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Statement in Response to DOJ Designation of Three US Cities as “Anarchist Jurisdictions”

Fair and Just Prosecution Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement today in response to the US Department of Justice’s [designation](#) of New York City, Portland and Seattle as “Jurisdictions Permitting Violence And Destruction Of Property” for purposes of restricting federal funding, in accordance with [President Trump’s Sept. 2, 2020 memorandum](#):

“This designation is a chilling move and a dangerous pretext for continued attacks by the President on cities that are Democratic strongholds, coming weeks before the presidential election. Any attempt to unilaterally cut off federal funds to New York City, Portland and Seattle is unconscionable, illegal, and illustrates the extent to which the Trump Administration’s Department of Justice has abandoned all norms and political neutrality.

New York City, Portland and Seattle are safe and this nonsensical designation is based on blatant falsehoods. Prior to the COVID pandemic, cities across the United States were experiencing [historic lows](#) in violent crime. While the federal mismanagement of this pandemic has tragically caused [unemployment](#), desperation, [food insecurity](#), and death to sweep across the country, violent crime still remains [far below](#) the highs of the 1980’s and 1990’s. Indeed, more than [200,000 people](#) in the United States have died from COVID-19 in the last nine months, and that number is likely an undercount. On the other hand, in 2018, the last full year of available data, there were 16,214 homicides in the U.S. — less than 10 percent of the deaths [from a virus this President has largely ignored](#).

This outrageous action represents one more volley in the Trump Administration's continued unfounded attack on local leaders and communities challenging racial injustice and calling for a transformation of the criminal legal system. The overwhelmingly peaceful protests that have filled our streets in recent months are a reflection of the fact that Americans are yearning for justice and change - a fact [borne out](#) in the polls. We are also a country founded upon the First Amendment right to speak and assemble. Accordingly, and rightfully, many elected local prosecutors have stated that they will not press charges against peaceful protestors. These assaults on reform-minded district attorneys are not grounded in any public safety rationale, and instead are only the latest in the Trump Administration's [ongoing unfounded attacks](#) on elected prosecutors seeking to promote a more sensible, data-driven and community-supported vision of justice.”

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).