

# Online Radicalization & Offline Violence

How offline violence builds in the online space

April 2021





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### Introduction

Life is increasingly happening through the medium of the screen. Social, commercial and political interactions have found vibrant virtual alternatives, as the digital world seamlessly augments the physical world. This evolution has led to a 2020 report which found that the average American adult in 2019 spent around three and a half hours per day using screens. This is in addition to the time spent watching television or working.

At the same time, the online ecosystem is increasingly becoming more radical as more niche groups have found a space to express themselves online. While tech companies seek to keep their platforms as safe as possible, hate continues to flourish and spread online. The consequences can be deadly.

Research into the process of online radicalization suggests that the online space is creating echo chambers of political thought. Freed from opposing thoughts, users can encourage each other, normalizing, and amplifying radical sentiments, which can lead to offline violence. The results are the murder of eight at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis (on April 15th 2021), and of twenty-three at the Walmart in El-Paso Texas (August 2nd, 2019). Both events were perpetrated by disturbed, radicalized white supremacists.

This report will examine how online platforms of all types, from social networks, finance, gaming, and e-commerce platforms, are being used by white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups to promote hate, and empower the radicalization of individuals. In addition, we will look into the online reactions to recent acts of offline violence, including recent police brutality and mass shootings against minorities, examining how these radical actors react to realtime violence to feed their nihilistic communities.



## Online Radicalization

While the precise definition of radicalization is widely debated, most experts agree that it is a process by which an individual is socialized into an extremist way of thinking, which can culminate in acts of violence. The online space offers an easily accessible, yet often concealed location for this dangerous process to occur, unchecked.

### Amplification Of Racist Thought

Extremist communities promote racist thought online through the dissemination of racist literature. These activities are particularly concerning as many of these texts, specifically manifestos, contain not only calls and justification for violence, but also detailed instructions for its perpetration.

### Dylann Roof Journal on Scribd

Dylann Roof is a white supremacist who murdered nine Black Americans at a church in Charleston on June 17th 2015, hoping that his actions would spark a race war in the US. Writing on his website lastrhodesian.com, Roof set out his motives for his attack, after he had self-radicalized online in his research about the killing of Trayvonn Martin by George Zimmerman in 2012. In his manifesto Roof explains that he wanted to take the talk from the internet into the real world,

***“I have no choice. I am not in the position to, alone, go into the ghetto and fight. I chose Charleston because it is the most historic city in my state, and at one time had the highest ratio of blacks to Whites in the country. We have no skinheads, no real KKK, no one doing anything but talking on the internet. Well someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me”***

**Excerpt from Dylann Roof’s Manifesto published on lastrhodesian.com**

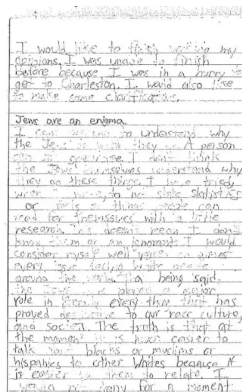
Following this attack, and awaiting trial, Roof kept a journal, which takes the form of racist rants against Jews, homosexuals and other minorities, and proclaims the superiority of the white race. While Roof was sentenced to nine consecutive life sentences without parole, he remains a symbol for white supremacists around the world.

ActiveFence has identified downloadable copies of Roof’s journal, available on Scribd. Accessed via links from dedicated 4Chan forums, the journals serve as a source of inspiration and admiration for white supremacists around the world. These writings are incredibly dangerous, as they have already inspired a number of copycat attacks, the most famous of which was the 2019 Christchurch Massacre.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The 2019 Christchurch Massacre was a killing spree perpetrated against a mosque and Islamic center in New Zealand. It resulted in 51 dead and 40 murdered. The massacre inspired additional attacks in 2019 against a synagogue in Poway, California (killing one person), a shooting at a Walmart in El Paso Texas (killing 23 people), an attempted attack on a mosque in Norway, and an attack on a Synagogue in Germany during the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur.





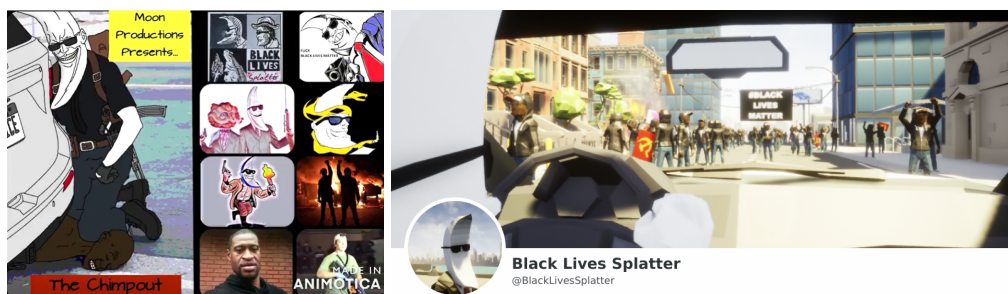
Images from Roof's journal, uploaded to Scribd. [Left] neo-Nazi symbology, [Right] A page of text

## MoonMan Music

An additional way that racism is promoted online is through music that is created by racist content creators.

An example of such a creator is **MoonMan**, an anonymous rapper and hip hop producer. MoonMan advocates racism, white supremacy, antisemitism, and neo-Nazism. Through the songs produced, he calls for acts of terrorism, the launching of a race war, and genocide. The musician is popular and is shared by white supremacists worldwide. In 2019, MoonMan produced a song called "**Take me to Church**", in honor of Dylann Roof, and in 2021 released 'Black Lives Splatter', which incites and glorifies violence against Black protestors in the US. This track is uploaded to and shared from MediaFire's file sharing platform. The lyrics encourage listeners to run down protestors from the Black Lives Matter protests. Lyrics featured in the song include the lines: *"Flying down the freeway, one hundred and five miles per hour. Engine equipped with well over a hundred horsepower. Heading straight towards the crowd who are chanting Black Lives Matter, The impact's going to hit hard n-- Black Lives Splatter."*

Inspired by MoonMan's racist song, is a forthcoming racist game of the same name. This further primes its audience for real-world violence. Just as MoonMan urges his supporters to strike out at Black protestors in song, these racist game developers are creating a first person game, where the player is prompted to rundown, maim, and kill BLM protestors, Jews, and Arabs. Physical violence is being normalized in the digital space.





