Some academics agree.

People may "believe the narrative that it's the nursing home's fault," said Vincent Mor, a professor of health services, policy and practices at Brown University. "It's a narrative that people really want to hear because it's too frightening to assume that it's all random."

But, he said, the likelihood of an outbreak at a home is not about the home's quality. Instead, he said, the outbreaks reflect "the prevalence of the virus in the county, the size of the home and the population density."

Verma, of the CMS, on Thursday disputed that assessment. She said many nursing homes that made "stringent efforts" to screen staff and enforce hand-washing and other infection-control measures saw no outbreaks or deaths.

The agency looked at homes with high rates of infection and death and noted that many of them had previously had received poor grades for quality. Other academics, including Charlene Harrington at the University of California at San Francisco and Yue Li at the University of Rochester, have connected the outbreaks to shortages in staffing.

"Not all nursing homes were hit. Not all nursing homes report cases," Verma said. "They took the appropriate steps and precautions and the virus didn't spread."

"Our data shows something very different," she said.

The industry also has argued that a shortage of supplies and of testing by the government hampered their response. Without testing, for example, industry groups argued nursing homes could not know who was infected so they could be isolated.

The chief nursing home trade group, the American Health Care Association, has lobbied strongly for federal subsidies to help nursing homes buy PPE such as face masks, gloves and disposable gowns. When the Department of Health and Human Services allocated \$4.9 billion in aid to nursing homes on May 21, in part to pay for PPE, the AHCA said its members needed more.

Mark Parkinson, president and CEO of the association, said getting more help was vital. The association has sought a total of \$10 billion in taxpayer assistance.

"The reality is that long-term care providers are facing an unprecedented situation that has left them begging for testing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and staffing resources," he said in a statement. "Just like hospitals, we have called for help. In our case, it has been difficult to get anyone to listen."

"Whether it's federal, state or local health agencies, long-term care needs to be a priority for supplies and help. It's time that America rally around our long-term care residents just as they did with hospitals."

The trade group for nonprofit senior care, LeadingAge, also argues that more help is needed.

"Months into the crisis, it is pitiful that aging services providers are still scrounging for PPE. Too often, the only signs of FEMA's much-hyped promise of PPE shipments — an allotment of gowns, gloves, masks and goggles based on staffing size of the provider — are scattershot delivery with varying amounts of rag-tag supplies," Katie Smith Sloan, the group's CEO, said in a statement Thursday.

	<p>While many patient advocates welcomed the additional data about the nursing home outbreaks, some warned against drawing quick conclusions because the picture it offers is incomplete.</p> <p>“Nobody should be relying on the CMS data to get an accurate picture of the crisis unfolding in nursing homes across the country,” said Mike Dark, a lawyer with California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform. “Many facilities are still not reporting data, and spotty availability of testing kits and staff to administer the tests means that many sick residents and workers are not included in the counts.</p> <p>“Until we get more accurate tallies it will be impossible for state and federal health authorities to know where resources are most needed. Many more of our elderly and disabled will die as a result.”</p> <p>The CMS should have held nursing homes accountable for lapses in infection control and prevention long before the pandemic, said Arlene Germain, policy director of Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform. Even as the coronavirus spread in March and April, nearly 600 nursing homes were cited by government inspectors for violating federal standards meant to prevent and control the spread of infections.</p> <p>She said the deaths of more than 600 nursing home staff members could have been mitigated if homes were better prepared and had access to supplies and testing.</p> <p>“It’s heartbreaking,” she said of the death count. “It shouldn’t have happened.”</p>
Return to Top	View and search the federal government's data on nursing homes and coronavirus

HEADLINE	06/05 Protests in Seattle continue 7th night
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/1915637/live-updates-seattle-protests-wednesday/
GIST	<p>For the seventh night, protesters gathered in downtown Seattle. They marched through downtown and in Capitol Hill where they met up near Cal Anderson Park for another long night.</p> <p>Earlier on Thursday, Police Chief Carmen Best sent a directive on mourning bands worn on her officers’ badges. Read more.</p> <p>Follow live updates:</p> <p>11:13pm – Hundreds of protesters remain at 11th and Pine in Capitol Hill. They’re chanting: “Who’s lives matter? Black Lives Matter.”</p> <p>10:24pm – A large group of protesters is headed toward Cal Anderson Park. They’re moving along near 12th and Pike.</p> <p>9:49pm – Protesters say (via Twitter) that there is a different feel at the demonstration at 11th and Pine on the 7th night — it’s more peaceful, less tense.</p> <p>9:22pm – Two large groups of protesters marching around Capitol Hill and downtown Seattle met up at 12th and Jackson. They’re expected to head towards Cal Anderson Park to meet back up with protesters on 11th and Pine.</p> <p>8:48pm – While a large group of protesters is marching down Broadway, another is assembled where it was last night — on 11th and Pine near Cal Anderson Park. Police officers have moved quiet a ways back from the fencing they’ve set up.</p> <p>8:18pm – A large group has now been spotted peacefully marching south on Broadway. Another crowd is moving through the Central District.</p> <p>8:14pm – Local Capitol Hill businesses have begun to open their doors for protesters. That includes Optimism Brewing on Broadway, which is allowing protesters in the area to use its bathrooms, fill up water bottles, wash their hands, and charge phones. The brewery is asking that anyone coming inside wears a mask and practices safe social distancing.</p> <p>“These were not the circumstances we thought we would reopen for, but we see that we’ve never had a better reason,” it detailed in a Tweet.</p>

8:03pm – Protesters have begun to chant “take off your riot gear, we don’t see no riot here,” as the crowd remains behind the barrier with cops positioned 30 or so feet away.

7:39pm – For the second night in a row, police are positioned further away from the barricade at 11th and Pine than they were on Monday and Tuesday.

Whereas early in the week, officers would stand directly behind the barrier, they’ve now begun to stand roughly 30 feet away.

7:21pm – The Seattle Police Department [put out a blog post](#) Thursday evening providing more details on its new policy on mourning bands on badges.

In the days ahead, the policy will require mourning bands to be positioned directly above the badge number, rather than over it.

6:49pm – Rep. Pramila Jayapal announced “legislative efforts to stop police brutality,” which she expects will touch on a number of points, including the use of force, de-militarization of the police force, and data collection.

6:33pm – Live videos indicate a crowd has gathered at the site of earlier protests this week at 11th and Pine in Capitol Hill. There are also reports of protesters nearby on 12th Avenue, and on Broadway.

4:32pm – Donations of snacks, water, and medical supplies for protesters have grown in recent days. A few restaurants and buildings in the area have opened their restrooms for protesters as well.

4:03pm – Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson has lifted the city curfew through Saturday and has no curfew planned for Thursday, June 4.

2:54pm – Police Chief Best will be issuing a formal order Thursday requiring all badge numbers to be displayed following community concerns that officers were using mourning bands to cover their badge numbers.

1:05pm – Roughly two-dozen protesters appear to be gathered at the 11th and Pine barricade now.

10:50am – With sunshine peeking through the clouds, protesters remain at the barricade near the East Precinct. They appear to have set up cones around the area they’ve gathered in.

9:26am – Police presence at the protest remains minimal, with cop cars continuing to give the small crowd stationed at the barricade a wide berth. Top Pot donuts and coffee were also seen being brought to protesters.

8:12am – Protesters are still out. A small food and water station appears to have been laid out on the corner of 11th of Pine.

7:00am – A small crowd of protesters is still at the 11th and Pine barricade, after picking up garbage that had accrued overnight.

5:58am – Just over a dozen or so protesters remain at the intersection of 11th and Pine, while police presence has dwindled to a few cop cars parked half a block behind the barricade near the East Precinct.

5:03am – Crowds are reportedly still gathered in Capitol Hill. Police have moved away from the barricade along 11th and Pine, and the crowd appears to have dwindled to a small handful of people. The protest has remained peaceful.

Wednesday:

11:15pm – Police and protesters remain on Capitol Hill.

10:44pm – Chief Best is at the barricade on Capitol Hill, speaking one-on-one to protesters.

10:38pm: Seattle Police Chief was spotted at the police barricade on Capitol Hill Wednesday night, wearing a mask.

“We can stand here all night,” Best said.

9:57pm – A second group of people have reportedly broken off from the large crowd on 11th. They appear to be moving past Pine.

9:27pm – There are reports of someone throwing things at the protests on Capitol Hill. Protesters are warning each other not to throw things. There were reports of people throwing rocks last night at police officers, prompting them to deploy tear gas.

9:11pm – The curfew in Seattle was originally set at 9pm. It has been canceled. Nothing looks different on Capitol Hill, despite not having a curfew. A large crowd, many with open umbrellas, remains at 11th and Pine.

8:40pm – Police Chief Carmen Best posts pics of her conversation with protest organizers.

8:23pm – Mayor Jenny Durkan confirmed to KIRO 7’s Essex Porter that the curfew has been lifted effective immediately.

8:17pm – Seattle Council President Lorena Gonzalez says that based on internal conversations with Mayor Durkan, the council is operating under the assumption that the curfew will not be effective for the rest of the week.

8:14pm – Water bottles and spray bottles [can be seen](#) lining sidewalks near the intersection of 11th and Pine.

7:59pm – Clarifying Mayor Durkan’s previous statement, her office told KIRO 7 “the citywide curfew will end effective tomorrow, June 4, at 5 a.m.”

“Peaceful demonstrators can continue to protest regardless of the curfew,” the statement added.

7:40pm – Protesters can be seen on video laying down flat in protest at the intersection of 12th and Pine. Things remain largely peaceful.

7:27pm – KIRO Radio’s Meili Cady describes “a mellow scene” right now among protesters at Cal Anderson Park. Crowds remain gathered at barricades a block away from the East Precinct in Capitol Hill with umbrellas open.

7:07pm – Mayor Durkan heard the calls from protesters to end the curfew, and has told those demonstrating tonight they can continue to do so.

6:36pm – There are public toilets available at Cal Anderson Park, and people on Twitter have posted offers of snacks, water, and medical supplies for the protesters in the area. A crowd has gathered in the same area as Tuesday night’s protest — near 11th and Pine — with a line of umbrellas at the barricade.

6:13pm – The city just sent another reminder out about the 9 p.m. – 5 a.m. curfew.

6:03pm – A large group of protesters is moving down Pine Street.

5:34pm – I-5 through Seattle is once again open. Cars are moving in both directions.

5:26pm – The crowd is currently marching back to Capitol Hill and Cal Anderson Park. A number of demonstration leaders and organizers are meeting with Mayor Durkan and Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best now at City Hall, on the sixth day of protests in Seattle.

4:58pm – I-5 was briefly reopened, but is now closing again due to “demonstration movement.”

4:35pm – Mayor Durkan came outside to briefly address the crowd gathered outside City Hall. “I want to tell you that I will continue to meet and listen to people,” she said. “We will not change things overnight.”

4:26pm – Demonstrators are now meeting with Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best. There are reports that Durkan will come outside to address the crowd of protesters directly.

3:54pm – Several streets in downtown Seattle are closed.

3:37pm – Protesters have arrived outside City Hall in downtown Seattle.

3:23pm – Protesters are now at 4th and James

3:05pm – Protesters in Seattle are marching toward City Hall through downtown to deliver a petition to defund the Seattle Police Department.

2:39pm – Washington State Patrol has shut down I-5 through downtown Seattle – SR 520 to I-90.

2:25pm – Protesters who were gathered for the rally have left Cal Anderson Park, starting to march.

2:07pm – One of the speakers at today’s rally is Nikkita Oliver, who was a candidate for Seattle Mayor in 2017.

1:30pm – Wednesday’s rally and march has now started in Cal Anderson Park. It’s unclear at this time where the march will move, although in past days Westlake in downtown Seattle has frequently played host to protesters.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Advice: anyone w/symptoms get tested
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/1920007/covid-19-symptoms-tested-inslee/
GIST	<p>Previously, the medical advice in Washington state was for those not at high-risk of COVID-19 complications or those only experiencing mild symptoms to stay home, and that a test was not necessary. Gov. Inslee and state Secretary of Health John Wiesman announced updated advice Thursday, recommending that anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, even mild, get tested.</p> <p>Inslee referred to the expanded testing efforts as part of the “new strategy” to defeat the virus as we move away from social distancing measures and reopen businesses and congregate settings. Testing is one part of a four part process, he said, which also includes contact tracing, isolation, and masks.</p>

Earlier in the state's COVID-19 response, testing capacity was primarily limited by a lack of supplies. While access to testing supplies has been a consistent problem, there are now more supplies becoming available. After months of advocacy from Washington state and other states, Inslee said the federal government stepped up to help with production and distribution of testing supplies in late April.

Washington received two-thirds of the promised testing supplies from the federal government in late May. Inslee acknowledged that the state is still doing its best to obtain more test kits moving forward.

"The good news: Our testing capacity has grown," he said. "... But there is much more work to be done to fully contain this virus."

This strategy and significant broadening of testing comes at the same time that more businesses, places of study, and congregate settings are reopening, and as more testing supplies are becoming available. "If you think you're sick, get tested."

Inslee referred to COVID-19 testing as the first step in a four-step process so Washington state can move forward, and said it helps to measure each county's progress in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

"If you think you have the symptoms, even mild, of COVID-19, please get tested," Inslee said. "If you are a household member of a person who has the suspicion of COVID-19 or has come into contact with someone, please get tested."

Anyone living or working in congregate settings who was likely exposed to COVID-19 should also get tested. Once you've been tested, Inslee reminded people to stay home until you receive a negative result to continue to limit any potential spread. New science shows how much of this transmission occurs early in the disease, Inslee said, often before you have symptoms.

To get tested, call your doctor or find a clinic with drive-thru or walk-up testing. There are more locations listed [online here](#), and additional options are available for those unable to seek health care through a doctor or drive-thru clinic.

"I am really pleased to note that with more widespread testing now being available, this can really help with people's piece of mind," Wiesman added.

People will be able to know if they're infected, and more testing will help us know if the pandemic is getting better or worse in Washington, he said.

"It's really important that people quickly go ahead and get in and get tested," Wiesman said.

Known symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, as well as fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, a new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

"I know we have to kind of undo what we were told or learned here," Wiesman said, as people with mild symptoms were previously encouraged to stay home and told that a test is not necessary. "We have to now kind of unlearn some of those messages."

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HEADLINE	06/04 SPD chief modifies mourning bands
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/1921467/seattle-chief-directive-mourning-band-badges/
GIST	Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best sent a directive to the department on Thursday ordering all officers to have their badge numbers prominently displayed.

The directive comes on day seven of protesting in downtown Seattle. Mayor Durkan mentioned on the steps of City Hall Wednesday that many of the complaints to SPD were that officers' badge numbers were hidden due to the mourning band placed on badges.

In part, Chief Best's directive:

Mourning bands have deep meaning in law enforcement and are a long-standing way of honoring those who are killed in the line of duty. However, some of the public's perception is that it is a way of officers to possibly hide their identity, even though name tags are prominently displayed on the outer most clothing. The Department must strike a balance between honoring officers who are killed in the line of duty and our responsibility to maintain the public's trust.

Best said that the mourning band must be placed horizontally so that an officer's badge number is not obscured. She clarified that the mourning badges "purchased through the Seattle Police Foundation that already have the serial number displayed."

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HEADLINE	06/05 Tacoma mayor: police should be fired
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/1921663/tacoma-mayor-officers-manuel-ellis-death-fired-prosecuted/
GIST	<p>Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards wants police officers involved in the death of Manuel Ellis fired.</p> <p>"The officers who committed this crime should be fired and prosecuted to the full extent of the law," Woodards said in a Thursday night news conference.</p> <p>Woodards is asking the Pierce County Sheriff's Department to review and detail every action made by each officer. She's also demanding that the Tacoma City Manager fire each officer involved.</p> <p>Manuel Ellis died March 3, 2020, from a lack of oxygen, after being restrained by Tacoma police. A medical examiner ruled the death a homicide, but found drugs and a heart condition also contributed to Ellis' death.</p> <p>James Bible, the Ellis family's attorney, said the city of Tacoma and the police department lacks transparency. He added that the Pierce County Sheriff's office should not be investigating Ellis' death because the sheriff's office and the Tacoma Police Department work together.</p> <p>The Tacoma News Tribune posted video from Ellis' encounter with police the night he died.</p> <p>"As the family mentioned to us this morning, it does take a video for so many people to believe the truth about systemic racism and its violent impact on black lives, on my life," Woodards said. "In order to ensure that every family, that every single family get the justice that they deserve, I'm also directing the City Manager to move forward with allocated funding for body cams immediately. We have waited way too long. We have heard way too many excuses. It stops tonight and we move forward."</p> <p>Woodards addressed racism and called on her community to make changes.</p> <p>"We need to hold space in the media, in this city, in this country not just for discussions on racism but how we're going to dismantle the systems that continue to make it OK. We live in a nation where too many black lives have been lost and I don't want to see another one.</p> <p>"To the family, I say again, my heartfelt apologies. To my community, I call on my community, the citizens of Tacoma, please stand with us, please stand by us and to continue to hold us accountable to take these actions that you elected us to take."</p> <p>Woodards encouraged her community to embrace uncertainty that comes with change and she promised to stand beside them as they work to make those changes.</p>

	“We will not heal and we will not move forward until there is real change,” Woodards said.
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HEADLINE	06/04 Google: presidential campaigns targeted
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/presidential-campaigns-targeted-by-suspected-chinese-iranian-hackers-11591294980?mod=hp_lead_pos2
GIST	<p>Campaign staffers working on the presidential campaigns of Donald Trump and Joe Biden have been targeted with online attacks coming from Iran and China respectively, Google said, in a sign that the meddling four years ago in the U.S. presidential election by Russia could be pursued more widely this time.</p> <p>Google said Thursday that the staffers were targeted with so-called phishing attacks that often are an attempt to gain access to online email accounts. They raise the specter of a repeat of the 2016 campaign, during which Russian hackers stole information from Democratic staffers and posted them online.</p> <p>While neither China nor Iran are thought to have previously engaged in the kind of hacking and public dumping of emails that disrupted Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign four years ago, some cybersecurity experts believe that Russia’s success in 2016 may spur copycat activity. The fact that the attacks targeted campaign staff should put campaigns on alert for a possible attempt to hack and dump information, said Graham Brookie, director of the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab. “It should be a major red flag.”</p> <p>Russia has denied interfering in the 2016 election.</p> <p>The attacks don’t appear to have been successful, Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., said. The company has notified federal authorities and the targeted users of the attacks, said Shane Huntley, who runs Google’s in-house counterespionage group, known as the Threat Analysis Group.</p> <p>The Biden campaign was targeted by a China-based group, known as APT 31, Mr. Huntley said in a Twitter message on Thursday. This group has been linked by security companies to the Chinese government. The Trump campaign was targeted by an Iranian group called APT 35, he said. APT stands for advanced persistent threat, a shorthand used by cybersecurity professionals for sophisticated adversaries that are backed by nation-states.</p> <p>The phishing attempts were recent and targeted a “couple” of personal email accounts belonging to staffers with each campaign, a Google spokeswoman said.</p> <p>“We have known from the beginning of our campaign that we would be subject to such attacks and we are prepared for them,” a Biden campaign spokesman said in an email message.</p> <p>The Trump campaign has been briefed on the attempt, a Trump spokesman said.</p> <p>Microsoft Corp. in October said that at least one U.S. presidential campaign has been targeted by cyberattacks linked to the Iranian government. That attack targeted a staffer with the Trump campaign, according to a source familiar with the matter.</p> <p>In April, a bipartisan report by the Senate Intelligence Committee concluded that Russia interfered in 2016 to help Donald Trump. Part of the campaign involved creating fake phishing email messages and webpages that masqueraded as Google, to trick Democratic staffers into typing in their Google passwords. Victims of the attacks, including Hillary Clinton’s campaign chairman, John Podesta, later had their personal emails posted online.</p>

Dumping those emails and other documents online was disruptive to campaign operations and was also used to seize control of the political narrative during the 2016 election, cybersecurity experts say.

While it is possible that the Chinese hackers may have been taking a page from the Russian playbook, it is more likely that they are conducting traditional espionage in hopes of gaining better knowledge of Mr. Biden's foreign policy perspective, said Dmitri Alperovitch, a former cybersecurity executive who investigated the Russian activities. "It's important not to jump to conclusions that this is election interference," he said. "Targeting of campaign staff is a timeworn tradition."

Iran, on the other hand, is "more of a question mark," Mr. Alperovitch said. "Iran has traditionally been much more willing to push the envelope and use cyber in nontraditional ways," he said.

Last year, Microsoft linked Iran [to more than 200 destructive attacks](#) in more than a half-dozen countries, including Saudi Arabia, Germany, the U.K., India and the U.S. And in 2018 [Facebook](#) Inc. removed dozens of bogus pages, run by Iran, that had been promoting politically charged messages to U.S. voters ahead of that year's midterm elections.

Russia itself has so far not been publicly linked to the type of activity in 2020 that the intelligence community and technology companies witnessed four years ago.

Russia, China and Iran have repeatedly denied launching cyberattacks against the U.S.

Last year, Facebook and [Twitter took down hundreds of accounts](#) they believe were part of a China-backed disinformation campaign aimed at antigovernment protesters.

More recently, China has been buying Facebook ads and [virally promoting conspiracy theories](#) about the new coronavirus to English speakers, moves reminiscent of Russian disinformation campaigns.

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HEADLINE	06/05 Memorial followed by 10th night protests
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/largely-peaceful-protests-of-george-floyd-killing-continue-nationwide-11591276983
GIST	<p>MINNEAPOLIS—The family of George Floyd stood in front of thousands in and around the chapel at North Central University here for a memorial service Thursday, as calls from the podium to change the American justice system were echoed by protesters across the country.</p> <p>Mr. Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was killed on May 25 after police officers arrested him for allegedly trying to pass off a counterfeit \$20 bill. Video that circulated widely on social media showed a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, with his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck as he pleaded for mercy and said he couldn't breathe.</p> <p>"The reason why we're marching all over the world is because we were like George, we couldn't breathe," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, who delivered the eulogy. "It's time for us to stand up in George's name and say get your knee off our necks." Mr. Sharpton asked mourners to stand in silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time Mr. Floyd lay pinned to the pavement.</p> <p>A judge in Minneapolis on Thursday set the bail at \$750,000 for the three ex-officers charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder in the killing of Mr. Floyd, the Associated Press reported. Only five news organizations were allowed into the courtroom amid constraints imposed due to the new coronavirus.</p> <p>None of the officers entered a plea, as expected for a first court appearance, according to the AP. Judge Paul Scoggin set June 29 as their next court date.</p>

Protesters nationwide have demanded that authorities cut funding for police and put it toward minority communities. Thursday night they got backing from a second big city mayor. San Francisco's London Breed said she would help lead an effort to redirect money from that city's police department toward the African-American community as part of a budget proposal she would submit this summer.

San Francisco Supervisor Shamann Walton, who announced the plan with Ms. Breed, said the move would serve as "a concrete, bold and immediate step towards true reparations for Black people."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced a similar initiative Wednesday.

In New York Thursday, thousands gathered for a memorial for Mr. Floyd, organized by some of his family, in Cadman Plaza Park in Brooklyn and then marched across the Brooklyn Bridge. Protesters carried signs that said "Black lives matter" and chanted, "No justice, no peace."

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio received scattered boos, as he promised change. "It will not be about words in this city. It will be about change," he said, leaving shortly after.

At Union Square later in the day, a crowd of about 400 protesters stood chanting "George Floyd" and "No justice, no peace" to the thumping of drums and hands clapping. A helicopter hovered overhead, as volunteers circulated, handing out masks, bottles of water and chips.

Faullin Brannon, a 30-year-old Upper West Side resident, said this was his second straight day of protesting. He called the demonstrations "transformative" after months of lockdown and barely seeing anyone.

"I can stand shoulder to shoulder with strangers on the right side of humanity," said Mr. Brannon, who co-owns a commercial cleaning company.

Stores across Manhattan were boarded up. In Union Square, Best Buy, Nordstrom and Duane Reade were closed at 5 p.m. and boarded up.

By night, after the city's 8 p.m. curfew, a crowd of about 200 people were discussing heading to Trump Tower in Midtown but ran into hundreds of police in helmets with batons.

Shortly after 10 p.m., the officers used batons to push the protesters toward the Plaza hotel. A New York City Police Department van with a public address system announced that everyone there was in violation of the curfew.

"I was trying to leave!" one man cried, as police led him away with his hands tied behind his back.

At least five people were arrested, and by 10:30 p.m. the rest of the group had left.

Two police officers in Buffalo were suspended without pay after knocking down a 75-year-old man in an incident caught on a widely shared video, Mayor Byron W. Brown said on Twitter. The event came after a conflict between two groups of protesters who were out beyond curfew, said Mr. Brown, who added that he was "deeply disturbed by the video."

In Chicago, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office said Thursday it would investigate a family's allegation that a young woman was pulled out of her car at a looted mall, thrown to the ground and subdued by an officer who put his knee on her neck.

Police said the woman, Mia Wright, had assembled with three others for the purpose of using force or violence to disturb the peace and that she had been charged with disorderly conduct.

After days of peaceful protests and nights of violence, several other major cities have had a few nights of relative calm. Unlike New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., didn't continue their curfews Thursday.

In downtown Los Angeles, about 1,000 people gathered, some holding signs reading "The fight ain't over" and "Disarm the police," as they listened to speeches condemning police brutality. There were fewer police around City Hall than in previous days, but a large contingent of National Guard troops encircled the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters.

Toyna Panton, one of the demonstrators, said police budget cuts announced by Mayor Garcetti weren't adequate. Nearby, 37-year-old Kristen Fraser said the cuts were a step in the right direction. She attributed the move as well as the newly announced policies regarding police misconduct to the past week's protests. "If no one said anything or put a light on it, nothing would have happened," she said.

The Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C., which had arrested nearly 300 people Monday related to the protests, said Thursday morning it had made no arrests the night before.

A thunderstorm that passed through just after 8 p.m. didn't deter some protesters from marching near the White House, where security has been beefed up with additional fencing around the perimeter.

Earlier, some protesters marched to the Lincoln Memorial, where they listened to speeches until the rain started. The demonstration was leaderless and peaceful, and police cleared traffic for the marchers, as they wound through the streets.

"I was marching, and someone handed me a megaphone," said Hilda M. Jordan, 22. Wearing a mask on which she had scrawled the words "no justice, no peace," Ms. Jordan led the crowd in repeating the names of African-Americans who had died in police custody.

As of Thursday, 32 states and the district had activated more than 32,400 National Guard troops in response to the protests, the National Guard said.

In the Minneapolis bail hearing, the lawyers for the three men argued for lower bail, the AP reported. Earl Gray, a lawyer representing Thomas Lane, told the judge it was his client's fourth day on the job and that he was being trained by Mr. Chauvin, the AP reported.

Two of the three officers were positioned on Mr. Floyd's back and legs during the nearly nine minutes that Mr. Chauvin pressed a knee into his neck, according to their criminal complaints. The third officer kept onlookers at bay. None intervened to stop Mr. Chauvin, the complaints said.

At the service, Mr. Sharpton told the story of attending a march years ago "and a young white lady looked me right in the face" and told him to go home in crude and derogatory terms, he said as the mostly black crowd sucked in its collective breath.

Mr. Sharpton said the colors of the faces of the young people on the streets protesting had given him hope. In many instances, he saw more white people than black people.

His remarks came a few moments after several siblings and cousins remembered Mr. Floyd as a bear of a man who was kind and humble and could polish off six pieces of chicken at a sitting. The family was so poor they had to wash their clothes in the sink and hang them over the hot water heater to dry. But the household was warm and loving, his brother said. His mother regularly took in Mr. Floyd's friends for long periods.

"That is where he got his character," said Jeanette Sledge, who listened to the service on her car radio and came out to be part of a crowd of at least a thousand to watch the family leave the chapel and show her support.

	<p>“I knew him, he was a kind, sweet, humble man,” she said. Sobs rang out across the chapel as mourners stood in silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds.</p> <p>“I listened to that and I started to cry,” Ms. Sledge said. “It was such a long time. I imagined myself running in to get the police off him.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 DOH: 22,729 cases, 1138 deaths
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243283061.html
GIST	<p>The Washington State Department of Health on Thursday reported 245 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and three deaths.</p> <p>Pierce County reported 21 new cases and three new deaths Thursday. Pierce County had a total of 78 deaths likely caused by COVID-19 as of Thursday.</p> <p>Statewide totals from the illness caused by the coronavirus are at 22,729 cases and 1,138 deaths, up from 22,484 cases and 1,135 deaths on Wednesday.</p> <p>Twenty-four people with confirmed COVID-19 cases were admitted to Washington state hospitals on May 27, 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 3,615 on Thursday.</p> <p>Washington state has conducted 383,587 coronavirus tests, with 5.9 percent coming back positive. The test numbers reflect only polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, which are given to patients while the virus is presumably still active in the body.</p> <p>There have been more than 1.8 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 107,979 deaths from the virus in the United States as of Thursday, according to Johns Hopkins University. More than 388,000 people have died from the disease worldwide.</p> <p>King County continues to have the highest numbers in Washington, with 8,318 cases and 574 deaths. Snohomish County has the second highest number of deaths at 150. Yakima County has the second highest number of cases at 4,031.</p> <p>Washington’s least populous county, Garfield, remains the only one without a case. Seven other counties are reporting fewer than 10 cases each.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 ESD: some progress in jobless claims
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article243265126.html?
GIST	<p>State Employment Security Department Commissioner Suzi LeVine announced Thursday that about \$333 million has been recovered from false jobless claims so far, out of an estimated \$550 million to \$650 million loss.</p> <p>LeVine said both the amounts recovered and amount lost would likely change.</p> <p>Amid the progress, the department in general and LeVine specifically continue to face backlash from filers over delayed claims, some still not paid from the start of the pandemic and statewide “Stay Home Stay Safe” order, which shuttered businesses deemed nonessential.</p>

“We hear you, and we take to heart every one of the thousands of messages we’ve received,” LeVine said at Thursday’s news briefing, adding the department was “entirely focused on how we can do better.”

“There are far too many who’ve been waiting for far too long.”

For the week of May 24, the department saw 31,224 initial regular unemployment claims filed, down 36 percent from the previous week, and 774,959 total claims for all unemployment benefit categories were filed, a decrease of 155,423.

In Pierce County alone, initial regular claims were down 36 percent from the week before — from 6,348 to 4,069.

The department credits the slowdown to a variety of reasons, including fraud prevention measures “and more people going back to work with the reopening of some industry sectors and regions over the past three weeks,” according to its Thursday morning news release.

The fraud investigation over false filings that swarmed the statewide system and entities in Pierce County has resulted in a sharp slowdown of claims processed, following an already slow process involving an overwhelmed system with new filings since March.

Many claimants still are waiting to be processed and vetted as part of the department’s enhanced ID fraud check. That number, around 215,000 in May, is set to be down to 90,000 in the next few days, according to LeVine.

The department’s Operation 100 Percent, launched May 11 to resolve initial claims dating back before May 1, faces another two-week delay as part of the added scrutiny to making sure claims are not fraudulent.

The initial target date was mid-June. As of June 1, more than 40,000 were still in some kind of adjudication process, down from an initial 57,125.

The state has paid 826,123 individual claims totaling \$4.9 billion as of May 30.

At the same time, the wait has become agonizing for those caught in limbo of either ID vetting, adjudication or something else.

Tami Jackson was a Clover Park School District substitute teacher whose job went away as a result of the statewide school closures. Jackson told The News Tribune this week she’s had to borrow from her daughter to make it through the month after her payments abruptly stopped.

Looking online, she noticed the payments were redirected to a bank account that she says was not hers.

“They said it was my account, but it’s not,” she said. She reported the issue and said, “Now I’m locked out of my account.”

An ESD representative told The News Tribune this week that anyone who was a victim of fraud who needed to access benefits “will be sent a message giving them instruction on how to ‘reclaim’ their account.”

Thursday afternoon, she did receive a form email response that unfortunately didn’t address her specific circumstance.

She has yet to get through to the call center.

“It’s kind of terrifying,” she said.

HEADLINE	06/04 CDC: Covid-19 message 'not resonating'
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/4/robert-redfield-cdc-chief-worried-covid-19-message/
GIST	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director said Thursday he's "very concerned" that his agency's public health message isn't resonating, citing uneven use of face coverings and lax compliance with social distancing at parties or other major events.</p> <p>Robert Redfield said people near his home in Baltimore tend to wear masks but he hardly sees anyone in Washington wearing them.</p> <p>He also said he shared Democratic lawmakers' concerns about photos of people gathered at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri or the SpaceX launch in Florida without maintaining physical distancing.</p> <p>"We're very concerned that our public health message isn't resonating. We continue to try to figure out how to penetrate the message with different groups," he told House lawmakers tracking the pandemic response. "We will continue to try to message as well we can."</p> <p>"These social distancing strategies that we've learned are something we're going to need to perfect," Dr. Redfield said. "Because we're going to need them to be our major defense again in October, November, December."</p> <p>As it stands, there is no vaccine for the coronavirus or widespread public immunity to the newly discovered disease. Experts say the dual threat of a second coronavirus wave and a bad flu season could be difficult to manage.</p> <p>Dr. Redfield said only 47% of the Americans avail themselves of the flu shot under ordinary circumstances, so everyone needs to do their part before a COVID-19 antidote is available.</p> <p>"This single act will save lives," he told the subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. "We're really hoping the American public will see that the flu vaccine is one major way they can help this nation get through this fall."</p> <p>The coronavirus discovered in Wuhan, China, last December has spread across the globe and infected 1.8 million people in the U.S., and killed over 107,000.</p> <p>Transmission is plateauing after months of drastic measures, including stay-at-home orders, business closures and physical distancing.</p> <p>The summer weather may slow transmission, though a fall resurgence is a major fear. States also fear flare-ups as businesses reopen and people gather in mass protests against police brutality.</p> <p>Rep. Mark Pocan, Wisconsin Democrat, said he is worried that chemical riot-control agents will cause coughing and potential disease transmission at the protests. Dr. Redfield said he would raise his concern at the next White House coronavirus task force meeting.</p> <p>"I think you raised an important point," Dr. Redfield said. "We have advocated strongly the ability to have face coverings and masks available to protesters."</p> <p>He also said marchers ought to get tested to ensure they don't spread the virus in the community if they become infected.</p> <p>"I do think there is a potential, unfortunately, for this to be a seeding event," he said.</p>

Dr. Redfield urged appropriators on the coronavirus subcommittee to fund improvements to the nation's public health infrastructure, especially its data-reporting systems. And he acknowledged well-documented hiccups in developing a COVID-19 test that local health departments could use, which included a delay in engaging the private sector.

Public health departments had to send test samples to the CDC in the early weeks of the pandemic, and contamination problems delayed the CDC's effort to develop a diagnostic that state departments could use on their own.

"Within five weeks, it was corrected," Dr. Redfield said, saying the development of a test within five to six weeks from acquiring the genetic sequence of the pathogen was "still an accomplishment."

"That six weeks was the six weeks we had to get ahead of this virus," Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, Washington Republican, interjected.

Democratic lawmakers also said they're concerned the CDC has dropped out of view amid the pandemic despite its expertise.

Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro noted the CDC stopped doing media calls in March and that states tried to reopen before the CDC released detailed guidance on how to do it safely.

"I am alarmed that this administration has sidelined the CDC in our response to the pandemic and chosen political expediency over public health," said Ms. DeLauro, Connecticut Democrat. "As a result, the U.S. has had the worst response to the coronavirus of any country in the world."

Rep. Tom Cole, Oklahoma Republican, objected to the chairwoman's suggestion the U.S. fared worse than other countries, citing European countries with sophisticated health systems that saw higher per-capita death rates.

"In this case, we may not be the best but we're not the worst," Mr. Cole said.

Ms. DeLauro said other countries, including Germany and South Korea, found ways to keep their populations relatively safe.

"There is no national coordinated strategy," she added. "It appears as if the United States is just admitting defeat."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Campaign: tear down Confederate icons
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/4/confederate-memorials-removal-campaign-resonates-b/
GIST	<p>A longtime campaign to take down statues memorializing the Confederacy, many of which were erected decades after the Civil War, is gaining newfound momentum amid protests over the death of George Floyd.</p> <p>Anti-racism sentiments driving the campaign have pushed U.S. elected leaders in several cities and states to remove Confederate monuments and apparently have inspired Belgians to reconsider their country's colonial past.</p> <p>Citizens in Belgium are calling for the removal of statues honoring King Leopold II, whose military missions resulted in the deaths of millions of people in the African Congo in the late 1800s to extract its resources, Reuters reported Thursday.</p>

Belgians are expressing solidarity with U.S. protesters demonstrating against the death of Mr. Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes on Memorial Day, according to Reuters.

In the U.S., the protests have prompted swift action against Confederate memorials:

- In Richmond, the erstwhile capital of the Confederacy, Virginia Gov. [Ralph Northam](#) announced plans Thursday to remove the bronze statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee from the city's prestigious Monument Avenue as soon as possible.

"You see, in Virginia, we no longer preach a false version of history — one that pretends the Civil War was about 'state rights' and not the evils of slavery. No one believes that any longer," Mr. [Northam](#), a Democrat, said at a news conference.

On Wednesday, Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney said he would seek to uproot the statues of other Confederate leaders from Monument Avenue, a National Historic Landmark district.

