

Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi Aug 6, 2024 * 24 tweets * <u>P_Kallioniemi/status/1820787090130346117</u>

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a British far-right activist, Tommy Robinson (@TRobinsonNewEra). He's best-known for his role in the far-right, Islamophobic organizations like the English Defence League (EDL) and his close connections to the Kremlin.

Tr

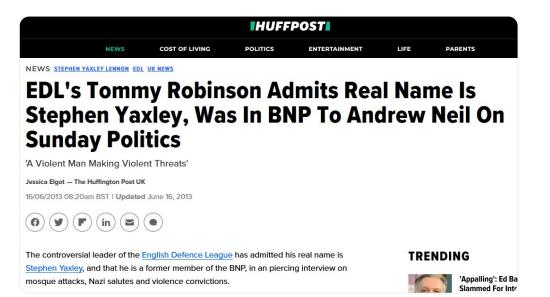


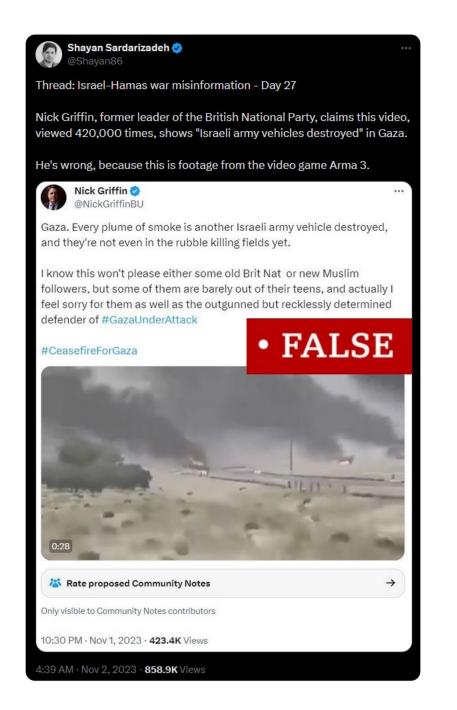
Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, was born in Luton and during his youth delved into a life of crime, serving four prison terms between 2005 and 2019. He used several pseudonyms to hide his criminal past, finally sticking to Tommy Robinson.

2/23

Robinson, whose criminal convictions include assaulting an off-duty police officer, stalking, fraud and drug possession, has served multiple prison sentences. In 2013 he was jailed for attempting to use a false passport to enter the US.

Tommy joined the fascist and far-right British National Party (BNP) in 2004 but left a year later. The party didn't allow non-whites to join and was then led by Nick Griffin, who today is better known for sharing video game footage while claiming it's real.

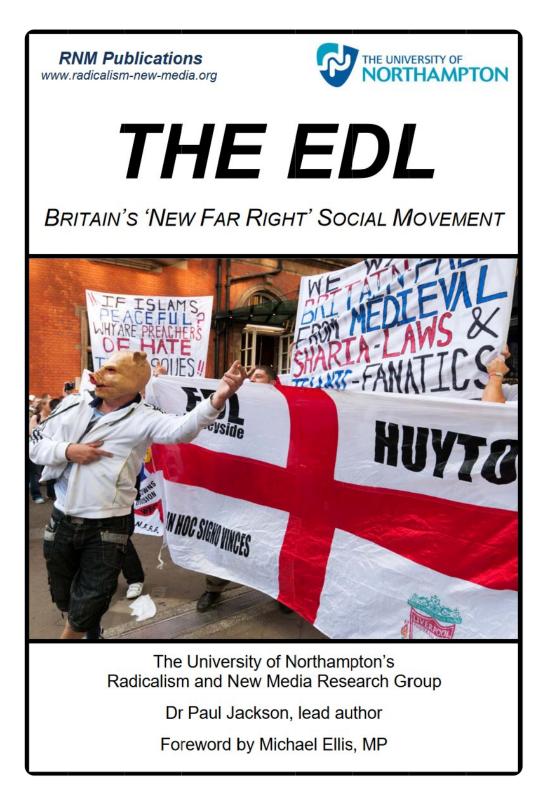




Tommy was one of the leaders of the EDL, a far-right and Islamophobic organization loosely affiliated with football hooligans.

