

#### **Executive Summary**

How Biden's DHS is Weaponizing an Anti-Terror Program Against Christians, Conservatives & The GOP - EXPOSED

#### Luis Cornelio & Tim Kilcullen

MRC Free Speech America, as part of its new Freedom of Information Act investigations, has learned how the Biden administration is weaponizing a government-funded anti-terrorism grant program in an effort to destroy conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

Under the Trump administration, the "<u>Targeted Violence & Terrorism Prevention Grant Program</u>" (TVTP) was used to prevent terrorism, but it was revamped under the Biden administration and renamed to provide funding for localities to combat "<u>all forms of terrorism and targeted violence</u>." Instead of focusing on preventing actual violence and terrorism, the program is now being used to target the entire spectrum of the political right and Christians through "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives" and other so-called training seminars as part of a coordinated effort to make America into a one-party system.

The University of Dayton, one of <u>several grantees</u>, targeted groups including The Heritage Foundation, Fox News, Christian Broadcasting Network, Turning Point USA, PragerU, the National Rifle Association (NRA), Breitbart News, the American Conservative Union



Foundation and the Republican National Committee.

The Department of Homeland Security awarded a total of 80 grants at the behest of embattled DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who called the program a "high priority" in an internal memo exclusively obtained by MRC Free Speech America. This

anti-American program cost taxpayers just under \$40 million, with each individual project receiving between \$85,000 and \$1.19 million.

DHS has resisted producing documents pursuant to our Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to date, but MRC Free Speech America has acquired scores of documents directly from <a href="DHS">DHS grant recipients</a> and other related organizations revealing the true and nefarious nature of the Biden administration's objectives. The findings are telling:

- The University of Dayton PREVENTS-OH was among the most radical grantees within the TVTP "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives." In Ohio, DHS awarded the University of Dayton \$352,109 to establish the <a href="PREVENTS-OH">PREVENTS-OH</a>
  program, which promised to "draw on the expertise of the University of Dayton faculty" to fight "domestic violence extremism and hate movements." For example, a chart used by DHS and its grantee in a training program equates mainstream groups with militant neo-Nazis, including: The Heritage Foundation, Fox News, the National Rifle Association (NRA), Breitbart News, PragerU, Turning Point USA, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), the American Conservative Union Foundation (ACUF) and the Republican National Committee, among others.
  - The seminar also compared former President Donald Trump to Pol Pot and suggested Florida Governor Ron DeSantis might wish to start a second Holocaust.
  - The PREVENTS-OH seminars (including one headlined by a DHS agent) feature lectures by University of Cincinnati Research Fellow Michael Loadenthal, a self-proclaimed member of Antifa whose Twitter feed is rife with posts celebrating acts of left-wing violence (often against police officers). Loadenthal used PREVENTS-OH to explain in detail how to create dummy accounts on free speech social media platforms like Telegram, Gab and Rumble in order to "destabilize" political movements. "A lot of things we're doing are illegal," he boasted in the lecture. "A lot of it involves breaking the law," he continued.
- The Biden DHS is responsible for the new focus of the TVTP program that seeks to silence conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party. Prior iterations of the TVTP program under former Presidents Obama and Trump focused on actual terrorism. The grant office was established under the Obama administration in 2011 with a 12-page plan titled "Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States." The program was revamped and renamed the "Office of Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention" under the Trump Administration. While on the campaign trail, Biden had actually pledged to disband it. Mayorkas and Biden appear to have hijacked it for their own political agenda, awarding 80 grants to far-left projects for the purposes of establishing "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives" among other so-called training seminars to upend conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

- The Biden administration spent nearly \$40 million in American tax dollars spread across 80 grants to teach "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives," among other initiatives, in an effort to weaponize TVTP against conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.
  - Eighty grants totaling \$39,611,999 have been awarded under Biden and Mayorkas, with the lowest one being for \$85,000, the highest for over \$1.1 million and the median being about \$442,000. 52 percent of the programs have gone to public institutions like universities and county government, whereas 48 percent have gone to private organizations, such as LGBTQ+-advocacy group Out Boulder County and the aforementioned University of Dayton.

#### Biden DHS Plan to Weaponize Anti-Terror Program Against US EXPOSED

The Biden Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is using a grant program meant for fighting terrorists to target conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

The DHS has issued eighty grants through the <u>Targeted Violence & Terrorism Prevention Grant Program</u> (TVTP) at the behest of Biden's embattled DHS Secretary <u>Alejandro Mayorkas</u>, who called the program a "priority ... of the highest importance" as revealed in documents exclusively obtained by MRC Free Speech America. At the DHS's direction, many of these recipients use "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives" training as part of a coordinated effort to make the United States into a one-party state.

So far during the Biden administration, the DHS has awarded nearly \$40 million under the TVTP program, with grantees receiving between \$85,000 and \$1.19 million. The University of Dayton is one such organization, having received \$352,109 to create the <a href="PREVENTS-OH">PREVENTS-OH</a> program, which promised to "draw on the expertise of the University of Dayton faculty" to fight "domestic violent extremism and hate movements."



Documents exclusively obtained by MRC Free Speech America reveal the organizations DHS believes constitute the worst offenders of extremism in America, such as the Christian Broadcasting Network, The Heritage Foundation and the Republican National Committee.

The anti-American TVTP grant program was first proposed by the

Obama administration in 2011 after "al-Qa'ida and its affiliates" attempted to "<u>recruit" and</u> "<u>radicalize</u>" Americans, according to a White House announcement on <u>August 2011</u>. The Trump administration put the program on hold before being revived by DHS bureaucrats who circumvented the Trump White House and convinced Congress to fund the infamous program.

The TVTP program was once again revamped at the beginning of the Biden administration to expand its mission far beyond terrorism. Documents acquired by MRC Free Speech America show how Biden and Mayorkas are seeking to destroy conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

The University of Dayton PREVENTS-OH was among the most radical grantees within the TVTP "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives."

The University of Dayton used grants from TVTP to create the infamous <u>PREVENTS-OH</u> program, which in turn hosted a series of events that maliciously equated mainstream organizations with neo-nazis and other extremist hate groups.

One of the first PREVENTS-OH events was a seminar called "Extremism, Rhetoric, and Democratic Precarity." The seminar featured analysis from several so-called extremism experts who recklessly tied conservatives, Christians and Republicans to genocide and terrorism. Among the speakers were DHS Agent Joseph "J.R." Masztalics a Regional Prevention Coordinator at CP3—who appeared in his official capacity at the event—and University of Cincinnati researcher Michael Loadenthal, a self-proclaimed member of a radical, anti-American Antifa group.

