

Capitol Police confront fallout from violent protest at Democratic headquarters

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Section: CONGRESS

Length: 620 words

Byline: By Nicholas Wu and Anthony Adragna

Highlight: The Hill's police force has been on edge after recent assaults on lawmakers and the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Body

The Capitol Police announced that a protest that turned violent outside of Democratic Party headquarters Wednesday night resulted in one arrest for assaulting an officer.

A group of protesters advocating for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war had blocked an entrance to the headquarters, located just blocks from the Capitol, prompting police to attempt to clear the protesters out of the way. The USCP said in a statement the group had "failed to obey our lawful orders to move back from the DNC."

The police and protesters have issued conflicting reports about the nature of the demonstration, with police saying that attendees had become violent after officers tried to remove them, resulting in attendees pepper spraying officers. The coalition of groups present at the protest said nonviolent demonstrators had been "violently attacked" by police, resulting in over 90 injuries.

Several House Democratic lawmakers, including party leadership, had been present for an event at the building and were evacuated.

The Hill's police force has been on edge after recent assaults against lawmakers, with law enforcement particularly sensitive about keeping entrances open to buildings in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 riot. The Washington D.C. police assisted in responding to the protests but referred all questions to the Capitol Police.

Rep. Sean Casten (D-Ill.) said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that blocking the entrances put protesters and others at risk. He was one of the lawmakers present at the fundraiser.

"We were rescued by armed officers who did not know the protestors' intent; they knew only that Members of Congress were inside, could not leave and that protestors would not let police through. Forcing police to guess intent is irresponsible and dangerous," he said.

House Democratic leadership, in a joint statement from Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Whip Katherine Clark (D-Mass.), Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.), and DCCC Chair Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.), said "some protesters escalated their activity in a manner that exceeded a peaceful demonstration," and thanked police for their "service and professionalism" in helping people leave the building.

Capitol Police confront fallout from violent protest at Democratic headquarters

"We strongly support the First Amendment right to freedom of expression and encourage anyone exercising that right to do so peacefully," they said.

House office buildings were placed on lockdown during the incident. In a message posted on X, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) faulted "these pro-Hamas insurrectionists" for the disruptions and called on the Biden administration to treat the incident the same as it did "January 6 cases."

Speaker Mike Johnson, in a statement Thursday, condemned what he called "this vile display of anti-Semitism." Other Republicans, including Florida Reps. Kat Cammack and Anna Paulina Luna, said they were placed on lockdown due to the protests.

"I'm with my baby at my office and the Capitol offices just went into lockdown because of these clowns," Luna wrote. "Nut jobs."

Eva Borgwardt, a spokesperson for IfNotNow, one of the groups involved in the protest, disputed police and lawmaker claims of a violent protest and called on lawmakers to "apologize and retract their dangerous and hurtful statements."

"As protesters engaged in a moral act of nonviolent civil disobedience outside of the building, police charged at protesters and attacked them without giving any warning or order to disperse. The police pepper sprayed us, pulling them by their hair, and throwing them down stairs, resulting in over 90 injuries to protesters," Borgwardt said.

The protests came just a few years after a still-unknown suspect placed a pipe bomb outside both the DNC and Republican National Committee prior to the events of Jan. 6, 2021.

Load-Date: November 27, 2023

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Israel war ceasefire demonstration erupts into chaos with 150 'violently protesting'

Israel war ceasefire demonstration erupts into chaos with 150 'violently protesting'

mirror.co.uk

November 16, 2023 Thursday 3:54 AM GMT

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Section: US NEWS; Version:1

Length: 685 words

Byline: By, Abigail O'Leary

Highlight: U.S. Capitol Police said about 150 people were "illegally and violently protesting" near the DNC headquarters building in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington

Body

Protests erupted into violence in Washington DC amid calls for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Police in the nation's capital responded Wednesday night to crowds outside the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee calling. U.S. Capitol Police said about 150 people were "illegally and violently protesting" near the DNC headquarters building in the Capitol Hill neighbourhood of Washington. Members of Congress were evacuated from the building as the protest erupted.

Video posted on social media showed protesters shoving police officers and trying to grab hold of metal barricades as the officers moved in to make arrests. The videos also show officers shoving protesters. Many of the protesters were wearing black shirts that read "Cease Fire Now."

Protesters included members of If Not Now and Jewish Voice for Peace, who have organized other demonstrations in Washington. If Not Now posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that "police are being extremely violent. We are linking arms, threatening no one, and begging our politicians to support an end to the killing and the suffering in Gaza. Begging, peacefully, for a ceasefire," the group posted.

The clashes Wednesday evening are the latest example of roiling tensions over the war between Israel and Hamas. President Joe Biden has been under increasing pressure from the Democratic Party's left flank over his support for Israel's military operation, including interruptions from protesters at his speeches. He has resisted calls for a ceasefire, instead saying there should be pauses in the fighting to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the potential extraction of hostages.

