

# US Military Force Against Civilian Protesters - A Moral Dilemma in Democracy

**\*\*Complete only after reading Plato's, The Apology.\*\***

**Objective:** To analyze the ethical, legal, and political tensions when a democratic government uses military force against protesting citizens. You will apply course concepts and *Plato's Apology* to examine what it means to dissent and be punished for it.

**Scenario:** A few weeks ago, in response to protests sparked by the Trump administration's immigration crackdown by ICE and Border agents, the President deployed the National Guard and military police to Los Angeles. Protesters included peaceful demonstrators and a small group of agitators who blocked a freeway, vandalized buildings, and threw debris at law enforcement. The government ordered an immediate crackdown. Tear gas, rubber bullets, and armored vehicles were used. Several protesters were hospitalized.

For complete background, Read: [What to Know About the Immigration Protests in Los Angeles?](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

New York Times. June 8, 2025 (not-paywalled).

**Answer both questions in no more than 150-200 words each. Also, you must reply to at least TWO of your classmates posts.**

1. In *The Apology*, Socrates is punished not for violence but for corrupting the youth and questioning authority. How should we understand dissent and civil disobedience in this light? Are today's protesters Socratic figures, or threats to the city?
2. What's the difference between maintaining "order" and enforcing "obedience"? Who gets to define the line—and how?