During the seminar, Loadenthal shared an outrageous "<u>Pyramid of Far-Right Radicalization</u>" that he claimed depicts the "modern far-right" and extremism in America:

Among the organizations and movements displayed on the pyramid were the Republican Party (RNC), The Heritage Foundation, the American Conservative Union, Fox News, Breitbart News, the National Rifle Association (NRA), PragerUniversity, Tea Party Patriots, the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement, the pro-police Blue Lives Matter movement and the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Also on the pyramid, as if somehow comparable to the aforementioned reputable organizations and movements, were rabidly hateful groups like the militant neo-Nazi gang <u>The Base</u> and pro-Nazi publication <u>The Daily Stormer</u>.

This chart was among others included in the original grant application submitted by the University of Dayton to DHS to successfully secure TVTP funding.

Loadenthal also participated in a separate taxpayer-funded PREVENTS-OH seminar titled "White Nationalism Workshop." At this event, Loadenthal explained how "antifascists" could "pressure financial services" like "GoFundMe, Patreon, PayPal, Venmo" and others or "pressure

retailers" like Amazon and "service providers" like "AirBnB" and "Tinder" in order to "kick people off."

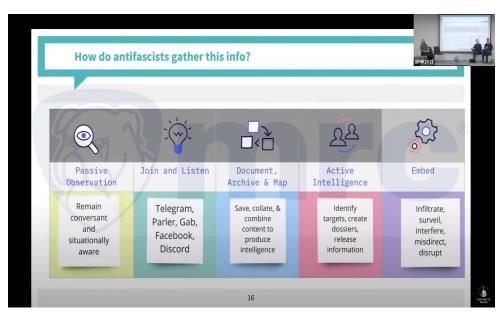
Loadenthal likewise complained about "right-wing" social media platforms that provide "free speech" and celebrated "de-platform[ing]" so-called fascists (which he used interchangeably with "the right") from Twitter and Facebook. He even gave specific advice on how to create dummy accounts on social media platforms like Gab, Telegram and Rumble in order to "paralyze" movements and "manufacture ... infighting." Loadenthal seemed particularly venomous towards the existence of encrypted messenger service Telegram, calling it "a cesspool of awful."

In his presentation, Loadenthal boasted openly that "a lot of things we're doing are illegal" and "a lot of it involves breaking the law." [Emphasis added.]

He claimed this was necessary because "hate speech is more than speech. It's materiality. It's organizing. It's mobilization. It's not an exchange of ideas in the marketplace and the best one wins. It's something else. It's the strategic deployment of organizational energy and power."

Censorship efforts are not enough to fight against so-called fascists, Loadenthal outrageously claimed, also calling for a more aggressive approach. "To deny people that, to shut down their websites, to close their meetings, [and] to physically prevent them from assembling in public. This is the belief," he claimed.

Loadenthal also displayed infographic instructions to teach attendees how to "infiltrate" social media platforms to "identify targets, create dossiers ... surveil, interfere, misdirect [and] disrupt" those the left opposes.



At the same radical seminar,
University of
Dayton Professor
Paul Becker
displayed images
of anti-lockdown
and anti-vaccine
mandate
protestors,
suggesting they
were infiltrated by
hate groups. His

message matches the artwork that PREVENTS-OH sent to the City of Dayton promoting its programs. The image, named *Anti-Rights Movements and Democratic Regression*, features a crude caricature of a Second Amendment supporter above the words "WHY DO WE HAVE A RADICALIZED SOCIETY."

Another "Extremism" seminar speaker, <u>Alexander Hinton</u> — a member of the Rutgers University faculty who specialices on "genocide" — shockingly compared the Trump administration to the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge of Pol Pot's brutal regime killed at least 1.7 million Cambodians between 1975 and 1979, according to <u>The New York Times</u>.

Attempts to undermine Republicans continued with fellow seminar speaker <u>Nicole Widdersheim</u> — a deputy washington director for the Human Rights Watch and former senior policy advisor to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Center — making a <u>wild accusation</u> that Florida Governor <u>Ron DeSantis</u> (R) might try to conduct a second Holocaust through a 2021 proposed civilian military force. The <u>volunteer force</u> was designed to assist the National Guard in emergencies, including <u>hurricanes</u>.

## The Biden DHS is responsible for the new focus of the TVTP program that seeks to silence conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

The TVTP grant program started under the Obama administration as a program to prevent homegrown Islamic terrorism. It was re-instituted during the Trump administration, but the Biden administration, through the leadership of Mayorkas, revamped it, now targeting conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

Former President Barack Hussein Obama unveiled a 12-page plan titled "Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States," which would give taxpayer funded grants to local groups — including police departments, universities and non-profit organizations — to prevent domestic "violent extremism." The first batch of grants were not rolled out until 2016 in the "Countering Violent Extremism Grant Program" during the final year of Obama's second term.

Then, in 2017, the Trump DHS halted the program for three years before it was resurrected by Acting DHS Secretary Kevin McAleenan through the newly-launched DHS "Office of Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention" in 2019. *Politico* reported that McAleenan, a long-time career employee who rose to power after the ousting of DHS Secretary Kristjen Nielsen, went around the Trump White House to seek congressional funds for the program.

In August 2020, then-presidential candidate Joe Biden <u>pledged</u> to "end the Trump Administration's Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Program" and replace it with his

own. After being sworn in, Biden and his DHS Secretary Mayorkas <u>overhauled</u> and ostensibly "replace[d] the Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention" with the anti-American Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) with a newly-stated focus of combating "domestic violent extremism, including violent white supremacy." In its list of grantees, DHS <u>named</u> so-called "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives" as part of the program's new goals.

After coming to power, Biden and Mayorkas did not abolish the TVTP grant program. Instead the Biden administration appears to have "reimagined" it, wielding it as a weapon against conservatives, Chrsitians and the Republican Party under the guise of taking on the scourge of "white supremacy."

In May 2021, TVTP was <u>placed</u> into the newly created CP3 by the leftist DHS secretary Mayorkas. And "white supremacy," an official DHS statement claimed, would be a specifically-mentioned focus of the program. "The creation of CP3 [is] the latest action[] DHS is taking under Secretary Mayorkas's leadership to comprehensively combat domestic violent extremism, including violent white supremacy," according to the DHS press release.

The Biden administration spent nearly \$40 million in American tax dollars spread across 80 grants to teach "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives," among other initiatives, in an effort to weaponize TVTP against conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party.

The Biden administration awarded eighty TVTP grants totaling \$39,611,999 The lowest grant was for \$85,000, the highest for over \$1.1 million, and the median being about \$442,000.

Fifty-two percent of the programs have gone to public institutions like universities and county government, whereas 48 percent have gone to private organizations, such as the LGBTQ+ advocacy group Out Boulder County and the aforementioned University of Dayton. Instead of focusing on preventing actual violence and terrorism, a staggering number of grantees appear to be—with the DHS's knowledge—using the funds to target the Biden administration's political opponents through the guise of so-called training seminars for topics such as "media literacy and online critical thinking initiatives."