- In Indianapolis, Mayor Joe Hogsett said the city will remove from Garfield Park a monument dedicated to Confederate soldiers who died at a Union prison camp in the city. He said contractors will dismantle the grave memorial, which was relocated to the park about 100 years ago from its original position in a cemetery.

"Our streets are filled with voices of anger and anguish, testament to centuries of racism directed at Black Americans," Mr. Hogsett, a Democrat, said in a press release. "We must name these instances of discrimination and never forget our past — but we should not honor them."

- In Northern Virginia, the United Daughters of the Confederacy on Tuesday removed "Appomattox," a statue of a forlorn soldier looking southward with his head down and arms crossed from the middle of an intersection in Old Town Alexandria, where it had stood for more than 130 years.

- In Birmingham, Alabama, Mayor Randall Woodfin ordered a crane to pull down the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Monday. The monument, which had stood in Linn Park for 115 years, already had been damaged by George Floyd protesters.

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall filed a lawsuit against the city Tuesday for violating a 2017 law that bars removal of a monument without state approval and fined Mr. Woodfin \$25,000.

Protesters toppled a statue of Robert E. Lee in Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday, and officials voted to remove a Confederate monument at Battle Park in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Controversy has long roiled efforts to take down Confederate symbols. The statues have survived with support from statehouses, town councils and proponents who say the monuments celebrate the heritage of the South and embrace an esprit de corps for anti-governmental attitudes.

In 2018, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, a Republican, said that "folks in Washington" and "out-of-state liberals" should not lead the conversation on the monuments' fate.

"We can't and shouldn't even try to change or erase or tear down our history," Ms. Ivey said. "We must learn from our history."

A spokesperson for Ms. Ivey declined a request for an interview on the removal of the statue in Birmingham.

Proponents for removing the monuments note that many were erected in the post-Reconstruction era and the Jim Crow and the civil rights eras of the 1950s and '60s, when the statues symbolized continued oppression of blacks.

	<p>Mr. Northam said Thursday that the statues coincided with large-scale efforts to disenfranchise black voters. He said more than 100,000 black men were registered to vote in Virginia in the early years after the Civil War, but that plummeted 90% after the Lee statue was erected in 1890.</p> <p>“But voting matters. And elections matter. And laws can be changed. And this year ... we changed them,” Mr. Northam said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Protests prompted more police violence?
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/us/george-floyd-video-funeral.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=US%20News#link-7bcac251
GIST	<p>A protest movement that was ignited by a horrific video of police violence — a white police officer pressing his knee against the neck of Mr. Floyd for nearly nine minutes — has now prompted hundreds of other episodes and videos documenting cases of violent police tactics.</p> <p>Often captured by bystanders and sometimes broadcast on live TV — a compilation of videotaped incidents posted on Twitter by a North Carolina lawyer stood at 281 clips by Thursday evening — the violent incidents have occurred in cities large and small, in the heat of mass protests and in their quiet aftermath.</p> <p>In California, an officer sitting in a police car fatally shot a 22-year-old man who was on his knees with his hands up. In Texas, a 20-year-old protester was shot in the head by police officers in Austin aiming at someone else with nonlethal beanbag ammunition. He was left with brain damage and a fractured skull. In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Miami Herald reporters filmed officers shooting a nonviolent protester in the head with foam rubber bullets, fracturing her eye socket and leaving her screaming and bloody. In Kansas City, Mo., the police walked onto a sidewalk to use pepper spray on protesters yelling at them.</p> <p>To those protesting police violence, the violence adds up to confirmation of their basic premise: that officers too willingly used excessive force. Experts on policing said that the videos showed, in many cases, examples of abrupt escalation on the part of law enforcement that was difficult to justify.</p> <p>“It feels like the police are being challenged in ways that they haven’t been challenged in some time,” said Chuck Wexler, the executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. “They are responding. And sometimes, that response is totally inappropriate.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Russia-backed Libya forces retreat
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/middleeast/libya-hifter-retreat-russia.html?action=click&module=News&pgtype=Homepage
GIST	<p>The forces of the military leader Khalifa Hifter on Thursday retreated from their last footholds in the suburbs of Tripoli, the Libyan capital, ending his 15-month-old campaign to capture the city.</p> <p>Mr. Hifter, 76, a former Libyan Army general and one-time C.I.A. asset, has fought for years to try to rule Libya as a new strongman and he launched his assault on Tripoli last spring in a last-ditch, all-or-nothing attempt to fulfill his goal.</p> <p>Instead, his assault transformed what had been a simmering civil conflict among rival Libyan factions into an increasingly open proxy war among rival international powers.</p> <p>The Russian mercenaries and Emirati air power backing Mr. Hifter had appeared to make his forces almost unstoppable at the start of this year. Then, the intervention of the Turkish military — and its deployment</p>

of brigades of paid Syrian fighters — helped turn the tide and instead delivered Mr. Hifter a stinging defeat.

But with so many foreign powers now entrenched in the contest to dominate Libya, analysts said, the collapse of Mr. Hifter's Tripoli offensive was more likely to mark a new turning point in the conflict rather than a de-escalation.

Mr. Hifter's foreign backers, principally from Russia and the United Arab Emirates, have pulled back from the former front lines around Tripoli. But none have so far shown any sign of withdrawing their forces or weaponry from Libya, and the Pentagon last week accused Russia of sending 14 fighter jets to support the Russian mercenaries on the ground.

"The war is not over," said Emadeddin Badi, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, whose research focuses on Libya and the Sahel "There is clearly more conflict still to come, but everybody — domestically and externally — is going to recalculate their position."

Libya has been in a state of perpetual turmoil since the ouster of Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi during an Arab Spring revolt in 2011.

Mr. Hifter first vowed in 2014 that he would [take power](#) as a new military ruler, and by the time he began his attack on Tripoli last spring he had established at least nominal control over the less-populous but oil-rich Eastern region of the country as well as much of its southern desert.

Tripoli, however, remained the seat of a weak United Nations-sponsored provisional government protected by local and regional militias based in the Western region around the city.

A surprise attack last spring brought Mr. Hifter's forces to the outskirts of the city, but his offensive then stalled in the face of newly galvanized opposition from the militias around the city.

The battle lines remained almost unchanged until Mr. Hifter's forces suffered a string of losses over the previous three weeks. Those losses culminated Wednesday night with a retreat from the wreckage of the former Tripoli International Airport and on Thursday with the pullout from the southern suburbs.

Residents said Thursday that Mr. Hifter's forces had fallen back to the town of Tarhuna, southeast of Tripoli. The leaders of the tribe based there had conducted their own long-running feud with the coalition of militias that dominate Tripoli even before they struck up an alliance with Mr. Hifter at the start of his attack on the capital.

With the militias that had defended Tripoli now pursuing his retreating forces, some analysts said they feared it could become the site of a prolonged battle or bloody reprisals.

"You would hope there is disciplined leadership, but in the fielded forces the emotions run high and there are always concerns," said Frederic Wehrey, a scholar at the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace who has been a frequent visitor to the front lines of the fighting.

As his Tripoli offensive was foundering, Mr. Hifter had already been facing challenges to his power from within his own territory in eastern Libya, centered around the city of Benghazi.

In April, a prominent eastern Libyan politician who had been a close ally, Aguila Saleh, publicly proposed the creation of a new ruling council as an alternative to Mr. Hifter, prompting him to reprise his previous announcement that he was seizing direct control as a new military ruler.

"There were already cracks in his alliance," Mr. Wehrey said.

The provision of weapons and resources from his foreign backers — including millions of dollars in counterfeit Libyan currency printed in Russia — has always been essential to Mr. Hifter's control of an

	<p>unwieldy coalition of militias and tribes. Now, analysts say the failure of his Tripoli offensive will raise new questions about his credibility with those backers, including Russia and the U.A.E. as well as neighboring Egypt.</p> <p>Turkey, on the other hand, now faces new questions about how it might seek to capitalize on its gains.</p> <p>President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey earlier this year sought to broker some new accommodation in Libya through bilateral talks with his Russian counterpart, President Vladimir V. Putin. Now, an apparent agreement by Turkey to allow Russian-backed fighters to withdraw unmolested from a base in western Libya has stirred speculation about a new attempt at a deal.</p> <p>Even within Tripoli, analysts said, Mr. Hifter's pullback may prompt new struggles for power. After previous rounds of civil strife in Libya, victorious militias have often demanded key positions and other spoils from successive interim governments.</p> <p>Now the militias that played the biggest part in turning back Mr. Hifter "are not just going to pack up and leave," Mr. Badi said. "They will expect something in exchange."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Global leaders urge US: protect reporters
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/attacks-press-george-floyd.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=World%20News
GIST	<p>A police officer near the White House slams a riot shield into a cameraman's chest. The authorities in Minneapolis fire projectiles at a TV crew, prompting a reporter to cry, "stop shooting at us." A black journalist is encircled by riot police and arrested live on the air.</p> <p>Attacks against journalists covering demonstrations against racial injustice have prompted foreign governments to call on American authorities to respect press freedom and protect reporters, both local and foreign.</p> <p>For the United States, it is a role reversal.</p> <p>The attacks bear a striking resemblance to police brutality against journalists around the world over the years — ones that have been swiftly condemned by officials in the United States, where press freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.</p> <p>But this week, it was the governments of Germany, Australia and Turkey condemning attacks on reporters in America.</p> <p>Experts say the recent attacks reflect a growing pattern of anti-press violence in the United States. Pauline Adès-Mével, a spokeswoman for Reporters Without Borders, said the frequency and the intensity of the U.S. attacks are "shocking."</p> <p>"It's a democracy, and it's also a symbol," she said of the United States, adding that it is "no longer a champion of press freedom, either at home or abroad."</p> <p>Turkey, which has a long record of anti-press actions, appeared to seize on the erosion of America's reputation in making its criticism.</p> <p>Since protests began on May 26, more than 250 abridgments of press freedom have been reported across the United States by journalists covering the demonstrations, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, an advocacy group documenting the problem.</p>

A number of episodes have involved foreign reporters, prompting governments abroad to urge American authorities to uphold international norms that ensure members of the press can report without impediment.

Heiko Maas, the foreign minister of Germany, said he would contact American authorities over the treatment of a German television news crew by law enforcement officers on Friday night in Minneapolis.

“Democratic states abiding by the rule of law must demonstrate the highest standards in protecting the freedom of the press,” Mr. Maas told reporters on Tuesday.

“Any use of violence in this context must not only be criticized, but must also be consistently investigated and resolved so that journalists are effectively protected in their work,” he added.

[In a video posted by the public broadcaster Deutsche Welle](#), the officers threaten to arrest a team of German journalists. In another scene, shots can be heard at the reporter’s back, and he ducks to shield himself. Stefan Simons, the reporter, is seen wearing a vest that clearly identifies him as a member of the press.

“This is press, guys, stop shooting at us,” Mr. Simons yells at police officers, standing some distance away. “We are in the middle of a live shot.”

Deutsche Welle, in a later report, [said the police shot projectiles at the team](#), and Mr. Simons described rubber bullets being shot.

Two journalists working for an Australian news outlets [were subjected to attacks by the police on Monday evening](#) as officers cleared peaceful demonstrators from an area near the White House to allow a photo-op for President Trump.

Amelia Brace, a reporter, and Tim Myers, a cameraman, were reporting for Australia’s 7News television station, when they were charged by the police. The incident played out live on Australian television.

The episode was also recorded by another television camera and shows the pair sheltering behind a fence column before an officer drives his riot shield into Mr. Myers’s torso.

Ms. Brace is then clubbed on the back with a baton. Both were struck by rubber bullets, she said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia asked the Australian ambassador to the United States, Arthur Sinodinos, to look into what happened, a spokeswoman for the Australian Embassy in Washington said.

Two police officers with the United States Park Police “have been assigned to administrative duties, while an investigation takes place regarding the incident with the Australian press,” Gregory T. Monahan, the acting chief of the service, said in a [statement](#).

Ms. Adès-Mével, of Reporters without Borders, said the violence against journalists in the United States is alarming at many levels.

“I think for a long time, the United States had been kind of a model” for press freedom, Ms. Adès-Mével said. But [Mr. Trump’s anti-press statements and demonization of journalists](#) — he has called reporters the “enemy of the people” — have created a climate that allows the authorities to act with impunity, she said.

“We have warned in the past about Trump’s rhetoric, about these attacks on the press being so dangerous for the future,” she said. “And now what we are seeing is that his rhetoric has had some very heavy consequences.”

Those consequences ripple out across the world because the United States has traditionally been seen as a protector of free speech and the press. When security forces [attacked reporters in Egypt during widespread](#)

[protests in 2011](#), officials in the State Department condemned the actions as deliberate attempts by the government to stifle information.

Similarly, the United States has long been [critical of Turkey's crackdown on its press](#). Dozens of news outlets have been shut down by the Turkish authorities, and hundreds of reporters have been arrested and attacked by security forces.

Turkey is considered by press freedom groups to have one of the worst records in the world. According to the [Committee to Protect Journalists](#), at least 47 journalists are in jail in Turkey.

But after Lionel Donovan, a reporter for the Turkish public broadcaster TRT, was [hit by a nonlethal round during protests](#) in Minneapolis last week, Turkey used the opportunity to assail the United States for its treatment of journalists.

Fahrettin Altun, the Turkish president's communication director, condemned the episode [in a post on Twitter](#), saying he would "raise the issue" with U.S. authorities "without delay."

"Press freedom is the backbone of democracy," Mr. Altun said.

His comments caused a swift backlash from some Turks, who accused him of hypocrisy and reminded him of attacks on the press at home.

[Mehmet Kurt posted on Twitter](#): "If anyone asks you: 'How many journalists do you have in jails now in Turkey?' Or 'How many newspaper/TV did you close in the last four years?' Do you have an answer?"

When a black CNN reporter, Oscar Jimenez, [was arrested in Minneapolis live on the air along with members of his crew](#), some Turks drew comparisons to the detention of Ivan Watson, [a CNN reporter, following widespread protests in Istanbul's Taksim Square in 2014](#).

"Arresting CNN reporter live on TV. Everywhere is Minneapolis, everywhere is Taksim," read [one post in Turkish Twitter with a screenshot of Mr. Watson's arrest](#).

Attacks on journalists are on the rise in cities around the world, particularly during mass demonstrations, experts say.

"It's worrying, because it creates a climate of impunity that gives the feeling that there is no limit anymore," Ms. Adès-Mével said. "And we are worried of course about the consequences."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Hong Kong crowds defy vigil ban
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/asia/tiananmen-hong-kong-china.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=World%20News
GIST	<p>Chanting slogans like "Liberate Hong Kong," thousands of people in Hong Kong flouted a police ban on Thursday as they gathered to memorialize the Tiananmen Square massacre, a striking display of defiance against Beijing's tightening grip on the territory.</p> <p>"We have a responsibility to remember and to grieve," said Clara Tam, 51, who took part in a vigil for the victims of the Chinese military's brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters on June 4, 1989. "We have to let survivors know that we have not forgotten the children and loved ones they had lost."</p> <p>The public displays of anger and grief took on greater meaning this year amid a push by China to impose broad new security measures that take direct aim at the semiautonomous territory's antigovernment demonstrations. In what critics see as the government's latest attempt to curb dissent, Hong Kong on Thursday passed a law making it a crime to mock China's national anthem.</p>

China's ruling Communist Party has sought to curtail Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement after a year of demonstrations that sometimes turned violent. The unrest has erupted as Xi Jinping, China's most powerful leader in decades, has overseen an expansive crackdown on dissent on the mainland, with officials deploying censorship and imprisonment to silence critics. Many residents in Hong Kong fear that their territory's cherished civil liberties are in the party's cross hairs.

In a break with tradition, the authorities in Hong Kong, citing fears about the coronavirus, imposed a ban on the Tiananmen vigil in Victoria Park, an annual event that often brings together a sea of [candlelit faces against the backdrop of the city's dense buildings](#). Officials urged residents to observe social distancing rules that barred public gatherings of more than eight people.

Still, activists filed into parks and subway stations on Thursday, facing off against police as they honored victims of the crackdown in several districts across the territory. Some stayed at home, lighting candles and praying for freedom. Others voiced protests in the legislature, denouncing China as a "murderous state."

At Victoria Park, thousands of people hopped over fences and barriers to take part in a loosely organized memorial. Many people sat on the ground, holding lit candles. Some played songs that were used during the 1989 democracy movement in China. Public announcements about social distancing rules played over loudspeakers.

"What we are fighting for is the same: freedom and democracy. And they did so facing the risk of death," said Mary Li, a 23-year-old university student, who sat with her friends in the park. "Coming here today, we may only be risking arrest. What they experienced makes me feel very somber."

The authorities' ban on gatherings was a blow to Hong Kong's pro-democracy activists, who have for decades resisted the Chinese government's attempts to erase the massacre from history. In mainland China, officials ban most discussions of the crackdown in which the government turned its troops and tanks on crowds of protesters, killing hundreds, if not thousands, of people. Now, the authorities routinely harass relatives of those killed and block any formal memorials.

Hong Kong has long hosted the only large-scale commemoration of the Tiananmen crackdown on Chinese soil. Each June 4, the hard-surfaced soccer fields of Victoria Park have served not only as a place to memorialize the dead, but as a history classroom for the young and a canvassing site for local pro-democracy groups.

The annual vigil also has acted as a gauge of whether Hong Kong can maintain the political freedoms that have become part of its identity, guaranteed under a policy known as "one country, two systems," which was put in place when Britain returned the city to Chinese rule in 1997.

"It's a sort of symbol of whether, under Communist Party rule, 'one country, two systems' can work, of whether we can have this condemnation of the massacre continuously carried forward after '97," Lee Cheuk-yan, an organizer of the annual vigil, said.

Activists worry China's growing crackdown on Hong Kong could spell the end of such gatherings.

"With China imposing their rules, now is the time to speak out," said Marcus Leung, a 40-year-old software engineer. "Next year I don't know if I can come here."

The Chinese authorities may increasingly take aim at the Tiananmen memorials in Hong Kong, seeing them as a political embarrassment and "firewood under the caldron" for the pro-democracy movement, said Wu Qiang, a political analyst in Beijing who is critical of the government.

Mr. Wu said the vigils are a reminder that the party's authority derives from military might, not popular support. "It fully exposes the nature of the Chinese Communist Party," he said. "It maintains power in such an anti-humanitarian and poisonous way."

On Thursday, in a move opposition politicians said would inhibit free speech, Hong Kong's legislature, which is dominated by pro-Beijing lawmakers, passed a law that would [criminalize disrespect for China's national anthem](#) and make it punishable by up to three years in prison.

The measure drew widespread anger, with pro-democracy lawmakers disrupting debate over the law on Thursday by throwing stink bombs in the legislative chamber. In a nod to the Tiananmen anniversary, many also yelled: "A murderous regime stinks for 10,000 years."

"What we did today is to remind the world that we should never forgive the Chinese Communist Party for killing its own people 31 years ago," Eddie Chu, one of the opposition lawmakers who protested the law, told reporters later.

In Beijing, there was virtually no mention of the anniversary of the massacre, in keeping with the party's practice. The Foreign Ministry dismissed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's criticism of the government's handling of the Tiananmen protests, saying that the Chinese authorities have broad support. Mr. Pompeo this week met with participants in the protests and criticized the decision to ban the vigil in Hong Kong.

Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for the ministry in Beijing, referred to the massacre obliquely as the "political turmoil that occurred in the late 1980s" at a regular news briefing. He praised China's achievements since the party took power more than 70 years ago and said that the path chosen by Chinese leaders was "heartily supported by the broad masses of the people."

China has come under broad criticism from the United States and other countries for moving to quash dissent in Hong Kong with the new security laws. Britain this week promised to allow nearly three million people from Hong Kong to live and work in the country if China's leaders moved forward with the laws, inflaming tensions with Beijing.

In the run-up to the Tiananmen anniversary, the state-run news media published commentaries describing what they called the need for stricter oversight of Hong Kong and criticizing the United States for threatening to punish China for imposing the new security laws.

"Hong Kong is part of China, and Chinese people will never give up its sovereignty over Hong Kong," said an editorial on Wednesday in Global Times, a state-run newspaper. "There is no room for argument on this matter."

The new security laws, which Beijing may draft by September, have revived concerns about the broader erosion of civil liberties in Hong Kong, which has long enjoyed rights and institutions not allowed in mainland China, such as an unrestricted internet and independent courts. The laws call into question the future of organizations and events that challenge the party's rule.

The ban on the vigil added to the drumbeat of concerns that Beijing's demands for security and stability would further erode Hong Kong's freedoms. While the Hong Kong police cited social-distancing regulations in banning the vigil, activists said they believed political motives were behind the decision.

As crowds gathered to take part in vigils across the city on Thursday, the police seemed largely to act with restraint, standing watch outside subway stations and city parks.

As the crowds filed out of Victoria Park, some people stopped to leave candles on top of gates near soccer fields. Others used them to illuminate posters bearing protest slogans.

"Use candlelight to ignite resistance," one poster said. "Turn remembrance into action."

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HEADLINE	06/04 States to report demographic data on virus
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/coronavirus-us-update.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage#link-2e3b1
GIST	<p>The Trump administration on Thursday released new requirements for states to report coronavirus data based on race, ethnicity, age and sex of individuals tested for the virus, in an effort to respond to demands from lawmakers for a better picture of the pandemic.</p> <p>All laboratories will be required to send demographic data to state or local public health departments based on the individual's residence, according to details released by the Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Dr. Robert R. Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, faced a barrage of questions on Thursday from House lawmakers at a health subcommittee hearing about his agency's often halting response to the pandemic, and what some members of Congress said was its failure to anticipate the pandemic's effect on black and Hispanic communities.</p> <p>"We didn't have the data we needed to be able to answer that in a responsive way," Dr. Redfield conceded. Public health experts have criticized the Trump administration for failing to address the disproportionate effects of the virus on communities of color. The questioning came as large protests continued across the United States over the killing of George Floyd, a black man who died last week in police custody after a white officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Virus moves away from Western nations
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/coronavirus-us-update.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage#link-40e658f2
GIST	<p>For months, one enduring mystery of the coronavirus was why some countries with rickety health systems and crowded slums had managed to avoid the brunt of an outbreak that was hammering Europe and the United States.</p> <p>But some of those countries are now tumbling into the pandemic's maw.</p> <p>As the pandemic's global death toll approaches 400,000, known cases of the virus are growing faster than ever, at a rate of more than 100,000 a day. And the surge is concentrated in densely populated, low- and middle-income countries across the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and South Asia.</p> <p>"In the early days, people were seeing patterns that were not really there," said Ashish Jha, professor of global health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "They were saying that Africa would be spared. But this is a highly idiosyncratic virus, and over time the idiosyncrasy goes away. There is no natural immunity."</p> <p>The pandemic's new direction — away from Western countries — is bad news for strongmen and populists who once reaped political points by vaunting low infection rates as evidence of the virtues of their leadership.</p> <p>In Egypt, for example, where the rate of new confirmed infections doubled last week, the pandemic has created friction between President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and doctors who have revolted over a lack of protective equipment and training.</p>

	And in Brazil, the total death toll surpassed 32,000 on Thursday, with 1,349 deaths in a single day, dealing a further blow to President Jair Bolsonaro, who has continued to minimize the threat .
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HEADLINE	06/04 India, Australia strengthen military ties
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/04/asia/india-australia-military-agreements-intl-hnk/index.html
GIST	<p>Hong Kong (CNN)India and Australia signed two bilateral military agreements Thursday in the "first step in deepening of the defense relationship" between the two Indo-Pacific powers, according to statements from both countries.</p> <p>The deals were announced after a virtual summit between prime ministers Scott Morrison of Australia and Narendra Modi of India.</p> <p>"India is comprehensively and rapidly committed to strengthening its relations with Australia. This is not only important for our two nations but also for the Indo-Pacific region and the whole world," Modi said.</p> <p>"We are committed to an open, inclusive, prosperous Indo-Pacific and India's role in that region, our region, will be critical in the years ahead," Morrison added.</p> <p>The new pacts, known as the Australia-India Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement and the Defence Science and Technology Implementing Arrangement, come as military tensions increase in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes in the South China Sea, where China has been fortifying its positions on disputed islands.</p> <p>A joint post-summit statement said both countries "share a vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region to support the freedom of navigation, over-flight and peaceful and cooperative use of the seas."</p> <p>The agreements commit the two countries to deepening military integration through more complex exercises and grant them access to each other's bases for logistical support.</p> <p>South China Sea China claims almost all of the South China Sea's 1.3 million square miles as its own, despite other claimants having borders that are far closer to the disputed waters. In 2016, a tribunal in The Hague ruled China has no legal basis to claim historic rights to the bulk of the South China Sea.</p> <p>Australia has long-standing security ties with the United States and has maintained a longtime presence in the South China Sea, conducting airborne surveillance patrols since 1980, according to the Lowy Institute. Australian warships also visit the area regularly, including participating in exercises there with US warships in April.</p> <p>Last year, Indian warships joined US, Japanese and Philippine naval vessels in a transit of the South China Sea.</p> <p>India, meanwhile, has been increasing its defense cooperation with the United States, including with the annual Malabar naval exercises, which bring together the US and Indian militaries along with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.</p> <p>The Australian High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell, said in an interview last month that Canberra would be keen on joining the Malabar exercises, but no invite had been extended.</p> <p>Thursday's signing came as tensions continued to rise on the India-China border in the Himalayan Mountains.</p>

	<p>Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said Tuesday that a "significant number" of Chinese troops had moved to the Line of Actual Control separating the two countries.</p> <p>Last month, an aggressive cross-border skirmish between Chinese and Indian forces resulted in minor injuries to troops. The incident has been followed in recent weeks by unconfirmed reports of tensions in the mountainous area, though neither side had publicly acknowledged anything out of the ordinary.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/05 Few to mourn D-Day dead in Normandy
SOURCE	https://www.foxnews.com/world/on-sad-anniversary-few-to-mourn-the-d-day-dead-in-normandy
GIST	<p>At least the dead will always be there.</p> <p>All too many have been, for 76 years since that fateful June 6 on France's Normandy beaches, when allied troops in 1944 turned the course of World War II and went on to defeat fascism in Europe in one of the most remarkable feats in military history.</p> <p>Forgotten they will never be. Revered, yes. But Saturday's anniversary will be one of the loneliest remembrances ever, as the coronavirus pandemic is keeping almost everyone away — from government leaders to frail veterans who might not get another chance for a final farewell to their unlucky comrades.</p> <p>Rain and wind are also forecast, after weeks of warm, sunny weather.</p> <p>“The sadness is almost too much, because there is no one,” said local guide Adeline James. “Plus you have their stories. The history is sad and it’s even more overwhelming now between the weather, the (virus) situation and, and, and.”</p> <p>The locals in this northwestern part of France have come out year after year to show their gratitude for the soldiers from the United States, Britain, Canada and other countries who liberated them from Adolf Hitler's Nazi forces.</p> <p>Despite the lack of international crowds, David Pottier still went out to raise American flags in the Calvados village of Mosles, population 356, which was liberated by allied troops the day after the landing on five Normandy beachheads.</p> <p>In a forlorn scene, a gardener tended to the parched grass around the small monument for the war dead, while Pottier, the local mayor, was getting the French tricolor to flutter next to the Stars and Stripes.</p> <p>“We have to recognize that they came to die in a foreign land,” Pottier said. “We miss the GIs,” he said of the U.S. soldiers.</p> <p>The pandemic has wreaked havoc across the world, infecting 6.6 million people, killing over 391,000 and devastating economies. It poses a particular threat to the elderly — like the surviving D-Day veterans who are in their late nineties or older.</p> <p>It has also affected the younger generations who turn out every year to mark the occasion. Most have been barred from traveling to the windswept coasts of Normandy.</p> <p>Some 160,000 soldiers made the perilous crossing from England that day in atrocious conditions, storming dunes which they knew were heavily defended by German troops determined to hold their positions.</p> <p>Somehow, they succeeded. Yet they left a trail of thousands of casualties who have been mourned for generations since.</p>

Last year stood out, with U.S. President Donald Trump joining his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron at the American cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach. A smattering of veterans were honored with the highest accolades. All across the beaches of Normandy tens of thousands came from across the globe to pay their respects to the dead and laud the surviving soldiers.

The acrid smell of wartime-era jeep exhaust fumes and the rumble of old tanks filled the air as parades of vintage vehicles went from village to village. The tiny roads between the dunes, hedges and apple orchards were clogged for hours, if not days.

Heading into the D-Day remembrance weekend this year, only the salty brine coming off the ocean on Omaha Beach hits the nostrils, the shrieks of seagulls pierce the ears and a sense of desolation hangs across the region's country roads.

"Last year this place was full with jeeps, trucks, people dressed up as soldiers," said Eric Angely, who sat on a seawall, dressed in a World War II uniform after taking his restored U.S. Army jeep out for a ride.

"This year, there is nothing. It's just me now, my dog and my jeep," the local Frenchman said.

Three quarters of a century and the horrific wartime slaughter of D-Day help put things in perspective. Someday the COVID-19 pandemic, too, will pass, and people will turn out to remember both events that shook the world.

"We don't have a short memory around here," Pottier said with a wistful smile.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Minneapolis city council: 'dismantle' PD
SOURCE	https://www.foxnews.com/us/minneapolis-city-council-vows-to-dismantle-police-department
GIST	<p>Members of the Minneapolis City Council pledged to "dismantle" the city's police department in the wake of worldwide protests over the killing of George Floyd.</p> <p>Council President Lisa Bender joined several other members in promises to drastically change how public safety is upheld in the city.</p> <p>"We are going to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department and replace it with a transformative new model of public safety," Bender tweeted.</p> <p>Bender Joined colleagues like Jeremiah Ellison, who said reforms to the department are not enough.</p> <p>"And when we're done, we're not simply gonna glue [the department] back together," tweeted Jeremiah Ellison. "We are going to dramatically rethink how we approach public safety and emergency response."</p> <p>At least two other members of the 13-person body have also endorsed drastic changes to policing in the city after Floyd died when Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck during an arrest on Memorial Day. Chauvin and the three other officers assisting in the arrest have been fired and charged with felonies.</p> <p>Bender told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that she envisions replacing a traditional police department with a broader, more holistic public safety department geared toward violence prevention and community services. Social workers or medics could respond to situations once handled by police, she said.</p> <p>But Mayor Jacob Frey said he'd support "deep, structural reforms" to the department but not a complete abolishment of the agency, the paper reported. And support for such a vision among Council members is not yet clear.</p>

	<p>The body does plan to begin voting on legislation targeting the department beginning Friday, according to the Star Tribune. The Council plans to vote on legislation that would set a timeline for the state's investigation into whether Minneapolis police engaged in racial discrimination over the past decade.</p> <p>The major changes to the police force won't come any time soon, though. Bender said discussions would ramp up later this year or next.</p> <p>"To do this kind of big work, we need a deeper, broader conversation than we've ever had before," Bender told the paper. "We need white people like me and my neighbors to show up in a different way."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Nation 'not prepared' next pandemic
SOURCE	https://news.yahoo.com/nation-not-prepared-for-next-pandemic-184538844.html
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — The nation's top public health official warned that the United States is not prepared for a flu pandemic, which could be deadlier than the coronavirus — and could strike at the same time, potentially as soon as this fall.</p> <p>"We're just not prepared," said Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He was testifying on Capitol Hill before the House Appropriations Committee, in a hearing titled "COVID-19 Response." COVID-19 is the disease caused by the coronavirus.</p> <p>"You asked what keeps me up at night," Redfield told Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, a leading Republican on the committee. "I know it's a pandemic flu," he said before going on to warn about the nation's lack of preparedness for precisely such an event.</p> <p>While the seasonal flu appears every year, generally in the fall, a flu pandemic caused by a new strain of the virus is far more dangerous, because people have no immunity to that strain.</p> <p>A flu virus that spread across the globe in 1918 caused the worst pandemic of the 20th century. There were others in 1958 and 1968. The most recent flu pandemic was the H1N1 "swine flu" outbreak of 2009, which may have killed more than half a million people around the world. The estimated death toll from the coronavirus is around 109,000 in the U.S. and 380,000 worldwide.</p> <p>Even if the rate of coronavirus infection appears to be slowing for now, it is all but certain that there will be more such outbreaks, especially as human civilization pushes ever deeper into natural habitats like rainforests. Many of the most devastating viral outbreaks in recent years have been zoonotic, meaning that the virus spread from animals to humans.</p> <p>HIV and Ebola are believed to be among those.</p> <p>The House Appropriations Committee customarily hears from agency chiefs about their budgetary needs. Redfield accordingly argued that what he said was "inadequate" funding of "core capabilities of public health" would imperil the agency's ability to track and respond to disease outbreaks in the future. "I have states that are still collecting data on pen and pencil," Redfield said. He did not disclose which states those were or how prevalent that practice was.</p> <p>"Getting that data modernization is fundamental," Redfield said, arguing that antiquated disease-tracking tools have kept his agency from thoroughly grasping the scope of the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>In his own budget proposals, President Trump has tried to cut the budget of the CDC. Congress has prevented him from making those cuts and is all but certain to do so again.</p> <p>As he has before, Redfield said the lack of preparation could be apparent as soon as next fall, when the coronavirus and influenza could return simultaneously. An influenza outbreak, even short of a pandemic,</p>

	<p>could strain resources both at the state and federal levels. “If there is substantial COVID-19 and seasonal influenza activity at the same time, this could place a tremendous burden on the health care system and result in many illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths,” Redfield said in his opening statement.</p> <p>Trump has discounted the notion that the coronavirus will return with the colder weather. If it does, he says, it will be in a much tamer form. Epidemiologists do not believe that will be the case.</p> <p>Redfield also implied that as devastating as the coronavirus has been, a worse pandemic is bound to come. “You think we weren’t prepared for this?” he mused. “Wait until we have a real global threat for our health security.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/05 Protest hotspots prep for virus outbreaks
SOURCE	https://www.thedailybeast.com/blm-protest-hot-spots-prep-for-new-covid-outbreaks?ref=home
GIST	<p>The killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer last week has sparked civil unrest in every corner of the nation, including in at least 16 states that are still reporting increased daily case counts of the deadly novel coronavirus.</p> <p>As public health experts fear that new outbreaks could worsen infection numbers—and deepen racial disparities among those severely sickened by the virus—policymakers say they have begun to prepare for that possibility from Texas to Pennsylvania.</p> <p>More than 107,685 Americans have died from the virus with 1,861,966 more infected, as of Thursday afternoon. This week, the White House Coronavirus Task Force was scrambling to track the potential impact of protests on infection rates, according to the Associated Press, reportedly terrified about how an uptick in cases could slow President Trump’s efforts to rebuild the economy—or sway voters in November.</p> <p>Videos of widely documented police brutality—against protesters, journalists, and even medical workers—have circulated from New York to Austin. And public health experts who have repeatedly warned against the risk of public congregation during a still-changing global pandemic point out that demonstrators who end up in jails or hospitals may find themselves in even more dire straits. As one public health expert told The Daily Beast earlier this week: “We have to be careful that racial injustice isn’t compounded by health injustice.”</p> <p>In an effort to curtail that risk, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said on Thursday that local public health authorities in North Texas are working to set up mobile testing units downtown, near protest sites. They should be functional this week and provide at least 1,000 extra diagnostic kits per day, said Jenkins.</p> <p>“We’re going to encourage protesters to get tested,” said Jenkins. “Through a partnership with the Dallas Mavericks, we will provide masks and sanitizers to protest leaders and to Dallas police, and we’re encouraging protesters to maintain six feet of distance. I’ve also offered all county property for peaceful protests so they can spread out.”</p> <p>Texas has taken serious heat for its notoriously rushed reopening plan, despite public health criticism and still-raging surges in highly populated areas of the state. Dallas County on Wednesday reported seven straight days of more than 200 new COVID-19 cases overnight. That same day, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that bars, offices, nonessential manufacturing plants and gyms in Texas could immediately begin operating at 50 percent capacity. Just 24 hours earlier, Dallas County reached a new peak with 16 deaths—the most for the county of any day so far since the pandemic began.</p> <p>For reference, local news outlets have reported in Dallas and nearby Fort Worth, that hundreds of demonstrators have protested for hours nearly every day for a week. Meanwhile, the largest protest in Houston swelled to 60,000 people on Tuesday.</p>

“We are trying to fight a pandemic, and it does not know the seasons, it does not know baseball,” said Dr. Umair Shah, executive director for Harris County’s public health department. Harris is America’s third largest county, and as of Thursday, it had 13,268 confirmed cases and 241 deaths from the coronavirus. “It’s an unforgiving virus when people are mixing together without preventative measures.”

“We absolutely support the right to protest, the right to vote, but it also comes into contrast with our recommendations we’ve been giving to the community,” added Shah, who suggested that demonstrators use noise-makers over chanting or singing, and try to get tested afterwards.

“It’s not just the protests or marches” that could drive a rise in COVID transmissions, Shah explained, citing residents who’ve attended graduation ceremonies or visited reopened bars, gyms, restaurants, and movie theaters. It’s the layering of these activities that worries Shah, he told The Daily Beast. He added that even aside from the marches, Houston has seen a recent increase in hospitalizations, which is not optimal when a possible resurgence is on the horizon.

