

Portland Police, DHS and ICE are misusing "less lethal" munitions against protesters and should not have access to these tools except in dire emergencies. Regulations are essential, because it is clear that under the duress of policing lawful protests, police officers lose track of all their training and indiscriminately use these chemical incapacitants, kinetic impact projectiles and sound devices when they are not necessary to keep the peace. There are clearly times when these munitions would be needed, like, say, against armed insurrectionists at the U.S. Capitol in D.C., or in Salem when white supremacists gained access to the locked building and threatened violence, or when white supremacists stormed the Michigan Capitol threatening violence against the governor. I think when a group is threatening violence and protesters outnumber the police, options are needed. But if police can't tell the difference between a group of lawful protesters throwing water bottles or shaking a fence, and a group of protesters threatening violence, they can't be trusted with those options.