In addition to PREVENTS-OH, the Media Research Center has obtained documents for several other grantees, which depict similar degrees of extremism, demonization of political opposition, and calls for censorship.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Biden administration has a clear pattern of using taxpayer dollars to attack its political opponents, be it through the Disinformation Government Board, targeting parents as terrorists, funding the Global Disinformation Index censorship machine, and now the DHS's TVTP program.

This report only scratches the surface of the Biden DHS's nefarious TVTP grant program. MRC Free Speech America has obtained more documents from other DHS grantees and other organizations through our concentrated FOIA initiative and will be presenting further evidence of the Biden administration's efforts to target conservatives, Christians and the Republican Party going forward.

# Documents exclusively obtained by MRC through several Open Records Act Requests (state-level FOIAs)



#### **2022 TVTP Grantee Symposium Summary**

#### **Overview:**

The DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) hosted its first Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grantee Symposium on November 3-4. This document summarizes discussions and feedback from participants and explores future opportunities that came from the symposium. Also included are goals that CP3 has identified based on the discussion and participant feedback, to enable continued collaboration across and within the TVTP grantee network. Over the course of two days, the symposium brought together more than 200 representatives from 73 Grantees and partner organizations. The symposium allowed for grantees to create and foster new partnerships, share the impact of their work, and make plans for future collaboration. Grantees organized panels on Building Awareness and Resiliency; Threat Assessment and Management Teams; and Evaluation and Metrics for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention. Topical breakout sessions were held on Achieving Sustainability; Community Engagement and Communications; and School-based Interventions and Prevention Programming (K-12).; Four regional breakout sessions were also held dedicated to grantees in different geographic regions: East, West, Central, and Midwest United States. One of the key discussions at the symposium was K-12 school-based interventions and prevention programming. The discussions centered around youth empowerment as a protective factor, communication and outreach with school administrators, and youth engagement and retention.

#### Panel One: Building Awareness and Resiliency:

The Building Awareness and Resiliency panel discussed elements of early prevention strategies and various approaches to raising the general public's awareness of the risks of and potential responses to targeted violence and terrorism. Cat Lockman (Global Peace Foundation) moderated the panel and panelists Dan Rowe (Mediation Center), Dr. Amra Sabic-El-Rayess (Columbia University), Tina Keswani (Columbia University), Nilufar Choudry (Global Peace Foundation), and Humera Khan (Muflehun) talked about their grant funded projects and fielded questions about their successes and challenges.

Panelists shared their experiences engaging with the general public, conducting extensive community engagement, and finding diverse audiences. An emphasis was made on the importance of using data to tell a story, which makes content more compelling, as well as tying in the local relevance of a program to make an impactful connection with the community who will be impacted by grant activities. There was a detailed discussion of the evidence base informing resilience and awareness, raising topics including educational displacement and the need to address attachment/rejection, grievances, and bias to build protective factors in youth.

The panelists highlighted several challenges grantees may face and offered suggestions to address those challenges. For example, the language used in trainings must be digestible to the audience, culturally competent, and make points sensitively. Grantees working in early prevention should recognize the expertise of the community and seek their input in tailoring training and other engagement to the audience. The panelists also stressed the importance of continued engagement after providing programming because communities will need continued support to make the most of what they have learned.

#### Panel Two: Threat Assessment and Management Teams (TAMTs):

John Nicoletti (Jeffco DeAngelis Foundation) moderated the Threat Assessment and Management Teams (TAMTs) panel. The panelists included Whytley Jones (DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management), Sarah Goodrum (University of Colorado Boulder), and Juncal Garayzabal-Fernandez (Counter Extremism Project). Each speaker presented their program and how they have approached threat assessment in their communities. Nicoletti and Goodrum discussed how they have approached TAMTs in schools, and Garayzabal-Fernandez discussed her team's work with formerly incarcerated violent extremists and the challenges and successes they have seen in recidivism reduction work. Each panelist touched on building trust with local communities and how to address distrust from their target populations.

Nicoletti said the general public seems to misunderstand the impact of federal law restricting the release of medical information and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when deciding whether or not to share information regarding an "imminent danger." He said there is not a clear definition of what that means and fear of violating privacy laws is often a reason why threats are not shared before acts of violence. Nicoletti pointed to FERPA specifically because his program works in schools, but mentioned medical privacy laws as presenting a similar issue.

The panel took questions from the audience, including how to maintain contact with the local community leaders and agencies when there is limited local community support for the TAMT. The panel discussed the ideal model of a threat assessment team; there was a consensus among the panel that the ideal TAMT model is flexible and adapts to the environment the assessment team is operating in. For example, a university setting will be different from a K-12 school setting in terms of both the composition of the team and the types of cases it receives. In addition, these teams may have different policies and naming/terminology conventions. They also agreed that since TAMTs require trusted partnerships, buy-in from stakeholders within the community is critical.

#### Panel Three: Evaluation and Metrics for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Programs:

This panel was moderated by Matthew DeMichele (Research Triangle Institute), and the panelists were Richard Aborn and Claire Abrahams (NYC's Citizen Crime Commission), Ariane Noar (Research Triangle Institute), and Ajmal Aziz (DHS Science & Technology). Each panelist gave a presentation on their organization and their grantee programs. The Research Triangle Institute gave definitions of the types of evaluations done on TVTP Grant Programs and the process they go through, starting with an assessment and moving through the actual evaluation.

Panelists reassured new grantees that the evaluations are a tool used to assess the strengths and weaknesses in their programs and to move forward to find solutions, not something to discourage the work being done by the organization. Findings from the 2016 evaluations have been made public and upcoming evaluations will be similarly made public.

DeMichele asked each panelist to highlight successes and challenges faced by each of their organization. Challenges included the difficulty of building a program from the ground-up; reaching a competent and fully staffed team; getting buy-in from local organizations and developing partnerships; approaching the

target audience and building trust; and program sustainability. Two successes shared by the panelists were shifting the perspective of local law enforcement to allow for alternative methods of addressing threats and building a full staff of experienced and competent professionals.

The panel took audience questions covering topics like how to address difficult topics of threat and targeted violence in a new/mistrusting community, organizational liability when receiving and handling cases, what kind of evaluations may be appropriate for newer organizations, and what kind of data would be needed in evaluations.

#### **Regional Breakout Sessions:**

West: CP3 Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) Michael Brown began the breakout session with introductions, and the TVTP grantees provided brief overviews of their respective projects and program successes. Grantees talked about Institutional Review Board (IRB) support from DHS, partnership building, and how they underscore the importance of TVTP programs to parents and community leaders. According to the Grantees, some challenges they face include a lack of interest in collaborating with DHS, distrust of the federal government and past Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) approaches, and a lack of understanding within local communities as to the purpose and scope of TVTP work. Grantees suggested having more specific regional meetings before the annual symposium, having grantees show and share examples of how communities use the trainings and resources that they have developed, and creating a virtual platform that is run by the grantees to enable continued collaboration and information sharing. Other key topics during the breakout session included improving the messaging and language of TVTP work; ensuring transparent community engagement; increasing knowledge of government resources and data; mapping community stakeholder grievances/narratives; using diplomacy for message/programs; and establishing communities of practices with trending components (such as training, monitoring and evaluation, threat assessment, and grass root movements).

