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LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally

By [Daniel Tencer](#)
Saturday, July 3rd, 2010 -- 6:36 pm

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Three Los Angeles-area reporters who said they were physically assaulted by LAPD officers at a 2007 rally have won their day in court.

A Los Angeles County Superior Court jury has awarded one of the journalists, Fox camerawoman Patricia Ballaz, \$1.7 million for lost earnings and medical expenses. Another reporter, NPR journalist Patricia Nazario, won \$39,000 for medical and other expenses. The jury deadlocked on the award for a third reporter, Fox reporter Christina Gonzalez.

During court testimony, Ballaz testified that police "threw [Gonzalez] around like a rag doll" as they pushed through a crowd of reporters and protesters during an immigration rally near L.A.'s MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007.

The city of Los Angeles has already settled a lawsuit on behalf of some 300 protesters who said they were mistreated by police during the protest, paying out some \$13 million to the plaintiffs, [reports NPR](#). Additionally, the city has paid a total of \$450,000 to five other reporters caught up in the melee that day.

The [LA Times notes](#) that the LAPD "apologized and instituted sweeping changes in its crowd control policies" as a result of the incident.

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Lawyers for the city and the LAPD argued that the reporters' rights had not been infringed upon, because they ignored seven warnings to get out of the path of an advancing group of police officers, reports NPR.

But police expert Lou Reiter told the court that the LAPD's charge through a group of reporters that day "was no legitimate use of force." The jury ended up voting nine to three in the plaintiff's favor.

"There was a war against media that day," lawyer Browne Greene, representing the reporters, **told jurors.**

"This was a police riot, and we've got to condemn that [sort of] thing," he told reporters Friday after the verdict. "Not in this society."

In her testimony, Ballaz described the scene at the rally that day as having turned into a "war zone."

But as reporters moved closer to the police, they saw people screaming and running in the other direction. Ballaz said she then saw a policeman hitting another news reporter. "He was just an average man doing nothing," Ballaz said. "I had no idea why this was happening. It was like a war zone."

She testified that after the beating she took from the LAPD, she had to have multiple surgeries on her hand, elbow and ankle and may still need more surgeries. Greene showed pictures of Ballaz's hands and elbows that were taken after the surgery. The pictures showed distinct stitch marks on her hand and her arms.

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3 people liked this.

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drcurtisscott Today 02:25 PM

The LAPD has joined the ranks of a historical elite group --beginning with the terms: SS, KGB, etc...

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**panamarick** Today 07:03 AM

2 people liked this.

"Fox camerawoman Patricia Ballaz, \$1.7 million for lost earnings and medical expenses. Another reporter, NPR journalist Patricia Nazario, won \$39,000 for medical and other expenses. The jury deadlocked on the award for a third reporter, Fox reporter Christina Gonzalez."

So...a fox asshole gets \$1.7 million, a liberal gets only \$39,000 and the only Hispanic (albeit another fox asshole) in the trio gets zip. WTF?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Patriot One** Yesterday 09:42 PM

1 person liked this.

Hold up signs that read: WHY DO YOU BEAT ON AMERICANS?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Big_Alpha1** Yesterday 07:20 PM

8 people liked this.

There should be a condition to the settlement of these lawsuits - - the cops themselves have to sell everything they to help the city pay off the award. Then they should be charge federally with violating the victim's rights under the color of law and have to do some time. They also forfeit their pensions and any other retirement benefits. I can assure you this shit would come to a screeching halt!

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**panamarick** Today 07:08 AM [in reply to Big_Alpha1](#)

2 people liked this.

So true, but then that would screw up everything. The next thing you know these oinker's would be making sure they had probable cause, solid witness and wondering if what they were doing is constitutional. When you have a dog in the fight you tend to pay attention and we just can't have that.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**ya_right** Yesterday 04:34 PM

6 people liked this.

cops are nothing more than organized gangs with the "law" on their side.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**C H** Yesterday 01:39 PM

4 people liked this.

The LA PD have always skirted and also gone over the edge of corruption and bad dealings with the public. The history of this PD is replete with stories like Rampart etc. And police in general are now para/military. This removes them from the kind of policing they used to do. Community kinds. They not only have a them vs us mentality, but they have adopted practices in their interactions with the community they serve, that serve no one. It is as if they are no part of the community. Now they are there not to help and serve, but to control by any means any crowd on the streets.