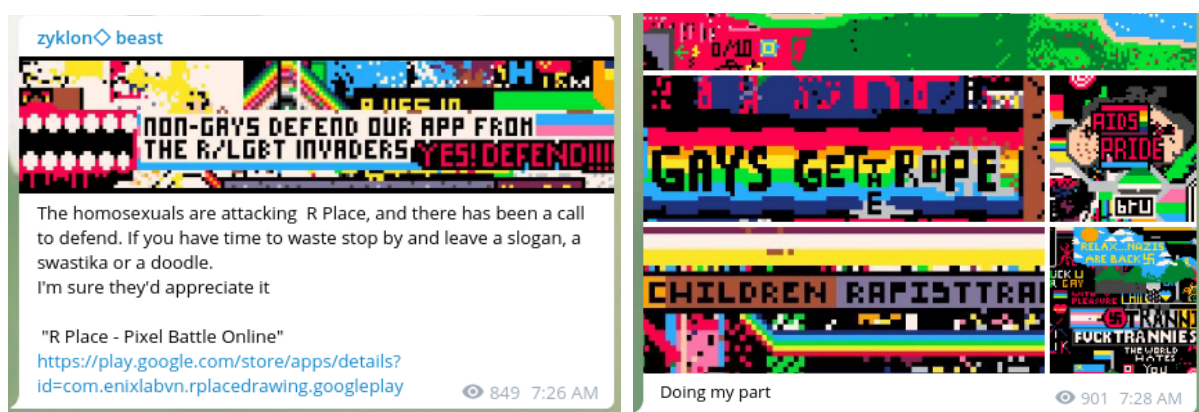
## Homophobia and Racism in Online Gaming

It has long been known that online gaming platforms are targeted with homophobia, racism, violence, and other unwanted activities.<sup>2</sup> While gaming platforms have vowed to curb this abusive and toxic behaviour,<sup>3</sup> platforms remain as vectors for the distribution of racist and homophobic content, and the radicalization of individuals.

### Coordinated Extremist Activities: R Place - Pixel Battle

A common behavior amongst far-right extremists is to use off-platform entities to coordinate activities on online gaming platforms. These actions often include hate speech directed at other users, both on the games' specific chat-features and on external platforms.

In the following example found in neo-Nazi sources, users ask other members to promote and “defend” their ideology using **R Place - Pixel Battle**, a collaborative and competitive drawing game. In the example below, neo-Nazi activists are shown sharing screenshots of their homophobic abuse left on the platform to target LGBTQ users, such as “Gays get the rope”, “AIDS Pride”, and “Fuck Trannies”. These users also shared the link to this mobile app on Google Play<sup>4</sup> to encourage greater participation.



Users promoting extremist ideologies on R Place - Pixel Battle

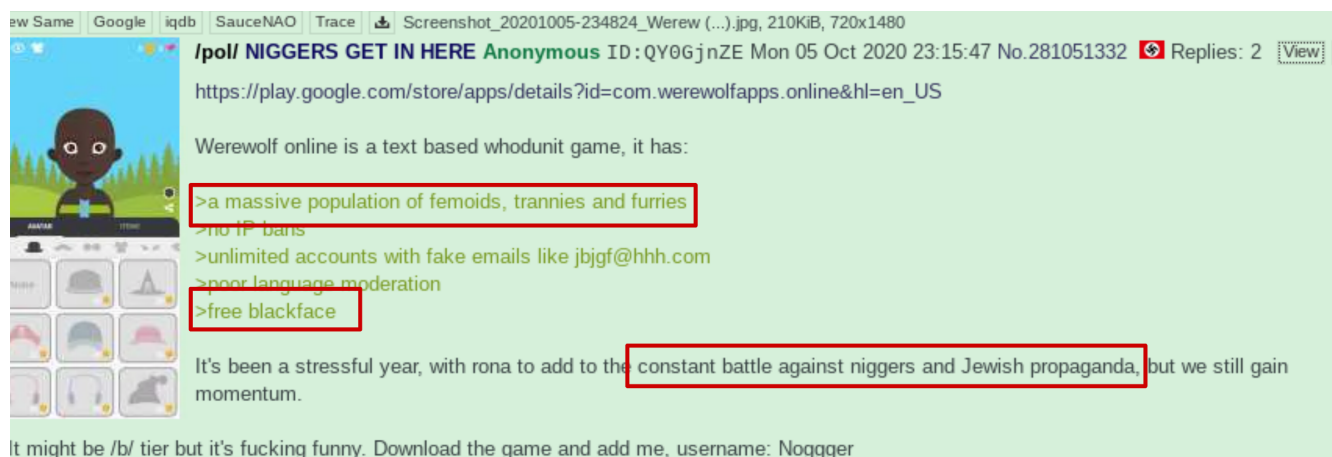
<sup>2</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/02/26/racism-misogyny-death-threats-why-cant-booming-video-game-industry-curb-toxicity/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/video-games/2020/06/16/video-game-companies-vow-fight-racism-their-communities-offer-few-details/> <https://www.vg247.com/2018/03/05/rainbow-six-siege-chat-toxicity-ban/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.enixlabvn.rplacedrawing.googleplay>



In another example, a thread in a neo-Nazi source encourages users to download the Wolvesville - Werewolf Online<sup>5</sup> game in their battle against “n--s and Jewish propaganda.” The game is promoted for its minimal moderation, the fact that it allows for the creation of unlimited accounts with fake emails, and the existence of “free blackface”.



