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BLM Protest - Minneapolis - May 28, 2020
Photo credit - The Atlantic



A Comparative Analysis of Disproportionate Responses: BLM/Antifa Riots vs. January 6 Capitol Event

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Introduction

Is justice in America truly blind? Does Lady Justice still weigh all laws impartially, meting out fair and proportional justice? Or has the system been manipulated by cultural trends, political agendas, and deliberate deception, transforming it into an apparatus of selective enforcement?

While there are countless instances of unequal justice, two events stand out as glaring proof of the system’s failure: the BLM/Antifa riots of 2020 and the January 6, 2021, Capitol protest. These two events, occurring within a year of each other, showcased a stark contrast in how law enforcement, the media, and the judicial system treated two distinct groups. One group, primarily composed of black/ethnic Leftist activists and self-proclaimed Marxists, engaged in months of destruction with little to no consequence. The other, largely Patriotic conservative White American citizens, gathered in Washington, D.C., for a single-day protest and faced extreme acts of entrapment, subsequent prosecutorial overreach, and lengthy prison sentences. What does this mean? Has the justice system been redefined to reflect racial preferences? Or is the disparate treatment based on ideology?

Since Leftist Progressive ideologies are aligned with Marxism, and Marxism historically represented a “revolutionary” affront to all existing government order via aggressive violence, this disproportional subversion of laws and order causing disparate treatment with these two events confirm the disparate treatments are fundamentally ideological. When the country is being run in almost every sphere with an ideological bent toward Marxism, ideology reigns! When law and justice systems are overwhelmed and overrun with people (i.e. police officers, judges, DA’s, etc.) who have come to rely on their ideological frame as opposed to their specific job and commitment to the U.S. Constitution, ideology overtakes principles of equal justice under the law.

This paper is designed to provide a reasoned and rational examination of these events, comparing their severity, impact, and the responses of the justice system, to highlight the undeniable double standard that undermines the credibility of law and order in America today.

Event Overview

BLM/Antifa Riots	January 6 Capitol Event
Severity and Impact	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spanned several months in 2020 following the death of George Floyd.Rioters were often armed and caused over \$2 billion in property damage, including attacks on federal courthouses and government buildings.More than 20 law enforcement officers lost their lives, hundreds	single-day protest primarily challenging the certification of the 2020 presidential election. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Most participants were unarmed and were encouraged or escorted into the Capitol by law enforcement and undercover operatives.Contrary to early media narratives, no law enforcement officers were killed due to the event.

<p>were injured, and entire communities were left in ruins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An armed siege on the White House forced then-President Trump into a protective bunker. • Despite widespread destruction, most rioters faced minimal consequences, and many were never prosecuted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants faced extreme legal repercussions, with many receiving years-long prison sentences for non-violent offenses such as trespassing
Extent of Violence and Damage	
<p>The BLM/Antifa riots caused destruction on a national scale, targeting both private businesses and federal institutions. The estimated \$2 million in damages makes it one of the costliest civil disturbances in U.S. history</p>	<p>The January 6 event caused approximately \$1.5 million in damage, limited to a single location: the Capitol.</p>
Loss of Life	
<p>The BLM/Antifa riots resulted in over 20 law enforcement officers killed, along with numerous civili</p>	<p>The only direct fatality on January 6 was Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed protester who was shot and killed by Capitol police.</p>
Duration	
<p>The BLM/Antifa riots lasted for months, paralyzing cities and instilling fear across the nation.</p>	<p>January 6 was a single-day event with limited lasting public safety concerns.</p>

Many of the J6 Participants who entered the Capitol on January 6, 2021, were charged with felonies, including obstruction of an official proceeding (a charge rarely applied before). Some received years-long prison sentences, even if they had not committed any violent acts. Non-violent offenders were also often denied bail, held in pretrial detention for months, and prosecuted under laws typically reserved for organized crime. Conversely, the vast majority of BLM Rioters who were arrested during the months-long unrest of 2020 saw charges dropped or significantly reduced. In many cases, prosecutors declined to pursue cases at all, even for arson, looting, and violent assaults on police officers. Some of the individuals who burned buildings or destroyed public/Federal property faced minor penalties and cases ultimately dismissed, compared to severe J6 gulag/prison sentences.

