Woman dies after shooting in U.S. Capitol; D.C. National Guard activated after mob breaches building

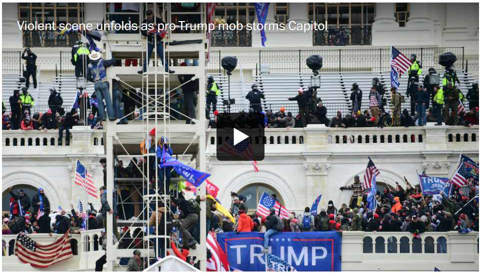
of lawmakers to Capitol
8:20 p.m.

‘Disgusted’: Companies, business groups decry ‘lawless’ mob violence at Capitol
7:58 p.m.

D.C. police arrest 13 during unrest
7:44 p.m.

Congressman calls for probe of Capitol breach
7:39 p.m.

Dean of Washington National Cathedral to Trump and mob: ‘There is nothing Christian’ about rioting
6:59 p.m.


Violent scene unfolds as pro-Trump mob storms Capitol

Trump supporters overtook Capitol Police officers to enter the building as lawmakers attempted to count the electoral college votes on Jan. 6. (Video: The Washington Post, Photo: The Washington Post)

By Washington Post Staff
January 7, 2021

This coverage has ended. Follow here for Thursday’s updates.

A day that began with thousands of President Trump’s supporters in Washington for demonstrations turned violent as many in attendance saw Wednesday as a last stand for Trump because Congress was set to confirm that President-elect Joe Biden won the election.

Trump — who lost the popular and electoral college vote — continues to dispute the election results, without evidence, and has encouraged his supporters to attend the rallies. He took the stage about noon to roaring crowds, falsely claiming he had won the election.

Later at the U.S. Capitol, throngs of people pushed past police who were trying to block them from entering the building as lawmakers inside debated counting electoral college votes confirming Biden’s victory. A mob was able to breach security and successfully enter the building, where one person was shot and later died.

The latest developments

- The Senate stopped its proceedings, with Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) interrupted by an aide who said protesters were in the building. The House doors also were closed. In a notification, U.S. Capitol Police said no entry or exit is permitted in the buildings within the Capitol Complex. “Stay away from exterior windows, doors. If outside, seek cover,” police said.
- A woman was fatally shot inside the U.S. Capitol after the mob breached the building. The circumstances were not clear.
- The entire D.C. National Guard was activated. The rapid expansion of military involvement

came after D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) requested that guards members already on duty be sent to the Capitol, said a defense official and a District official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

- In a televised speech, Biden condemned Trump for stoking the violence. “I call on this mob to pull back and allow the work of democracy to go forward,” he said.
- Bowser imposed a citywide curfew as a chaotic scene worsened at the U.S. Capitol building. From 6 p.m. Wednesday to 6 a.m. Thursday, Bowser said no one other than essential personnel would be allowed outdoors in the city.

FBI appeals for information from public on Capitol rioters

By Tom Jackman • 12:40 a.m.

Damage inside the U.S. Capitol left by pro-Trump rioters on Wednesday. (Oliver Contreras/For The Washington Post)

The FBI issued a public call early Thursday for “tips and digital media” which would help them identify rioters who invaded the Capitol Wednesday afternoon and vandalized the historic landmark.

The FBI said anyone who witnessed unlawful violent actions may submit information, photos or videos to fbi.gov/USCapitol. Tipsters may also call 1-800-CALL-FBI. Anyone with information but no digital media to submit may also contact the FBI at tips.fbi.gov.

“Our goal is to preserve the public’s constitutional right to protest,” the FBI’s Washington Field Office said in the release, “by protecting everyone from violence and other criminal activity.”

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Woman shot and killed in Capitol identified as Air Force veteran

By Justin Jouvenal • 12:35 a.m.

Ashli Babbitt, 35, was shot and killed at the Capitol on Wednesday. (Courtesy of Timothy McEntee)

The woman who was shot and killed during rioting in the Capitol on Wednesday was identified as 35-year-old Ashli Babbitt, a California native and Air Force veteran, said her former husband.

Timothy McEntee wrote in text messages that Babbitt, of San Diego, was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in the Air Force, before other deployments with the National Guard to Kuwait and Qatar. McEntee and Babbitt met in the Air Force and were married for 14 years, before splitting in 2019.

“I feel absolutely terrible and sick to my stomach about it … she had a big head and a strong mind,” McEntee wrote. “She was never afraid to speak her mind and in a way this was her way of speaking her mind (going to the rally).”

McEntee said Babbitt had remarried and owned a small business. She was born and raised in San Diego.

“You would never forget meeting her,” McEntee wrote. “She was very loud and opinionated but caring, sweet, thoughtful, loving.”

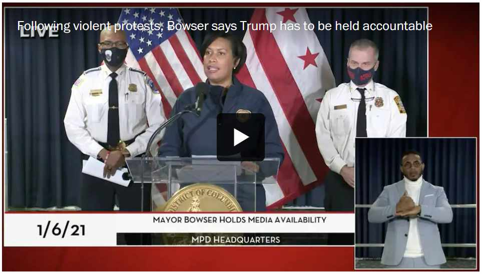
McEntee did not know Babbitt had traveled to D.C. for the protests.

A Twitter account under Babbitt’s name had retweeted messages calling for Vice President Pence to resign and be charged with treason, videos of President Trump’s rallies and photos of Trump supporters flying to D.C. for the protests.

SHEIN

Three died of medical emergencies during siege of Capitol

By Michael Brice-Saddler and Clarence Williams • 12:04 a.m.


LIVE
Following violent protests, Bowser says Trump has to be held accountable
1/6/21
MAYOR BOWSER HOLDS MEDIA AVAILABILITY
MPD HEADQUARTERS

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) on Jan. 6 said the "unprecedented attack on American democracy" was incited by President Trump. (Video: D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser, Photo: D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser)

Three people suffered medical emergencies and died during the Wednesday siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Trump, D.C. Police Chief Robert Contee III said.

The people’s names and the circumstances of their deaths were not released during the late-night news conference with Contee and Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) on Wednesday.

Their deaths were in addition to the fatal shooting of a woman by a Capitol Police officer.

Also at the news conference, Bowser (D) declared a public emergency in the city until Jan. 21, to “extend and security through the inauguration,” which gives her more authority to draw on resources to maintain city security. Inauguration Day is Jan. 20.

Bowser called the attack on the Capitol an “affront on our American democracy” and implored city residents to abide by the city’s curfew.

“I urge anyone who is not in place in your home or your hotel — and if you mean to cause trouble in the streets of D.C. you will be arrested,” she said.

Bowser blamed the president for the rioting.

“We saw an unprecedented attack on our American democracy incited by the United States president,” Bowser said. “He must be held accountable. His constant and divisive rhetoric led to the abhorrent actions we saw today.”

Contee said 14 D.C. officers were injured. One was pulled into a crowd, assaulted and hospitalized. Another received “significant facial injuries” after being hit by a projectile. Others are not as serious.

Contee said police had made at least 52 arrests: four for carrying pistols without licenses, one arrest for possession of a prohibited weapon and 47 arrests for curfew violations and unlawful entry. Twenty-six of the 52 arrests were made on U.S. Capitol grounds, Contee said.

The chief also confirmed that police recovered two pipe bombs at the Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee offices. A cooler that contained molotov cocktails also was found on U.S. Capitol grounds, the chief said. Bowser said officials will review video and issue lookout alerts for people who breached the U.S. Capitol, adding that they “need to be held accountable for the carnage.”

Contee also said at the news conference that D.C. police had participated in “several planning meetings with Capitol Police” and other agencies to plan for protests on Wednesday. He said Capitol Police called for help at 1 p.m. because of “significant activity” outside the Capitol and that “we immediately deployed platoons to assist the Capitol Police.”

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Va. gubernatorial candidate says Trump supporters forced to resort to ‘revolution’

By Laura Vozzella • 11:51 p.m.

Virginia state Sen. Amanda F. Chase (R-Chesterfield), a Trump-style populist who is seeking her party’s gubernatorial nomination, attended the pro-Trump rally but left before the crowd stormed the Capitol.

