

Leftist outrage at Twitter

cnav.news/2022/12/02/accountability/news-media/leftist-outrage-twitter/

By Terry A. Hurlbut

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Sooner or later, Elon Musk would have to offend leftist apologists for open advocates of violence against their opponents. That is, if he wanted to be a consistent enforcer of the Twitter Rules. Now a source that should know better, accuses Elon Musk of skewing enforcement of those Rules to the right. When this source does that, they are merely throwing off on Musk. But to see this come from *The Intercept* casts a doubt on their sincerity only a profuse apology can settle.

***The Intercept* takes a side, after giving a warning**

Readers will recall that *The Intercept* broke the story of social media outlets, especially Facebook and Twitter, being State actors. They even quoted a law professor as giving a pointed warning of the potential for abuse:

When the government suggests things, it's not too hard to pull off the velvet glove, and you get the mail fist. And I would consider such actions, especially when it's bureaucratized, as essentially state action and government collusion with the platforms.

Adam Candeub, Professor of Law, Michigan State University

CNAV said then, and repeats today, that the motives of *The Intercept* were unclear. Did they mean to decry the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and its private partners, including Facebook and Twitter? Or did they, like Molly Ball at *Time*, mean to celebrate the program as necessary to “protect democracy”?

Three days ago they answered that question in the most disgusting fashion imaginable. Their piece on the moderational reforms at Twitter is a booby prize collection of:

1. Libel and slander against not only Musk but indeed all who disagree with any leftist, and
2. Denial of the existence of an organization that has dedicated itself to violence in support of leftist causes.

Who is that leftist organization?

The organization in question is Antifa, which stands for *Anti-Fascist*. Antifa is not so much an organization as a network. The focus of Elon Musk’s attention is the United States network that goes by that name. Wikipedia, at time of writing, describes it with some semblance of honesty:

Antifa (/ænˈtiːfə, ˈænti(ː)fə/) is a left-wing anti-fascist and anti-racist political movement in the United States. It consists of a highly decentralized array of autonomous groups that use both nonviolent direct action and violence to achieve their aims.

Wikipedia cites the following sources:

- LaFree, Gary (2018). “Is Antifa a Terrorist Group?”. *Society*. 55 (3): 248–252. DOI [link](#).
- Klein, Adam (2019). “From Twitter to Charlottesville: Analyzing the Fighting Words Between the Alt-Right and Antifa.” *International Journal of Communication*. 13: 22. Wayback Machine [link](#).
- Bogel-Burroughs, Nicholas. “What Is Antifa? Explaining the Movement to Confront the Far Right.” *The New York Times*, July 2, 2019. Wayback Machine [link](#).



The logo of Antifa is an overlay of the black flag of anarchy over the red flag of socialism. Different Antifa national “chapters” use different mottoes to surround these flags. In English it’s *Antifascist Action*; in French, *Antifa Le Jeu* (Antifa, The Game). Some leftist organizations, like the Anti Defamation League, make light of the violent acts of Antifa’s militant arm. Others deny its existence entirely.

Bear this in mind when evaluating the latest *Intercept* piece.

What? You say Antifa doesn’t exist?

The Intercept piece begins with a lament of the recent suspension of four Twitter account. For this they blame Andy Ngô (pronounced “know”), whom they decry as:

a far-right writer whose conspiratorial, error-riddled reporting on left-wing protests and social movements fuels the mass delusion that a handful of small antifascist groups are part of an imaginary shadow army called “antifa.”

1. Brave of Andy Ngo to refuse to reply to my request for comment on his debunked claim that the Dayton mass shooter was "an antifa militant," and then block me after my article proved he made serial reporting errors so his fans won't be exposed to my further debunking of his BS pic.twitter.com/KuHAMhMtnG

— Robert Mackey (@RobertMackey) [December 2, 2021](#)

Imaginary? The authors of the piece (Robert Mackey and Micah Lee) ought at least to read the Wikipedia entry. They might also have cared to read Ngô's [account](#) in The New York Post of what he has suffered. The sufferings include a vicious beating and credible threats against his life. The *Post* article contains footage of one such attack.

Then again, the tone of Robert Mackey's tweet – dated December 2, 2021, under the Agrawal Regime – dispels any reasonable expectation that he would even care what those other sources said. CNAV counts it "very brave" of Mackey to leave such a thread at a time when anyone who dared criticize him risked permanent suspension over a stretch of the Twitter Rules. Or for violating the *unwritten* Twitter Rule, which always was:

| Thou shalt not speak ill of a leftist.

When leftist accounts began to go dark

The apparent suspension of Antifa-related accounts on Twitter began on or about November 23. Here is the sequence of tweets:

| Twitter is reportedly nuking pedo accounts. This is eliminating much of Antifa Twitter.