As *Slate* [reported earlier this week](#), after several media outlets—including The Daily Beast—reported on a possible new wave of protest-fueled coronavirus resurgences, the discussion has largely been framed as though responsible social distancing necessitates staying home from protests. Indeed, some public health experts interviewed by The Daily Beast this week warned that the risk of attending such events could have grave consequences on both an individual level and at the community level.

But to counter that narrative, a group of infectious disease experts at the University of Washington published an [open letter](#) on Sunday in which they argued that “protests against systemic racism, which fosters the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on Black communities and also perpetuates police violence, must be supported” by public health leaders. The protests, according to the letter, also call attention to “the paramount public health problem of pervasive racism.”

“We express solidarity and gratitude toward demonstrators who have already taken on enormous personal risk to advocate for their own health, the health of their communities, and the public health of the United States,” said the letter, which was signed by more than 1,000 doctors, epidemiologists, medical students, and public health experts.

As has been [documented](#) in recent months, black Americans are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and have experienced disproportionate effects of the virus. “Nationally, Black people are about three times as likely to die from COVID-19,” wrote Rashawn Ray, a David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Governance Studies [at The Brookings Institution research group](#), in a new 106-page report on the reopening of the U.S. “In some cities and states across the country, Black people represent about 80 percent of coronavirus cases.”

“Structural conditions undergird pre-existing health conditions and increase the likelihood of Black Americans being exposed to, contracting, and dying from COVID-19,” continued Ray, noting that black people are more likely to work in essential jobs, to live in densely-populated neighborhoods with fewer recreational spaces for physical activity, and to live in neighborhoods with less access to hospitals and urgent care clinics—disparities that he said persist even when accounting for wealth.

But while many public health experts understand—and some even support—the protest movement, they, along with [city leaders, have urged individual diligence](#) when it comes to virus prevention.

“Peaceful protest is a quintessential part of making a more perfect union, but we want to keep people safe,” said Dallas’s Judge Jenkins. “You’re not invincible from the virus just because you’re young, but even if you were, you could take that virus home to Nana.”

Lawrence Gostin—who directs the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University and the World Health Organization’s Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law—[told The Daily Beast earlier this week](#) that for policymakers, community-based random testing is the best way to create an early warning system for new outbreaks.

Jenkins said on Thursday that he hoped Dallas would be able to implement that type of effort in the coming days or weeks, along with the mobile units and free masks and sanitizer. In any case, said Jenkins, it will take weeks before it's clear whether any new outbreaks—if any are detected—are related to the protests. It can take days before people begin to display COVID symptoms and even longer to access a test.

And Texas is certainly not alone in its increasingly complicated public health crisis.

Nancy Nydam, director of communications at the Georgia Department of Public Health, told The Daily Beast on Thursday that officials are “concerned about any large gatherings that do not follow social distancing guidelines or use of face coverings or masks” and that authorities are urging anyone who wants to be tested to schedule an appointment at a site—regardless of whether or not they have symptoms. Especially if they recently attended a protest.

Over several days of protests by hundreds of people in Atlanta, more than 300 demonstrators were arrested over the weekend, according to the [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#). As of Thursday afternoon, there had been 48,894 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Georgia and 2,123 deaths.

“If people believe they’ve been in contact with someone positive for COVID-19, they should self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms and to seek medical treatment if needed,” said Nydam. “The incubation period for COVID-19 can be as long as 14 days, so it’s a little early to know what the increases might be” but the department “will watch for increases from the events of the past week the same way we [monitored] increases from any large gatherings such as Memorial Day weekend.”

In California, daily case reports [exceeded 3,000 twice in the past week](#), according to [The New York Times](#), which called the increase “a new threshold the state had not crossed before.” Mississippi reached a new peak on Saturday with 439 cases, while Arizona, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and 12 other states also reported upward trends, the [Times reported](#). To that end, the White House Coronavirus Task Force was [reportedly this week](#) helping to collect data, coordinate supplies and test kits, and advise states—as well as keeping a close eye on major metropolitan areas where protests have occurred.

In New York, case counts have been steadily easing in the aftermath of a terrifying flood of infections, which reached a peak in mid-April of about 10,000 new cases per day. One resident who works at multiple New York hospitals, including Kings County Hospital Center, told The Daily Beast [earlier this week](#) that he and his colleagues have been overwhelmed by the fear of more personal protective equipment supply shortages and had already begun setting up outdoor tents to prepare for a possible surge in cases following the George Floyd protests. That resident requested anonymity over fear of work retaliation for speaking to the press. Requests for comment from Kings County Hospital Center, the mayor’s office, and the New York City Health Department were not returned on Thursday.

Dozens of protests attended by thousands of people have occurred this past week across New York City, and as of Thursday, more than 2,000 protesters have been arrested in the city’s five boroughs.

Of course, the risk of COVID isn’t just hypothetical. There have been [sporadic](#) stories of protesters who had symptoms or confirmed cases of the virus attending demonstrations anyway—sometimes without masks or adequate social distancing.

In Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, a 22-year-old protester named Julio Torres reportedly attended a 250-person demonstration on Monday without a face mask—after he was diagnosed with COVID-19. Torres was charged with riot, aggravated assault on police, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct, according to [LancasterOnline](#).

“During the arraignment, it was discovered that (Torres) tested positive, was told to self-quarantine and chose to attend or participate in the protest without proper social distancing, without a proper face mask and has placed other people at risk—both the public who were peacefully participating in the protest and

law enforcement,” [said Lancaster County President Judge David Ashworth](#), in the local newspaper interview. “I am very concerned that the public and law enforcement has been placed at risk.”

Warden Cheryl Steberger told the newspaper that the prison takes inmates at their word about diseases and cannot compel testing but that all inmates coming into the prison are quarantined.

In a statement to The Daily Beast on Thursday, Maggi Mumma, the deputy press secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, said Gov. Tom Wolf “supports the ability to peacefully protest” but that it is “essential that we as Pennsylvanians look out for one another, and take steps to protect one another.”

Mumma emphasized that protesters should wear masks and socially distance when possible, but that if anyone feels they may have been exposed to a case of COVID-19 at a Pennsylvania protest, the state health department is [prepared to support them](#).

“Through our thorough [contact tracing](#) and [testing](#) strategies, we feel confident that if there were to be an outbreak as Pennsylvania continues to open, we would be able to control and mitigate the spread further,” said Mumma.

Meanwhile, in the days before the killing of George Floyd turned Minneapolis into the center of civil unrest, [Minnesota had mobilized](#) more than 400 interviewers and investigators to contact-trace the state’s COVID-19 cases in hopes of preventing further spread, according to *The Star Tribune*. Now authorities are concerned that protest-related cases would pose a new challenge for contact tracers because it would be difficult, if not impossible to trace, everyone who was there.

And as of Tuesday, there were only 25,508 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by the state’s health department—despite suspicion from local health officials that up to 5 percent of the state’s population had been infected, which would be closer to 280,000 people, [according to the newspaper](#).

At a rally on Monday night at the spot where Floyd died, about two-thirds of 1,000 demonstrators were wearing masks according to *The Tribune*, and the following day, Minnesota began advising doctors to test first responders, volunteers, and protesters even if they had no symptoms of infection. To that end, the state reportedly offered a \$1.5 million contract to firms who agree to increase minority participation in COVID-19 testing and contact tracing in 2020, [The Star Tribune](#) reported.

The public health effects of the mass civil unrest may not be apparent—anywhere—today, said the experts who spoke to The Daily Beast on Thursday. But we’ll know soon enough.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Storm season adds to pandemic worries
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/storm-season-adds-pandemic-worries-mexico-america-71077920
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Weeks ago, civil defense officials in Mexico’s Tabasco state, one of the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic and now Tropical Storm Cristobal, asked health authorities for daily lists of infections in vulnerable communities.</p> <p>State civil defense chief Jorge Mier y Terán designated a shelter in each township for people infected with the virus, but not hospitalized. His office advised Tabasco residents that during this hurricane season they should try to stay with relatives if rising waters forced them to leave their homes so as to avoid big gatherings in shelters, a recommendation shared by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency.</p> <p>Now authorities from Mexico’s Gulf coast to El Salvador in Central America are putting their storm season plans into action as the temporarily weakened Cristobal drops dangerous heavy rains while the</p>

pandemic reaches new heights in Mexico. The virus poses an additional risk for rescuers and evacuees and will make it harder to persuade people to leave their homes, experts say.

When Cristobal made landfall Wednesday as a tropical storm, Mier y Terán preventively evacuated 75 people from two communities. Their temperatures were checked and they were screened for symptoms of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

The mix of the pandemic and what is expected to be a busy hurricane season has officials throughout the region worried about simultaneously managing multiple emergencies.

“COVID without a doubt complicates the operational logistics,” Mier y Terán said.

Cristobal weakened to a tropical depression Thursday with sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph) after it moved inland. The storm emerged this week in the Bay of Campeche from the remnants of Tropical Storm Amanda, which had formed in the Pacific and pounded El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Together the storms have caused at least 30 deaths in El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico.

Late Thursday, the storm was moving east at 3 mph (5 kph), about 145 miles (235 kilometers) south of the Gulf coast city of Campeche, capital of the state of the same name.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Cristobal was expected to begin strengthening once it moves back over the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday and become a tropical storm again. The storm is forecast to be out in the central Gulf on Sunday and could be nearing the U.S. Gulf Coast by late Sunday or Monday.

El Salvador has reported 27 deaths from the two storms and more than 11,000 people evacuated to more than 200 shelters.

“The development of the storm emergency in some way is going to influence the development of the illness,” said the country's health minister, Francisco Alabí. He said infections could rise because people are more exposed when their homes are destroyed or damaged.

Cristobal is expected to leave more than a foot of water along Mexico's Gulf coast over the course of the week. As it sits nearly stationary, the concern grows that the region's rivers will spill over their banks potentially forcing thousands from their homes.

Many people in the poorer parts of Central America and southern Mexico often resist evacuations because they fear their belongings will be stolen, a situation aggravated now because of fears of the virus. The pandemic also increases risks for rescue crews like the one working to save a family from the rubble of their home on the outskirts of San Salvador on Thursday.

So far, only a couple hundred people had been evacuated along Mexico's Gulf coast and none reported suspected virus infections. Overall, Mexico has more than 101,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, with nearly 12,000 dead.

David León, Mexico's national civil defense director, appeared beside President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Thursday morning in Palenque in Chiapas state. He explained the government's emergency response, but never referred to the pandemic. Asked for comment, his agency shared a link to recommendations and protocols for managing disasters during the pandemic that was shared with authorities around Mexico.

Carlos Valdés, former director of Mexico's National Disaster Prevention Center and part of Mexico's National Autonomous University's program in Costa Rica, said there is consensus among disaster officials that the key will be identifying confirmed and suspected cases and then separating them from others. Having smaller shelters that still allow safe spacing of evacuees along with strict hygiene measures will also be important, he said.

The obvious challenge is people who are infected but asymptomatic, because testing everyone before evacuating them to a shelter is “not viable,” he said.

El Salvador has adopted among the strictest measures to combat the virus. In evacuating people from floodwaters and areas at risk of landslides, it screened them for COVID-19 symptoms, took their temperature and gave them masks when they arrived at shelters. Some shelters held as many as 300 people but mats were spaced at least six feet (two meters) apart. Families were grouped and separated from others.

Alabí, the health minister, said that so far none had tested positive for the virus in the 210 shelters.

On Thursday, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warned that the rains which forced nearly 30,000 Salvadorans from their homes were also making conditions worse for those already displaced internally by violence.

Valdés lauded El Salvador’s response. He said it would not be possible to talk of “returning to normalcy” during hurricane season.

In Mexico, the National Water Commission, which issues weather alerts, has forecast 15 to 18 named storms in the eastern Pacific and 15 to 19 in the Atlantic, where the average is usually a dozen.

Valdés said the confluence of tropical weather and pandemic ultimately will mean that the novel coronavirus “will be a problem for longer and will change the way it is spread.” It will be important to educate people about how the rain can lead to a rise in illnesses.

“People will have the idea that the water cleanses the virus, but we forget it’s water and soap. Water alone won’t get rid of it,” he said.

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HEADLINE	06/05 India daily virus cases record spike
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/asia-today-39-cases-korea-china-defends-record-71082585
GIST	<p>NEW DELHI -- India's Health Ministry on Friday reported another record spike in new coronavirus cases — more than 9,800 in the past 24 hours.</p> <p>India's total number of confirmed cases now stands at 226,770 with 6,348 deaths, 273 of them in the past 24 hours, the ministry said. The ministry says the overall rate of recovery for coronavirus patients is around 48%.</p> <p>There has been a surge in infections in rural areas following the return of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who left cities and towns after they lost their jobs due to a nationwide lockdown.</p> <p>The more than two-month-old lockdown is now largely being enforced only in high-risk areas, known as containment zones.</p> <p>The government has partially restored train service and domestic flights and allowed the reopening of shops and manufacturing.</p> <p>E-commerce companies have started to deliver goods, including those considered nonessential, to places outside containment zones.</p> <p>Metro service and schools and colleges, however, remain shuttered nationwide.</p>

	Prime Minister Narendra Modi, meanwhile, announced India was contributing \$15 million to an international vaccine alliance.
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HEADLINE	06/05 American tragedy w/global echoes
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/george-floyds-death-american-tragedy-global-echoes-71084979
GIST	<p>LONDON -- When black men died at the hands of U.S. police in recent years, the news made international headlines. The name of George Floyd has reached the world's streets.</p> <p>Since his death while being detained by Minneapolis police last week, Floyd's face has been painted on walls from Nairobi, Kenya to Idlib, Syria. His name has been inked on the shirts of professional soccer players and chanted by crowds from London to Cape Town to Tel Aviv to Sydney.</p> <p>The outpouring of outrage and support reflects the power and reach of the United States, a country whose best and worst facets fascinate the world. It also reflects that deep-seated racial inequalities are not just an American phenomenon.</p> <p>"This happened in the United States, but it happens in France, it happens everywhere," said Xavier Dintimille, who attended a thousands-strong Paris protest to show solidarity with U.S. demonstrators and anger over a death closer to home.</p> <p>The Paris demonstrators declared "We are all George Floyd," but also invoked the name of Adama Traore, a 24-year-old Frenchman of Malian origin who died in police custody in 2016. The circumstances are still under investigation by justice authorities.</p> <p>The world is used to watching American stories on TV and movie screens, and intrigued by a country founded on principles of equality and liberty but scarred by a tortured racial history of slavery and segregation. Viewed from abroad, images of U.S. violence and racial divisions can sometimes seem like part of a uniquely American malaise.</p> <p>Not this time. When people around the world watched Floyd struggling for breath as a white police officer knelt on his neck, many saw reflections of violence and injustice in their own cities and towns. They heard echoes of their own experiences or those of family members, neighbors or friends.</p> <p>"The same thing is happening here. It's no different," said Isaak Kabenge, who joined more than 1,000 other people at a protest in Sweden's capital, Stockholm. "I got stopped (by police) two weeks ago. It happens all the time."</p> <p>In London, thousands of people chanted "Say his name - George Floyd!" as they marched through the city. But they also invoked names from nearby, including Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old black Londoner stabbed to death in 1993 as he waited for a bus. A bungled police investigation triggered a public inquiry, which concluded that the London police force was "institutionally racist."</p> <p>London-born "Star Wars" actor John Boyega, who was 1-year-old when Stephen Lawrence died, linked Lawrence, Floyd and other black victims of violence in a passionate speech to the crowd.</p> <p>"Black lives have always mattered," Boyega said. "We have always been important. We have always meant something."</p> <p>More than 160 people in Britain have died while in police custody in the past decade, and figures show that black people are twice as likely as white people to die under such circumstances.</p>

In the London suburb of Croydon, hundreds of protesters gathered this week —standing the required coronavirus social distance of 2 meters (6½ feet) apart —and took a knee in memory both of Floyd and of Olaseni Lewis. The local man died in 2010 while being restrained by police at a psychiatric hospital.

Lewis' mother, Ajibola Lewis, has campaigned to tighten the rules on the use of restraint by police. She said she couldn't bear to watch the widely circulated footage of Floyd's death.

"Many other families, we have heard our loved ones say 'I can't breathe,'" she told the BBC. "People think it's only happening in America. It's not. It's happening here."

Floyd's death is another shocking turn for a technology-fueled world unsettled by disease, coronavirus lockdowns and massive unemployment.

The speed of social media helped Floyd's final moments in Minneapolis spread around the world, and amplified the shock, anguish and anger they evoked.

Floyd's death also dropped a spark into cities already smoldering from the coronavirus pandemic. In many countries, lockdowns imposed to slow the spread of the virus confined young people indoors for weeks. Their pent-up energy has been released into the streets as diverse, youthful crowds protest Floyd's treatment, often in defiance of bans on mass gatherings.

In many places, protesters have tried to practice social distancing, but the attempts often fell apart in the heat of the moment. Some demonstrators wore face masks to guard against the virus — a practical health measure made poignant by the addition of Floyd's dying words, "I can't breathe," written across the front.

The new virus has sent economies around the world into nosedives, throwing millions out of work. It has also exposed social inequalities, both in the United States — where cities with large black populations have been among the hardest hit — and elsewhere.

In Britain, black and ethnic minority people are at greater risk of dying with COVID-19, and have also been levied a disproportionate number of the fines and arrests for breaking lockdown rules, according to official statistics.

In London, some demonstrators called out the name of Belly Mujinga, a railway ticket-seller who died of coronavirus in April, weeks after she was spat at by a man claiming to have COVID-19. Police said they found no evidence to support charges in her death.

Thousands more plan to take to the streets of cities around the world this weekend, mourning a man whose death they hope will bring permanent change, and looking to the United States as both an inspiration and a warning.

"Here I think it's systematic, and we need to start doing something starting from small to make change," said musician Jayda Makwana, who joined thousands of others at a protest in London's Hyde Park. "I think the U.K. could learn so much from the U.S., because we don't want it to get to the point that it is at in the U.S."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Epidemic: clogged pipes, sewer lines
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/epidemic-wipes-masks-plague-sewers-storm-drains-71060978
GIST	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.

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.

"Please do not flush any of these items down the toilet," the mayor said.

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.

The problem has sharpened the longstanding clash over whether wipes are suitable for flushing.

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.

"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.

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.

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.

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.

"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.

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 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.

Meanwhile, many cities are using public education campaigns to make their case against flushing pandemic debris.

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.

“It’s slowed, but it’s still not pre-pandemic,” Briano said.

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HEADLINE	06/04 WA officials claw back stolen jobless aid
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/covid-washington-unemployment-fraud-650-million-71072444
GIST	OLYMPIA, Wash. -- Washington officials said Thursday they believe they have recovered about half of the hundreds of millions in unemployment benefits paid to criminals who used stolen identities to file claims during the coronavirus pandemic.

Employment Security Department Commissioner Suzi LeVine said officials are still working to determine the final amount paid out fraudulently, but they believe it was between \$550 million and \$650 million. To date, the state has recovered \$333 million, she said.

“We do believe there is still a significant amount we can get back,” she said.

The number of new claims for unemployment benefits in Washington dropped to just over 31,000 last week. LeVine said the drop is in part because of the ongoing anti-fraud efforts and because the economy is restarting under the state’s four-stage reopening plan that is bringing people back to work.

A West African fraud ring using identities stolen in prior data breaches, such as the massive 2017 Equifax breach, is believed to be behind the fraud, which has targeted nearly a dozen states, according to California cybersecurity firm Agari.

LeVine said that of claims that have been held up because of identity concerns, the claims of more than 51,000 people were resolved Wednesday night, and that \$77 million in funds will be released to 32,000 people Thursday. The remainder have separate questions about their applications that require additional resolution, she said.

An additional 50,000 claims will take more time to resolve because LeVine said she believed about half of them to be fraudulent.

“The fact that innocent people are caught in a fraud net — which means their payments have been stopped or delayed — is the most infuriating and disheartening part of this effort,” she said.

More than 774,000 total claims for benefits — with some of that number reflecting people who filed multiple claims — were filed for the week of May 24-30, and more than \$514 million was paid to 400,352 individual claims.

To date, the state has paid more than \$4.9 billion in benefits to more than 826,000 people, including federal money that is providing the unemployed with an additional \$600 a week on top of the state’s weekly maximum benefit of up to \$790 per week.

Since March, nearly 43 million people nationwide have filed for unemployment aid because of the economic damage of the coronavirus.

The state’s unemployment rate jumped to a record 15.4 percent last month after businesses closed or reduced operations under a stay-at-home order that expired Sunday night. Counties are currently moving forward under the four-stage reopening plan.

As of Thursday, 27 of the state’s 39 counties have been approved to move into Phase 2, and seven have applied to move into Phase 3.

More than 22,700 people in Washington have tested positive for the coronavirus, and at least 1,138 have died.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Mexicans protest police brutality case
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexicans-protest-george-floyd-style-police-brutality-case-71076751
GIST	MEXICO CITY -- As protests rock the United States over the death of George Floyd, anger built in Mexico on Thursday over its own police brutality case: a young man allegedly beaten to death after officers detained him for not wearing a face mask during the coronavirus pandemic.

An online campaign to bring Giovanni López's killers to justice has drawn support from stars like Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro,

Authorities in the western state of Jalisco have said that López was detained May 4 in a town near the city of Guadalajara for a misdemeanor equivalent to disturbing the peace or resisting arrest.

A video of his detention shows municipal police wrestling him into a patrol truck as residents argued with officers about excessive use of force and rules requiring face masks, a measure designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Hours later he was taken from his cell for medical treatment and died.

None of the municipal police in the town of Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos have been arrested, fired or charged for in the death, which officials have said was the result of beatings.

Jalisco state prosecutor Gerardo Solis said Thursday that the police officers had been placed under investigation.

State Gov. Enrique Alfaro called the López's death "an atrocity" Thursday and promised results from the investigation "within hours."

But the governor also said the incident was "an act of the municipal authorities" and the state wasn't to blame. "I am also hurt, I am also indignant, I am also enraged that these happen in Mexico," Alfaro wrote.

But the federal Interior Department said in a statement that the tough anti-pandemic measures implemented by Alfaro in Jalisco, including detaining people for violating curfews or not wearing masks, contributed to the problem.

"This event came in the context of the restrictive measures implemented by the governor of Jalisco to fight the pandemic, which included the use of law enforcement forces, and which led to abuses by authorities," the department said.

Assistant Interior Secretary Alejandro Encinas wrote that he "condemns acts in which law enforcement has been used to enforce preventative measures against the pandemic, or the arbitrary arrest of people, particularly the most vulnerable among us."

There have been disputes before about pandemic prevention measures in Mexico, where some towns put up roadblocks or checkpoints to seal themselves off from the outside world, required visitors to isolate or enforced curfews.

Jesús Peña, of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights in Mexico, said that "we encourage the authorities of Jalisco state to send a clear and unequivocal message that human rights violations will not be tolerated in the enforcement of emergency measures during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Police brutality has a long history in Mexico that predates the coronavirus pandemic. Police and military personnel have very seldom been punished for excessive use of force or extrajudicial killings.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Australia protesters remember the past
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/protesters-rally-black-lives-remind-australia-past-71082791
GIST	CANBERRA, Australia -- Thousands gathered in Australia's capital on Friday to remind Australians that the racial inequality underscored by George Floyd's death was not unique to the United States.

The Canberra rally that attracted 2,000 demonstrators comes before larger rallies are planned for Australia's most populous cities on Saturday, with authorities concerned about maintaining social distancing.

"Australians have to understand that what's been going on in the United States has been happening here for a long time," said Matilda House, an elder of the Ngambri-Ngunnawal family group who are the traditional owners of the Canberra region.

Australia had to move beyond a colonial attitude "that blacks are only here to be walked on, trodden on and murdered," House said in the first speech of the rally.

A demonstrator who interrupted House, arguing that the rally's focus should be on "what's happening in the United States" rather than Australia's colonial history, was shouted down in a heated confrontation with several protesters. The demonstrator eventually followed the crowd's advice to leave.

The crowd was majority-white in a majority-white city. Organizers handed out masks and hand sanitizer. Most protesters attempted to keep the recommended 1.5 meters (5 feet) social distancing until the speeches began and people drew closer. Public gatherings are limited to 20 in Canberra, but police did not intervene.

One of the protesters, Wendy Brookman, a teacher and member of the Butchulla indigenous people, said Australia should not accept more than 430 indigenous Australians dying in police custody or prison in the past three decades.

"We're not here to jump on the bandwagon of what's happened in the United States," Brookman said. "We're here to voice what's happening to our indigenous people."

One of the protesters' signs "I can't breathe," drew a parallel between Floyd's death in Minnesota on May 25 and the Australian indigenous experience.

They were among the last words of both Floyd and Aboriginal man David Dungay, who died in a prison hospital in 2015 while being restrained by five guards.

Nigerian-born Oluwatobi Odusote, 16, and her school friends Jan Usha, 17, and Rhyse Morgan, 16, held a red, black and yellow indigenous flag during the protest.

"I thought that if America is taking a stand to save black lives, then we should help save the Aboriginal lives here in Australia, too," Odusote said.

Usha, who is of Nigerian and Asian background, described the rally as "great" because Australia rarely addresses racism through protest.

Morgan, who is of European heritage, said "if we're all not equal, then no one benefits."

Indigenous Australians are 2% of the Australian adult population but 27% of the prison population.

Australia's indigenous people are the most disadvantaged ethnic minority in Australia. They have higher-than-average rates of infant mortality and poor health, as well as shorter life expectancy and lower levels of education and employment than other Australians.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Louisiana declares emergency ahead of TS
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/tropical-storm-cristobal-forecast-strengthen-path-reaches-us/story?id=71062502

GIST	<p>Louisiana has declared a state of emergency ahead of Tropical Storm Cristobal.</p> <p>The storm system weakened into a Tropical Depression Thursday, but it is expected to gradually strengthen as it moves toward the United States. Once it makes landfall, it will likely become a Tropical Storm.</p> <p>Cristobal is forecast to approach the Louisiana coast by Sunday evening, with winds up to 60 mph.</p> <p>It brought heavy rain and flooding to parts of Mexico and Central America, and now, the same is expected to happen in the U.S. Flood watches have been issued for much of Louisiana, including Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which could see up to 4 inches of rain by the weekend and into early next week.</p> <p>Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency Thursday, suspecting that the storm could soon make landfall in the state.</p> <p>"While it is still too early to know for sure what impact Cristobal could have on Louisiana, now is the time to make your plans, which should include the traditional emergency items along with masks and hand sanitizer as we continue to battle the coronavirus pandemic," the governor said in a statement.</p> <p>Central and southern Florida are also under flood watches for the rest of the week due to tropical moisture combined with an upper level disturbance. The ground is already saturated from the previous week's rain. Meanwhile, severe weather, including large hail and a few tornadoes, is possible Thursday night in the Northern and Central Plains.</p> <p>Severe storms are also forecast from Oklahoma City to the Texas panhandle.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Buffalo PD suspends 2 for pushing man
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/george-floyd-protest-updates-famous-monument-robert-lee/story?id=71062391
GIST	<p>11:19 p.m.: Video shows Buffalo police pushing man during protest</p> <p>Graphic footage of a 75-year-old man being pushed to the ground by police at a protest in Buffalo has now led the Buffalo Police Department to open an investigation into the incident.</p> <p>Commissioner Byron C. Lockwood has ordered the immediate suspension of two officers involved.</p> <p>Mike DeGeorge, a spokesperson for the Buffalo Police Department told ABC News that while an initial statement said the man tripped and fell, "once the department became aware of additional video from the scene, they immediately opened an investigation."</p> <p>In the video, the injured man can be seen lying flat on the ground, bleeding from his ear, as protesters around him call for help.</p> <p>He is currently in stable but serious condition at Erie County Medical Center.</p> <p>Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown addressed the incident in a statement Thursday night.</p> <p>"Tonight, after a physical altercation between two separate groups of protesters participating in an illegal demonstration beyond the curfew, two Buffalo Police officers knocked down a 75-year-old man," he said.</p> <p>"The victim is in stable but serious condition at ECMC. I was deeply disturbed by the video, as was Buffalo Police Commissioner Byron Lockwood. He directed an immediate investigation into the matter, and the two officers have been suspended without pay. After days of peaceful protests and several meetings between myself, Police leadership and members of the community, tonight's event is</p>

	disheartening. I hope to continue to build on the progress we have achieved as we work together to address racial injustice and inequity in the City of Buffalo. My thoughts are with the victim tonight."
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HEADLINE	06/04 Budgets: more on policing than welfare
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/06/04/us-spends-twice-much-law-order-it-does-social-welfare-data-show/
GIST	<p>The aggressive law enforcement response to demonstrations in the wake of George Floyd's death has spurred a chorus of calls to defund and reform the police.</p> <p>Floyd was in police custody May 25 when a Minneapolis officer knelt on his neck until he lost consciousness and died. Four officers have been fired and charged in the case, including Derek Chauvin, who stands accused of second-degree murder. Steve Fletcher, who serves on the Minneapolis City Council, has floated the idea of disbanding the police department and starting over with "a community-oriented, nonviolent public safety and outreach capacity."</p> <p>The Minneapolis agency takes up 30 percent of the city budget, Brooklyn College sociology professor Alex Vitale told the Guardian. "Instead of giving them more money for pointless training programs, let's divert that money into building up communities and individuals so we don't 'need' violent and abusive policing."</p> <p>The tension between funding law enforcement and social services is at the heart of many of the calls for reform. Spending data compiled by Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman for their book "The Triumph of Injustice" underscores the scope of the issue: The United States spends more than twice as much on law and order as it does on cash welfare programs.</p> <p>Saez and Zucman used data from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis to reach this conclusion. It includes all federal, state and local spending on law and order (police, prisons and the court system) and on cash welfare (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, food stamps and supplemental Social Security payments).</p> <p>Up until about 1980, American governments spent roughly the same amount on criminal justice and cash welfare: a little over 1 percent of total national income for each. But those trend lines have steadily diverged ever since: Welfare spending has been on a long, uneven decline, while law and order spending ballooned almost unabated until about 2010, when it amounted to nearly 2.5 percent of national income. Since then, law and order spending has fallen to a hair under 2 percent, while welfare spending stands at about 0.8 percent of national income.</p> <p>Much of the increase in law and order spending stems from the war on drugs in the 1980s and 1990s, which required massive investment in police and prisons. More recently, advances in policing technology, such as license plate recognition apps and gunshot detection devices, have driven costs.</p> <p>Much of the reduction in welfare spending, on the other hand, was concentrated in the mid-1990s, after President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans spearheaded welfare cuts.</p> <p>Taken together, the two lines trace a dramatic shift in national priorities. We funneled money away from poverty prevention to beef up our response to one of poverty's biggest consequences: crime. We now treat the symptoms rather than the underlying disease.</p> <p>As a result, many major cities spend as much as 40 percent of their municipal budgets on policing, leaving a dwindling pool of resources for poverty prevention, infrastructure and everything else.</p>

The [coronavirus](#) pandemic exacerbated this dynamic: Cities facing steep revenue declines are trying to decide which services to cut to remain solvent, and mayors are [often hesitant to cut law and order spending](#).

However, there are signs that the protests spawned by Floyd's killing, which have morphed into a national movement against police brutality, are altering this dynamic. In Minnesota, for instance, both the [University of Minnesota](#) and Minneapolis public schools have decided to [limit their contracts](#) with the Minneapolis Police Department. Efforts to reduce police funding have [drawn endorsements from high-profile celebrities](#). Images of law enforcement officers attacking [peaceful protesters](#), [members of the clergy](#) and [journalists](#) are prompting discussions over the proper role of police in society.

Those discussions will inform the budgets drawn up by cities, states and the federal government in coming years. Whether they have the effect of bringing spending on welfare and criminal justice in line with their prior levels remains to be seen.

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HEADLINE	06/04 US plans to revise Chinese airlines ban
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-airlines/u-s-to-revise-chinese-passenger-airline-ban-after-beijing-move-sources-idUSKBN23B2WJ
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Transportation Department plans to issue a revised order in the coming days that is likely to allow some Chinese passenger airline flights to continue, government and airline officials said.</p> <p>On Thursday, China said it would ease coronavirus restrictions to allow in more foreign carriers, shortly after Washington said it planned to bar Chinese passenger airlines from flying to the United States by June 16 due to Beijing's curbs on U.S. carriers.</p> <p>The change should allow U.S. carriers to resume once-a-week flights into a city of their choice starting on June 8, but that would be still significantly fewer than what the U.S. government says its aviation agreement with China allows.</p> <p>The Transportation Department did not immediately comment.</p> <p>The department said on Wednesday Chinese carriers could operate "the same number of scheduled passenger flights as the Chinese government allows ours." It added the order was to "restore a competitive balance and fair and equal opportunity among U.S. and Chinese air carriers."</p> <p>The U.S. order would halt the four weekly U.S. roundtrip flights by Air China (601111.SS), China Eastern Airlines Corp, China Southern Airlines Co (600029.SS) and Xiamen Airlines Co.</p> <p>U.S. and airline officials have privately raised concerns about the revised Chinese rules and it is unclear if carriers would agree to fly just once a week to China when they have sought approval for two or three daily flights.</p> <p>Delta Air Lines (DAL.N) and United Airlines (UAL.O) asked to resume flights to China this month. Both said they were reviewing the order from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).</p> <p>American Airlines (AAL.O) is sticking with its previous plan to resume service to China at the end of October, spokesman Ross Feinstein said.</p> <p>The CAAC said all airlines can increase the number of international flights involving China to two per week if none of their passengers test positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, for three consecutive weeks.</p>

	If five or more passengers on one flight test positive upon arrival, the CAAC will bar the airline for a week. Airlines would be suspended for four weeks if 10 passengers or more test positive.
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HEADLINE	06/04 Union, court shields Minneapolis cops
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-minneapolis-police-culture-specialrep/special-report-how-union-supreme-court-shield-minneapolis-cops-idUSKBN23B2LL
GIST	<p>(Reuters) - Long before the death of George Floyd last week, efforts to overhaul the way policing is done in Minneapolis repeatedly fizzled in the face of a powerful 800-member union that championed military-style police tactics.</p> <p>The union's labor contract with the city is a formidable roadblock to citizens seeking disciplinary action after aggressive encounters with police. Led by Lieutenant Bob Kroll, the union's vocal and hard-charging president for five years, officers rarely face sanctions, Reuters has found.</p> <p>A Reuters analysis of complaints against Minneapolis police officers from the past eight years shows that 9 of every 10 accusations of misconduct were resolved without punishment or intervention aimed at changing an officer's behavior. The analysis covers about 3,000 complaints during that period; five officers were fired.</p> <p>The Minneapolis union contract is not unusual. Dozens of other contracts across the United States contain provisions that stymie efforts to hold cops accountable for violence and other alleged abuses, a 2017 Reuters investigation found. The news agency examined contracts in 82 cities for that article and found that 46 required departments to erase disciplinary records, some after just six months. The absence of a paper trail makes firing officers with a history of abuses difficult, lawyers and police chiefs say.</p> <p>Compounding the challenge for citizens seeking justice: a U.S. legal doctrine called qualified immunity. A Reuters investigation last month found that the concept, created and reinforced in a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings, increasingly shields from civil liability officers who are accused of using excessive force.</p> <p>"You have immune police officers who are beyond punishment because of their union contract as well as constitutional law," said Gloria Browne-Marshall, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.</p> <p>"That combination leads to an arrogance of a police officer who can kill a man in broad daylight while being taped and believe he can get away with it," said Browne-Marshall, who teaches constitutional law. "When there are no consequences, that's when people act with impunity."</p> <p>To see the prior Reuters special reports, click here and here</p> <p>In Minneapolis, officers have successfully used the qualified immunity doctrine to win civil lawsuits against them in federal courts. It is difficult to identify all excessive force lawsuits in federal court records, but Reuters found 28 such cases from 2006 through 2018 in which Minneapolis police officers raised a qualified immunity defense. Judges sided with the officers in 15 of those, ending the cases without a jury trial.</p> <p>The union contract and the qualified immunity doctrine play a role in emboldening some officers to commit abuses, legal scholars say, but they don't always provide a shield in cases that trigger criminal charges or unleash national media scrutiny — as has now happened in Minneapolis.</p> <p>CRIMINAL CHARGES</p> <p>All four officers present in the death of Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, have been criminally charged in the case. The state's attorney general on Wednesday charged Derek Chauvin with second-degree murder and Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.</p>

The county attorney had charged Chauvin on Friday with third-degree murder and manslaughter. The state's attorney general, Keith Ellison, said Wednesday that he and the prosecutor now believe the evidence warrants the stronger charge.

Graphic videos show Chauvin, who is white, kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes as the unarmed man gasped for breath and groaned, "Please, I can't breathe."

Kueng and Lane also restrained Floyd, while Thao stood nearby.

Chauvin was jailed Friday, and the other three were booked Wednesday. All four officers were fired soon after the incident.

In a letter to union members on Monday, Federation president Kroll wrote that he was working with the union's labor attorneys to get each of the officers reinstated.

"They were terminated without due process," Kroll wrote.

WARRIOR-STYLE POLICING

Since Floyd's death, the usually outspoken Kroll has said little in public. He did not respond to interview requests from Reuters. In Monday's letter, he criticized elected leaders for their handling of widespread protests in the wake of Floyd's death. He praised the city's police officers for their response to "the largest scale riot Minneapolis has ever seen" and characterized the unrest as a "terrorist movement" that has been building for years.

