

Breaking Stereotypes: White Supremacy and Minority Affiliation in the Mauricio Garcia Case

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Breaking Stereotypes: White Supremacy and Minority Affiliation in the Mauricio Garcia Case

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Abstract

The purpose of this policy paper is to raise awareness among policymakers, security agencies, and intelligence forces regarding the proliferation of far-right extremism within minority communities. It is crucial to recognize and acknowledge that individuals from minority backgrounds, not solely white individuals, are susceptible to becoming lone wolves. Therefore, it is imperative for security agencies and intelligence forces to actively monitor and address the potential presence of extremist ideologies within these communities.

This research focuses on the response to the tragic mass shooting in Allen, Texas, which occurred in May 2023 perpetrated by Mauricio Garcia. By closely monitoring far-right channels on Telegram and influential figures on Twitter, we identified two prominent themes that these actors emphasize. Firstly, they vehemently dismiss Garcia's belief in white supremacy due to his Mexican background. Secondly, they attribute the incident to prevailing immigration and border policies in the United States, highlighting broader contextual and political factors.

Notably, this study unveils white supremacists' emphasis on racial priorities over ideology, challenging conventional notions. Their convictions of white dominance, exclusive societies, and cultural superiority are propagated through real-world and online radicalization tactics.

The case of Mauricio Garcia provides a critical look into the relationship. It is clear that Garcia's Latino background prevented him from receiving support from the white supremacist community even after he committed an attack in the name of the belief system. By shedding light on these findings this paper calls for proactive measures in monitoring and addressing extremist ideologies within minority communities, ensuring effective strategies for prevention and safeguarding against recruitment and radicalization.

Keywords: Lone Wolf, Far-Right, Social Media, Twitter

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Introduction

On May 7th, 2023, 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia, murdered 8 people and injured 7 others at an outlet mall in Allen, Texas using an AR-15 style rifle.¹ Garcia stepped out of his

¹ Hernandez, J. (2023, May 7). Authorities identify the shooter who opened fire at a Texas outlet mall on Saturday.

car and began shooting at passersby with his rifle, 1 of 8 weapons he brought to the mall.² Garcia was killed on the scene by a nearby police officer within four minutes of his first shot.³ The mass shooting⁴ was the 199th shooting in 2023 in the United States and the second deadliest.⁵ The victims represented the diverse makeup of Texas, including members of the Latino and Asian American community.⁶ Monitoring far-right social media platforms as well as Twitter accounts associated with social influencers, politicians, and individuals holding radical views revealed an intriguing relationship between Mauricio Garcia and far-right individuals. Despite his self-identification as a white supremacist, far-right activists did not acknowledge him as one of their own. They repeated claims that minimized his association with white supremacist ideology, including stating he is a member of Mexican cartels or South American gangs. Their rhetoric online attempts to reduce any far-right connection and refrained from bestowing the glorification often given to other lone-wolf attackers, such as Brenton Tarrant⁷ and Anders Breivik.⁸ Additionally, online users directed their animosity towards minorities in response to the incident. Social media erupted with discussion about the shooter's background and potential ideological orientation. These discussions were amplified by social and political leaders and are outlined below.

Mauricio Garcia's Ideology Background

Garcia maintained an active presence on OK.RU, also known as Odnoklassniki, a Russian social media platform. Garcia prominently displayed his affiliation with various extremist ideologies on his profile, including vehement rants targeting Jews, women, and other marginalized groups, alongside sharing personal struggles related to mental health.⁹

Furthermore, he regularly disseminated content from recognized figures associated with white nationalism, such as Nick Fuentes.¹⁰ Garcia documented his visits to the shooting location before the mass murder on May 7th. Two weeks before the shooting, he posted

NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/07/1174652924/allen-texas-shooting>

2 Bleiberg, J. (2023, May 10). What to know about the mass shooting at a Texas Mall. AP NEWS. <https://apnews.com/article/shooting-outlet-mall-allen-texas-200f1ffadf7daefa42cfbe45510b083f>

3 Ibid

4 Mass shooting is defined as an event in which at least four people were killed, according to the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center.

