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Trump tells U.S. governors to crack down on violent protests



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump on Monday urged U.S. states to crack down on violent protests that have engulfed cities, saying officials should "dominate" and arrest people to restore order after a sixth straight night of vandalism and looting, media reported.

Residents and business owners in cities from New York to Santa Monica, California, spent Monday sweeping up broken glass and taking stock of damage after protests over racial inequities and excessive police force turned violent again overnight.

"You have to dominate," Trump told the governors in a private call, the New York Times reported. "If you don't dominate, you're wasting your time - they're going to run over you, you're going to look like a bunch of jerks."

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CBS News, which also obtained audio of the call, said Trump had pinned the violence on the "radical left."

Dozens of cities across the United States remain under

curfews at a level not seen since riots following the 1968 assassination of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. The National Guard deployed in 23 states and Washington, D.C.

Authorities fought to put out fires near the White House and halt the looting of shops in numerous cities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reported "significant ongoing" civil unrest in 36 U.S. cities, including smaller ones like Fargo, North Dakota, and Roanoke, Virginia.

One person was killed in Louisville, Kentucky, overnight where police and National Guard troops returned fire while trying to disperse a crowd.

"It's devastating and heartbreaking," Alex Flowers, 30, said as she swept broken glass from the sidewalk outside Wasteland, a used-clothing store in Santa Monica, California, early on Monday. "I came to help clean up the city that has been destroyed and help the business owners and employees."

The unrest, which erupted as the country was easing lengthy lockdowns to stop the spread of the coronavirus, began with peaceful protests over the death of a black man, George Floyd, in police custody in Minneapolis last Monday.

Video footage showed a white police officer kneeling on the neck of Floyd, 46, for nearly nine minutes before he died. Derek Chauvin, a since-fired 44-year-old police officer, has been charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. He was released on \$500,000 bail and is due to appear in court on June 8, according to jail records.

On Monday, dozens of people quietly paid their respects to Floyd at the scene outside the Cup Foods where he lost his life. Visitors left flowers and signs honoring Floyd on the pavement. A little girl wrote, "I'll fight with you," in aqua blue chalk in the road.

"This is therapeutic. My heart was real heavy this morning so I came down extra early and when I got here, the heaviness lifted," said Diana Jones, 40, the mother of four children. "This right here let's me know that things are going to be ok."

In the U.S. capital, St. John's Episcopal Church, a historic place near the White House where many U.S. presidents have worshipped, suffered minor damage while the nearby headquarters of the AFL-CIO labor group was vandalized.

Floyd's death was the latest in a string of similar incidents to prompt an outcry over racism in law enforcement. It reignited outrage across a politically and racially divided country that has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

Many cities affected by the unrest are just restarting some normal economic activity after more than two months of stay-at-home orders to stem the outbreak, which has killed more than 104,000 people and plunged more than 40 million people into joblessness.

White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany told Fox News that Antifa, an anti-fascist group, was "certainly behind" the violence. Trump branded the group a terrorist organization,

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

06/01/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

America In Crisis

In the last six days because of the death of George Floyd, in more than twenty-two states and in forty U.S. cities along with thousands around the world, protests have erupted in a global display of solidarity.

Mayor Blasio said in his tweet that, "structural racism haunts the lives of people of colors."

We want to urge all the people and community leaders to stand up and tell the protesters that we all have the right to express our anger in the peaceful demonstrations, but not to loot the stores and businesses and destroy public property.

Social injustice and economic problems of this country have long been issues that have created the gap between the rich and the poor and now it is just getting wider. The local school districts mostly are not doing very well financially. Our nation's infrastructure greatly needs repairs that are long overdue. All

In New York City, a group of policemen knelt together with the protesters in a group to show their support. New York Mayor Bill Blasio's daughter, Chiara, was arrested over the weekend by police and charged with illegal gathering.



of these problems are worsening by the day.

Even though we had Obama as president of the United States and the mayors of Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC and Houston all had African-American leadership, at the same time the real equality and

opportunity were still missing.

With the coronavirus still spreading and now with all the social unrest, this puts our nation in very great danger. We hope that all citizens will recognize that we are all in the same boat and that we cannot afford to lose our nation.



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No Justice!

BUSINESS

No Life!