In 2011, EDL members were convicted of plotting to bomb mosques, and the group also had links to Norwegian far-right terrorist Anders Breivik.







You are here News > Local

Ex-soldier sent to jail for blast plot at mosque



Simon Beech

Published on Friday 9 December 2011 09:26

An ex-Lancashire-based soldier who attempted to blow up a mosque has been jailed for 10 years.

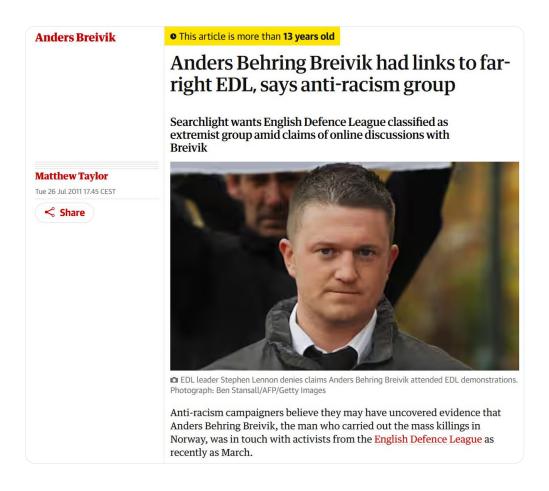
Simon Beech, who served in the 2nd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, was convicted of arson alongside Garreth Foster by a jury at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court.

TOP STORIES

Olympians cook up a stir in town centre

Farmer puts up own cash to boost Christmas trade

Last post for marching



Breivik idolized EDL co-founder Paul Ray and even attended one of their rallies in Bradford. Robinson left EDL in 2013, claiming that it had become "too extreme". Throughout the years, he's been involved in other far-right organizations like...





() 29 January 2016





...the Hearts of Oak & Pegida UK. In 2018, Robinson was appointed as "grooming gang advisor" to UK Independence Party (UKIP). Nigel Farage, another prominent vatnik, left UKIP soon after this, saying that Tommy was "entirely unsuitable to be involved in any political party". 6/23

Yaxley-Lennon would go on to be appointed in November 2018 as 'Grooming Gang Advisor' to UKIP under Gerard Batten. The following year, in July 2019, he was convicted for contempt of court after livestreaming outside Leeds Crown Court in May 2018, while a trial of a sexual grooming gang from Huddersfield was ongoing.

Earlier this year, Yaxley-Lennon visited Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, following protests in support of a teenager accused of lying about being raped by a grooming gang, after social media posts in her name went viral. The teenager, Eleanor Williams, has been charged with seven counts of perverting the course of justice. Yaxley-Lennon visited the town despite Williams's family asking him to stay away. Cumbria Police say a year-long investigation found no evidence of Asian sex grooming gangs in Barrow.



Nicholas Mairs

3 min read 04 December 2018

Nigel Farage has resigned from Ukip "with a heavy heart" over the current leadership's "fixation" with former English Defence Leader Tommy Robinson and the issue of Islam. The party's former chief said a "fundamental" shift in Ukip under Gerard Batten to the "party of street activism" - as well as its alignment with far-right figures meant it was "no longer the party" Brexit supporters need.

"The great irony of this change in approach is that it is happening at a time of maximum electoral opportunity for Ukip," he wrote in a column for the <u>Daily Telegraph</u>.

"With the Conservative and Labour parties having openly broken both their referendum and general election promises, Ukip should be riding high in the polls.

"With regret, however, I must admit that I now do not believe it will do so again. Mr Batten's obsession with Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (to use Tommy Robinson's real name) and fixation with the issue of Islam makes Ukip unrecognisable to many of us."

Between 2018 and 2020, Robinson was banned from Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok for hate speech and "promotion of hateful ideology". As is tradition, his account was reinstated on X in Nov 2023, now getting around 500 million monthly impressions.