We no longer have the right of peaceful assembly nor the right to demonstrate. When we assemble we are moved away to a place not of our choosing, but of the police choosing. This is especially true when politics are involved. And let's face it most demonstrations are political. WE must not offend visiting important people. We must not offend them with the idea we don't like what they represent. We are the unwashed masses who must not offend by our presence. And the police are there to see that we do not OFFEND.


As for the person from Fix, they are not a news organization, this is no reporter. They are entertainment for the unreasoning part of our country, and they do not report. So if this person is given financial redress it should be remembered who they represent.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**mudplanet** Today 09:55 AM [in reply to C H](#)

1 person liked this.


Folks, there is a distinction between a local fox affiliate and the giant cable fox network. I'm often tempted to slash some tires when I see the local fox news van but the simple fact is that these aren't the assholes that are producing the bullshit on the fox news channel but just some local journos trying to report the news and probably have about the same credibility as the other affiliates (cbs, nbc etc, = little to none) but nonetheless they probably aren't any more aligned to glenn beck and friends than the other affiliates. I don't know that the journos hurt in this case aren't part of the national fox trash set but it's likely they aren't. The question is: why aren't the police that perpetrated the crimes being prosecuted like the criminals they are?

Like Reply

 **oktoss** Yesterday 01:23 PM

LAPD should offer to bet Fox News double or nothing that they can pick up Roger Ailes and throw him like a rag doll. Since it was Fox people who got thrown around I'd be suspicious that Fox was behind the whole thing.


Like Reply

 **starvapor** Yesterday 11:33 AM

2 people liked this.

This decision will mean absolutely nothing to the LA Pigs.
Most likely some insurance company will pick up the penalty tab
and the oinkers will hit the streets again with the same vile zeal that has become their trademark.

Like Reply


 **tazdelaney** Yesterday 11:08 AM

2 people liked this.

LAPD to change its ways? that's a good one. amnesty says that after bogota, colombia, the next two worst for human rights in this hemisphere are new york and LA.


what is needed here is for an event in which the cops attack the people and the people overwhelm the cops; turn their tasers, clubs and guns on the thugs. then make citizens arrests of them all, while suing for billions, not millions.

Like Reply

 **drcurtisscott** 51 minutes ago [in reply to tazdelaney](#)

Actually, a few years ago -- I observed a crowd of people in a little town in Maine turn on the cops & brutally fight back. It was GLORIOUS! There were loud oinks & squeals as the crowd insisted on the right to demonstrate their sincerity with their fists.
It didn't hit the newspapers though...and we all go: "HmMMM" ... Maybe news of police getting their collective arses kicked hard might give people ideas.
And like Stalin said: "We don't let people have guns. Why should we let them have ideas." -So the state doesn't report the incident to the media.

Like Reply

 **chabuka** Yesterday 11:00 AM

2 people liked this.

I am sure the Corporation that the LAPD really works for, will pay that fine for the police department...! No....? you mean the taxpayers will have to pony up to pay for the mess the Corporation(s) created, while suppressing truth...? ...again...? (In case the tea baggers are still confused...this is what a real threat to our freedom looks like..this is a bona fide attack on the publics Constitutional right to know...a close up and personal look at what Corporate owned and operated Government really looks like...a very real look at Corporate/Governmen fascism...its also going on in the gulf....BP is keeping the public and the press off the public beaches...suppressing information and our Government who is owned by BP (Joe Barton, etc.) and other Corporations are helping them...(see Anderson Cooper CNN on youtube.com)

Like Reply

 **NadePaulKuciGravMcKi** Yesterday 10:25 AM

look into RFK and the LAPD
obstruction of justice

the cover-up

the liars

Like Reply

 **indi_progressive** Yesterday 10:24 AM

3 people liked this.