Last week, a large number of House Democrats joined nearly all Republicans in voting to censure Rep. Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian American in Congress, over her criticism of the Israeli government's treatment of

Israel war ceasefire demonstration erupts into chaos with 150 'violently protesting'

Palestinians. Taib, who has family in the West Bank, came under heavy criticism after she failed to immediately condemn Hamas after the attack. She since has called out the terrorist group while also calling for a cease-fire.

The Metropolitan Police Department said its officers also responded to the disturbance. Officials sent an alert to congressional staffers telling them no one would be permitted to enter or exit any House office buildings. Rep. Brad Sherman, a California Democrat, said he was evacuated from the building by police after protesters began "pepper spraying police officers and attempting to break into the building."

The clashes came as a rare press conference was held on Wednesday evening, in which President Joe Biden addressed the nation following his four-hour meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping - but the biggest bombshells from that conference came from questions he answered about the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Biden essentially detailed what he believed it would take for the war to end and bluntly outlined American foreign policy as it relates to Israel, Palestine and Hamas militants.

"I think this is going to stop when Hamas no longer maintains the capacity to murder and abuse and just do horrific things to the Israelis," he said, labeling the organisation as a terrorist group that wants to slaughter Israelis at every opportunity. He also noted that Hamas officials have warned that another attack is on the way.

As the Israeli military makes its moves, however, he emphasised that the Israeli Defence Forces IDF "acknowledge that they have an obligation to use as much caution as they can in going after their targets." This comes after reports of the IDF bombing hospitals, refugee camps and UN bases, slaughtering entire families in their homes as they sheltered, just as Hamas militants did in Israeli villages on October 7.

Biden said Hamas isn't playing fairly, however, noting that many of their major bases are found in tunnels underneath the hospitals in question and that it can be difficult to weed them out when they base themselves in such places. He told reporters that he believed that they were the first to commit war crimes because of the location of their bases.

Load-Date: November 16, 2023

US police end 'violent' protest in front of Democratic headquarters

dpa-AFX International ProFeed

November 16, 2023 Thursday 6:13 AM GMT

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Length: 179 words

Body

WASHINGTON (dpa-AFX) - According to Washington police, there was a "violent" protest around the Democratic party headquarters in the US capital on Wednesday. According to media reports, the demonstrators called for a ceasefire in Gaza. Around 150 people protested "illegally and violently" near the US Congress, according to the Capitol Police. Some demonstrators were detained and the group eventually dispersed. According to US media, members of the US Congress were evacuated from the party headquarters. California Congressman Brad Sherman said he was evacuated "after pro-terrorist, anti-Israel protestors grew violent, pepper spraying police officers and attempting to break into the building," further accusing the protesters of being "pro-Hamas" on X, formerly known as Twitter. Demonstrators, however, accused the police of using violence. Jewish organization IfNotNow said on X, "Capitol Police pepper sprayed US," and included a photo of a spray being used by a policeman. Police said that six officers were treated for injuries. Copyright dpa

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100 protesters injured in demonstration calling for Gaza cease-fire outside DNC

100 protesters injured in demonstration calling for Gaza cease-fire outside DNC

UPI

November 16, 2023 Thursday 4:17 AM EST

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Length: 356 words

Byline: MARK MORAN

Dateline: Nov. 16

Body



At least 100 people suffered injuries and one was arrested when demonstrators calling for a cease-fire of Israeli military action in Gaza protested outside the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday night, U.S. Capitol Police said. Police said demonstrators protested "illegally and violently."

Organizers said protesters were pepper-sprayed and pushed by police during the demonstrations, and a half dozen police officers were reportedly pepper-sprayed and punched, according to a police post on social media.

100 protesters injured in demonstration calling for Gaza cease-fire outside DNC

Demonstration organizer Dani Noble disputed the police characterization that protestors became violent and said members of Jewish Voice for Peace Action, which calls itself as the largest progressive Jewish anti-Zionist organization in the world, had gathered outside the DNC building about 7 p.m. after a candlelight vigil drawing attention to hostilities in Gaza and joined arms at the entrance to the DNC to talk peacefully with lawmakers.

Noble claimed police pushed the demonstrators and pulled them away from the building's entrance.

Sumaya Awad, a member of the New York City Democratic Socialists of America who had gathered with the demonstrators, had just locked arms in front of the building when police responded "with brute force. They gave us no warning," Awad said.

Awad said one demonstrator was pushed over a railing and landed on their head and that there were multiple calls for first aid.

Capitol Police posted on social media that "our officers are working to keep back approximately 150 people who are illegally and violently protesting in the area of Canal Street and Ivy Street, SE."

Capitol Police reported all members of Congress were evacuated from the area.

