



DEFEND #J₂₀
RESISTANCE

DROP THE CHARGES

194 people are facing 75 years in prison after being mass arrested and indiscriminately attacked by police at the Trump's Inauguration in January 20. The ongoing prosecution is unacceptable and sends a chilling message that protest will be met with felony charges.

We call on US Attorney Channing Phillips to immediately drop the charges against everyone arrested on January 20.

Please join us in calling for these charges to be dropped!

Call US Attorney Channing Phillips at:
202-252-7566

or send a letter to:

**Judiciary Center Building
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530.**

If you cannot call in, there an online version at
DefendJ20Resistance.org/DropJ20



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Call in Script

Make the below script your own. You want this to be a human interaction. If you live outside of DC, emphasize that people from all over the country came to DC to protest, and that the actions of the police represent DC to everyone who may come here to make their voice heard.

Hello, my name is _____ and I live at _____.

I'm calling [writing] to demand that the charges against the protestors who were mass arrested on Inauguration Day be dismissed.

The conduct of the DC Metropolitan Police Department was unacceptable, and more importantly, it was unlawful. They unleashed chemical agents and concussion grenades against the crowd without provocation, they used police lines to cut off an entire city block, and then indiscriminately arrested over two hundred people after holding them in the kettle for hours.

A report from the Office of Police Complaints notes that in doing so, the MPD broke multiple sections of the First Amendment Assemblies Act, in addition to several sections of their own Standard Operating Procedures. As you know, the ACLU has also filed a civil lawsuit over the MPD's actions including allegations of harsh treatment of arrestees.

These policies were put into place after Peter Newsham ordered the mass arrest of over 400 people in 2002, an arrest which was deemed illegal in a civil lawsuit that cost the District millions of dollars. Now the exact same officer has violated the policies put into place specifically because of his prior misconduct. I understand that the MPD is refusing to release documents to the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund regarding Newsham's conduct on Inauguration Day, which is also required by law under the First Amendment Assemblies Act. I believe that is because the MPD know it will reveal more details about their unlawful behavior.

I believe that it is abundantly clear this mass arrest was illegal. Consequently, these charges should be dropped. People come from all over the country to make their voices heard in DC, and police here should be held to the highest standards when it comes to the rights of protesters. Should this case continue, it could set an unacceptable precedent of drag-net arrests against protestors that violates numerous constitutional rights to assemble and demonstrate.

Thank you for your time. Please drop these charges immediately.

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