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South Africa: (Is it) The Future of Domestic and the Global White Race?

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ABSTRACT

The protests that began in July 2021 and South Africa's history of Apartheid and Nationalist rule, made it the perfect model to aid White Supremacists in showing and predicting what may happen in other countries in the case that they became "Black" governed countries. To agitate the situation, White Supremacists rely on spreading propaganda that creates panic and shows the need of civilians to "take the law into their own hands". Also, it allows White Supremacists in South Africa and other countries such as Australia, the USA and more to use the local situation in South Africa on a global scale to spread propaganda supporting "White Genocide" and "The Great replacement" theories, while radicalizing Whites in the country to get them to act. One of the tactics they use is to bring recognition and solidarity to the local White South Africans including financial aid. Another trend that raises concern is White Nationalists in South Africa constituting a "ready force", building up and biding their time until what they refer to as the "race war". This amalgamation of White Nationalist tactics alongside the opportunity posed in South Africa allows White Nationalists internationally to plant seeds of hatred that will grow into realistic threats. As White Nationalism is for the most part treated as a domestic threat, growing international movements pose a threat that is both dangerous and below the "radar" of local Law Enforcement agencies.

Keywords: South Africa, Great Replacement, White Genocide, REMVE

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Introduction

On 9 July 2021 supporters of former South African President, Jacob Zuma, began protesting in the streets of Kwazulu-Natal in response to Zuma's arrest for not testifying in the "Zondo Commission".¹ The commission was

¹ Home. (n.d.). Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector Including Organs of State. Retrieved July 18, 2021, from

investigating potential corruption allegations during his time as president from 2009 - 2018.² The protests at first began in the Kwazulu-Natal region and within two days had also spread to areas of Gauteng. What started as protests that involved stones being thrown at police forces, escalated into the burning of cars, buildings and mass looting of shops and malls. The protestors were of the South African Zulu heritage, a tribe to which Jacob Zuma also belongs.³

In a speech on July 18th 2021, South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, expressed that he believed the protests were planned before Zuma's arrest and were simply being used as a way to undermine his government in its efforts to take corruption out of politics.⁴ While there is speculation over the true spark of the protests, it is clear that in a country with 22,441 new cases of Covid-19 on the day leading up to the riots, as well as an unemployment rate of 32.6%, the frustration on both sides (those rioting and those not) had played into the situation.⁵

A main threat in the protests is the opportunity they pose to both global and domestic far-right groups looking for the chance to start a war based on race. With South Africa being a country with its own history of racism, it has all the components in place to explode.

Routine monitoring of encrypted and non-encrypted far-right communication channels, before and during the time of the protests, indicated that under the surface, extremely volatile events were taking place with limited coverage in the media. Shortly after the outbreak of the protests, there was an increase in membership to both global and South African White Supremacist Telegram groups as well as an increase in the frequency of daily posts, from less than 10 posts a day to more than 3 an hour. During monitoring of the groups, it seemed that globally, individuals and White Supremacist organizations, made use of the events in South Africa to fulfil several goals.

<https://www.statecapture.org.za/>

- 2 Al Jazeera. (2021, July 12). *S Africa violence spreads after Jacob Zuma jailed*. Jacob Zuma News | Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/12/violence-spreads-in-s-africa-after-jacob-zumas-jailing>
- 3 Jacob Zuma | Biography, Age, Jail, & Facts. (2021, July 15). Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jacob-Zuma>
- 4 *President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the nation on SA unrest*. (2021, July 16). YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz8OEcVyc2U&ab_channel=eNCA
- 5 *COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University*. (n.d.). <https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>; Africa, S. S. (2019, May 15). *unemployment rate | Search Results | Statistics South Africa*. <http://www.statssa.gov.za/?S=unemployment%20rate&gclid=EAlaQobChMI7YTvsft8QIV>

1. Using South Africa as a model to predict outcomes in other countries while using the events in South Africa as a tool to radicalize and recruit.
2. Solidarity and financial support of White Supremacists Globally with the White people living in South Africa.
3. Call to action (incitement).
4. The idea of Race war as a solution to challenges facing White Supremacists.

The purpose of this article is to shed light on the conduct of White Nationalist organizations and their attempt to “leverage” those events in South Africa to spread their ideology globally. The danger lies in the fact that Whites living in South Africa will undergo radicalization that will, in turn, make them supporters of White Supremacist ideologies and even willing to act, sometimes even as isolated threats to the realization of ideology and those linked to global White Nationalist organizations.

Background

The system of “Apartheid” was in place in South Africa between the years 1948 and 1994, wherein the white minority of South Africa, 14.8% of the total population, governed over the whole country and a population that included Whites, Blacks, Coloureds and Asians (Indians). Asians (Indians) and Coloureds were given second class citizenship with few civil liberties and were forced to live in districts of a slightly higher standard than Black people. The Apartheid government was implemented and run by the NP (National Party).⁶ Black people were third-class citizens at the time with the least political and civil freedoms in the country as well as being forced to live in the worst areas.⁷ During the time of Apartheid laws were put into place that stipulated which areas a Black person was allowed to live, what time they were allowed out of their areas (curfew), as well as where they were allowed to walk, eat, sit (Black only benches) and even what they were able to learn in school.⁸

In June 1967, the defense amendment bill was passed in order to make

6 *A history of Apartheid in South Africa | South African History Online.* (n.d.). <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/history-apartheid-south-africa>. Retrieved August 7, 2021, from <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/history-apartheid-south-africa>

7 The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (n.d.). *apartheid | Definition, Facts, Beginning, & End.* Encyclopaedia Britannica. Retrieved July 18, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/apartheid>; “Coloured, formerly Cape Coloured, a person of mixed European (“white”) and African (“black”) or Asian ancestry, as officially defined by the South African government from 1950 to 1991.” The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (n.d.-b). *Coloured | people.* Encyclopaedia Britannica. Retrieved July 18, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Coloured>; Mayne, A. (1999). *From Politics Past to Politics Future: An Integrated Analysis of Current and Emergent Paradigms* (First Edition). Praeger.

8 History.com Editors. (2020, March 3). *Apartheid.* HISTORY. <https://www.history.com/topics/africa/apartheid>

conscription to the military compulsory for all white males between the ages of 17 - 65. The service took place in either the SANDF (South African National Defense Force) or the SAPS (South African Police Service) and lasted 9 months until the bill was changed in 1972 to 1 year of service followed by 5 years reserve duty of up to 3 months at a time. Both forces were primarily used to enforce the government's stance regarding liberation organizations, deal with anti-Apartheid activists and defend the country against the "communist threat".⁹

After years of negotiation between Nelson Mandela and Frederik Willem de Klerk (South African president at the time), Mandela who represented the ANC (African National Congress) at the time, following his release from prison, was able to negotiate a new constitution that would lay the groundwork for democracy in 1991. In 1994 in the first democratic elections of South Africa, the ANC was able to win 62% of the votes and form a government that would then abolish Apartheid laws.¹⁰

As of 2020 (last consensus taken), Whites make up only 7.8% of the South African population that has grown from a population of 35,094,000 during Apartheid, to 60,121,932 today.¹¹ The dwindling numbers of White South Africans can be attributed to lower birth rates and immigration.¹²

Although a minority in South Africa, certain White Supremacist organizations, such as the AWB (Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging), believe that white people should still run the country or at least have a separate white state within South Africa. White Supremacist organizations have openly existed in South Africa as early as the 1970s. One of the main organizations is the AWB (Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging), a paramilitary White Supremacist organization, which was founded in 1973 in South Africa by Eugène Terre'Blanche and based itself on White Supremacist values. Of more than 3 publicly White Supremacist organizations in South Africa, the AWB