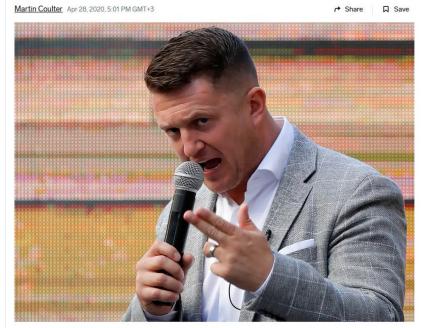


BUSINESS INSIDER

TECH

 $\equiv \circ$

Tommy Robinson and Britain First turn to Russia's VK after being banned from TikTok



Robinson promised to build a 'new mass following' on VK Getty Imagves

- Tommy Robinson, founder of the English Defence League, and farright group Britain First have turned to Russian platform VK after being banned from every mainstream social media service.
- Both were kicked off TikTok on Friday for sharing content the company said "promoted hateful ideology".



Anti-Islam activist Tommy Robinson has had his account reinstated on social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

| 07:28 | ,ıl 📚 🗩 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| X Account Analytics | | | | | | | |
| Overview | Content | | | | | | |
| TD 28D | 3M 1Y | | | | | | |
| Account overview | | | | | | | |
| Impressions 🗸 | Line 🗸 | | | | | | |
| Select ∨ | Daily 🗸 | | | | | | |
| 120M | | | | | | | |
| 90M | | | | | | | |
| 60M | | | | | | | |
| 30M 0 May 9 May 22 Jun 4 Jun | n 17 Jun 30 Jul 13 Jul 26 | | | | | | |
| Impressions 1.5B ↑ 338% | Engagement rate 5.4% ↑ 4.3% | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Robinson has received over 2 million \pounds in donations and sponsorships, mostly from foreign sources tied to the Kremlin and Israel. In 2019, Tommy had asked fellow activist Andrew Edge about bank accounts in Russia, allegedly wanting to hide his money.

An analysis by The Times of Mr. Robinson's financial records, as well as publicly available information, suggests that he has brought in at least \$2 million since 2018. He raised some money himself including by selling his gated home north of London for \$1.1 million (810,000 pounds) — but other funding came from generous international supporters. Between March and May of that year, Mr. Robinson received nearly £435,000 from supporters, many in the United States and Canada, according to Caolan Robertson, a former associate of Mr. Robinson who provided a screenshot showing the account balance from this period.

He said that Mr. Shillman paid roughly \$7,000 a month, for a year, through a right-wing Canadian media outlet called Rebel Media, and that Alex Jones, the host of Infowars, "transferred \$20,000 to us every now and then to buy cameras and kit and grow our content."

Bitcoin analysis also shows that Robinson received more than \$60,000 in small donations between 2018 and 2020, according to John Bambenek, a computer security researcher.

Mr. Dowson, the far-right activist and fund-raiser, said Mr. Robinson once told him that he could introduce him to people in the United States "who would give us £300,000 to provoke and stir up hate against Muslims." Mr. Robinson denied saying this. The Guardian looked into Robinson's global support after he was jailed for filming outside a rape trial involving defendants of mainly Pakistani heritage at Leeds crown court. He was released on 1 August after the court of appeal ordered that he should be retried. The attorney general is deciding whether to proceed with a retrial.

The investigation has established that:

- A Philadelphia-based thinktank, the Middle East Forum (MEF), acknowledges it has spent about \$60,000 (£47,000) on Robinson's legal fees and <u>demonstrations</u> staged in London earlier this year. A senior MEF executive has been closely involved in preparations for this weekend's march, though the thinktank said she was there in a personal capacity.
- A US tech billionaire, Robert Shillman, financed a fellowship that helped pay for Robinson to be employed in 2017 by a rightwing Canadian media website, the Rebel Media, on a salary of about £5,000 a month.
- A small Australian rightwing group, Australian Liberty Alliance, says it has helped fund Robinson, but did not disclose how much.
- A New York City-based thinktank, the Gatestone Institute, has published a succession of articles supporting Robinson's cause.
- The David Horowitz Freedom Center (DHFC), a California-based thinktank that describes itself as a "school for political warfare", has published a series of pieces defending Robinson, and has lobbied for him to address US politicians.

ANALYSIS / ADL: ROBINSON HAS A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY

Why are US 'pro-Israel' groups boosting a farright, anti-Muslim UK extremist?