That quickly drew blowback from city leaders. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey tweeted: "For a man who complains so frequently about a lack of community trust and support for the police department, Bob Kroll remains shockingly indifferent to his role in undermining that trust and support."

Some Minnesota labor unions called for Kroll's resignation. Among them: the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, and Education Minnesota. In addition, the board of the Minneapolis Public Schools unanimously voted Tuesday to terminate its \$1.1 million contract with the Minneapolis Police Department in response to Floyd's death. The department had provided officers to patrol schools.

Kroll, who became union president in 2015, has locked horns with police chiefs and mayors past and present. A key point of contention: Kroll's backing of so-called warrior-style policing, which conditions officers to view all encounters with residents as inherently dangerous. After Frey stopped the department's use of such training last year, Kroll announced the union would make the training free for any officer who wanted it.

"The culture is that when they're coming into their jobs to police, it's like they're going to a war zone," said Joshua Williams, a human rights attorney in Minneapolis. "That's the mentality — this is not their community."

DISCIPLINARY HURDLES

The long-running antagonism between the police union and the community has hamstrung efforts by Minneapolis elected officials and reform-minded department leaders to change that mentality, one former chief says.

Janeé Harteau, Minneapolis police chief from 2012 to 2017, said arbitration rulings and union grievances that reversed disciplinary actions made it difficult to create a culture of accountability in the department.

Among the contract provisions that impede efforts to discipline abusive cops is one that forbids the department from including allegations of misconduct in an officer's personnel file unless the accusations

result in discipline. That means investigators cannot consider an officer's history of complaints while probing a new allegation.

During investigations into misconduct complaints, the contract grants officers concessions that are not afforded to civilians suspected of wrongdoing. Officers are entitled to a written summation of the accusation and events, and they are given as long as two days to consider that information and to consult with a union representative before they can be called to give a statement to investigators.

Such "cooling off" periods are typical of police union contracts across the country, said Samuel Sinyangwe, a policy analyst, and they allow officers to "essentially get their facts right" before talking to the department's internal investigators.

Some city officials say the very structure of the Minneapolis police union creates ethical concerns during the disciplinary process. Supervisors, who are in charge of discipline, are part of the same union that seeks to protect accused officers. Mayor Frey has sought to end this arrangement.

Even when officers are fired for misconduct, the union contract allows them to petition an arbitrator for their job back. Should the four officers in the Floyd case be found not guilty in criminal court, they could seek reinstatement under the contract.

Taxpayers often help pay to defend officers accused of misconduct, even in wrongful death. That is because the contract requires the city to provide legal representation to defend against job-related charges.

A FRUSTRATED CHIEF

In an interview, Harteau, the city's first female chief and its first openly gay chief, cited particular frustration with how long it took to get one Minneapolis police officer with a long history of citizen complaints off the force.

In 2016, she fired Officer Blayne Lehner for violating the department's use of force policy after video showed him repeatedly throwing a woman to the ground while responding to a domestic disturbance. Over his 18-year career, he had accumulated more than 30 complaints. An arbitrator, concluding that Lehner's use of force was not "substantially inappropriate," overturned the chief's decision and reduced the sanction to a 40-hour suspension without pay.

Lehner stayed on the force for three more years, until he was fired last year after another accusation of excessive force. The same arbitrator, Stephen Befort, upheld the termination.

"These cases are difficult and every arbitrator I know agonizes over the appropriate outcome," Befort told Reuters this week.

Lehner did not respond to a request for comment. In arbitration filings during the 2016 case, the union said his use of force was "measured in its severity" and that "Lehner's long and good work should be treated as a mitigating factor."

Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest law enforcement union, said it's easy to blame union contracts when clashes between police and civilians spark public outrage. But cities have a role in shaping those contracts, too.

"It's become a blame game," Pasco said. "The thing that critics never say is that contracts aren't forced down the throats of anyone. They are negotiated."

Police unions do not "recruit, screen or supervise officers," he said, suggesting that low hiring standards, inadequate training and lack of supervision by top management undermine the quality of police forces. "Not everyone is suited to be a police officer," Pasco said.

The FOP represents more than 2,000 law enforcement agencies, but it does not represent the Minneapolis Police Department, which has its own union.

BLUE WALL OF SILENCE

Harteau did have some successes. She began training to help officers recognize implicit biases, and in 2016, she rolled out the department's body camera program, despite fierce opposition from the union.

She said she met resistance "at just about every turn" from the police federation. She said Floyd's death shows how the culture among Minneapolis rank-and-file discourages intervening when a colleague is out of line.

"I don't believe we hire bad cops," former chief Harteau said. "I think events occur and we let things go unchecked."

"The union's perspective is we need to support the cops no matter what," she said. "I support good work, but we cannot support or condone those that do not do a good job or act consistent with our core beliefs and values."

Kroll voiced his views on officer conduct following a police shooting in 2015. During a meeting, he told the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota that he "viewed policing and complaints like you view a basketball game, in that if you're not getting any fouls you aren't playing hard enough."

ACCUSATIONS OF RACISM

Kroll has himself been the subject of 10 misconduct complaints since 2013, police records show. The records don't disclose the allegations against him. None of the complaints resulted in discipline; one remains open.

He also was mentioned in a 2007 discrimination lawsuit filed against the department by five black officers. Among the plaintiffs: Medaria Arradondo, who was then a lieutenant in the force and is now the chief, having succeeded Harteau.

In court filings, Arradondo and his fellow officers alleged that the Minneapolis police force had "a history of tolerating racist and discriminatory remarks by its white police officers." The suit described an incident in 1992 in which every African-American officer received a hate letter through the interoffice mail that threatened their lives. The letters were signed "KKK," the suit said.

The lawsuit specifically called out Kroll. It alleged that Kroll referred to Keith Ellison, then a U.S. congressman, as a "terrorist." Ellison, who is black and Muslim, became the state's attorney general in 2019 and is now helping to prosecute the four officers involved in the Floyd case. The suit also alleged Kroll wore "a motorcycle jacket with a 'White Power' badge sewn onto it."

The police chief at the time sent an email to all employees denouncing the alleged comments, and Kroll told the St. Paul Pioneer Press that he thought Arradondo and the four other officers were on a fishing expedition. "Ever hear the phrase 'throw a lot against a wall and hope something sticks?'" he said then.

The suit was settled in 2009 for \$740,000.

Arradondo, who became chief in 2017, has sought to stop at least one policing practice that disproportionately affects black residents. He ended low-level marijuana stings after the Hennepin County public defender found that almost every arrestee was black. On Sunday night, Arradondo said on CNN that Floyd's killing "was a violation of humanity."

In the wake of Floyd's death at the hands of a white officer, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz announced Tuesday that the state Department of Human Rights would begin a civil rights investigation into Minneapolis Police Department policies and practices over the last 10 years. Its mission: to determine if

the department “has engaged in systemic discriminatory practices towards people of color and ensure any such practices are stopped.”

A RARE SPLIT

As union president, Kroll has also clashed with the Hennepin County prosecutor. In 2018, Kroll defended officers who refused to be interviewed for the county attorney’s 2018 investigation into the death of a 40-year-old white woman shot by a police officer in the alley behind her home.

The woman, Justine Damond, was barefoot and in her pajamas. The prosecutor, who eventually charged officer Mohamed Noor with murder, had to convene a grand jury and subpoena the officers to get their testimony. Noor, who pleaded not guilty to all charges, was convicted of third-degree murder and manslaughter, and was sentenced to 12-1/2 years in prison.

The incident marked a rare split between prosecutors and police in the United States, who typically work closely in pursuing cases. The prosecutor in the Noor case, Hennepin County Attorney Michael Freeman, is now involved in the prosecution of the four officers involved in Floyd’s death. He declined to comment for this story, but in a 2018 statement to the media, he said he was left with no choice but to subpoena the officers in the Noor investigation.

Kroll defended the position of the officers in the Noor case, saying at the time that they were acting under the terms of the union contract. The contract, which remains in effect, specifies that police statements to investigators are voluntary and “made at the discretion of the officer.” In an interview with a local radio station in 2018, Kroll said it was unfair to say the police had not cooperated.

“The thing is, they were asked to come in for a voluntary statement, and not volunteering does not mean not cooperating,” he said.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Tripoli forces claim capital siege ends
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tripoli-forces-ended-siege-libyan-capital-71070955
GIST	<p>CAIRO -- Forces allied with Libya's U.N.-supported government said Thursday they regained control of all of Tripoli's entrance and exit points after taking back the airport, claiming that the siege by rival troops trying to capture the capital for over a year has effectively ended.</p> <p>The announcement marks another blow to the east-based Libyan Arab Armed Forces, led by commander Khalifa Hifter who has recently lost several strategic spots in western Libya. Late on Wednesday, the Tripoli-allied troops said they had retaken Tripoli International Airport, which fell to Hifter’s forces last year.</p> <p>“In these historic moments, we announce that all municipal boundaries of Tripoli have been liberated,” Mohamed Gnono, spokesman for the Tripoli-allied forces, said in a video posted on social media.</p> <p>Hifter's military command said it was “relocating” forces out of Tripoli in response to calls for the resumption of the U.N.-brokered political process, but that the battle for the capital “is not over.”</p> <p>Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj vowed the Tripoli forces would press on, apparently spurning the cease-fire talks.</p> <p>“We will in no way give him the opportunity for negotiations,” Sarraj said of Hifter. “We will continue this struggle until the enemy is totally removed,” he added after a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, Turkey.</p>

Erdogan said Turkey would step-up its cooperation with Sarraj's government, including to drill for natural resources in the eastern Mediterranean, based on an economic agreement signed last fall. "We will never abandon our Libyan brothers," Erdogan said.

The developments illustrate how much the tide of war has turned in Libya — just months ago, Hifter was the one who had the upper hand and refused to sign a cease-fire agreement.

Hifter's campaign to capture Tripoli has morphed into an escalating proxy war between Turkey and Russia. Last month, the U.S. military accused Russia of deploying 14 fighter jets to eastern Libya to help Hifter's forces, saying the move was part of Moscow's goal of establishing a foothold in the region that could threaten NATO allies. U.S. and Libyan officials have also accused Russia of deploying mercenaries from the Wagner Group, a Kremlin-linked private company, in key Libyan battlegrounds. Russia has repeatedly denied playing any role in Libya's fighting.

U.S. Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland told reporters on Thursday that the recent maneuvers and weapons shipments by Turkey and Russia could set the stage for either a "full-blown regional war" or "an opportunity to deescalate."

He expressed hope that the intensified diplomatic activity and the cease-fire talks, announced this week by the U.N., could help the sides reach an agreement.

"What makes it different now is that the escalation is in such a dangerous stage that cooler heads can and should prevail," he said.

The U.N. spoke with Hifter's military delegation on Wednesday and said it soon planned to speak with the Tripoli-based government.

"Our focus, the mission's focus, is on the talks that have begun to re-establish the cease-fire," said U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

In a sign that a broader diplomatic push was underway, Hifter and 13 of his close advisers left Cairo on Thursday, after two days of meetings with senior Egyptian and Libyan officials, according to Cairo airport officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Since 2015, Libya has been divided between two governments, one in the east and one in the west. Hifter's campaign to capture Tripoli has killed hundreds of civilians and displaced over 150,000, by U.N. estimates.

The Tripoli forces said two medics were killed Thursday near their field hospital close to the Libyan capital. Gnono, the spokesman, blamed Hifter's fighters, saying they had booby trapped areas before pulling out. The U.N. had raised alarm last week about civilians being killed and wounded by improvised explosive devices left in residential areas of Tripoli.

Tripoli's International Airport was damaged by heavy fighting in 2014, forcing its closure. For years, flights were diverted to the Mitiga airport, which has repeatedly halted operations over the past year because of shelling blamed on Hifter's forces.

After Wednesday's recapture, photos of bombed-out Libyan commercial planes at the airport were posted on the official Facebook page of the Tripoli-allied forces. Videos of the government-affiliated militias celebrating outside the airport circulated online.

"The fall of Tripoli airport is a symbolic achievement," said Claudia Gazzini, a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group. "It is the base of Hifter's forces since more than a year and one of the main conflict lines in the capital."

	<p>But Gazzini said it was too early to call Hifter's offensive finished, given how the conflict has seesawed. "There is still room for a continued offensive. It all depends on how much military backing Hifter's backers are willing to give him."</p> <p>In recent months, the Tripoli militias, boosted primarily by Turkish drones and deployments of Syrian mercenaries, have retaken some key towns surrounding the capital. Hifter's forces, supported by Russia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have responded with increased airstrikes.</p> <p>The escalation comes as Libya's coronavirus case count steadily increases, stoking fears a major outbreak would quickly overwhelm the war-scarred health system. Libya has about 170 confirmed cases but testing remains scarce.</p> <p>The North African country slid into chaos following the ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Israel police shooting; outcry, protests
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/autistic-palestinians-killing-draws-floyd-parallel-outcry-71069214
GIST	<p>JERUSALEM -- Eyad Hallaq liked to watch cartoons. He loved dressing up and wearing cologne. He even dreamed of getting married. But his favorite activity was walking to school, where he volunteered in the kitchen, preparing meals for his fellow special-needs students.</p> <p>Early on Saturday, the 32-year-old Palestinian with severe autism was chased by Israeli border police forces into a nook in Jerusalem's Old City and fatally shot as he cowered next to a garbage bin after apparently being mistaken for an attacker. He was just a few meters (yards) from his beloved Elwyn El Quds school.</p> <p>The shooting has drawn comparisons to the death of George Floyd in the U.S. and prompted a series of small demonstrations against police violence toward Palestinians. The calls for justice have crossed Jewish-Arab lines, a rarity in this deeply polarized society.</p> <p>Yet for his devastated family, such gestures have provided little comfort and even less hope that the officers who shot Hallaq will be punished.</p> <p>"Whenever a person is martyred here, we say that we hope for change," said Hallaq's father, Khiri. "Where is the change?"</p> <p>Two large photographs of Hallaq sit in the living room of the family's modest home in a Palestinian neighborhood of east Jerusalem. In one photo, wearing an Adidas sweatshirt, Hallaq holds a cactus he planted during the coronavirus lockdown. It was the last photo the family took of him. His tiny bedroom is neatly made up, with a small photo of Hallaq above the pillow, next to his cologne collection.</p> <p>"He was a gentle soul," his mother, Rana, said as she fought back tears. She described him as intensely shy, afraid of strangers, unable to make eye contact and terrified of loud noises.</p> <p>"He liked nice clothes, but he had no friends. He didn't talk to others. Only with me would he talk about what had happened that day at school," she said.</p> <p>What exactly happened on Saturday morning remains unclear. According to the family, Hallaq, wearing a badge that identified him as having special needs, left home on his daily walk to school, about 10 minutes away.</p>

Police said that officers in the Old City spotted a man carrying a “suspicious object that looked like a pistol.” When the man failed to heed calls to stop, police said they opened fire and “neutralized” him after a chase.

Hallaq's teacher, who had accompanied him on that last walk to school, told Israel's Channel 13 TV that she repeatedly cried out to the police that he is “disabled” and tried to stop the shooting. “They didn't listen to me. They didn't want to listen to me,” she said.

She told the station they fired three bullets at him. He fell to the ground, asked her for help, then ran for cover in a small area housing a garbage bin. Officers came after him and killed him. At least five bullet holes could be seen in the wall of a small structure at the site.

Hallaq's parents said they rushed to the scene but were not allowed to see him. Police later came to the house, cursing them as they searched for weapons, they said. They said police found nothing in the home.

Israel's Justice Ministry said two officers have been placed under house arrest, but gave no further details. Security camera footage has not been released. Khiri Hallaq said he has heard nothing from investigators.

Even with the world's attention focused on the unrest shaking the U.S., Hallaq's death has reverberated across Israel.

Scores of people, mostly Jewish Israelis, marched through downtown Jerusalem on Saturday night to condemn the shooting. Demonstrations were also held in Arab towns throughout the week. Inspired by the protests in the U.S., demonstrators have held signs that say “Black Lives Matter,” “Palestinian Lives Matter,” or showed photographs of Floyd and Hallaq.

Hallaq's death is expected to be a theme at a larger demonstration planned by a coalition of Arab and Jewish groups in central Tel Aviv on Saturday.

“Is there anything lonelier than an autistic person cowering and trembling in fear in a garbage shed, not understanding what is going on and why, while policemen empty a magazine of bullets into him,” wrote Haaretz columnist Rogel Alpher, a parent of a grown autistic child. “Good God, they executed him. If that happened to my son, I'd find it hard to go on living.”

The shooting came two weeks after another fatal shooting of an Arab man outside an Israeli hospital. According to police, the man was shot after stabbing a security guard. Security camera footage showed the man, who reportedly suffered from mental illness, lying on the ground when he was shot multiple times.

For Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and contested east Jerusalem, and members of Israel's Arab minority, these cases reflect what they see as Israeli forces' loose trigger fingers when it comes to dealing with Arab suspects.

“Just as the white police officer easily kills the black citizen he sees as a second-class citizen, here the Jewish police officer easily opens fire on the Arab he sees as second class,” said Said Issa, a 46-year-old protester in the Arab town of Jaljuliya.

Israeli leaders typically stand behind the country's security forces and have stopped short of condemning the shooting. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has remained silent. But several top officials, including opposition leader Yair Lapid, whose daughter is autistic, and Defense Minister Benny Gantz have expressed sorrow.

Public Security Minister Amir Ohana, who is close to Netanyahu, said the family “deserves a hug” and vowed to introduce new tactics for police to better identify individuals with disabilities. A stream of Jewish and Arab well-wishers, including a former chief rabbi of Jerusalem, have visited the family.

Hallaq's mother played down the outcry and said nothing will bring back her son. "Sympathy is temporary and then ends," she said. Making things even more painful, the family has little faith in an Israeli justice system they see as hopelessly biased.

"If an Arab killed a Jew, what would have happened?" said the father. "They would demolish his home and arrest all of his family. That is the difference."

According to Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, there have been at least 11 cases over the past two years in which Palestinians who did not pose a threat were killed while fleeing Israeli security forces.

Amit Galutz, a spokesman for B'Tselem, said no charges have been filed in those cases and he did not expect different results in the Hallaq shooting.

"Existing Israeli law enforcement mechanisms are designed to protect the perpetrators of this violence — not their victims," he said, calling the investigation into Hallaq's killing "the first step of its whitewash."

Israel's border police force declined to comment. But David Tzur, a former top-ranking Israeli police officer who commanded the unit, said policing Arab neighborhoods was difficult and complicated.

He said officers are on heightened alert in places like the Old City because the area has seen numerous Palestinian stabbings and shootings there over the years.

"Subjectively, the police officer feels more threatened. He knows he is entering an area where he could be subjected to violence," Tzur explained.

Hallaq's mother said nothing could justify the death of her son. "We are convinced that those who killed him will not be punished," she said. "Justice does not exist."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Syria: Israel airstrike in attack
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-israeli-warplanes-strike-targets-central-syria-71073304
GIST	<p>DAMASCUS, Syria -- Syrian air defenses responded to an Israeli attack near a central town on Thursday that caused explosions and a large fire in the area, state-run media said.</p> <p>According to the Syrian news agency SANA, the Israeli airstrike occurred near the town of Masyaf in the Hama countryside. There was no immediate word on casualties or damage from the attack.</p> <p>Residents in neighboring Lebanon reported hearing the Israeli warplanes flying at low altitude over parts of the Mediterranean country, on their way to bomb in Syria.</p> <p>The airstrike is the latest in a series of Israeli attacks in Syria in the past few weeks, despite the coronavirus pandemic gripping the region, and comes amid rising tensions between Israel and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group in Syria, as well as along the Lebanon-Israel border.</p> <p>Syria has accused Israel of carrying out at least seven airstrikes in the past two months alone, believed to have targeted Iranian and proxy interests.</p> <p>On Wednesday, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab said Israel violated Lebanon's sovereignty by land, sea and air over 1,000 times in the last five months.</p> <p>There was no immediate comment from Israel on Thursday's reported strike in Syria. In the past, Israel has acknowledged carrying out scores of airstrikes over the years, most of them aimed at alleged Iranian</p>

	<p>weapons shipments believed to be bound for Hezbollah. In recent months, Israeli officials have expressed concern that Hezbollah is trying to establish production facilities to make precision guided missiles.</p> <p>Last month, an Israeli airstrike on a military position near Masyaf wounded six soldiers and destroyed several buildings, SANA reported.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/03 'Dangerous': police chokeholds scrutinized
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dangerous-world-police-chokeholds-scrutinized-71037951
GIST	<p>LE PECQ, France -- Three days after George Floyd died with a Minneapolis police officer choking off his air, another black man writhed on the tarmac of a street in Paris as a police officer pressed a knee to his neck during an arrest.</p> <p>Immobilization techniques where officers apply pressure with their knees on prone suspects are used in policing around the world and have long drawn criticism. One reason why Floyd's death is sparking anger and touching nerves globally is that such techniques have been blamed for asphyxiations and other deaths in police custody beyond American shores, often involving non-white suspects.</p> <p>"We cannot say that the American situation is foreign to us," said French lawmaker Francois Ruffin, who has pushed for a ban on the police use of face-down holds that are implicated in multiple deaths in France, a parliamentary effort put on hold by the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The muscular arrest on May 28 in Paris of a black man who was momentarily immobilized face-up with an officer's knee and upper shin pressing down on his jaw, neck and upper chest is among those that have drawn angry comparisons with the killing of Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis.</p> <p>The Paris arrest was filmed by bystanders and widely shared and viewed online. Police said the man was driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol and without a license and that he resisted arrest and insulted officers. His case was turned over to prosecutors.</p> <p>In Hong Kong, where police behavior is a hot-button issue after months of anti-government protests, the city's force says it is investigating the death of a man who was immobilized face-down during his arrest in May by officers who were filmed kneeling on his shoulder, back and neck.</p> <p>Police rules and procedures on chokeholds and restraints vary internationally.</p> <p>In Belgium, police instructor Stany Durieux says he reprimands trainees, docking them points, "every time I see a knee applied to the spinal column."</p> <p>"It is also forbidden to lean on a suspect completely, as this can crush his rib cage and suffocate him," he said.</p> <p>Condemned by police and experts in the United States, Floyd's death also drew criticism from officers abroad who disassociated themselves from the behavior of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. He was charged with third-degree murder after he was filmed pushing down with his knee on Floyd's neck until Floyd stopped crying out that he couldn't breathe and eventually stopped moving.</p> <p>In Israel, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said "there is no tactic or protocol that calls to put pressure on the neck or airway."</p> <p>In Germany, officers are allowed to briefly exert pressure on the side of a suspect's head but not on the neck, says Germany's GdP police union.</p>

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

Even within countries, procedures can vary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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HEADLINE	06/04 Movement to ‘defund police’ gains traction
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/04/defund-the-police-us-george-floyd-budgets
GIST	<p>The movement to defund the police is gaining significant support across America, including from elected leaders, as protests over the killing of George Floyd sweep the nation.</p> <p>For years, activists have pushed US cities and states to cut law enforcement budgets amid a dramatic rise in spending on police and prisons while funding for vital social services has shrunk or disappeared altogether.</p> <p>Government officials have long dismissed the idea as a leftist fantasy, but the recent unrest and massive budget shortfalls from the Covid-19 crisis appear to have inspired more mainstream recognition of the central arguments behind defunding.</p>

“To see legislators who aren’t even necessarily on the left supporting at least a significant decrease in New York police department [NYPD] funding is really very encouraging,” Julia Salazar, a New York state senator and [Democratic socialist](#), told the Guardian on Tuesday. “It feels a little bit surreal.”

Floyd’s death on camera in Minneapolis, advocates say, was a powerful demonstration that police reform efforts of the last half-decade have failed to stop racist policing and killings. Meanwhile, the striking [visuals](#) of enormous, [militarized](#) and at times [violent police forces](#) responding to peaceful protests have led some politicians to question whether police really need this much money and firepower.

Meanwhile, unemployment is surging amid the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, with housing and healthcare crises worsening. Many governments have been making painful cuts to services and expect to see tax revenue fall even further in the coming year. But police budgets have not been affected, and some mayors are even seeking to expand law enforcement funding.

A snapshot of some of city budget debates that have escalated this week:

- **Los Angeles:** the police [budget is \\$1.8bn](#), and the mayor has for weeks been pushing for [raises and bonuses for officers](#) and an overall 7% increase that would make the budget [more than half](#) of the general fund. But on Wednesday, he said he was now looking to [make cuts](#) to the police budget.
- **New York:** The mayor is pushing to leave the NYPD’s [nearly \\$6bn budget intact](#) while slashing [education and youth programs](#) and cutting other agencies by [as much as 80%](#).
- **Philadelphia:** The mayor has [proposed spending \\$977m](#) on police and prisons, which is 20% of the general fund. A \$14m increase for police comes as the city is [cutting funding](#) for youth violence prevention, arts and culture, workforce development, and laying off staff at recreation centers and libraries.

Defunding, said activist Jeralynn Blueford, is the logical response from leaders in this moment of unprecedented unrest. “If police had been serious about reform and policy change, then guess what? People would not be this angry.”

Blueford’s son was killed by Oakland police in 2012 and she’s been fighting for reforms since. “We allowed you to kill our children, and you said this was going to change, and you reneged on it. If we keep funding them, it gives them the green light to continue”.

Community groups advocating for defunding have put forward differing strategies, some merely opposing police budget increases, others advocating mass reductions, and some fighting for full defunding as a step toward abolishing police forces. Some initiatives are tied to the fight to close prisons. All are pushing for a reinvestment of those dollars in services.

Amid the protests, some local leaders with budgeting powers have started [proposing](#) modest cuts to policing. The most substantial change so far, has come in Minneapolis where the school board on Tuesday [voted to end its contract](#) with the police department. The University of Minnesota has also pledged to stop working with police.

“People have been fighting for years to get cops out of schools, and now it’s happening overnight,” said Tony Williams, a member of MPD150, an [abolition group](#) whose literature on building a “police-free future” has [spread](#) on social media in recent days. One elected Minneapolis ward member [said](#) this week that the city’s police department was “irredeemably beyond reform”, the kind of remark that would until recently have been unthinkable to organizers.

“This is unprecedented in our movement, but it is a natural consequence of where we’ve been over the last five years,” Williams said, rattling off high-profile killings by police that have failed to lead to substantive reforms.

Eric Garcetti, the Los Angeles mayor, [addressed the broader protests](#) in a speech late Wednesday night and said he was now working to make cuts of up to \$150m to the police budget and reinvest funds in black communities, though specifics of his [plans](#) were unclear.

His move comes after a coalition convened by Black Lives Matter LA pushed for what it called a “[people’s budget](#)”, which encouraged the city to spend only 5.7% of its general fund on law enforcement, and 44% on universal aid and crisis management.

“In moments of crisis, people want services and resources that go directly to help people rather than police that surveil, brutalize and kill us,” said Melina Abdullah, the BLM LA co-founder, adding that Garcetti’s proposed cut was “minimal” and that officials “need to go much further”.

Even though many US police departments’ duties are responding to non-violent, non-emergency calls, departments have expanded their military-style arsenal in recent years. US police [kill more people in days](#) than many other countries do in years.

Senator Salazar in New York said the Covid-19 devastation is motivating lawmakers normally sympathetic to the NYPD to rethink the budget: “Every senate office ... has been fielding an unfathomable number of unemployment claims. We’ve been thinking every day about how social services and the public safety net are failing people. Having come out of a bleak state budget process, it’s very frustrating to hear that \$6bn figure for the NYPD.”

The city councilmember who chairs the committee that oversees the budget called for significant NYPD cuts this week. Although she doesn’t control NYPD financing as a state lawmaker, Salazar said she could envision police immediately losing \$1bn from its budget just for current police functions that have nothing to do with law enforcement and crime, such as responding to mental health calls and other social services.

Kamau Walton, a Philadelphia-based member of Critical Resistance, a long-running US abolition group, said the absurdity of increased police spending in this moment was visible to many. Walton lives across from a recreation center and library that has been closed due to Covid, and said houseless people now gather outside, because they have nowhere else to go.

The city, however, is further cutting housing and homelessness services and seems to lack a summer plan for these communities who have lost programs, resources and jobs, they said. “At a drop of a dime, they can find money for uber-militarized tanks and fly helicopters all over the city and shoot rubber bullets, but we can’t put people in houses?”

Kelly Lytle Hernández, a UCLA historian and recent MacArthur recipient, said this could be a pivotal moment for the US: “We’ve created over the last 30 to 40 years a sense that our safety and wellbeing always comes from investing more and more in police.”

This week, it seems there is increasing recognition of this failure, she said, adding, “Defunding the police is the first step in a much broader historical transformation that I’m hoping you’re seeing broad-based support for on the streets today.”

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HEADLINE	06/04 California wildfire forces evacuations
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/04/us/suisun-city-wildfire-california/index.html
GIST	(CNN)A California fire department is battling a four-alarm wildfire near the Suisun City Wildlife Center in the San Francisco Bay Area. Firefighters responded immediately to a call received at 3:26 p.m. local time Wednesday, according to Suisun City Fire Chief Justin Vincent.

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HEADLINE	06/04 SEA airport passenger volume ticks up
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/trickle-of-travelers-through-sea-tac-airport-is-slowly-increasing-coronavirus-economy-daily-chart/
GIST	<p>Activity at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is on the rise from the severe depths of April, but according to Port of Seattle statistics, passenger volume remains 86% below last year's comparable week.</p> <p>Aircraft operations — which includes cargo planes — are doing better, at 67% of the same week in 2019.</p> <p>Passenger volume was 49,100 in its strongest week earlier this year, before the pandemic brought air travel to a virtual halt. So the latest week represents just 14.9% of that peak. Aircraft operations, on the other hand, were at 35.6% of their peak.</p> <p>Alaska Air Group, the biggest single operator at Sea-Tac, said Wednesday that seat capacity on its flights in May was approximately 79% below the levels of a year earlier.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Seattle-area summer camps shuttered
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/life/yet-another-ritual-halted-by-coronavirus-most-seattle-area-summer-camps-wont-be-operating-this-year/
GIST	<p>Todd McKinlay, 63, has missed summer camp just twice in the past 60 years.</p> <p>"I was about 2 years old the first time, so I can't really remember that one," chuckled McKinlay, the director of Hidden Valley Camp in Granite Falls, Snohomish County. "And the second time was when my family transitioned into being a part of Hidden Valley Camp in 1973."</p>

This summer will mark the third year of his life that McKinley will go without camp songs, not-so-secret hiding places, horseback riding, skit-performing, friend-making, and the magical way summer camps make you forget — even if just for a moment — that there is life outside of camp.

Coronavirus has dramatically changed industries that rely on in-person connections. Now, with the school year ending, families are realizing that coronavirus is about to take away another sense of structured normality: summer camps.

Many summer camps don't come cheap. One session at Hidden Valley Camp ranges from \$1,500-\$2,150 for a two-to-three-week stay, while Moss Bay charges \$405 for one week of day camp. Seattle Parks and Recreation usually holds a more affordable day camp, but that has been canceled this summer due to coronavirus.

“With both limited funding and staffing, along with the operational impacts of implementing social distancing standards, we have had to greatly reduce our recreation offerings,” said Joaquin Uy, the external affairs manager for the city of Seattle.

The city is still offering summer child care; admission to this program prioritizes children who are already enrolled in emergency child care and those who qualify for financial scholarships.

Most Seattle-area camps have been canceled due to the pandemic. Some day camps switched to online platforms while others are attempting to continue in-person interactions — with some major modifications. Moss Bay, a seasonal boating company located on Lake Union, has already canceled the first three weeks of its kids camp. When they are finally allowed to reopen, the company has plans to step up safety precautions.

Camps are considered large group gatherings and therefore will not be permitted to open until July at the very earliest, McKinlay estimated.

With all that in mind, Hidden Valley decided to shut down for the summer. Like many businesses affected by coronavirus, the decision came after months of thinking, planning and waiting for good news that just never came.

Plus, Hidden Valley's camp organizers say the true sleep-away camp experience isn't something that can be replicated online because it's the complete opposite of social distancing.

“Camp is the quintessential community,” said Hidden Valley camp alum and parent Randolph Silver. “You're with your camp group, you get close around the campfire. There's just no way to do it when you're 6 feet apart.”

Silver first attended Hidden Valley in 1978, when Todd McKinlay's father, Bob McKinlay, was camp director, and Todd was a 21-year-old in charge of the horses.

Silver worked at Hidden Valley as a counselor during college, helping re-create the world he'd loved so much as a camper. Now, he has his own children, and they've attended Hidden Valley camp, too.

“My kids started going to camp when they were 7 years old,” said Silver. “Before they even got to camp they already knew all the songs. Turns out, when you're trying to calm down restless toddlers, you end up singing a lot of camp songs.”

But summer camp isn't only a resource for kids. Parents, especially those with full-time jobs, count on camps — both day and sleep-away — to occupy their children. This year, some parents are out of jobs, while others have already been working from home for a couple of months while trying to help their kids with school. So after the school year ends, kids already restless from home schooling will have less to occupy themselves with.

Return to Top	<p>“As parents, we’re going to try to get through the summer but it’s going to be hard,” said Silver.</p> <p>Sleep-away camps such as Hidden Valley come with a controlled freedom that allows kids to roam paths and pull apart pinecones under a tree. There’s boredom — but not in a quarantine sense, clarifies Silver. It’s the kind that lets you make friendship bracelets for people you barely know, and discover hiding spots in plain sight. That, Silver says, is what makes Hidden Valley Camp so special.</p> <p>“I think I learned a young person’s self-reliance and appreciation of community and nature. I could never get that in a schoolroom with a paper and a pen. It just wasn’t going to happen. And you can’t get that online either,” Silver said.</p> <p>Moss Bay took a different route. Right now, camp isn’t open for the summer — but when camps are allowed to open up, Moss Bay is ready. The company has employed various safety precautions, including limiting the number of campers allowed on-site, requiring staff to wear masks and reequipping their dock with hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer.</p> <p>“Safety has to come first as it always does,” said Moss Bay owner Kevin Bynum. “But this year especially. We want to be open but only if it’s safe.”</p> <p>For Silver and his family, camp is yet another thing to fall by the wayside over the past couple of months.</p> <p>“It was not an isolated loss,” said Silver.</p> <p>Still, despite the pandemic and the cancellations, Silver believes in camp. Hidden Valley has been here for over 70 years and it’s not going away any time soon.</p> <p>“Camps have endured for such a long time for a reason,” said Silver. “So if you missed it this year, it’s not disappearing. Just be hopeful that camp will happen in 2021. I know all the goodness that comes with camp will still be there next year. Don’t lose hope.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Unemployment fraud may have hit \$650M
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/economy/washingtons-unemployment-fraud-may-have-hit-650-million-state-recovers-333-million/
GIST	<p>Two weeks after revelations of a massive fraud scheme that temporarily shut down Washington’s unemployment system, state officials have acknowledged that criminals may have stolen between \$550 million and \$650 million.</p> <p>Of that, the state has recovered \$333 million, up from around \$300 million reported last week, the state Employment Security Department said Thursday.</p> <p>But efforts to halt the fraud have also delayed legitimate benefits payments to tens of thousands of out-of-work people in Washington, Suzi LeVine, ESD commissioner, said during a news conference.</p> <p>Investigators have cleared many of the more than 200,000 individuals whose benefits claims were being scrutinized for potential fraud, but roughly 90,000 are still awaiting resolution, LeVine said, and while she hoped to clear more of those cases soon, “unfortunately for some, however, it will still take longer.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 New jobless claims drop 36% in Wash.
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/new-claims-for-unemployment-drop-36-in-wash-state

GIST	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. – New claims for unemployment benefits last week dropped by 36% from the previous week in Washington state, according to figures released Thursday.</p> <p>The total number of unemployment claims also dropped last week to a total of about 775,000, which is less than half the number of claims paid during the week of May 10-16, officials said.</p> <p>The state Employment Security Division says it believes the continued decrease stems from a variety of factors, including fraud prevention measures and more people going back to work with the reopening of some industry sectors and counties over the past three weeks.</p> <p>“The dramatic decline in initial claims this week is a strong signal that the additional steps we are taking to address imposter fraud are working. We’ve already recovered and stopped the payments of hundreds of millions of dollars in fraudulent claims in the past two weeks, and we will continue to reclaim every dollar we can,” said Employment Security Department Commissioner Suzi LeVine, adding:</p> <p><i>Our priorities from day one of this crisis have been to get benefits out to Washingtonians who need them quickly and expand eligibility so those impacted can get the help they need, and we are continuing to ramp up our staffing to work through the large numbers of applicants and adjudications. We know every day matters for people awaiting their benefits. We are committed to processing those claims as quickly as possible.</i></p> <p>Altogether, Washington state paid out \$514.7 million in unemployment benefits last week, according to officials.</p> <p>Since the week ending March 7 when COVID-19 job losses began:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 2,045,863 initial claims have been filed during the pandemic (1,280,711 regular unemployment insurance, 409,566 pandemic unemployment assistance and 355,523 pandemic emergency unemployment compensation) • A total of 1,152,516 distinct individuals have filed for unemployment benefits • The Employment Security Department has paid out over \$4.9 billion in benefits • 826,123 individuals who have filed an initial claim have been paid <p>Industries hardest hit by unemployment last week were the same as in previous weeks - health care and social assistance, followed by hotel and food services, retail trade, construction and manufacturing.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Family: ‘Manny is George Floyd’
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/manny-is-george-floyd-family-of-man-killed-by-tacoma-police-want-officers-fired
GIST	<p>TACOMA, Wash. -- The family of Tacoma man who died after being restrained by police in March are calling for the four officers involved to be fired and arrested after the Pierce County Medical Examiner ruled his death as a homicide.</p> <p>Investigators with the Pierce County Medical Examiner’s Office have ruled the death of Manny Ellis, 33, as a homicide caused by respiratory arrest to hypoxia due to physical restraint -- meaning he couldn't breathe while being restrained. Contributing factors include methamphetamine intoxication and enlarged heart condition.</p> <p>Tacoma officers contacted Ellis around 11:30 p.m. on March 3 after he was reported punching the window of a car in the area of 96th Street South and Ainsworth Avenue in Tacoma, according to Det. Ed Troyer with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, who is now running the investigation. Two Tacoma police officers in the area asked Ellis if he needed any help, according to officials. Ellis told officers he had warrants.</p>

When one officer stepped out of the car to talk, Ellis allegedly assaulted the officer, Troyer said. Ellis then picked up the officer by the vest and slam-dunked him to the ground, prompting the second officer to get out of the police cruiser and work to physically restrain Ellis in order to detain him, Troyer said.

