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Video Shows Local Family Violently Arrested and Severely Injured for Living in Park

Forest Service Police Permanently Paralyze Disabled Family Member

Boise, ID | August 21, 2023 – Attorneys for Brooks Roberts announced today they have filed a lawsuit against U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for Brooks' violent arrest and injury while living in a camper in the Payette National Forest.

In May of this year, undercover U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management police officers arrested Judy, Timber, and Brooks Roberts, who had been living in the camper after their landlord evicted them and they couldn't find available space in shelters. A [claim](#) filed today by the Roberts' attorneys at Ferguson Durham, PLLC and the WREST Collective documents how Forest Service agents falsely claimed to need a jump start for their vehicle in order to draw Timber Roberts out of his RV. [Shocking body-cam video](#) shows the agents ambushed Timber and grabbed his broken arm, which was visibly in a brace. Hearing his brother shout and thinking he was being robbed, Brooks Roberts grabbed his gun and wheeled his wheelchair outside the RV. Without any warning or identifying themselves as police, agents fired multiple gunshots at Brooks, hitting him in the back and [knocking him into the mud](#). Forest Service police continued to fire on him even as he lay on the ground. Brooks has been hospitalized for more than two months and faces a lifetime of paralysis from the chest down and limited use of his right arm. The agents involved remain on duty.

Violent police interactions among people, particularly Black people, who have lost their housing are on the rise, and make it even harder for people to get back on their feet and into stable housing. This violent act did nothing to end the family's homelessness and proves that communities cannot solve homelessness through policing. The family is calling on the city of Boise to invest in housing and supportive services instead.

"I ended up with frostbite on my feet and they were amputated," said Judy Roberts. "I got social security disability, which they garnished for nonpayment of tickets for staying too long on forest land. We needed that money to get into an RV place. They should be using their resources to help people find a place to live instead of persecuting them."

"How can we get on our feet when you keep ticketing us to take away our money that we could have used for housing?" Brooks Roberts added. "It just makes the problems amplified. If the person is struggling to find a place and then they get arrested, then they really have trouble, because they don't have the ability to find a place when they're in jail."

Lawyers for the Roberts family urge the U.S. attorney's office in Boise to drop the charges against the family. The family continues to face homelessness as well as increased medical costs; donations for the family can be made at <https://gofund.me/e56466c5>

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