George Floyd Protests Spread Nationwide

U.S. - From Lockdown To Breakdown



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Protests erupted for a sixth day across the US over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. By the weekend, at least 40 cities imposed curfews but most were broken, and National Guard members have been activated in at least 26 states and Washington, DC.

thieves had found their way inside.



Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin pushes his knee into the neck of George Floyd.

The National Guard was deployed in more than two dozen states to assist overwhelmed police departments, and dozens of mayors extended curfews. As the smoke cleared on Monday morning, here is where things stand: In Minneapolis, the epicenter of the demonstrations, about 200 protesters were arrested after trying to march along an interstate after a curfew began at 8 p.m.

police and the National Guard returned fire. Gov. Andy Beshear instructed the Kentucky State Police to investigate; in California, all state buildings "with offices in downtown city areas" were ordered to close on Monday. There were widespread reports of looting in Santa Monica and Long Beach. One police officer suffered a gunshot wound while on duty in Venice. A news helicopter in Los Angeles recorded a police S.U.V. driving into



a group of protesters, knocking two people to the ground; in Birmingham, Ala., protesters started to tear down a Confederate monument that the city had covered with a tarp amid a lawsuit between the state attorney general and the city; in Boston, a police S.U.V. was set ablaze near the State House. As reports of more lawlessness came in overnight, Mayor Marty Walsh said he was angered "by the people who came into our city and chose to engage in acts of destruction and violence." He added, "If we are to achieve change and if we are to lead the change, our efforts must be rooted in peace and regard for our community;" in Philadelphia, police officers in riot gear and an armored vehicle used pepper spray to repel rioters and looters.



The Manhattan Bridge was briefly shut down to car traffic. Sporadic looting was

reported across Lower Manhattan. The night before in Union Square, the mayor's daughter, Chiara de Blasio, 25, was among the protesters arrested, according to a police official; in Chicago, the police superintendent, David Brown, excoriated looters on Sunday. Gov. J.B. Pritzker said he had called up the National Guard after a request from Mayor Lori Lightfoot. "I want to be clear and emphasize: The Guard is here to support our Police Department," Ms. Lightfoot said. "They will not be actively involved in policing and patrolling." Public transit to downtown has been suspended indefinitely; in Portland, Ore., the police clashed with protesters who smashed windows at the federal courthouse. The police deployed tear gas while demonstrators hurled fireworks at officers; in Iowa, the police said riots had broken out in Davenport, and at least two people were killed and one police officer injured in a series of shootings. The city's police chief, Paul Sikorski, told a news conference on Monday that dozens of shootings had been reported overnight. He said that around 3 a.m., officers were "ambushed" and one was shot, and that several suspects were in custody. (Courtesy newyorktimes.com)

Related Atty Gen Barr Says Regional Joint Terrorism Task Forces Directed to Locate, Apprehend Antifa Leaders, Other 'Radical Agitators'



U.S. Attorney General William Barr said in a Sunday statement that the regional Joint Terrorism Task Forces of the FBI have been directed to locate and apprehend Antifa leaders. His statement was issued after President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would be declaring Antifa a domestic terrorist organization for its alleged involvement in the terrorizing of major cities after the death of George Floyd. "With the rioting that is occurring in many

of our cities around the country, the voices of peaceful and legitimate protests have been hijacked by violent radical elements. Groups of outside radicals and agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate, violent, and extremist agenda," said Barr. "It is time to stop watching the violence and to confront and stop it. The continued violence and destruction of property endangers the lives and livelihoods of others, and interferes with the rights of peaceful protesters, as well as all other citizens," he continued.



President Trump announced that the Antifa group will now be designated as a domestic terrorist organization.

He called on cities "to ensure that adequate law enforcement resources, including the National Guard where necessary, are deployed on the streets to reestablish law and order." "We saw this finally happen in Minneapolis last night, and it worked," said Barr as a presence of more than 4,000 national guardsmen was able to prevent a fifth night of rioting Saturday. The attorney general concluded his statement by revealing that a network of 56 FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces have been directed to apprehend and charge "the violent radical agitators." "Federal law enforcement actions will be directed at apprehending and charging the violent radical agitators who have hijacked peaceful protest and are engaged in violations of federal law. To identify criminal organizers and instigators, and to coordinate federal resources with our state and local partners, federal law enforcement is using our existing network of 56 regional FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces," Barr said. "The violence instigated and carried out by Antifa and other similar groups in connection with the rioting is domestic terrorism and will be treated accordingly." (Courtesy https://tennesseestar.com/)