<u>Central:</u> The breakout session began with introductions, and then new grantees were given the opportunity to ask more experienced grantees about challenges they currently face/anticipate. The more experienced grantees shared what they wish they had known about earlier in their periods of performance. The attendees were encouraged by CP3 and fiscal year (FY) 20 grantees, to reach out to their RPCs and grants manager to develop a relationship. Grantees requested a slick sheet on common issues for new grantees to reference for simple issues/challenges.

**Midwest:** This breakout session focused on several common hurdles grantees face. Participants in the breakout session emphasized the ever-changing field of countering violence, the role of law enforcement in mental health spaces, and increasing political polarization around common terms used in the field of countering targeted violence. Grantees stated that they needed a way to connect with fellow grantees to discuss the issues most, if not all, of the programs face. Grantees suggested that these discussions could take place on the Grantee Information-Sharing Network on DHS's Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).

*East:* This breakout session opened with questions from new grantees to FY 20 and FY 21 grantees and CP3 staff. Questions spanned topics such as Institutional Review Board (IRB) requirements, establishing trust with target audiences, and administrative topics like how to pull funds. Both FY 20 and FY 21 grantees advised new grantees to read the Notice of Funding Opportunity carefully for all questions and

encouraged close relationships with the RPCs and CP3 grants staff. Participants spent a lot of time discussing the importance of establishing trust with their target audiences. Secretary Mayorkas acknowledged that there is a lack of trust in the Department and that improvement in that regard is necessary. He emphasized that grantees are community partners that can help build that trust and be advocates for DHS partnerships in local communities. The grantees were also encouraged to have open communication with the grants team to ensure DHS and the grantee are on the same page and can work through issues like trust together.

#### **Topical Breakout Sessions:**

A<u>chieving Sustainability:</u> This breakout session was focused on two main topics: Challenges and solutions, and future collaboration opportunities.

Participants discussed developing projects and programs, and grantees were advised that long-term thinking leads to long-term programs. A discussion regarding investing to create long-term sustainability and growth led to participants proposing solutions, such as considering activities beyond grant deliverables. Participants also raised the importance of partnerships and how they can continue implementation of key activities and maintain the prevention capabilities established by their grant project after the grant period of performance.

Moderator Ashleigh Bowers said she hoped this session would raise awareness of the resources and capabilities available to grantees and that they would like to report on connections made throughout the year at the next symposium. Breakout session attendees voiced a desire for more transparency and information sharing between grantees on what has worked in their programs and what has not, and for more collaboration between grantees. Bowers proposed a DHS-led "speed-networking" activity to allow grantees to meet each other and decide which partnerships they would like to pursue.

*K*<u>-12 School Based Intervention and Prevention:</u> This breakout session specifically focused on the following sub-topics:

- Youth Empowerment;
- Youth Engagement and Retention; and
- Outreach to Schools

Participants spent most of the session focused on issues related to school outreach and the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on teacher bandwidth and classroom capabilities. Many of the grantees noted they have not been readily received in classrooms as most teachers appear to be focusing on week-to-week issues and are not open to additional work/curriculum for their students. There was a long discussion with Secretary Mayorkas in the room about appropriate language around schools, children, and concerned parents. The discussion on terminology was focused on the phrase "Threat Assessment Teams." Participants brought up other options like "Care Teams" as an alternative. Moderator Tyler Cote of Operation 250 suggested holding quarterly meetings with grantees focused on school-based prevention to create one-pagers, address these issues, and come up with solutions for the issues discussed.

<u>Community Engagement and Communication:</u> This breakout session began by focusing on the definition of engagement in programs and what the goal of engagement is. Engagement is defined differently for each community. The session also listed some goals of engagement, including an emphasis on outreach and learning, elevating people who feel disenfranchised, allowing communities to speak for themselves, and ensuring that the community does not feel like the grant program is like a traveling circus and will be part of the community long-term.

Participants then discussed some of the problems they would face reaching their goals. The biggest problems are related to the difficulty of creating connections within the community and law enforcement's involvement in their program and the community. They also discussed the stigma that divides and isolates individuals which underlies extremism. Participants in the session decided the best solution to these issues is to find common ground between sectors in the community, and help individuals understand that developing trusting relationships is a long-term process. Further, FY20 and FY21 grantees offered advice to new FY22 grantees that it would be helpful to work with and establish relationships with influential community leaders, like veterans or religious figures. The final point echoed loudly throughout the entire symposium was that language and messaging matter.

After the symposium, the participants would like the list of symposium attendees to be shared by CP3 to facilitate networking, collaboration and partnership building after the event.

#### **Secretary Mayorkas' Closing Remarks:**

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas attended each topical breakout session and touched upon the topics and discussions held in those discussions, during his closing remarks. First, he spoke about the importance of allowing programs to address violence and threats in their own communities before federal officials can meaningfully help. This field requires trust and partnerships within local communities, and the federal agents can be seen as outsiders. Second, he discussed the necessity of careful, meaningful language, and effective communication that fits the moment. This emphasis on the right language can be a tool to help overcome the trust issues in a community. Third, he emphasized the need for partnerships, especially at the local/community level. Partnering with influential and educated leaders of the communities could also be a method one could use to overcome the trust deficit.

Finally, Secretary Mayorkas assured the attendees that this grant program and the efforts being made toward violence prevention are a high priority for DHS. There is a lot of work being done to increase opportunities to those who believe they do not have any; to bring together the strength and the fragility of humanity; and to develop strong, trusted partnerships. He also mentioned the efforts to tackle major issues like mental health, the role of law enforcement, family bonding, and community bonding. The future goal is to be able to support local communities when requested and be welcomed with trust and open arms.

Secretary Mayorkas thanked the grantees for their work, and he reassured all in attendance that this program is a priority for the department and that the work being done is of the highest importance.

| Speaker Contacts |       |              |  |  |  |
|------------------|-------|--------------|--|--|--|
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From: Sent: To: UDhumanrights <hrc@udayton.edu> Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:37 PM

Rodriguez, Martha

Subject:

A Year On: Insights from SPHR2021

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Dear friends and colleagues,

A year ago, we convened at SPHR21 to consider whether current human rights methods and strategies are comprehensive, deep, and bold enough to meet the pandemic moment and leverage it for increased justice and dignity. In this SPHR21 roundup, we share what insights we gained from the conference, how we harnessed them, and the actions and further conversations that have emerged as a result.

