



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

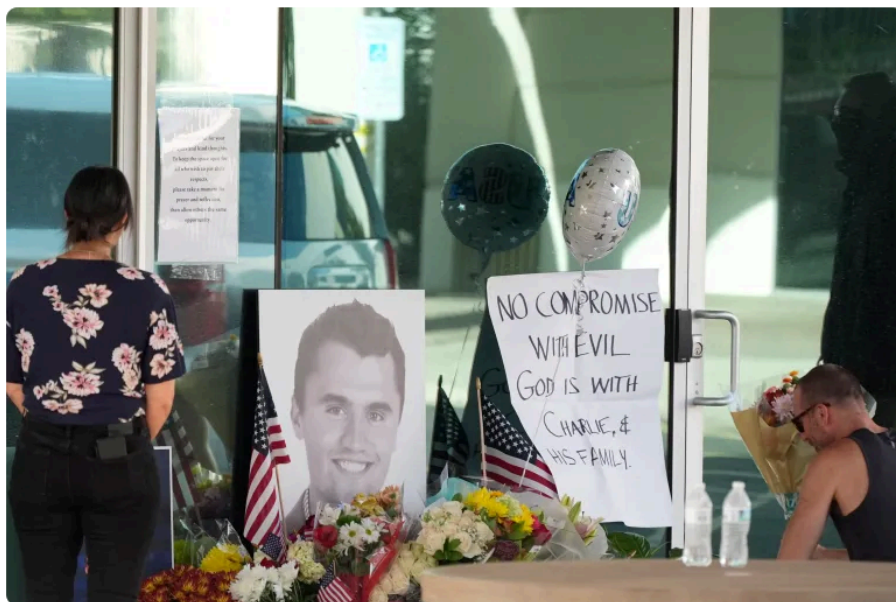
Sep 11, 2025 · 19 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1966066801449828653](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll cover the agenda-setting and flood of disinformation that spread on X and other platforms right after Charlie Kirk's assassination. It's far from the first or last time a tragedy has been weaponized for political purposes.

1/18

Trump ally and activist Charlie Kirk shot dead at Utah university

Suspect in 'political assassination' still at large, authorities say.



Well-wishers pay their respects at a makeshift memorial at the national headquarters of Turning Point USA in Phoenix, Arizona, after the assassination of Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025 [Ross D Franklin/AP Photo]



By **Erin Hale and John Power**

Erin Hale is a reporter based in Taipei, Taiwan.

10 Sep 2025

Every major political event, especially those involving violence, attracts massive attention. In the immediate aftermath, reliable information is scarce, making it highly vulnerable to both coordinated and improvised disinformation campaigns.

2/18



As I've mentioned in my previous soups and lectures, in disinformation campaigns, being first with a narrative is crucial, as people often remember the first version best — psychology studies show it sets the mental schema, and later updates rarely overwrite it.

3/18

Misinformation and Its Correction: Continued Influence and Successful Debiasing

Stephan Lewandowsky¹, Ullrich K H Ecker², Colleen M Seifert³, Norbert Schwarz³, John Cook⁴

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 26173286 DOI: [10.1177/1529100612451018](https://doi.org/10.1177/1529100612451018)

Abstract

The widespread prevalence and persistence of misinformation in contemporary societies, such as the false belief that there is a link between childhood vaccinations and autism, is a matter of public concern. For example, the myths surrounding vaccinations, which prompted some parents to withhold immunization from their children, have led to a marked increase in vaccine-preventable disease, as well as unnecessary public expenditure on research and public-information campaigns aimed at rectifying the situation. We first examine the mechanisms by which such misinformation is disseminated in society, both inadvertently and purposely. Misinformation can originate from rumors but also from works of fiction, governments and politicians, and vested interests. Moreover, changes in the media landscape, including the arrival of the Internet, have fundamentally influenced the ways in which information is communicated and misinformation is spread. We next move to misinformation at the level of the individual, and review the cognitive factors that often render misinformation resistant to correction. We consider how people assess the truth of statements and what makes people believe certain things but not others. We look at people's memory for misinformation and answer the questions of why retractions of misinformation are so ineffective in memory updating and why efforts to retract misinformation can even backfire and, ironically, increase misbelief. Though ideology and personal worldviews can be major obstacles for debiasing, there nonetheless are a number of effective techniques for reducing the impact of misinformation, and we pay special attention to these factors that aid in debiasing. We conclude by providing specific recommendations for the debunking of misinformation. These recommendations pertain to the ways in which corrections should be designed, structured, and applied in order to maximize their impact. Grounded in cognitive psychological theory, these recommendations may help practitioners-including journalists, health professionals, educators, and science communicators-design effective misinformation retractions, educational tools, and public-information campaigns.