9 Military service becomes compulsory for White South African men. | South African History Online. (n.d.). <https://www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event/military-service-becomes-compulsory-white-south-african-men>. Retrieved July 25, 2021, from <https://www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event/military-service-becomes-compulsory-white-south-african-men>

10 Blakemore, E. (2021, May 3). How Nelson Mandela fought apartheid—and why his work is not complete. History. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/nelson-mandela-fought-apartheid-work-not-complete>

11 Statista. (2021, July 15). Total population of South Africa 2019, by ethnic groups. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1116076/total-population-of-south-africa-by-population-group/>; South Africa Population (2021) - Worldometer. (n.d.). <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/south-africa-population/>. Retrieved July 25, 2021, from <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/south-africa-population/>

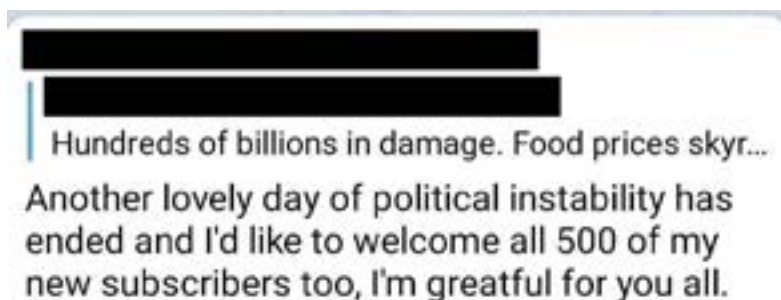
12 Writer, S. (2021, July 19). White South Africans are leaving the country in their thousands: Stats SA. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/507034/white-south-africans-are-leaving-the-country-in-their-thousands-stats-sa/>. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/507034/white-south-africans-are-leaving-the-country-in-their-thousands-stats-sa/>

is the most organized and many of its founding members served in the SANDF (South African National Defense Forces) and SAPS (South African Police Services) during the Apartheid years.¹³ In 2016, the SAPS were able to uncover the organization's use of social media in recruiting new members.¹⁴ The AWB is estimated to have more than 5,000 active members.¹⁵

Increase in membership and exposure within White Supremacist channels

With increased interest in the situation in South Africa, both newly created White Supremacist channels established long before the riots in South Africa, as well as groups as recently created as 1 month before the riots, all saw exponential growth in their subscription numbers. Many individuals found themselves in channels that did not try to hide their intentions. Individuals began to receive live updates on the situation. Once in the groups, the individuals were then exposed to more White Supremacist propaganda.

In one of the channels, the channel admin thanks the situation in South Africa for helping his channel grow and thanks to new members for joining the channel. At that point, the group was growing at around 500 new members a day.



A post welcoming 500 new subscribers for joining the channel (Telegram, July 2021).

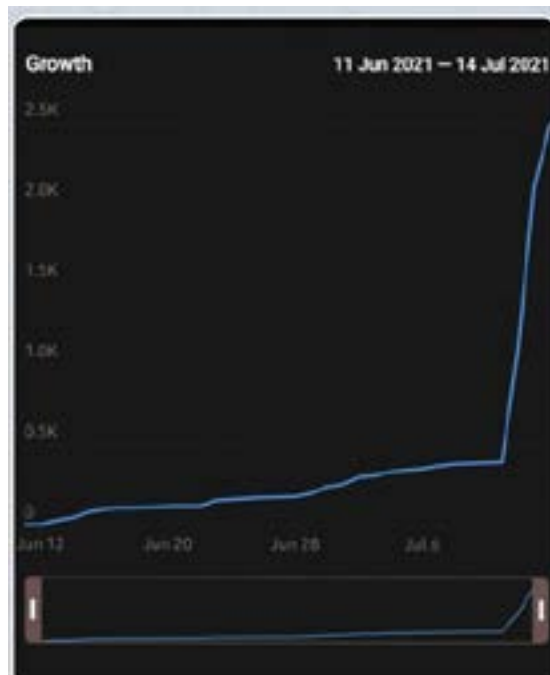
Another post shows a graph plotting the growth of a group created around 1 month before the riots. In the first few weeks of the group's growth, we see an upward trend of new members joining the group

13 Turpin-Petrosino, C. (2015). *Understanding Hate Crimes: Acts, Motives, Offenders, Victims, and Justice* (1st ed.). Routledge.

14 Roux, I. (2016, November 21). AWB denies claims a member was found with weapons, paraphernalia. <https://Ewn.Co.Za/2016/01/02/AWB-Denies-Claims-a-Member-Was-Found-with-Weapons-Paraphernalia>. <https://ewn.co.za/2016/01/02/AWB-denies-claims-a-member-was-found-with-weapons-paraphernalia>

15 Deutsche Welle (www.dw.com). (n.d.). *Analysts downplay threat of supremacist terrorism*. DW.COM. Retrieved August 8, 2021, from <https://www.dw.com/en/supremacists-no-real-threat-to-south-africa-analyst-says/a-51502541> ; *Right Wing Rises in Rainbow Nation*. (n.d.). Voice of America. Retrieved August 8, 2021, from <https://www.voanews.com/africa/right-wing-rises-rainbow-nation>

daily. On the right side of the graph, around the beginning of the riots in South Africa, a sharp increase in daily subscriptions can be seen.¹⁶



Screenshot of a graph visualizing the growth of a White Supremacist Telegram channel (Telegram, July 2021).

The Admin of the first post shown also emphasizes the true purpose of the channel.

A reminder for everyone new to the channel,
we're not about riots, this channel is and
always has been about the return of power to
whites in South Africa.

Boer Bloed sal regeer



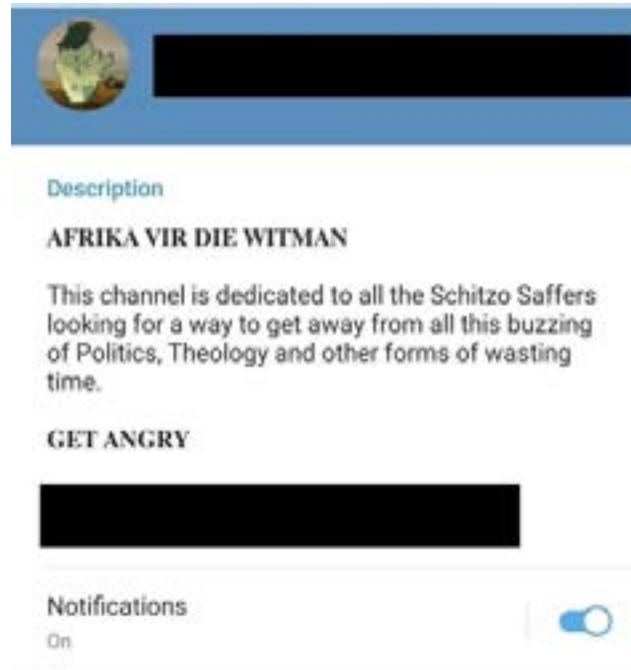
1.1K 11:08

The above post reminds that the ultimate stance is the return of power to the whites in South Africa. (Telegram, July 2021).¹⁷

16 Although this channel was founded by South Africans, today it has South African, Australian and American admins operating the channel.