This year's roundup goes beyond our customary sharing of key moments to include the various ways in which SPHR is transforming into a dynamic platform for learning, new knowledge generation and innovative action. We encourage you to take some time to listen to the illuminating keynotes, plenaries and panel discussions, and read through the

forward leading 2021 Insights. You might also consider the call for collaborators to join our Action Research and Rights Collective which aims to support "action research" methods that advance human rights and build community by generating knowledge in a way that values all forms of expertise.

As we gear up for '23, we hope that this roundup generates the excitement and momentum needed to make our next convening on the social practice of human rights even more impactful. We look forward to engaging with you in '23!

Sincerely,

Shelley Inglis Executive Director

View all SPHR2021 Session Recordings

#### **2021 INSIGHTS**



Part 1: Incorporating community-based and action-oriented advocacy methods into the SPHR conference >>

Building on SPHR19 where we expanded the space through design workshops, we asked, What would it look like if SPHR was more than a biennial conference but rather an ongoing space for critical, action-oriented collaboration around human rights issues? The local advocacy workshop, "Dayton Human Rights Dialogue," moved forward this idea with members of our own community in the wake of Covid19.

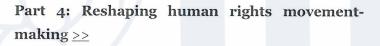


# Part 2: Harvesting our learning from the conference $\geq \geq$

SPHR 2021 provided a space for compelling dialogue and conversations about the potential and peril facing human rights advocacy and moments to collectively interpret the ideas and knowledge being shared through action research methods. Here we explain how we went from capturing reflections at the hybrid conference to learning from the information we collected and distilling it all into new insights.

# Part 3: Toward methods that center lived experiences in human rights practice $\geq \geq$

Emerging from SPHR 2021, we highlight four ways of centering the concerns and worldviews of those directly impacted by human rights, wherever they are, by building relations and creating spaces that help co-produce knowledge and turn that knowledge into action collaboratively.



We sought to answer the question of how different movements, organizations, and activists who seek justice and dignity from various lenses, identities, and approaches, interrelate in this current era. In exploring this, we found that human rights advocacy is more impactful today when it is grounded in critical, intersectional, and decolonial feminist approaches.

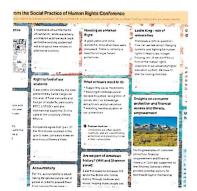






#### Part 5: Reimagining old spaces as new ≥≥

At SPHR 2021, we directed significant critical attention to the roles played by elite spaces in the human rights ecosystem. Focusing particularly on universities and museums, we explored how to repurpose the status, visibility, and resources of these institutions in order to better serve the interests of justice and dignity.



#### Part 6: Toward a New Advocacy Paradigm >>

The dire state of our moment loomed heavy over our convening at SPHR 2021 and remains at the fore of our daily thinking. These are hard times for those who care about human rights. They force us to ask the question: how can we, as human rights advocates, shift away from a perpetually reactive posture and reposition ourselves to affirmatively envision and determine a just future?

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Erica Chenoweth, Ph.D. is the Frank Stanton Professor of the First Amendment at <u>Harvard Kennedy School</u> and a Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the <u>Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study</u>. Chenoweth directs the Nonviolent Action Lab at Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, where they <u>study</u> political violence and its alternatives.





Nathan Law is a young Hong Kong activist, currently in exile and based in London. Due to the risk imposed by the draconian National Security Law, Nathan left Hong Kong and continues to speak up for Hong Kong people on the international level. Read more about Nathan >>

### Call for Collaborators: Action Research and Rights Collective



The Collective is part of our efforts to support "action research" methods that advance human rights and build community by generating knowledge in a way that values all forms of expertise, prioritizing people's lived experience as an essential source. In clear terms, "action

research" is guided by a simple set of values: Learn to act, act to learn, and center the participation of those who know. Learn more >>

## #SPHR21 forward-thinking workshops: innovative space for translating human rights advocacy into practice

How the Alt-Right and White Nationalist movement used the pandemic showcasing the work of Art Jipson, Paul Becker, and Michael Loadenthal. Watch the workshop >>>

Designing and educating for human rights in museum spaces showcasing the work of Willie Walin and Leora Kahn.
Watch the workshop >>



In 2022, we received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security to implement the Preventing Radicalization to Extremist Violence through Education, Network-Building and Training in Southwest Ohio (PREVENTS-OH) project which aims to develop a proactive, informed and resilient network of organizations, coalitions and civic entities aware and capable of

collaborating to prevent domestic violent extremism in Southwest Ohio. >>



Conceived as a follow-up to the guidance in this workshop, Paul Morrow and our partner, Leora Kahn from PROOF: Media for Social Justice organized a symposium on the theme "Museums and Mass Violence: Perils and Potential". The event was co-sponsored by the HRC and Yale University's Genocide Studies Program to bring together academics, museum curators, and memorial designers. Read the blog >>



Building on the 2021 Social Practice of Human Rights conference, Dr. Satang Nabaneh recently organized a panel on the theme 'Democracy and the Social Practice of Human Rights in Africa' as part of the NGO Forum during the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in The Gambia. Read the blog  $\geq \geq$ 

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# SPHR2021

## What do antifascists do with this info?



Hey, why is @AskPayPal processing donations for Steve Bannon, who used his show, America's Voice to incite violence following the storming of the Capitol?



America's Real Voice

To help Real America's Voice (RAV) present you with Real News and Honest Views. Thank you for all your support!

\$0.00

Make this a monthly donation 0

Donate with PayPal

Donate with a Debit or Credit Card

- Contact employers, landlords, commanding officers, school officials, family, clergy.....
- Pressure financial services (e.g., GoFundMe, Patreon, PayPal, Venmo)
- Pressure retailers (e.g., Amazon, Cafepress)
- Pressure service providers (e.g., AirBnB, Tinder)

"After Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Venmo, Paypal—plus the entire country of Australia—banned...Milo Yiannopoulos, he admitted he could no longer make money off talks, and as of late 2019 was \$4 million in debt."