The other day there was an event in town and more traffic than usual, so a young particularly pissed off looking young punk cop was directing traffic. He had no whistle, but was dressed in black military jumpsuit tucked into his big black skull-cracking boots, black leather fingerless gloves, so as not to interfere with his itchy trigger-fingers, Military cap worn all gangsta, wrap around sunglasses so you cant look him in the eye, with his automatic hand gun strapped prominently to his thigh, and lots of ammo filling up his cargo pockets, and various torture implements like clubs and tasers, hanging from his belt, yelling at people when to stop or go.


What kind of image does that send to a young child crossing the street with this mechanized military robot bristling with weapons and barking orders at cars like he's PISSED.

I remember when my dad would take me to the bank with him on a Saturday and there was a cop who directed traffic in our town. He was smartly dressed in an immaculately pressed blue uniform with shiny copper buttons and dress cap, which he would promptly remove when h wished a woman good morning either by name if he knew, or ma'am, if he didn't, with a big smile.

"Good mornig, ma'am....sir.....good morning Mrs. Pepperwhistle, I see you finally bought that hat you have been admiring in Thomsons store.....why my friend Mr. Smith, how are you today, tell your son dont think i didnt see him speeding last night, if i catch him again Im giving him a ticket you know...."

But that was 40 years ago when America was great!
(Edited by author 1 day ago)


Like Reply

 **tazdelaney** Yesterday 11:13 AM [in reply to indi_progressive](#)

3 people liked this.


40 years ago when america was great? ask blacks, indians, poor, gays about that...

Like Reply

 **Patriot One** Yesterday 09:43 PM [in reply to tazdelaney](#)

40 years ago +. Prejudice and discrimination from an individual [wo]man, without trespass or injury, is necessary to survive (how else could I choose a bride?). But when a [wo]man takes a government job and exerizes his personal prejudice and discrimination, that [wo]man should be fined and jailed double that of a citizen. The [wo]man giving the orders should suffer tripple. If a "cop killer" gets extra punishment, a "killer cop" should get double and then some. And every Sheriff that fails to seek warrants and arrests' of "killer cops" SHOULD SUFFER FROM THE VOTERS... VOTE'EM ALL OUT... Seek office and replace them. If you do get elected and become one of them, watch your back, more than double is coming your way.

Like Reply

 **tazdelaney** Today 09:28 AM [in reply to Patriot One](#)

1 person liked this.

right you are... public officials including police should be held to a higher standard, not granted immunity.

to take that a step further... when a person murders someone; he should be taken out of being in a position to do so again. and... any organization, be it a government, religion or corporation... which murders a single person, must be held responsible and so charged. 3 strikes and they're outta there... overthrown, disarmed and demilitarized.

julius caesar said that any ruler who wants a war must be leading the front line or be a coward no soldier should fight for. now that's wisdom.

Like Reply

 **indi_progressive** Yesterday 07:35 PM [in reply to tazdelaney](#)

2 people liked this.

I'm not talking the tea party-- i want my fat white male America back -- I'm talking the America where we manufactured things, and we had a strong consumer middle class, where everyone had a job a car and a house and only one person had to work to maintain it and downtown looked nice, the buildings had marble and carved stone and wrought iron, , not ugly concrete boxes, bridges and highways were being built up, not falling down, people knew their neighbors, and we were passing progressive laws like civil rights, and strengthening social security and medicaid and medicare, Carter had solar panels on the whitehouse for the gods sake! 40 years ago EVERYTHING was better for ALL Americans, even minorities and the poor. At least there was actually a chance of working your way up into middle class then.

Like

Reply



tazdelaney Today 09:23 AM [in reply to indi_progressive](#)

okay, you make good points, but... there's an old saying found in several cultures long time running... 'ill-gotten gain comes to no good.' and killing 12-15 million indians to steal the country qualifies as 'ill-gotten.' in 1500, pure air, water, land, and the north american natives had largely known peace for ages.

i grew up in a horribly racist little mountain town in virginia. yes, neighbors knew each other and main street was cool. yes, one income sufficed, etc.

but the future we now live in was in the works then due, due to the lack of vision and the presence of sinister visions. the suburbs and unrestrained industrialization, the dinosaurs of auto and oil industries, etc. back in 1939, bucky fuller predicted that in our decade we would begin to feel freshwater depletion and sure enough, more than half the world is. his advice? make it the law that all new structures and industry included have water recycling to keep the freshwater for drinking and cooking, but nooooo.