17 Translation of "Boer Bloed sal regeer": Boer blood will rule ; Boer, (Dutch: "husbandman," or "farmer"), a South African of Dutch, German, or Huguenot descent, especially one of the early settlers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Today, descendants of the Boers are commonly referred to as Afrikaners." Boer | people. (n.d.). Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved July 20, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Boer-people>

Another channel took the opportunity to change its description. "Afrika vir die Witman", translated from Afrikaans this means "Africa for the Whiteman", with implications of White Supremacy and Africa run by White men again. "The channel is a place for "Saffers" to get away from politics, theology and other time-wasting topics".¹⁸



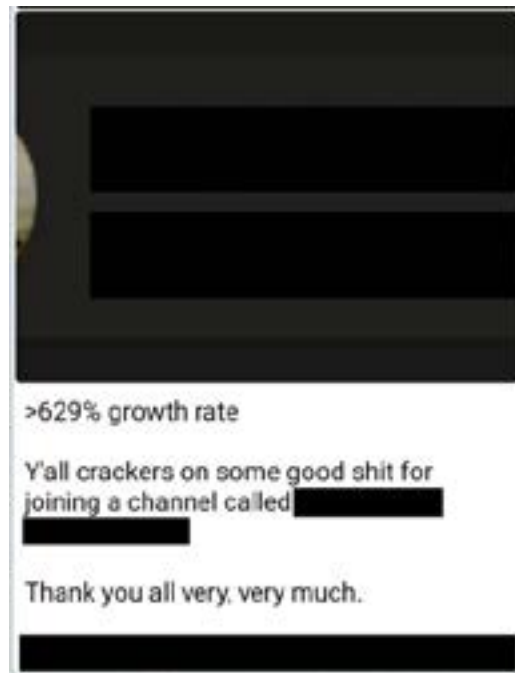
The description page of a White Supremacist Telegram channel (Telegram, July 2021).

Lastly, as Telegram is a less restrictive platform than some of the more mainstream social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, White Supremacist channel admins are able to name their channels/groups in ways that allow them to openly express their ideology and intentions. With almost absolute freedom of speech in these channels, ideas can be thrown around with little to no concern of repercussions from Law Enforcement or platform moderators. Channels like the one pictured below can thrive during times of unrest with no need to hide behind any euphemisms or more moderate channel names. In the below post, the channel admin is thanking new subscribers for joining his channel with a racist name. The channel admin points out his 629% growth and states that the new followers, which he calls "crackers", must be "on some good shit" for joining the channel with that name.¹⁹ The implication is that the new members know what they will find in the channel. Most importantly, despite the channel

¹⁸ "Saffers" is a slang word in South Africa referring to South Africans.

¹⁹ "Crackers" slur/slang word meaning white person, often White Supremacists refer to themselves as crackers.

name being of South African origin, it is a USA based channel. The channel also enjoyed a push from events that had happened in South Africa.



Post from a Telegram channel with a racist name thanking subscribers for 629% growth in members (Telegram, July 2021).

Using South Africa as a model to predict outcomes in other countries while using the events in South Africa as a tool to radicalize and recruit

Much like global jihadist organizations that use seminal events to promote radicalization within individuals or groups, far-right extremists treat crises as opportunities to disseminate their radical ideology and radicalize others. Routine monitoring of far-right communications channels, both encrypted and unencrypted, beginning in May 2020 and continued through 2021, revealed that at the outbreak of the protests starting on July 9th, 2021, domestic and global White Supremacists began using a tactic of "riding the opportunity" to push their ideology in South Africa. By focusing on specific topics, they were able to begin a process of radicalization on large groups of white people. The situation in South Africa poses a great recruitment opportunity for the far-right extremists.

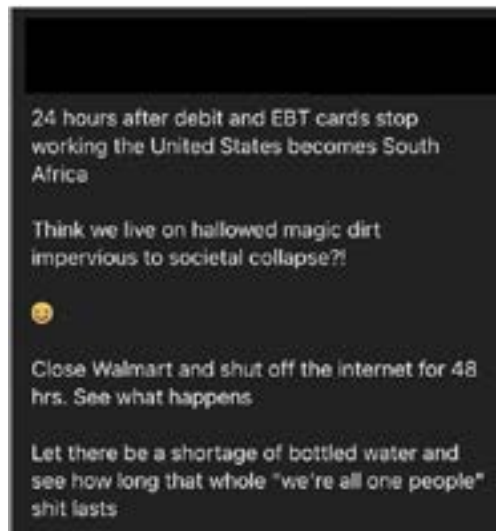
South Africa has been described and has been a live example for both domestic (within South Africa) and global Far-Right activists as "the future of the West". That sentence refers to the idea that a country, such as South Africa, that was ruled by a white minority for a time is a perfect model that can help predict the future of European countries, USA and Australia if the white

people do not put an end to the “White Genocide” or “Great Replacement”.²⁰

Posts that were monitored a few months prior to the protests described South Africa as a warning as to what could become of other Western countries if no care was taken to put an end to immigration and growing non-white populations. Already from the outbreak of the riots, it was noticeable that White Supremacists changed their tone from speaking of South Africa as a hypothetical case of what may be, instead to a live event happening currently. The posts seen during the time of the riots only strengthened the White Supremacists statements that South Africa was in fact already in a “race war”.

Events such as financial crashes, political unrest and pandemics that would anyway have people wary, are places as a precursor to events happening in South Africa. In the below post from an American White Supremacist channel a claim is made that in either a situation of the internet cutting out for 48 hours, a shortage of water or financial issues preventing withdrawal of funds from the bank, the USA would find itself in a similar situation to what happened in South Africa during the riots. The poster also laughs at how generally people believe these things cannot happen in the USA as they live on “hallowed magical dirt” and ends by saying that the idea of unity in the USA would fall away during a societal collapse.

20 The terms “White Genocide” and “Great Replacement”, refer to the increasing non-white populations in the forementioned countries. The conspiracy theory surrounding these numbers suggests that as non-white people are moving into these otherwise “White controlled” countries at a rapid pace, as well as having a higher birth rate than white people, eventually the white race will die out and be replaced by non-whites. The white genocide specifically in South Africa also refers to the farm murders in which White South African farmers are killed on their farms and their land is taken away as revenge for the Apartheid years. As the farm murders do not get a lot of international media attention, the far-right in South Africa and internationally chose to focus on the murders frequently and make use of it as a way to dehumanize the Blacks “The Great Replacement:” An Explainer. (n.d.). Anti-Defamation League. Retrieved August 8, 2021, from <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/the-great-replacement-an-explainer>



Post from an American White Supremacist comparing the USA to South Africa (Darknet, July 2021).

The below post demonstrates a comment implying that the situation in South Africa is to be expected. The implication is that due to South Africa being governed by Black people, the White Supremacists did not have higher expectations for what may become of the country.



Post suggesting that the current situation in South Africa is to be expected (Telegram, July 2021).