Keywords: debiasing; false beliefs; memory updating; misinformation.

The Kremlin knows this very well, which is why they aggressively pushed their own false versions of events like the MH17 downing, the Nord Stream pipeline sabotage, or the Skripal poisonings — they came up with over 20 different stories about what had happened for this one.

4/18

MH17: 'Russian-made missile parts' at Ukraine crash site

🕒 11 August 2015



Pro-Russian rebels control the area where the MH17 crashed

'Many lethal doses' of Novichok used in poisonings

13 November 2024

Share Save

Chloe Harcombe BBC News, Wiltshire

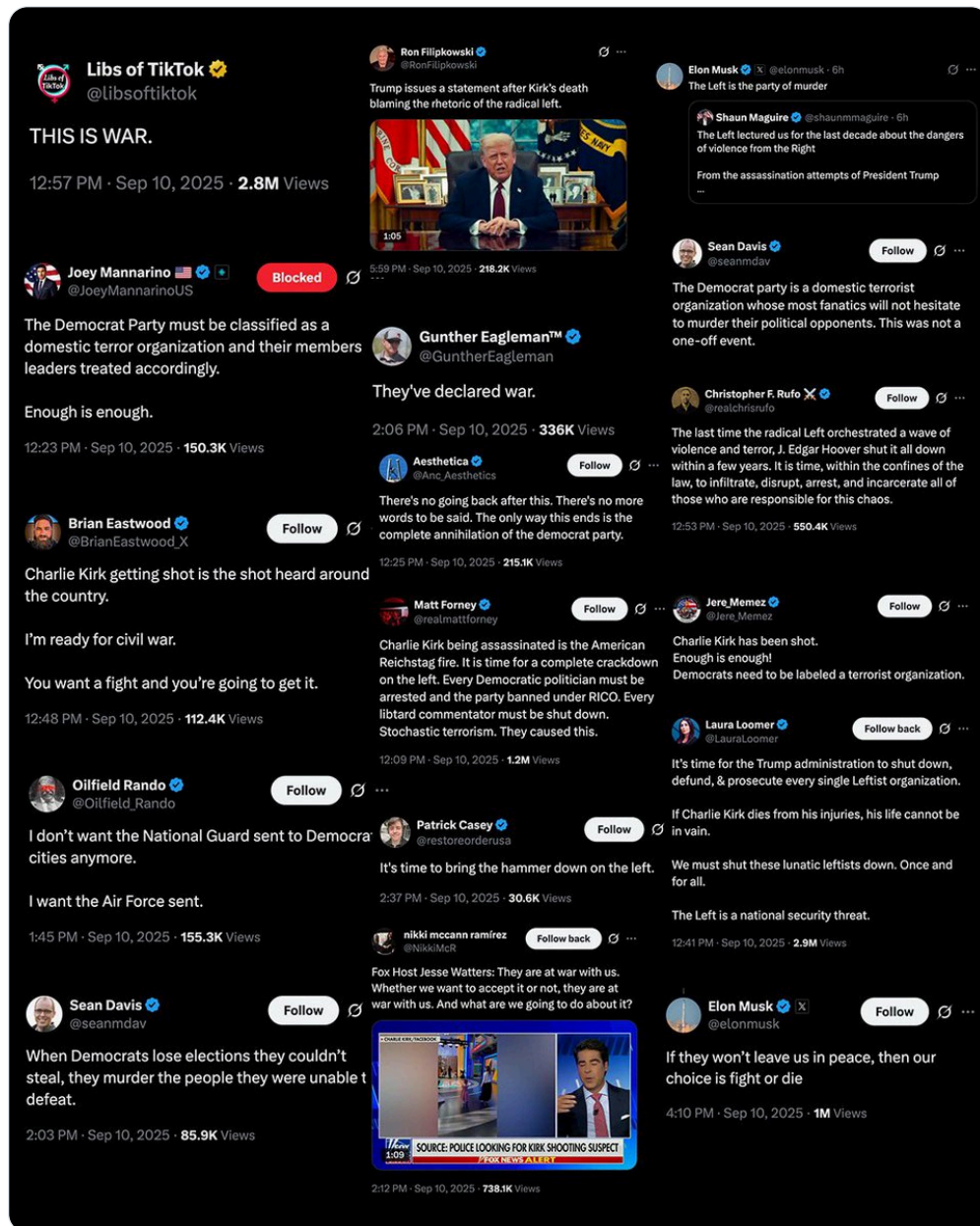


The Skripals survived a nerve agent attack in 2018

Rex Features



After Charlie Kirk's assassination, MAGA-aligned accounts rushed to blame political opponents. Among the provocateurs were Elon Musk, the world's richest man, and Donald Trump, president of a waning yet still dominant superpower.



The President of the United States also swiftly blamed rhetoric from the “radical left” for inciting political violence, implying that it was such discourse that had created the conditions that led to Charlie Kirk’s assassination.



Elon Musk tweeted, "The left is the party of murder," @realmattforney called it an "American Reichstag fire" (after which Adolf Hitler persecuted German communists), and @LauraLoomer urged shutting down, defunding, and prosecuting "every single Leftist organization."

7/18



 **Matt Forney**  @realmattforney · 11h

Charlie Kirk being assassinated is the American Reichstag fire. It is time for a complete crackdown on the left. Every Democratic politician must be arrested and the party banned under RICO. Every libtard commentator must be shut down. Stochastic terrorism. They caused this.

1.4K 4.4K 30K 1.7M



 **Matt Forney**  @realmattforney [Subscribe](#)

How many people know that the Reichstag fire was started by a Dutch communist who hoped to inspire a workers' uprising in Germany?

On the night of February 27, around 9:00, pedestrians near the Reichstag heard the sound of breaking glass. Soon after, flames erupted from the building. It took fire engines hours to quell the fire, which destroyed the debating chamber and the Reichstag's gilded cupola, ultimately causing over \$1 million in damage. Police arrested an unemployed Dutch construction worker named Marinus van der Lubbe on the scene. The young man was found outside the building with firefighters in his possession and was panting and sweaty.