5 Ibid

6 Ibid

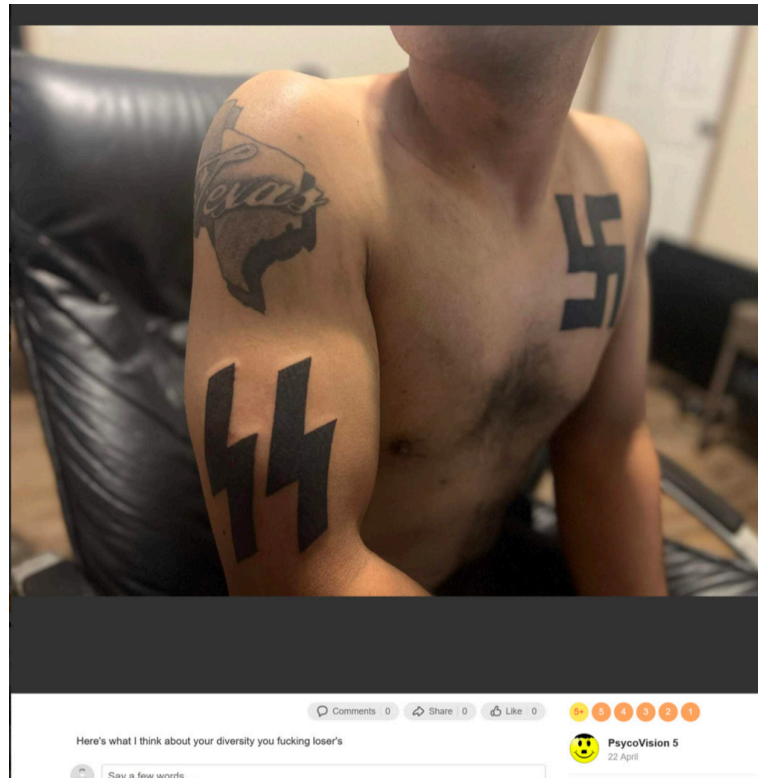
7 Tarrant stormed two mosques in New Zealand in 2017. He was armed with semi-automatic weapons and murdered 51 people. He live streamed the attack and published a manifesto prior to committing the attack.

8 In 2011, Breivik detonated a bomb in Oslo, Norway killing 8 people and went on a shooting rampage targeting the youth arm of the Labor Party, killing 69 people, mainly teenagers, on the island of Utoya.

9 Texas mall shooter ranted against jews, women and racial minorities on apparent social media page. NBCNews.com. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/texas-mall-shooter-shared-extremist-beliefs-jews-women-apparent-social-rcna83336>

10 Nick Fuentes a well-known American white supremacist,,

his swastika and SS lightning bolt tattoos,¹¹ which are believed to be newer tattoos,¹² pointing to his neo-Nazi, white nationalist beliefs.¹³



Mauricio Garcia posts his tattoos on his OK.RU page with the caption, “here’s what I think about your diversity...” (22 April, 2023; Odnoklassniki)

Garcia’s profile also included the dissemination of common antisemitic stereotypes, including references to the “Jewish Question.”¹⁴ During the time of the shooting, Garcia was observed wearing a vest adorned with a “RWDS” patch, which stands for Right Wing Death Squad.¹⁵ Originating in the 1970s and 1980s in Central and South America, RWDS has been appropriated by contemporary white supremacists and far-right groups, including the Proud Boys.¹⁶ The Proud Boys, formed in 2016, are a right-wing extremist organization with over 100 active chapters in the United States and multiple international branches.¹⁷ They are primarily known for their misogyny, anti-immigrant

11 SS lightning bolts are derived from the Schutzstaffel, or police, of Nazi Germany.

12 Shooter in Allen, Texas, embraced antisemitism, misogyny and White Supremacy. ADL. (2023, May 8). <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/shooter-allen-texas-embraced-antisemitism-misogyny-and-white-supremacy>

13 Bleiberg, J. (2023, May 10). What to know about the mass shooting at a Texas Mall. AP NEWS. <https://apnews.com/article/shooting-outlet-mall-allen-texas-200f1ffadf7daefa42cfbe45510b083f>

