

**Keith Ellison,
Attorney General of Minnesota
Minnesota Attorney General's Office
445 Minnesota St, Ste 1400,
St. Paul, MN, 55101-2131**



Dear Mr. Ellison,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to draw your attention to an issue that should not get lost amidst the wave of chaos that is ongoing in Minnesota. President Trump's offer to use active-duty military officers to deal with domestic protests is both illegal and provides evidence of a broader trend of anti-black militarization of police departments across the country. As the Attorney General of Minnesota, you are in a unique position to send a signal to communities all over the United States that this approach is unacceptable. We urge you to condemn the offer to use active military duty officers for both its legal and moral failings.

The legal failings of the offer are evident. The Posse Comitatus Act expressly forbids using military officers for domestic law enforcement without explicit congressional authorization, which is unlikely given the politicized nature of this case. The only possible legal defense is use of the Insurrection Act to justify unauthorized usage. The problem with the Insurrection Act is both its historical use and the current theoretical defense of its usage. Throughout history, the Insurrection Act was used to quell protestors demanding racial justice. From Rodney King to the Civil Rights Movement, the Insurrection Act has been used as a tool to suppress public outrage over anti-black, government sanctioned violence. Even its modern usage is unjustifiable. Protests over police brutality are far from the "insurrection" that was imagined when the act was drafted. The right to peacefully protest should be defended even for those arguing against the government and its racial injustices.

More disturbing than the legal problem are the moral problems with the offer. First and foremost, the current entanglement between the military and the police makes the United States look more like a military state than a free, democratic one. Police departments have become repositories for military equipment. Providing military training and tactic

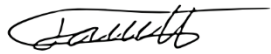
for police officers is common. The militarization of the police mystifies their goal and encourages a moral hazard amongst officers which allows for more abusive practices. Additionally, the militarization of police turns black and brown communities in the United States into active warzones. As police use military tactics and gear to break up protests, there is little difference between these actions and those of our military forces quelling insurgencies abroad. Black people are treated like terrorists when it is their communities being terrorized.

Given this, and your long history of fighting for the rights of the oppressed, I am confident you will look into the issue further.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Eckert

Advocacy Team Member, Organization for World Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathon Arrell", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jonathon Arrell

Vice President, Organization for World Peace