Law Enforcement and Judicial Responses

BLM/Antifa Rioters	January 6 Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite months of violence, destruction, and loss of life, law enforcement largely took a lenient stance. • Many rioters saw their charges dropped, received light penalties, or were never prosecuted. • Police were often ordered to stand down, and in some cases, abandoned their precincts entirely (e.g., Seattle's CHAZ/CHOP zone). • High-profile politicians and celebrities actively raised bail money to release rioters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labeled as "domestic terrorists" by government officials and faced aggressive federal prosecution. • The FBI allocated nearly 40% of its workforce to tracking down and prosecuting even non-violent attendees. • Some defendants faced pretrial detention for months, solitary confinement, and even reports of abuse while in custody. • A highly militarized response followed, with thousands of National Guard troops deployed to D.C., and a prolonged security presence around the Capitol.

While most had not committed any infraction other than trespassing (as a result of being goaded and entrapped by Capitol security officers), the J6 Participants were labeled as domestic terrorists by government officials and faced aggressive federal prosecution. The FBI used approximately 40 % of the FBI workforce (5000-6000 employees) to conduct extensive investigations, using facial recognition and geolocation data to track down even those who simply walked into the Capitol. Some defendants faced daily beatings and harsh solitary confinement conditions while awaiting trial.

It should also be noted that J6er's endured a highly militarized response following the protests, with thousands of National Guard troops deployed to D.C. in the aftermath. Ongoing security measures, including fences around the Capitol, lasted for months. Many involved were tracked down nationwide and charged to the maximum extent of the law.

On the other hand, police in many cities treated known BLM/Antifa rioters with utmost leniency. Police were ordered to stand down as violent riots unfolded, allowing destruction to continue unchecked. Officers faced pressure not to use force, and in some cases, they abandoned police offices and precincts in deference to rioters (e.g., Seattle's CHAZ/CHOP zone). Federal responses to violent BLM rioters, such as those attacking federal buildings in Portland, were condemned by media and political figures as "excessive force." On the other hand, despite billions in damages and multiple deaths caused by riots, it received little interest from the FBI or other law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement took a far more lenient approach and general outlook toward BLM/Antifa. In the end, many violent offenders were

released without bail under lax local police and District Attorney (DA) policies. In many cases, Democratic leaders and activists actively helped raise bail funds for arrested individuals, ensuring they were quickly back on the streets.

Disproportionate Characterizations

Media and Political Narratives

The media overwhelmingly portrayed J6 as an "insurrection" and suggested any and all participants (present or not) were seriously attempting a coup against the Federal government. Media coverage presented an inordinate focus on fear, security threats, and the need for severe punishment. There was no discussion about equal justice treatment (in comparison to the actual riots months earlier), potential overreach in prosecutions, or the rights of non-violent offenders.

The media largely justified or downplayed the BLM/Antifa violence, often referring to the riots as "mostly peaceful protests" despite widespread video evidence confirming arson, looting, and attacks on police and other law enforcement officers. Some outlets and politicians suggested that rioting was a legitimate form of protest against systemic injustice.

- The media overwhelmingly framed January 6 as an "insurrection," despite the lack of organized planning or an armed uprising.
- In contrast, the media consistently downplayed the BLM/Antifa riots, referring to them as "mostly peaceful protests" despite video evidence of looting, arson, and attacks on police.

Political leaders openly supported the BLM/Antifa riots, calling them a necessary push for "social justice," while condemning January 6 participants as threats to democracy.

"The media overwhelmingly portrayed J6 as an "insurrection" and suggested any and all participants (present or not) were seriously attempting a coup against the Federal government."

- Democratic leaders and activists actively raised bail funds for BLM/Antifa rioters, while January 6 defendants faced financial ruin and legal persecution without support.

Terminology and Double Standards

- The term "insurrection" was applied to January 6 despite the participants being largely unarmed and having no coordinated plan to overthrow the government.
- BLM and Antifa rioters, many of whom identified as Marxist revolutionaries and engaged in sustained violence against the government, were never given the same designation.
- When leftist activists attacked federal buildings, the media and politicians condemned any attempt to enforce the law as "excessive force."
- Despite actual armed uprisings against the White House during the BLM/Antifa riots, no similar terminology was used to describe those actions.