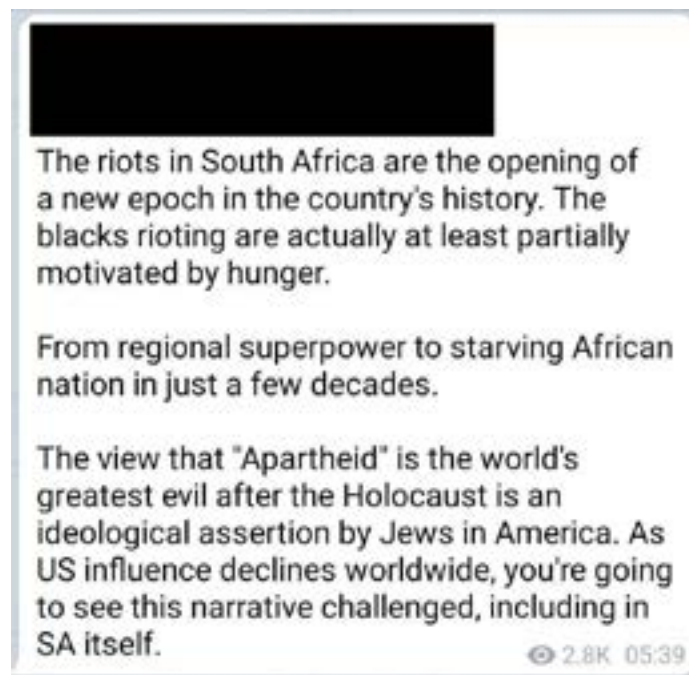
White Supremacists globally based out of countries such as Australia and the USA, point to the case of South Africa as an example of what they believe is currently happening in other countries around the world but only being noticed by White Supremacists as the rest of the population is blinded. Posts point out the gravity of the situation while also convincing their audience that it is ok to view a system such as Apartheid as a valid solution

The below post makes fun of Liberals and implies that they are blind to the “destruction” that was happening around them and that to them everything seems fine.



Translation: "Liberal in the rainbow nation" (Telegram 19th July 2021).²¹

A different post from an Australian National Socialist group with White Supremacist ideologies discusses the idea that Apartheid was not actually evil and we are simply taught that it was evil. Their claim is that the idea that Apartheid was evil was asserted by Jews and that as the USA loses influence globally we will begin to see a decline in this belief, both Internationally and in South Africa.²²



21 "Rainbow Nation" refers to South Africa and its multicultural population.

22 USA's loss of influence is a common theme in the far-right forums. The far-right attribute events such as the election of Biden as well as other social progressive events as a theme showing the slow weakening of the USA. The groups claim that while Biden is forming a government that contains non-white people, members of the LGBTQ community and Jews, countries like China and Russia are taking steps towards becoming the new number 1 powers of the world.

Post from an Australian White Supremacist group claiming that Apartheid was not evil and that Jews simply asserted that it was in error (Telegram, July 2021).

Posts referring to the situation in South Africa at the time as a civil war state that if civic Nationalists and Leftists are allowed to dictate immigration policy, they will end up like South Africa.²³ For example, a post describes that situation in South Africa as more than a civil war, where White South Africans are forced to live in fortresses with guns, alarm systems and security. This tactic of drawing comparison between South Africa and other Western countries helps the leadership of White Supremacist groups, based in Australia, the USA and across Europe, further radicalize individuals who may be “on the fence”.



Post describing the situation in South Africa as a civil war, followed by a post describing the living conditions in South Africa security-wise (Telegram, July 2021).²⁴

Many of the posts seen also contain propaganda in the form of videos and songs containing elements of Apartheid South Africa. The below post contains a video being sent by South African White Supremacists to various groups of White Supremacists globally, in countries such as Australia, the USA and various countries in Europe. It shows a group of “Boer” men working on a farm. They can be heard singing an old Afrikaans song associated with the old South African government and Apartheid.

²³ The idea they are putting across is once again that South Africa is simply a few steps ahead of other Western countries and that if left on the current trajectory these other Western countries will end up the same way as South Africa.

²⁴ The security situation in general in SA is unsafe and it is very common for citizens to live in houses surrounded by high security walls and protected by private security.

The posting of the video attempts to show that “behind closed doors” the South African Whites regret letting the Blacks “take away their country” and implies that other countries will feel the same when this happens to them.



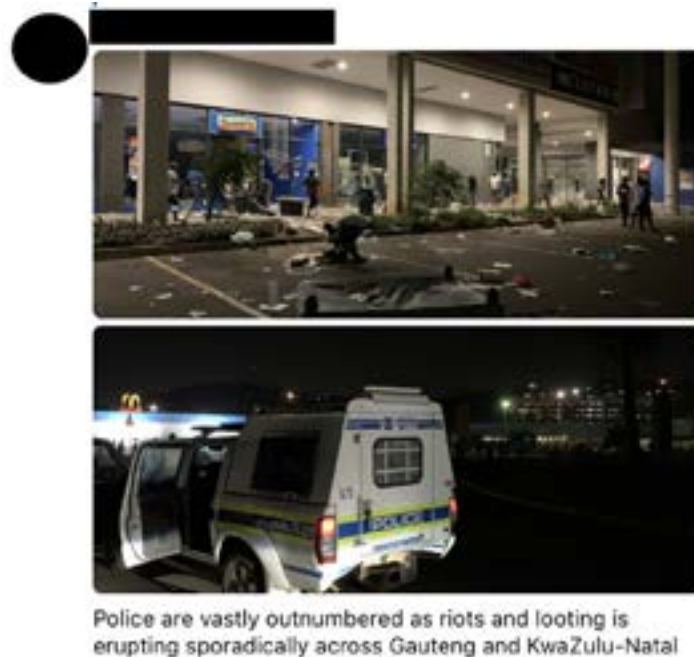
Video of White South Africans signing old Afrikaans songs associated with Apartheid times (Telegram, July 2021).

By highlighting the instability and emphasizing the inability of the South African Police Services (SAPS) to control the situation in an attempt to incite hopelessness and a sense of fear, White Supremacists from around the world are able to portray a situation in which there will be no help to white people when necessary. By convincing their supporters and those exposed to their media that they will be left with nowhere to turn for help in the collapse of Law Enforcement, they create the basis for calling civilians to armed action. This theme of theirs aims to shatter the belief of most western civilians that when the situation gets worse, the Law Enforcement and government will stand up and create order. Throughout posts of the far-right activists not just referencing South Africa, there is a theme that highlights the failure of Law Enforcement.

The White Supremacists portray a reduction of Law Enforcement’s power due to more liberal governments and a loss of deterrence. Ultimately, they believe that Law Enforcement is controlled by the “ZOG” and that when the time comes, the Law Enforcement will be on the other side. It seems that by portraying the Police as a weakened force, White Supremacists create a vacuum

in which they will urge armed civilians to fill. This is one more step towards building the excuse for citizens to arm themselves before the “call to action”.²⁵

The post below shows a Police Force that is both outnumbered and overwhelmed. It describes the Police as “vastly” outnumbered and aims to highlight a situation in which even when the Police react they are powerless and cannot do anything to control the situation.



Police are vastly outnumbered as riots and looting is erupting sporadically across Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal

The post contains pictures of the situation where one Police vehicle is responding to a mall full of looters (Telegram, July 2021).

Additional posts show scenes from inside the mall where Police are attempting to arrest looters with no success. As the Police are outnumbered and underprepared for the situation they are unable to react efficiently to the riots. The White Supremacist groups choose to highlight this scene in an effort to prove their theory that in times of emergency the Law Enforcement will be ineffective and White Citizens will need to rely on themselves for protection.\

25 “ZOG” refers to Zionist Occupied Governments, a conspiracy theory of the far-right that claims Jews and Israel are in control of most powerful governments and that all events somehow occur because the Jews have set them into place. Often reference is made to Biden’s government which consists of many Jews.



Footage of police attempting to curb looting inside a Durban mall

Video from inside a mall showing Police attempting (unsuccessfully) to arrest looters (Telegram, July 2021).