This is the latest in a series of demonstrations across the United States in the weeks since Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel Oct. 7. Israel has responded with blockades and relentless military attacks, including a "targeted" mission inside Al-Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital and where Israel has said Hamas has set up a makeshift war operations command center. Hamas has denied the allegation.

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US Capitol police clash with protesters calling for Gaza ceasefire

TRT World

November 16, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 517 words

Body

Demonstrators intended to obstruct entrances and exits, aiming to compel politicians to confront their candlelight vigil and demands for an end to the Israeli war on Gaza.

United States Capitol Police officers in riot gear have clashed with dozens of demonstrators who gathered outside the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters in Washington to demand a ceasefire in Gaza.

The protest was organised on Wednesday by three advocacy groups and held in an area near the US Capitol Lawmakers who were inside the DNC building said police had evacuated them from the area.

Protesters linked arms in front of the DNC building's entrance, where some sang: "Which side are you on?"

Officers pushed and pulled the protesters to try to remove them from the area, at one point shoving one protester down a staircase leading to the entrance.

Police also used pepper spray and fired projectiles containing chemical irritants.

US Capitol Police said approximately 150 people were "illegally and violently protesting". It said six officers were treated for injuries, ranging from cuts to being pepper sprayed and punched.

"One person has been arrested for assault on an officer," Capitol Police said on social media.

The organisers rejected allegations that demonstrators were violent.

Right now our officers are working to keep back approximately 150 people who are illegally and violently protesting in the area of Canal Street and Ivy Street, SE. Officers are making arrests. All Members have been evacuated from the area. Please stay away from the area. pic.twitter.com/qHcpyYexjm

- The U.S. Capitol Police (@CapitolPolice) November 16, 2023

Demonstration and evacuation

Public demonstrations - overwhelmingly pro-Palestinian - have rippled around the world since the Israeli military started its relentless onslaughts on Palestinians in Gaza after Hamas' surprise cross-border attack in Israel on October 7.

US Capitol police clash with protesters calling for Gaza ceasefire

Israel has retaliated with a strict blockade on Gaza and an aerial bombardment and ground offensive that has killed around 11,500 Palestinians, around 40 percent of them children.

The Israeli death toll is around 1,400, according to official figures.

Congressman Sean Casten said he was evacuated from the DNC building after it "was surrounded by protesters who had blocked all modes of ingress and egress."

He added: "We were rescued by armed officers who did not know the protesters' intent; they knew only that Members of Congress were inside, could not leave and that protesters would not let police through."

A DNC spokesperson said officials were monitoring the situation outside the DNC headquarters and were in touch with the US Capitol and local Washington police.

The organisers of the protest were IfNotNow, which urges US Jewish groups to end their support of Israel's policies toward Palestinians, Jewish Voice for Peace, a group that advocates for Palestinian independence, and the Democratic Socialists of America.

Jewish Voice for Peace wrote on social media that the protesters had gathered to lay out candles for Palestinians killed during Israel's bombardment and to call for a ceasefire.

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Load-Date: November 16, 2023

Video Shows Chaos As Police Officers Try To Pull Away Pro-Palestine Protesters Barricading DNC Headquarters

Video Shows Chaos As Police Officers Try To Pull Away Pro-Palestine Protesters Barricading DNC Headquarters

The Daily Caller

November 16, 2023 Thursday 03:27 AM EST

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Section: US

Length: 496 words

Byline: Corey Walker, Reporter, corey@dailycaller.com

Body

Link to Image

Pro-Palestine protesters barricaded the entrance of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters on Wednesday in protest of the Biden administration's handling of the Israel-Hamas War, according to videos of the event.

Videos circulated on social media showing police officers struggling to hold back a swarm of protesters. Other video showed rows of protesters locking arms in front of the DNC headquarters as police used physical force in an attempt to remove them from the property and breakup the demonstration. Police allegedly shoved a demonstrator down the stairs, according to one video. (RELATED: California City Passes Resolution Standing In 'Solidarity' With Palestinians, Accusing Israel Of Genocide)

Capitol Police attacking pro Palestine protestors at DNC headquarters in DC pic.twitter.com/3XGK4JHBgJ
- HOT SPOT (@HotSpotHotSpot) November 16, 2023

Demonstrators could be seen wearing black shirts with slogans such as "Ceasefire Now" and "Not In Our Name."

The U.S. Capitol Police released a statement on Twitter, warning the public to avoid the area around the DNC Headquarters.

"Right now our officers are working to keep back approximately 150 people who are illegally and violently protesting in the area of Canal Street and Ivy Street, SE. Officers are making arrests. All Members have been evacuated from the area. Please stay away from the area," police tweeted.

"We are outside of DNC demanding they have a ceasefire for the ppl of Gaza & this is how they treat us?"