Implications for Justice and Society

While disruptive, the J6 protests resulted in one direct death (Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed protester shot by Capitol police) and some minor levels of property damage. However, much of the damage was non-violent intrusion (at the encouragement and behest of Capitol police and FBI agitations) rather than arson or looting.

Again, the BLM riots in the summer of 2020 led to dozens of deaths, including civilians and law enforcement officers. Businesses were looted and burned in major cities, causing over \$2 billion in damages (mostly uninsured black and brown businesses), making it one of the costliest riots in U.S. history.

The disparity in responses to these events reveals deeper systemic issues:

- **Selective Enforcement:** The justice system's leniency toward leftist rioters while aggressively prosecuting conservatives undermines the principle of equal justice under the law.
- **Erosion of Trust:** The blatant double standard has caused a crisis of confidence in the justice system, deepening national division and chaos.

- **Chilling Effect on Political Dissent:** The extreme punishments for January 6 participants set a dangerous precedent that could discourage lawful political protest in the future.
- **Normalization of Political Violence:** The lack of consequences for BLM/Antifa rioters sends the message that politically motivated violence is acceptable under the right ideological banner.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of the BLM/Antifa riots and the January 6 Capitol event reveals significant inconsistencies in how these events have been portrayed (in media, culture, and larger society) and prosecuted. J6 defendants are severely punished, even for non-violent offenses, facing long prison terms, denial of bail, and aggressive prosecution. BLM rioters and looters largely avoided consequences, with many charges dropped, lenient sentencing, and public and political support shielding them from harsh legal repercussions.

While both incidents warrant scrutiny and accountability, the disproportionate treatment of participants reflects a troubling double standard. Is there still a standard for meting out equal and blind justice in America? Or, is the scales of justice tipped to only serve the interest of those in particular groups and demographics that conform to prescribed ideology? If we're honest and sincere in looking at the example between the disproportional outcomes of BLM/Antifa vs. J6ers, we would confirm justice is at best "fleeting" and arbitrary. There is a severe need to appropriately address the reasons and rationale behind these disparities and fix them. This is crucial to restoring public confidence in the U.S. justice system and to help ensure that all individuals, regardless of political affiliation or cause, are held to the exact same standards under the law.

A fair and just society cannot operate with two sets of rules. If we are to restore public confidence in the legal system, we must demand accountability and equal application of the law for all Americans, regardless of political affiliation.

The American people deserve better. The future of our republic depends on it.



About Kevin McGary

Kevin McGary is an entrepreneur, author, and public speaker. In the arena of civic engagement, Kevin serves as Chairman of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of California and is an executive with the Douglass Leadership Institute and the Northstar Leadership Pac.

Kevin has worked for the past 35 years in Information Technology as a sales and management professional. He has been designated a “Top Performer” throughout his sales career in the arenas of Cybersecurity, Enterprise Applications, Application Development Automation, and Enterprise Job Scheduling/Utilities. In addition, he has entrepreneurial skills as he has started and participated in several “start-ups!” Kevin leads a collection of pro-active individuals committed to developing innovative and new approaches to today’s socio/political issues. With the assistance of elected officials and a myriad of community activists, he lectures and provides workshops about today’s most perplexing problems.

Over the past decade, Kevin has lead teams of individuals committed to developing innovative approaches to today’s socio/political issues, and with the assistance of elected officials and myriad of community activists, he lectures and provides workshops about how to combat today’s most perplexing socio/cultural issues.

In 2020, Kevin founded Every Black Life Matters (EBLM) EBLM is designed to counteract the emerging violence and systemic poverty in under-served, mostly Black urban communities. EBLM is seen as a “moral-based” & “Faith-based” alternative to Black Lives Matter.

About Every Black Life Matters

VISION

To help individuals in the black community grow and prosper in mind, body and spirit by eliminating disproportional injustices that hinder Black advancement.

MISSION

Due to black plight caused by progressives, our mission is to protect black life from conception to death by confronting injustice and deconstructing barriers inside and outside the black community through a national platform of training, networked resources, community organizing and faith building

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