



PHOTO BY RYAN M. KELLY/DAILY PROGRESSIVE

A car struck another vehicle near a crowd of antiracist protesters, killing a 32-year-old woman, Heather D. Heyer in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Domestic Terrorism Erupts in Charlottesville, Virginia

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In a joint intelligence report released in May, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security warned of white supremacist groups in the United States, saying they will “continue to pose a threat of lethal violence over the next year.”

On Saturday, August 12th violence erupted in Charlottesville, Virginia at a white supremacist protest against the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue, the Confederacy’s top general. The white supremacist march called “Unite the Right” included members of the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party and other extremist groups who travelled from around the country to the small university town. News outlets and social media captured the white nationalists carrying Nazi and Confederate flags. The groups were described as armed like a paramilitary force.

By afternoon, after clashes with antiracist protestors, 34 people were left injured and three dead.

20 year old James Alex Fields, Jr. of Ohio has been charged with second degree murder. In a statement released from the city of Charlottesville, Mr. Fields was driving a Dodge Challenger “at a high rate of speed,” which hit a number of antiracist protestors on the street before crashing into other vehicles, which were pushed into a crowd of pedestrians. The suspected driver then slammed the car in reverse and fled the scene backwards. 32 year old Heather D. Heyer, a paralegal from Charlottesville was left dead and 19 more people were injured.

On Monday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions denounced the violence in Charlottesville and described it as an “evil” act which meets the legal definition of domestic terrorism.



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Born: 1937 - 1996

Joyce Washington Believed in this Community and all those that made this Community Great.

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