In a Facebook video posted Wednesday night, she defended the “patriots” and “law-abiding citizens” who she said had been forced by the alleged election fraud to resort to “revolution.”

“I support peaceful protest, but I’m telling you, when you back the people of Virginia and across the United States of America into a corner, you’ll end up with a revolution,” she said. “And I believe that’s what you’re starting to see.”

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D.C. police removed crowds after Capitol police were overwhelmed, according to people familiar with the response

By Peter Hermann and Carol D. Leonnig • 10:56 p.m.

After the first group of protesters breached the Capitol on Wednesday, D.C. Metropolitan Police took over handling the removal of crowds from the U.S. Capitol grounds, according to two people familiar with the response.

Two District officials familiar with the deployment said D.C. police Inspector Robert Glover, who heads the special event branch in the department's Homeland Security Bureau, took over coordinating the response from various agencies and directing staff and resources to execute the plan for their removal.

The Capitol police officers, overwhelmed by the crowds who broke into the Capitol building, took responsibility for leading lawmakers to safety and ejecting the relatively small groups of protesters who had gotten inside, the two people said. Once those protesters were forced outside, D.C. police oversaw their removal from the external stairs, porticos and balconies of the Capitol.

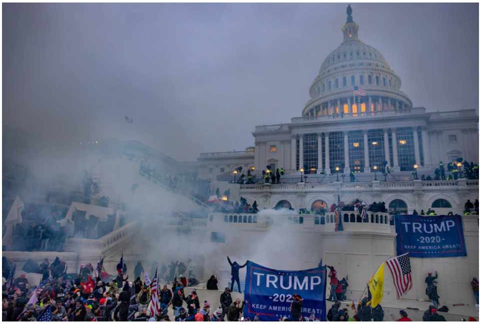
Very few people who breached the Capitol were arrested, and one law enforcement official said the reason was simply limited manpower. Officers didn't have enough backup to take the time to arrest and detain those who had broken in to what lawmakers Wednesday called "The those who had broken in to what lawmakers Wednesday called "The People's House."

Read full story here.

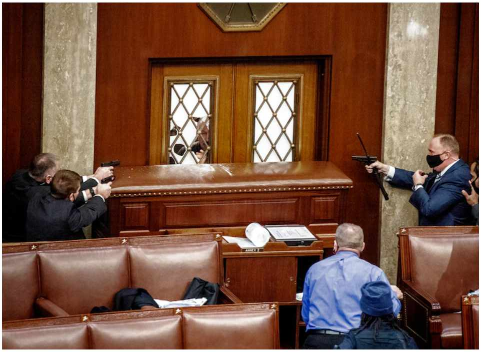
SHEIN

Scenes from a violent day at the Capitol

By Washington Post Staff • 10:48 p.m.



Tear gas is fired at rioters storming the U.S. Capitol. (Evelyn Hockstein/The Washington Post)



Security officers point weapons at the House chamber door inside the U.S. Capitol. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

Trump supporters scale the walls on the Senate side of the U.S. Capitol. (Michael Robinson Chavez/The Washington Post)

See more photos here.

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‘Insurrection’: All four living former presidents denounce violence at the Capitol

By Hannah Knowles • 10:39 p.m.

President George W. Bush, with Vice President Richard B. Cheney at his side, speaks during a meeting with congressional leaders in the Oval Office in 2002. (Doug Mills/AP)

All four living former presidents — Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter — denounced Wednesday’s violent storming of the U.S. Capitol, with two condemning President Trump by name for stoking the rioting.

Obama said in a statement that history will remember violence “incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the outcome of a lawful election." But he also blamed "a political party and its accompanying media ecosystem" for playing along with Trump's falsehoods, saying Republican leaders can either continue down a dark path or "choose reality."

Clinton said that Wednesday's "unprecedented assault on our Capitol, our Constitution, and our country" was long in the making.

"The match was lit by Donald Trump and his most ardent enablers, including many in Congress, to overturn the results of an election he lost," Clinton tweeted.

Condemnation also rained down from some members of Trump's party in Congress: Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) described "an insurrection, incited by the President of the United States."

Bush did not mention Trump or any other leader by name but criticized the politicians who "inflamed" those who stormed the Capitol building, where a woman was fatally shot.

"This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic — not our democratic republic. I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election," Bush said in a statement.

Calling the chaos an insurrection, Bush implored those disappointed by the outcome of the presidential election to put country over "the politics of the moment."

Carter said in a statement that Wednesday's events were a "national tragedy," but did not cite Trump or his supporters while striking a hopeful tone. "Having observed elections in troubled democracies worldwide, I know that we the people can unite to walk back from this precipice to peacefully uphold the laws of our nation, and we must," he said.

D.C. police make curfew arrests as unrest at Capitol quiets

By Clarence Williams, Justin Wm. Moyer, Teo Armus, Peter Hermann, Jessica Contrera and Marissa Lang • 10:12 p.m.

Police clear the area Wednesday evening after pro-Trump rioters swarmed the U.S. Capitol. (Katherine Frey/The Washington Post)

About 30 people had been arrested by D.C. police for curfew violations by 9:30 p.m., the office of Mayor Muriel E. Bowser said. Officials cautioned a more precise number will be made available on Thursday, and additional arrests are possible.

These curfew arrests are in addition to the 13 people arrested since Tuesday afternoon on other charges that include firearm offenses, assault and crossing police lines.

D.C. police arrested about a dozen Trump supporters for curfew violation on New York Avenue NW, near 15th Street about two blocks from the White House, just before 8 p.m.

As the night continued, downtown streets emptied, except for a handful of Trump supporters smoking outside hotels or walking in small groups. A few cars passed through, some with out-of-area plates seeking an exit from the city. D.C. police occasionally used loud speakers in their cruisers to warn walkers they were violating curfew.

Outside the Marriott hotel on 14th Street NW around 9:15 p.m., a small group of people were arguing loudly with about 10 MPD officers standing opposite them on the sidewalk. One woman yelled, “This is tyranny.” The small crowd refused to go inside, and more people joined them from inside the hotel, chanting, “Shame on you,” “1776!” and “Whose streets? Our streets.” One person waved a large Trump flag.

Dozens more officers assembled in a line in the middle of the road to face them. By about 15 mins later, shouts from the crowd to police grew louder and louder.

By 8:45, law enforcement officers around the Capitol seemed to sense that the immediate threat of violence had dissipated. On the east side, the lines of officers that stood behind the metal barriers before Congress reconvened had dispersed.

More than two dozen officers seemed to head for home, saying good night and making jokes about how badly they needed the bathroom. The Capitol lawn remained littered with signs declaring support for Trump.

After 9 p.m., National guardsmen unbuckled their helmets and set down their shields. The dozen or so Trump supporters still lingering at the reflecting pool settled onto folding chairs and mounds of grass. A woman with a megaphone continued to berate the police. “We have rights,” she said. “We have the right to be here and exercise our First Amendment rights.”

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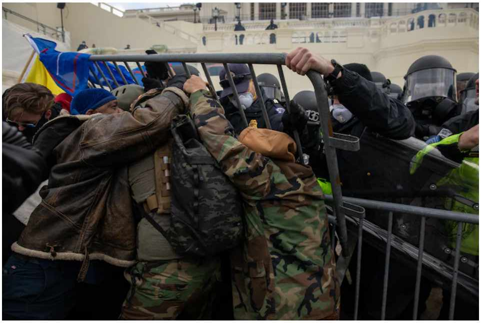
Failure to protect Capitol building called an ‘embarrassment'

By Aaron Davis • 8:40 p.m.



Pro-Trump rioters clash with Capitol Police outside the Capitol on Wednesday. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)

With officers and bomb-sniffing dogs still sweeping the Capitol on Wednesday night, Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio), chair of the committee that controls the Capitol Police budget, held a news conference from his office via Zoom. He thanked those in the department who acted heroically in the face of the mob but said answers can’t come soon enough about the failures of planning that allowed the crowd to storm the Capitol, and images of some officers who appeared to allow protesters in.