— RAMZPAUL (@ramzpaul) [November 23, 2022](#)

| Removing child exploitation is priority #1. Please reply in comments if you see anything that Twitter needs to address.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [November 24, 2022](#)

| A large number of Antifa accounts operate on Twitter to promote riots, give tips on how to commit violent crimes & post names, photos & addresses of targets plus their family members.

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 24, 2022](#)

| Incitement to violence will result in account suspension

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [November 25, 2022](#)

How do we best inform Twitter of these violations? I've been reporting on specific accounts for years & pretty much all of them remain. Last year Antifa used Twitter to direct comrades to swarm me after I ran into a hotel following a violent street beating: <https://t.co/qOKzR3hsNy>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

That is a disturbing story and very concerning that Twitter took no action, despite clear violation of ToS. Report in this thread for now.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [November 25, 2022](#)

Thank you for your attention. (I hope you had a great Thanksgiving.) I'll continue to raise these issues here thoughtfully. Countless journalists, law enforcement officers, businesses & properties have been attacked through violent extremist organizing & incitement on Twitter.

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

.@[crimethinc](#), an Antifa collective, makes riot guides, texts to radicalize people into criminal militancy, & propaganda that is shared via Twitter for people to distribute. They've claimed a number of attacks & give instructions on how to form cells, what riot gear to bring, etc. <pic.twitter.com/dlNouwt5v>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

A year ago, @[crimethinc](#) raised tens of thousands on @[GoFundMe](#) via promotion on Twitter. The organizer of that campaign was Shane Becker, a violent extremist who calls for arson attacks & fantasizes about killing people. He instructed comrades to use human body shields at riots. <pic.twitter.com/hWYWWtPET4>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

Seattle journalist @[jasonrantz](#) has written about how violent Antifa militants use Twitter to alert comrades of a real-life physical target in real time. Like myself, Seattle videographers @[choeshow](#) & @[KatieDavisCourt](#) have been stalked & attacked this way. <https://t.co/tXPCWNniiX>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

Violent extremist [#Antifa](#) collective [@crimethinc](#) has been suspended at the moment. The international group operates like ISIS: makes propaganda & training material to radicalize militants toward violence. Though the main account was suspended, they operate a dozen other accounts: pic.twitter.com/36ml2T1rq2

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

As revenge for [@elonmusk](#) suspending violent extremist accounts on Twitter, [#Antifa](#) in Portland are organizing arson attacks on [@Tesla](#) locations tonight.

This is just a drop in the ocean of years of violent organizing on Twitter.
<https://t.co/UXTWORonjJ> <https://t.co/n8B5Z4K08C> pic.twitter.com/GrWjwdLqPV

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 25, 2022](#)

One of the ways Antifa exploit Twitter for criminal conspiracies is to promote [@gofundme](#) fundraisers & pseudonymous Venmo/CashApp accounts. The cash is used to pay hundreds of thousands in bail for violent felonies, & restitution after the rare conviction. <https://t.co/xFI2ubpMDX>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 26, 2022](#)

The Denton, Texas chapter of John Brown Gun Club is evading a Twitter ban for incitement to violence & hate speech by using alt [@elmforkjbgc](#). The dangerous [#Antifa](#) militia is linked to terrorism through its Washington state chapter: <https://t.co/Sw4vjMhrlQ><https://t.co/4AwwX6DdD0>
pic.twitter.com/lxpShJwayR

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 26, 2022](#)

Last week, 5 more members of [@SDagainstFash](#), [@socalantifa](#) pleaded guilty to violent felonies related to a conspiracy to assault people & a dog at Pacific Beach, San Diego in Jan. 2021. Prosecutors presented evidence they're part of [#Antifa](#) cells in so. CA. <https://t.co/naJS1fjqT5>

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 26, 2022](#)

Last night next to the [@Tesla](#) in Lynnwood, WA, a suspect threatened police w/a crowbar & said he would blow up the building. He then started a fire next to propane tanks. No confirmed motive so far but Antifa had urged arson against Tesla & are praising the violent attack. pic.twitter.com/t1buECyb6l

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 27, 2022](#)

Violent convicted Portland Antifa member, Phoebe Anne Loomis/[@AntifaSheriff](#), used Twitter to organize the riots in 2020. She was convicted for smashing up businesses in Portland last year at a riot. A [@gofundme](#) campaign was used to pay her restitution. <https://t.co/ryb73m75rL> pic.twitter.com/oTI9osFdz1

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 28, 2022](#)

Some of the Portland [#Antifa](#) accounts involved in violent extremism are unhappy the call for burning down [@Tesla](#) locations as revenge against [@elonmusk](#) was announced prematurely on Twitter. Portland Antifa member [@dennisispeasant](#) says the attacks should be done discreetly. pic.twitter.com/tMU5SLWPtA

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 29, 2022](#)

One of the far-left accounts that incite violence & share extremist propaganda is [@IGD_News](#). They publish claims of responsibility, such as the domestic terrorist case where militants tried derailing trains (they were convicted). IGD instructs members on how to destroy evidence. pic.twitter.com/vAxUv25wo4