Screenshot from an alt-right forum promoting the game's misuse

## Neo-Nazi Gameplay

Another way that white supremacist groups use gaming platforms is by identifying games that can be used to promote their ideologies and act out their fantasies. This type of behavior is particularly concerning, as games provide immersive experiences, where extreme ideologies can be normalized by repetitive thematic exposure.

In these examples from a gaming thread on a neo-Nazi forum, users share their racist opinions and recommend games which include large numbers of white protagonists.



Users in neo-Nazi forums share recommendations for the games Xcom 2 and Total War: WARHAMMER II due to their racial representations

<sup>5</sup> <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.werewolfapps.online>



In a similar example from a forum affiliated with the alt-right, users share racist comments while playing **GTA San Andreas**. They explain that they enjoy killing the protagonist due to his ethnicity, and use offensive language while playing the game.

143KiB, 360x450, CJ-GTASA.png

View Same

Google

iqdb

SauceNAO

Trace

Report

Anonymous ID: 50Voh3/a Sat 27 Jun 2020 00:48:29 No.265050806 [56 / 6 / 37]

View Reply Original Report

Quoted By: >>265050950 >>265051081 >>265051237 >>265051510 >>265051513 >>265051730 >>265052904 >>265053191 >>265053450 >>265053493 >>265053994 >>265054459 >>265055066 >>265055912 >>265056335 >>265056873 >>265057214 >>265058665

I remember when GTA San Andreas came and guys at Stormfront were whining that the protagonist is black ahahaha. I can't believe people like this actually exist, it's not like it was some SJW pandering either with some model minority or magical negro theme.

Anonymous ID: oNb f4xxX Sat 27 Jun 2020 00:49:43 No.265050950 Report

Quoted By: >>265051748

>>265050806

No one wants to be Jogger. Not even Joggers.

Anonymous ID: A108Ytj0 Sat 27 Jun 2020 01:21:09 No.265055066 Report

>>265050806

Its just the fact everyone is sick and tired of NIGGERS being pushed down our cultural throat.

Racist GTA-related posts in a messaging forum White Pride Gaming



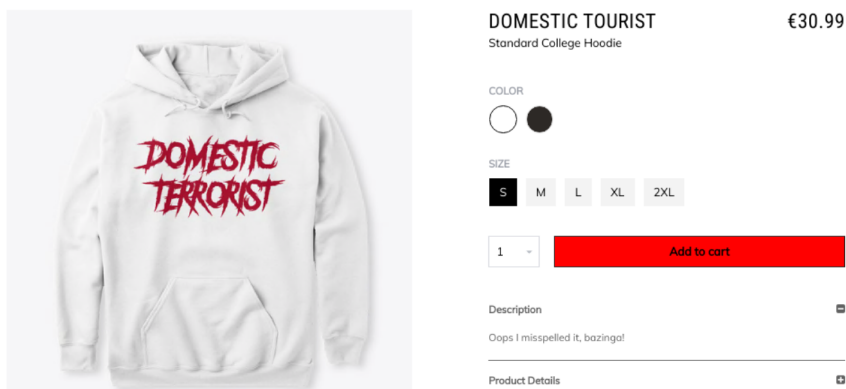
## Racist Merchandise

In the migration from online to offline activities, many neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups turn to e-commerce platforms to sell apparel and other merchandise affiliated with their beliefs. The following are examples of this behavior.

### Racist Apparel

Multiple neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups use e-commerce platforms to sell apparel that allows its wearer to visibly show their group affiliation. For example, the Resistance Apparel shop on **Teespring** promotes apparel and accessories brandishing symbols, messages and images that are identified with neo-Nazis. These include the Black Sun<sup>6</sup>, pictures of known neo-Nazis, and threatening messages that may suggest incitement to violence.

In the below example, the item's image shows a sweatshirt clearly featuring the text "Domestic Terrorist." In an apparent effort to avoid detection, the item is listed as "Domestic Tourist," alluding to the intentional misspelling in the description.



*"Description: Oops I misspelled it, bazinga!"*

<sup>6</sup> Black Sun (Sun Wheel) is a pagan symbol that was used by the Nazi regime. For example, In Heinrich Himmler's Wewelsburg castle there was a sun wheel mosaic in one of the main rooms. This symbol is regarded as a mystic energy source and it was later adopted by neo-Nazi pagans.  
<http://www.radicalrightanalysis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CARR-A-Guide-to-Online-Radical-Right-Symbols-Slogan-and-Slurs.pdf>





The shop also features items printed with images of well-known neo-Nazi personas such as National Socialist Black Metal musician, Kristian Vikernes, AKA Varg Vikernes,<sup>7</sup> and John Metzger, the son of Tom Metzger, founder of the White Aryan Resistance. Metzger is referred to as an “American Hero.”



[LEFT] “Varg” t-shirt, the description alludes to his crimes - “Varg looking proud of himself” [RIGHT] Description: “American Hero, John Metzger”

Other shops, like the **Wretched West Teespring** shop, also promote T-shirts featuring images of neo-Nazis, including James Nolan Mason<sup>8</sup> alongside the phrase “voting will not remove them”, which can be interpreted as advocating for political violence. The group also uses the word “siege” which can be considered inoffensive, when taken out of context.



Merchandise offered by the Wretched West shop, text makes no obvious references to neo-Nazi culture

<sup>7</sup> Varg Vikernes is a controversial Norwegian musician who pioneered the National Socialist Black metal scene in Scandinavia in the early 1990s. He founded the band Burzum and was involved in violent incidents, including church arson attacks and murder. After his release from prison, Vikernes became active in a deep-green, neo-fascist ideological milieu, and is considered a source of inspiration for many modern-day eco-fascists.