“There were clearly enormous strategic and planning failures by the Capitol Police, by the Sergeant at Arms and anyone else who was a part of coordinating this effort. This is the United States Capitol building, with the United States Congress in session handling the presidential election process,” said Ryan, head of the House Appropriations Committee’s legislative branch subcommittee.

“The reinforcements that we thought — that I was told would be in place — that the National Guard was engaged, that D.C. metro police was engaged, that the SWAT teams were engaged, that we were prepared for this,” Ryan said. “There as a strategic breakdown, for sure, and you can bet your a-- we are going to get to the bottom of it.”

Ryan said he had been in frequent contact with Capitol Police and the sergeant at arms and had been assured as recently as Tuesday night that the Capitol complex was secure and that the department was coordinating with the Secret Service, D.C. police and the National Guard for any additional resources that would be needed.

Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio), seen in 2016, criticized the Capitol Police's preparation for the mob onslaught that overwhelmed the Capitol on Wednesday. (Bill O'Leary/Washington Post)

Ryan said he understood from Capitol Police that protesters were to be corralled on the east side of the building, toward the Supreme Court.

"There was not supposed to be anyone near the Capitol. You would be reasonably close, to be able to protest and express your view, but nobody belongs on the Capitol plaza. Nobody ever goes on the Capitol steps. … Those were illegal acts, and those people should have been immediately arrested."

Ryan continued, "I think it's pretty clear that there are going to be a number of people who are going to be without employment very, very soon because this is an embarrassment, both on behalf of the mob and the president and the insurrection and the attempted coup, but also the lack of professional planning and dealing with what we knew was going to occur."

Asked about viral videos showing officers allowing protesters through a gate at one point, and in another an officer appearing to pose with protesters for a selfie, Ryan said he was shocked and would be demanding answers from Capitol Police Chief Steven A. Sund.

"Is that a training issue? I just don't know. The Capitol is getting

“Is that a training issue? I just don’t know. The Capitol is getting stormed by a mob and you’re taking selfies with, you know, the people. It’s crazy, just crazy.”

Suspected homemade bombs found near RNC and DNC headquarters

By Devlin Barrett and Josh Dawsey • 8:30 p.m.

What appeared to be two realistic-looking homemade bombs were found near the Republican National Committee headquarters and the Democratic National Committee headquarters in downtown Washington, officials said Wednesday, adding to the danger and disorder centered around Congress.

The suspected bomb outside the RNC was found next to a trash container, and was a metal pipe with metal end caps, with wires running from inside the pipe to a plastic kitchen timer, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing investigations.

FBI explosives experts responded to both devices, and they were “rendered safe by the FBI and our law enforcement partners,” the bureau said in a statement. “The investigation is ongoing.”

In a statement, the RNC called the suspicious package outside its building an “explosive device that was successfully detonated.”

Federal agents also are investigating a pickup truck found outside the RNC, according to two people familiar with the investigation.

The truck, parked across the street from the party offices and near the entrance to a Metro station, contained rifles and shotguns, a great deal of ammunition, and other unspecified material, these people said. Federal agents are still trying to determine if that vehicle and its contents are connected to the suspected pipe bombs found earlier, the people said.

Law enforcement prepares for return of lawmakers to Capitol

By Jessica Contrera, Marissa Lang and Antonio Olivo • 8:20 p.m.

Hundreds of law enforcement officers outside the Capitol prepared for the return of lawmakers to resume the electoral college count.

Some removed Trump flags that had been left inside the building. The building’s east side had been cleared of all protesters and encircled in barricades. Police dogs paced the stairs that hordes of protesters had occupied hours before.

Nearby, D.C. police barricaded some remaining Trump supporters by the Reflecting Pool outside the Capitol.

Some tried to threaten and intimidate police in response.

“Next time we’ll come back with rifles,” a man carrying a wooden bat said. “And that’s not an idle threat.”

Others told the police not to follow “illegal orders.”

On the West side of the Capitol just before 8 p.m., there were hundreds of law enforcement officers — FBI, D.C. National Guard and D.C. police. There were several large white buses marked “police,” in front of which authorities lined up rioters who had been detained.

‘Disgusted’: Companies, business groups decry ‘lawless’ mob violence at Capitol

By Todd Frankel • 7:58 p.m.

The mob scenes at the Capitol attracted harsh and unusual criticism from business groups, including the chief executive of one of the nation’s largest banks saying he was “disgusted” and a manufacturing trade group calling it “sedition” and suggesting President Trump needed to be immediately removed from office.

It was a stunning series of rebukes for a president who had enjoyed widespread support from corporate America for most of his turbulent term, especially for his efforts to cut government regulations and reduce corporate tax rates.

The National Association of Manufacturers released an extraordinary statement from its president, Jay Timmons, saying Vice President Pence “should seriously consider working with the Cabinet to invoke the 25th amendment to preserve democracy.”

Read the full story →

D.C. police arrest 13 during unrest

By Peter Hermann • 7:44 p.m.

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Law officers walk down the steps of U.S. Capitol during Wednesday's riot. (Jim Bourg/Reuters)

D.C. police said they arrested 13 people from Tuesday afternoon through 6 p.m. on Wednesday, including three who authorities said were in possession of firearms.

Those suspects were identified as men, ages 32 and 40 from Virginia, and a 25-year-old man from Michigan. None were from D.C. All were arrested in downtown Washington.

The U.S. Capitol Police did not respond to repeated requests for comment. It was unclear whether that agency or others made additional arrests on federal property.

In addition, D.C. Fire transported seven people to hospitals, including a woman who was fatally shot inside the U.S. Capitol. The woman was shot by a U.S. Capitol Police officer, according to two people with knowledge of the incident.

Two people taken to hospitals received CPR. The conditions and circumstances of the other injuries were not immediately available.

[Photos: Scenes from U.S. Capitol as rioters storm building]

Congressman calls for probe of Capitol breach

By Greg Miller • 7:39 p.m.

Then-congressional candidate Tom Malinowski, center, of New Jersey, listens to a voter during a campaign event in October 2018. (Bryan Anselm/For The Washington Post)

Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-N.J.) said in an interview that Congress would need to investigate thoroughly how the U.S. Capitol proved so vulnerable to a seemingly disorganized and lightly armed mob, especially given Trump's incitement and abundant signs that the demonstration would be volatile if not violent.

"I was surprised to learn this morning that the National Guard was not preemptively deployed, given the threats that had been made and the president's incitement," Malinowski said. "I'm in no position to judge the response from my limited vantage point, but we're going to have to do a very serious after-action look at what went wrong and how to make sure that this never happens again."

Malinowski said there should have been no element of surprise.

"They're just doing what they said they would do," Malinowski said. "We make a mistake in this country when we assume that people don't really mean these things. That this doesn't happen here. When a president who speaks to people in an echo chamber tells them not to trust any of the institutions of their government and then tells them to go to the Capitol and be wild, this is what happens."

He added: "If you just feed this beast in an effort to appease it, it just gets stronger and bolder until it comes after the very people who are trying to appease it.”

Dean of Washington National Cathedral to Trump and mob: ‘There is nothing Christian’ about rioting

By Michelle Boorstein • 6:59 p.m.

The Washington National Cathedral is seen at night on Oct. 31. (Craig Hudson for The Washington Post)

The dean of Washington National Cathedral and its bishop issued a videotaped statement Wednesday to President Trump and to the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol, saying “there is nothing Christian” about their rioting.

“Mr. President, there has been no fraudulent election. You called your supporters to our Capitol, you fed their wild fantasies and conspiracy theories, you whipped them into a frenzy; this is not acceptable,” Bishop Mariann Budde, Washington’s Episcopal bishop, said in the video from the altar of the cathedral in her clerical robes.

Nearby on the altar was Cathedral Dean Randolph Hollerith.

“Let us be clear,” Budde said, “to those who see this as a Christian endeavor, or something to be blessed in the name of Jesus, there is nothing Christian about what we are witnessing today. Nothing.”

Budde’s name became known this summer when she confronted the president after troops tear-gassed peaceful protesters before a Trump photo op in front of St. John’s, an Episcopal church across from the White House.