(Spencer Sunshine, 40 Ways to Fight Fascists)

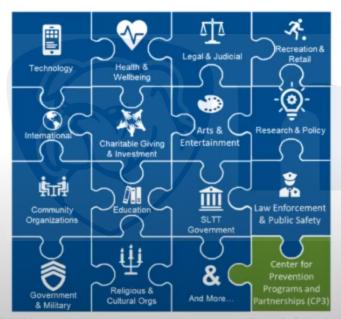




De-platform Fascists Online

## Whole of Society Approach





 CP3 engages and collaborates with partners across all sectors of society

Ι

12/3/2021

# SPHR2021

## How do antifascists gather this info?



Passive Observation

Remain conversant and situationally aware



Join and Listen

Telegram,
Parler, Gab,
Facebook,
Discord



Document, Archive & Map

Save, collate, & combine content to produce intelligence



Active Intelligence

> Identify targets, create dossiers, release information



Embed

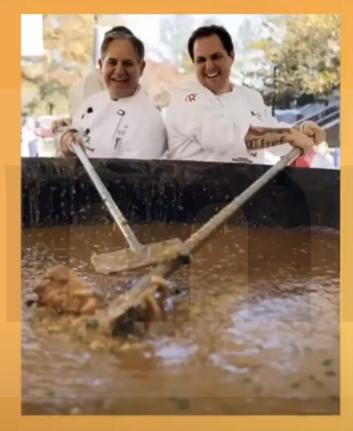
Infiltrate, surveil, interfere, misdirect, disrupt



# SO WHAT'S IN THE CONSPIRACY POT?

- Politico-economic anxiety
- Impending crisis
- Threat of 'antifa' & BLM
- 'fake news'
- Corrupt politicians
- Economic collapse
- Infrastructural collapse
- Loss of 2nd Amendment
- Unjustified police action
- The 'sharia creep'

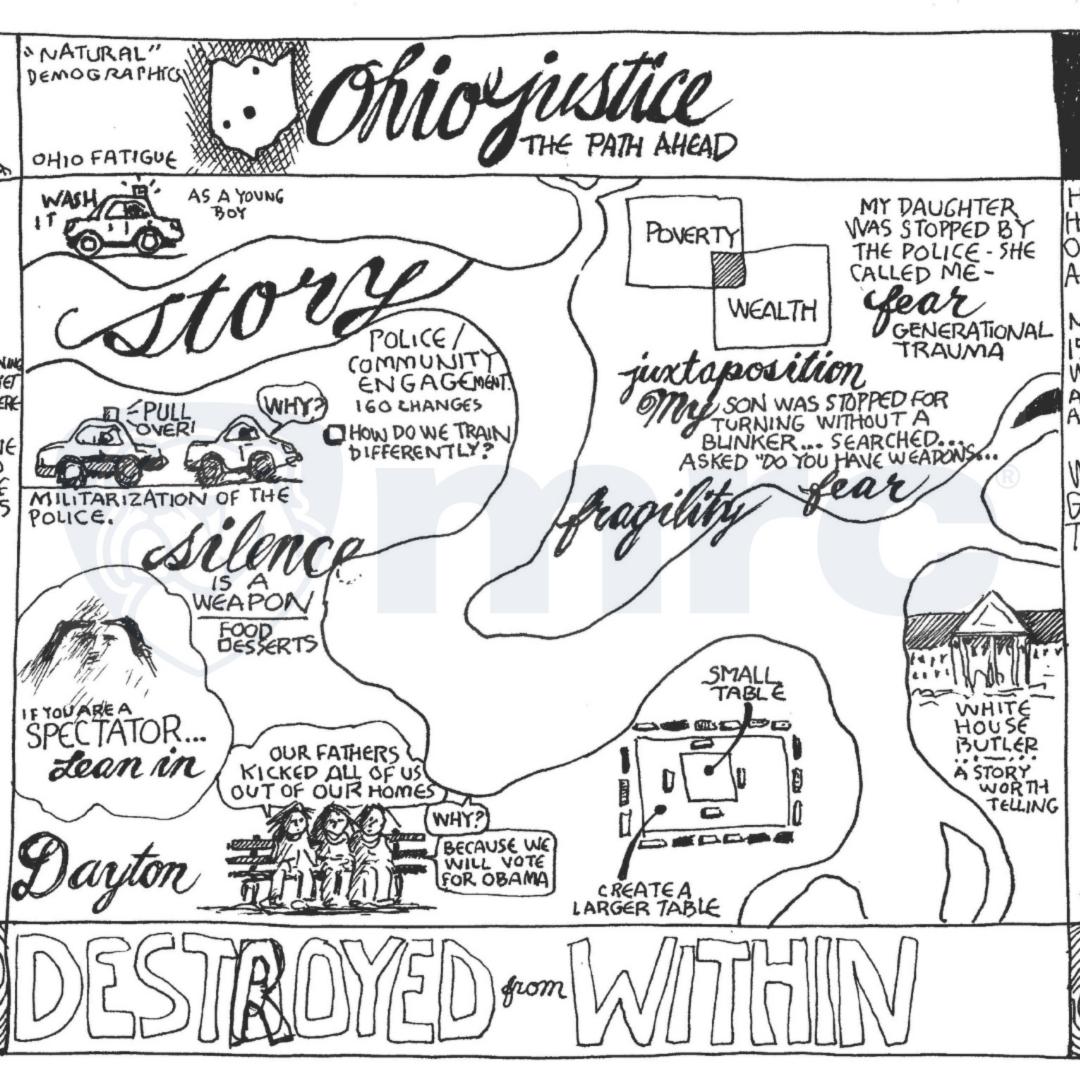
Civil War



- Anticipated mass civil unrest
- Islamist terrorism
- One world government

- Corona virus suspicion
- Anti-vaccine
- Anti-lockdown
- Anti-5G
- Cultural Marxism, multiculturalism, p.c. culture
- Mass immigration
- The Great Replacement
- Red-green Axis (leftist / Islamist)
- Losses by American

Subtitles/closed captions (c) military



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@mloadenthal

Amazingly detailed reporting coming out of ATL's antifascist researchers.

Check this out

ATL Antifascists (kolektiva.social/@AtlantaAntifa) @afainatl  $\cdot$  Apr 20 NEW REPORT: "Inside Southern Sons Active Club"

Three months ago, we started infiltrating Southern Sons Active Club, a racist group active in Georgia and the Carolinas. In this major report, we identify over a dozen neo-Nazis and highlight violent plots.

atlantaantifa.org/2023/04/19/ins...

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4:57 PM · Apr 20, 2023 · **186** Views

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#### Haaland

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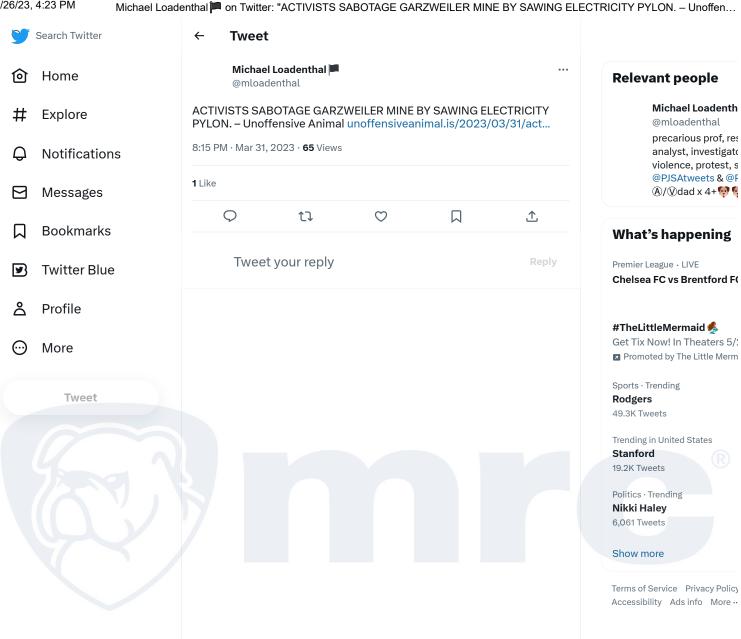
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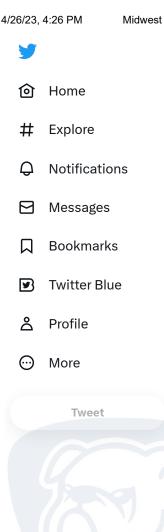
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#### Midwest People's

@MPHProject

The Midwest Peop is an ongoing chror when ordinary peo and made history. I contributions.