"This is a God-given signal," Hitler told von Papen when they arrived on the scene. "If this fire, as I believe, is the work of the Communists, then we must crush out this murderous pest with an iron fist."

11:11 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · 99.5K Views

 **Laura Loomer**  @LauraLoomer [Subscribe](#)

It's time for the Trump administration to shut down, defund, & prosecute every single Leftist organization.

If Charlie Kirk dies from his injuries, his life cannot be in vain.

We must shut these lunatic leftists down. Once and for all.

The Left is a national security threat.

10:41 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · 3.4M Views

One of the main narratives was a call for civil war — major MAGA-aligned accounts like @libsoftiktok, Gunther Eagleman (recently souped), and even Elon Musk echoed this, with their posts amplified by X's bot and troll networks:

8/18

https://x.com/Havoc_Six/status/1965867068223566069



Libs of TikTok 🌟

@libsoftiktok

Subscribe



THIS IS WAR.

10:57 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · **3.1M** Views



Gunther Eagleman™ ✓

@GuntherEagleman



They've declared war.

12:06 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · **410.2K** Views



Matt Van Swol ✓ @matt_vanswol · 11h



Elon was right.



Matt Van Swol ✓ @matt_vanswol · 22h



If I am being perfectly honest...

I think I am beginning to lose the will to be tolerant.

3.1K

2.1K

37K

992K



Elon Musk ✓ ✕

@elonmusk

X.com

If tolerance means the end of Western Civilization,
then we cannot be tolerant

771

10K

89K

1M



Elon Musk ✓ ✕

@elonmusk

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If they won't leave us in peace, then our choice is fight or die

2:10 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · **1.4M** Views



Blue Georgia
@BlueATLGeorgia



Alex Jones: "We're in a war."

Steve Bannon: "Charlie Kirk is a casualty of war."



Jesse Watters: "They are at war with us. What are we going to do about it?"