“Ours is a democratic process, yes, but also built on some fundamental principles. We care for our neighbors as ourselves. We accept outcomes we may not like. We live to struggle another day … that’s not what we’re seeing today. The demonstrators in Washington want to take those foundational principles, principles that have undergirded this nation for 250 years, and toss them out. They do not respect our laws. They do not respect our social contract. They do not respect our safety. They bring dishonor to themselves and on those they claim to support. This must end,” she said.

Then Hollerith spoke to the rioters.

"You have succeeded in that you have been seen and been heard. You have made your point. Now lay aside your violence, give rest to your anger and go home. Violence is not the answer," Hollerith said. "It does not aid in your crusade."

Twitter locks Trump's account for 12 hours and warns he could get kicked off permanently

By Tony Romm, Drew Harwell and Elizabeth Dwoskin • 6:42 p.m.

Trump, Republicans incite crowd before mob storms Capitol

Republicans repeatedly made false claims about the election and encouraged unrest ahead of violent scenes in the U.S. Capitol on Dec. 6. (Video: The Washington Post, Photo: The Washington Post)

Twitter locked President Trump out of his account for the first time late Wednesday, the most punitive step the social media giant has taken so far against the president on a day of social unrest and violence in Washington.

The timeout, which will last for 12 hours, also included the removal of three tweets and a warning that Trump could be subject to a permanent suspension if he continues tweeting baseless conspiracies about the election and inciting violence.

Trump, who has long stoked fury over baseless allegations of a stolen election, belatedly called for calm on Twitter as the riots earlier Wednesday halted a process to certify Joseph Biden as the next president of the United States. But his plea came in a now-removed video that was itself was laced with disinformation, and he shared the message only after most of the mob had been pushed outside the building — leaving a trail of online and offline discord in his wake.

Read the full story →

Police begin to push mob away from Capitol, and interior is secured

By Marissa Lang, Clarence Williams, Harrison Smith and Carol D. Leonnig • 6:27 p.m.

Police clear the U.S. Capitol grounds. (Katherine Frey/The Washington Post)

At 6 p.m., police began making an effort to push the protest mob away from the Capitol, and authorities said the interior of the Capitol had been secured, fully cleared of rioters.

Police announced to those still outside the Capitol shortly after 6 p.m., “A curfew is now in effect. All individuals must leave the U.S. Capitol grounds or be subject to arrest.” Hundreds of people slowly walked toward the mall as police in riot gear marched forward.

Scattered catcalls and curses met the police advance. “We’ll be back, traitors,” a man yelled. Chants of “U-S-A” continued to break out as the rioters dispersed.

Protesters were far outnumbered by law enforcement, whom one man on a loudspeaker blamed for starting “the United States civil war.” “This is China,” said one man leaving the grounds, echoing shouts of

"Tiananmen Square" that came when police cleared the grounds.

D.C. Mayor Bowser: Trump, other elected officials have incited violence

By Karoun Demirjian • 6:27 p.m.

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser speaks during a news conference Dec. 17 in Washington. (Shawn Thew/AP)

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) accused President Trump of inciting violence, during an interview with CNN shortly before a 6 p.m. curfew she imposed took effect.

Asked about the president's video reiterating his election falsehoods before telling protesters to go home, Bowser said, "The fuel has been thrown on the fire for four straight years, and certainly we've heard in the last week this president — outgoing president — and other elected officials incite violence, and we see the results of that violence."

She called on Trump to tamp down the rhetoric.

"We continue to urge the president to tell his supporters they are putting police officers, innocent people in danger, and they need to go home," Bowser said.

Lawmakers describe chaos from inside the chambers

By Meagan Flynn • 6:16 p.m.

Congressional staff members are evacuated by the Capitol Police from the U.S. Capitol. (Amanda Voisard/for The Washington Post)

The gas masks were underneath the chairs, easy for lawmakers to grab as a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol Rotunda. “You could hear a pounding on the doors on the outside,” Rep. David Trone (D-Md.) said in an interview from a secure, undisclosed location on the Hill. “At that point they had us get our gas masks out.”

Evacuated from the chambers, lawmakers described unthinkable scenes of chaos from within the halls of Congress on Wednesday after thousands of pro-Trump rioters breached barriers outside the Capitol, entered the building and turned the debate over electoral votes into a lockdown situation.

As he listened to the mob “trying to ram up against the doors,” Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.) said all he could think about was his family. Reeling from the loss of his 25-year-old son last week, Raskin had taken one of his daughters and his son-in-law to the Capitol to watch the debates unfold over presidential electors, “so I was extremely concerned about their safety, and that’s all I could think about."

Raskin was helping lead Democrats’ arguments against Republican objectors. “I thought I could show them the peaceful transfer of power in the United States of America,” Raskin added on C-SPAN. “What was really going through my mind was their safety because they were not with me in the chamber, and I just wanted us all to get back together."

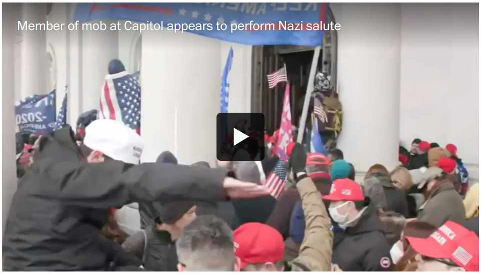
Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) said members were told that chemical irritants had been deployed in Statuary Hall and, for a moment, planned for the possibility that they might be exposed to tear gas. Capitol Police were barricading the doors with tables and bookshelves, she said.

Spanberger, a former CIA case officer, said that it was a crisis she would only expect to see unfold in fragile countries halfway across the world. “It is a low for this country I never thought we would reach,” she said. “This is what we see in failing countries. This is what leads to a death of democracy.”

Maryland Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (D) said they hoped they could resume the counting of electoral votes this evening “so the world knows that despite this chaos, despite a lawless president, we will transfer power on Jan. 20,” Van Hollen said.

Trump supporter appears to give Nazi salute

By Sarah Parnass • 6:16 p.m.


Member of mob at Capitol appears to perform Nazi salute

As The Post's Libby Casey and James Hohmann gave analysis on Jan. 6, a member of the mob at the U.S. Capitol was seen making what looked like a Nazi salute. (Video: The Washington Post, Photo: The Washington Post)

A member of the mob outside the U.S. Capitol was seen on camera making what appeared to be the Nazi salute during The Post's live analysis and reporting on Wednesday.

At about 3 p.m., anchor Libby Casey called viewers' attention to the crowd of Trump supporters gathered around a door on the east side of the Capitol. Some rioters had breached security and entered the building, while others were trying to join them inside.

A man wearing a white "Make America Great Again" hat and a red bandanna loomed above the throng, close to the camera. Bending his arm at the elbow, he brought his hand to his hat, then stuck it straight up and out with his palm facing down, mimicking a gesture used during World War II to express loyalty to Adolf Hitler.

Throughout his term, critics have accused President Trump of failing to sufficiently reject support from white-supremacist and neo-Nazi groups. Members of the Proud Boys, a male-chauvinist organization with ties to white nationalism, were among those protesting in the District on the day lawmakers had planned to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election.

The man in the white hat made the gesture three times before pulling down his face covering, revealing a grin.

Several House Democrats call for impeaching Trump a second time

By Karoun Demirjian • 6:11 p.m.

Some House Democrats have called for impeaching Trump for a second time during his last two weeks in office, in response to the siege of the Capitol they accuse him of fomenting.

"I am drawing up Articles of Impeachment," Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) wrote on Twitter. " ... We can't allow him to remain in office, it's a matter of preserving our Republic."

Omar is one of the newest and most liberal Democrats in Congress. But the sentiment was shared in other corners of the party as well — including by members of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's leadership team.

“This is outrageous, and the president caused it,” Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-R.I.) said on Twitter. “We should impeach and convict him tomorrow.”

Trump is scheduled to be in office for only two more weeks and has already been impeached once, in December 2019, on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress related to his efforts to pressure the president of Ukraine to investigate the Biden family. But that waning tenure doesn’t appear to have dissuaded Democrats from reserving impeachment as an option.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), the head of the House Democratic Caucus, was asked Wednesday by ABC News whether impeachment was an option.