Outside DNC 1.5 hours ago shortly after police attacked protesters#FreePalestine #AlShifaHospital pic.twitter.com/jwo1JdgkV2

- #StopCopCity (@ChuckModi1) November 16, 2023

Video Shows Chaos As Police Officers Try To Pull Away Pro-Palestine Protesters Barricading DNC Headquarters

Democratic California Rep. Brad Sherman said that he was evacuated from inside the DNC building at the time of the demonstration. The congressman also suggested that the anti-Israel demonstrators would aid Republicans in the next election.

"Was just evacuated from the #DNC after pro-terrorist, anti-#Israel protestors grew violent, pepper spraying police officers and attempting to break into the building," Sherman tweeted. "Apparently, these pro-# Hamas demonstrators want #Republicans to prevail in the next Congressional election."

NEW:

A large group of violent anti-Israel protestors have stormed the headquarters of the DNC tonight, demanding "Cease Fire Now."

Capitol Police said that about 150 people were "illegally and violently protesting" near the DNC headquarters building in the Capitol Hill... pic.twitter.com/pJvXsXTG6C

- Republicans against Trump (@RpsAgainstTrump) November 16, 2023

Protesters took to the streets to voice their opposition to Israel in the immediate aftermath of Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 attacks. Pro-Palestine demonstrators have grown more vocal in recent weeks, calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Israel's retaliatory military response resulted in some left-wing protesters accusing the Jewish state of committing genocide against the Palestinian people.

Graphic

DNC protests over Israel [public/twitter/dapper_det](https://public.twitter.com/dapper_det)

Load-Date: November 15, 2023

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PROTESTERS TARGET DNC CAPITOL POLICE SAY ANTI-WAR PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT,
LAWMAKERS EVACUATED

PROTESTERS TARGET DNC; CAPITOL POLICE SAY ANTI-WAR PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT, LAWMAKERS EVACUATED

ABC News Transcript GOOD MORNING AMERICA 7:02 AM EST

November 16, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 498 words

Anchors: ROBIN ROBERTS; GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS; MICHAEL STRAHAN

Reporters: RACHEL SCOTT (WASHINGTON, DC USA)

Body

CONTENT: PROTEST, WAR, HAMAS, ISRAEL, SHERMAN

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) We are going to begin with the protest at the Democratic National Committee in Washington that forced the evacuation of several lawmakers last night. You see it right there.

GRAPHICS: PROTESTERS TARGET DNC

GRAPHICS: CAPITOL POLICE SAY ANTI-WAR PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT, LAWMAKERS EVACUATED

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Capitol police say about 150 people were illegally and violently protesting calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. Senior congressional correspondent Rachel Scott was there. She's at the DNC now with the latest. Good morning, Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) George, good morning to you. And those protesters, demanding a ceasefire, blocked the entrance of this building here overnight, clashing with police. Nearby Capitol offices were put on lockdown, members of Congress had to be evacuated and several officers were injured.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Overnight, violent clashes in the nation's capital. 150 demonstrators demanding a ceasefire in Gaza.

PROTESTERS (GROUP)

Ceasefire now.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

PROTESTERS TARGET DNC CAPITOL POLICE SAY ANTI-WAR PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT,
LAWMAKERS EVACUATED

(Voiceover) Protesting outside the Democratic Party's headquarters in Washington, coming face to face with Capitol police. Several lawmakers were inside the building as the protests erupted, quickly evacuated to safety. Police cutting off access to nearby offices on Capitol Hill.

GRAPHICS: ANTI-WAR PROTESTS HIT WASHINGTON

GRAPHICS: LAWMAKERS EVACUATED AS PROTESTERS CALL FOR CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) And heavy police presence here near Capitol Hill. House buildings on lockdown as police got those members of Congress who were inside of the DNC out.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Congressman Brad Sherman was meeting with Democrats inside the building when police suddenly rushed in.

REPRESENTATIVE BRAD SHERMAN (DEM) (CALIFORNIA)

A dozen or so very well-armed police officers came charging in and they whisked us off to the US Capitol.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Sherman is a staunch supporter of Israel and has rejected the calls for a ceasefire.

REPRESENTATIVE BRAD SHERMAN (DEM) (CALIFORNIA)

Why were we retreating? We were in the right? This was our building. We were holding our conference.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Outside, police pushing back the crowd of protesters. Officials say six officers were injured, ranging from minor cuts to being pepper sprayed and punched.

PROTESTER (FEMALE)

All we wanted to say is that our demand is that President Biden and Congress demand a ceasefire now. And so, we came out here to tell them. We do not expect the hostility we got.

RACHEL SCOTT (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) And one group behind last night's demonstration says 90 protesters were injured. And, of course, this came one day after that major peaceful protest on the National Mall in support of Israel. Robin?

ROBIN ROBERTS (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) All right, Rachel, thanks so much.

Load-Date: December 14, 2023