The Gatestone Institute publishes pieces defending Tommy Robinson, and the Middle East Forum is offering him financial help – ostensibly in the name of free speech

By ERIC CORTELLESSA 24 January 2019, 2:00 pm

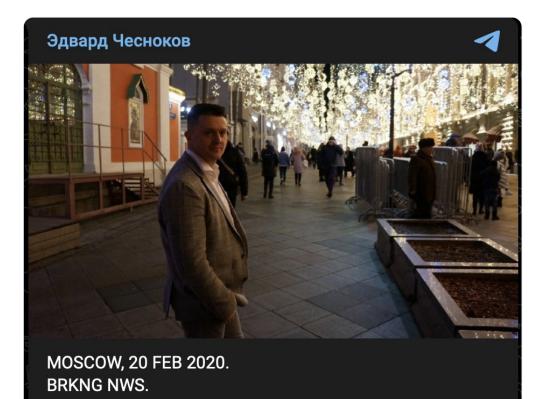




Yet associates of Mr. Robinson said he wanted more than media exposure. Andrew Edge, once a top official in Britain First and the English Defence League, said Mr. Robinson had called him soon after he left prison in September 2019 to ask about bank accounts in Russia. Mr. Robinson was already facing the libel suit and wanted to hide his money, Mr. Edge said.

Before Mr. Robinson went to Moscow, Mr. Edge said he met with him and Paul Golding, the Britain First leader, for a dinner in which they discussed how to move money to Russia. Mr. Edge said Mr. Golding had already opened accounts there linked to his far-right group. Mr. Robinson also paid £300 to a local accountant in Dartford, near London, who advised him on how to move assets offshore, Mr. Edge said.

And as is tradition, Robinson also has strong links to Russia (thanks to @rwdburley for a great thread on this, give them a follow!). Tommy travelled to Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2020. His trip was publicized by Edvard Chesnokov, a deputy editor of Komsomolskaya Pravda.



FATHER IS IN THE HOUSE. t.me/chesnokmedia/2177 14.4K • edited Feb 20, 2020 at 16:07

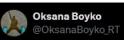


While in Russia, he also made an episode for Tsargrad TV, a channel owned by Russian oligarch Konstantin Malofeev. Malofeev is closely connected to Alexander Dugin & was involved in funding & organizing illegal paramilitary groups in Ukraine in 2014. 10/23

https://x.com/P Kallioniemi/status/1602252899341541377

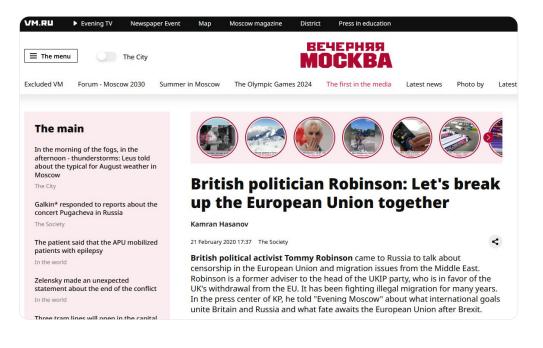
He was also interviewed by the Kremlin-run RT and Komsomolskaya Pravda, Vechemiaia Moskva, and RIA FAN. The latter was then controlled by the late Yevgeny Prigozhin, and it was directly connected to his troll farm, the Internet Research Agency.





Had just been told by **#TommyRobinson** that I'm married to a fake Muslim because my hubby doesn't beat me. Had lots to say in response. Airs Sunday @WorldsApart_RT







Tommy even had time to do some Assad-apologism, when he said to a Russian YouTuber that "I truthfully believe the Assad chemical attack was total propaganda for a war in Syria, to get the public support to go to war."

12/23

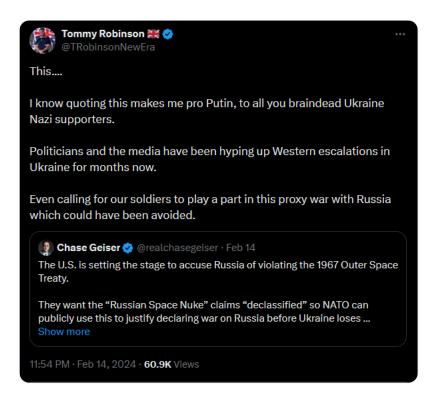
Having regularly appeared on RT, he gave a 30-minute interview for the outlet, as well as a video with a Russian YouTuber during which he said "I truthfully believe the Assad chemical attack was total propaganda for a war in Syria, to get the public support to go to war." On X, he's criticized the US aid to Ukraine, attempted to connect ISIS to Ukraine, supported Nigel Farage's claims that the war in Ukraine was "provoked by NATO", and even called Ukraine supporters "nazis".