“When I say all options are on the table,” he answered, “I mean all options should be on the table.”

Police clear remaining Trump supporters from Capitol grounds

By Fredrick Kunkle, Antonio Olivo and Rebecca Tan • 6:10 p.m.

Shortly before 5 p.m., law enforcement officers on the uppermost level of the Capitol’s west plaza began moving to break up the mob, using flash bangs and other riot-control tools.

Earlier, some rioters scaled the walls to join the crowds on the elevated plaza and climbed the viewing platforms and media scaffolding set up for the inauguration. As they chanted “shame on Pence,” a firecracker went off.

A line of police officers in gas masks and riot gear stood between the crowd and the lighted windows of the building.

“These f------ are lucky we’re not here with our AR-15s,” one man said. Another drummed on a spackle bucket painted with Stars and Stripes.

Around 5:30 p.m., police began pushing the remaining crowd of a few dozen from the Capitol grounds, shouting “Move back! Move back!”

Some in the crowd began chanting “USA,” calling the police traitors.

One man was briefly confrontational. “You want to beat me?” he said, approaching the police line. “Go ahead beat me. We’re going to come back and make you regret it.”

The police pushed forward again and the same man complied, shouting insults all the way.

By 5:40 p.m., the Capitol grounds appeared to be cleared. A small group remained at the Garfield monument, taunting the police as they again stood in line.

Some turned their attention away from the uniformed officers and to the crews of news media still stationed there.

“Fake news! Fake news!” one group chanted, surrounding a woman and a man carrying a camera.

Another group taunted and chased away several other reporters. “Every corner you set up now, we’ll be there,” said a man in a helmet and vest.

Scuffles begin to erupt elsewhere in D.C.

By Samantha Schmidt, Keith L. Alexander and Clarence Williams • 6:06 p.m.

As pro-Trump protesters began to wander away from the Capitol, some showed up at Black Lives Matter Plaza, where a brawl erupted with anti-Trump protesters involving pepper spray and at least one Taser.

The scuffle near the plaza started about 5:30 p.m. and involved about two dozen people. After the fight played out for several minutes, including on local live television, D.C. police officers on bicycles broke up the melee. Protesters on both sides threw punches and pepper-sprayed one another, and an anti-Trump protester could be seen using a Taser.

When D.C. officers arrived, they tackled brawlers and no injuries or arrests were immediately seen.

Arlington and Alexandria also under 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew

By Julie Weil • 6:01 p.m.

Hours after D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) imposed a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew citywide in response to rioting at the Capitol, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) said he would order a curfew for the same hours in neighboring Arlington and Alexandria.

Northam said in a tweet that local leaders in Arlington and Alexandria had asked for a curfew. Some attendees at Wednesday’s pro-Trump demonstrations that turned into rioting at the Capitol are staying in hotels in the Virginia suburbs.

Northam also said he would declare a state of emergency in his state to prepare for continued assistance in the response to the unrest. Virginia State Troopers and National Guard members are deployed in the District.

Republicans in Md., Va. condemn rioters, though it’s not unanimous

By Gregory S. Schneider and Ovetta Wiggins • 5:57 p.m.

Republican leaders in Virginia and Maryland issued sharp condemnations of the riot that unfolded at the U.S. Capitol building Wednesday, in some cases blaming Trump for the violence.

“It is a riot masquerading as a protest,” said Virginia Del. Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah), the House minority leader, who noted that thousands of gun-rights advocates protested peacefully at the State Capitol in Richmond last January.

Others echoed that sentiment, though one Republican member of the

Maryland House of Delegates attacked Vice President Pence for not acting to help overturn the election results. Earlier in the day, ahead of starting to preside over the confirmation of President-elect Joe Biden's win, Pence had rejected Trump's view that he could unilaterally reject electoral college votes from states lost by Trump.

"Pence is a traitor," tweeted Del. Dan Cox (R-Frederick), a staunch Trump supporter.

Others directed their outrage at the rioters who pushed past police to breach the Capitol building.

"We are a nation of laws," Gilbert said in a written statement. "Courts, legislatures, and votes determine the shape of our nation, not mobs who cause destruction and attack law enforcement." He called on those in the Capitol to leave immediately for and those who refuse to be arrested and prosecuted.

Del. Kirk Cox (R-Colonial Heights), a former Virginia House speaker who is seeking the Republican nomination for governor, called on Trump to intervene.

"I condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the violent rioting and destruction happening in Washington D.C. These events are in no way justified or excusable," Cox said in an email. "The President needs to call on his supporters to leave the Capitol immediately."

In Maryland, Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford (R) went further. He said Trump incited the violence and described it as an "impeachable offense."

Woman shot in Capitol has died

By Peter Hermann • 5:56 p.m.

A woman who was shot during the mob assault on the U.S. Capitol Wednesday afternoon has died, D.C. police said.

The woman's name was not released. Video posted on social media showed a crowd inside the Capitol, a gunshot is heard and then the woman, wearing a Trump banner around her neck, is lowered to the ground. She could later be seen being loaded into an ambulance with blood around her upper body.

Dustin Sternbeck, spokesman for the D.C. police, said the woman died. He provided no further information as to the circumstances of the shooting.

International leaders call for calm in the U.S.

By Jacob Bogage • 5:54 p.m.

International leaders called for calm in Washington on Wednesday, and urged their citizens in the United States to avoid the city after pro-Trump rioters stormed the Capitol to halt the electoral vote count of President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg wrote on Twitter of the "shocking scenes" in the District. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the mob's actions "disgraceful."

Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said that the country "invites all parties in US to use moderation, common sense to overcome this domestic political crisis."

The embassies of Mexico, Italy and France all issued warnings advising their citizens of D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's 6 p.m. mandatory curfew.

"Avoid the city center and stay informed," the French Embassy tweeted. The Mexican Consulate tweeted its hotline for emergency consular assistance.

"Following with particular attention the debates in the US Congress, as well as the demonstrations around the Capitol, on a fundamental day for the future of the US," wrote Mexican Ambassador Martha Bárcena.

"I am following what is happening in Washington with great concern," wrote Italian Council of Ministers President Giuseppe Conte. "Violence is incompatible with the exercise of democratic rights and freedoms. I am confident in the strength and robustness of the institutions of the United States."

McConnell wants Senate to return tonight to finish electoral vote count, adviser says

By Josh Dawsey and Felicia Sonmez • 5:41 p.m.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell walked though the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 before rioters breached the building. (Ting Shen/Bloomberg News)

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell wants senators to return to the chamber Wednesday night to finish counting electoral votes, and he puts a lot of the blame for the day's events on President Trump, an adviser to the Kentucky Republican said.

The adviser, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said McConnell had not spoken to Trump on Wednesday but is angry with him and blames Trump for inciting his supporters.

Lawmakers in both parties also said Wednesday they hope to return to their Senate and House chambers to complete the electoral vote count, which was interrupted when a mob of rioting Trump supporters forced their way into the building.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) tweeted that he plans to deliver a speech on the electoral vote count later Wednesday "from an undisclosed location." Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.) said in a tweet that lawmakers "will never back down, we will return."

"We have stopped the coup attempt and will be returning to the Capitol today to finish the business of the people," he said.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) said in an interview on Fox News channel that returning to the chamber to certify the electoral votes is "important for democracy — not just for the United States, but also for the entire world."

Lawmakers need to show that democracy will continue "despite the attempts of a wannabe tin-pot-dictator in the White House," Duckworth added.

And House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) told Fox News that he is meeting with other House GOP leaders and that they are preparing to return to business at some point Wednesday night.

Asked whether Congress will complete the count tonight, Scalise said, "I'm confident we will, yeah."

[Photos: Scenes from U.S. Capitol as rioters storm building]

D.C. Mayor Bowser condemns ‘unpatriotic’ rioters, will enforce curfew

By Fenit Nirappil • 5:39 p.m.

Bowser announces new curfew beginning 6 p.m., urges D.C. residents to stay home
LIVE
1/6/21
MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) announced a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew on Jan. 6-7 after demonstrations turned violent and a mob breached the U.S. Capitol. (Video: D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser, Photo: D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser)

Mayor Muriel Bowser on Wednesday condemned rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol, urging residents to stay calm and stay at home under a 6 p.m. citywide curfew she imposed.

