



Parth Kotak

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May 30th 2020, 64 tweets, 15 min read

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I'm here at the White House with hundreds of demonstrators peacefully protesting against recent episodes of police brutality against black Americans. Will continue to update as able



Dozens of police armed with face and riot shields are standing in Lafayette Park, with protesters standing along a sidewalk. Appears as though protesters are remaining behind barricades

Protesters chanting "No justice, no peace" and railing against police unions

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Slogans graffitied like this, "Fuck 12" and "Fuck Trump" are commonplace downtown



A crowd numbering in the hundreds is marching down Pennsylvania Ave. toward the White House, urging passersby to walk with them. Cheering when a couple join in

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Approaching 14th St, protesters chant hands up, don't shoot and [#BlackLivesMatter](#). This group appears to be joining the other one outside the White House



As we walk up 15th St, protesters chant names of recent victims: [#BreonnaTaylor](#) and [#GeorgeFloyd](#)

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A few protesters stopped to chant and throw a couple of water bottles at police stationed outside the Ellipse



Some protesters are handing out free hand sanitizer and face coverings — while people aren't maintaining much distance between themselves, most are wearing some sort of face covering

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Several protesters coughing now — police sprayed some tear gas or other irritant, causing crowd to retreat for a few seconds



In retaliation, many protesters now throwing water and plastic bottles at police. Barricade still being respected

Only bit of property damage I've seen so far is this man, who climbed atop a traffic light and bent it a little

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Though the original crowd outside the White House has waned, hundreds from a different part of the protest now joining the WH branch

Lots of people retreating from the scene; lots of coughing

Tension outside the Bobby Van's downtown: two black protesters trying to stop all the others from getting aggressive with a white man inside the restaurant who threw a chair into the protest, one of them told me

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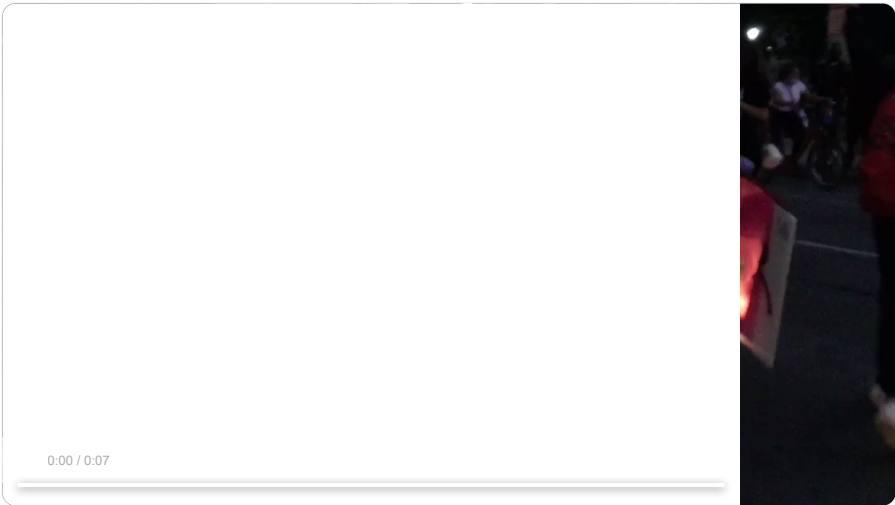
This broken window at the T-Mobile was the cause of the dispute



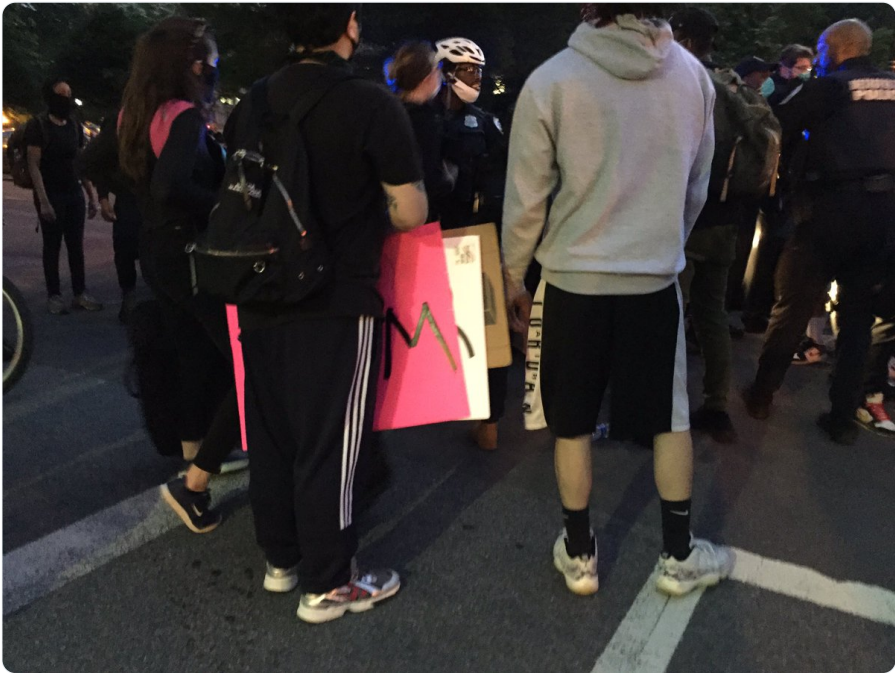
A couple protesters have stopped a police car, are now banging on its hood

