

## People Are Going Missing Living Homeless In America

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Who am I here with? My name is Jeremy, man. Jeremy, what are you doing out here today by the library? Uh, just kind of hanging out trying to see if I can find a friend of mine that I was hanging out with yesterday and we got separated and I haven't been able to find him or get a hold of him since yesterday. Not this time yesterday.

Jeremy, do you currently find yourself homeless? Yes. What led you out here on the street? Well, my housing situation didn't work out and I came to Austin to go to rehab and went through the rehab program and things just didn't work out in the time I needed them to. Can I see you without your glasses? Sure.

Just so because I see you have very beautiful eyes. Thank you. I think you can capture people with those.

So inevitably I ended up back out on the streets. Up until two weeks ago, I was clean for a year. I started using two weeks ago, but I'm not using real heavy.

I'm using here and there. Um, there's a lot of times when I'm out on the streets, I'll use to stay awake because I got your, I got your six. Yeah.

There's, there's certain situations you don't want to go to sleep in. Uh, right now with everything going on, dude, there's like people that we talk to that say or do the wrong thing the next day. And then you don't see them again.

They just go missing. Like their flyers are up down at the resource center down at sunrise navigation and their families are looking for them. And these people just disappear out of the blue off the streets and are never to be seen again.

Uh, last night me and my homeboy got into some shit and we had to split up and go our separate ways. Well, I haven't been able to see or get ahold of him since. And it's like hitting that miss.

I woke up this morning, he has some text messages from him. So I'll hold ass down here and now I can't get ahold of him at all. So I'm going to constantly be on the lookout out here.

Yes. Or you've got to have a group of friends that are willing to look out for you. And really out here, it's a pretty cutthroat situation, man.

Uh, like this area is probably the safest area in all of downtown. And that's a lot to be said when just the other night while we were sitting up here, uh, sleeping, a dude got murdered right over there by that bush. How many nights ago? Uh, two nights ago.

For what? We're not sure what he got murdered for. We heard it was over drugs, but then I shot stabs. And it was this bush right here.

Yeah. That bush right there. That green bush right there out of a million green bush.

Yep. Someone lost their life. Yes.

Why is the tension so high in Austin right now? Um, well, part of it is because the mayor of the city is trying to read re gentrification for downtown, which oddly enough, they didn't want us in, like, they didn't want the homeless people in the, in the population of like spread out through Austin. So they tried to group all the resources and everything downtown. Like if you go out to South Austin and stuff and you're homeless, there is no water access anywhere else.

All your water fountains and everything are downtown. All the food, all our resources are downtown. Now they don't want us here either.

So two days ago, when I decided to leave downtown at daybreak, two days ago, they brought in APD and, and state troopers on bikes and woke everybody up. And pretty much it was like Nazi enrollment of the pole locks. They took us down to Republic square and told us they'd give us resources.

Then they told us their resources are full while they stood there and made a stand beside our stuff and took our stuff and put it in a trash compactor. And then when we asked, well, what the hell are we supposed to do? Where the hell are we supposed to go? They told us they don't care. They changed the law into the first time you're caught sleeping or resting or sitting for more than four hours in a city spot in a public place.

It's a warning. The second time's a ticket. The third time they're taking you to county jail.

So, I mean, they've made it illegal to be homeless without saying it's illegal to be when they do. When did they do that? This started two days ago. So that's the big transition.

And they did. They, so they took a bunch of homeless people, collected them. So word gets out on the street.

Yeah. And a couple of my friends are missing right now. There's a dude that used to hang out up here with us.

His name's Felix. Real good guy. Never hurt.

Bothered. Nobody. Dude.

Big red, huh? Big red. Nah, young dude. We call him legend, bro.

But we haven't seen him in two days. And you think that's due to him getting snatched up by the government? I do believe so. And then you see these black SUVs driving everywhere.

They sit here all night long and watch us and shit. So what is this in correspondence to? We don't know. We don't know, dude.

They give us food and a lot of people get sick from the food and shit. They're saying there's stuff in it. And you see Republic Square's all got that, all that construction right there.

And now, like, it's weird. All, they took all the drug dealers out of Republic Square, but you can tell there's certain dudes they allowed to be there to peddle certain drugs. And the people that are getting them drugs are way fucked up.