“The behavior we are witnessing is shameful, unpatriotic and above all it is unlawful,” Bowser said from the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Department. “Anyone who has engaged in these activities, continues to engage in these activities will be held accountable. There will be law and order and this behavior will not be tolerated.”

Bowser stressed that the curfew would also apply to the capitol grounds, which is federal property, and that police would order those gathered to leave.

D.C. Police Chief Robert Contee said the U.S. Capitol Police requested local police assistance after rioters breached the Capitol and deployed “chemical irritants” against police to gain entry. He said police had originally planned to focus on communities surrounding the capitol while federal law enforcement would secure the capitol.

Contee said D.C. police had recovered five firearms, including handguns and long guns, and made at least 13 arrests. All but three of those arrested were from outside the region, he said.

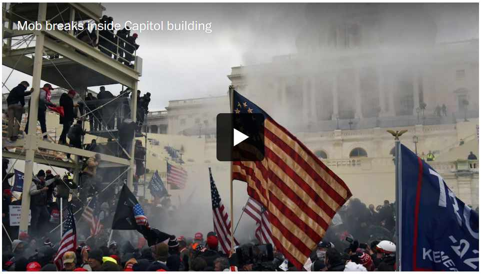
The D.C. Police would assist in establishing a perimeter around the capitol and enforcing the curfew, Contee said.

“We are advising everyone, everyone that is not engaged in essential activity to get off the streets and adhere to the curfew,” Contee said. “If you are found to be in violation of the curfew police will be required to take action.”

Contee also confirmed D.C. Police would investigate the shooting of a woman inside the capitol building. City officials declined to provide further details.

Mob broke into Capitol around 2 p.m. with stolen police shield, police say

By Carol D. Leonnig • 5:38 p.m.


Mob breaks inside Capitol building

The U.S. Capitol Police on Jan.6 were unable to hold back the mob outside the building, some of whom pushed their way inside. (Video: The Washington Post, Photo: The Washington Post)

Police believe the first member of the mob that descended on the Capitol penetrated the building around 2 p.m. after stealing a Capitol Police officer's riot shield and using it to crash into the Capitol building's first floor room and then ran around to open door for other protesters, a law enforcement source involved in monitoring the protests told The Post Wednesday.

Rioters break into Capitol, chant 'treason' and 'our house'

By Michael Brice-Saddler, Emily Davies, Jessica Contrera, Katie Mettler and Susan Svrluga • 5:32 p.m.

THE REAL INVISIBLE ENEMY IS COMMUNISM
AGAIN!

A mob tries to enter the U.S. Capitol building during a protest outside of in Washington on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The U.S. Capitol was placed under lockdown and Vice President Mike Pence left the floor of Congress as hundreds of protesters swarmed past barricades surrounding the building where lawmakers were debating Joe Biden's victory in the Electoral College. (Victor J. Blue/Bloomberg)

Just before 4 p.m., police officers confronted a mob of hundreds trying to break through a door on the north side of the U.S. Capitol.

Law enforcement used batons against demonstrators, who swung flagpoles. Both groups used pepper spray.

Shortly after, the rioters overpowered the officers and stormed into the building, chanting "treason" and "our house." A few minutes later, clouds of tear gas emerged over the crowd, and people ran from the Capitol.

The mob members who made it inside the Capitol took on a celebrity status when they came back out.

Dozens of people circled a woman who said she had footage on her phone of Capitol police pointing guns at rioters.

Violence was evident among the rioters when, shortly after 4 p.m., a fight broke out on the east side of the Capitol, with one man tumbling down the stairs as others threw punches. People pulled the fight apart. It was unclear who was involved.

By this time, hundreds of people who had previously gathered in the area had fled, saying they feared injury after reports of a shooting inside the building spread through the crowd. Still, hundreds remained with most staying on the steps and roaming freely. Groups of police officers were nearby, but they stayed back from the mob.

Another line of police stood across the top of the steps at the northeast front of the Capitol while a crowd filled the central steps. A few waving Trump flags stood atop the steps at the southeast front.

The air echoed with sirens and competing megaphones. Flags flapped in the wind, images of Trump and signs saying “Stop the steal” were in front of the dome. A woman marched grimly through the crowd brandishing her sign: “Repent! Get ready! Jesus is coming!”

People climbed onto one of the military vehicles parked in front of the central steps, waving flags. A speaker on the steps shouted through a megaphone that when people came inside, others ran out like rats.

“We run the … show,” he shouted through a megaphone to the crowd on the plaza, “because we ran in the door!”

[Photos: Scenes from U.S. Capitol as rioters storm building]

D.C. mayor’s curfew will apply to Capitol grounds

By Fenit Nirappil • 5:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON, DC - JANUARY 6: Police gather as rioters swarm the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in Washington, DC. (Katherine Frey/The Washington Post)

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser condemned rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol, urging residents to stay calm and stay at home under a citywide curfew she imposed that begins at 6 p.m.

“The behavior we are witnessing is shameful, unpatriotic and above all it is unlawful,” Bowser said from the headquarters of D.C. police. “Anyone who has engaged in these activities, continues to engage in these activities will be held accountable. There will be law and order and this behavior will not be tolerated.”

Bowser stressed that the curfew would apply to the Capitol grounds, which are federal property, and that police would order those gathered to leave.

D.C. Police Chief Robert Contee said the U.S. Capitol Police requested local police assistance after rioters breached the Capitol and deployed “chemical irritants” against police. Before the call for assistance, he said, city police had originally planned to focus on communities surrounding the Capitol while federal law enforcement secured the Capitol itself.

Contee said D.C. police had recovered five firearms, including handguns and long guns, and made at least 13 arrests. All but three of those arrested were from outside the region, he said.

Several D.C. officers were injured but able to continue to work at the Capitol, Contee said.

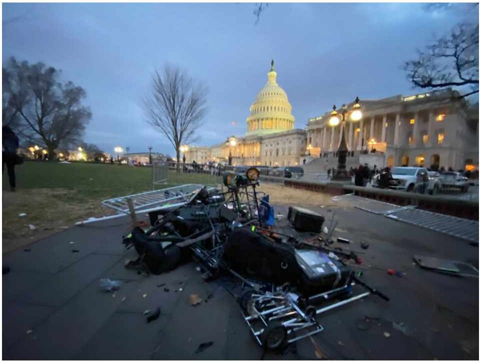
D.C. police will help establish a perimeter around the Capitol and enforce the curfew.

“We are advising everyone, everyone that is not engaged in essential activity, to get off the streets and adhere to the curfew,” Contee said. “If you are found to be in violation of the curfew, police will be required to take action.”

Contee also confirmed that D.C. police would investigate the shooting of a woman inside the Capitol building. City officials declined to provide further details.

Mob damages TV news cameras outside Capitol

By Jessica Contrera, Susan Svrluga and Katie Mettler • 5:29 p.m.



(Katie Mettler/The Washington Post)

A mob of about 100 people stormed a press staging area with TV cameras just before 5 p.m.

They knocked over barricades and began stomping on and destroying camera equipment, some hitting the equipment with Trump flags. The people yelled: “CNN sucks!” and “These are the real enemies; these are the real problem.”

Others taunted, “Run, fake news!” while some surrounded the group.

Em Nguyen
@EmNewsDC

MEDIA ATTACKED | Protesters throw water and bottles and other things at reporters and photographers at the Capitol

Watch on Twitter

5:09 PM · Jan 6, 2021

Read the full conversation on Twitter

♡ 96 Reply Share

Read 39 replies

Crowd outside the Capitol dissipates as officers use flash bangs, canisters that release irritants

By Katie Mettler, Jessica Contrera, Rachel Chason and Fredrick Kunkle
• 5:28 p.m.

As the temperature dropped late Wednesday afternoon and the crowd outside the eastern steps of the Capitol continued to dissipate, a woman standing on top of an armored vehicle at the base of the building chastised people for leaving.

“You’re going the wrong way,” she yelled. “This is our last shot.”

