



Trump threatens to use Insurrection Act to put down protests in Minneapolis

Politics Updated on Jan 15, 2026 7:19 PM EDT — Published on Jan 15, 2026 9:29 AM EDT

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday threatened to invoke an 1807 law and deploy troops to quell persistent protests against the federal officers sent to Minneapolis to enforce his administration's massive immigration crackdown.

The threat comes a day after a man was shot and wounded by an immigration officer who had been attacked with a shovel and broom handle. That shooting further heightened the fear and anger that has radiated across the city since an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent fatally shot Renee Good in the head.

READ MORE: What is the Insurrection Act? Here's what Trump has said about using it

Trump has repeatedly threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act, a rarely used federal law, to deploy the U.S. military or federalize the National Guard for domestic law enforcement, over the objections of state governors.

"If the corrupt politicians of Minnesota don't obey the law and stop the professional agitators and insurrectionists from attacking the Patriots of I.C.E., who are only trying to do their job, I will institute the INSURRECTION ACT, which many Presidents have done before me, and quickly put an end to the travesty that is taking place in that once great State," Trump said in social media post.

Presidents have invoked the law more than two dozen times, most recently in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush to end unrest in Los Angeles. In that instance, local authorities had asked for the assistance.

WATCH: Twin Cities on edge as ICE raids ignite fear and protests

"I'm making a direct appeal to the President: Let's turn the temperature down. Stop this campaign of retribution. This is not who we are," Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, said on X.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said he would challenge any such action in court. He's already suing to try to stop the surge by the Department of Homeland Security, which says officers have arrested more than 2,500 people since Nov. 29 as part of an immigration operation in the Twin Cities called Metro Surge.

The operation grev

Protests, tea

In Minneapolis, sm
helmets fired tear

Demonstrations ha
and homes have be

WATCH: Minnesot

We use cookies to enhance your web experience, measure our audience, and collect useful information that allows PBS and our partners to tailor our marketing efforts. Click [Cookie Settings](#) to set your preferences or view more in our [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept Cookies

Reject Optional Cookies

Cookie Settings

s masks and

ple from their cars

"This is an impossible situation that our city is presently being put in and at the same time we are trying to find a way forward to keep people safe, to protect our neighbors, to maintain order," Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of three people who said they were questioned or detained in recent days. The lawsuit says two are Somali and one is Hispanic; all three are U.S. citizens. The lawsuit seeks an end to what the ACLU describes as a practice of racial profiling and warrantless arrests. The government did not immediately comment.

Shooting followed a chase

Homeland Security said in a statement that federal law enforcement officers on Wednesday stopped a driver from Venezuela who is in the U.S. illegally. The person drove off then crashed into a parked car before fleeing on foot, DHS said.

Officers caught up, then two other people arrived and the three started attacking the officer, according to DHS.

"Fearing for his life and safety as he was being ambushed by three individuals, the officer fired a defensive shot to defend his life," DHS said. The confrontation took place about 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometers) from where Good was killed.

Police chief Brian O'Hara said the man who was shot did not have a life-threatening injury. O'Hara's account of what happened largely echoed that of Homeland Security, which later said the other two men were also in the U.S. illegally from Venezuela.

The FBI said several government vehicles were damaged and property inside was stolen when agents responded to the shooting. Photos show broken windows and insults made with paint. A reward of up to \$100,000 is being offered for information. The FBI's Minneapolis office did not immediately reply to messages seeking more details.

Classroom changes announced

St. Paul Public Schools, with more than 30,000 students, said it would begin offering an online learning option for students who do not feel comfortable coming to school. Schools will be closed next week until Thursday to prepare for those accommodations.

Minneapolis Public Schools, which has a similar enrollment, is also offering temporary remote learning. The University of Minnesota will start a new term next week with different options depending on the class.

Madhani reported from Washington, D.C. Associated Press reporters Sophia Tareen in Chicago; Bill Barrow in Atlanta; Rebecca Santana in Washington; and Ed White in Detroit contributed.

A

We use cookies to enhance your web experience, measure our audience, and collect useful information that allows PBS and our partners to tailor our marketing efforts. Click [Cookie Settings](#) to set your preferences or view more in our [Privacy Policy](#).

Donate now_ →

By — Steve Karnowski, Associated Press

By — Hallie Golden, Associated Press

By — Aamer Madhani, Associated Press

We use cookies to enhance your web experience, measure our audience, and collect useful information that allows PBS and our partners to tailor our marketing efforts. Click [Cookie Settings](#) to set your preferences or view more in our [Privacy Policy](#).