in 1973, i wrote a paper in college as we were in teh midst of the first oil crisis. it wasn't rocket science. i said tax every gallon and new vehicle and set up a crash program like the moon project to develop alternative energies and transport. but dinosaurs, then as now, said, 'that will take too long... we have to stick with what we've got.' and that was 37 years ago. we could now be swimming in and exporting energy; flying around on the silver surfer's board?

as a white male, bastions of white male dominance are anathema to me. i've lived here on the upper east side of new york city for 25 years and unlike mall america, i have a real neighborhood. and it is black/red/yellow/white, jew/christian/moslem/hindu/atheist/agnostic/animist. i've got a 20 year old buddy and a 93 year old one. i miss the wild and wooly days of the late 1970s here, before AIDS and the intensification of the drug wars, though.

Like

Reply



Patriot One Yesterday 10:06 PM [in reply to indi_progressive](#)

indi, the same FEDERAL RESERVE BANK that made the illusion of all things good 40 years ago is the same FEDERAL RESERVE BANK that pays the POLICE OFFICER to beat the citizens to death.

Back then the FED and Gov fooled the white man. The Gov segregated the military, let the IRS attempt to beat Joe Louis (but Joe was strong).

How'bout it white man... If you let the black man be a slave you let all men (yourself) be a slave. And now your son's and grandson's, like the black man you left to suffer in the past, have become slaves.

I ain't letting you off on this black man. What has the 'Black Caucus' in DC done to stop the modern day Joe Louis styled IRS beatings? The BC in DC has done nothing, they too love power over mankind.

It's GOV v Mankind, SLAVERY v Freedom. It Ain't Black v White like we been told in the Gov schools.

Like

Reply



indi_progressive Today 05:04 AM [in reply to Patriot One](#)

Can you add dude?! JOE LOUIS??? Boxing champion from 1937-1949?????

Lets see 2010-40=.....1970???????

WTF is this Joe Louis shit???? Who said Blackvs. White, i never mentioned race in

any of this, its you making it a black and white thing!

I reiterate! this is not people vs. government, good government IS teh people. This is people vs. SOULLESS, IMMORTAL, TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS PERPETUALLY AND ENDLESSLY CONSUMING RESOURCES AND AMASSING WEALTH AT THE EXPENSE OR THE POOR AND MIDDLE-CLASS WITH NO LOYALTY OR ALLEGIANCE TO PERSON OR COUNTRY!!!!

Like Reply



Turnip Mcgee Yesterday 01:16 AM

8 people liked this.

]

The \$ should come the department. They want to act like independent contractors, then pay them like it. Take it out of their pay. That might put a little crack in the blue line.

Like Reply



texasaggie 07/03/2010 10:35 PM

3 people liked this.

the LAPD "apologized and instituted sweeping changes in its crowd control policies"

They seem to be doing a lot of this in the last ten years or so. When are they going to actually change their behavior?

Like Reply



shinyorbs 07/03/2010 09:31 PM

1 person liked this.

yeah and where are they gonna get that money from? Arnold's minimum wage fund?

Like Reply



texasaggie 07/03/2010 10:36 PM [in reply to shinyorbs](#)

8 people liked this.

I would take it out of police salaries and overtime. Given that this kind of behavior is endemic, that may be the only way to get their attention.

Like Reply



jonhogan 07/03/2010 08:40 PM

1 person liked this.

Good. Fuck the LAPigs D

Like Reply



MiddleAmericaLN 07/03/2010 08:24 PM

4 people liked this.

This is more common than we would like to think, the following is just the last 2.5 years:

Police Update - The militarization of law enforcement & the war on us...

<http://warupdates.weebly.com/police-update.html>

Like Reply




TMikel 07/03/2010 05:50 PM

3 people liked this.

This is what happens after years of considering our citizens the enemy. Police and other public servants are paid far less than doctors, athletes, and TV and movie stars. Our values system is warped. There would be enough wealth to go around and pay everyone decent wages if Wall Street and its ilk were not getting obscene salaries and bonuses. The current policy seems to be to tazer or bludgeon anyone who gets in the way. As the economy continues to tank and the depression deepen, tempers run shorter. The best bet is to stay home and pray for the best.