Compared to the mass of demonstrators who surrounded and stormed the Capitol earlier in the afternoon, just hundreds remained at dusk. They appeared to be intent on causing additional chaos.

Those who remained spoke of violence, taunted police and surrounded a group of TV reporters — threatening them, destroying their camera equipment and taking over their staging area.

“Traitors get the rope!” one man chanted.

As law enforcement moved protesters off the Capitol steps with flash bangs and canisters that released irritants, several demonstrators charged the officers. One man threw a Trump flag, while others chanted “Traitors!”

“You let BLM destroy America!” one man shouted, referring to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Most people, however, left as tensions lessened and music played.

“We have a curfew,” one man said as he headed back to his hotel.

Trump said ‘go home.’ Crowds say no way.

By Katie Mettler, Jessica Contrera and Susan Svrluga • 5:16 p.m.

Trump to mob that stormed Capitol: 'You have to go home now'

President Trump on Jan. 6 falsely claimed that the election was "fraudulent," telling his supporters to "go home" after they breached the U.S. Capitol. (Video: @realDonaldTrump/Twitter, Photo: @realDonaldTrump/Twitter)

Outside the main entrance to the east side of the Capitol, a man with a megaphone announced to a crowd of hundreds of people: “Hey, everyone, Donald Trump says he wants everyone to go home.”

He told the crowd that Trump is concerned about more violence.

In response, some in the crowd booed loudly.

About 100 people were still gathered directly in front of the doors, at times appearing to bang on them. Others gathered at the top of the stairs in a party-like atmosphere.

All along Pennsylvania Avenue, red lights flashed on parked emergency vehicles. Glowing yellow chandeliers came on inside the Capitol as the sky darkened. The crowd was thinning at the Capitol, but hundreds remained, shouting, “Arrest the traitors!”

Rioters throw punches at east side of Capitol building as police stand by

By Jessica Contrera, Katie Mettler and Susan Svrluga • 5:08 p.m.

Violence was evident among rioters Wednesday when, shortly after 4 p.m., a fight broke out on the east side of the Capitol building, with one man tumbling down the stairs as others threw punches.

Other protesters pulled the fight apart. It was unclear who was involved.

By this time, hundreds of people who had previously gathered in the area had fled, saying they feared injury after reports of a shooting inside the building spread through the crowd. Still, hundreds remained, mostly gathered on the steps and allowed to roam freely. Groups of police officers were convened nearby, but they stayed back from the protesters and did not interfere.

Nearby, another line of police stood across the top of the steps at the northeast front of the Capitol while a crowd filled the central steps. A few waving Trump flags stood atop the steps at the southeast front.

Nearby, the air echoed with sirens and competing megaphones. Flags flapped in the wind, images of Trump, “Stop the steal,” and the American flag was in front of the dome. A woman marched grimly through the crowd brandishing her sign: “Repent! Get ready! Jesus is coming!”

People climbed onto one of the military vehicles parked in front of the central steps, waving flags aloft. A speaker on the steps shouted through a megaphone that when people came inside, others ran out like rats.

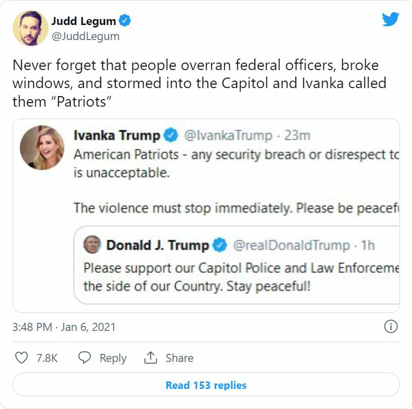
“We run the (expletive) show,” he shouted through a megaphone to the crowd on the plaza, “because we ran in the door!”

Ivanka Trump deletes tweet calling mob ‘American Patriots’ after pushback

By Meryl Kornfield • 5:01 p.m.

Soon after facing backlash, Ivanka Trump deleted her tweet describing the mob that violently stormed the Capitol as “American Patriots” and condemned the violence.

In the now-deleted tweet, the president’s eldest daughter wrote, “American Patriots — any security breach or disrespect to our law enforcement is unacceptable. The violence must stop immediately. Please be peaceful.”



Judd Legum @JuddLegum

Never forget that people overran federal officers, broke windows, and stormed into the Capitol and Ivanka called them “Patriots”

Ivanka Trump @IvankaTrump · 23m
American Patriots - any security breach or disrespect t
is unacceptable.

The violence must stop immediately. Please be peacef

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 1h
Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforceme
the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!

3:48 PM · Jan 6, 2021

Critics responded to the tweet, questioning whether the intruders who disrupted and threatened lawmakers could be considered “patriots.”

CNN’s chief political analyst, Gloria Borger, compared the mob to “domestic terrorists,” disputing Trump’s assertion that the protesters were patriots.

“That’s not what I would call them,” Borger said. “These are people who march there to do damage.”

Around the time she deleted her tweet, Trump also clarified that she did not view the violent mob as patriotic.

“Clarifying, @IvankaTrump, you’re saying these people are ‘patriots’ ??” asked CNN’s Kate Bennett.

“No,” Trump answered. “Peaceful protest is patriotic. Violence is unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms.”

In Kansas, peaceful demonstrators enter Capitol building

By Annie Gowen • 4:44 p.m.

Supporters of President Donald Trump gather inside the Kansas Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, in Topeka, Kan., after rain moved the rally inside. (Evert Nelson/The Topeka Capital-Journal via AP)

TOPEKA — About 75 maskless protesters entered the Kansas Capitol through the public visitors center at 1:40 p.m. on Wednesday, assembling in the building's rotunda.

About 200 had attended an outdoor rally in support of Trump's baseless election fraud claims, where they chanted "Stop the steal" and waved American flags. They then encircled the building in trucks bedecked with Americana and Trump signs, honking their horns.

Protesters are typically allowed in the rotunda, and so far, the group has been peaceful. The state legislature is not in session.

Rioters use ropes, makeshift ladders to invade Capitol

By Harrison Smith and Antonio Olivo • 4:40 p.m.

(Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

By 3 p.m., rioters were using ropes and makeshift ladders to reach the north side of the Capitol — although far more simply walked around the corner and reached the building's outer walls on foot.

"We should come visit and do tourist stuff like this all the time," a man joked after climbing down a makeshift ladder on the north side of the Capitol.

A line of nearly two dozen Capitol Police officers stood halfway up the steps on the northeast side of the Capitol. A woman wearing a “What would Jesus do?” sandwich board read from scripture before handing the mic to someone who led a prayer for the police.

Farther south, the main set of Capitol steps was packed with dozens of people, including many in MAGA hats and a group of about a dozen Three Percenters, an anti-government group, in camouflage hats and jackets. The crowd chanted, “Fight for Trump!” Most of them were maskless.

An hour later, thousands were still massed outside the Capitol, filling the bleachers set up for Biden’s inauguration and spilling out onto the Mall. They sang the national anthem, blew shofars and horns, and chanted “U-S-A!” and “Fight for Trump!” as police lined up along the Capitol railing nearby.

A half-dozen D.C. police officers were taunted by a handful of rioters who were leaving the area. “Here piggy piggy,” one said. “I want the fat one.”

[Photos: Scenes from U.S. Capitol as rioters storm building]

Federal law enforcement scrambles to respond

By Devlin Barrett • 4:34 p.m.

(Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The Washington Post)

In the weeks leading up to the chaos at the Capitol, federal law enforcement officials said they did not plan to have a large visible buildup in personnel and vehicles on D.C. streets. That stands in contrast to their response in June, when phalanxes of heavily armed agents from the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives flooded the nation's capital to dispel civil unrest over police conduct.

Ahead of Wednesday's events, several law enforcement officials said that they did not want to overreact to the planned protest, and that street clashes are primarily the responsibility of D.C. police and the U.S. Capitol Police. But on Wednesday, after angry pro-Trump rioters stormed the Capitol, officials scrambled to pull in resources to take back control of the building.