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Uniformed officers now here escorting the vehicle forward



A black protester confronted the officer on the left to ask him why he felt more scared of the police than gangs. Officer's response: media has made him disillusioned; white officer then ushered away and a black officer brought over

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Same white officer now in a shouting match with other protesters, telling them “nothing will get resolved” by protest

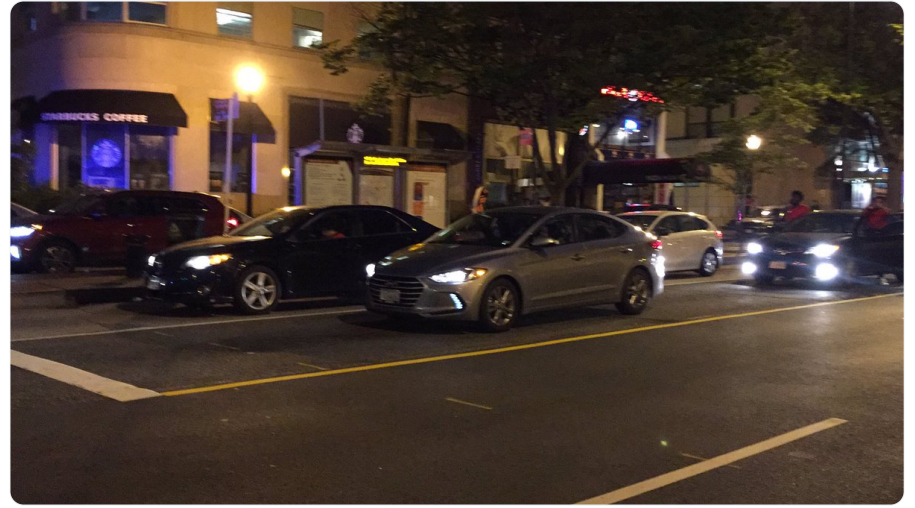
That altercation happened on Vermont Ave; now on L and 15th streets



Cars stopped by protest honk in support

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Protesters now headed up Connecticut Ave. chanting “I can’t breathe”



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Protesters on bicycles outpace the march and stop traffic on the street, allowing marchers to cross safely

Protesters continue down L St toward 23rd, bypassing GW's campus for now

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Now headed to Georgetown

Protesters call on whites people in their ranks to come to the front as we cross the bridge into Georgetown

Protesters let a speeding ambulance and cop on a motorcycle through with no incident

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Group now determining where to go as we near Key Bridge; chants of "No justice, no peace, no racist-ass police"



Protest leaders using airdrop to give next route to march

One protester just set off firecrackers at Bank and M streets; another to my left is igniting more now

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Headed back to White House on Pennsylvania now. Will bring us near some campus buildings, like the Medical Faculty Associates and GW Hospital

Helicopter with search light flying circles overhead as we cross 25th St



Protesters now seated in Washington Circle chanting "Silence is violence." In the background: Milken Institute

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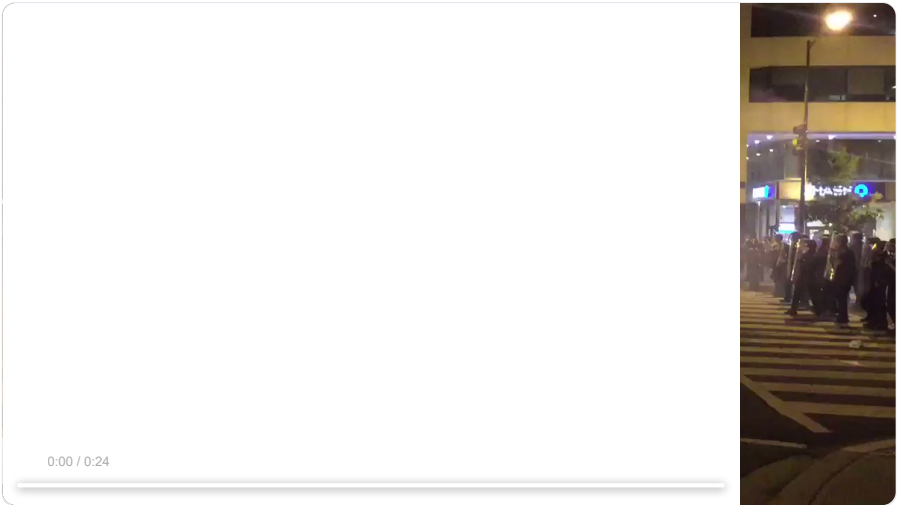
Police armed with batons and shields at K and 17th streets. White protesters near the front; clash imminent