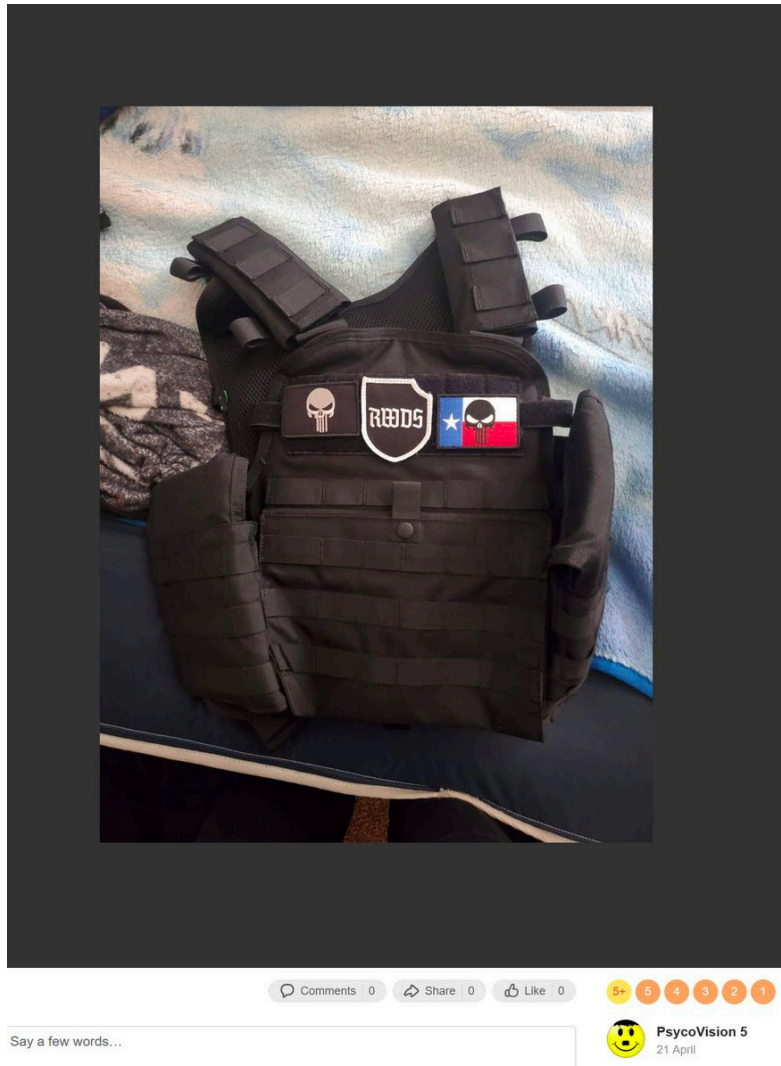
14 Shooter in Allen, Texas, embraced antisemitism, misogyny and White Supremacy. ADL. (2023, May 8). <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/shooter-allen-texas-embraced-antisemitism-misogyny-and-white-supremacy>

15 RWSD stands for right wing death squad and is commonly used amongst far-right extremists.

16 Shooter in Allen, Texas, embraced antisemitism, misogyny and White Supremacy. ADL. (2023, May 8). <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/shooter-allen-texas-embraced-antisemitism-misogyny-and-white-supremacy>

17 Proud boys. ADL. (2017, July 12). <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/proud-boys-0>

stance, transphobia, and Islamophobia.¹⁸



Mauricio Garcia posts his vest worn during the shooting on OK.RU. (21 April, 2023; Odnoklassniki)

Based on language used in Garcia's posts, he was a member of the incel, or involuntary celibates, community, as seen below. Incels are part of the online manosphere, a community of people who are anti-feminist and promote masculinity and misogyny. They believe women have too much power and actively oppress men who they perceive to be unattractive and believe they are unable to have sex due to predetermined, genetic factors. The ideology has led to numerous violent incidents against women and society. Garcia uses the terms "baby factory" and "sandwich maker" to reference women in his posts.¹⁹

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Gais, H. (2023, May 8). Allen, Texas, Killer posted Neo-Nazi, incel content online. Southern Poverty Law Center. <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2023/05/08/allen-texas-killer-posted-neo-nazi-incel-content-online>



PsychoVision 5
6 March • 33 years old, USA

Add to friends

Quotes 13

A review of psychological evidence concludes that men are shaped by evolution to be aggressive towards "outsiders"

From the mighty clash of two stags rutting, to the dawn raid of a chimpanzee, much violence in nature is perpetrated by males fighting each other in competition for female mates. A new study claims it's a similar story with humans. Cultural differences, limited resources and technological developments all play a role, but a team of psychologists based in China and Hong Kong believe the ultimate cause of human war rests with the male libido. Historically, they argue that the lure of an attractive female primed the male brain for conflict with other males, an effect that persists in modern man even though its usefulness is largely outdated