<sup>8</sup> James Nolan Mason is the American neo-Nazi author and ideologue who inspired the Atomwaffen Division, as well as other white supremacist occultists. Mason produced several books that have become popular among white supremacists. In his most famous "Siege", he advocates lone-wolf terrorism as a form of action against the US government. Mason was also formerly a member of the National Socialist Liberation Front (NSLF) and adopted its calls for political violence instead of political participation. In his writings, he expressed racism, anti-Semitism, militancy and hatred towards the US government (which according to him is controlled by Jews) and the political system. He advocates for the establishment of a National Socialist, fascist and apocalyptic world order he called "Universal Order".



## Holocaust Denial: False Context on Amazon

While some dangerous organizations promote their content openly, others may attempt to portray the items as different than they actually are, listing them under different categories or misrepresenting them as satire.

In the following example, Amazon's policy against Nazi paraphernalia<sup>9</sup> is exploited as bad actors list a piece of Nazi content under a category that implies the opposite of the book's true nature. The comic book titled *Tales of the Holohoax: A Journal of Satire* is listed on Amazon, as a Humor & Satire book - possibly creating uncertainty regarding its true nature, resulting in its continued presence on the platform.



**Tales of the Holohoax: A Journal of Satire listing on Amazon**

<sup>9</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/16/amazon-bans-sale-of-most-editions-of-adolf-hitlers-mein-kampf>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53518008>





## Raising Funds for Racist Activities

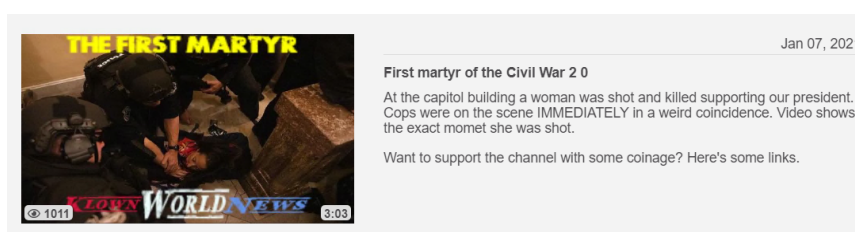
While content plays a significant role in the radicalization of individuals, it is not the only type of platform that is abused in the process. Extreme racist organizations are looking to fund their activities, by exploiting mainstream, as well as niche, fundraising platforms.

### Fundraising on GoFundMe - Vicious Alien Klown

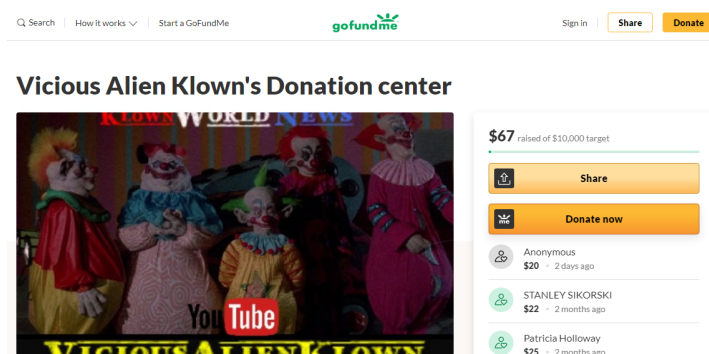
Created by Todd Beaton, Vicious Alien Klown (VAK) is an alt-Right channel on BitChute and YouTube, which hosts far-right extremist socio-political commentary. The videos support violence against US liberals and the 'mainstream media', and praise the violent storming of the US Capitol. In some of his videos, Beaton refers in reverential terms to **Civil War 2.0**. Beaton provides a link to his GoFundMe account from each video description, directing supporters to donate money for the production of VAK material.



Stills from 'Patriots Attack Fake News LOL' celebrating violence against journalists in the January 6th 2021 US Capitol Riot



Video showing the Death of Ashley Babbitt at the US Capitol, describing her as the "First martyr of the Civil War 2.0".<sup>10</sup>



Screenshot of Vicious Alien Klown's GoFundMe Page

<sup>10</sup> Ashley Babbitt was shot and killed by a police officer, while she, as part of a mob, was attempting to break through secured sections of the US Capitol building during the January 6th 2021 riot.

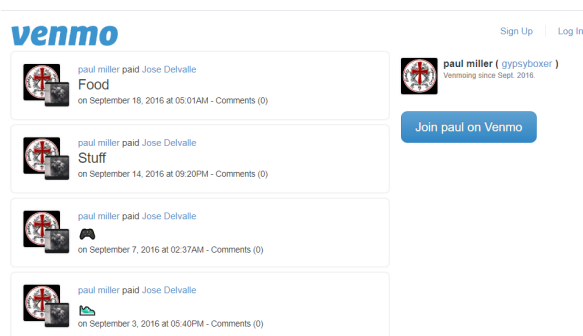
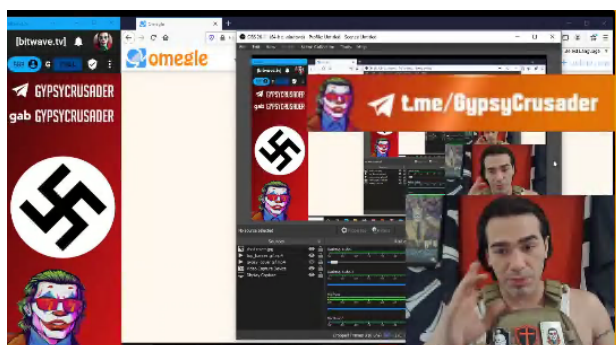


## GypsyCrusader - neo-Nazi Fundraiser

**Paul Nicholas Miller** or the **GypsyCrusader**, is a 32-year-old American convicted felon, neo-Nazi and white supremacist streamer and influencer. He advocates for a race war in the US, deportation of Black Americans to Africa, and the gassing of Jews. Miller also subscribes to '**Day of the Rope**' white supremacist theory, which promotes the coming day where all traitors to the white race will be hanged.