Another focus was on scenes with no Police at all. After showing scenes with an ineffective response by Police, the White Supremacist groups both domestically and internationally run began posting videos of areas in such a bad state that it seems the Police do not have the resources to enter.

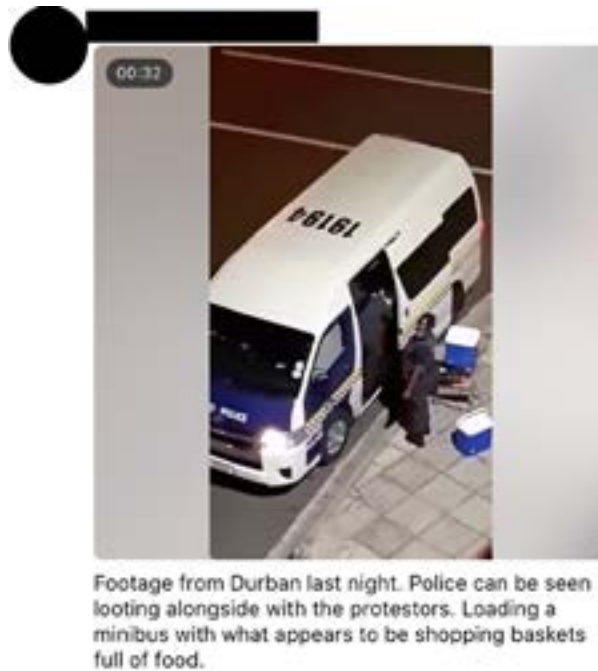


Marianhill, KwaZulu-Natal. No SAPS on scene.

The post above shows a scene with a large group of rioters setting fire to cars while the Police are not on the scene (Telegram, July 2021).²⁶

Some posts demonstrate scenes of Police joining the looters and looting themselves.

²⁶ SAPS refers to the South African Police Force.



Police can be seen allegedly placing looted items into a Police vehicle. The post claims that the Police had looted these items for themselves (Telegram, July 2021).

Lastly, posts that portrayed the Police as weak and having lost their deterrence showed Police coming under gunfire by rioters with no fear of consequences.



Video showing Police under gunfire on the N2 highway (Telegram, July 2021).²⁷

²⁷ The N2 is a national route in South Africa that runs from Cape Town through Durban to Ermelo. It is the main highway along the Indian Ocean coast of the country. Its current length of 2,255 kilometres makes it the longest numbered route in South Africa.

Solidarity and financial support of White Supremacists Globally with the White people living in South Africa

When looking at history, it is possible to see that more often than not, National Socialist groups tend to be domestic and choose to focus rather on the issues within their own countries before others.²⁸ This behaviour of “staying local” limited the growth and scalability of National Socialist or White Supremacist groups because despite, their radical ideologies and dangerous tendencies, they remained a minority in most areas.²⁹ While monitoring channels of Extremist Far-Right groups and individuals, it was observed that the riots in South Africa were used as a tool by global White Supremacist groups in Australia, the USA and across Europe, to show solidarity and to unite these groups and individuals under the same ideology against a common enemy.

International White Supremacist movements, organizations and individuals, who had little or no proven prior connection to South African White Supremacist groups, began posting pictures of themselves in solidarity with White South Africans. The majority of these pictures were taken in a rural area and people’s identities were hidden.³⁰ The pictures that generally contain a phrase or symbol representing White Supremacists or the domestic organization’s name, were now changing and instead showed support of White Supremacist South Africans. The channels in which these pictures were shared are usually “action” groups reserved for documenting physical activism of group members, activities such as vandalism, counter-protests and physically attacking minorities.

The post below is one of the first responses from “Action Zealandia” a National Socialist/White Supremacist group situated in New Zealand. In the post the activists can be seen holding a sign saying “Boer Lives Matter”, referring to the White South Africans as Boers.³¹

28 Dunwell, M. (2021). White Supremacist Neo-Nazi violence is domestic terrorism. Legislation Services Division. <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HJ0012.pdf> ; Nazi Party | Definition, Meaning, History, & Facts. (n.d.). Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved August 8, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nazi-Party>

29 The National Socialist Movement. (n.d.). Anti-Defamation League. Retrieved August 8, 2021, from <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/profiles/national-socialist-movement>

30 That is a style of pictures frequently observed among white supremacist channels

31 “Boer, (Dutch: “husbandman,” or “farmer”), a South African of Dutch, German, or Huguenot descent, especially one of the early settlers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Today, descendants of the Boers are commonly referred to as Afrikaners.” Boer | people. (n.d.). Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved July 20, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Boer-people>



One of the first posts after the start of the riots, showing solidarity with White South Africans (Telegram, July 2021).

Following this post, other groups globally began sharing similar posts. These posts not only showed solidarity but were also used as a way to increase exposure. Alongside each post shared across channels, admins also included a link to the original post's group, allowing channels to gain exposure and subscribers. Support was shown from local White Supremacist groups based out of countries such as Italy, Portugal, Finland, Russia, Ukraine and Bulgaria among many others. With increased exposure, admins could focus on original content and ensure that it reaches large audiences, thus helping the radicalization of their target group (white people not yet actively part of a White Supremacist organization).



A post showing “Boer Lives Matter” signs being held up in cities around the world. The post also contains links to each of the local channels representing the groups in the pictures (Telegram, July 2021).

Following the show of support of White South Africans through acts of solidarity, the global White Supremacist community took a step forward and discussions of financial support were brought up. Plans were being made to send money to South Africa in order to financially support White South Africans sharing their ideology.

The below post appeared in a South African operated White Supremacist group and while describing a drastic situation in South Africa, the post also ends with the lines, “If you ever had any faith in what we do here and you wanted to support us, now’s the time”, which not only implies actions and activities by the local White Supremacists in South Africa that are known to their International counterparts but also it is a first request for financial support in order to stock up on ammunition and food. The post then offers two links to donate in Cryptocurrency.³²

³² Due to its increased anonymity, Cryptocurrency is a favourite of White Supremacists organizations.

With the shortages, body counts and anarchy going up, I think it's safe to say that South Africa is finally reaching its breaking point. Long-standing problems are boiling over after the catalysts of covid-restriction economic turmoil and the factional infighting within the government.

Just today [REDACTED] stated that A MILLION ROUNDS OF 9MM WAS STOLEN IN A SINGLE RAID, this while MANY gunstores were looted across the country. Things are going full Rwanda. People are starting to worry if they have ENOUGH ammo to protect themselves when malls run out of lootable goods and homes are next.

We didn't want to take donations before, but many of you guys have insisted, and things here are looking pretty crazy so here it goes:

If you ever had any faith in what we do here and you wanted to support us, now's the time.