5:58 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · 105.3K Views

Another target was the Democratic Party, with accounts like @JoeyMannarinoUS (our favorite "Black woman"), @Anc_Aesthetics, and @seanmdav calling to label it a "terrorist organization," while many others demanded the party be shut down entirely.



Joey Mannarino    
@JoeyMannarinoUS

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This is a nice gesture, but I'd rather see them officially condemn the Democrat Party as a terrorist organization and enact emergency powers to remove their leadership from power.



Eric Daugherty  @EricLDaugh · 9h



JUST IN: There is a US House resolution to officially condemn the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

117TH CONGRESS
1st Session

H. RES.

Honoring Charlie Kirk following his assassination on September 10, 2025,
in Orem, Utah.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MULLIN submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Honoring Charlie Kirk following his assassination on
September 10, 2025, in Orem, Utah.

Whereas, on September 10, 2025, a gunman opened fire at
a Turning Point USA event hosted by Charlie Kirk, a
faith-based conservative spokesman and thought leader,
targeting him specifically: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns in the strongest possible terms
3 this horrific political assassination, which occurred
4 at Utah Valley University, of Charlie Kirk, on Sep-
5 tember 10, 2025;

1 (2) offers its heartfelt condolences to the fam-
2 ily, friends, and loved ones of Charlie Kirk, who was
3 killed in the attack;


4 (3) recognizes the service of the security team,
5 first responders, and the health care professionals
6 who jumped into action;

7 (4) reaffirms the bedrock principle of American
8 democracy and representative government, which is
9 memorialized in the First Amendment to the Con-
10 stitution of “the right of the people peaceably to as-
11 semble”; and

12 (5) stands firm in its belief in a democracy in
13 which all can participate and in which intimidation
14 and threats of violence cannot silence the voice of
15 any American.

3:15 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · **22.8K** Views



Aesthetica 
@Anc_Aesthetics


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There's no going back after this. There's no more words to be said. The only way this ends is the complete annihilation of the democrat party.

10:25 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · **230.4K** Views



Sean Davis 
@seanmdav

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The Democrat party is a domestic terrorist organization whose most fanatics will not hesitate to murder their political opponents. This was not a one-off event.

A Bernie bro tried to murder an entire park full of Republican lawmakers. A deranged left-winger attempted a mass shooting at the Family Research Council building. They tried to assassinate Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett before the Dobbs decision. Their demonic trans foot soldiers murdered Christian children while they worshipped at church and studied at their desks. They tried to blow Trump's head off on live TV after failing to bankrupt him and have him thrown in prison for life. Their race warriors spent an entire summer burning cities to the ground. Antifa will ambush and kill cops without remorse. They'll watch one of their own plow a vehicle into a Christmas parade and shrug and then tell you to calm down about it.

CNN and MSNBC and deranged left-wing personalities on BlueSky deliberately incite violence, and when it happens, they take the psychopath's route of mocking and gaslighting the victims.

Terrorist Democrats will not stop. Just look at their reactions right now. They are either laughing about it or lying about it. But deep down they're fine with it. And until they are stopped—until every single nutjob inciting this madness and cheering it on is held accountable and removed from civil society—it will not stop.

How much longer can this madness be tolerated?

10:42 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · **383.3K** Views

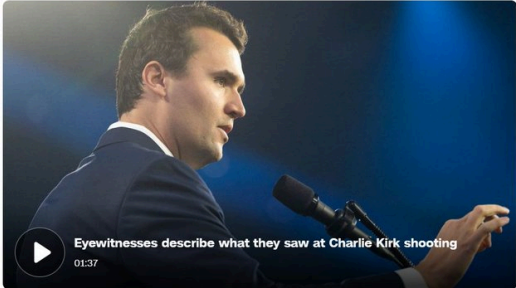
It's worth noting that these claims came before any evidence at all about the shooter emerged. This is a textbook example of agenda-setting 101, showing how MAGA Republicans have borrowed a strategy from the Kremlin's authoritarian playbook.

