

Jan 6. Defendants Attempt to Cash In

Several Rioter's try to profit from the Capitol incident back on Jan.6

AP -Facing prison time and dire personal consequences for storming the U.S. Capitol, some Jan. 6 defendants are trying to profit from their participation in the deadly riot, using it as a platform to drum up cash, promote business endeavors and boost social media profiles.

A Nevada man jailed on riot charges asked his mother to contact publishers for a book he was writing about "the Capitol incident." A rioter from Washington State helped his father hawk clothes and other merchandise bearing slogans such as "Our House" and images of the Capitol building. A Virginia man released a rap album with riot-themed songs and a cover photograph of him sitting on a police vehicle outside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

A group calling itself the Patriot Freedom Project says it



Insurrectionists loyal to President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier (AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File)

has raised more than \$1 million in contributions and paid more than \$665,000 in grants and legal fees for families of Capitol riot defendants.

Those actions are sometimes complicating matters for defendants when they face judges at sentencing as prosecutors point

to the profit-chasing activities in seeking tougher punishments. The Justice Department, in some instances, is trying to claw back money that rioters have made off the insurrection.

Many rioters have paid a steep personal price for their actions on Jan. 6. At sentencing, riot-

ers often ask for leniency on the grounds that they already have experienced severe consequences for their crimes. A few rioters are writing books about the mob's attack or have marketed videos that they shot during the riot.

They lost jobs or entire careers. Marriages fell apart.

Friends and relatives shunned them or even reported them to the FBI. Strangers have sent them hate mail and online threats. And they have racked up expensive legal bills to defend themselves against federal charges ranging from misdemeanors to serious felonies.

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