BTC:

[REDACTED]

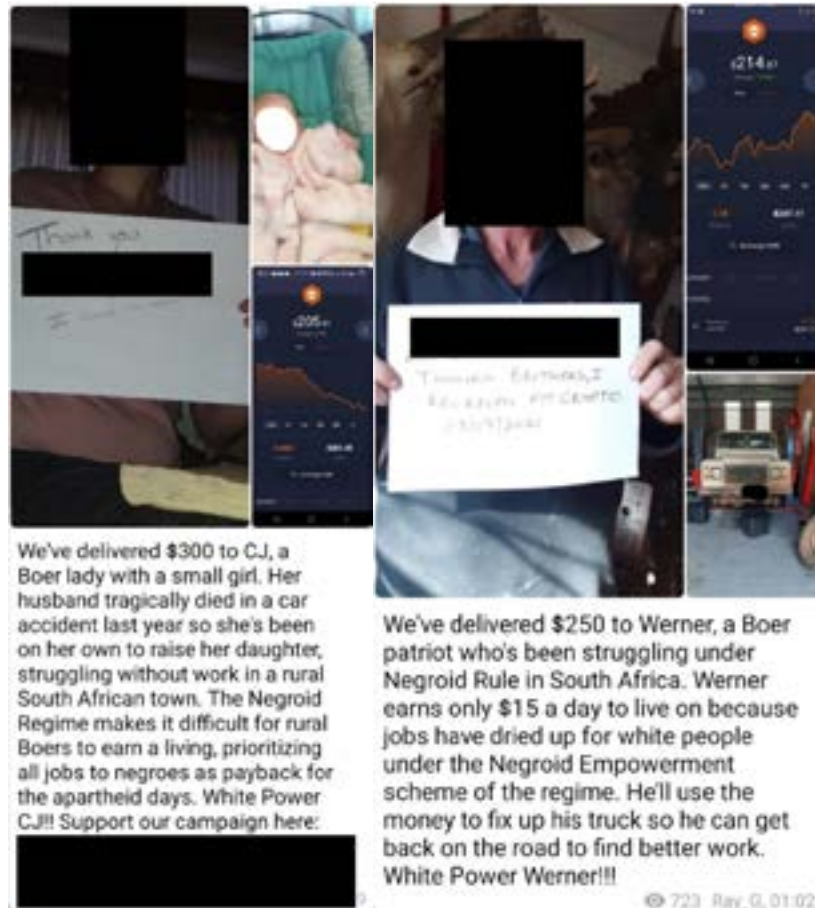
Monero:

[REDACTED]

Post with links asking for donations to South Africa in the form of Cryptocurrency (Telegram, July 2021).

White Supremacist "celebrities" based out of the USA then took it upon themselves to help fundraise for the White South Africans. By crowdfunding from their channels, they were able to raise sums of money that could then be transferred to White South Africans fitting their criteria. It is implied in their posts that the persons receiving the money are like-minded White Supremacists living in South Africa. Both posts below show separate proof of transfers of Cryptocurrency to White South Africans of amounts between \$250-\$300 USD. The posts both contain the words "White power".³³

33 A famous White Supremacists slogan



Proof of transfer of Cryptocurrency to White South Africans from International like-minded individuals (Telegram, July 2021).

Call to action (incitement)

It seems that one of the tactics used by White Supremacists in order to incite White South Africans to “take action” is to use posts that create panic. The posts are seen on two levels, the first being posts on a scarcity of essential goods, and the second being posts that inspire White South Africans to take the law into their own hands and “take back their country”.

White Supremacists hope that posts causing panic will lead to hasty decisions and actions. These posts add a sense of urgency and the feeling of “now rather than later”, White Supremacists utilize examples of necessities becoming scarce in the hopes that it may push anyone “still on the fence”. These posts include pictures and videos of food, fuel, and cash shortages.

Some of the posts show civilians lining up to enter a grocery store. The image of lining up to buy food implies a shortage and a food source that is not readily and easily available. The post also mentions that this grocery store is one of the last in the area that still has supplies.



Food shortages looming in Durban? Residents queue up to buy groceries at one of the only stores with supplies in the area.

The above post shows citizens lining up to buy food from what the post describes as one of the few stores with supplies in the area (Telegram, July 2021).³⁴

The below video shows the inside of a grocery store, with supplies, closed with two Police officers guarding the doors. Posts like this manage to portray both the idea of food not being easily and readily available while also again implying the inefficiency of the Police. It was published originally in a White Supremacist channel based out of South Africa but was quickly shared to global groups based out of Australia, the USA and Ukraine and used as an example of the actions of Police during emergencies.

³⁴ Durban is an area in Kwazulu-Natal, where the protests started.



Supermarkets being shut down by police for contravening lockdown regulations, while cities are being burned down. (Kensington Spar, Durban).
Priorities?

Post showing that even where there is food available, the supermarkets are being shut down, by Police, due to violations of Covid-19 violations (overcrowding) (Telegram, July 2021).³⁵

Apart from food shortages, posts also focused on shortages of fuel. As fuel is needed as a last resort in using vehicles to retreat from an area in increased danger, it's shortage is something that can also lead to anxiety and panic. Knowing that fuel is not easily and readily available in a time of emergency can cause a rush of people attempting to refuel their vehicles at the same time. As cities in South Africa are spread far apart, a lack of fuel would prevent someone from leaving one area and safely arriving in a safer area.

³⁵ Although the Police claimed the store was closed due to Covid-19 considerations, the poster implies that this is an irrelevant excuse from the Police as there are bigger issues than Covid-19 in the form of the riots.



Fuel shortages, cars queuing up for petrol at Umgeni Road, KZN

Post showing cars lining up for fuel due to shortages (Telegram, July 2021).

As mentioned previously in this paper, globally the fear of attempting to withdraw cash from an ATM and not being able to can lead to anxiety. The idea that access to cash is not possible and that large sums of money may sit in the bank unreachable while the country around you crumbles is the same fear that in different situations has sent people rushing to ATMs to withdraw all of their money, something that could cause economic collapse of a country. In the below two screengrabs from a video posted in a South African White Supremacist channel, the person commenting in the video can be heard saying that rioters have destroyed ATMs and bank branches and that very soon South Africans would not have access to their money. Families facing the idea of not having access to cash to provide for the needs of their families are put into a situation where they may be willing to do drastic things to protect and feed their families.

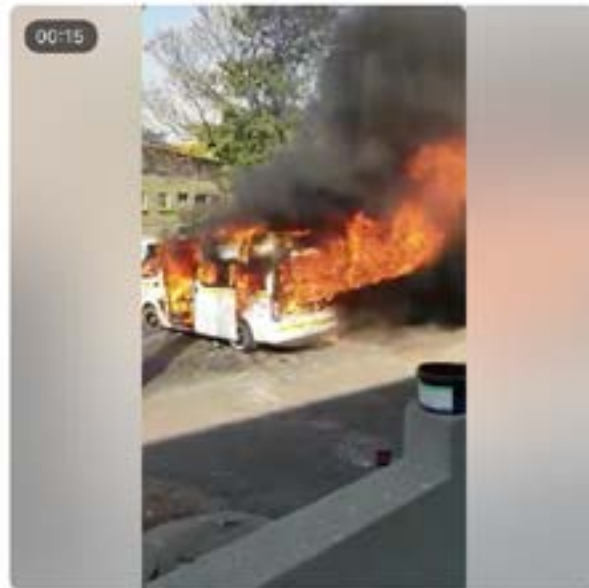


Screengrabs taken from a video showing ATMs destroyed by rioters. In the video, commentary is made about South Africans not having access to their funds (Telegram, July 2021).

White Supremacists also turn to “Rewarding” action by civilians and private security as a replacement to traditional Law Enforcement. By doing this they hope that White South Africans will take the law into their own hands and show initiative in taking action in the ways mentioned throughout their channels.

Due to the fact that non-extremist South African citizens took up arms to defend their communities from looting and violence during the current riots, the White Supremacists are able to disguise their calls to action in language that is not inciteful and could easily pass under any monitoring without irregularities within the context of the situation. The problem caused by a weak and unloyal Police Force can be solved by civilians willing to train and take up arms to defend their families and areas. The White Supremacists idolize these actions in a way that allows them to radicalize moderate white civilians with no previous desire to be involved in the events to this extent.