Like bad, like out of their fucking mind, fucked up, hurting themselves, fucking trying to hurt other people, uh, laying down here underneath the bridge, dying, disappearing. So some drugs that are trying to get rid of people. And this is wow.

I mean, this is groundbreaking news, guys. I'm going to be honest with you. What he's saying is very real.

I've been doing this homeless coverage for a long time. As you guys know, for the last two months, I've been out here in the trenches with these, with these, you know, fine people. And what I've seen in real time is it's almost like a buildup, a buildup.

And then all of a sudden the tension's high and then the bubble just like popped. And people are, and like I said, I've seen people out here that lurk the same thing every day that are gone. And I can't, I don't know where they're at.

You don't know where they've been, you know, it's almost like they never existed and they're just disappearing. And then you get people dude that will be gone for two or three days and they'll come back and they'll start acting different and they won't. And we'll be like, well, where the hell were you? What were you doing? And they don't want to tell you.

They don't want to tell you. So I don't know what they're doing or what the reasoning is behind it, but it's the same reason why like. How are you going to move different out here now? How do I move different? Well, number one, I don't accept like food and water from most of these people out on the streets.

Like I go get my own shit. I'm self-sufficient that way. The drugs I get, I know a dude down in South Austin.

I go away from here to get drugs. So like, I don't do the drugs that everybody else does. I go elsewhere to get drugs, but I've noticed all the drugs in downtown, even if it's people that trust each other, man, they're giving them fucked up drugs and it's doing something weird to everybody, especially these guys that are on methamphetamines.

Like I've never seen people act like this, doing methamphetamines in my life. Ever. How long have you been on the streets for? Here? Altogether about three months.

I've been in Austin a little over the year, but I've been out on the streets for the last three years of my life. I was in Amarillo, Texas before this, and Amarillo has none of these problems. It's nothing like this.

You're just homeless. And if you're a drug addict, you're a drug addict. You're sitting on the street doing drugs.

There ain't nowhere for you to go or nothing for you to do. Here, there's a land of opportunity and what is it? There's over 6,000 homeless people in Austin. There's more than that.

Okay. Well, right now there's at least 225 people on the bulletin board up at Sunrise Navigation Church that have just disappeared. Where'd they go? If you're out on the streets, dude, you're going to run into somebody that knows you that's going to tell somebody, hey, so-and-so is looking for you.

These people have just completely disappeared and nobody can tell us why or where they're at. Is that due to the current administration? Just tell me what you think. Just tell me what you think.

I think so. Okay. I honestly believe so.

And what would be the presence or the purpose, excuse me, the purpose of them taking these homeless people out of the inner cities? I mean, to me, if you read the thing that they're calling this new initiative is called the Hill Initiative and that's what went into effect. And if you read it and stuff, it's displacing of people that have already been displaced. The whole concept of displacing us out of downtown is that more people will want to come to downtown if it doesn't have a bunch of homeless people hanging out in it.

Well, you've taken everything else away from us, dude. We had encampments and shit that we could have, and they shut them all down one by one and drove us into downtown Austin. Now they're going to drive us out.

Well, where are you going to drive us out to? Yeah. You guys used to camp. There's nowhere else for us to go.

This is in real time. And I'm trying to fact check you a little bit, but everything you're saying is spot on to what I've been experiencing. So man, where does this end up? The sad thing is, is I don't think- I mean, that guy, is that an example of what you're talking about right there? This dude walking right here? Yeah.

Oh yeah, dude. That dude's been out here for a hot minute. I know.

I've interviewed him before. Yeah. He's been out here for a minute, dude, but I run with some people that have been out here for a minute.

And you know, it's easy to say, dude, that most of these people have mental health problems or

were drug addicts or whatever. But you got to think, me and the dude I run with were in rehab, bro. And we decided, you know, I completed the program and it was time for me to leave.

He got halfway through it and decided that was enough sobriety time. That's what he needed. So unfortunately, things didn't work out the way we thought they were.

We ended up out on the streets. We watch each other's back. We camped together and shit.