The reason Men chase resources is because of what resources attract: WOMEN

If men cannot be creators Of society, they will be destroyers of society.
Now It's up to society which role they want us to follow

In these modern times the social contract is no longer functioning, expecting men not to regress and go back to the days of rape and violence when the contract is no longer being enforced and/or adhered to, is what is truly outrageous, and not the acts themselves

Men aren't entitled to sex?, true I agree, but women aren't entitled to safety either

the violent responses of men today are retaliatory

There's no real motivation to bother trying, to be a "hard worker", to be "civilized", when your reward at the end of the day is to get married to used goods who is likely only settling for you because she's aged past her prime and has a ton of baggage

as cold as a glacier in Russia in the dead of winter

Conclusion: Everyone who tells us variations of "sex is not a big deal" needs to die be forced into lifelong celibacy. No exceptions

Disenfranchised Males = Self Destructive Males

I don't care about getting a girlfriend anymore. I still want sex, just not a "girlfriend" because I don't believe anymore women are capable to genuinely love a man

What is overtly normal and what is covertly normal are two very different things. For example, in public, normies will say that banging a family member is nasty. But in private, porn website data shows that people are extremely interested in fauxcest-themed content

If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him

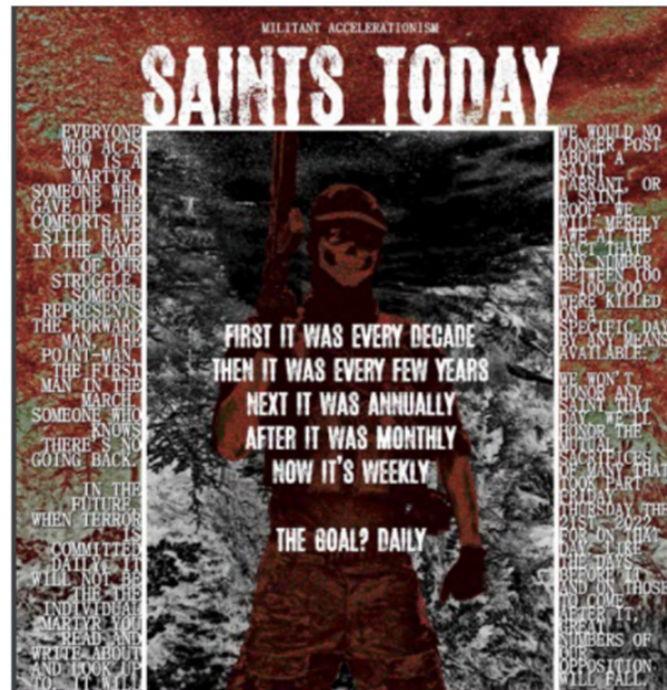
Be fruitful and multiply

They have been overprotective growth stunters, control freak tyrants, prudes who BlueBalled me at every turn, narcissistic abusers, and because they know it will get arise out of me, they even annoy me just for the fun of it

Mauricio Garcia posts misogynist and violent incel related content on his OK.RU site. (March, 2023; Odnoklassniki)

Far-right activists do not consider Garcia as one of their own

It is common for far-right actors to offer praise online to those who carry out attacks in the name of their belief system. Actors who carry out attacks in real life are called saints and upheld as inspirational.



A post that was published in an online journal of the far-right within the Darknet highlights the significance of saints from the perspective of far-right extremists. (Source: Darknet)

Despite Garcia's ties to white supremacy and the mass shooting he conducted, far-right activists haven't named him a saint and rejected Garcia's adherence to the ideology. Conservative and far-right actors repeated claims such as Garcia's membership in Mexican cartels or in South American gangs to minimize any far-right connection.

Numerous far-right and conservative users across Twitter and Telegram questioned how a Mexican man named Mauricio Garcia could hold white supremacist beliefs. Users refused to believe Garcia's white supremacist origins and motives, and cast doubt on the information being shared, even though Hank Sibley, the regional director of the Texas Department of Public Safety said, "We do know that he had neo-Nazi ideation. He had patches. He had tattoos. Even his signature, you know, verified that..."²⁰ Despite his actions and information corroborated by officials, Garcia was not revered as a hero by the white supremacist community, received minimal praise in far-right groups online, and was rejected altogether on multiple platforms, as seen below.