Police say this street and sidewalk are closed off



\*Police have tossed flash bang grenades at the protesters



Protesters retreated after first few grenades; now inching back in





More and more police join line as people chant "I can't breathe"

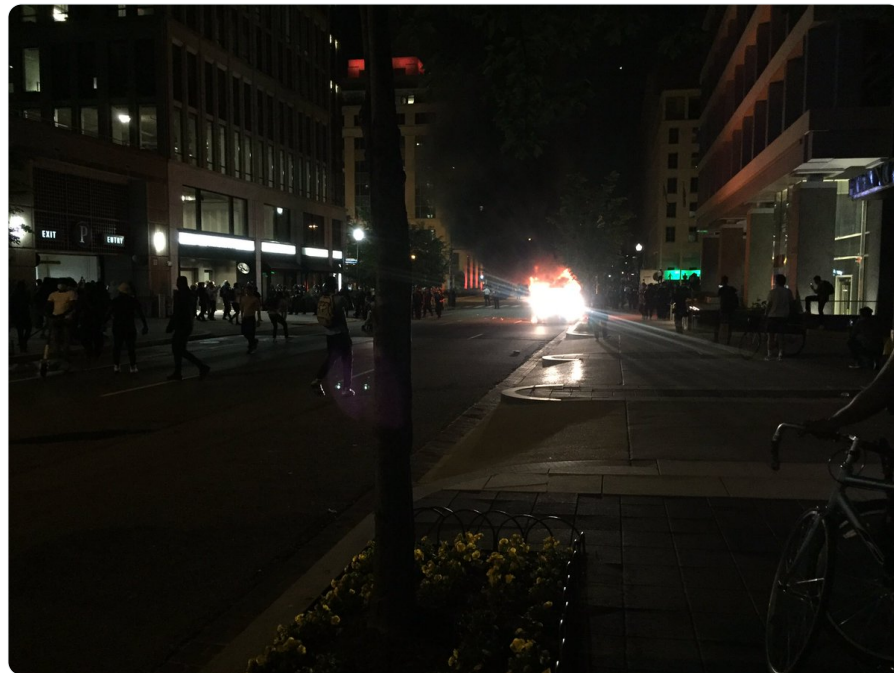
Another flash bang goes off; protesters respond with water bottles

Protesters have set a car on fire; cops respond with flash bangs

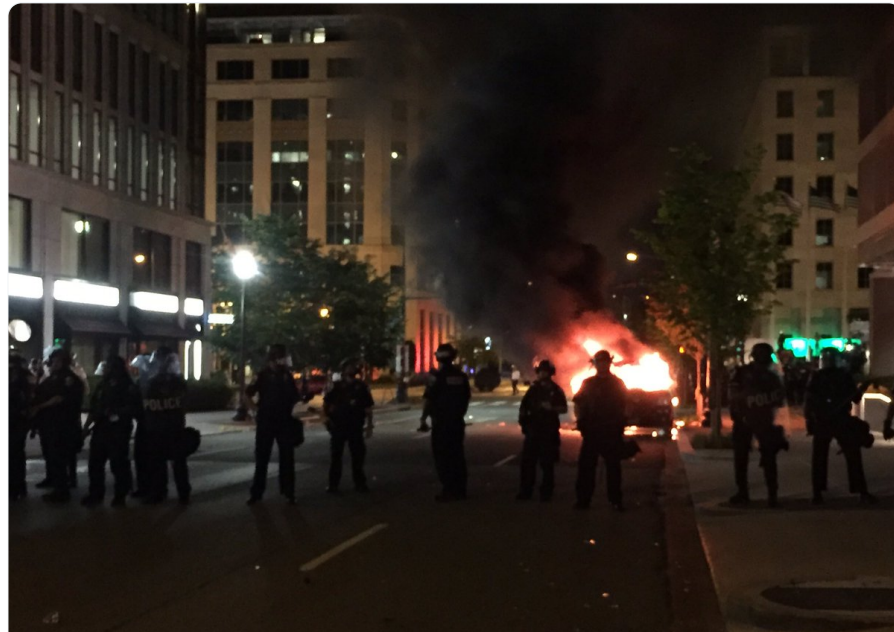
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17/27



