

Support grows for Baltimore protests as demonstrations spread across the U.S.

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PHOTO GALLERY



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From coast to coast, marchers are taking to the streets to support Baltimore protesters and complain that police brutality is a problem in their own towns.

The momentum seems to be building as the week goes on.

Demonstrations have unfolded in Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, New York, Washington, and Ferguson, Missouri. Protests are planned Thursday in Cincinnati and Philadelphia, according to CNN affiliate WXIX and Philly.com.

Demonstrations in Seattle; Portland, Oregon; and Oakland, California, are on tap for Friday, which is also May Day or International Workers Day — often used to call attention to issues affecting the working class and minorities.

In addition to Baltimore, protests took place in at least half a dozen cities Wednesday.

New York

Several hundred people streamed into Union Square for an “NYC Rise Up & Shut It Down With Baltimore” rally Wednesday night. Protesters were met by New York police officers who pushed them back.

A small scuffle broke out between the two front lines, and police put zip tie restraints on at least 20 people in the street. The New York Police Department also handed out fliers and used loudspeakers to tell protesters and pedestrians to stay on the sidewalk.

One person was placed in an ambulance and taken away. The crowd headed toward Times Square.

The NYPD told CNN that more than 100 people were arrested during the demonstrations.

The rally was organized through social media, much like protests over the killing of Eric Garner, who died in July in Staten Island while police held him in what appeared to be a chokehold.

The demonstrators chanted “Black Lives Matter” and “Justice for Freddie Gray” — the Baltimore man whose death sparked street confrontations in Baltimore.

CNN affiliate WCBS reported Mayor Bill de Blasio sent a message to the protesters: “I’d say that if you want to make change, keep things peaceful.” A smaller rally was held Tuesday in New York.

Washington

In the nation’s capital, about 500 protesters, mostly in their 20s, gathered and chanted, “All night, all day, we’re gonna fight for Freddie Gray.”

The mood seemed more festive than confrontational, with songs by Public Enemy like “Fight the Power” playing and sign-language interpreters translating the music and chants.

The protest moved to the White House, where most of the crowd dispersed. It started after most office workers had headed home and didn’t seriously disrupt the Washington workforce.

One of the groups involved in the protest is the DC Ferguson Movement. Organizer Eugene Puryear said the march was called to show solidarity with the residents in Baltimore and to highlight that police brutality is a national issue.

Minneapolis and Denver

Several hundred people gathered in Gold Medal Park in Minneapolis for a rally organized by the group #BlackLivesMatter. The Minneapolis group has held similar events in the past in response to what it says is police brutality across the country.

In Denver, marchers took to the streets in the city’s downtown area.

There was a minor scuffle and 11 people were arrested, according to police. Their charges included assault of a police officer, robbery, resisting police, disobedience to lawful orders, obstructing roadways and interference.

Ferguson

On Tuesday, violent protests took place in Ferguson, Missouri, where three people were shot, city police reported.

Police said they didn’t do the shooting. A 20-year-old man was arrested and the three victims were in stable condition — two with wounds to the neck, one in the leg, police said.

Police said about 300 people marched, with protesters throwing rocks at police, damaging four police cars and setting trash and debris on fire near the intersection of Northwinds Estates Drive and West Florissant Avenue.

Chicago

In the Windy City, hundreds of protesters marched Tuesday from police headquarters at 35th and Michigan through the Southside, CNN affiliate WGN reported. Police made one arrest, for reckless conduct.

WGN said protesters spoke about police violence and the death of Rekia Boyd, who was killed by an off-duty officer in 2012. That officer was acquitted last week.

Protests also were held in Boston and Houston.

By Ed Payne and Ralph Ellis

CNN’s Alexandra Field, Elizabeth Landers, Lorenzo Ferrigno and Suzanne Malveaux contributed to this report.

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