²⁰ Texas gunman who killed 8 had "neo-nazi ideation." Yahoo! News. <https://news.yahoo.com/texas-gunman-killed-8-had-084322972.html>



In response to a Twitter user calling Mauricio Garcia a white supremacist, another user states that he cannot be a candidate for white supremacy with his name. (8 May 2023; Twitter)



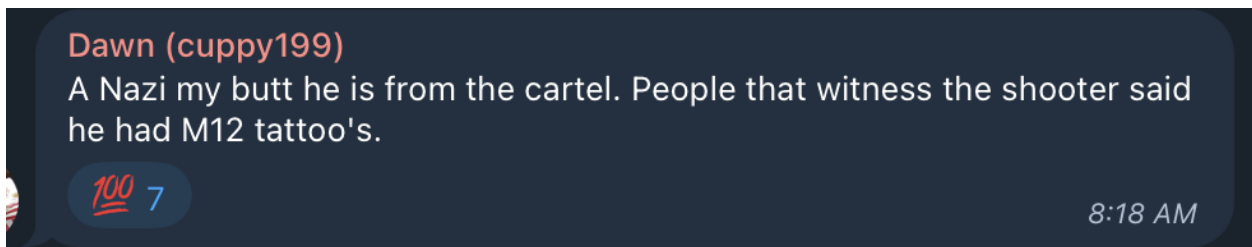
A Twitter user says that the media is attempting to start a race war by stating Garcia is a white supremacist. (8 May 2023; Twitter)

Many insisted on an alternative storyline that purported Garcia’s connection to MS13, or Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS13), a dangerous gang originally formed by Salvadoran immigrants in the United States, as seen below.²¹

21 Jennifer J. Adams; Jesenia M. Pizarro. (n.d.). MS-13: A gang profile. MS-13: A Gang Profile | Office of Justice Programs. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/ms-13-gang-profile>



A Twitter user says he was “locked by Twitter for posting the facts about the Mauricio Garcia shooter photos.” He states that Garcia is a MS13 gang member and not a white supremacist. (8 May 2023; Twitter)



A user on Telegram says the Texas shooter is from the cartel and that witnesses stated he had M12 tattoos.²² (10 May 2023; Far-right Telegram Channel)

This sentiment was amplified by social and political leaders, including Elon Musk, as seen below.²³

22 M12 refers to the Mara Salvatrucha gang. The gang consists of Salvadoran immigrants who came to the United States to escape civil war in their country, many members are trained in guerilla warfare, and are notorious for using fear and intimidation for extort payments, as well as participate in other domestic and transnational crimes, such as robbery, witness intimidation and vehicle smuggling from the U.S. to Central America.

23 Serwer, A. (2023, May 19). Latinos can be white supremacists. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/05/hispanic-american-racism-white-supremacy/674081/>



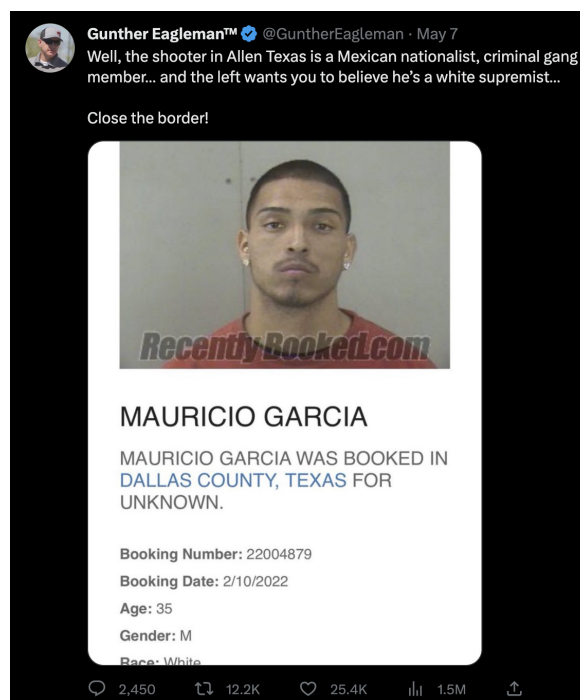
Elon Musk responds to a tweet questioning the information following the mass shooting. Musk pushes alternative narratives, including the possibility that the situation is an example of a psyop. (9 May, 2023; Twitter)

Garcia’s Identity Fuels Calls against Immigrants

In addition to far-right activists rejecting Garcia as one of their own and refusing to recognize him as a saint, they also take advantage of his mass shooting attack to manipulate and spread racist propaganda against the Mexican community. Online discussions surrounding Garcia dove into debates about border policies. Some users blame lax border policies for Garcia’s actions, despite his apparent dedication to far-right causes.

