

# *Biden wants to throw out lawsuits against Trump for violent clearing of Lafayette Square protest*

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Lafayette Square was cleared of Black Lives Matter protesters so that President Donald Trump could stage a photo op on June 1, 2020. (Photo: AP)

Washington, May 30 (RHC)-- The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has asked a federal judge to toss lawsuits filed against former President Donald Trump and his senior officials over last June's violent clearing of a peaceful protest near the White House by the U.S. military and police.

Trump and other U.S. officials, including former Attorney General William Barr, should be considered immune from civil lawsuits over police actions taken to "protect a president and to secure his movements," lawyers for the Justice Department argued, according to the Washington Post.

The lawsuits were filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other advocacy groups after a crowd of more than 1,000 largely peaceful demonstrators, protesting the police killing of George Floyd, were forcibly removed from Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020.

The lawsuits sought an order declaring that Trump, Barr, and other officials violated the constitutional rights of the protesters. Federal agents on horseback used tear gas, batons, and smoke to disperse the protesters from the park near the White House, clearing the way for Trump to stage a photo opportunity at a nearby church.

The Trump administration has said there are "no regrets" about the decision of using tear gas against peaceful demonstrators from outside the White House last week. Images of the violent crackdown circulated on social media, sparking a national backlash against Trump's calls for law enforcement to use "overwhelming force" to put down those he called "thugs" and domestic terrorists. "Great job done by all. Overwhelming force. Domination," Trump tweeted the day after the square was cleared.

America's top military official, General Mark Milley, later apologized for walking with Trump from the White House to St. John's Church for the controversial photo op. "I should not have been there," said Gen. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a prerecorded video commencement address to National Defense University. "As a commissioned uniformed officer, it was a mistake that I have learned from."

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