Once Ellis was in custody, he complained about breathing, officials said. Medics were called, but Ellis died at the scene.

Hundreds joined Ellis' family Wednesday night at a peaceful protest and vigil in Tacoma Wednesday after learning of the autopsy results.

Ellis' mother, Marcia Carter-Patterson told those gathered at the vigil she spoke to her son the night he died.

"He said, 'Just remember I love you so much,' " said Carter-Patterson. "He was a blessed child—he was blessed. He was good and did not deserve to be murdered at the hands of the police."

Ellis' sister said her brother's death parallel the death of George Floyd.

"Manny is George Floyd," said his sister Monet Carter-Mixon.

All four officers involved in the incident are back on administrative leave in light of the autopsy report, but the family says it wants all four fired and arrested.

"I'm amplifying my brother's mouth from his grave. He's still screaming, 'Sis, go get 'em, sis. Don't let up sis,' " said Carter-Mixon. "So, I really need you to help me amplify his voice he needs to be heard."

Tacoma Police identified the officers as: Officer Christopher Burbank, 34, who has been with the department just over four years; Officer Matthew Collins, 37, who has been with the department five years; Officer Masyih Ford, 28, who has been with the department for just over two years; and Officer Timothy Rankine, 31, who has been with the department for just under two years.

Two of the officers are white, one is black and one is Asian, according to Tacoma police.

Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards released a statement Wednesday, saying, "We pause amidst our struggle with the current public health and economic crisis, as well as the flood of emotions stirred up by the tragic and unacceptable death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and reflect on the grief and sadness of Manuel Ellis' family and love ones."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Iran frees Navy veteran held for 2yrs
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/middleeast/Iran-prisoner-michael-white.html?action=click&module=Latest&pgtype=Homepage
GIST	<p>Iran has freed Michael R. White, a Navy veteran held in that country for nearly two years, and he was on his way home, his mother announced on Thursday in the United States.</p> <p>"For the past 683 days my son, Michael, has been held hostage in Iran by the IRGC and I have been living a nightmare," his mother, Joanne White, said in a statement, referring to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.</p> <p>"I am blessed to announce that the nightmare is over, and my son is safely on his way home."</p> <p>The release of Mr. White, 48, a cancer patient who had been infected with the coronavirus while incarcerated in Iran, came a day after an Iranian scientist held in the United States was returned to Iran.</p>

	American officials had insisted the two cases were not linked. But Iranian officials had suggested last month that once the scientist, Sirous Asgari, was back in Iran, they would look favorably at permitting Mr. White to go home.
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HEADLINE	06/04 Fear, illness, and death in ICE detention
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/magazine/covid-ice.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage
GIST	<p>he tightly rolled piece of lined notebook paper had ‘important’ written on the outside in Spanish. Nilson Barahona-Marriaga, almost six feet tall with a scruffy beard and a shaved head, an immigrant from Honduras who had lived in Georgia for 20 years, unfurled it as if it were a precious scroll and began to read: “We wanted to tell you that we are going to go on a hunger strike. We ask you to join us.”</p> <p>Hours earlier on April 9, a woman on her work shift in the laundry room slipped the letter into the fold of a clean piece of clothing bound for the Echo-7 unit, a men’s section of Irwin County Detention Center, in south Georgia, where Barahona and 30 other immigrants detained by ICE were held. A man discovered the note in his laundry bag, drafted by a group of detained women held on the other side of the facility. The women, it said, would refuse to show up for \$1-a-day shifts in the laundry room, kitchen and commissary and would stop accepting meals from the kitchen. “We ask you to write back to us. If you all have another plan, let us know.” They were demanding that the immigrant detention center take measures to protect them from Covid-19 and that ICE release the sick, elderly and high-risk among them.</p> <p>For weeks, many of the 700 people locked up in the facility, including Barahona, a 39-year-old father of a 6-year-old boy, had been asking officials for protection — masks and temperature checks for detainees and a requirement that guards, who entered and exited the facility daily, wear masks — as well a promise to stop bringing new detainees into their units. But as entire states were shutting down, life inside Irwin, which is run by a Louisiana-based private company called LaSalle Corrections, had scarcely changed, except for some additional cleaning and temperature checks for new arrivals. “We are depending totally on the authorities here and what they do,” Barahona told me. “And they are not doing much.”</p> <p>In the face of that inaction, Barahona and the men in Echo were trying to communicate with people in other units of the facility. They hoped to consult about a protest to demand changes and their release, but they had failed to make contact. Then the note from the women arrived. “They already thought of it,” Barahona said. The Irwin County Detention Center was about to erupt.</p> <p>Since mid-March, I’d been in regular contact with a group of 20 detained immigrants in Irwin, calling them in \$3.50 14-minute intervals via video visitation software inaptly named “GettingOut.” I was present, digitally, as their voices and images streamed to my computer while they used tablets in their detention units. We talked in English or Spanish for hours at all hours of the day, or I would silently watch as guards entered the detainees’ living areas, unmasked, seemingly unfazed by the virus. I listened as detainees coughed, and watched as others fashioned masks out of scraps of torn clothes, or from broken disposable meal containers. I could see, in real time, that the protections being imposed on the rest of the country were being ignored here.</p> <p>In March, the agency began a proactive review of the 38,000 people it was detaining in facilities across the country, and it released 693 elderly or otherwise vulnerable detainees, saying in mid-April that no more would be let out at the time. The federal government had effectively sealed the borders to asylum seekers during the pandemic, and ICE was still deporting immigrants; some were discovered to be infected with Covid-19 after their deportation. According to a news release by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, ICE’s acting director, Matthew T. Albence, told the committee in a closed session on April 17 that broad release would risk sending the message to Americans and potential migrants that the country was “not enforcing our immigration laws.” He warned that if ICE slowed its efforts, or released detained immigrants, it would cause a “rush at the borders,” and that its orders under the current administration — to detain and deport immigrants, as many as possible — would be imperiled.</p>

Across the United States, when the virus has hit carceral facilities, it has spread ferociously. In one Ohio prison, a staff member tested positive for Covid-19 on March 29; a month later, around 2,000 inmates at the facility had tested positive; as of May 28, 14 people had died. For months in ICE's detention centers, nobody really knew how many immigrant detainees had Covid-19, because the agency was scarcely testing, even as public-health experts warned of a pending crisis: One model by a group of academics published in *The Journal of Urban Health* in May projected that the virus would soon infect a majority of ICE's detainees. Once testing did slowly begin, in the middle of March, the numbers soared. As of May 28, about 2,600 of ICE's detainees have been tested, and more than half have been positive. A detainee in a California facility with an outbreak died in the first week of May; days later, another man died in Ohio, weeks after his release from ICE detention, where he appears to have been exposed. Two guards in an immigrant-detention center in Louisiana died in late April.

In response to the pandemic, immigrants in at least a dozen ICE facilities have announced protests and strikes. Irwin was about to join them. "Our lives have a lot of value, as mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, spouses, siblings," Barahona read from the letter in Spanish. "We are humans, and we have the right to live." He began to cry. He has diabetes and hypertension, and knows he is at risk. "They want to be certain that they are not alone," he said. "Nobody wants to be fighting by themselves."

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a relatively new invention, a result of the bureaucratic reordering after the 2001 World Trade Center attacks. A part of the new Department of Homeland Security, its mission was to target "terrorist and criminal activities," but the agency has instead become, through consecutive administrations, Republican and Democratic, a means to "catch" immigrants that has no historic parallel. In 1994, fewer than 7,000 people were held on average per day in immigration detention. That number more than quadrupled by the end of the George W. Bush presidency and then kept rising, reaching nearly 40,000 under Obama. By last summer, ICE detained more than 53,000 immigrants and asylees. The Trump administration now detains anyone it can, including, since a 2017 policy was enacted, asylum seekers who previously would have been free while waiting a court decision over their claim and any undocumented immigrant, no matter how long they'd been here or what led ICE to find them.

The federal government's commitment to detention has not meaningfully shifted since the pandemic, and so advocates have been waging a war in the courts, filing case after case in the last three months to demand that detainees with medical vulnerabilities be released immediately. "I have never seen conditions, with respect to desperation and grave urgency, at this level before," says Eunice Cho, a senior staff attorney at the A.C.L.U.'s National Prison Project who has for years litigated against unsafe ICE detention conditions.

In early April, just two days before the note appeared in Barahona's dorm, lawyers with the Southern Poverty Law Center and Asian Americans Advancing Justice filed a habeas petition in federal court on behalf of Barahona and seven other detainees in Georgia, all of whom were medically vulnerable with conditions that include diabetes, hypertension, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The filing was one of dozens across the country to demand the release of the elderly and people with medical conditions. In at least 18 federal court districts, judges have acceded to these petitions, ordering the release of detainees. As of May 28, federal courts have ordered 392 people be let out.

But while the total detainee population has fallen significantly since the start of the pandemic, a majority of the 12,000-person decline in the population since late February is a direct result of the Department of Homeland Security's decisions to constrict the introductions of new arrivals. In March, ICE said it would limit arrests of immigrants on the streets, and then the agency effectively closed the border, halting legal asylum petitions, severing a major flow of detainees into the system.

The Department of Homeland Security achieved in the pandemic what the administration, led by the White House adviser Stephen Miller and other anti-immigrant DHS and White House officials, had been trying to do in piecemeal fashion for three years: effectively ending American compliance with obligations

under domestic and international law to allow people fleeing persecution in their home countries to make legal claims for protection in the United States.

In California, a federal judge ordered ICE to reopen its review to identify older and medically vulnerable detainees, writing that in delaying any meaningful response to the pandemic, the agency had “likely exhibited callous indifference to the safety and well-being of” detainees. This resulted in ICE’s identifying 4,409 more people who were at “heightened risk of severe illness and death.” But as of the end of May, the agency had proactively released only 200 more “at risk” detainees, for a total of 900. In an emailed response to questions, an ICE spokesperson wrote that “additional reviews could be conducted if the circumstance related to Covid-19 and/or C.D.C. guidelines change,” and that it would review people “at the time of arrest.”

The agency, the spokesperson wrote in the same email, has taken “extensive steps to safeguard all detainees, staff and contractors, including: reducing the number of detainees in custody by placing individuals on alternatives to detention programs, suspending social visitation, incorporating social distancing practices with staggered meals and recreation times, and through the use of cohorting and medical isolation.”

But as the pandemic has spread from one ICE facility to the next, the agency has repeatedly played down the risk. In response to Barahona’s habeas petition and many others like it, ICE has said fears of infection were “purely speculative” and “conjectural,” that detainees would be no safer outside than they were inside. When it has been forced to release detainees, the agency has often claimed that there are dangerous criminals among the newly freed. ICE lawyers cited a past arrest on charges of drinking and driving in response to Barahona’s habeas petition. After Barahona was pulled over in the D.U.I. stop last fall, the local judge gave him a bond and said he could return home and to his job at a stucco company, but ICE picked him up at the county jail before he could leave. Barahona is undocumented, even though he has lived in Atlanta since he was a teenager, when he followed his mother, who is now a permanent resident, and is married to an American woman, who began the process of petitioning for his green card before he was detained. When he asked for release, an ICE officer wrote, “He has not established that he is not a danger to the community.”

But the agency’s reluctance to release detainees seems to stem less from any public threats posed by the people it detains than from an existential sort of anxiety about its own future. In response to one federal lawsuit filed on March 26 in California on behalf of two detained men, ICE lawyers wrote, “The disruptive effect of ordering petitioners released on this slim, hypothetical basis would long survive the Covid-19 pandemic, and the precedent would serve to release many aliens eligible for removal back into the general public.”

For most of American history, though, immigration laws were enforced without sending hundreds of thousands of people each year to pens to wait out their cases for weeks or months or years. Before the 1980s, when the Reagan administration opened thousands of immigration-detention beds to send a hard message to Haitian and Cuban asylees, immigration detention was used primarily for brief, several-day periods to process entrants and effectuate removals. Over the past decades, detention has grown into a sprawling empire of hundreds of facilities scattered across the country.

John Sandweg served during the Obama administration as the D.H.S.’s acting general counsel and as ICE’s interim director. To immigrant-rights advocates, Sandweg, who is now in private practice, was a target of aggressive campaigns to fight Obama-era detention policies. While he was at ICE, the agency detained what were then historically high numbers of people. But during his seven months as the organization’s director, Sandweg says now, he began to question the need for mass detention. For him it became morally intolerable when, during his tenure, a detained woman committed suicide in a detention center, and he learned that the agency could have allowed her to wait out her legal case from home. “She had a history of mental illness,” Sandweg told me. “She should have never been detained.”

Now, during the pandemic, Sandweg has been calling on the agency, in op-eds and in statements with human rights groups, to release a majority of detainees. “Why would we continue to put people in crowded

facilities where they can be exposed to a virus like this, where they are under tremendous strain, and they are separated from their family?” Sandweg asked. “If ICE now has some deep-seated fear that a pandemic like this could demonstrate there are alternative ways of enforcing immigration laws, that is an absolutely terrible reason not to take common-sense steps to reduce the threat to detainees and everyone who works in these facilities.”

At about the very moment on April 9 that a detained woman in the Irwin County Detention Center was secreting a note in the newly cleaned laundry bag bound for Barahona’s unit, David Paulk, the Irwin warden who had run the facility for nearly two years, was filing an affidavit to the court in response to Barahona’s habeas petition. The declaration disclosed that a detained man — a 55-year-old Colombian recently brought to the facility, I later learned — had tested positive for Covid-19. A contracted transportation guard had the virus, too. Only three of the 699 people the facility held at the time had been tested, according to court testimony. Paulk didn’t report how many staff members had been checked for the virus.

I called Barahona’s dorm immediately after I learned the news. “There was one person who tested positive,” Barahona said, right away. “It’s here.” Barahona’s lawyer from the Southern Poverty Law Center, Diego Sánchez, had told him, and Barahona had told the other men in his unit. The news was less a revelation than a confirmation of what the men already expected. Barahona’s hands were shaking. The officers hadn’t given him his diabetes medicine that evening, he said, and he didn’t know if he was shaking because his meds were out of whack or because the news about the virus had sent him into a spiral. “I’m going to try to calm myself down,” he said.

The next day, April 10, the federal judge in Barahona’s habeas case held a dial-in hearing, in compliance with court social-distancing rules. In court, the warden said he had implemented additional cleaning measures; he wrote in the affidavit that detainees are “repeatedly advised by staff to practice social distancing measures in addition to C.D.C. recommended hand-washing procedures.” “Unfortunately,” he noted, “detainees often choose not to follow this protocol.”

ICE’s assistant field-office director for Atlanta wrote in a separate statement that detainees entering facilities were screened and asked whether they’d had contact with anyone with Covid-19. If they said they had, they were separated from other detainees for 14 days. Hand-cleaner dispensers, he said, had been added to the bathrooms, and the facility was routinely cleaned. (Several detainees in the women’s unit told me the dispensers were sometimes empty.)

The judge, Clay D. Land, denied the request for the detainees’ release. The facility, he wrote, could fix the problems and alleviate any constitutional violations without letting these eight people out. “This is a terribly hard loss,” Sánchez, Barahona’s lawyer, told me. “Nobody can with any honesty say people there are safe.”

Immigration detention is an administrative hold, designed to ensure that people facing deportation don’t disappear. Because detained immigrants are held neither as consequence of being charged or convicted of a crime nor on orders of a judge, ICE has vast authority to simply release nearly everyone it holds — to grant detainees parole. Even detainees with specific past criminal convictions, whom the agency is required, by statute, to detain after their criminal sentence ends, can be released on humanitarian exigencies. The agency can, if it chooses, find other, noncustodial forms of supervision — requiring check-ins with officers, say, or forcing detainees to pay a bond, or attaching an electronic monitor to their ankle. Studies show more than 95 percent of immigrants in these release programs comply.

ICE told me that it “continues to encourage facilities to follow C.D.C. guidelines” and requires detention centers to comply with a set of federal standards, including “plans that address the management of communicable diseases.” But just last year, a report by the Department of Homeland Security’s inspector general found “egregious violations of detention standards,” including for medical care. Inspectors hired to perform a review of Irwin County Detention Center in 2017 wrote that the facility was failing to comply with basic standards, noting, among other things, that the medical area and patient examination tables were filthy.

Barahona had heard on TV news reports that most of the people dying of Covid-19 were either old or had health conditions like his. None of the facility workers had told him anything about how to protect himself, he said. “My biggest concern is my son. You know, the deepest wish of my heart is to be able to be with him for as long as he needs me.”

For weeks before the first positive Covid-19 test in Irwin, detainees had been trying to demand stricter safety protocols. Barahona introduced me to a gravel-voiced 33-year-old Cuban man named Reydel Sarria-Gondres, who had been in detention for more than a year while waiting for an appeal of his asylum case. Sarria-Gondres had taken to confronting officers who entered the unit without masks. “Why are you guys not taking this seriously?” Sarria-Gondres said he was almost ready to do something to get himself sent to solitary confinement, which, dreadful as it would be, would be better, he thought, than sitting in a unit with 30 other men.

Earlier attempts at major protests in Irwin faltered. One of my most regular contacts was with Andrea Manrique, a 34-year-old Colombian asylum-seeker who was detained by ICE when she landed at the airport in Los Angeles. The women in Manrique’s unit slept in beds no more than three feet apart. Some had cold symptoms. One reported a fever. “We have contact directly with people who are sick,” Manrique said. They worried that the sick people were infected with the coronavirus. In late March, Manrique and a group of other women huddled together amid the bunks and talked in hushed voices, telling a suspicious guard that they were merely praying. They decided they would stop going to work shifts, and that they would refuse meals from the kitchen. But just a day later, they called off the protest. The women realized that unless they could find some way to communicate with the rest of the facility — to persuade other detainees beyond the 70 or so women in their unit to join them — their protest would be quickly crushed.

Barahona and the men in Echo had already tried and failed, too. At the start of April, guards had tried to move the men to the Alpha dorms, where as many as 100 slept in rows of bunk beds bolted to the floor a few feet from each other. In Echo, at least, there was a modicum of separation: two stories, each with eight double-occupancy cells.

When an officer ordered them to pack their things because the space was needed, the men, determined not to move, actively resisted. “You think we’re all going to fit in the hole?” Barahona said. “No, they can’t put us all into solitary.”

“You all are making a mistake,” a guard yelled. The video feed I was watching cut off. When Barahona finally picked up again, an hour later, he was still in Echo, cleaning the empty unit. The officers had pulled the men out two by two. Many were taken to Alpha. Barahona and a group of others were sent to a nearby dorm still on Echo, with one- or two-person cells. Barahona assumed they were trying to keep the suspected instigators away from the rest of the men.

Even after the revelation on April 9 that Covid-19 had arrived at Irwin, ICE and LaSalle Corrections continued to minimize the threat of the pandemic. In the court filing that day, Warden Paulk wrote that Irwin County Detention Center “is and will remain capable of taking all adequate safeguards to protect staff and the inmate population from a Covid-19 outbreak.” An ICE public-affairs officer for the region told me at the time that the low rate of infection vindicated whatever the agency was doing. But the revelation unified detainees in Irwin. Unit by unit, notes spread, while detainees’ relatives messaged other detainees’ relatives to get the word out: Strikes were beginning in the facility.

Manrique told me that the women in her unit would join the strike; no one would leave the dorm, and no one would eat meals from the kitchen. They would get by on food they had stashed from the commissary. “Tomorrow it’ll be a year since I’ve been in here,” Manrique said. She missed her son’s 19th birthday two days before. “I am afraid for my life.”

The men in Echo-7, Barahona’s unit, were mobilizing, too, preparing signs in English and in Spanish to hold up for their relatives and reporters to record through the GettingOut app. One read, “We Are Not Safe Here.” The men were talking about a hunger strike.

In another unit, a 62-year-old man named Elias Garcia, who grew up in the United States after he followed his mother from Mexicali, Mexico, when he was 10 and who had a green card (ICE cited a 15-year-old drug conviction, for which he had been sentenced to probation, to justify his lockup), met with other men in a cell, away from the intercom system that they worried allowed officials to overhear. They had heard about the women's strike. "If we are going to do this, we are going to do this together," he said.

The boyfriend of a woman in Manrique's unit recorded a video from a video chat, which soon began circulating online. Manrique appeared at the start, wearing a mask she had fashioned from a piece of fabric. "We are raising our voices so our petitions can be heard," she said. Other women, some faces bare, held signs that read in Spanish, "We don't have protection" and "There are sick people here." "We are afraid of infecting one another, by breathing, coughing, anything," another woman said.

Other dorms also began to act. Elias Garcia held up a sign that read, "I'm Human," and another that disparaged the use of "alien" to describe human beings, reading "E.T. Is the Alien." A line of men walked to the camera and held signs, drawn in bubble letters, asking to be let free, to be protected. A Nigerian man who said he had been detained after failing to renew his green card and who had stopped eating spoke: "I am 68. I do not want to die."

On the morning of April 13, CNN en Español interviewed Barahona for a story about people protesting in detention: "I know that by our stopping eating, the officials will get to a point where they'll have to pay attention to the situation," he said in Spanish. "If we don't do anything, this will continue."

Later that afternoon, an ICE officer came to speak with the men in Barahona's unit. "Good afternoon. Does anyone at this time speak English?" he asked, as the tablet captured the conversation. To Barahona and the others, the man's arrival felt like a sign of success. A central grievance inside the facility — and a routine refrain on many of my calls — was a sense, born out in experience, that nobody with any power was sharing any meaningful information with the people detained inside. As Manrique told me soon into our first conversation in late March: "We are scared, and nobody is giving us answers. Do you know anything about what is happening?" In many ways, what the detainees had been asking for was information about how to protect themselves. They wanted to talk to someone who could make actual decisions about their lives. Now, an officer from the agency that could release them stood before them.

"Here's the deal," he said. "First of all, I can't answer any questions. There's a process that works." The officer kept talking: ICE "officers are not working in the office, everybody's working from home, the courts are not running as normal, OK?" The officer rattled through a list of ways the virus had derailed the normal system — grounded deportation flights, slowed courts, nearly moribund visa processing. "What it leads to is this [expletive] basically."

"There is nobody infected in this facility," the officer continued. The men erupted. Just that day, ICE had updated its website to include the Irwin case in its list of positives. "They said there was!" Nilson bellowed in response.

"There is not," the officer replied. Nilson spoke again, his voice measured and low: "OK. Let me tell you something. My name is Nilson Barahona, I put a lawsuit to this facility, both of the wardens were in the federal court on Thursday" — he was referencing Paulk and the Stewart detention center warden. "They declared that they have tested three people and one came positive."

"Not in this facility," the officer said. "The information that you've been given, all right, it's not accurate. First of all, this is a multimillion-dollar operation." He continued, "The grand authority over all of this comes out of the White House and C.D.C.," adding: "It really is disgusting to me, the whole situation, it really is. The people responsible for this information are nowhere to be found. They're all sitting at home somewhere barking orders telling people like me what to say to you. I can give you as much information that's available. I can't go kick down the warden's door, you can't even begin to imagine."

The officer prepared to leave. A detained man yelled over a buzz of voices: “Last question. Where the hell have you been for the last 10 days?” A 30-year-old Ghanaian immigrant who had lived in Atlanta for more than a decade spoke: “I want to tell you, right now, we are on a hunger strike.” None of the men had eaten since the morning. “We’re trying to bring attention to it, right?” He asked whom they should speak to.

The officer responded: “The facility is going to continue addressing issues as they arise. What that entails, I have no idea, OK? That’s the facility. That’s the warden’s choice.”

Nilson returned to the tablet to talk with me again; other men stood on the second-floor platform, watching the officer leave. “I think they haven’t taken us seriously yet,” he said. “I think a few more hours have to pass by for them to realize that this is not a game for us.”

The video calls in Irwin stopped working on April 14. Manrique called using the phone that afternoon. She sounded frantic. “Today they took the tablets and TV,” she said. “They’re punishing us. They found out we made the video.”

Lindsay Williams, an ICE public-affairs officer for the region, told me he had no knowledge of any protest, or whether tablets being turned off was in response to a strike. Maybe some detainees were not going to eat a few meals, he said, but under ICE rules a hunger strike had to last at least three days. Warden Paulk told me to call LaSalle; the corporation did not reply.

Later that evening, Manrique called again. This time she was calmer. Just listen, she told me. In the background, a guard was singing a gospel song, “Victory Is Mine.” “Victory is not losing yourself, is not giving up hope,” the guard told the women after she stopped singing. “And it’s keeping the fight.” The women took it as a gesture of solidarity — many detainees, including Manrique, had expressed concern about the staff members, who were just as vulnerable to the disease’s spread as they were. The guard eventually stopped talking, and an ICE officer arrived. He told the women their protest would lead to nothing.

By then, Barahona had been moved from Echo. He said officials had threatened the 30 or so men in his unit that they would be locked up. Half the men ended their protest and were sent to a different dorm. Most of those who remained, who said they would continue their hunger strike, were locked in cells. Five men, including Barahona, were moved to what detainees called the punishment cells in the Delta unit. He said that an ICE official told them that if they persisted on a hunger strike for more than 72 hours, the agency could go to a federal judge to request permission to force-feed them. By April 16, the other four men had agreed to eat. As they were taken out of the Delta unit, the men passed Barahona’s cell. “Just let everybody know I’m OK, bro,” he said to one of them. “I understand why you all want to come off of it. I’m going to continue.” Nilson had stopped consuming food, water, even his diabetes medication.

Manrique said that although the women had stopped going to work, most hadn’t lasted long refusing meals. “I try to put a strong front for the other women here, but I am really tired,” she told me. In dorm after dorm, where four days earlier women and men were rallying and protesting, detainees were deflated. “I am afraid that something catastrophic will happen inside of here,” Manrique said through tears.

On April 18, Barahona called me from a phone brought by a guard to his cell. He was one of only a few detainees still protesting. He spoke slowly, exhaled deeply. “I haven’t eaten for five days.” Reydel Sarria-Gondres, the gravel-voiced Cuban man, had been delivered to this same cell two days earlier, and both men said they wouldn’t end their hunger strike until their demands were met and they could talk with a senior ICE official. “Nothing has changed,” Barahona said. Just that day, an officer had walked into the Delta unit with no mask on. “I’m not suicidal, you know, but I think this has a solution, and I think the solution is to talk to the right people.”

Later that night, I learned from another detainee that guards at the facility had finally started taking the temperatures of people inside. A 19-year-old Bangladeshi man held on the Alpha unit, the part of Irwin that Barahona had resisted being moved to, had a fever, and was removed to an isolation cell. He tested positive for Covid-19. Detainees say the entire Alpha dorm was held in lockdown for 14 days.

Two days later, Sarria-Gondres called me. “Yesterday they took Nilson trembling to medical,” he said. Barahona had told Sarria-Gondres he didn’t feel well, was dizzy. Sarria-Gondres had called for a doctor. He himself had not eaten for seven days. “I am not doing well. My kidneys hurt. When I pee it burns a lot. I get really dizzy. I woke up today with chest pain. I thought I was going to have a heart attack.” He was still determined not to eat, he said. “The sergeant came wearing a mask on her chin while talking to the detainees. They’re still not taking this seriously.”

On April 21, when I tried to reach the detainees through the tablets, I was unable to sign in. A notification on my cellphone said my access had been blocked. I dialed GTL, the company that operates the platform, and was told the facility had suspended my account. I was banned until 2025.

That same day, Manrique was locked for 14 days in a double segregation cell, I later learned from her lawyer. Four other women from the same dorm were moved there as well. All had appeared in the video posted on the internet. Manrique said an official told her they were being punished for the video, because, she told her lawyer, “we spoke badly of the institution,” and the women “were abusing the resources that they were giving us.”

Barahona was returned to Echo-7, rolled in by wheelchair, on April 23. He had decided to end his hunger strike on the 10th day, when he learned the young Bangladeshi man with Covid-19 was being held in the medical unit nearby. A nurse told him, “It is better for you to leave this place.”

Within a few weeks, detainees told me that several people inside the Alpha unit were acutely sick. A local charity had delivered a pile of masks to the facility that were handed out to the detained, but the virus had already begun to spread. One young man named Jackson Arevalo-Callejas, originally from El Salvador, told me he had lost his sense of smell. A 65-year-old Cuban man told me he was scarcely moving from his bed, but there was nothing he could do to maintain six feet of distance. None of the men in the dorm had been tested for the virus.

On May 7, the judge presiding over the habeas petition on behalf of Barahona agreed to allow a correctional-medicine expert to evaluate over video whether Irwin and Stewart were operating in a way that could keep detained people safe. In the days that followed, detainees say the staff at Irwin began to clean the facilities and hang small signs on the walls that instructed detainees to stay six feet apart. After his video inspection, the expert concluded that the facilities were not complying with C.D.C. guidelines.

By May 13, ICE reported a total of six detainees in Irwin had tested positive. Elias Garcia, the 62-year-old man who’d held up the “E.T.” sign, was among them. “We were trying to protect ourselves,” he said over the phone from the isolation cell where he had been moved. “We were just asking for masks.” His voice was weak, his breath obviously short. He said that his whole body ached and that he was feverish; he felt as if a heavy weight were on his chest. He said this was the loneliest place to be in quarantine.

On the morning of May 14, Barahona said he was loaded onto a bus with 40 other men from different dorms, including Jackson, the young Salvadoran man who’d told me he had lost his sense of smell. Barahona sat next to Sarria-Gondres, who ended his hunger strike after more two weeks. A few hours later, they were unloaded at the Stewart Detention Center. ICE told me it moved detainees to “stem the potential spread of Covid-19” by reducing populations in facilities where people are infected. But by the day of the men’s arrival, 16 Stewart detainees and dozens of staff members had already tested positive.

When Barahona called me from Stewart, he was furious that ICE had moved him and the other men from one facility to another. He said he still hoped that the judge would order his release, or that ICE might reconsider and grant him parole. “At the end of the day, all of this is run by ICE,” Barahona said. “They are the ones responsible for us, the ones who keep us detained.”

On May 24, a 34-year-old Guatemalan man named Santiago Baten-Oxlaj became the first Stewart detainee to die of Covid-19. The same day, the lawyers on Barahona’s habeas petition were back in court. On the

	question of the detainees' release, Judge Land said: "I have not heard anything terribly persuasive to change my mind."
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HEADLINE	06/04 Covid-19 cases multiply faster than ever
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/coronavirus-us-update.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage#link-2c768e19
GIST	<p>The coronavirus pandemic is ebbing in some of the countries that were hit hard early on, but the number of new cases is growing faster than ever worldwide, with more than 100,000 reported each day.</p> <p>Twice as many countries have reported a rise in new cases over the past two weeks as have reported declines, according to a New York Times database. On May 30, more new cases were reported in a single day worldwide than ever before: 134,064. The increase has been driven by emerging hot spots in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.</p> <p>Over all, there have been more than 6.3 million reported cases worldwide and more than 380,000 known deaths. More than a quarter of all known deaths have been in the United States. But the geography of the pandemic is changing quickly.</p> <p>The increases in some countries can be attributed to improved testing programs. But in many places, it appears that the virus has only now arrived with a wide scope and fatal force. Here is a look at some of the countries where the number of new cases has been doubling every two to three weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The death toll in Brazil, Latin America's largest country, passed 30,000 on Tuesday, when officials reported 1,262 deaths, which was the nation's highest one-day total. President Jair Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly minimized the threat, said, "We are sorry for all the dead, but that's everyone's destiny." Brazil now has more than half a million known cases, second only to the United States. <p>But it has no health minister: Two were forced out in less than a month after they balked at expanding the use of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug promoted by President Trump and subsequently Mr. Bolsonaro that has not been proved effective against the virus. And despite the growing number of cases and hospitals that are close to capacity, businesses have started reopening in major cities, including Rio de Janeiro, Manaus and Vitória.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peru has more than 170,000 confirmed cases, despite taking the virus seriously early on. The president, Martín Vizcarra, ordered one of the first national lockdowns in South America. Though the official virus death toll stands at around 5,000, Peru had 14,000 more deaths than usual in May, suggesting that a growing number of people are dying at home as hospitals struggle to handle a flood of cases. <p>The pandemic provoked an exodus from Lima, the capital, as people unable to work fled by bus, and even by foot, to family farms. It is widely expected that the number of new cases and of deaths will continue to rise in coming weeks as winter nears and the economy slowly reopens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For months, Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, seemed to avoid the worst of the pandemic. In early March, Egypt confirmed 45 cases on a Nile tour boat in the area, among both crew and passengers. But recently the number of cases there has been rising significantly, reaching 27,536 on Tuesday. <p>The recent death of a young doctor, who was denied treatment for Covid-19 at an overwhelmed hospital, ignited a revolt by members of the medical staff. They said the government had failed to provide adequate protective equipment and training to front-line workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With more than 35,000 confirmed infections, the most in Africa, South Africa still has a growing number of new cases, despite enacting a strict lockdown in March that included a ban on the sale of tobacco and alcohol. The prohibition was lifted this month even though the total number of cases continued to rise.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh now has 55,000 known cases, and its troubles were compounded last month by Cyclone Amphan, a deadly storm that tore through communities under lockdown. <p>This week, the country reported its first death from Covid-19 in a refugee camp: A 71-year-old Rohingya man died May 31 while receiving treatment in an isolation center. His death raised fears about the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees who, after fleeing Myanmar, live in camps with tightly packed tents and shacks.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/03 Today's activism: spontaneous, leaderless
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/us/leaders-activists-george-floyd-protests.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage
GIST	<p>MINNEAPOLIS — In the sea of hundreds of protesters who gathered one evening this week near the intersection where George Floyd was killed, a lone voice rose from the crowd.</p> <p>“Everybody sit down,” it urgently ordered.</p> <p>Others chimed in — “Sit down! Sit down!” — scolding those, even journalists, who were slow to comply.</p> <p>A few minutes later, Tony Clark, wearing a black face mask and an earring with the inscription “Not today Satan,” bounded toward the center of the circle of seated bodies and took the megaphone.</p> <p>“Everybody stand up,” he commanded, contradicting the earlier speaker’s instructions.</p> <p>The crowd rose.</p> <p>“The moment y’all sit down, the moment they’re going to step on y’all,” Mr. Clark, 27, said to rousing applause. But a half-hour later, he reversed his stance and told everyone to sit down again.</p> <p>“Stop barking orders,” said Davi Young, a Marine veteran, twisting his face. “You’re not the police.”</p> <p>Welcome to 21st-century activism, where spontaneous and leaderless movements have been defined by their organic births and guided on the fly by people whose preferences, motivations and ideas may not always align.</p> <p>But the absence of organized leadership does not mean the movements — from the Arab Spring to Occupy Wall Street to Black Lives Matter — are rudderless.</p> <p>Leveraging technology that was unavailable to earlier generations, the activists of today have a digital playbook. Often, it begins with an injustice captured on video and posted to social media. Demonstrations are hastily arranged, hashtags are created and before long, thousands have joined the cause.</p> <p>At the core is an egalitarian spirit, a belief that everyone has a voice, and that everyone’s voice matters.</p> <p>“This is much more than an organization. This is much more than an individual,” said Nejah Ibrahim, 26, sitting on the pavement at the intersection where Mr. Floyd was arrested, sporadically leading chants or delivering messages from a megaphone.</p> <p>“This is collective people who came together,” he continued, “to stand against a systematic oppression that we have endured for so long.”</p> <p>But leaderless movements have their challenges.</p>

It can be difficult to keep protests from spilling out of control, and difficult to maintain a clear and focused message. Disputes over the best strategies can easily emerge.

“I think it is detrimental that we lack that kind of structure, organization,” said Dame Jasmine Hughes, 33, standing at a makeshift memorial for Mr. Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer pinned Mr. Floyd’s neck to the ground with his left knee for nearly nine minutes.

The officer, Derek Chauvin, was fired from the Minneapolis Police Department and charged with second-degree murder. Three other officers at the scene were charged on Wednesday with aiding and abetting the killing.