Like Reply

 **texasaggie** 07/03/2010 10:41 PM [in reply to TMikel](#)

6 people liked this.

It might also help to do a better job of psychological screening of police applicants. The present crop seems to be a collection of sadists and not just in LA either. Stories of this kind of behavior are well distributed over the North American continent, from tazing women at traffic stops to tazing wheelchair bound people, shooting people in the back when they are lying on the ground. It is to the point where these guys are Blackwater rejects.

Like Reply

 **MiddleAmericaLN** 07/03/2010 08:42 PM [in reply to TMikel](#)

2 people liked this.

See my comment below, its training & education, not a bigger paycheck. Do we get a better singer or athlete by throwing more money at them? And doctors get many years of training & education.

Throwing money at problems is not the solution. Using logic & critical thinking to solve problems is the solution.

And praying won't solve anything either.

Letting the Republican tax breaks for the wealthy expire & to ramp down their two wars to greatly help balance the budget, that would be real progress to ease tempers.

Side note, we're not in a depression, yet. Did you stand in a soup line to eat today?

Like Reply



hourglass1 07/03/2010 05:34 PM

4 people liked this.

police departments everywhere are behaving like this ... working class citizens are the new enemy of the police and those they truly "protect and serve" in the globalized economy ... LA can ill afford such court awards ... and the money must be extracted from the poorest among them ...

Like Reply



dennycrane 07/03/2010 05:33 PM

Just put it on arnie's credit card.

Like Reply



ericroded 07/03/2010 05:28 PM

They should probably offer higher salaries for public servants instead of paying so low that they wind up with the dregs of society in those jobs.

Like Reply



Democratic_Socialist 07/03/2010 05:34 PM [in reply to ericroded](#)

7 people liked this.

What they need is a VERY intense screening by a psychologist. There a more violent and despicable people in uniform than in the ranks of protesters.

Like Reply



RadicalCaveman 07/03/2010 10:12 PM [in reply to Democratic_Socialist](#)

2 people liked this.

What we really need is for society to abandon its semi-acceptance of police brutality. That would precipitate sweeping change, over time.

Like Reply



MiddleAmericaLN 07/03/2010 08:37 PM [in reply to Democratic_Socialist](#)

2 people liked this.

I agree, better screening, but I strongly believe that they need much better training/education as well as continuing education.

If we want better acting law enforcement officers, then they should have much, much better education before we are critical.

Unfortunately a bigger paycheck does not mean better quality officers, better education & training does.

True, with cut-backs we won't see anything like this for many years, but from what I can tell, there is no push for better quality officers.

They want simple ex-military right-wing grunt types & that's what we get.

Like Reply

Reactions



TurboKitty Today 12:07 PM

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LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally <http://ht.ly/27eni>



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LAPD Ordered to Pay \$1.7 Million to Reporters Beaten at Rally <http://bit.ly/d4YCvt>



siskanna Today 09:11 AM

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LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally | Raw Story <http://bit.ly/aC2xwH>



Adonaiman Today 09:09 AM

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

LAPD owes reporter \$1.7 million for beating her at immigration rally, and millions more for beating others ~ <http://bit.ly/d4YCvt>



rufuspolk Today 07:43 AM

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RT @Dxtrwxtr: LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally | Raw Story <http://bit.ly/aC2xwH>



Packard_Sonic Today 05:59 AM

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RT @RobMcNealy: LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally: <http://bit.ly/9l0vjF> #nwo #VoteMcNealy #policeabuse #copwatch



igeldard Today 05:38 AM

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally <http://bit.ly/aC2xwH>



chijim70 Yesterday 07:06 PM

From Digg via BackType

Ya that makes sense since I'm a 40 year old unemployed computer tech living in a po dunk town in southeast Florida. Any other randomly off the mark pointless insults you'd like to throw out there?

lynx55 Yesterday 04:04 PM

From Twitter via BackType

RT @RobMcNealy: LAPD ordered to pay \$1.7 million to reporters beaten at rally: <http://bit.ly/9l0vjF> #nwo #libertarian #policeabuse #copwatch

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