CNN US Crime + Justice Watch Listen Live TV

LIVE UPDATES

Manhunt underway after conservative activist Charlie Kirk shot dead on Utah campus

By Elise Hammond, Maureen Chowdhury, Aditi Sangal, Dalia Faheid, Elizabeth Wolfe, Tori B. Powell, Cindy Von Quednow and Taylor Romine, CNN
Updated 1:24 AM EDT, Thu September 11, 2025



"WHENEVER THERE'S A BIG EVENT, SET THE AGENDA"



The killing has already sparked several conspiracy theories from both ends of the political spectrum. As usual, @shayan86 has been actively debunking these, and I highly recommend giving him a follow. I'll also go through the main narratives below.



Revolutionary Blackou... 

@SocialistMMA

Follow



Charlie Kirk was clearly killed by a government agency or organization of some sort by a professionally trained sniper

This has nothing to do with the left so i'm not sure why we are supposed to hold our tongue. This is capitalist on capitalist violence

2:15 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · **17.6K** Views



I don't think you people understand

This man, in charge of security for Charlie Kirk, is owned by Israel

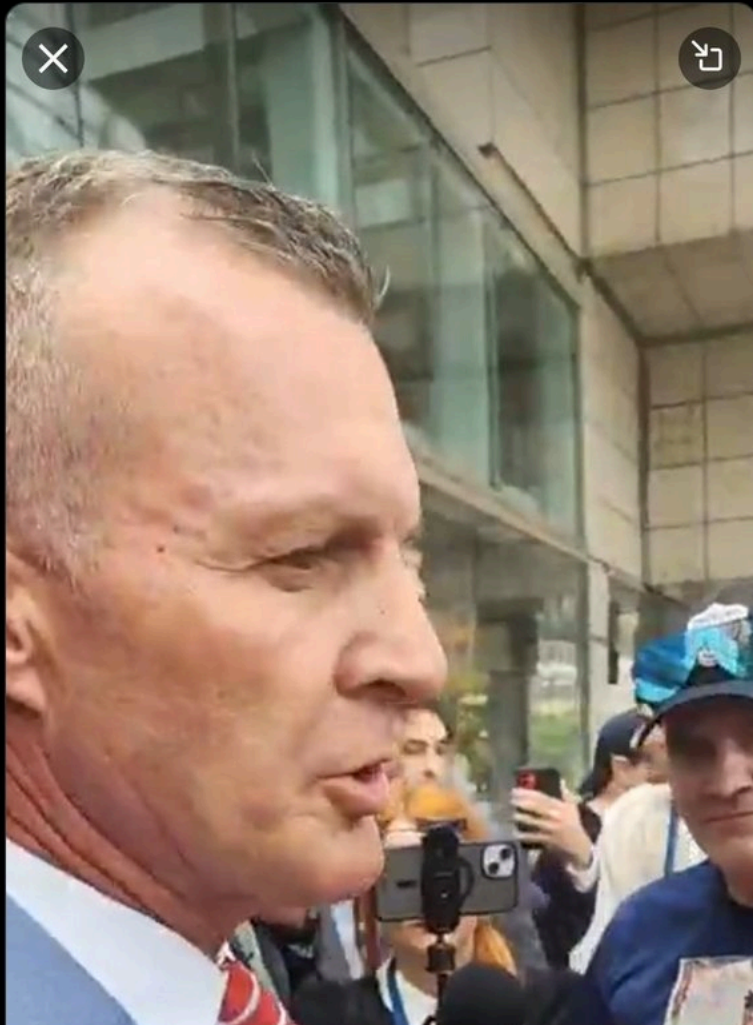
You want to talk about a conspiracy, this man must be immediately brought in to custody for questioning

Why were the roofs not covered?

Why did the PD admit to failures?

Why was the event not cancelled?

And who the fuck is the shooter?



The most widespread anti-MAGA narrative claims Donald Trump may have ordered Charlie Kirk's assassination to distract from the Epstein files and spark civil unrest, allowing him to declare martial law and delay the upcoming midterm elections.



Morgan J. Freeman
@mjfree



How do we know Trump didn't order Kirk's assassination as a distraction from Epstein — and a tactic to start the civil unrest he needs to declare Martial Law and delay the 2026 midterms?

4:05 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · **447.6K** Views

Anti-American communist propagandist @jacksonhinklle claimed the assassination may have been orchestrated by Israel and Benjamin Netanyahu, whereas Australian Gi — sorry, "Syrian Girl" — spread the same story pushed by Harrison H. Smith of InfoWars.

