

ACLU Utah against hate crime enhancement in case of crumpled police-support in Panguitch

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<https://kutv.com/news/local/aclu-against-hate-crime-enhancement-in-case-of-crumpled-police-support-sign-in-utah>

FILE -- The ACLU of Utah says it is "extremely troubled" by the decision of Utah's Garfield County Attorney's Office to add a hate crime enhancement against a woman who stomped on a sign backing police officers who police said "crumbled it in a destructive manner." (FILE photo: KUTV)

(KUTV) — The ACLU of Utah says it is "extremely troubled" by the decision of Utah's Garfield County Attorney's Office to add a hate crime enhancement against a woman who stomped on a sign backing police officers who police said "crumbled it in a destructive manner."

A police officer alleges in probable cause documents that the woman was "smirking in an intimidating manner" toward him while she crumpled the sign.

"This kind of charging decision sends an extremely chilling message to the community that the government will seek harsher punishments for people charged with crimes who disagree with police actions," the ACLU said in its statement. "This concern is even greater because we do not view the enhancement as supportable under the language of the statute."