Editor's Choice



A woman takes a selfie at a salt production site on the bed of a drained area of the Sasyk-Sivash lake near the city of Yevpatoria, Crimea. REUTERS/Alexey Pavlishak



U.S. President Donald Trump and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence watch the launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and Crew Dragon spacecraft, from Cape Canaveral, Florida. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



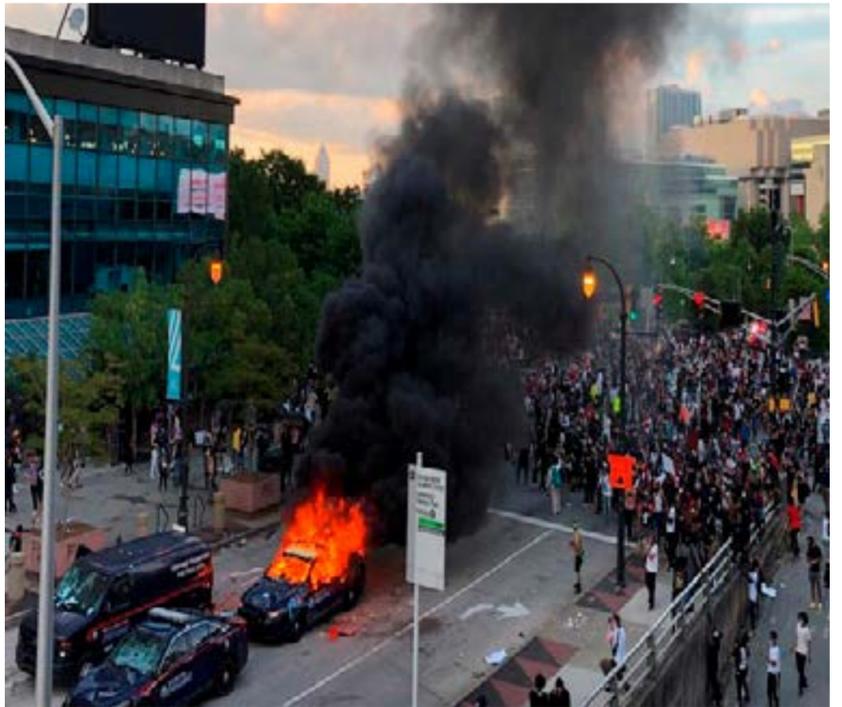
An NYPD police car is set on fire as protesters clash with police during a march against the death of George Floyd, in Brooklyn, New York. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon



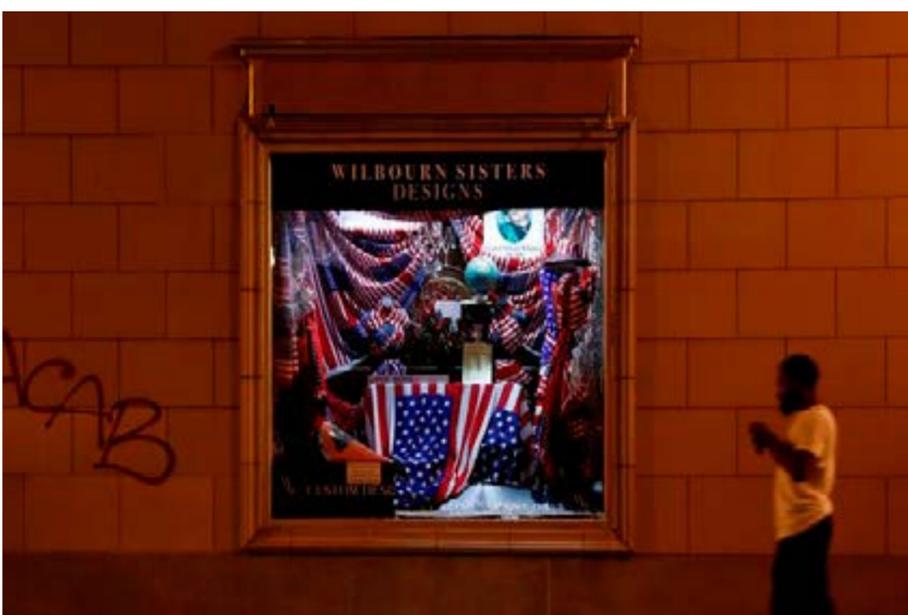
A protester, who was hit by an object fired by police, is aided by other protesters during a rally against the death of George Floyd, in Austin, Texas. REUTERS/Nuri Vallbona



