

## How is the Government Working Against Us?

I mean, at this point, how is it not working against the American people. There are various ways in which the government is working against Americans as a result of the protests surrounding the death of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been taken as a result of the United States' imperialist and supremacist ideologies.

### The EARN IT Act

This is something that isn't really in mainstream media, especially amid the COVID-19 outbreak and the Black Lives Matter protests. Essentially, this piece of legislation impedes on our first amendment right to free speech. In a heavily digitized society, where we often speak our minds on social media, this can be dangerous. The act wants to ban encryption and allow the monitoring of social media accounts under the guise of protection for children who are being trafficked. "Yet the EARN IT Act's sponsors are opening the door to banning strong encryption and dissuading tech companies from making cybersecurity improvements, under the guise of promoting child safety."

- This is not directly related to the BLM movement, but encrypted messaging has become popular among protesters in order to protect themselves.
  - Highly photographed protesters from the Furgeson protesters were found dead shortly after the protests concluded. Two men were found in burned cars, three were deemed to be 'suicide,' and one collapsed on the bus of a supposed overdose.
  - <https://www.chicagotribune.com/nation-world/ct-ferguson-activist-deaths-black-lives-matter-20190317-story.html>
- The EARN IT Act was originally drafted to protect children from trafficking situations, but there are questions of intention.
  - <https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/the-earn-it-act-is-a-disaster-amid-the-covid-19-crisis/>
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#### Advocate against the EARN IT Act:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/dont-let-congress-kill-encryption/>

### Violation of the Geneva Convention during Protests

By now, everyone has seen the police tear-gassing protesters. What many do not know is that tear gas is banned from warfare as it can be dangerous for innocent civilians who are caught within warfare. Pepper spray is also banned from warfare. Both tear gas and pepper spray are considered to be 'chemical weapons,' however, it seems that the police are given the okay to use them on American citizens. **Does it make sense at all? No.**

- <https://theconversation.com/tear-gas-and-pepper-spray-are-chemical-weapons-so-why-should-police-use-them-140364>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGTVg72A140&t=22s>

### **Violation of Medical Neutrality**

Since the police are terrorizing protestors with rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, and are outright beating them, there are many medical professionals taking to the streets and setting up medical tents to tend to the injured. In addition, they are equipped with water, snacks, and medical equipment. It's a great thing — medical professionals are tending to those who need it, especially given that the United States' healthcare system is wildly expensive.

However, the police nationwide are destroying water, food, and medical tents — a direct violation of medical neutrality. “Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) promotes medical neutrality — the principle of noninterference with medical services in times of armed conflict and civil unrest.”

- <https://phr.org/issues/health-under-attack/medical-neutrality/>
- <https://twitter.com/AngelaMWilhelm/status/1268056986102444033>
- <https://twitter.com/AngelaMWilhelm/status/1267974081577717762>
- <https://twitter.com/andrewkimmel/status/1266998805834207234>

### **Qualified Immunity**

The reason why so many Black people have been killed without justice is because of qualified immunity for the police. “Qualified immunity is a defense to standing civil trial. It's raised by the officer well in advance of the actual trial on the merits. If granted, the plaintiff's claim of excessive force against the officer is dismissed. But dismissal is qualified, however, by the officer's use of force being objectively reasonable.”

- <https://www.fletc.gov/sites/default/files/PartIXQualifiedImmunity.pdf>

Essentially, the claim of excessive force against the officer can be dismissed if it's believed they made a misjudgement [I thought he was reaching for a gun]. This is a loophole that allows cops to get away with the murder of innocent Black people nationwide.

This is the reason why so many police officers ‘fear for their lives’ right before murdering a Black person for no reason.

**We must advocate to get rid of qualified immunity.**