“Organizations show power,” Ms. Hughes continued. “There’s power in clarity. There’s power in structure, especially when people are hurting.”

Though organized structure might be loose, traditional civil rights groups, churches and newly minted activist organizations have provided guidance and tactical and practical support to activists around the country.

Carmen Means, a pastor who has led a mostly online congregation since 2015 and is the director of the Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization in Minneapolis, said her congregants helped set up a memorial for Mr. Floyd. They have received food donations and they turned a nearby building into a food bank, where there was recently a long line of residents.

And she has led discussions outside Cup Foods — the corner store near where the fatal encounter between Mr. Floyd and the police took place — where people talked about how Mr. Floyd’s death has affected them.

“They were weeping,” she said. “You could see the trauma that was in their eyes.”

More than emotional support, Pastor Means and her fellow activists also try to help strategize the demonstrators’ next moves.

She said she has convened daily meetings for “strategic thinking, planning because we understand that this is not a sprint. This is a marathon, right?”

Part of that strategy is figuring out how to channel the energy of young activists who are not affiliated with official organizations. They may have raw rage, she said, and need guidance in finding productive ways to express it.

“We do tell them that it is their right to protest and be angry. That’s something courageous,” said Shanene Herbert, a member of Pastor Means’s congregation who helps youth in the community.

“But we want them to understand what their rights are,” added Keeya Allen, another congregant.

“Understand that they have a life to live. So it’s not about, are you going to die for the cause? Or are you going to live for the cause every day?”

These days, social media is the strongest, most prominent leader. Young activists announce the location of an action or protest on Twitter or Instagram, and within an hour, scores of people are there.

“I think it kind of does make it hard to manage because you don’t know who’s coming,” said Maryan Farasle, a 17-year-old high school senior who lives in the Minneapolis suburbs and is an activist organizer. “You don’t know the people showing up and what their intentions are.”

But at the same time, she added, “I think it is a way to get a lot of people together quickly.”

The young generation of activists also uses social media to police one another and help keep everyone safe. On Thursday night, after protesters set fire to the Third Police Precinct headquarters in Minneapolis, one Twitter user warned people to leave the area.

Tensions on the streets in Minneapolis and elsewhere have simmered in recent days, amid a tough law enforcement crackdown and passionate pleas from Mr. Floyd's family to keep the peace.

But today's young activists also avoid singular leaders. "We've seen what happens to people in the past when they're the lead of anything," Ms. Farasle said, referring to civil rights leaders who have been slain.

Tay Anderson, a 21-year-old organizer in Denver, has found himself facing that danger — and walking a tightrope.

As the protests in Denver tipped into violence and vandalism, he spoke out against looting and rioting while police officers shot projectiles and launched tear gas at the crowd. He once helped negotiate a stand-down with officers to defuse tensions, and some activists accused him of working with the police, he said.

After days of speaking through a megaphone to sign-waving crowds about police killings and systemic racism, Mr. Anderson said that chilling online messages forced him to pull back from the crowds on Monday.

He was doing online searches of his name to fact-check news articles that quoted him when Google's "related searches" showed a disturbing list: "Tay Anderson shot." "Tay Anderson shot in head." "Tay Anderson shot in back of head."

"They can try to silence me but I'm not going to let anybody put a muzzle on me," he said.

Despite the dangers, some lean into the prospect of being a leader.

"I am a leader," Mr. Clark said this week as he stood among scores of people at the vigil site for Mr. Floyd on Minneapolis's South Side.

Moments later, commotion broke out on the edges of the gathering, an apparent dispute between some of the protesters. Some began to scatter.

"Why are we running?" a man with dreadlocks shouted. "Stand your ground," a woman with a white cap yelled. Others exhorted: "Stay here! Stay here!"

Things eventually calmed down, until police lights appeared in the distance and protesters rushed toward a makeshift wooden fence they had erected as a barrier to protect their vigil site. "Be peaceful!" protesters shouted. "Don't instigate!"

Mr. Clark sprang into action and urged everyone to stay disciplined.

It turned out to be a false alarm. The police turned around, but Mr. Clark worked his way back to the center of the crowd and spoke into the megaphone like a general readying his troops for battle.

Is anyone going home tonight, he asked.

"No!"

And when the tear gas and rubber bullets come, he said, they would need to stand pat.

"Our ancestors have been through worse," said Mr. Clark, a barber who is struggling to find work because of the coronavirus pandemic. "We're going to beat this by being in peace tonight."

Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	06/04 Malicious CV and medical leave forms
SOURCE	https://blog.checkpoint.com/2020/06/04/coronavirus-update-not-the-type-of-cv-youre-looking-for/?web_view=true
GIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminals are using malicious CV and medical leave forms to spread banking Trojans and infostealers • Overall cyber-attacks up 16% compared to March and April, as businesses start to re-open • Covid-19 related cyber-attacks during May decline 7% compared to April <p>At the end of May, CNN reported that more than 40 million Americans have filed for first-time unemployment benefits since the coronavirus pandemic put the US economy on hold in March. In fact, 1 in 4 Americans have filed for unemployment during the pandemic – the highest the country has had in its history, surpassing even the era of the Great Depression in the 1930s.</p> <p>We previously reported that because of high unemployment rates, people became vulnerable to scams and phishing attacks involving relief package payments. We found that in May, 250 new domains containing the word “employment” were registered. 7% of these domains were malicious and another 9% suspicious.</p> <p><u>Under the guise of CVs and Medical Leave forms</u></p> <p>We have seen an increase in CV-themed campaigns in the US, and their ratio – out of all malicious files identified – doubled in the last two months with 1 out of every 450 malicious files being a CV-related scam.</p> <p>Recently, we discovered a malicious campaign using the Zloader malware to steal victims’ credentials and other private information. Zloader malware is a banking Trojan and a variant of the infamous Zeus malware that specifically targets customers of financial institutions.</p> <p>Malicious .xls files with file names indicating they are individuals’ CVs were sent via email with subjects such as “applying for a job” or “regarding job”. When opening the attached file, victims were asked to “enable content” (see image below) and when they did, a malicious macro started running, downloading the final payload. Once a device was infected, threat actors could use the malware to carry out financial transactions on the device.</p> <p>The emails came with the subject “CV from China” and contained an ISO file (CV.iso) that dropped a malicious EXE file (CV.exe) that would run an Info-stealing malware on the user’s machine.</p> <p>Campaigns that use CVs as an attack vector aren’t the only ones taking place. We also discovered a campaign using Medical Leave forms that delivered the Icedid malware, a banking Trojan that steals users’ financial data.</p> <p>Malicious documents with names such as “COVID -19 FLMA CENTER.doc” were sent via emails with subjects like “The following is a new Employee Request Form for leave within the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)”. The emails were sent from different sender domains like “medical-center.space” to lure victims into opening the malicious attachments.</p> <p>A similar campaign delivered Trickbot, a dominant banking Trojan constantly being updated with new capabilities, features and distribution vectors, allowing it to be a flexible and customizable enough to be distributed as part of multipurpose campaign. In this campaign, the same FMLA theme is adopted, with the emails being sent from domains such as “covid-agency.space”.</p>

HEADLINE	06/04 Fraudulent iOS VPN apps; 'fleeceware'
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/fraudulent-vpn-apps-scam/?&web_view=true
GIST	<p>Digital security and privacy company Avast has issued a warning after it discovered three VPN Apps, available on the Apple App Store, which it claimed are fraudulent and appear to be 'fleeceware' – apps that are not 'malicious' but do not provide the services they claim to and/or are sold at far higher prices than they should be.</p> <p>The three apps in question, Beetle VPN, Buckler VPN and Hat VPN Pro, have apparently been downloaded over 420,000, 271,000 and 96,000 times, respectively, between April 2019 and May 2020, according to data from Sensor Tower.</p> <p>According to Avast, the apps claim to be VPNs and charge \$9.99 a week for a weekly subscription once their free three-day trial expires.</p> <p>Investigating the legitimacy of the apps, Avast researchers installed and purchased subscriptions to each. However, when they tried to use the VPNs, the apps only provided subscription options once again. After attempting to purchase the subscriptions again, Avast researchers were notified they already have a subscription and thus were unable to establish a VPN connection using any of the apps.</p> <p>"Fleeceware apps fall into a grey area, because they are not malicious per se, they simply charge users absurd amounts of money for weekly, monthly or yearly subscriptions for features that should be offered at much lower costs," said Nikolaos Chrysaidos, head of mobile threats and security at Avast. "In this case, the VPNs are being sold for \$9.99 (USD) a week, when trustworthy VPNs cost 10-times less."</p> <p>With many people turning to VPN apps to protect their data while working remotely, this illustrates how important it is for users to research VPN apps before installing them, Chrysaidos added, including looking into who is behind the product, their track record with other products and user reviews, and experience in offering security and privacy apps.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Money giveaway w/abusive messages
SOURCE	https://www.theregister.com/2020/06/04/commonwealth_bank_bans_indecent_transaction_descriptions/?&web_view=true
GIST	<p>Creeps in Australia have given away money in order to harass people with abusive transaction descriptions that appear in online banking records.</p> <p>Australia's Commonwealth Bank (CBA) revealed the practice today after finding over 8,000 customers had received such messages.</p> <p>"After noticing disturbing messages in the account of a customer experiencing domestic and family violence, we conducted analysis to better understand the problem," said Catherine Fitzpatrick, the bank's general manager of community and customer vulnerability. "We were horrified by both the scale and the nature of what we found."</p> <p>"In a three month period, we identified more than 8,000 CBA customers who received multiple low-value deposits, often less than \$1, with potentially abusive messages in the transaction descriptions – in effect using them as a messaging service. All genders were sending and receiving these messages, but the nature ranged from fairly innocuous 'jokes' using profanities to serious threats and clear references to domestic and family violence."</p>

	<p>The Bank allows transaction descriptions allow up to 18 characters, enough to say some nasty things in a single payment and to add up to something revolting with a few transactions.</p> <p>The bank's response is changes to its Acceptable Use Policy that state: "It is unacceptable to use our digital services to stalk, harass or intimidate any person and if we see this we may refuse transactions or close a perpetrator's account entirely."</p> <p>"The use of bank transaction communications as a vehicle for threatening abuse gives a shocking insight into the lengths that violent partners will go to threaten, harass and abuse," said Anna Bligh, CEO of the Australian Banking Association.</p> <p>An Australian Senate Committee recently closed an inquiry into domestic violence three months early, without conducting hearings or producing a report. A new committee has been formed to again consider the issue.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/03 Attacks on advocacy groups skyrocket
SOURCE	https://www.cyberscoop.com/ddos-advocacy-groups-skyrocket-cloudflare/?web_view=true
GIST	<p>Distributed denial-of-service attacks against advocacy organizations increased by 1,120% since a Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck, sparking demonstrations throughout the U.S.</p> <p>In figures published Tuesday, the internet security firm Cloudflare said it blocked more than 135 billion malicious web requests against advocacy sites, compared to less than 30 million blocked requests against U.S. government websites, such as police and military organizations. The company did not disclose which websites were affected, specifically.</p> <p>"As we've often seen in the past, real world protest and violence is usually accompanied by attacks on the internet. This past week has been no exception," Cloudflare chief executive Matthew Prince and chief technology officer John Graham-Cumming said in a blog post.</p> <p>DDoS attacks occur when anonymous web users flood a site with fabricate traffic in an attempt to knock it offline, thus silencing its web presence until the site recovers. Web security services typically block all but the most powerful DDoS attacks with relative ease.</p> <p>The surge in DDoS attacks is nothing new for advocacy groups. Various services through the dark web offer DDoS services on an as needed basis, enabling users to pay in bitcoin to rent a network of computers capable of diverting their traffic to any single site. Some services are available for as little as \$19.99, Cloudflare says.</p> <p>Attackers aimed more than 100 DDoS assaults at BlackLivesMatter.com over a period of seven months in 2016, according to Deflect Labs, a Montreal-based security firm that traced the attacks to a hacking group.</p> <p>Minnesota state officials said on May 31 that some government agencies had been temporarily knocked offline as a result of DDoS attacks. Those attacks were repelled within hours, officials said, and failed to disrupt government operations.</p> <p>Cloudflare is the same web hosting service that removed a web supremacist website after criticism from civil rights organizations.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/03 'Every intel service' to target virus data
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SOURCE	https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/500999-top-dhs-official-says-to-expect-every-intelligence-service-to-target?&web_view=true
GIST	<p>Christopher Krebs, the director of the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity agency, said in an interview released this week that he expects to see "every intelligence service" attempt to target and steal COVID-19 research and data.</p> <p>"We do expect every intelligence service to be in the mix here," Krebs, who serves as director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), said on an episode of CBS's "Intelligence Matters" podcast published Wednesday.</p> <p>"The Chinese have obviously been one of the more brazen in terms of their approach, but others are in the game, too," Krebs said. "This is a very active space, very active space."</p> <p>CISA and the FBI issued a joint warning last month that Chinese-backed hackers were targeting U.S. organizations working to develop vaccines and other treatments for COVID-19. The agencies noted that theft of this data and research could "jeopardize the delivery of secure, effective, and efficient treatment options."</p> <p>Hospitals and major agencies including the World Health Organization and the Department of Health and Human Services have been among the major targets of attackers. CISA joined the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre last month in issuing a separate alert around hackers targeting health care providers.</p> <p>Krebs said on the podcast, which was recorded last week, that the attacks were "destructive."</p> <p>"You're seeing a situation where a hospital could be impacted and their network's offline, they can't conduct clinical operations," Krebs said. "It's not as easy as just transferring those patients to another hospital in this environment. You never know what you're transferring and indeed if you have anything you can transfer to. So we're absolutely seeing destructive attacks across the border right now."</p> <p>He said ransomware attacks, in which the attacker locks up a system and demands payment to return access to the user, were a particular worry, and one that Americans could feel an immediate impact from. These types of attacks have become increasingly rampant over the past year, and have temporarily taken out the networks of hospitals, school districts and major city governments, including the city networks in Minneapolis last week.</p> <p>"When you talk to election officials or you talk to health care officials and you talk about Russia, you talk about China, we talk about North Korea and Iran, it doesn't always resonate with them," Krebs said. "Ransomware is something that they intimately feel, whether it's their community or their peer networks, they see ransomware attacks on a regular basis."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/03 Popularity trend: hacking, cybercrime
SOURCE	https://cybernews.com/security/data-suggests-unprecedented-interest-in-cybercrime-during-pandemic/?web_view=true
GIST	<p>With unemployment rates skyrocketing across the world as prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns continue to wreck the global economy, people who are forced to stay at home without a source of income are beginning to learn new skills to sustain themselves.</p> <p>Our research discovered that while millions are simply trying to make themselves more employable in the digital job market by signing up for online courses, others appear to be increasingly looking at cybercrime as a potential source of income. Recent data has indicated that during the months of March, April, and May, searches related to hacking, scamming, and other forms of cybercrime were through the roof, with breakout search terms like "hacking course" and "ethical hacking course" reaching all-time highs.</p>

Moreover, **visits to popular hacker websites and forums increased by up to 66%** in March.

However, it seems that this might be just the beginning, which suggests an even more increased interest in acquiring skills related to hacking and cybercrime in the near future due to the economic downturns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, mastering those skills all the way to the point of becoming a dangerous cybercriminal is a particularly difficult and time-consuming undertaking, which may discourage a majority of those with a mere interest in learning cybercrime from pursuing anything further than a Google search or a visit to a dark web marketplace.

Nonetheless, the sharp upwards trend in the popularity of the subject matter might be a potential cause for alarm for cybersecurity professionals.

What we found out

This is what we found after analyzing cybercrime-related search terms on Google Trends and looking at popular hacker website traffic on SimilarWeb in the period from late March to May 2020:

- Out of 15 hacking- and cybercrime-related search terms we looked at, two are experiencing all-time highs, 5 have reached five-year highs, while 8 search terms have hit twelve-month highs
- According to SimilarWeb, traffic to popular hacker websites surged noticeably in March and April 2020
- The surges in searches and traffic seem to roughly correlate with the introduction of lockdowns in countries across the world, beginning in late March, gaining steam in April, and peaking around late April and early May
- As COVID-19 lockdowns continue to cause damage to national economies, interest in learning cybercrime so far does not seem to wane significantly

Additionally, with the numbers of hacking-related searches reaching their highest levels in years and even decades, a new wave of cybercrime might be in the making in the future.

Record-breaking spikes in cybercrime-related searches

We used Google Trends to see if there was a noticeable spike in interest in cybercrime-related topics during the pandemic. We were mainly looking at search terms related to learning hacking, online scamming, and the dark web.

Out of all the keywords we've analyzed, searches for "hacking course" and "ethical hacking course" have spiked the most, with both search terms reaching their all-time highs on Google Trends and possibly indicating the surge of increased interest in learning skills related to hacking.

The unprecedented spike in searches for hacking courses began in late March and continued to rise through April as the lockdowns in most countries around the world hit their second month.

Other cybercrime-related terms like "how to get on dark web," "how to scam," and "learn hacking" have been experiencing their highest numbers in searches in five years or more. This added to our suspicion that the previous searches were made by those who were not just trying to learn how to become law-abiding penetration testers.

The volume of search queries for eight other keywords related to learning cybercrime, such as "how to hack," "how to become a hacker," "hacking tutorial," and "empire market" (the largest dark web marketplace in the world), was also elevated relative to their average during the months of March and April.

These spikes may not bode well for the cybersecurity community, as such a high increase of interest in acquiring this kind of knowledge can be an indicator of a future spike in cybercrime.

Even though the increases in the volume of cybercrime-related searches have peaked at 100% in April and May, there's reason to believe that interest might continue to accelerate and reach even higher peaks as the lockdowns continue.

In fact, industry insiders are already beginning to see a surge in cybercrime. According to Fabien Dombard, CTO of [QuoLab Technologies](#), “the cybersecurity community observed a massive amount of malicious activity tagging along with the pandemic, leveraging fear in order to increase their success rate, out of the full spectrum of threat actors from cybercriminals to state sponsored hackers.”

Ultimately, these trends may not mean that all of these searches were made exclusively by would-be cybercriminals as cybersecurity professionals might constitute a good part of those searching for hacking courses to improve their own skillset.

Sounil Yu, CISO-in-Residence at [YL Ventures](#), warns that basic “hacking” skills, such as how to conduct penetration testing, exploit web applications, or find vulnerabilities, are not skills solely related to cybercrime. “Rather, these are foundational skills that are helpful to individuals wanting to start a career in cybersecurity. Cybersecurity jobs have largely remained unaffected by the pandemic and we continue to have a significant shortage of qualified talent, so I wouldn’t be surprised if many people are trying to acquire such skills in the hopes of becoming gainfully employed as a cybersecurity practitioner.”

Online hacker communities experiencing increased traffic

Apart from analyzing Google Trends data, we also used SimilarWeb’s Traffic Overview feature to look at rough estimations of traffic coming to popular online hacker communities.

What we saw confirmed our suspicions: while visits to several popular hacker websites and forums were down by 15%-23% from January to February, March traffic was up by 8%-66%. That said, April saw fewer spikes as traffic stabilized, with some websites experiencing decreases in traffic compared to March. However, the gains from February were still maintained on most websites in April.

The noticeable upticks for most popular websites roughly correlate with the unprecedented spikes in searches on Google Trends. While correlation does not necessarily imply causation, increases in criminal activities often tend to go [hand in hand with worsening economic conditions](#) [pdf].

Portrait of a would-be cybercriminal

Even though we’d like to think that most of us wouldn’t commit cybercrime, the upticks in searches and hacker website traffic suggest that many are at least considering it. But where do they come from? Are Americans just as likely to turn to cybercrime as people in India or Japan?

Cybercriminals typically come from economically disadvantaged countries and regions where legislation related to cybercrime is either not enacted or not consistently enforced. At the same time, worldwide GDP per capita is predicted to [fall off a cliff across 170 countries](#) as unemployment continues to skyrocket due to the sudden economic stop forced by the coronavirus.

This can make talented people with programming or other tech skills in developing countries have even fewer opportunities for gainful employment than they currently have. This might be the reason behind the fact that, while the spikes in cybercrime-related searches are being observed in most countries, most of the increase comes from nations with poorer or less stable economies, such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Nigeria.

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HEADLINE	06/03 EU nears tipping point Russian hacking
SOURCE	https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/03/europe-russian-hackers-sanctions-300124?&web_view=true
GIST	The European Union is getting ready to slap sanctions on a group of Russian hackers, according to three diplomats involved — a move that would mark a turning point in the bloc's efforts to address foreign hacking.

The sanctions, expected later this year, come after the German government announced it "had evidence" tying members of a Russian hacking group to the cyberattack on the Bundestag in 2015.

Diplomats gathered physically Wednesday in Brussels to discuss the Bundestag hack and whether they should respond using a new cyber sanctions regime.

European countries have weighed sanctioning foreign nationals and entities involved in hacking for months, but talks were mired in secrecy as governments weighed their options. That changed when Chancellor Angela Merkel — previously reluctant to chide Russia over hacking — said last month that Berlin could not "simply ignore" an "outrageous" attack, and her government called for an EU response.

"This is a violation of Germany's sovereignty. That's a big deal, and that's what they're signaling," said Chris Painter, former chief U.S. cybersecurity diplomat under President Barack Obama.

Berlin's embrace of sanctions is likely to convince other EU countries to move forward, experts said.

Capitals "may want to use this occasion to demonstrate that similar attacks against any member state are significant enough to merit sanctions," said Patryk Pawlak, executive officer at the EU Institute for Security Studies, the in-house think tank of the Council of the European Union.

"It would be a clear signal for others to stay away from our political institutions," he added.

The immediate target of Berlin's ire is Dmitry Badin, a 29-year-old prolific hacker who is also on the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's wanted list for his involvement in the hacking of the 2016 presidential election.

A spokesperson for the German foreign ministry said in a statement last week that Badin is "strongly suspected" of being behind the Bundestag hack, and German prosecutors have issued an arrest warrant for him.

"There are strong indications that he was a member of the [Russian] GRU military intelligence service at the time of the attack," the spokesperson added. The GRU intelligence service includes the notorious hacking group known variously as APT28, Sofacy and Fancy Bear that Badin is suspected to be part of.

When the attack took place in May 2015, the German parliament's computers went dark, and the chamber was later forced to rebuild its entire security system from scratch.

While it remains unclear what data was compromised, the brazenness of the attack and the symbolism of its target have made it a cause célèbre in Germany.

"This is something that's very dear to Merkel," said Julia Schuetze, a researcher at the Berlin-based think tank Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, said. "She herself was affected, and so were other members of parliament."

Berlin's effort to seek retribution follows years of frustration over Russian hacking as intelligence agencies and cybersecurity firms increasingly tied major attacks to the Kremlin.

In February, a group of European countries and members of the "Five Eyes" intelligence community called out Russia's intelligence service for launching a "totally unacceptable" cyberattack on networks of Georgia's government, courts and other organizations.

That same month, French President Emmanuel Macron told a crowd of security officials in Munich that Russia "will remain a country that tries to intervene" in European elections, and that EU nations "need to be quick in our reaction" and "agree on sanctions."

Already in 2018, Western governments criticized Russia over a series of high-profile cyberattacks, including one on Dutch soil against the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, while the U.K. and the U.S. have said that Moscow was "almost certainly responsible" for the global outbreak of NotPetya ransomware that caused billions of euros in damages.

Germany's effort to bring a European response marks the first serious test of the bloc's sanctions regime, which entered into force in May 2019. So-called restrictive measures like asset freezes and travel bans require the unanimous consent of all EU countries — a difficult hurdle to overcome.

Talks about using the new sanctions against the Russian hacking group started months ago, with cyber diplomats close to agreeing on sanctions against Russian and Chinese entities just before the coronavirus outbreak in Europe, Bloomberg reported.

But the pandemic disrupted the process, three diplomats involved in the talks told POLITICO, as they were barred from meeting physically and the fight against the virus absorbed all political energy.

German diplomats were expected to present their proposal for sanctions against the Bundestag hackers at Wednesday's meeting, which is the first to be held in person since restrictions were enforced in March.

An official at the German foreign office said that "the Federal Government is strongly committed to the EU cyber sanctions regime ... Cyberattacks need to come with a price tag. We find the evidence to be sufficient, and we therefore propose the listing now."

Talks are expected to take weeks as one group of diplomats works on the political level and another works on drafting legal texts with the EU's diplomatic service.

It remains unclear whether diplomats will seek to sanction only those individuals that Germany identified as being behind the Bundestag hack, or whether they will agree on a package of sanctions affecting a larger entity like the GRU's Fancy Bear unit or the intelligence service as a whole.

In January 2019, EU countries already put the GRU's head and deputy head on its sanctions list over the nerve agent attack on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury.

The German foreign office official said its proposal "includes, but is not limited to Dmitry Badin," adding that, "as this will be subject to sensitive negotiations, we cannot provide more detailed information."

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HEADLINE	06/04 New Java-based 'Tycoon' ransomware
SOURCE	https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/new-tycoon-ransomware-strain-targets-windows-linux/d/d-id/1338006
GIST	<p>A newly discovered form of Java-based ransomware has been spotted in active and seemingly targeted attacks on education and software companies, researchers from BlackBerry and KPMG report. This strain, dubbed Tycoon, uses an obscure Java image format to bypass security tools.</p> <p>The discovery began when KPMG's UK Cyber Response Services team was contacted to respond to a targeted attack against an educational institution. BlackBerry's Research and Intelligence team, which works with KPMG, analyzed the threat. The Tycoon ransomware, they say, has been observed in the wild since December 2019 and targets both Windows and Linux machines. Its victim count is "limited," researchers say, suggesting it may be a highly targeted threat.</p> <p>In this case, an attacker connected to the target system using a Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) server on the network, then located a target and obtained local administrator credentials. From there, they located a target and obtained local administrator credentials, installed process hacker-as-a-service, and disabled antivirus. They dropped a backdoor so they could gain re-entry and left.</p>

Seven days later, the attacker connected to an RDP server and used it to move laterally across the network, making RDP connections to multiple systems. Analysis indicates RDP connections were manually initiated for each server, BlackBerry's team states in a blog post. The attacker then ran process hacker-as-a-service and disabled antivirus, then executed the ransomware. It follows this same process for each infected server on the network, and files are encrypted with extensions including .thanos, .grinch, and .redrum.

"They really understood the environment," says Eric Milam, vice president of Guard Services at BlackBerry. "It's not a shock why they chose ransomware ... [they] were able to cause the maximum amount of damage across platforms."

Once they established a foothold in the target organization, he says, it was "off to the races." After a week, attackers targeted only the main servers with a clear indication of crippling the infrastructure and ensuring a ransom payment.

Tycoon Adds New Twist to Ransomware

Tycoon is deployed as a Trojanized Java Runtime Environment (JRE) and compiled into a Java image file (JIMAGE), a special file format that stores custom JRE images and is designed to be used by the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) at runtime. JIMAGE holds resources and class files of all Java modules that support the specific JRE build. Unlike the more popular Java Archive format (JAR), JIMAGE is mostly internal to the Java Development Kit (JDK). Developers rarely use it.

"Because JIMAGE is more used internally by Java, it's a very nice way to hide," says Claudiu Teodorescu, director of BlackBerry's threat hunting and intelligence operations, noting that businesses may assume the activity is coming from an internal developer. "This is a nice way to be stealthy because nobody will look into JIMAGE and think something is off."

The use of a JIMAGE file is "completely new" to ransomware, adds Milam. JIMAGE isn't normally parsed by antivirus and may appear to be a standard component or library in the SDK. "There's not a lot of reason to question [it]," he says. Researchers note the malicious JRE build contains both Windows and Linux versions of a shell script that triggers that ransomware when executed, suggesting Linux servers are also targets.

Because the attackers used an asymmetric RSA algorithm to encrypt the AES keys, file decryption requires obtaining the attacker's private RSA key. Researchers note some victims may not have needed to pay: In a BleepingComputer forum, a Tycoon victim posted a private RSA key that presumably came from a decryptor they bought from the attackers. This key could be used to decrypt files infected with the earliest version of Tycoon, which had a .redrum extension.

Researchers also noticed an overlap between Tycoon and the Dharma/CrySIS ransomware — in particular, the email addresses, ransom note text, and naming convention for encrypted files. Dharma/CrySIS appeared last year and didn't go away, Teodorescu says. When Tycoon appeared in December, researchers noticed the .redrum extension, which was also seen in the earlier Dharma/CrySIS campaigns. Like Tycoon, Dharma/CrySIS exploited weak credentials on RDP to break in. While there was no mention of Java in these attacks, the attackers were also living off the land.

Malware writers are constantly seeking new ways to evade detection, researchers state in their [blog post](#). Now, they say, attackers are moving away from conventional obfuscation and toward uncommon programming languages and obscure data formats. They note a "substantial increase" in ransomware written in Java, Go, and other languages.

For businesses that want to better protect against Tycoon, Teodorescu advises first making sure they know their infrastructure: "Have a clear methodology of auditing credentials, patching your operating system, patching web servers, [and] making sure you have cyber hygiene methodology in place for your organization," he says.

HEADLINE	06/04 Bruteforce malware probes login attempts
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/bruteforce-malware-probes-login-for-popular-web-platforms/
GIST	<p>An aggressive tool hitting a sizable number of popular web services and platforms is trying to brute force its way in with login combinations obtained from parsing metadata from the target.</p> <p>The malware looks for various systems for managing content, databases, and file transfers as well as backup files and administrator login paths.</p> <p>Hitting CMS and services</p> <p>In an analysis published today, Akamai Security Researcher Larry Cashdollar provides technical details on a piece of malware that is similar to Stealthworker, a Golang-based brute force tool that was analyzed in the past by Malwarebytes and Fortinet.</p> <p>The version analyzed by Cashdollar targets cPanel, widely deployed CMS including WordPress, Drupal, Bitrix, OpenCart, Magento, and services like MySQL, PostgreSQL, SSH, and FTP. Previous analysis mentions phpMyAdmin, too.</p> <p>The researcher caught the malware in a honeypot and found that it assigns a role to each infected machine: scanner for other targets or brute force the login of an assigned target.</p> <p>Before getting to this part, though, Cashdollar noticed that the malware installed the free Alternate Lite WordPress theme. The purpose of the theme is unclear but the researcher noticed that the attacker replaced “cutomizer.php” script with a file upload script that allows getting files via POST request or URL.</p> <p>Another interesting observation is that files other than text will be saved with the extension “.moban.” A WordPress theme with the same name existed, which also had file upload functionality. Cashdollar speculates that the attackers used code from Moban.</p> <p>Once the files are in place, the malware contact the command and control server to receive a list of targets and logins. If the system acts as a scanner, it’ll try to determine if the target is running Wordpress; otherwise, the machine will get to the brute force routine.</p> <p>Before the attack starts, though, the malware collects basic data from the target to generate a list of credentials.</p> <p>“The malware parses out tags, like author, email, and other identifiers, to generate these wordlists. Doing so adds an element of personalized targeting towards the victim,” says Larry Cashdollar</p> <p>Weak authentication has always been a flaw probed in attacks. Hackers use huge lists of login combinations to punch in hoping to get past this barrier.</p> <p>By using multiple machines to run the login attempts, the attackers are likely hoping to bypass brute force protections for an increased number of tries. This also allows them to reach a larger number of compromised hosts.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/05 PBX inboxes hit; voicemail phishing
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SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/100-000-company-inboxes-hit-with-voice-message-phishing/
GIST	<p>Attackers have been pounding employee inboxes at companies that still use private branch eXchange (PBX) telephone systems for communication, delivering phishing that bypasses email defenses.</p> <p>The messages pretended to be voicemail notifications from PBX integrations and featured custom subject lines to pass a superficial legitimacy test.</p> <p>Custom subject line Businesses around the world use PBX systems for internal communication. Integration with the company's email client allows employees to access voice messages from their inbox.</p> <p>A fairly sophisticated phishing campaign in mid-May took advantage of this setup to deliver fake email notifications for voice messages in an attempt to steal login credentials.</p> <p>Email security company IronScales caught almost 100,000 such phishing attempts "targeting hundreds of enterprises across all industries, including real estate, oil & gas, engineering, IT, healthcare, financial services and more."</p> <p>The perpetrators tailored the subject lines to include the company or employee name, which would only increase the recipient's trust in the notification.</p> <p>IronScales says that the attackers were likely after login data that would provide access to various services with personally identifiable information or business details.</p> <p>The researchers note that while the body of the email is short and should raise a red flag, the custom subject line is enough of a lure for the recipient to take the bait.</p> <p>This customization also plays a part in successfully bypassing installed protections such as secure email gateways (SEGs) and the Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) system.</p> <p>With no malicious payload attached, which would determine their ill-nature, the messages are allowed through. Apart from training employees to correctly identify a phishing email, companies should rely on adequate defenses that can recognize phishing attempts. Threat actors are particularly active in this period, as they prey on employees forced to work from home.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 CPA Canada discloses data breach
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/cpa-canada-discloses-data-breach-affecting-329-000-individuals/
GIST	<p>Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA) today disclosed that a cyberattack against the CPA Canada website allowed unauthorized third parties to access the personal information of over 329,000 members and other stakeholders.</p> <p>CPA Canada is a national organization with more than 217,000 Chartered Professional Accountants as members and one of the largest national accounting bodies in the world.</p> <p>The national accounting body was created by unifying three other Canadian accounting organizations: the Society of Management Accountants of Canada (CMA Canada), the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA), and the Certified General Accountants of Canada (CGA-Canada).</p> <p>Affected individuals warned of phishing scams After discovering the data breach at a yet undisclosed date, CPA Canada contained the incident by taking measures to secure the compromised systems and notified the affected individuals after identifying them.</p>

"The information involved predominately relates to the distribution of the CPA Magazine and includes personal information such as names, addresses, email addresses and employer names," the breach notification [reads](#).

The organizations says that passwords and full credit card numbers were also exposed in the incident but they were all "protected by encryption."

CPA Canada also contacted law enforcement agencies, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, as well as privacy authorities.

"Safeguarding the information in our care is one of our most important responsibilities and we sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause," CPA Canada President and CEO Joy Thomas [said](#).

CPA Canada is also urging affected individuals not to fall victim to future phishing emails that could ask them to disclose sensitive information, click on links, or download malicious attachments, "even if they appear to come from CPA Canada or an individual or company they know or trust."

Breached after April phishing warning

According to the organization, the attack on the CPA Canada website and the resulting data breach were discovered after a phishing campaign targeted its members in April.

The organizations send a notification to all its members warning them of the ongoing phishing campaign on April 24, 2020.

"We have been made aware of suspicious security email notifications members are receiving asking them to change their CPA Canada password due to a security breach on cpacanada.ca," the phishing alert said at the time [\[1, 2\]](#).

"Members are asked not to act upon suspicious emails that encourage a change of their CPA Canada password. [...] We are informing you directly about these emails, given the large number of members who are visiting CPA Canada's website.

"CPA Canada continues to monitor the security of its web platform and is not experiencing anything unusual. In addition, the integrity of our password reset process remains secure."

BleepingComputer has reached out to CPA Canada for more details but had not heard back at the time of this publication.

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HEADLINE	06/04 Conduent hit by Maze ransomware
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/business-services-giant-conduent-hit-by-maze-ransomware/
GIST	<p>The Maze Ransomware operators are claiming to have successfully attacked business services giant Conduent, where they stole unencrypted files and encrypted devices on their network.</p> <p>Conduent is a New Jersey, USA based business services firm with 67,000 employees and a 2019 business revenue of \$4.47 billion.</p> <p>Today, Maze Ransomware posted a new entry to their data leak site that states that they breached the network for Conduent in May 2020.</p> <p>Conduent entry on Maze leak site</p>

When conducting an attack, the Maze Ransomware operators steal unencrypted files before deploying the ransomware. This stolen data and the threat of publicly releasing it is then used as leverage to 'persuade' the victim to pay a ransom.

As 'proof' that the threat actors breached Conduent, 1GB worth of files were posted that allegedly was stolen during the ransomware attack.

Alleged proof of the attack

The posted files are called 'BusinessIntelligence.zip' and 'Compliance1.zip' and include various financial spreadsheets, customer audits, invoices, commission statements, and other miscellaneous documents.

Due to the varied types of data already posted by the Maze gang, Conduent must disclose it as a data breach to their clients and employees.

In a statement to BleepingComputer, Conduent confirmed that they suffered a ransomware attack on May 29th, 2020 that impacted services for approximately 10 hours.

"Conduent's European operations experienced a service interruption on Friday, May 29, 2020. Our system identified ransomware, which was then addressed by our cybersecurity protocols. This interruption began at 12.45 AM CET on May 29th with systems mostly back in production again by 10.00 AM CET that morning, and all systems have since then been restored. This resulted in a partial interruption to the services that we provide to some clients. As our investigation continues, we have on-going internal and external security forensics and anti-virus teams reviewing and monitoring our European infrastructure."

Possible breach through Citrix Netscaler vulnerability

Threat intelligence company Bad Packets stated that for at least eight weeks, between December 17, 2019, and at least February 14, 2020, Conduent had a Citrix server exposed that was vulnerable to [the CVE-2019-19781 vulnerability](#).

This vulnerability was [patched in January 2020](#) and allowed attackers to perform remote code execution on vulnerable devices.

Using these devices as a staging area, attackers would then spread laterally throughout the internal network as they compromise further devices.

