

## INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

APRIL 12, 2021

### DEREK CHAUVIN TRIAL

*This report provides an overview of the trial of Derek Chauvin, a former Minneapolis Police Officer, that started on March 29, 2021. Jury selection finished on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 with 14 jurors and one alternate selected. The trial remains ahead of schedule, and a verdict is expected toward the end of April.*

Twenty witnesses have testified for the prosecution in the first week and a half of the trial, including the following:

- The 911 dispatcher who responded to the call of George Floyd using a counterfeit bill in a business
- A bystander who filmed Floyd's death
- An off-duty emergency medical technician and firefighter who witnessed Floyd's condition and wanted to treat him
- A professional MMA fighter who witnessed Floyd's death and called the police on Chauvin
- Four underage witnesses to Floyd's death
- The employee who received the alleged counterfeit bill from Floyd
- A bystander who conversed with Floyd while Floyd was in the police car
- A Lieutenant of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD)
- Floyd's ex-girlfriend
- Two Hennepin County paramedics who responded to Floyd's death
- A police sergeant who secured the scene after the arrest
- A retired sergeant and the police supervisor who arrived on scene after Floyd was taken away
- A Minneapolis Police Department homicide investigator
- The doctor who pronounced Floyd dead
- The Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department
- An inspector who was the commander of the MPD's training division at the time of Floyd's death
- An expert on MPDs use-of-force policy and training
- An officer and medical support coordinator who is the MPD's expert on medical issues
- A sergeant from the LAPD who is an expert witness on use-of-force tactics

The defense has not begun presenting witnesses.

### DEMONSTRATIONS

George Floyd's death in May 2020 resulted in nationwide demonstrations that often saw acts of violence and over 14,000 arrests. Demonstrations surrounding the trial of Derek Chauvin have remained peaceful thus far. On the eve of the trial, Floyd's family and national civil rights leaders held a prayer service in front of the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis. The service was attended by several hundred demonstrators who also participated in a march through downtown Minneapolis. On the opening day of the trial, demonstrators outside of the Hennepin County Government Center blocked traffic and shouted at motorists. As the trial continued through the week, family members of George Floyd and demonstrators continued to gather outside of the Hennepin County Government Center. On Tuesday, 6 April, Reverend Al Sharpton held another prayer

service with Floyd's family members outside of the courthouse. Although no instances of arrests or violence were reported over the past week, one individual chained herself to a fence surrounding the courthouse on Monday. In addition, demonstrators left an empty casket outside the courthouse. The Minnesota National Guard has stated they are "capable and ready" for any civil unrest that might occur through the trial, while 911 centers have developed backup plans in case of widespread unrest. Many businesses within the vicinity of the Hennepin County Government Center have boarded up their buildings.

Demonstrations relating to the trial, police conduct, and social justice have continued across the country, most notably in San Antonio, Austin, St. Paul, Rochester, New York City, Cleveland, and Chicago. These demonstrations have remained peaceful but have the potential to turn violent quickly, particularly toward the conclusion of the trial. Authorities may declare certain demonstrations unlawful and announce curfews with little notice. Businesses in impacted areas could experience significant disruption to operations, as well as destruction to property. Social justice issues that closely align with the trial continue to result in demonstrations, particularly relating to voting rights and violence against Asian-Americans.

## PUBLIC OPINION

Public opinion regarding the trial remains polarized. Users on social media continue to allude to plans of violent demonstrations in the event that Chauvin is acquitted. Negative sentiment toward trial proceedings appeared to increase among some members of the public following an exchange between the Judge and a witness in which the judge asked the witness to not argue with the defense. Prominent news commentators have speculated that some form of conviction is likely, perhaps setting expectations that Chauvin will be convicted. A non-conviction would break these expectations and potentially fuel violent demonstrations. Only the prosecution has presented witnesses thus far, so public sentiment and general expectations regarding a verdict could change when the defense begins presenting witnesses.

Federal law enforcement agencies expect domestic violent extremists (DVEs), anarchist violent extremists (AVEs), and militia violent extremists (MVEs) to exploit the trial and consequent lawful demonstrations relating to the trial in order to commit violence. These groups are a particular concern following the verdict of the trial. Foreign terrorist groups and nation-state adversaries are also seeking to sow discord by portraying the trials as indicative of a racist and divided American public. On March 26, 2021, a post on social media indicated potential "nationwide white power marches" would take place on April 11 at 1:00 PM. These marches were largely uneventful and unattended. However, several hundred demonstrators and counter-demonstrators clashed during a White Lives Matter rally in Huntington Beach, California. Police declared an unlawful assembly and arrested ten individuals. In Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, police fatally shot a 20-year-old black man during a traffic stop. The incident resulted in looting and clashes with police roughly ten miles away from the Hennepin County Government Center. The Governor of Minnesota deployed the National Guard and a curfew was declared in Brooklyn Center. Detailed information on the shooting is emerging and demonstrations relating to the incident are planned in the coming days.

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