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Atlanta mayor rebukes those claiming anti-police riots aren't violent: 'Domestic terrorism'

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens notes protesters had explosives, mostly came from out of town



By Danielle Wallace | Fox News



CNN guest condemns using 'violent' to describe Atlanta riots

CNN guest David Peisner criticized use of the word 'violent' to describe the protests against the death of 26-year-old activist Manuel Esteban Paez Teran on 'CNN Newsroom' Saturday.

[Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens](#) rebuked those claiming that the anti-police riots seen overnight were not violent, saying that the charges against the six protesters arrested will include "domestic terrorism."

Dickens, a Democrat, pushed back on CBS host Margaret Brennan during an appearance on "Face The Nation" Sunday morning. During a panel slated to discuss crime and violence plaguing American cities, Brennan asked for an update on the protests in response to the death of 26-year-old environmental activist Manuel Esteban Paez Teran.

Teran reportedly went by the name Tortuguita, identified as nonbinary, and used they/it pronouns. Authorities said Teran first shot and wounded a state trooper tasked with clearing protesters from the construction site of a new public safety training center.

Teran was allegedly killed by [Georgia State Patrol](#) officers who returned fire, and Brennan noted how the protests in downtown Atlanta Saturday came in response to police saying body-camera footage of the shooting doesn't exist. Dickens, instead, emphasized how the peaceful protests devolved into violence, noting how individuals "had explosives," "burned down a police car" and "broke windows at businesses."

ATLANTA POLICE ARREST 6 IN NIGHT OF CHAOS AFTER VIOLENT PROTESTERS LIT COP CAR ABLAZE, SMASHED WINDOWS



Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens said he will not tolerate violence or property destruction. (Atlanta Mayor's Office/AP)

"And so our police department, along with our state and federal partners, took swift action within two blocks and brought that situation under control," Dickens said Sunday. "And the violence stopped, and those six individuals were arrested. And it should be noted that these individuals were [not Atlanta or Georgia residents](#). Most of them traveled into our city to wreak havoc. And so, we love to support people when they're doing right, peaceful protest is a part of the American -- our freedoms, but when you are violent, we will make sure that you get held accountable."



A police officer blocks a downtown street following a protest, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Atlanta. (AP Photo/Alex Slitz)

"When you say people from out of town, they're carrying explosives. Is this an organized movement here?" Brennan responded, noting how Atlanta newspapers cite possible links to "environmental activists, radical anarchist and black revolutionaries." Brennan also cited claims from Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., blaming Democrats for condoning Black Lives Matter and Antifa.



People walk by broken windows at a Wells Fargo branch following a violent protest, late Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Atlanta. (AP Photo/Alex Slitz)

While Dickens declined to respond to Greene's remarks, he agreed the riots [constitute "domestic terrorism."](#)

"The crimes range from violence to domestic terrorism to assault battery and some other things," the mayor said. "But yes, it is violent when someone turns to burn down a police car or breakout windows or have explosives on them. I don't get into the names. I don't know all the organizations. I'll let y'all decide who did it. I just know they're arrested. And if they come into Atlanta, again, to wreak havoc, they will be arrested again."

"But do you believe your city is being targeted by organized groups?" Brennan pressed.



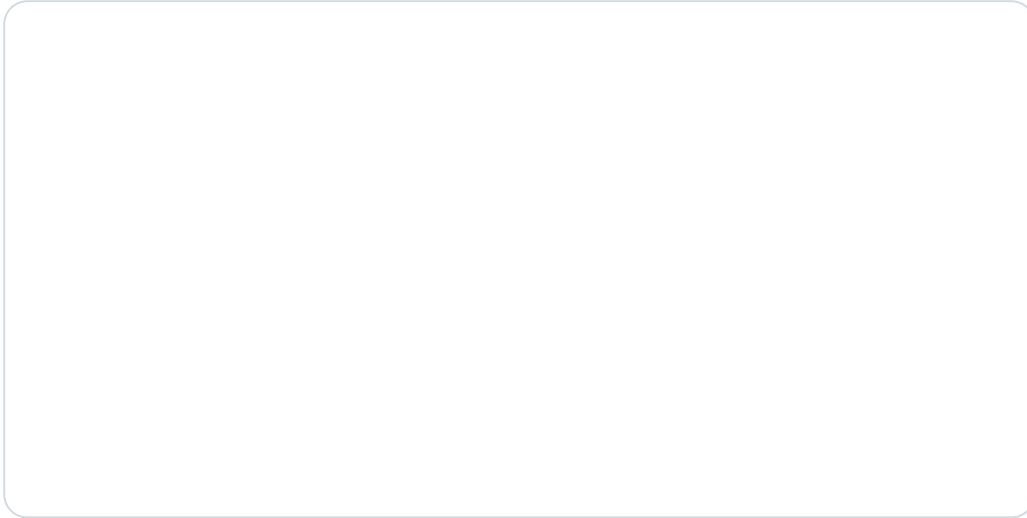
Police block downtown streets following a protest, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Atlanta. (AP Photo/Alex Slitz)

"Yes, those individuals that are protesting against 'Cop City,' as they call it, it's really a public safety training center," Dickens said. "They don't want to see the very things that they asked for more police training, we can't train imaginary, we have to do it in a facility that allows for police firefighters in the community to train together. And so this is bringing about the change that we wanted to see in 2020. And now while we're doing it, these individuals don't want to see any resources go towards that training, so we're going to develop this training center and those individuals will have to come to a halt."