Oh the irony.

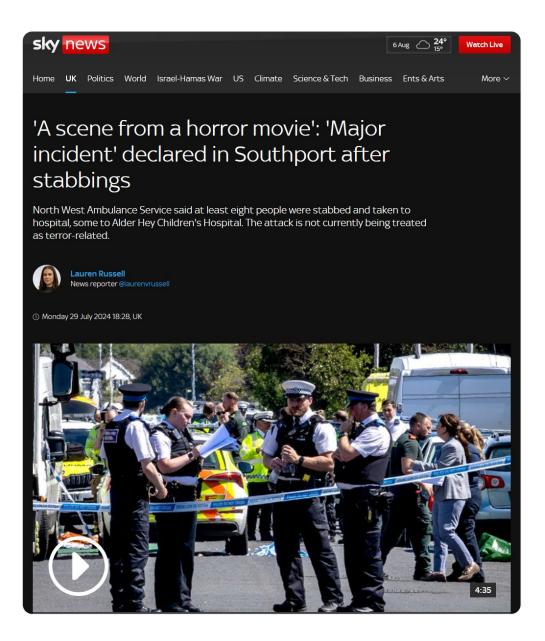








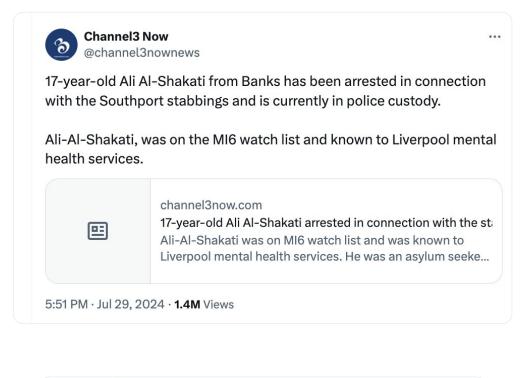
Tommy returned into the spotlight again after the 2024 Southport stabbing, in which 17-year-old Axel Muganwa Rudakubana killed 3 & injured 10 at a dance studio in Southport. Immediately after the attack, disinformation about the identity of the attacker began to spread...





Alice Dasilva Aguiar, Elsie Dot Stancombe and Bebe King all died in the Southport stabbings (Family handouts/Merseyside Police)

...quickly on social media, originating from a fake news group called Channel3 Now. According to them, the perpetrator was named "Ali Al-Shakati" and he had arrived in the UK on a small boat in 2023. This false report garnered 2 million views before it was deleted.





The channel started posting Russian-language content 12 years ago, but had shifted to reporting US-related news around 5 years ago.

And of course Tommy had to throw gasoline on the fire. He published a video defending the riots and calling for deportation of immigrants.





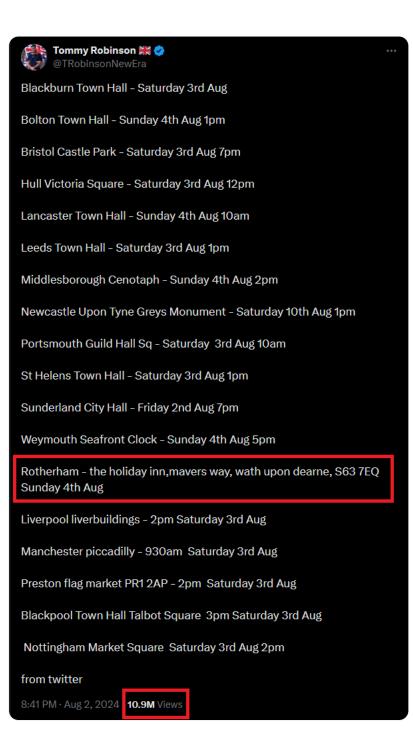
Tommy Robinson 🗯 🤣 @TRobinsonNewEra

Follow

Front page of the daily mail. Anyone who's followed my videos on here knows full well I have been calling for calm & deterring violence. Of course don't expect the media to tell the truth . This is an attack to endanger my life by a corrupt media

