

DOCUMENTING HATE:

Charlottesville

1x60 HD



PBS

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FRONTLINE and ProPublica investigate the white supremacists at the center of August 2017's infamous and deadly rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. This joint reporting has shed troubling light on the events of August 11 and 12, 2017—revealing that one participant in the violence, Vasillios Pistoris, was an active-duty U.S. Marine, and that another, Michael Miselis, worked for a major defense contractor and held a U.S. government security clearance.

In Documenting Hate: Charlottesville, FRONTLINE and ProPublica go even deeper—investigating why, nearly a year after the rally, many of the perpetrators of racist violence have not been held accountable; tracing the origins and actions of the white supremacist groups they belong to; and revealing how a series of violent clashes involving those very same individuals and groups preceded the deadly rally in Charlottesville.

In this documentary the team methodically tracks down some of those at the center of the Charlottesville violence—and reveals just how ill-prepared law enforcement was to handle an influx of white supremacists from across the country, some of whom had been part of a series of earlier violent confrontations in California and descended on Charlottesville specifically to fight.

In particular, the documentary reveals how the events of August 11 may have set the stage for the next day's tragedy: During a torchlight march at Charlottesville's University of Virginia, police did little to prevent white supremacists from attacking their ideological foes.

The team speaks with experts who say law enforcement's response so far has only made white supremacists feel more emboldened—and in the process, he shines an unflinching light on the rise of America's new white supremacist groups and how they operate and recruit.

Ultimately, the film is an eye-opening examination of how white supremacist ideologies have moved out of the shadows. Lowell Smith, a former Orange County probation officer who worked exclusively on white supremacist groups, tells Thompson that such groups have now entered the mainstream, and are likely the most active he's seen them over his 26-year career.

And finally, the film begins an exploration of white supremacists' presence in the U.S. armed forces. After FRONTLINE and ProPublica's reporting revealed that a neo-Nazi active duty Marine, Vasillios Pistoris, participated in the Charlottesville violence, Pistoris was court-martialed and sentenced to 28 days in prison. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) wrote to U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis to formally request an investigation of white supremacists in the military.

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CREDITS

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Image: FRONTLINE



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