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Third Arrest Made After Violence Erupts at Epping Protest Outside Migrant Hotel

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A third individual has been arrested following violent scenes outside a hotel in Essex that is being used to accommodate migrants. The incident, which began as a peaceful protest, escalated into disorder on Thursday evening, resulting in injuries to eight police officers and damage to property.

According to Essex Police, a 33-year-old man from Loughton was detained on Saturday on suspicion of violent disorder and criminal damage. He remains in custody as investigations continue. This marks the third arrest linked to the unrest, with two individuals previously

apprehended on Friday. Authorities are expected to pursue further legal actions as the situation unfolds.

The demonstration took place outside the Bell Hotel in Epping, a location that has seen repeated protests in recent weeks. Tensions flared after a foreign national staying at the hotel was charged with multiple counts of sexual assault. Tensions flared after a foreign national staying at the hotel was charged with three counts of sexual assault. The accused, 38-year-old Hadush Gerberslasie Kebatu from Ethiopia, has denied the charges and is set to face trial next month.

Thursday's event turned violent when rioters began throwing bottles, eggs, and flour, targeting both police and counter-protesters. A small group of anti-racism activists present was surrounded by demonstrators, many of whom wore masks. Riot police responded in full protective gear to control the scene, as clashes escalated and police vehicles were damaged.

In a related incident, Dean Walters, a 65-year-old from Harlow, was charged with affray following a protest held on July 13. He is expected to appear in court later this year. Another individual, arrested for breaching a dispersal order, has been released on conditional bail.

Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow of Essex Police condemned the violence, stating, "The events in Epping on Thursday were shocking and have no place in our neighborhoods. We understand the concerns of the local community and support everyone's right to peaceful protest."

He also addressed misinformation spreading online, clarifying that the police had acted impartially and enforced the law without bias. "We police without fear or favor," he added, emphasizing their legal duty to facilitate lawful demonstrations.

Assistant Chief Constable Stuart Hooper urged the public to avoid further protests outside the hotel, particularly those being coordinated via social media. Law enforcement continues to monitor the situation closely and has pledged to take firm action against any further disruption.

The Epping incident reflects a broader national conversation around public safety, community concerns, and the limits of lawful protest. As tensions continue to rise in areas

where local residents feel unheard, authorities are balancing the need to maintain order while ensuring democratic freedoms are respected.