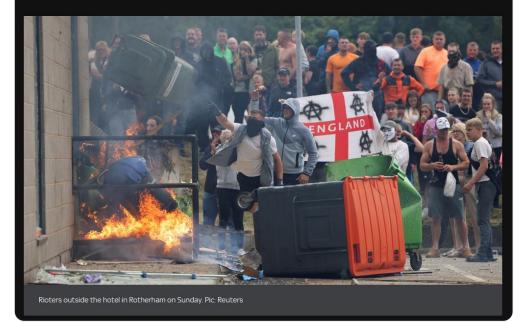
Around this time, riots erupted around the UK. Robinson shared a list of planned protests on X, and was even invited by Alex Jones to talk about the "English uprising" on InfoWars. On 4 Aug 2024, he stirred the pot a bit more, posting a false story about...







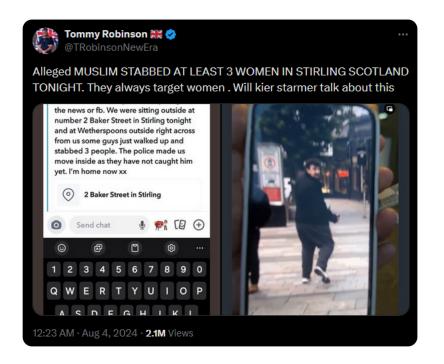
() Monday 5 August 2024 14:32, UK

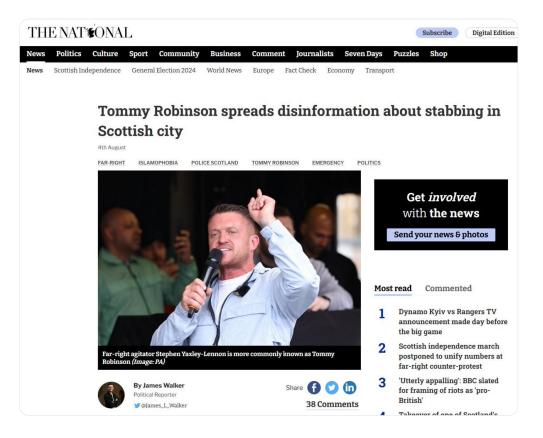


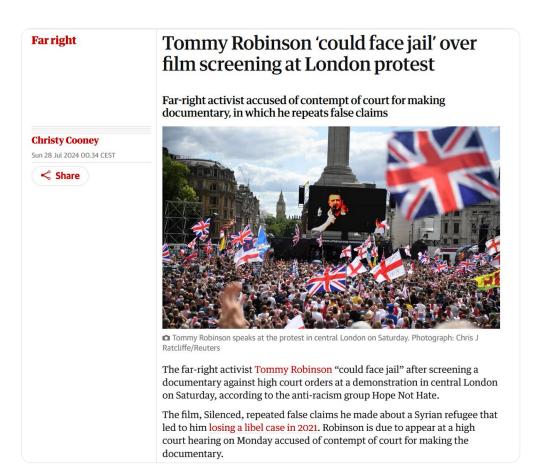


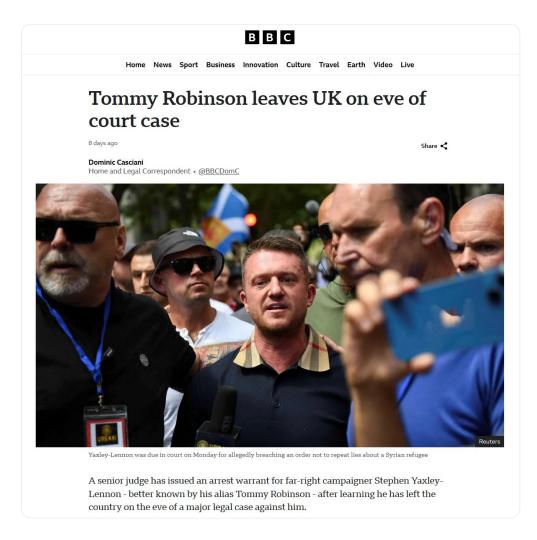
.."alleged Muslim stabbing of at least 3 women" in Scotland. The attacker was white and local to the area.

