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Time to recognize those shop owners' lonely terror

Steve Bakke  February 14, 2021



Real emotion flows from the hearts of Senate and House members who were trapped and put in danger by thugs storming the Capitol in January. Their emotion is raw and real. One reaction that stands out was from Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), one of OAC's "Squad."

Pressley recalled being barricaded behind doors, feelings of terror, seeing Confederate flags, and resentment of white supremacy. She described it as feeling familiar in an "ancestral way." I'm not skeptical about what she was expressing.

However, I don't understand how Pressley and others could not, then or now, publicly empathize with victims of the looting, burning, and killing across 2020 America. Many political leaders encouraged that violence through word and deed. Thousands of buildings and homes were damaged or destroyed. Hundreds of government buildings were damaged - many burned down. Sadly, approximately 40 people lost their lives.

Pressley and supporters of 2020 terrorists should put themselves in the shoes of small shop owners in Minneapolis who guarded, day and night for days, their most valued possessions and their way of life. They too were terrified, just like Pressley and others. And absent police protection, I'm betting Minneapolis shop owners felt impossibly lonely and abandoned.