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Federal Judge Restrains Los Angeles Police From Targeting Reporters

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A federal judge has temporarily prohibited the Los Angeles Police Department from using rubber bullets and other less-lethal weapons on journalists covering protests tied to former President Donald Trump's immigration policies. The decision reflects rising tensions between law enforcement and the press in politically charged demonstrations.

United States District Judge Hernán D. Vera issued the restraining order after evidence suggested Los Angeles Police Department officers had on multiple occasions deliberately fired at reporters who were identified as members of the press. According to court filings,

journalists wore visible press credentials when they were struck by projectiles during protests opposing Trump’s efforts to tighten immigration controls.

The lawsuit, brought by media advocacy groups and individual reporters, argued that such tactics infringe on constitutional protections, including the First Amendment right to gather news. While the Los Angeles Police Department has defended its crowd control measures as necessary to maintain public order, the court found a credible basis to conclude that officers targeted journalists without sufficient justification.

This ruling underscores growing concerns about government overreach when managing demonstrations. Many critics contend that limiting press freedom in the name of security sets a dangerous precedent, particularly when coverage involves controversial federal policies. The restraining order will remain in effect while the court considers a permanent injunction.

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