In the below post a picture of a burning vehicle with the text “Citizens are fighting back against looters” can be seen. The scene was the result of a roadblock set up by civilians in the Phoenix town of Kwazulu-Natal, where looters tried to pass and were removed from the vehicle and their vehicle was burnt. The goal of this post is to show civilians taking action and fighting back against looters.



Citizens are fighting back against looters - Phoenix, KZN.

Post showing a taxi set alight by citizens. The citizens stopped the taxi with looted goods packed inside (Telegram, July 2021).

Apart from roadblocks, armed civilians also removed looters and rioters from their vehicles and essentially held onto them until the Police could collect and arrest them. In the post below we can see an armed civilian uncovering a hidden license plate on a car used by looters. In the picture, the looters are lying face down on the ground after being removed from their vehicles at the roadblock.

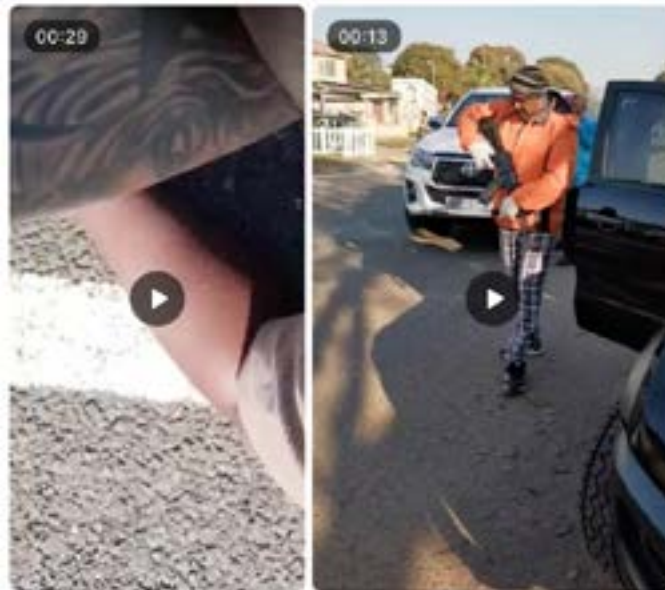


Citizen and private security roadblocks stopping suspect vehicles

A post showing a roadblock set up by armed civilians that managed to stop looters and arrest them

(Telegram, July 2021).³⁶

The below two posts were posted by a White Supremacist based out of Australia and show a scene of what they described as “civilians taking charge” during the riots in South Africa. It is implied that civilians are doing the work that the Police are unable to do effectively. In both posts, the civilians are also visibly armed and can be seen watching over captured looters and rioters lying face down on the ground.



Earlier this afternoon: Apprehension of looters and armed civilians taking charge

³⁶ Looting has been a central problem during the protests as protestors have emptied shops and malls of all their goods. During this time there were also warnings on the far-right groups that after the shops and malls were empty, protestors would start looting houses.



Looters apprehended by citizens in Durban area, KZN.

Two posts showing civilians “taking charge”, the implication that before this the Police alone were unable to handle the situation (Telegram, July 2021).

Roadblocks were also set up to close communities and keep them safe and guarded from within. Posts like the one below show civilians completely closing off their community to entry and exit in order to keep danger out. The idea of closed communities that keep to themselves and provide their own security is one that is often described in White Supremacist channels.



Residents of towns from the surrounding areas in both KZN and Gauteng have been erecting roadblocks to keep their communities safe - St Lucia, KZN.

A post emphasizing the protection of one’s community, shows civilians closing off their community with barbed wire (Telegram, July 2021).

Apart from taking the law into their own hands, White Supremacists globally and within South Africa began showing actions taken by White South Africans that would have long term benefits in the long term. Included in these actions were calls to White South Africans to take physical steps in arming themselves, as well as non-physical steps in the form of marrying White women and reproducing White babies.

The next post shows how specific instructions are given to someone who has been described by White supremacists as a “braindead city slicker” their whole life and now wants to take action.³⁷ While some of the actions are short term, such as acquiring a gun and learning skills that may be useful in an insurgency, some of the actions are long term such as instructions to marry a white woman and make white babies.³⁸

So you're in South Africa and you've been living like a braindead city slicker all your life.

Time to make a change, start with reorganising your life and lifestyle.

If you live in the city, make plans to get further out, get something cheaper and use the extra money for more important things. Being trendy doesn't matter.

1: Purchase a bakkie, and be a man. They're great, you can load them, sleep in them, go places a sedan can't. When the kaffers come walking through our doors, a bakkie will be a saving grace to escape the city.

2: Do your firearm competency and get licensed. Make it happen sooner rather than later. It takes time.

3: Organise alternate modes of communication. Train pigeons, become a HAM, do what it takes to get out their system.

4: Don't be a slave to ~~debt~~ but don't worry about it either. When the country falls apart, no one's going to come looking for their collateral, they'll just want to survive, and if you're sitting on your bakkie's tailgate, drinking a cold one with rifle in hand, they'll backoff pretty fast.

Most importantly, find a good woman, marry her and make white babies. When they are of reason, educate them properly, shape their thoughts and form their minds. We will take back our land, every odd is stacked against us, but once we white men band together, the odds don't matter.

Post from a South African White Supremacist channel discusses some of the smaller actions a supporter can begin with (Telegram, July 2021).

A different post claims that more people are waking up than before by showing military vehicles driving through the neighborhoods. The post ends with the phrase “arm yourselves”. It can be read as a call of inspiration to “lone wolf” terrorists.³⁹

³⁷ The term “braindead city slicker” in this case refers to a person who had no idea until today what was happening but has now passed through radicalization and is looking for where to begin.

³⁸ Marriage and having white babies is a recurring theme in the far-right. They believe that whites are dying out partly due to decreased birth rates and that by white families having white babies they are doing their part to help rebuild the population.

³⁹ The study of guerrilla warfare and books on insurgency are very popular globally in the far right channels ; “Kaffers” is a derogatory term used in South Africa to describe Black people. The term is similar to the word “nigger” and its use is associated with racism.



More people are waking up now than ever before.

The kaffers are coming through your neighbourhoods with Rooikats.

ARM YOURSELVES

Post showing SANDF tanks passing through a South African neighborhood (Telegram, July 2021).

The next post is not merely a statement but also serves as an idea to someone that may be thinking of actions they could take during the time of unrest. It suggests that since a large force of the SANDF has made its way into the protest areas around Kwazulu-Natal, the Cape is less defended and now may be the time to act and regain control of the area.⁴⁰

40 SANDF refers to the South African National Defense Force ; Zululand is a term referring to Kwazulu-Natal, the area of the protests. ; The Cape refers to the Western Province, the area of South Africa containing Cape Town and that also acts as the Capital of South Africa.



Post showing staging grounds of the SANDF in the Kwazulu-Natal area (Telegram, July 2021).

The below post from an encrypted White Supremacist channel declares that all White People are essentially from Europe and that European civilization expands to America, Canada, South Africa Australia and New Zealand. It states that globally White Supremacists are facing the same threats to their civilization, low birth rates, ethnic replacement, societal dysfunction, degeneracy and an international clique of Jews. The original poster then also shares a link to his manifesto alongside a picture and a link to a video on Brenton Tarrant.⁴¹



A post aiming to unite White Supremacists globally that includes a manifesto from the original poster (Dark Net, February 2021).