You'd think that Tommy would also take part in the riots, but "unfortunately" he was not available - he'd fled the UK on the eve of a major legal case against him.

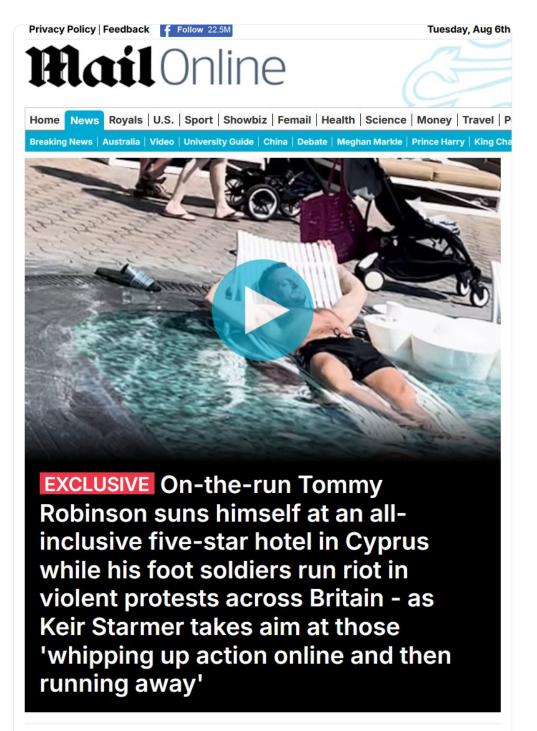




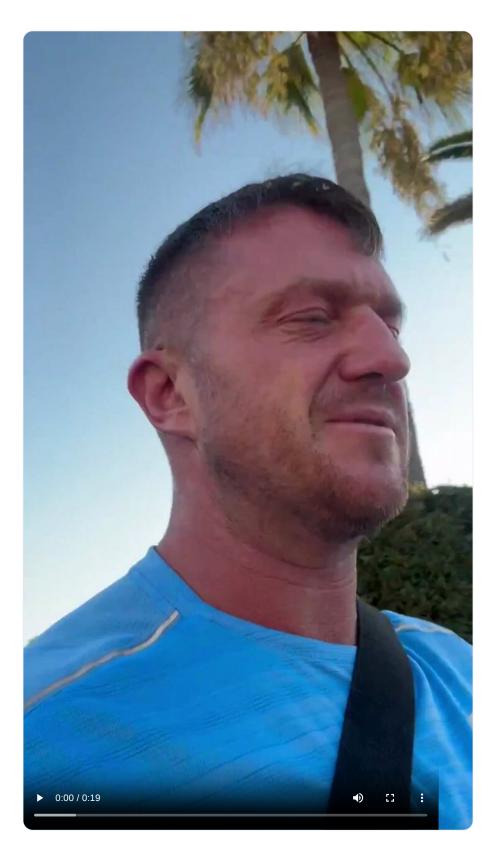




Daily Mail had found out that Tommy had established his new headquarters into an all-inclusive fivestar hotel in Cyprus. His main activities included posting provocative videos and later calling the violence that erupted during the riots "absolutely fucking ridiculous".



By ANDREW YOUNG IN AIYA NAPA, CYPRUS PUBLISHED: 17:05 BST, 4 August 2024 | UPDATED: 21:04 BST, 4 August 2024



Tommy's provocative posts haven't gone unnoticed on X, and even the platform's owner has interacted with him. A few days later Elon made another comment on the UK riots, suggesting that "Civil war is inevitable" - a claim he had done many times before dating back to 2023.