#### **National Lawyers**

@NLGnews

Human rights over since 1937. Fighting organizing in solida movement leaders

#### Human Rights Wa

@hrw

Exposing #Human around the world. J them! Staff: bit.ly/F HRW accounts hrw.org/about/soc

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Holy moly on oh so many levels

No\$hu @Noshu4me · Mar 6

The Atlanta Police stripped the original audio to this video but I was able to find it 🧐

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189.9K views

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9:28 PM · Mar 6, 2023 · 122 Views











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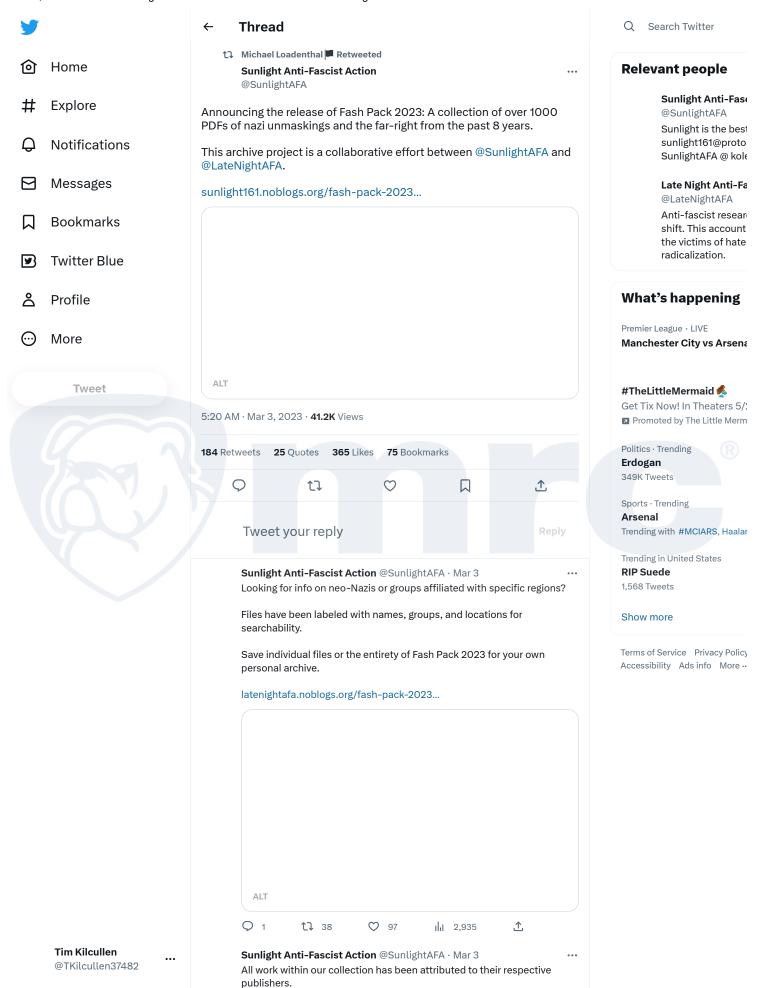
 $\mathsf{Politics} \cdot \mathsf{Trending}$ 

#### Nikki Haley

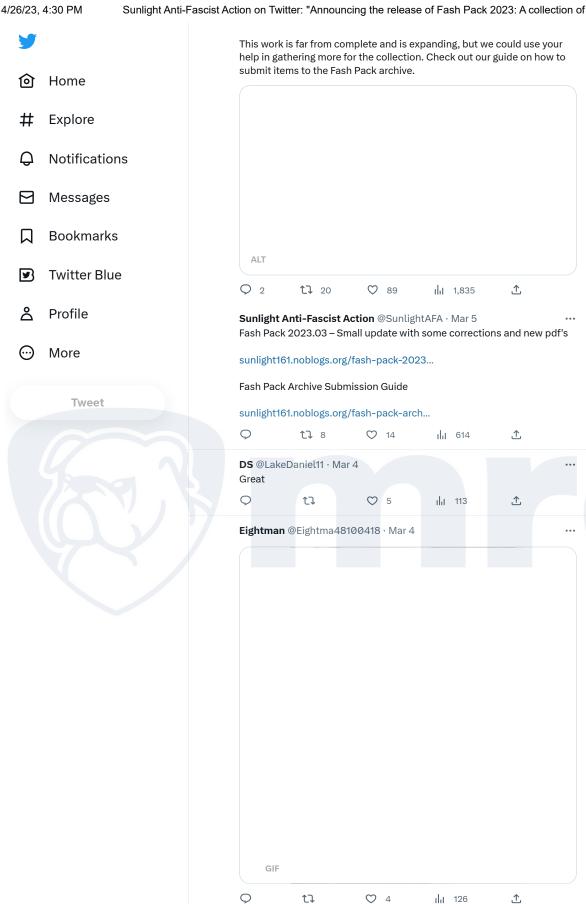
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John Bliss @Blissband1 · Mar 3

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TO Antifascist/ Shit Disturber @TOAntifaAvenger  $\cdot$  Mar 5

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TYVM

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Sunlight Anti-Fascist Action on Twitter: "Announcing the release of Fash Pack 2023: A collection of over 1000 PDFs of nazi unmas... 4/26/23, 4:30 PM I cannot thank you enough for this work. I have already found really useful Q information. tℷ ♡ 3 ıl<sub>ı</sub>ı 105 仚 Home ‰ **Suhpysis ૐ** @glennmerrill ⋅ Mar 3 Resource 🐪 Explore Q tℷ ♥ 2 ıl<sub>ıl</sub> 35 ₾ Notifications cum 🖋 🄻 🍼 😎 🤙 @CrimesEnjoyer ⋅ Mar 3 based Q tℷ ♡ 4 ₾ Messages ıl<sub>ı</sub>ı 243 To be honest my dad's not the governor... @TheDoorOKC  $\cdot$  Mar 3 Bookmarks This is beautiful, thank you! **t**↓ 1 ♡ 20 ılı 501 **Twitter Blue**  $\blacksquare$ Profile More Tweet

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Imagine being Charlie and being the SECOND worst person to appear at an event like this....wow.