The CVE-2019-19781 vulnerability is known to be used by threat actors in the past to breach networks and deploy ransomware.

In a report [highlighting human-operated ransomware](#), the Microsoft Threat Protection Intelligence Team states that DoppelPaymer and RobbinHood have been seen utilizing the vulnerability to breach corporate networks.

In April 2020, when we broke the news that [Maze breached IT services company Cognizant](#), Bad Packets also found vulnerable Citrix NetScaler gateways on their network.

While it is not confirmed if this vulnerability was used as part of this attack, the Maze Ransomware operators have been known to use vulnerabilities to gain access to networks in the past.

Updated 6/4/20 1:52 PM EST: Added more information about Citrix Netscaler devices being used by Conduent in the past.

Updated 6/4/20 4:10 PM EST: Added statement from Conduent.

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HEADLINE	06/04 NATO condemns cyberattacks
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/nato-condemns-cyberattacks/

<p>GIST</p>	<p>NATO has issued a statement condemning cyber-attacks perpetrated in the midst of the ongoing global health pandemic.</p> <p>In particular, the organization slammed cyber-criminals who chose to target essential healthcare services, including hospitals caring for those infected with COVID-19 and medical research institutes trying desperately to find a cure for the novel coronavirus.</p> <p>The statement was issued yesterday in English, French, and Russian. In it, NATO said: "We condemn destabilizing and malicious cyber activities directed against those whose work is critical to the response against the pandemic, including healthcare services, hospitals and research institutes."</p> <p>The organization described such digital onslaughts as life-threateningly dangerous and also injurious to global efforts to succeed against a virus that has infected 6.29 million people around the world and killed over 380,000.</p> <p>"These deplorable activities and attacks endanger the lives of our citizens at a time when these critical sectors are needed most and jeopardize our ability to overcome the pandemic as quickly as possible," stated NATO.</p> <p>Included in the statement was a message of support to those who had been impacted by cyber-assaults.</p> <p>"We stand in solidarity with those who have been affected by malicious cyber activities and remain ready to assist Allies, including by continuing to share information, as they respond to cyber incidents that affect essential services," said NATO.</p> <p>"In line with their national responsibilities and competences, Allies are committed to protecting their critical infrastructure, building resilience and bolstering cyber defenses, including through full implementation of NATO's Cyber Defense Pledge."</p> <p>NATO said that cyber defense was part of its core task of collective defense as stated at the 2018 Summit in Brussels and action would be taken by the organization against cyber-criminals.</p> <p>"Reaffirming NATO's defensive mandate, we are determined to employ the full range of capabilities, including cyber, to deter, defend against and counter the full spectrum of cyber threats," stated the organization.</p> <p>"NATO will continue to adapt to the evolving cyber threat landscape, which is affected by both state and non-state actors, including state-sponsored."</p> <p>The statement concluded with a reminder that "we all stand to benefit from a rules-based, predictable, open, free, and secure cyberspace."</p> <p>Return to Top</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 San Francisco Retirement System breach
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/personal-data-retirement-system/
GIST	<p>A data breach has occurred at the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS), potentially exposing the personal details of 74,000 of its members to cyber-criminals. In a data breach notification filed yesterday, SFERS said that an unauthorized person had gained access to a database hosted in a test environment one of its vendors had set up on February 24 2020.</p> <p>Upon learning of the breach on March 21, the server was promptly shut down by the vendor. Although SFERS confirmed that no social security numbers or bank account numbers were included in the data file, it admitted that sensitive information such as names, addresses, date of births, beneficiary details and website usernames and security questions and answers, could have been viewed or copied.</p>

	<p>Commenting on the breach, Michael Borohovski, director of software engineering at Synopsys, said: “A breach like this is interesting, both because it leads to almost guaranteed identity theft (if the information actually was accessed and downloaded), since it’s a treasure trove of financial information, identifying information and security questions.”</p> <p>He added: “The retired employees of San Francisco need to be extremely careful and verify, personally, through existing contact info they already had, that their beneficiaries actually sent an email, should the retirees receive one.”</p> <p>It is likely that the decision to place this kind of data in a testing environment will come under the spotlight, as these “are much more prone to bugs and vulnerabilities than a production environment,” according to Borohovski.</p> <p>Javvad Malik, security awareness advocate at KnowBe4, added: “Test environments are usually not secured or monitored to the same level as production environments, and it is never advisable to use real data in test cases. Rather, dummy data, or heavily redacted data, should be used so that even if it is leaked or breached, it does not impact any real customers.”</p> <p>The pension industry has been increasingly targeted by cyber-criminals in recent years. Last month it was reported that The Pensions Regulator faced a 148% increase in cyber-attacks in 2019.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 ‘Enterprise grade’ BazarBackdoor malware
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/home/security-news/malware/enterprise-grade-bazarbackdoor-malware-delivered-via-spear-phishing-emails/
GIST	<p>Researchers have uncovered a new “enterprise-grade” backdoor malware program that they say shares code with the notorious modular banking trojan TrickBot and is used to gain unauthorized access to and compromise corporate networks.</p> <p>Dubbed BazarBackdoor, the malware has been distributed via spear phishing campaigns that leverage a variety of lure topics, including customer complaints, coronavirus-related payroll reports and employee termination lists, Panda Security has reported in a company blog post published this week.</p> <p>Sent via the Sendgrid marketing platform, the emails contain links to Word, Excel and PDF documents hosted on Google Docs. The recipient is led to believe the doc can’t be viewed properly, and is urged to download a copy instead. This results in infection.</p> <p>“When the victim clicks on the link, an executable will be downloaded that uses an icon and a name associated with the kind of document that appears on the website,” the blog post explains. “For example, ‘COVID-19 ACH Payroll Report’ will download a document called PreviewReport.DOC.exe. Since Windows does not show file extensions by default, most users will simply see PreviewReport.DOC and will open the file, believing it to be a legitimate document.”</p> <p>The executable is a loader that secretly connects to a command-and-control server in order to download the main payload.</p> <p>Due to the overlap in code, Panda Security believes the operators of TrickBot are also behind BazarBackdoor.</p> <p>Last week, researchers at Palo Alto Networks also reported that TrickBot’s operators upgraded its “mworm” module — used to propagate from an infected Windows client to a vulnerable Domain Controller (DC) — to a new version called “nworm.”</p>

	<p>Unlike its predecessor, nworm leaves no artifacts on an infected DC, is run from system RAM, and disappears after reboot or shutdown without maintaining persistence. “Furthermore, the TrickBot binary used by nworm is encrypted or otherwise encoded when it is retrieved over the Internet,” wrote blog post author Brad Duncan, threat intelligence analyst with the Unit 42 team at Palo Alto Networks.</p> <p>Such improvements are likely intended to help evade detection, the report concluded.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 DOH launches new coronavirus dashboard
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/state-doh-launches-new-coronavirus-dashboard-track-progress-reopening/NC5W2EYRZNH2R.JIT422V54C.JMY/
GIST	<p>OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington Department of Health launched a new version of its online dashboard on Wednesday to help track the spread of coronavirus.</p> <p>The dashboard gives everyone access to the same data that health experts use to determine which counties can move forward in the reopening phase.</p> <p>It also lays out whether the state is meeting its goals in several key factors.</p> <p>Users can track metrics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases per every 100,000 residents during the past two weeks. • The number of people tested for each new case during the last week. • The percent of those testing positive for COVID-19 during the last week • The percent currently occupied hospital beds • The percent of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients <p>The dashboard defaults to show the numbers for the whole state, but users can select a county to see how it is progressing.</p>
Return to Top	<p>Click on link to view new dashboard: https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard</p>

HEADLINE	06/03 Data breaches cost US companies \$1.2T
SOURCE	https://www.techrepublic.com/article/data-breaches-cost-us-companies-more-than-1-2-trillion-last-year/
GIST	<p>A data breach can inflict pain on an organization by stealing and leaking sensitive information. With user or customer accounts compromised, a company can suffer financial and business consequences and see its reputation damaged, sometimes beyond repair. A new report from digital identity platform ForgeRock shows how and where data breaches are affecting US businesses and their customers.</p> <p>Released on Wednesday, the ForgeRock Consumer Identity Breach Report for 2020 describes the financial pain data breaches have inflicted. With more than 5 billion records compromised in 2019, breaches cost US organizations more than \$1.2 trillion. Combined with the \$654 billion in costs in 2018, data breaches have hit organizations to the tune of \$1.8 trillion over the past two years.</p> <p>Even prior to the coronavirus pandemic, healthcare was the most targeted sector last year with 382 data breaches leading to costs of more than \$2.5 billion--that was a huge jump over the 164 incidents and \$633 million in costs seen in 2018. Following healthcare, the banking/insurance/financial industry was the most targeted sector in 2019, accounting for 12% of all breaches. Next were education, government, and retail.</p>

	<p>Technology firms saw the largest number of records compromised due to data breaches in 2019. Breaches cost the tech industry more than \$250 billion, as more than 1.37 billion records were exposed during the year.</p> <p>Personally identifiable information (PII) remained the most targeted type of data sought by attackers and was compromised in 98% of the breaches recorded last year. More specifically, social security numbers were the most popular type of breached information, exposed in 384 breaches in 2019. Unauthorized access was the most common type of attack used, playing a role in 40% of last year's breaches. Other popular forms of attack included ransomware, malware, and phishing campaigns.</p> <p>"Cybercriminals continue to refine their attack vectors and can execute a greater volume of attacks than ever before to pilfer consumer data," ForgeRock CTO Eve Maler said in a press release. "Enterprises need to critically evaluate their digital identity management strategies for weaknesses. Given that there are new pressures to tear down the corporate castle walls for access by bring-your-own devices, temporary workers, and outside applications, organizations must deploy a modern platform that provides intelligent, contextual, and continuous security that can prompt for identity validation after detecting anomalous behavior."</p>
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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	06/05 IS: virus, protests weaken US, West
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/c5857198321c3b7bd609fbad99992f07
GIST	<p>BEIRUT — The Islamic State group says protests across the United States and the repercussions of the coronavirus on Western countries will weaken these nations and divert their attention from Muslim countries.</p> <p>The comments published Friday in an editorial in the extremist group's online weekly newspaper al-Nabaa were its first on protests in America after last week's death of African American George Floyd while a policeman put a knee to his neck.</p> <p>Al-Nabaa said protests have been occurring in the U.S. since it was founded, but this year "coincide with the negative effects of the pandemic on the country's economy." Al-Nabaa said the pandemic will weaken "infidel states."</p> <p>In recent weeks, the militants have taken advantage of the pandemic to launch deadly attacks in their former self-declared caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>The group that once controlled large parts of Iraq and Syria used these territories to launch attacks worldwide that killed hundreds of people since declaring their so-called caliphate in 2014.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 US presses allies: keep up IS fight
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/4/us-presses-allies-to-keep-up-islamic-state-fight/
GIST	<p>The Trump administration is pressing U.S. allies to boost funding for the global fight against Islamic State, saying Iraq still needs help in battling the terror group's still-potent remnants even as U.S. forces pull back from front-line positions.</p> <p>The plea from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo — during a virtual summit of the counter-Islamic State coalition that the U.S. and Italy co-hosted Thursday — came as the world economy grapples with financial fallout from the coronavirus pandemic that has infected more than 6.5 million people and killed nearly 387,000 around the world.</p>

“It’s true that the pandemic is putting enormous pressure on all of our budgets, but we urge your nations to pledge toward our goal of more than \$700 million for 2020,” Mr. Pompeo told representatives of 31 other nations attending the virtual gathering.

Amid reports Islamic State has been able to regroup in the sparse lands along the Syria-Iraq border, Mr. Pompeo said Iraq and its allies still must root out the terror group’s surviving cells and network and “provide stabilization assistance to liberated areas in Iraq and Syria.”

A joint communique from the summit noted that, “while [Islamic State] no longer controls territory and nearly eight million people have been freed from its control in Iraq and Syria, the threat remains and thus calls for stronger vigilance and coordinated action.”

“This includes allocating adequate resources to sustain Coalition and legitimate partner forces’ efforts against [Islamic State] in Iraq and Syria, including stabilization support to liberated areas, to safeguard our collective security interests,” the communique said.

While Mr. Pompeo told the gathering that the Trump administration will provide the \$100 million it pledged to support Iraq against a potential Islamic State resurgence last year, his remarks Thursday came roughly two months after American troops began pulling back from and handing over several key bases in Iraq to Iraqi security forces.

President Trump has also markedly reduced the size of the anti-Islamic State U.S. special forces contingent posted in Syria.

In late March, U.S. commanders in Iraq said coalition forces in Iraq, including about 5,000 U.S. troops, were being consolidated in and around Baghdad as part of pre-planned movements set in motion by what they said was the coalition’s success in breaking the Islamic State’s hold on territory.

The statement denied claims that had swirled in some media at the time that the troops were being pulled back in response to increasing threats posed by Iran-backed Iraqi Shiite militia groups.

With Mr. Trump pushing to come through on a major campaign promise to bring U.S. troops home from “forever wars,” the overall status of U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq has come under question since the October 2019 death in Iraq of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.

Al-Baghdadi was killed after detonating a suicide vest while being pursued by U.S. forces. The Trump administration has since repeatedly declared the Islamic State caliphate defeated, despite warnings from analysts and former officials that the terror group remains a threat in the Middle East and globally, with offshoots and affiliates still carrying out attacks from Africa to Asia.

Several violent attacks claimed by the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan during recent months have threatened to undermine the Trump administration’s push for a historic peace deal and U.S. troop withdrawal there.

Analysts have also warned that jihadists and other militant extremists have sought to exploit the coronavirus world health crisis. Islamic State propaganda has surfaced in recent months calling on followers to increase attacks as world governments and militaries focus on combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	06/05 SPD protest complaints hit 15,000
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SOURCE	https://patch.com/washington/seattle/witness-interviews-begin-seattle-protest-complaints-hit-15-000
GIST	<p>SEATTLE, WA — Seattle's police watchdog is undertaking a massive effort to probe allegations of police misconduct at recent protests, shelving all other investigations for at least a month.</p> <p>According to the Office of Police Accountability, interviews with witnesses and complainants are underway in 14 separate investigations, pulled from more than 15,000 complaints received since the weekend.</p> <p>The OPA assigned a 15th investigation Thursday afternoon, centered on an allegation that an officer threatened violence against protesters over police radio.</p> <p>Anne Bettsworth, deputy director of public affairs, said interviews with members of the police department have not begun, due to contractual restrictions and administrative timelines.</p> <p>The police watchdog received at least 12,000 of the complaints by Monday and said a "vast majority" referenced a video showing a girl after she was hit by pepper spray during Saturday's protest. Earlier in the week, the OPA released a list of ten cases that garnered the highest number of complaints.</p> <p>Subscribe</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pepper spraying a young girl (Saturday): 2020OPA-0322 2. Punching a person on the ground who was being arrested (Friday): 2020OPA-0323 3. Placing a knee on the neck area of two people who had been arrested (Saturday): 2020OPA-0324 4. Covering up badge numbers: 2020OPA-0325 5. Failing to record law enforcement activity on body-worn video: 2020OPA-0326 6. Pepper spraying peaceful protestors (Saturday): 2020OPA-0327 7. The use of flashbangs, including causing a significant thumb injury (Saturday): 2020OPA-0328 8. Failing to secure rifles in the rear of a patrol vehicle (Saturday): 2020OPA-0329 9. Punching a person on the ground who was being arrested (Sunday): 2020OPA-0330 10. Officers breaking windows of a Target store (date unknown): 2020OPA-0331 <p>(Seattle Office of Police Accountability)</p> <p>Since then, the OPA initiated several probes into police actions during a protest on Capitol Hill Monday night. The first three concerned a confrontation between an officer and a man, an allegation of a flash-bang hitting a news reporter, and officers' use of pepper spray and flash-bangs to disperse a large crowd outside the east precinct, captured in at least two viral videos.</p> <p>Investigators later assigned a fourth case related to Monday night, after a video appeared to show a homeless man hit by a police flash-bang while he was sleeping in Cal Anderson Park.</p> <p>OPA aims full staff, additional resources at protest probes</p> <p>Addressing the Seattle City Council on Wednesday, OPA Director Andrew Myerberg said his office reached an agreement with the police department and its union to shelve all other investigations for at least a month. Myerberg said 100 percent of his staff would work on protest-related cases to expedite the findings.</p> <p>The OPA plans to take Mayor Jenny Durkan up on her offer for additional resources, but it does not have an estimate for how much extra staffing may be needed, Myerberg's office told Patch Thursday. Each investigation is assigned a primary investigator, and most cases involve two to four employees to assist with various reviews.</p> <p>Myerberg acknowledged that investigations can take a long time, often the full 180 days allotted, and even cases on an expedited schedule can fail to provide needed resolutions as fast as they are needed.</p> <p>"Even two months, even thirty days, is too long for people," Myerberg told city councilmembers Wednesday. "I understand that, and I can't get around that."</p>

	<p>The director also signaled support for developing a community-driven process to help guide investigations and said further, systemic reforms are needed.</p> <p>"I don't want people to think that an OPA investigation can be a panacea for what is ailing us as a society, and what is ailing this system," Myerberg said. "We need to reevaluate top to bottom."</p> <p>So far, only the case involving the young girl is slated for a 60-day resolution, but the OPA said all probes related to the demonstrations would be completed "as soon as we possibly can." Investigators continue to seek witnesses and family members who say the girl was pepper-sprayed.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Not everyone wears masks on airlines
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/travel/coronavirus-flying-face-masks.html?algo=identity&fallback=false&imp_id=402289757&action=click&module=Smarter%20Living&pgtype=Homepage
GIST	<p>As airlines try to convince Americans to fly again, they have touted their policies for keeping passengers safe, including the requirement that everyone onboard a plane wear a mask.</p> <p>But travelers on recent flights said the rules are not being enforced. And flight attendants said they have been told not to confront passengers who opt to not follow them.</p> <p>Drusilla Lawton flew from South Carolina to Wyoming in May on two American Airlines flights and said the mask rule wasn't being enforced during boarding or on the plane. "I was just horrified watching the gate agent let people through without their masks," said Ms. Lawton, a part-time portfolio manager. "When I was walking down the aisle I was wondering, 'How many people aren't wearing a mask?' There were so many."</p> <p>Ms. Lawton said the first leg of the trip was "particularly bad" and the people across the aisle from her, those in front of her and those behind her did not wear masks. Although the woman sitting next to her put on a mask after Ms. Lawton asked her to, there was never an announcement from the flight crew or captain about the rules.</p> <p>On social media and in emails to The Times, other travelers described similar scenarios, which left them feeling they had to choose between confronting fellow passengers and possibly encountering hostility, and sitting on a flight for hours potentially being exposed to the coronavirus.</p> <p>The patchwork enforcement of policies have left passengers uncomfortable, confused about whether they should be wearing masks or not, and concerned about their safety. They've also left flight attendants with the difficult task of trying to make people do something they won't be punished for if they choose not to comply.</p> <p>"Airlines have said follow the guidelines, but don't enforce them, don't tackle people to the ground and don't turn flights around if they don't listen," said Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants union. "That gets around to the public then it's, 'I don't have to do this. There are no consequences if I don't do this.' That, too, can lead to conflict, not just with the flight attendants, but with other passengers, who get angry and all of a sudden we have to break up a fight."</p> <p>Recent passengers on Delta Air Lines have posted on Twitter about fliers failing to wear masks ("What's the point in requiring if there is no follow through?" one man asked the airline in a tweet). Another Delta passenger wrote on Twitter that he asked a flight attendant about the mask rule after seeing a passenger, a flight attendant and the pilot without masks on. He was told that the rules couldn't be enforced.</p>

And after [one doctor's Twitter post about the lack of social distancing on a United Airlines flight](#) went viral, another United traveler said she'd had to ask a gate agent to put on a mask before getting on a full flight to Chicago from New Jersey.

"If you're traveling right now, be prepared to advocate for yourself," she wrote, adding that, "United did not follow their own social distancing guidelines," and many travelers were not wearing masks.

Nicole Carriere, a spokeswoman for United, said that face coverings are mandatory for all employees and passengers onboard and the airline is providing free masks to customers who need them. In instances where people refuse to wear a mask, they can be pulled aside "to further understand their concerns and discuss options," Ms. Carriere said. "This would include things like moving them to a new seat where they could maintain a safe social distance from other passengers."

Denying someone boarding would be a "last resort," she said.

Aims Coney, 65, recently flew from Missoula, Mont., to Boston with his wife. When the boarding group for their second flight, on American, was called, people gathered close together, causing him some anxiety about the lack of social distancing. Mr. Coney, who is known as Andy, said in a phone interview.

"The crew made no effort to ask passengers to wear their masks properly and even joked about the rule with an obnoxious guy across from us with his mask under his chin who seemed to be enjoying making everyone else uncomfortable," he said.

Mr. Coney, said that he and his wife were also particularly concerned about people traveling without masks because the two of them are in the "over-65 vulnerable group" and had been deferring their return home to Massachusetts since mid-March. They only decided to fly home after American announced its social-distancing rules and safety measures.

Typically, when an event as major as the coronavirus is involved, government agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, have come together with airlines, unions and other stakeholders to create policies and emergency procedures to help travelers and transportation staff, said Ms. Nelson of the flight attendants union.

But since the coronavirus pandemic began, no such coordination has taken place. That has left the airlines to set their own rules — and their own standards of enforcement.

"In normal times something like this calls for a federal response, but we don't have it," Ms. Nelson said. "In an event like 9/11 things were incredibly transparent. There were emergency procedures put into place. None of that is happening now. We don't have consistent rules, so the airlines are trying to figure out how to navigate this."

Last month, [Reuters reported](#) that the three airlines instructed their employees not to enforce the rules that had been promoted to travelers.

"Once on board and off the gate, the face covering policy becomes more lenient," American said to its staff in an email that was quoted in the Reuters report. "The flight attendant's role is informational, not enforcement, with respect to the face covering policy."

Ms. Nelson said that one concern for flight attendants has been about what happens if there's a confrontation with a passenger who is asked to wear a mask, but doesn't want to.

"All of this is so fuzzy because the airlines have made this edict and they can't enforce it," said [Benet Wilson](#), an aviation expert at [The Points Guy](#), a travel site aimed at frequent fliers. "Airlines can say

people should follow these rules all they want, but in the end, if they tell a person they can't come on they have to refund them and they don't want to do that."

The airlines, Ms. Nelson said, are creating policies quickly, in a changing environment and without unifying guidance, so rules can be confusing for people flying with multiple airlines.

"It's likely that a traveler who read about how this will work could get to the airport and things are very different by the time they get there," she said.

The airlines have also said they will leave middle seats open when possible to encourage social distancing and change boarding procedures in order to avoid having big groups congregate at the gate or on the jetway. But passengers have complained that these guidelines are also not always being followed.

Lisa Hanna, a spokeswoman for Delta, said that the airline is requiring people to wear masks "beginning in the check-in lobby, and across Delta touchpoints, including Delta Sky Clubs, in jet bridges and onboard for the duration of the flight — except during the food and beverage service. A face mask is required to begin the boarding process, and also strongly encouraged in high-traffic areas including security lines and restrooms."

Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for American, said that "American, like other U.S. airlines, requires customers to wear a face covering while on board, and this requirement is enforced at the gate while boarding. We also remind customers with announcements both during boarding and at departure."

But Tony Scott said that wasn't the case. Mr. Scott, a 53-year-old marketing executive who lives in Los Angeles, booked a first class ticket on the airline, expecting that with social-distancing policies he would have adequate space. But the passenger next to him, a teenage girl, refused to wear one. When he talked to the flight attendant, he was told that masks were optional, even though the American app said otherwise. The flight attendant later told Mr. Scott that masks were mandatory, but not for children.

"This was a 16-17 year old Caucasian girl," Mr. Scott [wrote on Twitter](#). "I explained that I'm in the HIGH RISK category as an African-American male with asthma and other health issues. No other accommodation was offered."

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HEADLINE	06/04 Retracted: 2 major Covid-19 studies
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/world/coronavirus-us-update.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage#link-74b0a49f
GIST	<p>Two studies on Covid-19 were retracted on Thursday by the scientific journals in which they had appeared.</p> <p>The studies, published in The Lancet and The New England Journal of Medicine in May, had produced astounding results and altered the course of research into the pandemic.</p> <p>The Lancet paper reported dismal findings about the use of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19 patients. It led to the suspension of some clinical trials of the medications, including by the World Health Organization. (Some have since resumed.)</p> <p>President Trump has repeatedly promoted hydroxychloroquine despite the lack of evidence that it works against the virus. His endorsement had the effect of politicizing scientific questions that normally would have been left to dispassionate researchers.</p> <p>The Lancet paper, which was purportedly based on data from a huge, privately held registry of patient records from hundreds of hospitals around the world, had concluded that the anti-malaria drugs were associated with dramatically higher rates of heart arrhythmias and deaths in Covid-19 patients. The</p>

	<p>database belonged to a company called Surgisphere, which is owned by Dr. Sapan Desai, one of the four co-authors.</p> <p>The other three co-authors, including Dr. Mandeep R. Mehra, a professor at Harvard Medical School, retracted the article on Thursday after their attempts to verify the database's veracity and authenticity were stymied by Dr. Desai.</p> <p>Later on Thursday, The New England Journal of Medicine retracted a heart study that was published in May by the same authors, using data from the same registry. That study was said to analyze 8,910 Covid-19 patients hospitalized through mid-March at 169 medical centers in Asia, Europe and North America. The authors concluded that cardiovascular disease increased their risk of dying.</p> <p>"Because all the authors were not granted access to the raw data and the raw data could not be made available to a third-party auditor, we are unable to validate the primary data sources underlying our article," the authors wrote in the retraction of the study.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Carbon dioxide levels hit record high
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/04/carbon-dioxide-record-2020/?hpid=hp_world1-8-12_carbon-830am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans&itid=hp_world1-8-12_carbon-830am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory-ans
GIST	<p>The coronavirus-related economic downturn may have set off a sudden plunge in global greenhouse gas emissions, but another crucial metric for determining the severity of global warming — the amount of greenhouse gases actually in the air — just hit a record high.</p> <p>According to readings from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the amount of CO₂ in the air in May 2020 hit an average of slightly greater than 417 parts per million (ppm). This is the highest monthly average value ever recorded, and is up from 414.7 ppm in May of last year.</p> <p>Carbon dioxide levels are the highest they've been in human history, and likely the highest in 3 million years. The last time there was this much CO₂ in the atmosphere, global average surface temperatures were significantly warmer than they are today, and sea levels were 50 to 80 feet higher.</p> <p>The continuing rise in CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere may sound surprising in light of recent findings that the coronavirus pandemic, and the associated lockdowns, had led to a steep drop in global greenhouse gas emissions, peaking at a 17 percent decline in early April.</p> <p>But the total amount of CO₂ that winds up in the atmosphere is driven not only by human emission levels, but also through processes on the land surface (especially forests) and in the oceans that fluctuate on a yearly basis.</p> <p>According to a Scripps news release announcing the findings, CO₂ emissions reductions on the order of 20 to 30 percent would need to be sustained for six to 12 months in order for the increase in atmospheric CO₂ to slow in a detectable way.</p> <p>"The buildup of CO₂ is a bit like trash in a landfill. As we keep emitting, it keeps piling up," said Ralph Keeling, who directs Scripps's carbon dioxide monitoring program, and whose late father, Charles David Keeling, began measurements at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii in 1958.</p> <p>"The crisis has slowed emissions, but not enough to show up perceptibly at Mauna Loa. What will matter much more is the trajectory we take coming out of this situation," he said.</p> <p>The rate of increase of this long-lived greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is accelerating.</p>

In the 1960s, the annual growth rate was about 0.8 ppm per year. It doubled in the 1980s, and eventually climbed to 2.4 ppm per year during the past decade. Multiple lines of evidence show the cause of this increase is greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, said Pieter Tans, who leads NOAA's Carbon Cycle Greenhouse Gases Group.

The Scripps researchers found the average atmospheric CO₂ concentration for May 2020 was 417.16 parts per million. Using different calculations than the Scripps team, NOAA researchers found the peak monthly value was slightly lower, at 417.1 ppm.

The annual high typically occurs in May before CO₂ levels temporarily ebb as trees and plants in the Northern Hemisphere absorb vast quantities of the planet-warming gas during the summer growing season. Though CO₂ levels exhibit a seasonal cycle, the overall upward trend is clear.

The rate of increase from last May to this May was slower than it was in the comparable to 2018 to 2019 period, but natural factors such as El Niño events in the tropical Pacific Ocean and changes in terrestrial carbon sinks, such as forests, can have a large influence on this from year to year, Tans said.

El Niño events can contribute to drought and extreme heat in large areas of the world, Tans says, noting they can weaken the ability of forests and other lands to soak up carbon dioxide, leading to a higher natural contribution to atmospheric CO₂ levels.

The combination of record fossil fuel use and mild El Niño conditions between May 2018 and 2019 can explain the above average increase in atmospheric CO₂ of 3.5 ppm that year.

Wildfires and deforestation can add to the increase in atmospheric CO₂ as well, though their influence ultimately is overwhelmed by the global burning of fossil fuels.

According to Rob Jackson, an emissions expert with Stanford University and the Global Carbon Project, emissions from wildfires were up in 2019 and 2020, contributing to the May peak, as was Brazil's land emissions due to deforestation and burning.

This year's May CO₂ peak marked an increase of about 2.4 ppm compared with a year ago. The 2010 to 2019 average rate of increase is precisely the same at 2.4 ppm per year, according to NOAA. The decline of El Niño during the past year may help explain why the increase in the last year was not as large as the previous, Tans said.

Because atmospheric levels of CO₂ are cumulative, they will continue to increase until net emissions are cut to zero. They will not decrease until human activities and natural ecosystems are removing more greenhouse gases than is going into the air.

Molecules of CO₂, a global warming agent, can remain in the atmosphere for up to 1,000 years.

Scientists warn that we're on course to reach 450 ppm by mid-century, where levels would need to stop increasing to have a decent chance of meeting the goals in the Paris climate agreement, which seeks to limit climate change to well below 3.6 degrees (2 Celsius) above preindustrial levels by 2100.

Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at Georgia Tech, says the new findings underscore the need to act now. "It is a reminder that climate change is not on pause in any way, shape or form," she said.

Keeling says it would take a sustained drop in emissions, rather than a sudden decline related to the coronavirus pandemic, to show up more clearly in measurements of atmospheric CO₂. "What really matters here is setting a new trajectory," he said.

Jackson, who conducted the analysis of emissions declines due to the pandemic with colleagues from the Global Carbon Project, said the findings are not surprising given how the planet's carbon cycle works.

	<p>“This result is disappointing but expected in an atmosphere that is both big and variable,” he said via email.</p> <p>“We estimated that fossil carbon emissions dropped 8 percent [during] January through April, from 12 billion metric tons in 2019 to 11 billion in 2020,” he said. “A billion tons is a lot, but not so much that we can find it with statistical confidence in a noisy signal.”</p> <p>It’s important not to take the wrong message from the current finding, Jackson emphasized. “We shouldn’t fall into the trap of thinking that the effect of covid-19 on emissions is trivial or that climate progress is impossible. It isn’t. Short-term changes in anything are hard to detect in something as big as the atmosphere.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Workers fearful of virus getting fired
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/us/virus-unemployment-fired.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage
GIST	<p>DENVER — After scraping by for weeks on unemployment checks and peanut butter sandwiches, Jake Lyon recently received the call that many who temporarily lost their jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic have anticipated: The college-town tea shop where he worked was reopening, and it was time to go back.</p> <p>But Mr. Lyon, 23, and his co-workers in Fort Collins, Colo., who were temporarily laid off, worried about contracting the virus, so they asked the shop’s owners to delay reopening and meet with them to discuss safety measures. The reluctance cost them. Six of them permanently lost their jobs in May, and their former employer reported them to the state’s unemployment office to have their benefits potentially revoked.</p> <p>“You have all refused to go back to work,” their former boss wrote in an email.</p> <p>As people across the United States are told to return to work, employees who balk at the health risks say they are being confronted with painful reprisals: Some are losing their jobs if they try to stay home, and thousands more are being reported to the state to have their unemployment benefits cut off.</p> <p>The coronavirus pandemic continues to strain the economy. On Thursday, the Labor Department reported that 1.9 million Americans filed new claims for state unemployment insurance last week. Businesses want to bring back customers and profits. But workers now worry about contracting the coronavirus once they return to cramped restaurant kitchens, dental offices or conference rooms where few colleagues are wearing masks.</p> <p>Some states with a history of weaker labor protections are encouraging employers to report workers who do not return to their jobs, citing state laws that disqualify people from receiving unemployment checks if they refuse a reasonable offer of work.</p> <p>Oklahoma set up a “Return To Work” email address for businesses to report employees who turn down jobs. Ohio offered a similar way for employers to report coronavirus-related work refusals.</p> <p>Labor advocates and unions say the push to recall workers and kick reluctant employees off unemployment benefits carries grave risks in an age of coronavirus, when infections have rampaged through meatpacking plants, call centers, factories and other confined spaces where co-workers spend hours touching the same surfaces and breathing the same air.</p>

“Their choices are: ‘Do I go back and risk my life, or say no and risk being kicked off unemployment and not be able to pay my bills?’” said Rachel Bussett, an employment lawyer in Oklahoma, where 179 businesses have reported workers to the unemployment agency.

Alabama, Oklahoma and South Carolina are among several states that have told workers they cannot continue to collect unemployment if they turn down a suitable job offer. Missouri has received 982 reports of workers refusing to return to their jobs.

In Tennessee, where 735 workers have been reported for refusing to return to work, the state labor commissioner announced that the fear of contracting the coronavirus was not a good enough excuse to not go back. To continue to qualify for unemployment, workers need to be directly affected by the virus: They must have a diagnosed case of Covid-19, be caring for a patient or be confined by a quarantine, among other reasons outlined by Congress in the coronavirus stimulus law that was passed in March.

The question has split along partisan lines, with some Republican politicians and business owners complaining that furloughed workers have little incentive to go back to work if they are earning more from the emergency aid passed by Congress.

Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary, recently told a Senate panel that workers who turned down their old jobs could be ineligible for unemployment payments. But Pennsylvania’s Democratic governor took a different view, saying that workers should refuse to go back to jobs they consider unsafe.

“This is uncharted waters,” said Kersha Cartwright, a spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Labor, which has encouraged businesses to work with employees on reopening plans after the state became one of the first in the country to forge ahead with reopening.

In interviews across the country, workers said they were anxious to keep their jobs at a time when the economic devastation of the coronavirus has left more than 40 million in the country out of work. With the job market bleak and many family members unemployed, many people said they felt powerless to refuse an order to return to work or question the safety practices at their jobs.

In the tea shop case, Mr. Lyon lost his unemployment benefits after his former bosses reported him to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. The state agency ruled that Mr. Lyon’s work “did not present an unacceptable risk” to his health, and disqualified him from unemployment for 20 weeks.

“What we’re asking for is so basic during an unprecedented global pandemic,” Mr. Lyon said.

But Qin Liu, who owns the tea shop, the Ku Cha House of Tea, with his wife, said they had tried to accommodate their employees’ safety concerns by limiting customers in the store, installing a sneeze guard at the cash register, requiring masks and halting tea services and free samples of their teas. But he said his business would founder if it stayed closed until there was a vaccine or cure.

“They wanted to wait a little bit longer till the danger has passed,” Mr. Liu said. “But for us, a small business, the danger is imminent.”

Mr. Liu said the business was also obligated under Colorado labor laws to notify the state when they dismissed the six workers, inciting the unemployment investigation.

In Toledo, Ohio, Stephanie VanSlambrouck, 45, said she urged her husband to quit when he was called back to his job as a steel fabricator after weeks of working from home. He reads blueprints and pores over figures all day, and has little need to go into the office, Ms. VanSlambrouck said.

But the couple have three children, and had already lost their home to foreclosure once, after the 2008 housing crash. So now, her husband eats lunch at his desk, sanitizes his hands and wears a mask to the Monday morning planning meetings in the small conference room.

“We’re caught,” Ms. VanSlambrouck said. “We have to do what our bosses are telling us. And to quit a job in this uncertain time would be ridiculous. You can’t walk away from something that’s providing food for the family because who knows what’s going to happen in a week?”

Mark Adani, a car salesman in suburban Detroit, spent weeks working from home to avoid the coronavirus. He is 71 and has high blood pressure and a wife with heart trouble. But he recently got an ultimatum from his dealership: Come back to the office or consider a new job.

“I’m damned if I come to work, damned if I don’t come to work,” he said.

Mr. Adani said one worker had already died of Covid-19, and he flirted with letting his bosses dismiss him when he was called back to the office.

Ultimately, he decided to go back. He was unable to reach anyone from Michigan’s overwhelmed unemployment system to answer whether he could refuse to go back and still retain his benefits.

With customers scarce, Mr. Adani said he spent much of the day at his desk, chasing online leads and worrying about bringing home the virus to his wife. Most of his co-workers slip on masks when they head to the break room for coffee.

“I really don’t feel this place is safe,” Mr. Adani said.

Nurses, grocery store workers, fast-food cashiers, slaughterhouse workers and others deemed “essential” have been navigating these fears throughout the pandemic because they never stopped working. Now, the concern is spreading to wider areas of the economy.