Miller is notorious for his live streams on various media platforms, which appeal to young, teen audiences. In these videos, Miller cosplays as different iconic characters, such as the Joker, and Mario, while preaching his racist beliefs to strangers on video chat platforms (such as Omegle where random users are paired) to shock and antagonize others, while entertaining his audience. Miller is a dangerous individual and was arrested in the beginning of March by the FBI as part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force for the possession of a firearm as a felon.<sup>11</sup>

Miller asks supporters for donations using **Venmo**, **Zelle**, **CashApp**.

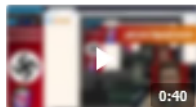


[Left] GypsyCrusader live stream on bitwave.tv, promoting the GypsyCrusader Telegram channel and Gab accounts, [Right] Paul Miller's Venmo Account

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article249845833.html>



**GypsyCrusader News Network** Feb 12, 2021 9:10:28 AM 12K



**Video** 9.3 MB

[Download](#) [Play video](#)

PATCHES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

You can order right through my Cashapp or venmo (use gypsishop)

I also have Zelle email address is [johndoe1799@protonmail.com](mailto:johndoe1799@protonmail.com)

Also accepting Bitcoin. Write your shipping info in the cashapp

venmo or zelle payment I will mail it to you. If you wanna pay using

bitcoin email me your shipping info here

[johndoe1799@protonmail.com](mailto:johndoe1799@protonmail.com)

Bitcoin wallet (1LsJexRZbXMKHg4qUfcBTaeVPbAtdzYQE)

JOKER patches are 16 dollars

Totenkopf with ss and plan are 15 dollars no shipping coast inside the US

International shipping price list below Plus the patch of 16.

Please check exchange rates.

I have adjusted the prices for international shipping!

Its \$10 dollars to the UK

\$10 to France

\$10 Spain

\$20 to Australia

\$10 to Canada

\$10 to Germany

\$10 to Russia

You must check exchange rates

[https://cash.app/\\$gyypsycrusaderr](https://cash.app/$gyypsycrusaderr)

(Use venmo business account)

<https://www.paypal.com/qrcodes/venmocs/02f70a2d-f283-4533-a231-7d963f1644c1>

Gypsycrusader

**Post from GypsyCrusader News Network group on Telegram advertising merchandise which includes Nazi material, and lists payment services CashApp, Venmo, Zelle and Bitcoin**

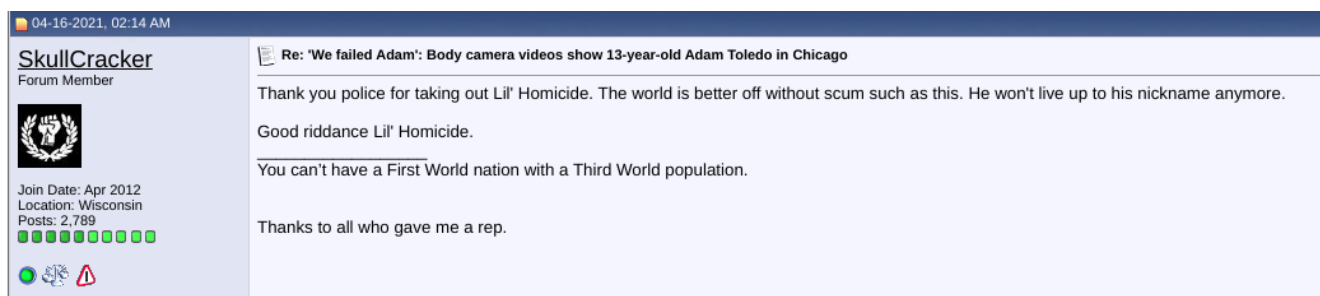


## Reaction to Recent Violence

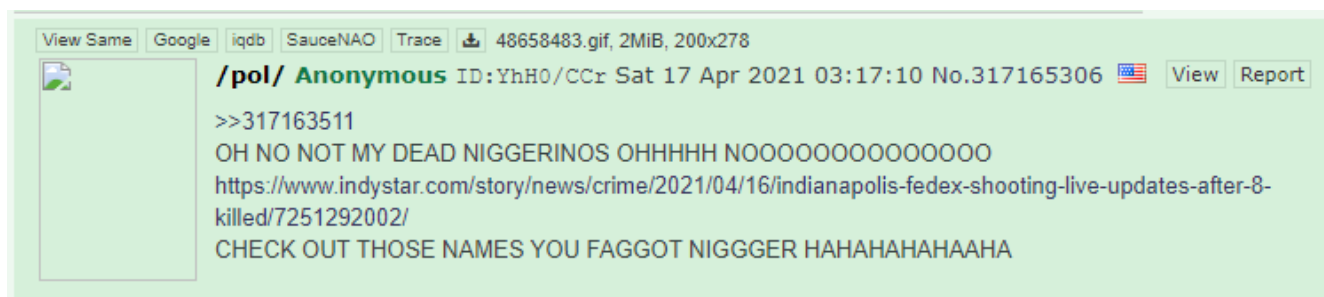
As racist texts and activities proliferate online, the same groups promoting hate-filled content also rejoice and promote conspiracies around the recent violent events in the United States. ActiveFence has identified a variety of reactions to recent events, including general celebrations, victim blaming, and the promotion of lies and conspiracies.

### Celebrating The Death Of Minorities

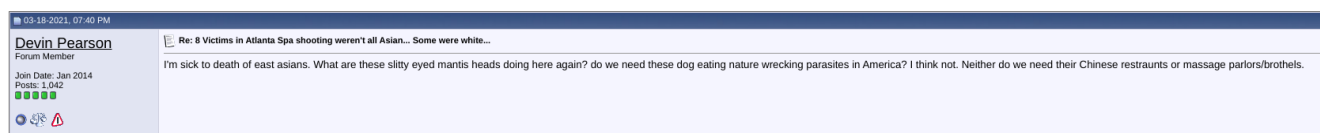
Among the most popular reactions of white supremacist communities, is to react to acts of violence with joy. This is evidenced by MoonMan's (2019) track 'Take me to Church ft, Dylann Roof'. This is seen with current tragedies, too, where online groups revel in the death of those they despise, whether these are at the hands of police, or mass shooters.