Police separate crowd from burning vehicle; urge crowd to move back



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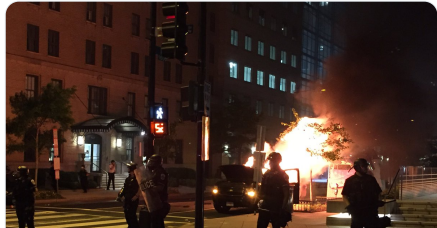
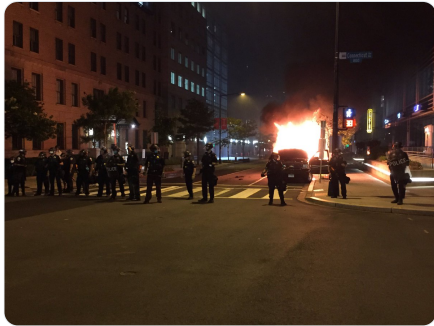
18/27



### Window-smashing rampant now



### A second car on fire



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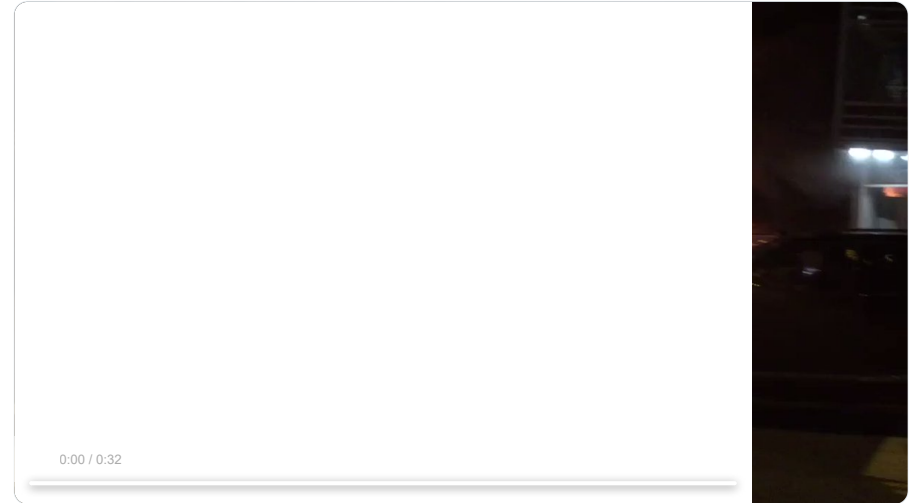
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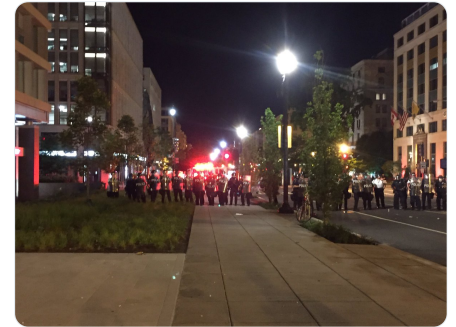
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### Connecticut Ave. and I St. NW



Thousands of protesters assembled, a handful breaking glass. Latest target was Ronald Reagan Presidential Institute, until police fired off tear gas



Group now lighting firecrackers in front of police

Lots of gas in the air. Seems to be mostly flash bangs, but irritants remain in the air

Lots of areas now blocked off by the police. Very quiet on streets even a block or two away from the action

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20/27

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A couple looters just made away with some boxes from this Subway



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At 17th and I streets, clashes between crowd and police, who are trying to push people away from Farragut Square

Fire truck forces its way through to Lafayette Park to put out a fire at Chamber of Commerce building



Teaism by the White House has had its windows smashed in, smoke coming out

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A couple garbage can fires outside the PNC Bank building, 17 and H streets



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Makeshift barricade being built with porta potties to stop police vehicles



Crowd moving toward GW; at 18th and H streets. Unclear if they'll make it to campus

Very small group, about a dozen or so, now on Pennsylvania between 21st and 22nd streets smashing store windows

2112 Penn and North Italia both lose a window; MFA untouched, as of now

First military police vehicle I've seen turns onto 23rd St as protesters walk by GW Hospital without dealing any damage

MISPH also emerges unscathed. As the few dozen or so protesters that made it this far out leave campus, this is where I'll wrap up — my left leg's been killing me to the point where I'm walking with a limp. Will try to survey damage tomorrow morning

Thread of the day after:



Jordan Pascale  
@JWPascale

Cycling around the city this morning. Apple Store



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Went cycling this morning around some of the most intensely affected areas + campus. Campus seems to have suffered no damage

Subway, looted last night, now being boarded up; Bank of Labor was the sight of one burning vehicle; Reagan Institute smashed in; Teaism boarding up too



Some more sights. A few protesters still outside the White House



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