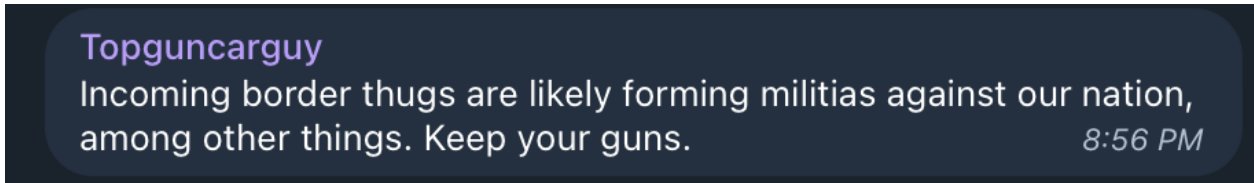


A user on Twitter posts a photo of a man in a sombrero and poncho, clothes linked to Mexican culture. The sombrero looks to be hooded, to resemble the KKK hood, and the poncho has an iron cross embroidered on it, paralleling the cross worn by Nazi Germany. (8 May 2023; Twitter)

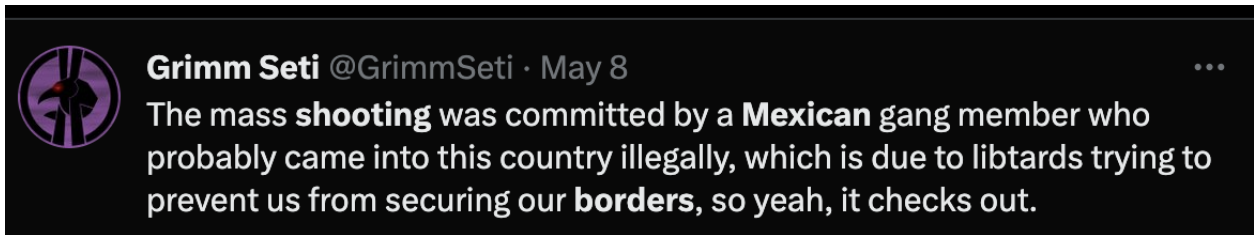


A Twitter user says to “close the border” because “the shooter in Allen Texas is a Mexican nationalist, criminal gang member...” (7 May 2023; Twitter)

Part of the propaganda included blaming the Mexicans for forming militias.



There is sentiment online stating that “incoming border thugs are likely forming militias against” the United States. The user tells readers to keep their guns. (8 May 2023; Far-Right Telegram channel)



A Twitter user says that a “Mexican gang member who probably came into this country illegally” committed the Texas mass shooting. (8 May 2023; Twitter)



In response to California Governor Newsom’s tweet about the mass shooting in Allen, TX, a Twitter user says that a “Mexican gang member did this shooting because Democrats like you have opened our borders...” (7 May 2023; Twitter)

Summary

The case of Mauricio Garcia, a white supremacist responsible for a mass shooting in Allen, Texas, highlights the complexity of white nationalist individuals within minority

communities.

The research demonstrates white supremacists' prioritization of race over ideology, challenging preconceived understandings of these groups. White supremacists tend to follow key tenets, including white domination over people of other backgrounds, the belief in a white-only society, and the belief in the superiority of white culture over other cultures.²⁴ These beliefs are spread through various radicalization and recruitment tactics in the real world, such as white-power music concerts, and online, such as on video game platforms and through social media. Leaders attempt to gain support from right leaning people by amplifying white supremacist culture in memes, videos, movies, posters, and other mediums.²⁵ In a common white supremacist recruitment video, titled "The Last Battle," allegations of a worldwide Jewish takeover and propaganda about the left "coming for your guns" and the opening of United States borders aim to symbolize society's "moral freefall," and request the support and involvement of young people.²⁶ But once someone is recruited, how far will the belief in this ideology and the adherence to white supremacy culture take them? What protections does believing in the ideology provide? The case of Mauricio Garcia provides a critical look into the relationship. It is clear that Garcia's Latino background prevented him from receiving support from the white supremacist community even after he committed an attack in the name of the belief system.