Post from the neo-Nazi and white supremacist forum, StormFront, celebrating the death of 13 year old Adam Toledo



Post on 4chan of user laughing at the names of the minority victims killed in the FedEx Shooting in Indianapolis



***"I'm sick to death of east asians. What are these slitty eyed mantis heads doing here again? do we need these dog eating nature wrecking parasites in America? I think not. Neither do we need Chinese restaurants or massage parlours/brothels [sic]"***

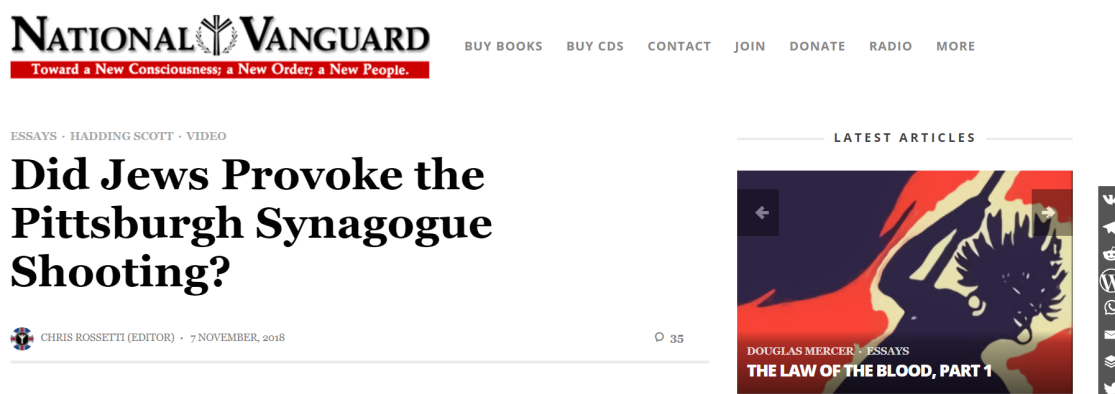
Transcribed post from the neo-Nazi and white supremacist forum, StormFront about three mass-shootings in Atlanta.



## Attacking The Victim

Another popular reaction within these communities is to attack the reputations of, and blame the victims. In these instances, group members abuse the victims of police violence and mass shootings, claiming that they were involved in illegal activities, or were otherwise violent, and as such “deserving” of their deaths.

In the instance of the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting, where eleven people were killed, writers at the neo-Nazi **National Vanguard** ‘news’ website blamed ‘the Jews’ for acting to change America’s demographics bringing non-whites to the US. They also argue that as the Jews suppress free-speech and corrupt society, the only outlet for white grievances to be made against them is acts of violence.



THERE HAVE BEEN suggestions that Robert Bowers’ spree-shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, which caused eleven deaths, was in some measure provoked by Jewish behavior. Bowers himself had indicated that he was angry about the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society’s role in bringing non-White violent criminals into the United States.

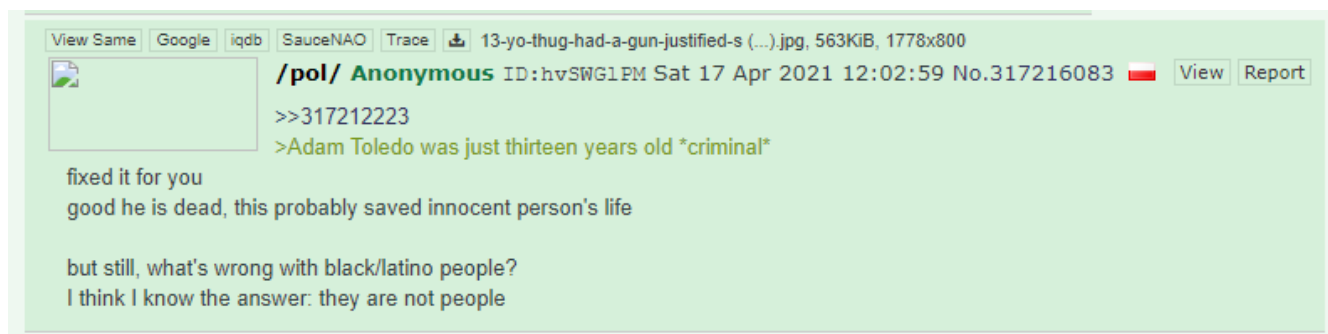
But it becomes hard to persuade people to obey the law when they have experienced lawlessness government. E. Michael Jones points out some respects in which Jews have been getting away with breaking the law. I just pointed out others. If Jews are getting away with lawlessness, it is partially because they have corrupted the government and made it to some extent lawless too, which is bound to have an effect on the general population’s attitude toward the government and the law.