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ABC did the meme



ABC News  @ABC

Six people were arrested after a peaceful protest over a proposed police training ground turned violent in Atlanta, police said. trib.al/K70ftot

Dickens' int
online.

I backlash

CNN guest
fiery uproar

place in the

9:31 AM · Jan 22, 2023



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ABC News was also panned for a tweet categorizing the violence as a "peaceful protest" above a video showing an Atlanta police car on fire in the street.

Fox News' Taylor Penley contributed to this report.

Danielle Wallace is a reporter for Fox News Digital covering politics, crime, police and more. Story tips can be sent to danielle.wallace@fox.com and on Twitter: [@danimwallace](https://twitter.com/danimwallace).

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Rightallthetime723



1 day ago

Good job, Mr. Mayor. Livable cities start with well trained and proactive cops and administrators not afraid to let them do their jobs. There's a line from the movie Road House about bars that says that people who really want to have a good time won't come to a slaughterhouse. The same goes for big...[See more](#)

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timesrchangin'655



23 hours ago

We left atlanta 20 years ago when we determined we could not raise kids properly in that environment. It is a decision that the news has verified consistently.

Reply 65 Share

3 replies

M marcustulliusc ...

23 hours ago

Dickens is a weasel that cares only about himself. During the year of St Floyd "mostly peaceful protests" that snake was on the City Council and voted to defund Atlanta police because... Floyd in Minnesota and BLM. Thankfully that insanity was struck down, but on ly by a couple of votes. Then by th...

See moreReply ▪  64  ▪ Share 7 replies Show 11 more replies**oceansidesteve718** ...

23 hours ago

When protests turn violent and people refuse to disperse, the response should be swift and forceful. Charges / sentences should be increased proportionally to actually be a deterrent.

Reply ▪  44  ▪ Share**G grizzly4962** ...

23 hours ago

This wasnt a protest, it was domestic terrorism.

Reply ▪  34  ▪ Share 1 reply Show 2 more replies**davidcjones45622** ...

23 hours ago

The DNC is using the same professional provocateurs as they did during the voter intimidation riots of 2020 only now they are even better armed and organized. Now that fear of contagion is no longer the club it once was they move to the old standby of intimidation through fear of violence.

Reply ▪  95  ▪ Share**B bflobob100** ...

23 hours ago

Find the money behind this! These "activists" are not gainfully employed but can travel fully equipped within hours to an expensive city. Well funded anarchists - should be tracked with the same ferocity as J6 activists.

Reply ▪  66  ▪ Share 8 replies**brokendrum** ...

20 hours ago

No shoe stores were damaged or looted in the recent protest turned riot. That makes one believe they were not locals.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

↪ Show 1 more reply

fantheflame

...

20 hours ago

Dickens, congratulations on finally recognizing the difference between a riot and a peaceful demonstration. You were unable to make that distinction when you were on city council and the Floyd riots were in process.

"And if they come into Atlanta, again, to wreak havoc, they will be arrested again."...

See more

Reply ▪  27  ▪ Share

N

NYSTruth

...

1 day ago

I am glad this is being stated by a mayor. Can't we see this is violence? What occurred all of that summer of 2020 was violence but it was allowed to happen due to causing disruption in the country and pushing a liberal agenda. We need to get these people out of office.

Reply ▪  165  1 ▪ Share

Si-vis-pacem,para-bellum...

...

23 hours ago

One of these days, the left is going too far and the people will be outraged enough that regardless of the police or Guard, the rest of us will just turn it into open season on them.

Reply ▪  34  1 ▪ Share

↪ 3 replies

#

#livefreeordie

...

1 day ago

the DEMS, DNC, funded, organized, orchestrated, and pointed that violence, at their opponents

want proof?

NAME THE DEM DONOR BUSINESS THAT WAS BURNT OUT?

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↪ 1 reply

↪ Show 2 more replies

P

porter.1

...

1 day ago

It's hopeful and very refreshing to see a mayor supporting police.

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Chief270 ...

1 day ago

Especially in a city like Atlanta.

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👉 1 reply

F fjbfgbandfu2 ...

20 hours ago

He doesn't support police. He called for defunding.

He's caving in, to public animosity of his policies

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👉 Show 2 more replies

J joecheated272 ...

23 hours ago

They are finally starting to admit what we all knew during the previous round of "mostly peaceful protests." That terminology was completely due to not wanting to acknowledge that President Trump was right in calling out the violence.

Reply ▪ 👍 33 🗨 ▪ Share

T Tripod ...

1 day ago

They were just peaceful protesters like in Seattle, Portland, Kenosha and everywhere else they were peacefully protesting from 2016-2020.

Reply ▪ 👍 104 🗨 ▪ Share

c CBH3 ...

23 hours ago

Unfortunately Seattle's decline started almost 20 years before 2016 - goes back to the late 90's and the WTO riots by the so called "anarchist" losers. Downtown Seattle then circled the drain for over two decades prior to it overflowing onto the sidewalks, parks and neighborhoods

Reply ▪ 👍 24 🗨 1 ▪ Share

👉 2 replies

#livefreeordie ...

1 day ago

till this very day

portland has arson attempts at fed buildings daily

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 1 reply

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sauce2222

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1 day ago

Kudos to the Mayor for calling it what it is!

Reply ▪  100  ▪ Share

nyko607

...

23 hours ago

According to the left, the burning of buildings, police cars, and other property is a "peaceful" protest, while entering the Capital through open doors, while unarmed, is a violent insurrection. Both were wrong, and both are being used as political tools to push agendas. Now if they would treat and...

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