

Martial Law Preparedness Guide

1. Protecting Your Rights and Safety

Martial law replaces civilian law enforcement with military authority, possibly imposing curfews, restricted movement, and limits on rights—often with little warning.

Understanding what it entails can help you protect your safety, home, and freedoms.

2. Possible Signs of Martial Law

- ☐ Widespread protests or riots in multiple cities
- ☐ Increasingly violent civilian-law enforcement clashes
- ☐ National Guard or police deployed broadly
- ☐ City/state governments unable to maintain order
- ☐ Emergency powers bypassing standard checks
- ☐ Delayed or suspended court operations
- ☐ Major disasters or cyberattacks overwhelming services
- ☐ Infrastructure failure (power, transport, etc.)
- ☐ Military presence in civilian areas without clear cause
- ☐ Checkpoints near strategic sites (bridges, gov buildings)
- ☐ Unmarked military/government vehicles in urban areas
- ☐ Sudden curfews or travel restrictions
- ☐ Expanded military authority via new laws
- ☐ Suspension of rights without transparent explanation
- ☐ Messaging around 'temporary suspension of freedoms'
- ☐ Government announcements urging 'cooperation with authorities'
- ☐ Increased censorship of media or social platforms
- ☐ Website or service shutdowns labeled for 'security reasons'
- ☐ New visitor controls or ID requirements at public facilities

3. Steps to Take If You See 3+ Signs of Martial Law

- ☐ Know your rights: Research now—especially around searches, detention, and movement. Keep a printed reference handy.
- ☐ Top off supplies discretely: 2–4 weeks of food and water, refill medications, and secure fuel reserves.
- ☐ Secure documents: IDs, passports, deeds, medical records, pet records. Store in waterproof, fireproof containers. Make both physical and encrypted digital copies.
- ☐ Strengthen your communication plan: Establish primary and backup methods (cell, text, radio, Zello). Set meeting points and only share plans with trusted contacts.
- ☐ Handle finances: Withdraw small-bill cash; complete urgent payments in case banking is disrupted.
- ☐ Reduce your profile: Avoid publicizing your plans or supplies. Keep movements discreet.
- ☐ Stay informed but cautious: Follow multiple credible news sources and official channels. Steer clear of rumors.
- ☐ Prepare for lockdown: Check locks, lighting, security cameras. Stage quick-access flashlights, batteries, offline entertainment, and comfort items.

4. Once Martial Law is Declared

- ☐ Always carry ID: Keep a government-issued ID on you in a waterproof sleeve; store backups with trusted people.
- ☐ Blend in: Dress plainly, use nondescript bags, and have a simple 'cover story' for necessary movement.
- ☐ Train household response: Keep interactions calm. Use minimal dialogue ('I don't know' if unsure), avoid political talk in public, and document questionable incidents privately.
- ☐ Secure home & supplies: Lock, conceal valuables, spread supplies around the house, and keep cash hidden in multiple spots.
- ☐ Control what you share: Never post details about your location, supplies, or plans. Discuss preparedness only with trusted individuals. Assume communications may be monitored.
- ☐ Have an exit or shelter plan ready: Identify safe alternate locations, routes, and keep a physical map and go-bag with essentials.

5. Practice Information Control

- ☐ Keep TV, radio, and conversations away from open windows.
- ☐ Assume sound travels farther in otherwise quiet zones.
- ☐ Use indoor-safe cooking options (alcohol burners, solar ovens) if needed.