I have suggested that the public demonstrations like Unite The Right, when they weren’t violently suppressed, were an important avenue of expression for White men unhappy with the country’s direction. What are those men supposed to do now that Jews have used one-sided enforcement of the law, and legal persecution, to suppress such demonstrations? In a recent *New York Times*

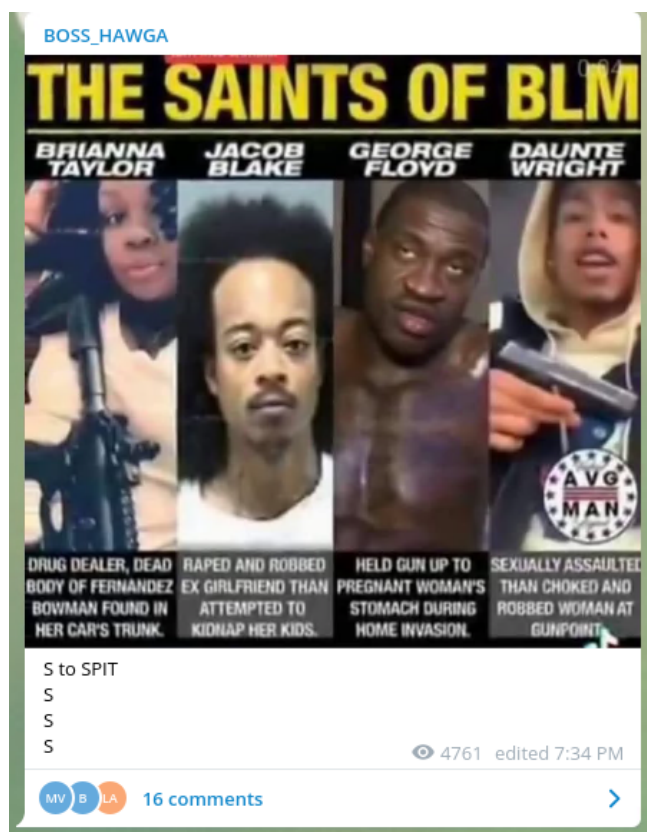
**Excerpt from neo-Nazi article discussing the causes of the October 27th 2018 Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting**



Following the death of 13 year old Adam Toledo, who was killed by Chicago police on March 29, 2021, racist users on 4chan asserted that killing this child would save the lives of his future victims, since black/latino people “are not people”. This pattern of dehumanising, and blaming the victims of police excessive force was also seen in posts about Brianna Taylor, George Floyd, Jacob Blake and Daunte Wright.



Reaction to the death of 13 year old Adam Toledo, rejoicing that a “criminal” is dead



Post on a neo-Nazi Telegram channel, condemning and portraying the victims of recent police violence as dangerous criminals.

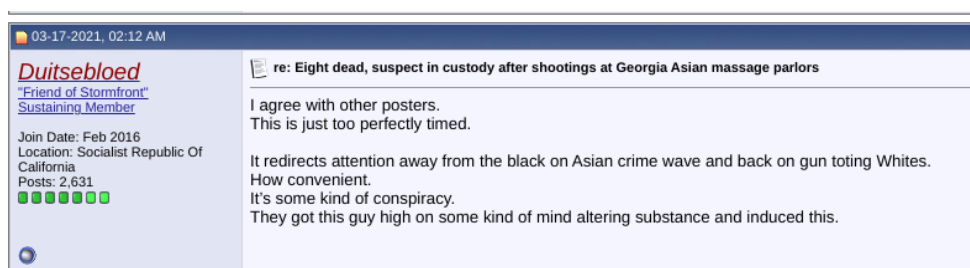
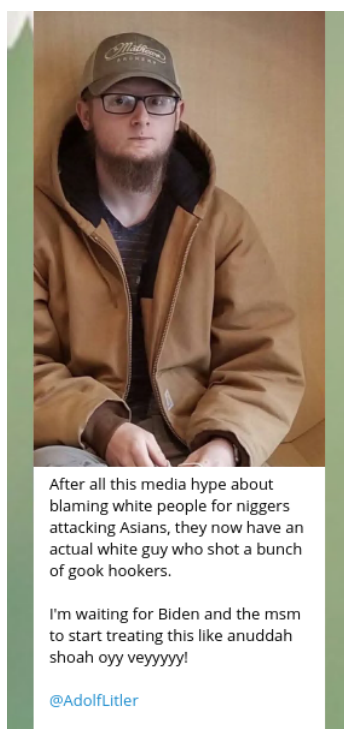
## Conspiracy Theories





Among the reactions to recent violence, specifically the mass shootings of Asians at three Atlanta spas, which left eight dead, has been a disbelief in the motives of the shooter and timing of the events. Many have resorted to conspiracy theories. These conspiracies often question who the “actual” perpetrators are, refusing to accept that a white person was behind the events.

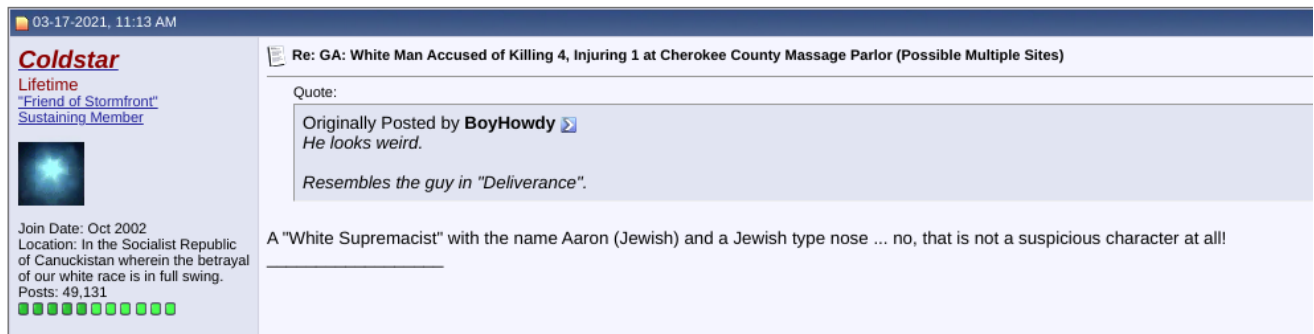
A common thread running through these racist communities is a conspiratorial belief that shadowy forces, often believed to be Jewish, and the Israeli intelligence services seeking to tarnish the reputation of white people in America, are behind these events. This can be seen in the responses to the Atlanta (GA) shootings at three massage parlours. Two examples below show how white supremacists pivoted the narrative to suggest the Atlanta shootings, perpetrated by a white individual, was a false flag operation. The first was circulated by Philip Hedley, a white supremacist influencer, known by his moniker CatboiKami, who has over 48,000 subscribers on Telegram. The second post is from Stormfront where the user follows the same logic.



