



**Please write or email or phone to support Andrea May Sahouri. You are welcome to copy and paste any of the suggested message.**

On the night of May 31, police in Iowa pepper sprayed, arrested, and detained Andrea Sahouri, a journalist with the *Des Moines Register*, while she was reporting on a Black Lives Matter protest. Even though Ms. Sahouri repeatedly announced that she was press and had an official press badge, police cuffed her in zip ties behind her back, and placed her in a police van. She was cited for failure to disperse and interference with official acts.

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John Sarcone – Polk County Iowa County Attorney

Polk County Attorney's Office  
222 Fifth Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone (515) 286-3737  
Email: [ctyatty@polkcountyiowa.gov](mailto:ctyatty@polkcountyiowa.gov)

Dear Mr. Sarcone:

I write to urge your office to take immediate action to dismiss all charges in State of Iowa v. Andrea M. Sahouri, SMAC 388817.

On the evening of May 31, 2020, Ms. Sahouri was covering a protest on assignment for the Des Moines Register. Despite identifying herself as a journalist, she was pepper sprayed, arrested, and detained for several hours.

To ensure freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, members of the media have a right to attend and report on peaceful assemblies, and law enforcement officials should not prevent or obstruct their work.

I urge you not move forward with the prosecution of Ms. Sahouri and to dismiss immediately all charges against her.

Sincerely,

Sample letter or email

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*(please let us know that you took action by clicking the box on [this form](#))*