So what happens if you and me go ask the security guard, why are people disappearing? They ain't going to tell you nothing, bro. That's just like last night. I tried to get a cop to help me and he told me that's not what I'm here for and walked off from me.

Gotcha. So I know some pretty people, some people pretty high up in that regard. I'm going to ask them and see what's going on.

Get to the bottom of this because this is insane. And it's moving quick. Yes.

Yes. And it's every day. And it's not even televised.

Right. And underground news, guys. Underground news.

This is what you get when you have underground news. Nobody's saying nothing. And this Hill initiative that Austin passed, dude, nobody said nothing about it until after it passed.

Then they released the criteria for it. And if you go read it, it's pretty sickening. It really is.

It's re-genderification of Austin and wanting to eradicate the homeless. Wow. Eradicate the homeless.

Yeah. So this title is going to be people are disappearing in quotations, eradicate the homeless. And at the same time, dude, you can come up here, like after this library closes at eight o'clock, all these benches and stuff is where a lot of us hang out.

But there's four of us. I've always hung out together and we're either either on those benches right there or over by the door, dude. And we watch people pull up and get into these SUVs and stuff that hang around here at night and they leave and they never come back.

Are you scared? Am I scared? A little, man. To be honest, yeah. Because you never know what they're going to do.

Am I going to live my life any differently than I live it? No. But like I said, I've got people that hang out with me that I trust and we watch our backs. I don't sleep by myself.

If I'm by myself, then I just have to stay awake that night with or without drugs. If I'm not somewhere where I know the people around me or at least hung out. You look paranoid to me, man.

You keep watching your back. I am paranoid. You know, I am paranoid.

APD and shit, dude, like they show up out of nowhere and they're liable to do anything to take you to jail. They're arresting people for nothing. But you haven't committed one of these things that you're talking about, which is you're camping somewhere four hours, you put in a tent.

No, I don't have a tent anymore. The city took that from me. When I do rest at night, I rest in wooded areas with other people.

So you're camping out here too? I stay in well-lit public areas when I do have to rest or when I do sleep. And when I do sleep, it's normally between six and 10 a.m. You know, I visit some of the mega camps out here on the outskirts of Austin, you know, 100 people camps. Sure.

What's going to happen to those camps? The plan is, is they're eventually going to go into the woods and start clearing them out. As far as I know, in South Austin, they already have. I met some people last night down at the transit center.

I remember they threw out, they took an entire 50 person homeless camp out of the back of the home Depot. Yes. I met some people that came from Oak Hill last night down at the transit center that had everything that they could salvage with them.

They were just carrying it around. And they told me they'd been out in the woods for years and they didn't know where to go or what they were going to do. But the city came out there and demolished everything, just like cleared them out.

So it's happening. I mean, which I don't understand if they're in the woods, they should just leave them alone, dude. They don't want us out on the street in the public eye, but what's going to happen when you clear everybody out of the woods, where are they expecting them to go? But the tensions are very high when you get down into Republic Square and stuff.

I was just there. In the mornings. And when they feed, it gets very, very high.

And it feels like any worse than any prison riot I've ever been through. Man, that's incredible. What's the worst part about it is when they started this initiative, they took some of these guys, put some of these yellow vests on them that were us, that were sitting here being homeless with us.

And now they've got clipboards and pins and they're coming up, asking us questions and telling us where the fuck to go. Why that shit ain't working either. It doesn't work when you just sit here being homeless with me.

And now you're going to tell me how to be homeless. Nah. But yeah, it's getting ugly out here, man.

I don't even know where to go after this, man. I think this whole video should just be about disappearing people. If you want to see it in action, come hang around this area, especially

Sehome around eight, nine o'clock at night.

So I'll see you here tonight at 8pm. It goes on all night long and you can hear people screaming like they're being tortured and all different sorts of shit. Well, here's what's going to happen.

I'm going to be here at 8pm with this phone camera and we're going to document this. Where are you going to be at for the next four or five hours? For the next few hours, man, I'm going to be around just gathering up supplies. Sniping? Yeah.

Got you. Doing what I can do. Gotta try to find my homeboy, bro.

Gotta try to find my homeboy. Well, let me let me let you go then, man. And then I'll meet you here back tonight.

All right. Sounds good, bro.

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