Acting attorney general Jeffrey Rosen, who is overseeing the federal response, called the violence "an intolerable attack on a fundamental institution of our democracy" and said the Justice Department has been working with the Capitol Police "from the outset." In the afternoon, hundreds of federal law enforcement agents from the FBI, ATF and the U.S. Marshals Service were sent to assist the Capitol Police "in addressing this unacceptable situation, and we intend to enforce the laws of our land," Rosen said.

The D.C. National Guard was mobilized Wednesday afternoon and will operate in the city at the direction of the Justice Department.

"The acting attorney general is coordinating with our law enforcement partners to add additional federal law enforcement support to the Capitol grounds," Justice Department spokesman Marc Raimondi said earlier in the day.

An FBI spokeswoman said that agents have been "deployed to assist our U.S. Capitol Police partners as requested in protection of federal property and public safety" and that the bureau is also investigating a number of suspicious packages reported around the city.

Maryland and Virginia state police also are assisting in the response.

Washington region's Metro system will close early because of unrest

By Justin George • 4:29 p.m.

A train arrives at Federal Triangle Metro Station on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in Washington. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

Metro will shut down transit service early on Wednesday because of the violence at the U.S. Capitol and a 6 p.m. curfew instituted by D.C. leaders.

The transit agency said in a statement it is moving up closing times throughout the region "in the interest of public safety."

Metrorail will close at 8 p.m., three hours earlier than normal. The last trains will depart downtown stations at 8 p.m. Inbound service toward downtown will end earlier.

Metrobus service will be suspended at 9 p.m. Buses already in operation at 9 p.m. will continue operating until the end of their line before going out of service.

MetroAccess, a ride service for disabled customers, also will not operate after 9 p.m., the transit service said.

Who are the U.S. Capitol Police?

By Tom Jackman and Ellen Nakashima • 4:22 p.m.

As a large crowd of Trump supporters grew at the fence line, Capitol police started to add personnel at the U.S. Capitol grounds in Washington on Jan. 6. (Michael S. Williamson/The Washington Post)

After U.S. Capitol Police were overwhelmed by a mob, other law enforcement agencies, including the Maryland and Virginia state police, are rushing to help.

The Department of Homeland Security has deployed the Federal

Protective Service and Secret Service to assist Capitol Police at the latter's request, said DHS spokesman Alexei Woltornist. DHS has set up a virtual situation room with federal law enforcement. "We're monitoring the situation and actively responding," Woltornist said.

The U.S. Capitol employs a police force that had 1,771 officers in 2016, according to a federal law enforcement census.

The Capitol Police are headed by Chief Steven A. Sund, 55, who joined the department in 2017 after 25 years with the D.C. police, from which he retired as commander of the Special Operations Division in the Homeland Security Bureau. Sund became chief of the Capitol Police in June 2019.

Sund's biography on the Capitol Police website says that he is "a recognized expert in critical incident management and active shooter preparedness and response" and that he coordinated the D.C. police's handling of the four inaugurations between 2001 and 2013. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and a master's degree in homeland security from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Trump tells supporters who stormed Capitol to 'go home'

By Felicia Sonmez and Josh Dawsey • 4:20 p.m.

pic.twitter.com/Pm2PKV0Fp3
— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) January 6, 2021

President Trump called on people who had stormed the Capitol on Wednesday to "go home" in a video message posted to Twitter.

"This was a fraudulent election, but we can't play into the hands of these people," Trump said in the taped video outside the Oval Office that was posted around 4:15 p.m. "We have to have peace. So go home, we love you, you're very special."

The message came shortly after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) on Wednesday called on Trump to issue a statement urging the rioters at the Capitol to disperse.

"We are calling on President Trump to demand that all protesters leave the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Grounds immediately," the top Democrats in the House and Senate said in a joint statement.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) in November. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

The statement from Pelosi and Schumer comes as members of Congress are flooding the lines of White House aides with urgent pleas for Trump to speak out more forcefully against the rioters inside the Capitol, according to a senior White House official.

A number of ex-White House officials, including former chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former communications director Alyssa Farah, have urged the president to say more against the mob inside the Capitol.

“Condemn this now, @realDonaldTrump — you are the only one they will listen to. For our country!” Farah said in a tweet. “STOP,” tweeted Kellyanne Conway, the president’s former counselor.

Maryland and Virginia send National Guard and state troopers to D.C.

By Gregory S. Schneider and Erin Cox • 4:18 p.m.

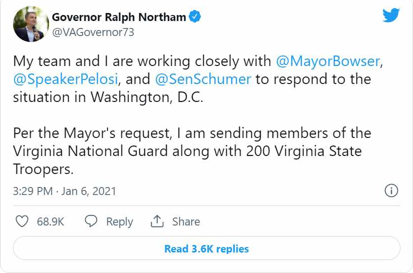
Maryland and Virginia state troopers and National Guard members will assist at the U.S. Capitol.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) said shortly after 3:30 p.m. that he had sent members of the Virginia National Guard and 200 state troopers to the District at Mayor Muriel E. Bowser’s request.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) also said he was sending 200 state troopers and an unspecified number of Maryland National Guard members to help restore order.

“All Americans should be outraged by this attack on our nation’s Capitol,” Hogan said on Twitter. “This is a heinous and violent assault on the heart of our democracy. I will not stand for this, and neither should any American.”

In a tweet, Northam said he was consulting with Bowser (D), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) to respond to the situation.



Governor Ralph Northam
@VAGovernor73

My team and I are working closely with @MayorBowser, @SpeakerPelosi, and @SenSchumer to respond to the situation in Washington, D.C.

Per the Mayor's request, I am sending members of the Virginia National Guard along with 200 Virginia State Troopers.

3:29 PM · Jan 6, 2021

Bowser has ordered a 6 p.m. curfew in the city, prohibiting anyone other than essential personnel from being outdoors.

As the chaos was beginning to unfold at the U.S. Capitol, Northam referred to the scene in Washington during a news conference in Richmond to discuss the coronavirus.

“It’s very disappointing what is going on right now in our nation’s capital,” Northam said. He mentioned the potential for sending National Guard troops and said he had told Bowser he would aid in keeping the peace. “If there’s anything we can do to support her in that mission, we will do that.”

The Department of Defense had asked Virginia to supply National Guard troops over the summer when Black Lives Matter protests were underway in the District, but Northam refused then because Bowser said she did not support the request.

Biden calls on Trump to ‘step up,’ go on national TV to condemn mob

By Chelsea Janes • 4:17 p.m.

Biden responds to storming of Capitol: ‘Our democracy is under unprecedented assault’
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT
ELECT

The president-elect called on President Trump to "demand an end to this siege," as a mob broke into the Capitol building in Washington on Jan. 6. (Video: The Washington Post, Photo: The Washington Post)

As Trump supporters stormed the Capitol trying to overturn his victory, President-elect Joe Biden delivered a stern call to stop what he called “a god-awful display” and called on Trump to “step up.”

“I call on President Trump to go on national television now to fulfill his oath and defend the Constitution and demand an end to this siege,” Biden said, condemning the president for stoking the flames.

“The scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect a true America, do not represent who we are,” he added. “What we’re seeing are a small number of extremists dedicated to lawlessness. This is not dissent. It’s disorder. It’s chaos. It borders on sedition. And it must end. Now. I call on this mob to pull back and allow the work of democracy to go forward.”

Biden offered his remarks from Wilmington, Del., where he had originally been scheduled to speak briefly after a meeting with his economic team. As the situation in Washington devolved, Biden instead addressed the violence taking place on the very steps where he is scheduled to be sworn in to office two weeks from today.

“At this hour, our democracy is under unprecedented assault, unlike anything we have seen in modern times, an assault on the citadel of liberty, the Capitol itself,” Biden said, calling the protests an “assault on the most sacred of American undertakings — the doing of the people’s business.”

“The certification of the electoral college vote is supposed to be a sacred ritual. The purpose is to affirm the majesty of American democracy,” he said. “Today is a reminder, a painful one, that democracy is fragile. To preserve it requires people of goodwill — leaders with the courage to stand up.”

In response to a question from a reporter, Biden said, “I am not concerned about my safety, security or the inauguration. I am not concerned. The American people are going to stand up, stand up now. Enough is enough is enough.”