In Boise, Idaho, Robin Slater, a 65-year-old line cook with chronic shortness of breath from 40 years of smoking, said he was reluctant to answer the call back to work at the sports bar where he constantly bumps up against other cooks in the tiny kitchen. He said he was the only one who wore a mask. The plan, he said, was to limit tables to six people or fewer, though a party of 14 came in to eat last Sunday.

Mr. Slater said he had little choice other than returning to work because he was almost certain to lose his \$220 in weekly unemployment, supplemented by the \$600 passed as part of the coronavirus relief bill. So far, 147 workers in Idaho have been reported as refusing to work, though the state did not say how many had lost benefits.

Mr. Slater’s uneasiness has not gone away after his first few shifts, though few others at work seem bothered.

“Most of our servers and cooks are in their 20s and 30s,” Mr. Slater said. “They’re all like, ‘It doesn’t really matter.’ But I don’t want to go back to work and die.”

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HEADLINE	06/04 Trooper arrests Seattle murder suspect
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-murder-suspect-arrested-in-kittitas-county
GIST	<p>KITTITAS COUNTY – The Washington State Patrol announced today the arrest a homicide suspect who was wanted out of Seattle.</p> <p>Just before 1 p.m. on Wednesday, WSP Trooper Logan Swift attempted to stop a 2020 Nissan Maxima Sedan that was driving above the speed limit on eastbound I-90 just west of Ellensburg.</p>

	<p>According to WSP, the Nissan continued without stopping but eventually exited the highway and stopped a mile off the exit.</p> <p>When Trooper Swift asked for the driver's license, the driver showed an ID that was not his. WSP says the trooper immediately recognized the driver as 46-year-old Thomas Oscar Cady a wanted fugitive out of Seattle. Trooper Swift was able to quickly place Cady under arrest, WSP reports.</p> <p>According to WSP, Cady was wanted on a \$5 million first degree murder warrant out of Seattle. Cady was driving with his cousin who had rented the vehicle. They were fleeing the state and on their way to Kansas, WSP says.</p> <p>Seattle Police detectives took custody of the suspect and possession of the rental car. Cady has been booked into the King County Jail on a \$5 million bail.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Judge: probable cause Arbery case
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/man-who-shot-ahmaud-arbery-uttered-racial-slurs-over-his-body-prosecutor-says-11591288814
GIST	<p>A judge ruled Thursday that there was probable cause to try three white men on murder charges in the death of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old black man who was fatally shot while out running in southeast coastal Georgia.</p> <p>The decision concluded a day of testimony at a preliminary hearing in which state prosecutors asserted that Mr. Arbery was “chased, hunted down and ultimately executed,” and that the white man who shot him was heard saying racial slurs over his body.</p> <p>The prosecution laid out its case against Gregory McMichael, 64, and his son, Travis McMichael, 34, and William Bryan Jr., 50, at the Glynn County courthouse, detailing how the three men pursued Mr. Arbery in February.</p> <p>From the witness stand, Richard Dial, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s special agent in charge, recounted how Travis McMichael used a racial slur after he fatally shot Mr. Arbery and before police arrived at the scene. According to Mr. Dial’s testimony, Mr. Bryan told investigators he heard Travis McMichael call Mr. Arbery a “f—ing n—.”</p> <p>Attorneys for Travis McMichael denied he had used a racial slur and suggested Mr. Bryan was lying to investigators in a bid for leniency. It is a crime to make false statements to investigators. Attorneys for Gregory McMichael argued that his actions didn’t constitute aiding a murder. And an attorney for Mr. Bryan said his client, who videotaped the shooting, didn’t commit any crime by joining the pursuit of Mr. Arbery.</p> <p>Thursday’s hearing took place against the backdrop of nationwide protests over police brutality and racial justice stemming from the killing of another black man, George Floyd, while in police custody in Minneapolis.</p> <p>The U.S. Justice Department is weighing potential federal hate-crime charges in the Arbery case. Georgia is one of a handful of states with no hate-crime laws.</p> <p>Mr. Dial offered a descriptive timeline of the moments leading up to Mr. Arbery’s death, testifying that video evidence showed the three men chased Mr. Arbery around the neighborhood and used their vehicles to trap him on the two-lane residential street where he was shot and killed.</p> <p>“They decided he was someplace he wasn’t supposed to be and they were trying to catch him,” Mr. Dial said.</p>

Mr. Arbery's death drew nationwide attention after a video showing the fatal shooting circulated online last month. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation arrested the McMichaels on May 7 and charged them with murder and aggravated assault. Mr. Bryan was arrested on May 21 and charged with felony murder and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment.

A murder conviction in Georgia carries a minimum sentence of life in prison, either with or without parole, or the death penalty.

In his testimony, Mr. Dial said Travis McMichael had used racial slurs "several times" on social media, according to an investigation being led by the bureau. In one instance, Travis McMichael, who runs a company that gives custom boat tours, said he loved his job because "there weren't any n—s anywhere." In another, he responded to unidentified content on Instagram by saying, "that would have only been better if they had blown that f—ing n—'s head off." He also testified that police body-camera footage showed a Confederate flag sticker on a toolbox inside Travis McMichael's truck.

Mr. Dial said he believed Mr. Bryan also acted out of racial bias, pointing to derogatory language uncovered after investigators searched his cellphone. When Mr. Bryan's attorney, Kevin Gough, suggested such language was common "in the South," Mr. Dial said Mr. Bryan's phone contained racist terms that he had never seen before.

Mr. Dial also confirmed that there was additional undisclosed video evidence showing that the chase and attempts by the three defendants to detain Mr. Arbery carried on for roughly seven minutes.

He described how Gregory McMichael, a retired investigator, was working in his yard when he saw Mr. Arbery run by the house on the afternoon of his death. Mr. McMichael said he believed Mr. Arbery was connected to what he said were recent thefts in the neighborhood. He and his son then grabbed their weapons, a .357 magnum revolver and a shotgun, and pursued Mr. Arbery in a pickup truck, according to Mr. Dial.

Mr. Bryan, who is their neighbor, assisted in the pursuit of Mr. Arbery from his own vehicle and began recording the chase from his cellphone, Mr. Dial said.

A 30-second portion of that video was released publicly on May 5, showing Mr. Arbery running along a residential road while the McMichaels pickup truck is stopped at one end of the street. Mr. Arbery appears to swerve to avoid the truck. As a struggle ensues between Mr. Arbery and Travis McMichael, three gunshots are heard and Mr. Arbery is then seen falling to the ground.

At Thursday's hearing, attorneys for Travis McMichael said he was acting in self-defense, stating that Mr. Arbery had attempted to grab his gun. Travis McMichael struck Mr. Arbery with three bullets, the first of which hit him in the chest, according to Mr. Dial.

"I don't believe it was self-defense by Mr. McMichael. I believe it was self-defense by Mr. Arbery," Mr. Dial said. "He ran until he couldn't run anymore...When he felt like he could not escape, he chose to fight."

An autopsy report released last month showed Mr. Arbery sustained two bullet wounds to his chest and a third to his wrist.

Defense attorneys pointed to surveillance video that showed Mr. Arbery walking onto a site where a house was under construction in the neighborhood and said its owner, Larry English, allegedly told Gregory McMichael last year that thousands of dollars worth of equipment had been stolen from his boat.

An attorney for Mr. English responded with a written statement on Thursday, in which she said Mr. English "never referred to the theft in connection with Mr. Arbery" and that surveillance cameras had captured multiple trespassers over the course of a few months.

	<p>Attorneys for all three defendants asked that the charges be dismissed. In one exchange, Mr. Gough declared that “any patriotic American” would have acted the same way under the circumstances, drawing a rebuke from Jesse Evans, the special prosecutor in the case. “Any American would pick up the phone and call 911,” Mr. Evans responded.</p> <p>Mr. Evans said in closing arguments that nothing the defendants had seen justified gunning down Mr. Arbery in broad daylight.</p> <p>“Mr. Arbery was tormented, he was hunted, he was targeted,” he added. “You can’t turn around and use the words ‘self-defense’ and ‘justification’ as some sort of magic talisman to make those facts disappear.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 NYC hundreds arrested; cramped jails
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/nyregion/nyc-protests-jail.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=New%20York
GIST	<p>They were held for more than a day in crowded New York City jail cells, some without masks. Cheerios and food wrappers littered the floor. In one holding pen, detainees spread tissue over a clogged toilet to try to reduce the stench emanating from it.</p> <p>In the week since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, hundreds of people arrested in New York City — some while looting, others while clashing with the police during largely peaceful demonstrations — have been detained in cramped cells for more than 24 hours, their health at risk in the midst of a pandemic, defense lawyers said.</p> <p>On Thursday morning, more than 380 people — waiting either in cells at Police Headquarters, in local precincts and in a Manhattan jail — had yet to be brought before a judge. Nearly 70 percent of them had been waiting for more than 24 hours, including one defendant who had been waiting 80 hours, according to court officials and the Legal Aid Society.</p> <p>Police, prosecutors and court officials say they are doing what they can to process people quickly, but they are facing logistical hurdles because of the coronavirus shutdown and an unusually high number of arrests.</p> <p>But public defenders say prolonged detention of defendants violates state law and their constitutional rights. They say the police have clogged up the system by putting people through the courts who should have instead received summonses for minor offenses during the protests.</p> <p>“Rather than allowing people to protest peacefully, the N.Y.P.D. are violently arresting them and holding them for hours,” Stan Germán, executive director of New York County Defender Services, said in a statement. “They are unlawfully and unnecessarily sending people through the criminal arraignment process, where they face tight quarters and exposure to the coronavirus.”</p> <p>Lawyers for the city deny that protesters are punitively being held longer than necessary. Mayor Bill de Blasio and his police commissioner, Dermot F. Shea, have repeatedly defended the actions of rank-and file police, saying they have shown tremendous restraint in dealing with protesters under trying circumstances.</p> <p>While the protests have been mostly peaceful, Commissioner Shea and Mr. de Blasio have said some people have tried to incite violence against the police, throwing bricks and bottles, while others have taken advantage of the unrest to loot stores.</p> <p>So far, more than 2,000 people have been arrested on charges such as disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, unlawful assembly, assault on a police officer and burglary, according to the police and prosecutors. Most were released with a desk appearance ticket, which requires them to return to court at a later date.</p>

From Sunday to Tuesday, about 500 of those people have been charged with looting shops, mostly in Manhattan, where bands of people have broken into stores throughout SoHo and the central business district, including [Macy's flagship store in Herald Square](#) and Bloomingdale's on Third Avenue. Many stores on [Fordham Road in the Bronx were also ransacked](#).

The Legal Aid Society filed a lawsuit this week accusing the Police Department of illegally detaining people who had not seen a judge after waiting three days, which violates a state law requiring that a person be arraigned within 24 hours of an arrest.

On Thursday, Justice James M. Burke of State Supreme Court in Manhattan denied Legal Aid's demand that the city release people held for more than a day, noting the Police Department was coping with widespread civil unrest in the middle of a pandemic. "It is a crisis within a crisis," Justice Burke said. "All writs are denied."

Court officials blamed the delay on the police and on prosecutors, who they say have been slow to complete necessary paperwork.

"To docket the case and arraign someone, the court needs the arrest paperwork to be processed by the police and in conjunction with the district attorney to write up the criminal complaint," Lucian Chalfen, a spokesman for the Office of Court Administration, said in a statement on Wednesday. "It is a process that is taking a far longer time frame than is customary."

One protester, Khelon Robinson-Fraser, 21, of Atlanta, said he heard officers threaten to delay processing several people's paperwork if they asked too many questions or became fussy. "'We can keep you for however long we want,'" he recalled an officer tell one detainee. "It was just pretty horrible."

But Patricia Miller, chief of the city's Special Federal Litigation Division, denied that officers were retaliating against protesters and said that the agency was doing the best it could given the circumstances. She called the allegations "exceptionally unfair."

"The N.Y.P.D., as well as the entire criminal court system, is working within the confines of a pandemic and is now suddenly called upon not only to secure orderly protesting, but also to address rioters who are committing burglaries, destroying private property and assaulting fellow New Yorkers," Ms. Miller said.

During the court hearing on Legal Aid's request, Janine Gilbert, an assistant deputy police commissioner, acknowledged that social distancing has been impossible in city lockups with so many arrests. She said, for instance, it was common for up to two dozen people to be held for hours on buses before being taken to be booked.

"And I might note that these protesters while they are out on the street are not social distancing either," she said. She said each detainee was given a mask and offered food while in the holding pen.

The court system, which had already been disrupted by the coronavirus, has been largely virtual since March. Since then, judges, defense lawyers and prosecutors have conducted arraignments from their homes over video chat systems.

But the recent flood of arrests has added even more pressure, officials said.

To handle the backlog, court officials added a second virtual arraignment part and an overnight arraignment session from 1 a.m. to 9 a.m., Mr. Chalfen said. Most of the people awaiting arraignment were charged with burglary, and in most cases must be released without bail under the state's new bail law, Mr. Chalfen said.

Mr. de Blasio initially blamed the widespread looting and instances of violence on out-of-towners and anarchists, but in recent days he and his police commissioner acknowledged that most of the people

accused of breaking into stores were city residents using the protests as cover. Some had even used cars and trucks — in one instance a U-Haul truck — to transport stolen merchandise, police said.

Mr. de Blasio said the protests have been largely peaceful, but added that there was “an organized group of criminals doing things like looting for pure financial gain, pure criminal gain, nothing to do with protests whatsoever.”

At least a quarter of the people arrested have been accused of burglary, which is the charge brought against looters, according to preliminary figures from the police.

As he left the Manhattan Criminal Courts Building, Marcos Parker, 19, said he had been detained on a burglary charge on Monday and was not released until Wednesday.

“I won’t lie. I was looting,” he said. He said he had stolen merchandise because he had lost his job. “It was really this coronavirus,” he said. “I was working before corona.”

Nearby, a 26-year-old woman, who requested anonymity, said her boyfriend waited two days to see a judge after he was charged with looting.

But others have faced charges of assaulting a police officer. One 26-year-old was accused of throwing a garbage can into a crowd, striking an officer. A 33-year-old man was charged with assault; according to the criminal complaint, he punched an officer in the face.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn and Manhattan say they are investigating several allegations of police using unnecessary force, including an instance — captured on video — when two police S.U.V.s drove into a crowd of protesters blocking a street in Brooklyn and a separate incident in which a Wall Street Journal reporter says an officer assaulted him in Manhattan.

Federal prosecutors have brought charges against two sisters from the Catskills region who investigators say tried to firebomb a police vehicle with officers inside it.

Some of the protesters, who were released this week after long detentions, said the police officers were the aggressors.

Clarence Johnson, a 24-year-old chef from Harlem, said he and his brother were protesting on 34th Street in Manhattan on Monday, when officers tackled them, used pepper spray on them and then hit them with batons. Mr. Johnson said he had bruising on his hip and that his brother’s face was swollen.

The officers had told them to go home, he said, but then had boxed them in on the street before arresting them on charges of unlawful assembly.

Mr. Johnson said he waited 15 hours to be arraigned. By Wednesday evening, his brother still had not appeared before a judge. Mr. Johnson was held in a cell with about 30 people spaced only about two feet apart, with a clogged toilet, and no soap. Some detainees were coughing and others appeared sickly, he said.

Mr. Johnson said he had experienced many disturbing encounters with the police while growing up in New York City. He was stopped frequently by them as a teenager and had stared down the barrel of an officer’s gun more than once. For him, the protests against police brutality were extremely personal.

“I have a daughter, a little girl, that’s going to have to grow up in this world,” Mr. Johnson said. “I just want it to be how it’s supposed to be. I shouldn’t have to fear the police.”

Another protester, Dorthley Beaval, 20, a nursing student from Long Island, emerged from the courthouse on Wednesday evening with his left arm in a dark blue sling. The left side of his face was bruised.

	<p>He said a police officer picked him up, slammed him first against a wall and then face down on the ground. The officer then began punching him repeatedly until another officer stopped him, he said. One tooth had been loosened and he coughed up blood, he said. He spent two days in a cell waiting to see a judge. He was charged with burglary and criminal mischief.</p> <p>“I was there peacefully protesting, because of this type of behavior,” he said. That night he had held a sign that read: For My Future Black Children.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/05 Chinese jailed; entered restricted area
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/05/us/chinese-nationals-sentenced-prison/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)Three Chinese nationals were sentenced to prison Thursday for entering a restricted area at a naval base in Key West, Florida, to take photos.</p> <p>Chinese national Liao Lyuyou, 27, was sentenced to 12 months in prison after pleading guilty to illegally entering the restricted area within Naval Air Station Key West in December and taking photographs and video, according to the US Attorney's office of the Southern District of Florida.</p> <p>In a separate case, Jielun Zhang, 25, and Yuhao Wang, 24, were sentenced to 12 months and nine months in prison, respectively. Both men pleaded guilty to illegally entering a restricted area within the same naval base as Liao. They were also taking pictures, according to the US Attorney's office of the Southern District of Florida.</p> <p>Liao was arrested on December 26 for entering the restricted area and taking photos of an annex and other government buildings near sensitive military facilities. He was verbally warned not to but did it anyway, according to court documents.</p> <p>Liao had circumvented a security fence with "numerous warnings posted" on it, the documents said, and continued to walk in the restricted area and take photos after "witnesses verbally warned him." He later told officials that he reads and understands English better than he can speak it.</p> <p>According to the documents, Liao stated he was trying to take photos of the sunrise after US military police approached him. He gave them permission to look at his camera where they saw images of the Truman Annex at the facility as well as photos of other government buildings in the area.</p> <p>A week later, Jielun and Yuhao approached the guard station in a blue Hyundai on January 4 at the Sigsbee Annex at the Naval Air Station in Key West, according to the criminal complaint.</p> <p>When Jielun and Yuhao could not provide a military identification, a navy security officer told them to make a U-turn and exit the facility.</p> <p>Jielun and Yuhaog did not follow instructions and instead stayed at the facility for approximately 30 minutes, according to the complaint.</p> <p>Navy security officers obtained consent to look at the cell phones and the camera in their possession and observed photos of the Sigsbee Annex property, including US military structures on Fleming Key.</p> <p>The incidents happened shortly after two Chinese Embassy officials were "secretly expelled" by the US last year after they entered a "sensitive" military base near Norfolk, Virginia, according to The New York Times.</p> <p>The Times said half a dozen people with knowledge of the expulsions said US officials believe "at least one of the Chinese officials, who were with their wives, was an intelligence officer operating under diplomatic cover."</p>

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HEADLINE	06/05 Alabama shootings leaves 7 dead
SOURCE	https://www.foxnews.com/us/alabama-shooting-leaves-7-dead-authorities-say
GIST	<p>A call about a shooting south of Huntsville, Ala., led sheriff's deputies to the discovery of seven bodies late Thursday, according to reports.</p> <p>The victims included males and females, the Morgan County Sheriff's Office wrote in a Twitter message, but no ages or identities were disclosed.</p> <p>An investigation was continuing but authorities said the public faced no immediate threat.</p> <p>There was no mention of any suspects being at large or in custody, WBMA-LD of Birmingham reported. The shooting took place in Valhermoso Springs, about 21 miles southeast of Huntsville, near the Tennessee River.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 'Antifa' not mentioned federal prosecutions
SOURCE	https://www.thedailybeast.com/antifa-is-literally-never-mentioned-in-the-first-prosecutions-of-protest-violence?ref=home
GIST	<p>For all the implications by President Trump and Attorney General William Barr that "antifa" "terrorists" have hijacked protests against institutional police racism, none of the 22 criminal complaints representing the first wave of protest charges mention antifa in any way.</p> <p>One case references anarchism as a motivating ideology, not anti-fascism. Another high-profile one in Las Vegas references the so-called "Boogaloo" far-right trend of provoking a race or civil war.</p> <p>But the early charges do not indicate that antifascist motivations have provoked the violent activity that the Trump administration and its allies have spent the better part of a week attributing to it. With Barr at the helm of the protest response, the administration has tasked the FBI's counterterrorism partnerships with state and local police, known as Joint Terrorism Task Forces, with finding "extremists" and "agitators" within the protest movement.</p> <p>"What it definitely demonstrates is that antifascism is not a driving force in the current protest violence," said Mike German, a retired FBI special agent who worked with the Los Angeles JTTF.</p> <p>In a press conference on Thursday, Barr continued to claim evidence existed that antifa, which he mistakenly called a "group," was committing acts of violence at the protests. He was silent about the Boogaloo presence displayed in the early charging documents.</p> <p>"We have evidence that Antifa and other similar extremist groups, as well as actors of a variety of different political persuasions, have been involved in instigating and participating in the violent activity," Barr said. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>Despite Trump's rhetoric about designating antifa a terrorist organization, antifa is an ethic rather than an actual group—and even if it were a group, there is no domestic terrorism statute for designating a non-foreign entity as a banned terrorist organization. That's not stopped a chorus of right-wing voices from fantasizing about state violence against antifascist Americans. "Let's see how tough these Antifa terrorists are when they're facing off with the 101st Airborne Division," Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) tweeted. The hashtag #exposeAntifa trended on Thursday.</p>

Yet in briefings to Congress this week about the protests, the FBI has sounded a strikingly different tone, one that echoes the early wave of charges. The FBI did not refer to antifa as a homegrown violent extremist group, according to a knowledgeable congressional staffer.

It matched a senior law enforcement official who told The Daily Beast that the involvement of the JTTFs was “a political ploy to make being anti-Trump look like terrorism.” Similarly, The Nation’s Ken Klippenstein [reported](#) that the FBI’s Washington Field Office possessed “no intelligence indicating Antifa involvement/presence” in outbursts of violence at protests in D.C. on Sunday, [the day Trump described antifa as terrorists](#). (In response to Klippenstein’s report, the FBI said, “When written at a local level, these products will note that the perspective offered may be limited to the field office’s area of responsibility.”) In November 2017 congressional testimony, FBI Director Christopher Wray was asked if the FBI was doing anything to counteract antifa. Wray replied that there were “anarchist extremist investigations” he had open, “we’re not investigating antifa as antifa – that’s an ideology, and we don’t investigate ideologies.”

“When it comes to domestic terrorism, our investigations focus solely on the criminal activity of individual. We are not focused on a particular ideology, we are focused on the violence,” the FBI told the Daily Beast in a statement. “The FBI requires that all domestic terrorism investigations — regardless of specific ideology — be predicated based on activity intended to further a political or social goal, wholly or in part involving force, coercion, or violence, in violation of federal law.”

Of almost two dozen affidavits and depositions federal agents have filed since May 31 to back up criminal charges against individuals allegedly involved in crimes related to anti-racist demonstrations, The Daily Beast found only three that explicitly referenced a political figure or distinct ideology. Of those, one was the trio arrested in Nevada and linked to the Boogaloo movement. An 18-year-old in Worcester, Massachusetts, accused of tossing Molotov cocktails reportedly told local police he was “with the anarchist group.” And a 25-year-old whom authorities claim pointed a semi-automatic automatic weapon at a crowd in Lubbock, Texas also allegedly shouted “this is a revolution” and “Trump must die,” and posted on Facebook about planning to “off racists and MAGA people”—a reference to the president’s supporters.

One of the attorneys [charged in Brooklyn](#) with attempting to firebomb an empty NYPD vehicle is a longtime activist, and was arrested wearing a T-shirt with leftist imagery, although the Joint Terrorism Task Force agent assigned to the case did not reference this in his deposition.

Legal advocates like the J. Wells Dixon of the Center for Constitutional Rights said it was a “highly unusual” decision by the local U.S. Attorney’s Office to involve itself in what were effectively incidents of municipal property damage.

“I myself have never heard of a charge like that being brought in federal court,” the senior staff attorney and civil rights advocate said.

That was just one of the cases where the Department of Justice decided to pursue individuals accused of attacking local government facilities. Others included cop cars torched in Salt Lake City, Chicago, and Trenton, New Jersey, a Molotov attack on a county building in [Apple Valley, Minnesota](#), and arson and vandalism at Buffalo City Hall. In each case, the assertion of federal jurisdiction was the same: either that the affected agencies received federal funding, or that they “conduct business in interstate commerce, for instance by purchasing vehicles and other equipment and supplies in interstate commerce.”

Dixon said that these sorts of claims are a “necessary box to check” in order to charge offenders in federal court—and to potentially subject them to much harsher federal sentencing rules.

“Something is happening here,” the attorney said. “Somebody is making a decision to prosecute all of these cases as federal crimes.”

U.S. Attorneys even applied this standard to violations of private property. The Worcester case involved damage to a pharmacy, which a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent noted “receives delivery six days a week from a wholesale company, Anda Inc., located in New York.” This, he argued, meant the case impacted interstate commerce and justified federal involvement.

Other prosecutors staked their case on social media. A federal prosecutor in Pennsylvania brought up the accused igniter of a local coffee shop on federal charges on the grounds that the cafe had engaged in interstate commerce by maintaining a website, Facebook account, and Instagram page, as well as ordering cups from New York. And in Atlantic City, a man accused of rioting fell under the Department of Justice’s purview because they designated his cellphone and Facebook account as “a facility of interstate and foreign commerce.” But the agents involved in these cases never alleged any affiliation with a larger group like antifa or other [“far-left extremist groups”](#) that Barr claimed last week were behind the outbreak of violence.

In the Nevada case, prosecutors charged three military personnel—one from the Army Reserves, the other the Navy, the third the Air Force—with plotting to destroy a National Parks Service facility and with carrying unregistered Molotov cocktails at a Black Lives Matter event. The feds allege the three are self-identified members of the Boogaloo movement, and plotted to begin their dreamt-of civil war first at Reopen protests, then hurling fire bombs at police to spark violence during the civil rights demonstration. Unlike most of the other indictments, the criminal complaint describes extensive planning and coordination.

German, the retired FBI agent, explained that FBI agents writing the complaints “are normally laser-focused on facts they can prove. Where a fact like the Boogaloo movement exists, that’s explanatory for where a charged individual may have engaged in this conduct.” He described references to the alleged Boogaloo participants as indicating a “tactical methodology” rather than “some description of an ideology.”

Still, German referenced [reports](#) that FBI agents in New York were questioning detained protesters about connections to antifa.

“Typically, when we’re talking about antifa, which doesn’t exist as a group in the way the president imagines, it would make it difficult to associate somebody with a group that doesn’t exist as an organization. They’re imagining something that isn’t real. It’ll be hard for an agent focused on facts to list it,” German said.

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HEADLINE	06/04 UN: Philippines human rights violations
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2020/06/04/UN-report-Philippines-under-Duterte-guilty-of-human-rights-violations/3991591267789/?lh=9
GIST	<p>June 4 (UPI) -- A United Nations report Thursday said the Philippines government has engaged in widespread human rights violations in the name of national security and drug trafficking.</p> <p>The U.N. Human Rights Office called on the government to immediately address its tactics and the way it deals with suspects under President Rodrigo Duterte.</p> <p>"While there have been important human rights gains in recent years, particularly in economic and social rights, the underpinning focus on national security threats -- real and inflated -- has led to serious human rights violations, reinforced by harmful rhetoric from high-level officials," the 26-page report states.</p> <p>The study adds that there have been 8,663 deaths since the government in Manila began its campaign against drugs under Duterte four years ago. The OHCHR said 248 human rights activists, legal professionals, journalists and trade unionists have been among the dead since 2015.</p>

	<p>Human rights organizations say the true toll is much higher and is probably close to 27,000.</p> <p>The OHCHR said laws lack due process protections and there's encouragement at the highest level for the government to kill drug suspects. Those lack of checks has led to widespread misconduct by police, the report says.</p> <p>"The Philippines faces major challenges -- structural poverty, inequality, armed conflict, frequent natural disasters, and now the COVID-19 crisis," said High Commissioner for Human Rights Michele Bachelet.</p> <p>"It is vital the government's responses be grounded in human-rights approaches and guided by meaningful dialogue," she said. "Unfortunately, the report has documented deep-seated impunity for serious human rights violations, and victims have been deprived of justice for the killings of their loved ones. Their testimonies are heartbreaking."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Mexico soldiers seize tons of pot, meth
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-seizes-tons-meth-tons-marijuana-fentanyl-71072412
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Mexican soldiers have seized a huge drug stash at a house in the border city of Tijuana, including about two tons of methamphetamine, eight tons of marijuana and 131,500 pills containing the synthetic opioid fentanyl.</p> <p>The Defense Department said Thursday that the haul included about 190 pounds (89 kilograms) of cocaine.</p> <p>No arrests were reported.</p> <p>The drugs, some packed into plastic containers and neatly packed into cardboard boxes, appeared to be destined for export to the United States. Such multi-drug shipments have become routine in the cross-border drug trade.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Spain: 'wolf pack' additional prison time
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/04/europe/spain-wolf-pack-prison-intl/index.html
GIST	<p>Madrid, Spain (CNN)Four of the Spanish men convicted in 2019 of raping a woman in Pamplona have been sentenced to further prison terms for a separate case of sexual abuse that occurred months earlier.</p> <p>Five men, known as the "wolf pack" were sentenced to 15 years in prison in June 2019 over the Pamplona rape. Four were arrested after the ruling, leaving one at large.</p> <p>On Thursday a judge at Spain's Cordoba Criminal court handed the four men additional prison sentences, after the group was convicted of sexually abusing a young woman in the southern city of Cordoba in May 2016.</p> <p>The victim fell unconscious for "unknown reasons" before the abuse, according to the court's written judgment.</p> <p>The four men then "began to touch the victim's chest both inside and outside her clothing" and one of them "even kissed her on the mouth," the document added.</p> <p>"While they were carrying out the touching, one of the accused made the (video) recording of said acts, with the prior acceptance of all others," the court said.</p>

	<p>The four men were also given a joint fine of 13,150 euros (\$14,775).</p> <p>One of the men was sentenced to an additional four years and six months in prison, while the other three will serve an additional two years and 10 months each. The group was also found guilty of privacy abuse, as well as sexual abuse.</p> <p>The court gave the harsher sentence to the man who "disseminated the recorded images through two WhatsApp groups of which both the investigated and third parties were part," according to the judgment.</p> <p>The Pamplona assault occurred just weeks after the Cordoba one, in July 2016 at the city's annual running of the bulls event.</p> <p>That case shocked Spain and prompted widespread outrage, after the men were initially convicted of sexual abuse but cleared of gang rape charges in December 2018.</p> <p>The original ruling was made on the grounds that Spanish law requires evidence of physical violence or intimidation to prove a rape charge, a stipulation that has since been brought into question.</p> <p>The country's Supreme Court later reversed the decision and upgraded the group's convictions.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/04 Preliminary hearing: Ahmaud Arbery
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/04/us/mcmichaels-hearing-ahmaud-arbery/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)William Bryan told investigators he heard Travis McMichael use a racial epithet after fatally shooting Ahmaud Arbery in Glynn County, Georgia, a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent testified Thursday during preliminary hearings.</p> <p>Bryan told police McMichael said "f***ing n***er" after three blasts from McMichael's shotgun left Arbery dead in February the streets of the Satilla Shores neighborhood, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Richard Dial said.</p> <p>Body camera footage also showed a Confederate flag sticker on the toolbox of McMichael's truck, Dial said.</p> <p>The allegations came as Dial outlined the events that led to Arbery's death and told the court that before Arbery was shot, the three men charged in his murder engaged in an elaborate chase, hitting the 25-year-old jogger with a truck as he repeatedly tried to avoid them.</p> <p>As Travis and Gregory McMichael attempted to head him off, Arbery turned and ran past the truck of Bryan, who filmed the killing, and Bryan struck Arbery with the side of his truck, Dial said.</p> <p>The new details of the final moments of Arbery's life emerged amid a week of nationwide protests over another killing -- that of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis -- and demonstrators have also called for justice in Arbery's case.</p> <p>Investigators found a swipe from a palm print on the rear door of Bryan's truck, cotton fibers near the truck bed that "we attribute to contact with Mr. Arbery" and a dent below the fibers, he said.</p> <p>Though Bryan's attorney has contested allegations his client took part in the killing, Dial said Bryan first became involved by yelling to the McMichaels, "Do you got him?" when he saw them chasing the 25-year-old jogger. The McMichaels and Bryan have not entered pleas, but lawyers for all three men have proclaimed their innocence.</p>

After yelling out to the McMichaels about Arbery, Bryan joined the chase, and at this point, none of the three had called 911, Dial said.

The McMichaels had already tried to head off Arbery once when Bryan joined the pursuit, the GBI agent said. Bryan tried to block in Arbery as Travis McMichael drove around the block with his father in the bed of the truck.

Bryan "made several statements about trying to block him in and using his vehicle to try to stop him," Dial said. "His statement was that Mr. Arbery kept jumping out of the way and moving around the bumper and actually running down into the ditch in an attempt to avoid his truck."

At one point, Arbery was heading out of the Satilla Shores neighborhood where the defendants live, but the McMichaels forced him to turn back into the neighborhood and run past Bryan, the agent said. That is when he struck Arbery, Dial said, and Arbery kept running with the McMichaels in pursuit.

Bryan turned around, and that is where the widely disseminated video of Arbery's killing begins, he said.

Lawyers for the McMichaels opened the proceeding by requesting their clients be physically present in the courtroom, which Glynn County Chief Magistrate Judge Wallace Harrell denied.

The McMichaels, charged with murder and aggravated assault, appeared wearing face masks from the Glynn County Detention Center a few miles away from the courthouse.

[Bryan](#) waived his right to appear. He was arrested last month on charges that include felony murder.

Also in the courtroom will be Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper, family attorney S. Lee Merritt said. She is not expected to make a statement. Cooper has said [her son was out for a jog](#) when he was killed.

Gov. Brian Kemp has promised a substantial police presence and issued a warning to any "bad actors" seeking to disrupt the proceedings and [heretofore peaceful protests in the county](#).

Though they're only preliminary hearings, the defense and prosecution are expected to provide a peek into their strategies. Harrell will decide after the hearing if the cases will be sent to superior court for trial.

Prosecutor Jesse Evans, of Cobb County in metro Atlanta, opened saying the evidence would show the McMichaels "chased, hunted down and ultimately executed" Arbery.

The GBI took over the investigation after Glynn County police and two prosecutors declined to press charges. Atlantic Judicial Circuit District Attorney Tom Durden became the third prosecutor to recuse himself after the GBI assistance he requested promptly yielded charges.

Bryan's attorney, Kevin Gough, may call as many as five witnesses Thursday, court documents indicate. He also is expected to raise the issue of bail, though no bail hearing has been set.

[Larry English](#), who owned an under-construction home [where Arbery stopped before he was shot](#), will not testify Thursday, attorney Elizabeth Graddy said. He wasn't subpoenaed, she said.

The prosecution has set aside the entire day for the hearing, Holmes' team said.

Bryan's attorney has repeatedly insisted that his client was merely an observer and has questioned why state police charged the man he labels the prosecution's "star witness."

Travis McMichael, who is accused of the actual February 23 shooting outside of Brunswick, is not guilty, his attorneys say, [as "compelling evidence" will demonstrate](#).

"Travis has been vilified before his voice could even be heard," the lawyers said in a statement. "The truth in this case will exonerate Travis."

Gregory McMichael, Travis' father, who called 911 about Arbery and was seen on Bryan's video in the back of a pickup truck when his son shot Arbery three times, is also a victim of a rush to judgment, his attorney said.

"So often the public accepts a narrative driven by an incomplete set of facts, one that vilifies a good person," defense attorney Laura Hogue said in a statement.

Added co-counsel Frank Hogue, "The full story, to be revealed in in time, will tell the truth about this case."

Seating is limited due [coronavirus concerns](#), and an overflow room was set up to handle those wishing to watch the proceedings.

Demonstrations are expected. The NAACP has organizes a protest for 5:45 p.m. outside the courthouse.

Kemp has warned "bad actors" not to mar what have "been very peaceful gatherings in that community for well over a month now."

"Let me be clear once again: We will not tolerate disruptive or dangerous behavior, including criminal conduct, and we will put the safety of our citizens first," he said in a news conference.

The Georgia State Patrol, state Department of Natural Resources officers, National Guard troops and state Emergency Management Agency officials will be on hand to assist local authorities, the governor said.

The shooting

Gregory and Travis McMichael [were arrested May 7](#) in the shooting death in the Satilla Shores neighborhood. The father and son pursued Arbery after suspecting him in a rash of area break-ins, the elder McMichael told police, according to an incident report.

The McMichaels armed themselves and, with Bryan's help, [tried to head off Arbery as he ran through their neighborhood](#), but on their first two attempts, the 25-year-old doubled back and ran in the other direction, Gregory McMichael told police, according to the report.

Bryan's video picks up before the third attempt, and Arbery is seen trying to avoid the McMichaels' pickup truck, which is stopped in the road, before abruptly turning toward Travis McMichael in front of the truck.

A shot goes off as they struggle over the gun. The two disappear off the left side of the screen. Gregory McMichael draws a handgun but does not shoot.

A second blow is heard as Arbery and the younger McMichael are off screen. As the men come back into view, the two continue fighting for the shotgun. Arbery appears to throw a punch at Travis McMichael's head as a third shot is heard.

Arbery steps back as blood appears on his T-shirt under his left rib cage. He stumbles and falls in the middle of the street as Travis McMichael walks away.

The Justice Department has [launched a hate crime investigation](#) in the case, Merritt has said.

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