

# Press freedom groups condemn arrests of journalists at Newark's Delaney Hall

June 5, 2026 — Authorities must dismiss charges against at least three journalists who were arrested on May 31 while covering protests outside Delaney Hall, a private immigration detention center in Newark, New Jersey, a coalition of press freedom groups said today.

The three reporters were arrested; one [said](#) he had been charged with felony rioting and resisting arrest. The arrests [occurred](#) when police used a crowd control technique called “kettling,” which involves encircling a group, preventing them from moving, after state police enforced a curfew. Journalists were exempt from the curfew, according to news reports.

Press reports also claim that several photojournalists covering protests outside Delaney Hall were purposely targeted for assault by ICE agents. The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker is investigating reports of journalists suffering at least three arrests, 38 assaults, and five incidents of equipment damage. There are also multiple allegations that law enforcement may have stolen or lost journalists’ equipment, potentially violating the federal Privacy Protection Act.

Protests outside Delaney Hall, New Jersey’s [largest](#) detention facility, have been ongoing for over a week following reports that detainees were on hunger and labor strikes to protest the poor conditions inside the facility.

A coalition of press freedom organizations — including the National Press Photographers Association, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, Free Press and the Committee to Protect Journalists— condemn these arrests in the strongest terms.

## STATEMENTS:

“These actions appear inconsistent with both the spirit and the substance of the New Jersey Attorney General Guidance on Police–Press Interactions During Protest Events,” said **National Press Photographers Association General Counsel Mickey H. Osterreicher**. “We also need clarity regarding how press exemptions will be applied during future curfews and crowd control operations, so journalists are not subjected to arbitrary decisions by law enforcement officers in the field.”

“Arresting reporters for covering protests is not law enforcement, it is the criminalization of the First Amendment. CPJ demands all charges be dropped immediately,” said **CPJ Americas Director Jose Zamora**. “This type of behavior has no place in a democracy.”

“We remain deeply troubled by the systemic law enforcement campaign to silence reporters who cover ICE’s gross mistreatment of immigrants,” said **Vanessa Maria Graber, Free Press’ senior director of journalism and media education**. “We will continue to fight for local and national journalists’ ability to cover their communities without fear of retaliation. These

unconstitutional arrests, while intended to chill coverage of these abuses, rarely stand up in a court of law.”

“Protesters were literally pleading for press to remain. Police had other ideas and kept trying to chase journalists away,” pointed out **Adam Rose, deputy director of advocacy for Freedom of the Press Foundation**. “Shockingly, at least three of those arrested ended up in the hospital. Do I really need to explain why press cameras needed to be rolling?”

“We’ve talked with journalists who have been pepper sprayed in the face and shot with less lethal munitions in the back. These are direct assaults targeting the press and have no place in any democracy, much less the home of the First Amendment,” said **Ben Grazda, Advocacy Manager for Reporters Without Borders North America**. “After 250 years, officials clearly know these attacks are unconstitutional repression typical of an authoritarian regime. Congress, the governor, and local officials must hold those responsible accountable for their actions.”

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National Press Photographers Association  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
Free Press  
Committee to Protect Journalists

American Society of Journalists and Authors  
Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ)  
The Deadline Club  
International Women’s Media Foundation  
Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE)  
National Press Club  
National Press Club Journalism Institute  
The New York Press Club  
The New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists  
PEN America  
Radio Television Digital News Association  
Reporters Without Borders (RSF)  
Society of Environmental Journalists  
Society of Professional Journalists