| Replying Europe a | sk 🧇 🗵 @ to @Radi ppears to | oGenoa be heade | ed for civi | war | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|--|--|
| Q 1.9K | 1 €3.4K | ♥ 13.4K | ılıı 1.5M | \Box | გ | | |
| Elon Musk 💸 🗶 @elonmusk · 01 Nov 23 Replying to @zerohedge Civil war is brewing | | | | | | | |
| Q 222 | 1 ,296 | 🗘 1.8K | , 197K | \Box | စိစ | | |
| Elon Musk 🔮 🛛 @elonmusk · 27 Oct 23 Replying to @WallStreetSilv Europe is trending towards civil war | | | | | | | |
| Q 874 | Ĉ ↓1.2K | ♥ 7.4K | , 370К | \Box | စို | | |
| Elon Musk 🔗 🗵 @elonmusk · 20 Oct 23 Replying to @WallStreetSilv Europe is headed for civil war | | | | | | | |
| Q 2K | ℃ ↓4.7K | 💙 19.9K | 1.2M | \Box | So So | | |
| Elon Musk <a> <a> @elonmusk · 20 Oct 23 Replying to @WallStreetSilv Europe is trending towards civil war | | | | | | | |
| Q 671 | Ĉ Ĵ1.4K | ♥ 6.5K | ı , 334K | \Box | စို | | |
| Elon Musk 🔗 🗵 @elonmusk · 11 Oct 23 Replying to @KonstantinKisin and @DouglasKMurray | | | | | | | |
| If current trends continue, civil war in Europe is inevitable | | | | | | | |
| Q 1.6K | た]4.6K | ♥ 15.9K | II'I 998K | \Box | 8 | | |
| | | | | | | | |

As most of you know, Russian disinformation machinery with their troll and bot farms has been instigating "race war" in Europe and in the US for a long time, and using people like Tommy (who is also funded by US pro-Israel groups) to do that is not a new strategy.

RESEARCH PAPER JANUARY 2019





How the Kremlin is manipulating the Refugee Crisis

Russian Disinformation as a Threat to European Security

by Antonios Nestoras

Abstract:

Anti-immigration rhetoric in online media outlets and political parties in Central and Eastern European countries are frequently echoing false or misleading stories and narratives originating in Russia. On the theme of the refugee crisis, by sowing fear and resentment, the Russian disinformation campaigns are adding another arrow to the quiver of the European far right. Furthermore, major conservative parties in power in Central and Eastern Europe are now translating the same narratives into action, exhibiting an eerie ideological alignment with Putin's regime in Moscow. In this regard, even more than before, the well-established connection of the European far right with Putin's Russia is problematic; it gives the refugee crisis a foreign policy spin that deserves more attention. The article will examine how the manipulation of the refugee crisis by the Kremlin fits the wider strategic narrative of Russia confrontation with the West and will argue that this narrative frames a revisionist agenda with an ulterior motive: to promote Russia as a reliable security provider for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and, hence, to reinstate the Kremlin's significance and ideological resonance in a part of the former Soviet sphere of influence.

Antonios Nestoras

is a researcher at the Institute for European Studies of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Previously, Antonios served as policy advisor for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats (ALDE). He holds an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy (Leiden Universiteit, Netherlands).

At the same time, both Russia and Belarus are flooding the EU with immigrants through their borders while providing financial support to populist anti-immigration parties around the EU.

22/23

https://x.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1726300413077631014

The immigration problem in Europe and the US is very real, but it shouldn't be resolved with riots and violence. People like Robinson are paid generously to provoke these incidents, and currently the most popular platform to spread their hate is Elon Musk's X.



BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Travel Earth Video Live

New rioting across UK cities as arrests multiply

5 hours ago

Share <

Thomas Mackintosh BBC News



Footage shows six days of violence and disorder in the UK

The wave of violent unrest and disorder across parts of the UK continued on Monday night as police came under attack in Belfast, Darlington and Plymouth.



You can now pre-order my upcoming book (Fall of 2024) "Vatnik Soup - The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" from here:



Pre-Order *** Vatnik Soup — KLE-art

FOR ENGLISH TEXT on the site - please select language at the top *Pre-Order* Do your friends believe Ukraine is full of Neo-Nazis and secret biolabs? Do you feel overwhelmed by propaganda and li...

https://www.kleart.dk/webshop/p/vatnik-soup

• • •