Miami Against Fascism 🎢 🥗 @MIAagainstFash · Jan 31

TPUSA will be hosting the world's biggest loser this Friday, Feb 3 in Miami with Brazil's washed up fascist ex-President, Jair Bolsonaro.

Advertised as his first public appearance since the election, it will be held at Trump's Doral golf club at 5pm.

#ForaBolsonaro

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7:21 PM · Jan 31, 2023 · 164 Views

3 Likes

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### Miami Against Fas

@MIAagainstFash

We expose the far-South FL. Covered Guardian, Miami H Email: miamiagainstfascis

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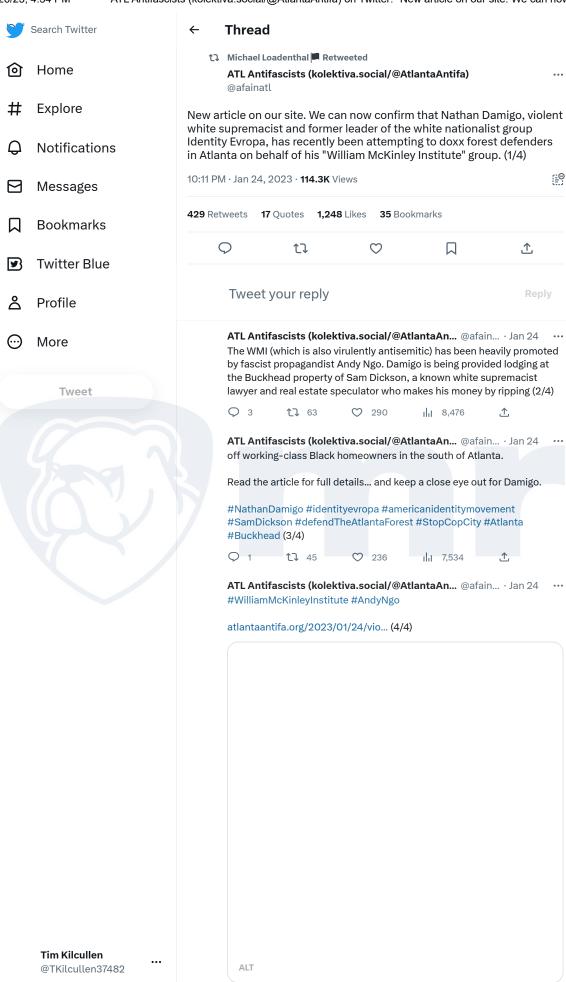
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4,735 Tweets

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Miami Anti-Fascist Newsletter

@MIAAntifaNews

Anarchists release a comunique after attacking Brasfield and Gorrie, Cop City Atlanta General Contractor

#StopCopCity #DefendTheForest #AbolishThePolice #WeHaveTheNumbers #WeIntendToWin



5:45 PM · Jan 14, 2023 · **1,964** Views

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Miami Anti-Fascist Newsletter} @ \textbf{MIAAntifaNews} \cdot \textbf{Jan 14} \\ \textbf{Communique cont'd:} \\ \end{tabular}$ 

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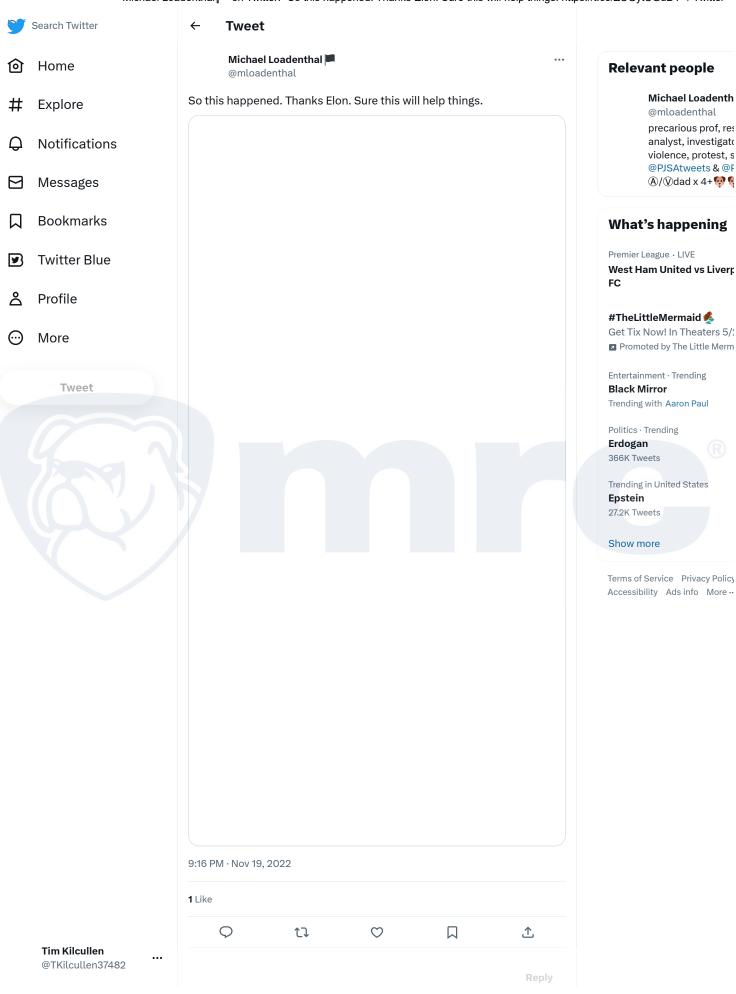
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C C C CO

redivivus @scott\_crow · 14h

Bash Back! Is Back—Reviving an Insurrectionary Queer Network

cwc.im/BashBack2023

Ahead of a new convergence this September, participants in the original Bash Back! explore its history, what has changed over 15 years, and what the model has to offer to today's struggles.

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9:20 PM · Apr 27, 2023 · 109 Views

2 Likes

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NFL · LIVE

#### 2023 NFL Draft

Trending with #NFLDraft , Ea

#### #GuardiansOfTheGalaxy 3

The Guardians return in one Promoted by Marvel Studios

Politics · Trending

#### Russia

276K Tweets

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#### Garfunkel

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#### **Banana Pudding**

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- Twitter: @MLoadenthal
- Michael@TheProsecutionProject.org

- http://MichaelLoadenthal.academia.edu
  - articles, chapters, syllabi, workshops
- https://keybase.pub/Loadenthal/
  - digital security, threat modeling, operational security for social movements



- http://TheProsecutionProject.org
  - open-source data project to examine prosecution of political violence in US

