Twitter Thread by Respectable Lawyer



Respectable Lawyer
@RespectableLaw

I have some wild updates on yesterday's thread about @mattgaetz's floor speech about "antifa agitators" that may end up with the facial recognition company suing the Washington Times, which would be funny...

> JOURNALISTS: Let me help you debunk the lies in the @mattgaetz floor speech about a \u201cfacial recognition company\u201d discovering antifa agitators. It all comes from a fake news article from the notorious Washington Times. I will break it all down for you\u2026https://t.co/alc73605Nm
>
> — Respectable Lawyer (@RespectableLaw) January 7, 2021

This morning, Buzzfeed interviewed XRVision, the facial recognition company mentioned in the Washington Times article who supposedly identified antifa at the capitol. They're mad, because as I discussed yesterday, they actually identified neo-nazis.

https://t.co/DY4IRi3ReP

And now there are attorneys issuing a demand for correction and apology, which is the first step in a defamation lawsuit.

But the Washington Times didn't issue a correction or apology. Instead, this morning it first tried to change the headline from "antifa" to "extremists."

https://t.co/wjlAjUhfHz

> So @WashTimes quietly changed the headline of its false & viral story (with no correction) after XRVision, the facial recognition firm, said it had actually identified neo-nazis \u2014 not antifa \u2014 storming the Capitol. https://t.co/5bCRshgoB1 pic.twitter.com/Z0a5ZQ3Chk
>
> — Jesselyn Cook (@JessReports) January 7, 2021

By noon, the Washington Times just deleted the article.

But remember @RoScarborough, the author of that embarrassing article? Well now he is retweeting a NY Post story repeating the same lies about "two antifa infiltrators."

https://t.co/uO2kaXXoHn

> Two known Antifa members posed as pro-Trump to infiltrate Capitol riot: sources https://t.co/BNe6yrq2nB via @nypost
>
> — Rowan Scarborough (@RoScarborough) January 7, 2021

These people are shameless. This is worm behavior.

And as these shameless worms keep the misinformation churning, we now have the biggest clods in Congress talking about sleeping on the floor of their office and citing the rumors they tell each other as “evidence.”

https://t.co/MhaFSdlb2Y

> 1. A Congressman warned me on MONDAY of a growing ANTIFA threat & advised that I sleep in my office rather than leaving Capitol complex & sleeping in my condo. I heeded that advice & have slept on office floor for 4 straight nights.
>
> — Mo Brooks (@RepMoBrooks) January 7, 2021

Keep your fingers crossed that a lawsuit comes out of this, because at least that would be entertaining. But when it comes to misinformation and its pernicious use by people like Matt Gaetz, things are going to get worse before they get better.

Because there is still no institutional penalty in media and politics for this kind of behavior. And in desperation, somebody is going to try to create a top-down system of regulation that ultimately neutralizes the only positive and democratizing aspects of online information.