

Millions of dollars raised through another crowdfunding site, GoFundMe, were blocked after Canadian officials raised objections with the company, which determined that the effort violated its terms of service around unlawful activity.

The GiveSendGo database analyzed by AP showed more than 109,000 donations through Friday night to campaigns in support of the protests, with a little under 62,000 coming from the U.S.”⁴

Regardless of the will of the hundreds of thousands of individuals who wanted to send donations to these truckers, the Canadian government was able to intervene and block them at every turn. Most people likely have never heard of a GoFundMe or a GiveSendGo campaign being hijacked and redirected by a government. The intervention, unfortunately, didn’t end at the blockade. The Trudeau government invoked the “Emergencies Act”⁵ in order to freeze the bank accounts of the individuals who donated to the protests.

“Banks have been told they can’t provide “any financial or related services” to people associated with the protests, a move that will result in frozen accounts, stranded money and cancelled credit cards.

⁴Richard Lardner, Michelle R. Smith and Ali Swenson, "How American right-wing funding for Canadian trucker protests could sway U.S. politics," PBS NewsHour, Feb. 17, 2022.

⁵<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ottawa-protests-frozen-bank-accounts-1.6355396>