As mentioned, White Supremacist groups and individuals gave the title

⁴¹ Brenton Tarrant is the perpetrator of two mosque shootings in New Zealand on the 15th March 2019. Tarrant killed 51 people and injured another 40. He is seen as a “saint” to the White Supremacist groups and they often speak of their wishes to emulate his actions.

“saint” to someone they consider to be a role model to their ideology and way of life, people such as Brenton Tarrant or Anders Breivik among others.⁴² During the riots in South Africa, certain White Supremacist organizations and movements, based across Europe, the USA, Australia and New Zealand, gave the same status to a White South African figure they believe to fit well into their Ideology. By giving the title “Saint” to a South African and praising his past actions, International White Supremacist groups were able to connect their followers even deeper to South Africa and in doing this also strengthening the global connection that exists in these communities.

On the 15th November 1988, Barend Strydom shot and killed 8 Black people and injured 16 more at Strijdom Square in South Africa. Strydom had previously been a member of the SAPS but was fired for taking a picture holding the decapitated head of a Black person killed in a car accident. Strydom was a member of the AWB and was known by the nickname of “Wit Wolf” (White wolf in English). He was originally sentenced to death for his crime but was released during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.⁴³

42 Anders Breivik is a Norwegian domestic terrorist who committed the 2011 Norway attacks. On 22 July 2011, he killed eight people by detonating a bomb at Regjeringskvartalet in Oslo, then killed 69 more participants of a Workers’ Youth League summer camp in a mass shooting ; The Guardian. (2021, July 1). Anders Breivik | World news | The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/anders-behring-breivik>

43 Smith, J. (2008, November 15). *What became of the big Wit Wolf?* Iol.Co.Za. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/what-became-of-the-big-wit-wolf-424408> ; Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (n.d.). Justice.Gov.Za/Trc/. Retrieved August 1, 2021, from <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/> ; Turpin-Petrosino, C. (2015). *Understanding Hate Crimes: Acts, Motives, Offenders, Victims, and Justice* (1st ed.). Routledge.

DAYS OF ACTION

11/9/88 - To prepare for his big day, he killed a negress and injured another.

11/15/88 - At 3pm, he entered Strijdom Square and opened fire on every kaffer he saw. His TOTAL NIGGER DEATH mission lasted 15mins, killed 8 and injured 16.

SENTENCE: Sentenced to death x8, but released in 1992; granted amnesty in 1994 since his attack was politically motivated.

STATUS: FREE! He now lives quietly outside Pretoria with his wife & kids. He may be the only Saint in the Pantheon who's a free man today, living his best life! We couldn't be happier for him! 😊



SAINT BAREND HENDRIK STRYDOM (9) - 11/15/88

AKA: The White Wolf

BORN: 7/15/65

OCCUPATION: SA Police

NOTABLE: Fired for taking selfies with a decapitated nigger head

AFFILIATION: AWB

MOTIVATIONS: Hatred of niggers; start a race war

LOCATION: Strijdom Square, Pretoria, SA

TARGETS: niggers

WEAPON: Vektor Z88 pistol, 9mm

KILLED: 9

INJURED: 17

BOOK: Die Wit Wolf

The post above shows some facts on Barend Strydom. The post ends by pointing out that Strydom may be the only White Supremacist with "Saint" status that is both alive and free today, having been freed from prison during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Telegram, July 2021).

The idea of Race war as a solution to challenges facing White Supremacists

Not only did White Supremacists in South Africa and those living abroad use the situation in South Africa to push their own narrative, they also refer to the situation as a race war and portrayed this as the first step towards the White South Africans regaining control of the country.

Race war in White Supremacists terminology refers to a civil war based on race.⁴⁴ White Supremacists see this type of war as the solution to their issues and believe that they possess the superior intellect and strategies needed to win this type of fighting. One of the posts shows White soldiers in Rhodesia with the comment stating that it is a daily reminder that White people are descendants of the most aggressive and war-compatible race in the history of mankind.

44 Fisher, M. (2021, April 30). *From memes to race war: How extremists use popular culture to lure recruits*. Anchorage Daily News. <https://www.adn.com/nation-world/2021/04/30/from-memes-to-race-war-how-extremists-use-popular-culture-to-lure-recruits/>



Post with a screenshot containing information on White soldiers from Rhodesia (Telegram, July 2021).

White Supremacists also believe that ethnic conflict (race war) is a certainty in any racially diverse nation. Although they say this often and use it as a basis of their theory for building solely White ruled areas or in arguments against non-white migration/immigration into Western countries, White Supremacists also use the concept of race war as a hypothetical example of why their ideologies are correct. In the below post the poster prematurely exaggerates the situation in South Africa in order to back up their beliefs that racial diversity leads to conflict.

There is a total RACE WAR Happening in south africa. Indians and whites shooting black rioters dead in the streets, while black political leaders telling black rioters to "invade indian and white communities and kill everyone." This will remind you why no racially diverse nation has ever lasted throughout history. Ethnic conflict is always a certainty.

Post from Telegram claiming that South Africa is in a race war incited by politicians and that the situation was brought on due to racial diversity (Telegram, July 2021).

In many events of instability globally, whenever the idea of a race war is brought up, White Supremacists idealize the perfect "start" which usually

includes climatic breaking point at which an all out race war begins and White Supremacists can immediately put into action the strategies and tactics they have discussed for years. In the below post however, a USA based White Supremacist refers to the situation in South Africa as a race war and states that White Supremacists had expected it to begin under different circumstances.



Post containing a video of a Black male making threats against the Indian and White communities of South Africa (Telegram, July 2021).

The following post is a reaction to a post by a Black individual claiming that white thugs had started a fight with some Black people and that this should be seen as an attack on every native in the country, not just those involved in the fight. The response of the far-right is "RACE WAR NOW! Lets go"



Reaction post calling for a race war (Telegram, July 2021).

Summary:

On July 09, 2021 protests started in South Africa. What started as protests that involved stones being thrown at police forces, escalated into the burning of cars, buildings and mass looting of shops and malls. Immediately at the start of the riots domestic and global White Supremacist organizations and movements began to leverage events in order to recruit and radicalize Whites in South Africa and abroad. During monitoring of encrypted and unencrypted White Supremacist channels, it was noticed that White Supremacists point to the situation in South Africa as a prediction of events that become of other countries. With this, they attempt to agitate and scare their audience into believing that following their ideology is the only remaining option to end the situation. The White Supremacists push for short term actions such as arming themselves for self defence, alongside long term actions such as marrying White women and reproducing White babies. The propaganda seemed to spread more rapidly as more and more people started joining the various sites, some of which have even turned from sites that broadcast news information to those that engage solely in propaganda. The riots also further emphasized the existing connection between White Supremacist organizations in various parts of the world, mobilizing to assist in the forms of expressions of solidarity or even sending funds to Whites in South Africa.

Another danger lies in a broader call for the activities of "lone wolves" aimed at aiding the race war, should the riots continue. South African White Supremacist groups also consisting of ex-SANDF soldiers and ex-SAPS, have the potential, training and strategies to perpetuate deadly

attacks similar to what has been done in the past. With a mismatched struggle between Law Enforcement who tackle the issue domestically, and White Nationalist threats that continue to grow internationally, White Nationalist groups pose a seriously underestimated threat.

While the White Supremacist groups of South Africa have existed at least since the 1970s and are mostly outlawed, new global support alongside instability in South Africa may provide the motivation necessary to ignite these groups into acting. Even throughout 2022 following last year's riots, South Africa remains a massive topic in White supremacist forums and to this day is still used as an example of what may become of the West.