



Wisconsin city braces for third night of protests over police shooting of Black man

August 25, 2020



1. The governor of Wisconsin ordered National Guard troops to Kenosha on Monday (August 24), hours before police skirmished with protesters -- and cars were set on fire by demonstrators.
2. It was a second night of civil unrest after police wounded a 29-year-old Black man named Jacob Blake, who was shot in the back as his children looked on.
3. The protests add to the ongoing furor over racism and police brutality -- that has gripped the U.S. since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May.
4. Governor Tony Evers said he ordered state Guard troops to Kenosha at the request of local officials, to support law enforcement in maintaining order.
5. He also decried what he branded excessive force in the shooting of Jacob Blake, and called for lawmakers to consider police reforms.

"We also stand against excessive use of force and immediate escalation in engaging with Black Wisconsinites. I've said all along we must offer our empathy - we must see the trauma, fear and exhaustion of being Black in our state and our country."
6. Tensions first boiled over earlier on Monday afternoon when Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian sought to address scores of protesters outside the city's public safety building, demanding the arrest of officers involved in Blake's shooting.

7. Drowned out by the shouting, jeering crowd, the mayor ducked back into the building, and demonstrators tried to push their way through the entrance behind him, scuffling with police who struggled to block their way.
8. Moments later police in riot gear reportedly drove some demonstrators back by dousing them with pepper spray.
9. Demonstrations in Kenosha first erupted Sunday evening after police fired several shots at Blake, who appeared to be unarmed.
10. Blake's father told reporters on Monday that Blake was in stable condition following surgery.
11. The shooting occurred as officers were responding to what they termed a "domestic incident."
12. And according to a statement, police immediately took the victim to the hospital.
13. But authorities gave no further explanation of what led to the incident.
14. It was unknown whether the officers saw something inside the vehicle to justify deadly force.
15. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is investigating the incident, and said Monday the officers involved have been placed on administrative leave while the investigation is underway.