Our monitoring raised that contrary to previous attacks by far-right extremists, online activists did not glorify Garcia, but instead questioned his white supremacist affiliation due to his Mexican background. Posts following Garcia's attack criticized United States immigration and border policies and vilified Garcia's actions. It is critical to acknowledge the rise of white supremacy and white nationalism within the Hispanic community to protect against radicalization and recruitment in minority communities.

Examples such as Enrique Tarrío, a Cuban American and former leader of the white supremacist group Proud Boys,²⁷ and Nick Fuentes, a self-described "25% Mexican"²⁸ white supremacist online personality,²⁹ demonstrate the existence of white nationalist

24 White supremacy. Center on Extremism. (2023, August 10). <https://extremismterms.adl.org/glossary/white-supremacy>

25 Fisher, M. (2021, April 30). From memes to race war: How extremists use popular culture to lure recruits. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/04/30/extremists-recruiting-culture-community/>

26 Ibid.

27 The Proud Boys promote Western culture, defend the white community, elevate masculinity, and oppose Islam, yet members may also adhere to other beliefs, such as incel or anti-government ideology (in MMP: Proud boys. CISAC. (n.d.). https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/mappingmilitants/profiles/proud-boys#highlight_text_32640)

28 Resto-Montero, G. (2017, December 27). With the rise of the alt-right, Latino white supremacy may not be a contradiction in terms. Mic. <https://www.mic.com/articles/187062/with-the-rise-of-the-alt-right-latino-white-supremacy-may-not-be-a-contradiction-in-terms>

29 Resto-Montero, G. (2017, December 27). With the rise of the alt-right, Latino white supremacy may not be a contradiction in terms. Mic. <https://www.mic.com/articles/187062/with-the-rise-of-the-alt-right-latino-white-supremacy-may-not-be-a-contradiction-in-terms>

sentiments within the Hispanic community.³⁰ The prevalence of white nationalism is also observed in media outlets like The Daily Stormer, a notorious far-right platform accessed on the darkweb and founded by a white supremacist, Andrew Anglin,³¹ which publishes in Spanish since 2017³² and involves members of color to disprove the perception of white supremacist ideologies.³³

Exploring why minority community members join anti-immigrant and white supremacist groups, as well as the increasing number of Hispanic Americans identifying as white supremacists raises significant questions. Factors contributing to this phenomenon include the identification of Hispanic Americans as white, the proliferation of misinformation online, and anti-Black and antisemitic views within the Hispanic community.³⁴ Acknowledging these dynamics is critical for the success of the fight against growing far-right extremism.

By shedding light on these findings this paper calls for proactive measures in monitoring and addressing extremist ideologies within minority communities, ensuring effective strategies for prevention and safeguarding against recruitment and radicalization.

The case of Mauricio Garcia serves as a red flag, emphasizing the need for a broader perspective in understanding white supremacist figures that do not conform to stereotypical profiles. Policymakers and security bodies must adapt their approaches to effectively monitor potential lone wolf figures, including those from minority backgrounds who may operate outside expected norms. By challenging stigmatized thinking, we can enhance our understanding and response to the complex dynamics of white nationalism within minority communities.

30 Russell Contreras, A. G. (2022, March 12). The rise of white nationalist Hispanics. Axios. <https://www.axios.com/2022/03/10/rise-white-nationalist-hispanics-latinos>

31 Andrew Anglin is a neo-Nazi and conspiracy theorist who promotes white supremacy and antisemitic theories, such as Holocaust denial, to his audience.

32 NBCUniversal News Group. (2017, May 16). Leading neo-nazi website is now publishing in Spanish. NBCNews.com. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/leading-neo-nazi-website-now-publishing-spanish-n760001>

33 Alanna Durkin Richer, M. K. (2023, May 9). The meaning behind the far-right symbol Texas shooter wore as he killed 8. AP NEWS. <https://apnews.com/article/texas-mall-shooting-right-wing-extremists-patch-0be37dc3b41f99835a00f1c859fd6dd>

34 Russell Contreras, A. G. (2022, March 12). The rise of white nationalist Hispanics. Axios. <https://www.axios.com/2022/03/10/rise-white-nationalist-hispanics-latinos>