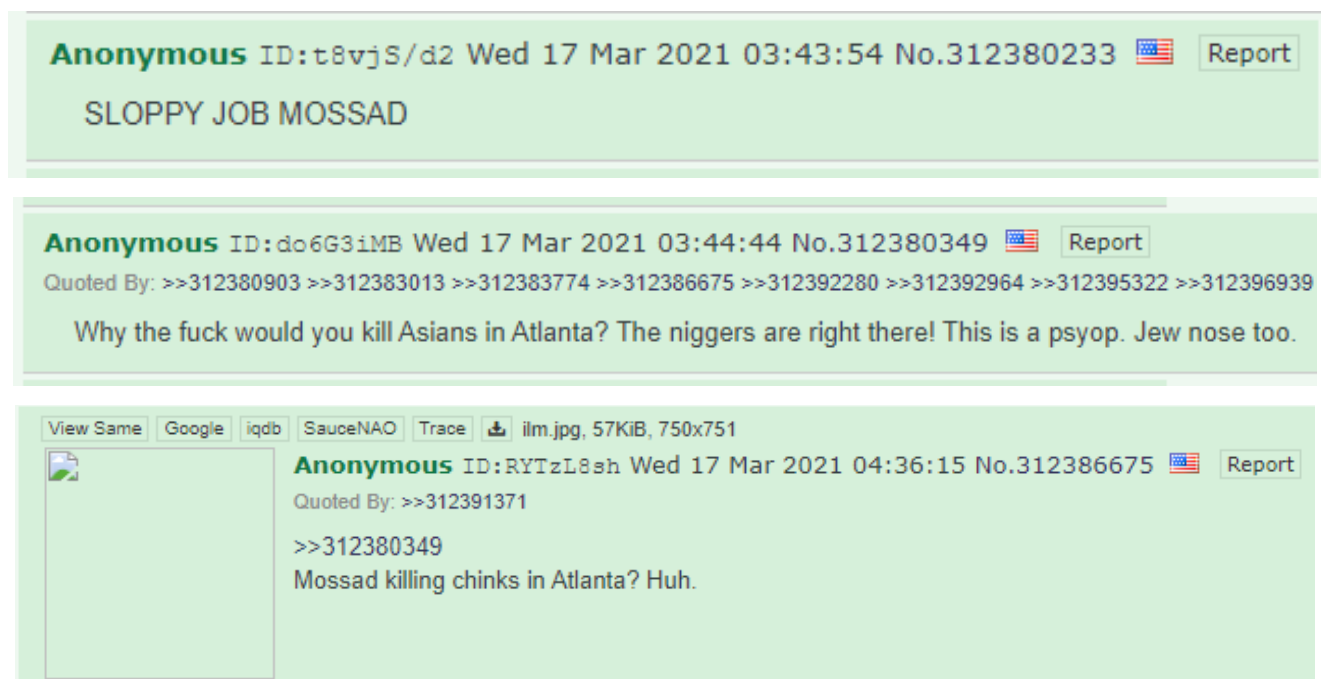
[Top] Telegram post by CatboiKami, [Bottom] Stormfront post suggesting that the shootings in Atlanta were intentionally timed to take focus off of “the black on Asian crime wave”



The following examples demonstrate the narrative that the attack against Asians, victimized whites, as it was a false flag by a Jewish agent.



StormFront post, suggesting that the Atlanta shooter was actually Jewish, citing his first name and nose



4Chan posts accusing Jews and Mossad of staging the Atlanta shootings as a psy-ops campaign against white Americans





### Conclusion

The online world presents a wide range of opportunities for individuals to connect with others, based on shared interests. However, this ability has also bred dangerous echo chambers that can propagate and escalate hate into violence. The process of moving the conversation online, has led to the limiting of access to opposing voices, therefore narrowing the opportunity of dialogue between online communities. More and more, the language is becoming one of “us” and “them” and this in turn is shaping communities into ever more extreme versions of themselves.

This report has shown how these online communities shape a parallel reality for their members to live within, unchallenged. Members of the radical right shop online together, selling and purchasing literature and resources for the race war they await and agitate for. They play together, acting out murderous fantasies and dehumanizing their political opponents. They produce their own music. They fundraise together to support their thought leaders. The more an individual exists within such an all-consuming world, the more the nihilistic fantasy bleeds into the real-world. What begins as speech, can metastasize into violence and a needless loss of life.

It is not an overstatement to say that this process was sped up in 2020, as lockdowns meant that almost all group interactions needed to take place online. This created a situation where while recent violence in the US has triggered outrage amongst many, it also fueled the fire within white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups that celebrated the violence, attacked its victims, and promoted dangerous conspiracies that could lead to further violence.

ActiveFence works with some of the world’s largest tech companies, helping keep these dangerous echo chambers off of their platforms, as we battle online hatred and offline violence.

**If you would like additional in-depth and actionable insights on dangerous organizations, please contact [research@activefence.com](mailto:research@activefence.com).**



## Proactive Online Integrity

ActiveFence is the leader in online integrity, protecting billions of people worldwide from disinformation, child abuse, terror, hate speech, fraud and other online harms. The company's customers include trust and safety teams at some of the world's leading technology platforms. ActiveFence empowers these and other abuse prevention professionals with a unique, proactive approach to the detection of and protection against malicious activities on the internet. By searching across the darkest corners of the web where bad actors chat, share and plan, ActiveFence spots known and unknown threats to online platforms before they reach the platforms themselves and cause real damage. Backed by leading investors, ActiveFence numbers almost 200 employees globally—all working together towards the shared mission of enabling a safer world by preventing online evil.