



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Department of Communication

January 6, 2021

**Statement of Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS,
regarding violence in Washington, D.C.**

I want to express my great concern following the political protests today which have turned violent in the nation's capital. America is a country of law and order, and I want to emphasize the word "order" at this time. Any protests must be lawful and orderly, and respectful of law enforcement personnel. I am saddened by the shocking events this afternoon, which are a wound on the soul of our country. Many people are suffering due to this troubling attack on the Capitol.

We have seen too much violence in the United States recently – political violence, racial violence -- and even the violence caused by the COVID-19 virus, which attacks the body. What we need at this point is peace; to think and have concern for the other. These are dire times.

Providentially, Pope Francis has called for a "culture of care" in his 2021 World Day of Peace message. "The culture of care ... calls for a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance," wrote the Holy Father.

I echo Pope Francis' call for peace. I pray that we find peace and reconciliation in our nation in the coming days, weeks, and months ahead. May Mary, our mother and the mother of God, unite our country and bring all her children together.

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