— Andy Ngô 🏳️‍🌈 (@MrAndyNgo) [November 29, 2022](#)

In reply to that last, another user made this arch observation:

Gotta love how this stuff gets mostly ignored by the media while they paint the right as extremists

— Bobson Dugnutt (@Kenworthdiesel) [November 29, 2022](#)

Further down the thread come these reports from users other than Andy Ngô who suffered at Antifa's violent hands:

Those clowns in the J6 Committee have scattered like cockroaches. Here's what a REAL insurrection looks like pic.twitter.com/83OulvdDBL

— Peter Duffield (@PeterDuffield_) [November 26, 2022](#)

My children and I were harmed by rocks. We were spit on and many people were dragged from their cars beaten for having a Maga sticker. You suck ma'am or it or whatever you are. J6 was nothing. If folks were trying an insurrection we would of been heavily armed.

— Good Citizen (@armedbuttchug) [November 28, 2022](#)

These are the kind of people whom Mackey and Lee choose to defend – or the existence of whom they deny.

Twitter *has* suspended the leftist accounts *The Intercept* mentions. The most prominent of these is “crimethinc.” The other three are Chad Loder, Vishal Pratap Singh, and the Elm Fork John Brown Gun Club. Mackey and Lee quote Loder as saying this for himself:

What I believe happened is that I and other accounts have been mass reported for the last few weeks by a dedicated group of far-right extremists who want to erase archived evidence of their past misdeeds and to neutralize our ability to expose them in the future.

Mackey and Lee also refer to an interesting [archive](#) containing what they allege is a list of accounts people on the right were busy reporting. But a closer look at the image shows that those accounts were reporting *rightist* accounts for real or imagined violations.

Even more interesting is this tweet *CNAV* uncovered in its research, directly relevant to yesterday’s [election interference](#) story:

[@SenateDems](#) Twitter is being turned into a fascist platform. Musk is suspending major liberal accounts and allowing suspended terrorist accounts back on the platform. Twitter was a major force in the outcome of many recent elections, and Musk and his allies want to squash that.

— Sarah M^ (@Firefang78Sarah) [November 26, 2022](#)

Deliberate mischaracterization

Mackey and Lee go on to suggest that Twitter is somehow lost to the leftist cause. They speak of “increased tolerance for far-right hate speech,” which neither they nor their sources care to define. Furthermore they promote the narrative that the January 6 Event was a failed coup – and not the false-flag pseudo-operation it actually was.

Nor can they claim with any justice that all leftists accounts are under suspension. Many more remain, including some who seemed to suggest that Andy Ngô either:

- Fabricated his account of the vicious beating he received, or:
- Deserved it.

Which, of course, is typical of neighborhood or schoolyard bullies. They either deny their own activities, or throw off on their targets – and sometimes both. Mackey and Lee are indulging in this precise behavior in their piece, as are many of these remaining accounts.

Most of the remaining leftist accounts do not bear mention – for why give them extra publicity? But one needs no introduction: Rob Reiner. Yes, *that* Rob Reiner, also known as Michael Stivic on *All in the Family*. Your editor has had occasion recently to respond directly to some of his lies about conservatives generally.

A threat from the government?

All this takes place under the shadow of a veiled threat from the White House that the government might try to take Twitter over. How else to explain this statement by Karine Jean-Pierre, according to *Americans Report*?

Jean-Pierre: "We are keeping an eye on [Elon Musk's Twitter]."
pic.twitter.com/hs5uX9AzZY

— Greg Price (@greg_price11) November 28, 2022

So let's just say this: We are watching closely to make sure that misinformation does not spread... We are all closely watching this. What you report and what is going on on Twitter. Social media companies have an obligation to not allow anyone to incite violence through their platforms. This is especially true when violence is directed at particular communities, as we have seen.

"Closely watching"? Why? Elon Musk would like to know.

Why are so many in the media against free speech? This is messed up.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) November 28, 2022

Furthermore, where was this White House when a mob in Multnomah County, Oregon viciously beat Andy Ngô? Or did they, too, consider that he deserved what he got? In any event, we now see Elon Musk at least beginning an even-handed enforcement of the Rules. The suspended accounts clearly engaged in incitement to violence. Andy Ngô provided direct pictorial evidence. Thus the "archived evidence of past misdeeds" favors the right, not the left. Whoever defends such behavior can no longer call himself a journalist.

Unmuzzled News has the best assessment with which CNAV could conclude:

Leftists are outraged by these moves because they allow other people to speak, and there is nothing the Left hates more than free speech and people who they disagree with.

Or, in the immortal words of Ice-T, speaking of Musk:

People hate Dude so much they're leaving Twitter.. But they still drive his cars... The way people protest nowadays confuses the F outta me...

— ICE T (@FINALLEVEL) November 23, 2022