13/18



Jackson Hinkle
@jacksonhinklle

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Charlie Kirk said he feared 'Israel would kill him if he stepped out of line?'

Netanyahu paused his attacks on 7 different countries to tweet about Charlie, minutes after the attack?

The arrested suspect was a patsy & the shooter is still on the run?

Am I hearing this right?

11:55 PM · Sep 10, 2025 · **3M** Views



Jackson Hinkle
@jacksonhinklle

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Netanyahu ADMITS he spoke to Charlie Kirk 2 weeks prior to the assassination

Netanyahu said he invited Charlie to VISIT ISRAEL

Charlie was then being attacked by Zionist media for criticizing Israel

Does anyone know if Charlie REFUSED Netanyahu's request to visit Israel?

9:46 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · **14.1K** Views



Syrian Girl 
@Partisangirl



Tweeted one month ago predicting Charlie Kirk's assassination



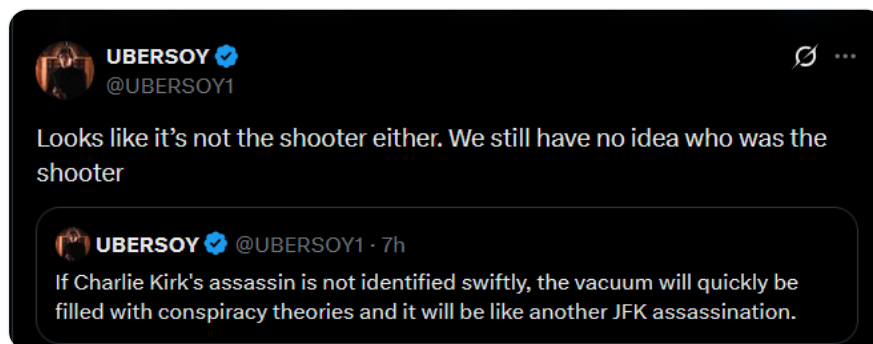
Harrison H. Smith  @HarrisonHSmith · Aug 13

I'm not gonna name names, but I was told by someone close to Charlie Kirk that Charlie thinks Israel will kill him if he turns against them. [x.com/ImperiumFirst/...](https://x.com/ImperiumFirst/)

12:06 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · **85.8K** Views



Anonymous accounts like @UBERSOY1 began doxxing entirely innocent people. That account quickly jumped on the transphobic bandwagon, doxxing a 17-year-old. The post is still up, hasn't been Community Noted, and will even earn UBERSOY money.



The polarization of social media is clear when reading comments about the murder on Bluesky (typically more left-leaning, as X is right-leaning). Many left-aligned users are even celebrating it, showing how deeply divided the US society has become:

