

Note: The following are excerpts from a statement from Amnesty International regarding an excessive and inappropriate tactic used by HPD law enforcement against residents at Sherwood Forest on September 26, 2019.

Ku Kia'i Sherwood Forest - Part 1: Good practice for law enforcement officials policing demonstrations

By Amnesty International Hawaii Chapter

Quote from Good practice for law enforcement officials policing demonstration document sent from Amnesty International to Governor Ige's attention on July 26, 2019:

“ALL governments and law enforcement authorities, in particular, must ensure that everyone within their territories can enjoy their human right to PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY and that the rights to live and to be free from torture and other ill-treatment are respected at all times. The UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials MUST BE the guiding principles underpinning all operations before, during and after demonstrations.”

In the morning of September 26, 2019, an HPD Law Enforcement Officer brought an LRAD 100X sonic weapon device and displayed it in front on Kia's who were gathered at the main entrance of Sherwood Forest in Waimanalo, Hawaii, in a peaceful and non-violent kapu aloha protocol assembly to protect the cutting down of the only coastal forest in Ko'olaupoko, which is located as a recognized national historical site. Adult and children kia'is were present... because they have deep ties to their forest's cultural, environmental, spiritual and historical significance. They wish to protect the bones of their kupunas, which are buried there. Allies were there in support as well.

Kia'is of Sherwood Forest and allies demand that Mayor Kirk Caldwell halts the construction of a parking facility at Sherwood Forest. The government of Hawaii did not consult with the people who oppose this construction and whose human rights may be impacted by the park project construction to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before approving the Environmental Assessment for this project.

Many people from the Waimanalo community and surrounding communities have expressed that they were left out of the critical stages of the required planning process for this park project...

Instead of facilitating and not restricting this peaceful and non-violent public assembly, avoid the use of force, and protect and respect Kia'is' human right to freedom of assembly, HPD law enforcement greeted Ki'ais with an LRAD 100X sonic weapon device... an HPD Law Enforcement Officer removed the LRAD 100X model device out of a black bag, lifted the LRAD 100x device from the ground with both his hands and walked toward the front line where HPD motorcycles and bicycles were parked while carrying the LRAD 100X sonic weapon device with both his hands. Then, the same HPD Law Enforcement Officer supported the LRAD 100X sonic weapon device about 4-5 feet off the ground on top of one of the HPD motorcycles parked less than 6 feet away from Kia'is of Sherwood Forest who were standing or sitting on the road entrance from Sherwood Forest main entrance.

Observers and members of the media were standing about 10-12 feet from the LRAD 100X sonic weapon device. Several children, including toddlers, were also present and playing less than 30 feet away from where the peaceful and non-violent assembly and demonstration took place yesterday.

Amnesty International Hawaii Chapter is alarmed with HPD law enforcement's choice of using an LRAD sonic weapon device for policing adult and children Kia'is who were assembled in a peaceful and non-violent protest. LRADs were created for military use as a sound weapon (known as sound cannon) and are purchased in large

quantities and used by the military... as an acoustic sound weapon to force compliance and also to inflict pain on people.

LRAD manufacturing marketing advertises that LRDA sonic weapon device is a “high intensity directional acoustic hailer” designed for use by “military personnel” ... “in the harshest military conditions” and “allow(ing) for near-instantaneous escalation across the force protection spectrum.”

Amnesty International has warned, when “used at close range, loud volume and/or excessive lengths of time, LRADs can pose serious health risks which range from temporary pain, loss of balance and eardrum rupture, to permanent hearing damage.”

In lower frequencies than humans can hear... LRAD sonic weapon device operates as what is known as infrasound... Infrasound could affect human hearing if very loud and could cause vertigo, vomiting or uncontrollable defecation if deployed very intensely. Ultrasound frequencies above 20,000Hz, or 20kHz, are also inaudible to humans but can damage the parts of the ear.

Other symptoms caused by LRAD sonic weapon devices include:

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Vomiting
- Bowel spasms
- Vertigo
- Permanent hearing loss
- Brain damage

We condemn the presence and use of LRAD sonic weapon device as a policing and security equipment to handle people who have protected rights to exercise peaceful public assembly and protest. LRAD sonic weapon device should never be used for the purpose of psychologically threatening or for dispersing a group of people.

We also condemn the use of LRAD sonic weapon device because it is an unnecessary use of force (in violation of the 14th amendment) against peaceful and non-violent protesters. The use of LRAD sonic weapon device can result in serious and permanent injuries on people, children, and animals who may be exposed to it.

Psychologically, the presence of an LRAD sonic weapon device against peaceful and non-violent protesters also impacts their ability to exercise their First Amendment rights, as its presence can and is used as a psychological tactic to force people to be afraid to assemble and protest for fear of suffering the physical and emotional harms that LRAD sonic weapon devices victims who are unnecessarily subjected and exposed to it suffer.