

THE HOMELAND SECURITY ***NEWS BRIEFING***

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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TODAY'S EDITION

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San Francisco Train Stations Temporarily Shut Down Amid Protests.

San Francisco law enforcement and transit officials shut down four train stations and a section of busy Market Street yesterday amid protests about free speech and alleged police brutality, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Ganga, Romney) reports. "Market Street was choked with hundreds of pedestrians struggling to get home, stopping at each successive Bay Area Rapid Transit station entrance only to be turned away," the Times reports. "The stations were closed for about two hours during a demonstration against alleged BART police brutality and a decision by agency officials last week to cut underground cellphone service in an effort to quell an earlier protest." The protesters, who were rallied by the hacker group Anonymous, "were encouraged to wear 'blood-stained' shirts scrawled with 'Don't shoot, I'm unarmed' – a reference to a homeless man recently killed by a transit officer."

The [San Francisco \(CA\) Bay Citizen](#) (8/16, Glantz), meanwhile, reports the FCC said yesterday "that it's

investigating BART's decision to shut down cell service to thwart a protest planned for last Thursday." DHS spokesman Chris Ortman is quoted saying that, "contrary to some media reports," his department "was not involved in Bay Area Rapid Transit's...decision to temporarily suspend public access to cell phone service at some subway stations last week." Linton Johnson, a BART spokesman, defended the action, and "said that the cell phone companies are like tenants and 'part of their agreement was that during a safety sensitive or emergency situation we can turn off the service."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/16, Wood) calls the Anonymous-backed protest "a fresh parable in the mounting clash this summer between law enforcement and social media." Notes the Monitor, "Already this summer, law-enforcement officials in cities from Washington to Las Vegas have struggled to rein in 'flash robs' that involve mass robberies organized on Twitter or Facebook. Meanwhile in England, authorities are trying to unravel the role that social media played in fueling riots across the country."

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