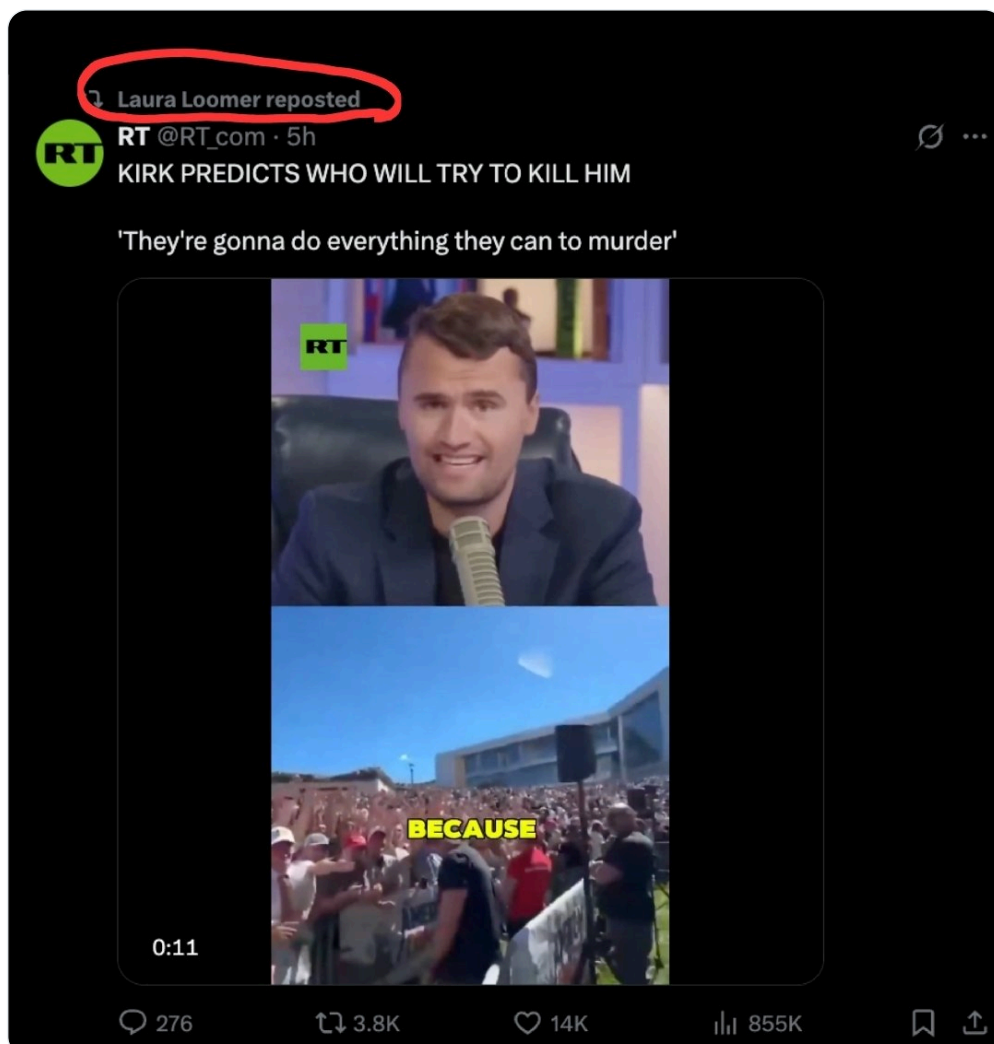
15/18

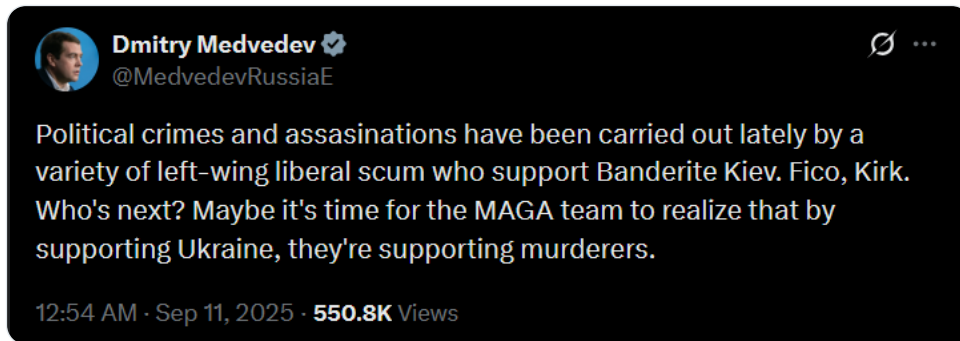
<https://x.com/avidseries/status/1965894893148217813>



Many of these narratives have already been amplified by bot and troll farms, and even by Russian officials like Drunk Dima. For them, it's a prime opportunity to stir the pot and provoke civil unrest in the United States.

