

Charges for journalists covering Standing Rock protests

CPJ is aware of at least ten journalists charged while covering protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota and Lee County, Iowa. Details of their cases and charges are listed below. CPJ confirmed details of the cases with the journalists, the Morton County Sheriff Department in North Dakota, and state public records.

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Christopher Schiano

Schiano, a journalist for the nonprofit media collective Unicorn Riot, faces a criminal trespass charge. Police arrested Schiano on September 13, 2016, when he was filming police arresting [activists who had locked themselves to construction equipment](#). He has pleaded not guilty, according to public records. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 days imprisonment and a \$1,500 fine.

Nicholas (Niko) Georgiades

Georgiades, a journalist for the nonprofit media collective Unicorn Riot, faces a charge of criminal trespass. Police arrested Georgiades on September 13, 2016, when he was filming police arresting [activists who had locked themselves to construction equipment](#). He has pleaded not guilty, according to public records. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 days imprisonment and a \$1,500 fine.

Sara LeFleur-Vetter

LeFleur-Vetter, a freelance filmmaker whose work has featured in *The Guardian*, faces charges of criminal trespass and engaging in a riot. Police arrested LeFleur-Vetter alongside more than 100 others while she was covering a prayer and march on October 22, 2016. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of 60 days imprisonment and \$3,000 fine. She has pleaded not guilty, according to public records.

Jihan Hafiz

Hafiz, a freelancer who has contributed to *The Intercept* and Al Jazeera, faces charges of criminal trespass and engaging in a riot. Police arrested Hafiz on October 22, 2016, alongside more than 100 others while she was covering a prayer and march on October 22, 2016. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of 60 days imprisonment and or a \$3,000 fine. She pleaded not guilty, according to public records.

Lorenzo Serna

Serna, a journalist for the nonprofit media collective Unicorn Riot, is charged with criminal trespass and engaging in a riot. Police arrested Serna on October 22, 2016 he was filming people crossing a field. He told CPJ that he showed his press pass and said that he didn't hear orders to disperse prior to being arrest. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 60 days imprisonment and, or a \$3,000 fine. He pleaded not guilty, according to public records.

Myron Dewey

Dewey, owner of Digital Smoke Signals, a website that includes news, videos, and forums, is charged with stalking for allegedly using a drone to film private security guards. Police charged Dewey on October 8. Dewey, who describes himself as an environmental justice filmmaker and journalist, told *Democracy Now!* that he turned himself after receiving a warrant. If convicted he faces a year imprisonment and a \$3,000 fine.

Jennifer Schreiter

Schreiter, a journalist for the nonprofit media collective Unicorn Riot, is charged with criminal trespass. She was arrested October 12, 2016 in Lee County Iowa, while filming civil disobedience. She told CPJ she denies the charge. If convicted she faces 30 days imprisonment and or a \$625 fine.

Adam Schrader

Schrader, a freelancer who contributes to the *New York Daily News* and other outlets, is charged with public nuisance and engaging in a riot. Police arrested him October 27, 2016 when he was filming clashes between police and protesters. An additional felony charge for conspiracy to endanger by fire was dropped. Schrader told CPJ he denies the charge. If convicted he faces 1 year and 30 days imprisonment and a \$4,500 fine.

Jenni Monet

Monet, a freelancer who has contributed to outlets including the Indian Country Media Network, *Yes!Magazine*, and PBS NewsHour, is charged with criminal trespass and engaging in a riot. Police arrested Monet February 1, 2017 when officers were clearing a camp. She told CPJ she denies the charge. If convicted she faces 60 days imprisonment and or a \$3,000 fine.

Jenifer Stum

Stum, a freelance journalist, is charged with criminal trespass and engaging in a riot. She was arrested January 16, 2017 while filming a protest on a bridge. If convicted, she faces 60 days imprisonment and a \$3,000 fine.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This post has been updated to clarify the maximum penalty for the charges.