High noon in a coronavirus-stricken world



An Atlanta Police car burns as people protest against the death of George Floyd, near CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia. REUTERS/Dustin Chambers



A man walks past a damaged window display of a business during nationwide unrest following the death of George Floyd, in Atlanta. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



A man is injured after being hit in the head by an object at a protest near the Minneapolis Police third precinct after a white police officer was caught on a bystander's video pressing his knee into the neck of African-American man George Floyd

Gov. Greg Abbott Authorizes Federal Agents To Act As Texas Peace Officers

Governor Abbott Declares State Of Disaster Following Violent Protests



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster for all Texas counties amid the violent protests in response to George Floyd's death. The governor said he is authorizing federal agents to serve as Texas Peace Officers to help protect people's safety while ensuring that peaceful protesters can continue to march and let their voices be heard.

"Every Texan and every American has the right to protest and I encourage all Texans to exercise their First Amendment rights," said Governor Abbott. "However, violence against others and the destruction of property is unacceptable and counterproductive. As protests have turned violent in various areas across the state, it is crucial that we maintain order, uphold public safety, and protect against property damage or loss."

Large protests have been happening in several cities in Texas, including Houston, Dallas and Austin. While some protests have been peaceful, others have turned violent leading to several

businesses being damaged and hundreds of people arrested.



Sneakers are scattered on the floor of a Deep Ellum store that had its windows smashed and shelves emptied by a group of protesters on May 29, 2020.

Floyd died in Minneapolis on May 25 when an officer was seen on video kneeling on his neck for nearly 11 minutes in an attempt to detain him for what police called a non-violent forgery. Derek Chauvin was identified as the officer seen on video with his knee on Floyd's neck while Floyd was pleading, "I can't breathe."

Chauvin and three other officers were fired following his death, but protest-

ers took the street of Minneapolis to demand the officers be charged.

It wasn't until four days later that Chauvin was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. The three other officers who were on scene have not been charged.

The news of Chauvin's arrest did not stop thousands of protesters from continuing to gather in cities like New York, Chicago and Atlanta to demand justice for Floyd and speak out about police brutality.



Many of the protests around the country have led to the looting of businesses and more violence between citizens and police officers. (Courtesy <https://www.kristv.com/>)

Related
'I could not have been more proud' -- Mayor lauds Houston's peaceful George Floyd protests

Over the weekend, Houston did not experience riots, looting and violence seen in other major U.S. cities during 'Justice for George' protests

HOUSTON — On Sunday, Houstonians at Resurrection Metropolitan Church near the Heights stood in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck.

All you could hear was the rain and cries of heartache.

The candlelight vigil at Resurrection Church was one of several ways Houston is mourning Floyd's life and protesting for justice.

"There's a tendency to lump all cities together," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "From Houston's perspective, as the Mayor, I could not have been

more proud of how the city responded yesterday."



Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo walks with demonstrators in Houston.

Turner said 98% of protesters did so peacefully on Saturday. There wasn't much property damage and violence to report. Houston police arrested 270 people Saturday mostly for blocking roadways.

Black Lives Matter Houston, which organized Friday's initial downtown protest, has been busy bailing protesters out of jail.

"I'm not here to tell people how to protest, but I'll support everyone out there who is taking action because we can't be silent and we can't be policed with how we express ourselves," activist Ashton Woods said.



Violent protests seen around the country were not seen in Houston.

BLM said the protests will continue in the days ahead. Another major protest is scheduled for Tuesday when members of Floyd's family will march to City Hall.

Houston remains one of the few major U.S. cities without a curfew in place.

Turner is calling on all Houstonians to continue to honor Floyd's memory the right way.

"My hope is that things will stay peace-

ful in Houston," Turner said.



Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo announced HPD has offered to provide a funeral police escort to Floyd's family when Floyd's body returns to Houston for burial. He says it's their way to honor Floyd and his family. No word yet if the family has accepted HPD's offer. (Courtesy khou.com)



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