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“Safer Web = Safer World”

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ONE YEAR LATER: **INSURRECTION EXTREMIST GROUPS STILL ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook & Other Platforms Failing to Fulfill Pledges to Purge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2022

Today, [The Coalition for a Safer Web](#) (CSW) condemned Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and TELEGRAM for their failure to purge their platforms of extremist groups which incited and committed violence at the January 6, 2021 Capitol insurrection.

The storming of the Capitol attracted more than a dozen neo-Nazi/anti-Semitic extremist groups and so-called militias allied to Donald Trump. Within days of the January 6 Insurrection major social media platforms pledged that extremist groups fomenting violence at the Capitol would have their accounts permanently shut down. Despite their pledges, too many of these extremist groups continue to operate in plain sight across the web courtesy of America’s major social media platforms.

In April, 2021 -- three months after the Insurrection -- CSW and Digital Citizens Alliance issued a report: [The Domestic Extremist Next Door](#), detailing how extremist groups involved in the Insurrection remain free agents on social media platforms; recruiting, plotting, and raising funds to support their operations. Our goal was to disclose the danger and prompt social media companies to finally act against domestic extremist groups still inciting violence on the web against the U.S. and its citizens.

A year after the Insurrection and nine months after our Report have social media platforms fulfilled their pledges? As CSW reveals the evidence is unconvincing:

PROUD BOYS: While Proud Boys channels have largely disappeared from major social media platforms, its online presence is enabled by the mobile app TELEGRAM and the GETTR (the social media site promoted as a web home for Trump supporters). This extremist neo-Nazi organization which pledged fidelity to Trump continues to operate freely on the web. Just

yesterday, Proud Boys chapters in New York and Pennsylvania organized on GETTR and TELEGRAM a caravan of supporters to incite violence in Albany, NY at anti-vaccination protest.

QANON CONSPIRATORS: QAnon supporters who participated in the violence at the Capitol continue to spread extremist conspiracies on Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram. In October 2020, Facebook pledged to Congress it would purge ALL QAnon accounts, groups, and posts. We continue to find on Facebook hundreds of QAnon accounts. QAnon conspirators have successfully developed ways to avoid detection via camouflaged hashtags and accounts (such as “Patriots in Control” and its derivatives) which CSW continues to flag, proving once again that Facebook’s vaunted artificial intelligence continues to be outsmarted by extremist groups. Even TikTok permits the use of the hashtag “Patriots in Control.”

OATH KEEPERS: An extremist white nationalist terrorist organization, CSW continues to find Oath Keeper accounts on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/OathKeepersOK?app=desktop>) Twelve members of the group were indicted for committing violence at the Capitol against law enforcement authorities. YouTube’s management consistently fails to take reasonable action against extremist groups. Extremist groups implicated in the Insurrection regularly post recruitment videos on YouTube.

THE THREE PERCENTERS: Members of the so-called Three Percenters – an extremist militia group -- whose members are also affiliated with the similarly white nationalist TEXAS FREEDOM FORCE -- have a professionally-produced recruitment documentary still up on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtafbViokQUj>). Ten members were arrested at the Capitol. YouTube’s management has repeatedly refused to take down its recruitment video.

Moreover, each of these extremist groups operate with impunity on TELEGRAM. Both Silicon Valley and the US Government have failed to develop any strategy to prevent domestic extremist groups from using TELEGRAM to serve as their primary web safe house.

When CSW inquired why these extremist groups are still able to operate on their platforms the spinning and concealment prove once again that social media simply cannot be trusted to self-regulate even when they publicly pledged they will.

Amb. Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW, stated:

It is a national scandal that dozens of domestic neo-Nazi antisemitic extremist groups which promote violence freely operate on mainstream social media platforms inciting pro-Trump supporters and planning more violence. That extremist groups whose members actively committed violence at the Insurrection and continue to have a foot-hold on mainstream social media is further proof that social media companies cannot be trusted to fulfill their own promises to boot these groups off.”