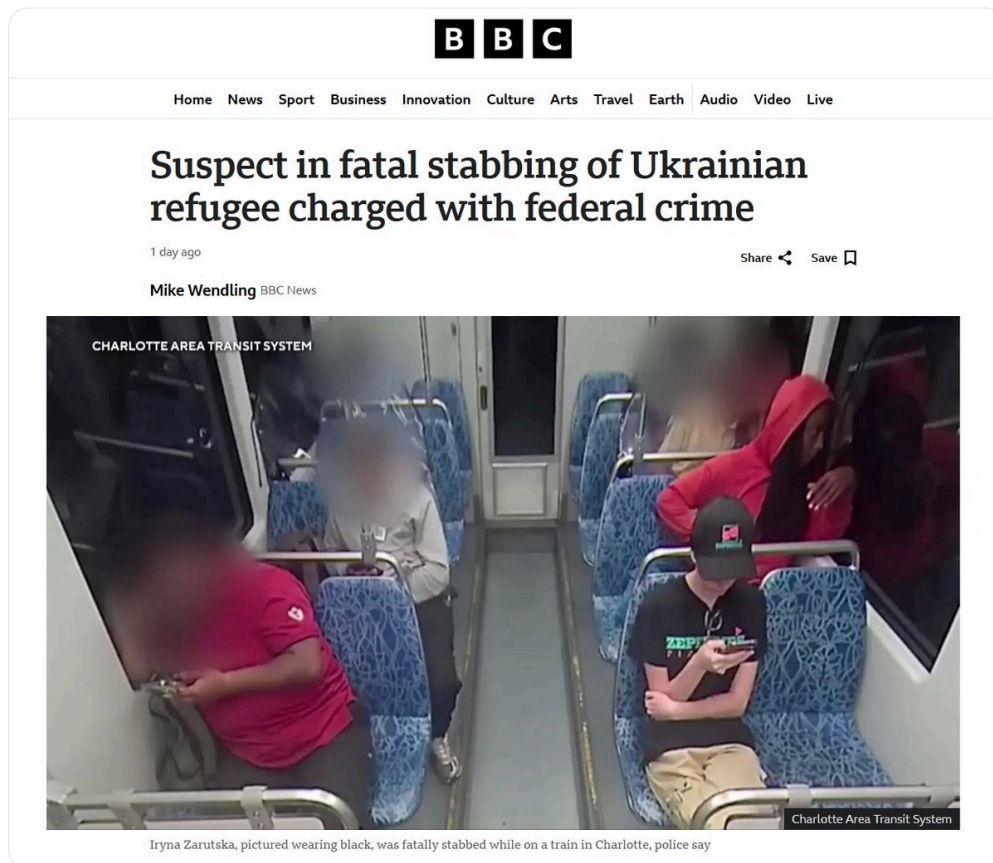
16/18





Another recent example of exploiting tragedy for politics is the gruesome murder of Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutska in the US. People who once demonized both Ukrainians and refugees switched to accusing the media and pro-Ukraine voices of ignoring the terrible crime.

17/18





Eoghan McCabe  

@eoghan

Follow





I am offering \$500k in \$10k grants to paint murals of the face of Iryna Zarutska in prominent US city locations

Please contact katie@eoghan.com for more details

Please also share this message

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact Katie also



Elon Musk  

@elonmusk

Subscribe



Replying to [@eoghan](#)

I will contribute \$1M

10:01 · 10 Sept 25 · **6,4M** Views


3 667 Reposts **544** Quotes **59,7K** Likes

1 101 Bookmarks



You can reply

Verified accounts or people mentioned by @eoghan can reply.

Most relevant replies 




Eoghan McCabe   @eogh... · 18h  


Replying to [@elonmusk](#)

Thank you. Kindly have your team contact
katie@eoghan.com

 13

 64

 4,5K

 293K





Cody Mac  
@AlphaApproved

Follow

Replying to [@EricLDaugh](#)

A mural of Iryna Zarutsky should be up in every major city across the US.



15:07 · 10 Sept 25 · 2 438 Views

Kirk was a polarizing figure, and I personally disagreed with many of his statements on Ukraine. But he was also a husband & father.

Sadly, cynically exploiting the death of anyone deemed convenient or timely has become routine political practice.



Charlie Kirk  
@charliekirk11

Follow

We don't support you. Show some respect next time. You are an ungrateful petulant child who is responsible for 1 million dead.



Volodymyr Zelenskyu / Володимир З...  · 1d

Thank you America, thank you for your support, thank you for this visit. Thank you @POTUS, Congress, and the American people. Ukraine needs just and lasting peace, and we are working exactly for that.



donaldjtrumpjr



Got my Paul Pelosi Halloween costume ready.





Mark Keith Robinson

October 29 at 9:35 PM · 🌐



I'm sorry Paul I don't believe you or the press!!!!



Ryan Spoon for Idaho, Red Dirt Diva and 6.8K others

1K Comments 2.4K Shares



Elon Musk

🕒 This article is more than **2 years** old

Musk posts baseless conspiracy theory about Paul Pelosi attack on Twitter

Post comes days after Musk takes over social media platform amid concern that hate speech will run rampant under his leadership

The 2nd edition of "Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" is officially out!

You can order your copy here:

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