

'Go to the streets and be as violent as Antifa and BLM': Rep. Louie Gohmert says court rejection of his challenge to Biden's election win leaves Trump supporter....

'Go to the streets and be as violent as Antifa and BLM': Rep. Louie Gohmert says court rejection of his challenge to Biden's election win leaves Trump supporters no option except to take direct action

MailOnline

January 2, 2021 Saturday 8:54 PM GMT

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Section: NEWS; Version:2

Length: 732 words

Byline: Keith Griffith For Dailymail.comWires

Body

- Gohmert made the remarks in an interview with Newsmax on Friday
- It came after a court rejected his suit seeking to allow Pence to overturn election
- Gohmert, a Texas Republican, denies he was calling for violence
- It comes ahead of a massive pro-**Trump** rally in DC as Congress votes

President Donald **Trump**'s ally Rep. Louie Gohmert suggested supporters could 'go to the streets and be as **violent** as Antifa and BLM' in shocking remarks after courts denied his bid to overturn the election.

But Gohmert furiously backpedaled after outrage over his remarks - insisting his words had been 'twisted' and he was not advocating violence.

A U.S. judge on Friday rejected Gohmert's lawsuit against Vice President Mike Pence, who is set to preside Wednesday over a joint session of Congress to formalize the results of the 2020 presidential election.

The judge, appointed by **Trump**, said Gohmert and other Republicans who filed suit lack standing to bring the legal action seeking to overturn the election of President-elect Joe Biden.

Following the ruling, Gohmert, a Texas Republican, told Newsmax: 'But if bottom line is, the court is saying, 'We're not going to touch this. You have no remedy' - basically, in effect, the ruling would be that you gotta go to the streets and be as **violent** as Antifa and BLM.'

After his remarks drew backlash, Gohmert issued a statement saying his words had been twisted, and that it was 'false' he had been advocating for violence.

'I have not encouraged and unequivocally do not advocate for violence,' he said. 'I have long advocated for following and teach the example of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of peaceful protest.'

'Go to the streets and be as violent as Antifa and BLM': Rep. Louie Gohmert says court rejection of his challenge to Biden's election win leaves Trump supporter....

'That does not keep me from recognizing what lies ahead when the institutions created by a self-governing people to peacefully resolve disputes hide from their responsibilities,' he continued.

'Violence is not the answer. The appropriate answer is courts and self-governing bodies resolving disputes as intended,' Gohmert concluded.

Gohmert's suit sought to empower Pence to overturn the results of the presidential election won by Joe Biden when Congress formally counts the Electoral College votes next week.

Pence, as president of the Senate, will oversee the session Wednesday and declare the winner of the White House race.

The Electoral College this month cemented Biden's 306-232 victory, and multiple legal efforts by Trump's campaign to challenge the results have failed.

The suit named Pence, who has a largely ceremonial role in next week's proceedings, as the defendant and asked the court to throw out the 1887 law that spells out how Congress handles the vote counting.

It asserted that the vice president 'may exercise the exclusive authority and sole discretion in determining which electoral votes to count for a given State.'

In dismissing the lawsuit filed by Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, and a group of Republican electors from Arizona, Texas U.S. District Judge Jeremy Kernodle, a Trump appointee, wrote that the plaintiffs 'allege an injury that is not fairly traceable' to Pence, 'and is unlikely to be redressed by the requested relief.'

Trump is urging supporters to amass in Washington on January 6 for a last-ditch rally to pressure Congress to not certify Biden's election victory.

Thousands of supporters from around the country, from the Women for America First group, to StopTheSteal, to the violent Proud Boys, are expected to descend on the US capital pressing Trump's unsupported claim that massive voter fraud was behind his defeat in the November 3 election.

The Proud Boys have vowed to attend the rally incognito, disguised as their left-wing enemies Antifa, in a bid to sow chaos among the opposing ranks.

Trump tweeted twice this weekend urging supporters to attend, labeling the election 'the biggest SCAM in our nation's history.'

'See you in Washington, DC, on January 6th. Don't miss it,' he wrote Sunday.

The rally raised fears of fresh violence after the previous pro-Trump protest that included the Proud Boys on December 12 saw several people stabbed and dozens arrested.

Trump appears to hope that the protestors could pressure Congress to reject the final count of state-based electors and reverse his election loss.

'We the People must take to the US Capitol lawn and steps and tell Congress #DoNotCertify,' StopTheSteal declared online.

'Congress cannot certify this fraudulent Electoral College,' they said.

Load-Date: January 3, 2021

D.C. becomes hotbed for violent protests between far-right extremists and counter-protesters

D.C. becomes hotbed for violent protests between far-right extremists and counter-protesters

Newstex Blogs

Axios

January 2, 2021 Saturday 7:45 PM EST

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Length: 235 words

Byline: Axios

Body

Jan 02, 2021(Axios: <https://link.axios.com/join/am-signup?source=aci> Delivered by Newstex) Experts are warning that the District of Columbia is becoming a battleground for **violent** confrontations between far-right extremists and counter-protesters, the Washington Post[1] reports.Why it matters: "[T]he nation's capital with its strict gun laws and history of orderly, peaceful protest has largely avoided these **violent** conflicts."What's happening: Since the election, supporters of President **Trump**, militia groups, white nationalists and adherents to conspiracy theories have held demonstrations in the capital in support of **Trump**'s baseless claims of election fraud. **Violent** brawls broke out between these groups and counter-protesters during two weekends of pro-**Trump** demonstrations in the district in November and December. The big picture: **Trump** on Saturday encouraged his supporters[2] to attend a "BIG Protest Rally" in D.C. on Jan. 6, the day Congress is set to certify electoral college votes and declare President-elect Biden winner of the 2020 election.Go deeper: **Trump**, the GOP arsonist[3] [1]:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/washington-dc-protests/2021/01/01/da743c20-4a68-11eb-839a-cf4ba7b7c48c_story.html [2]: <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1345095714687377418> [3]: [https://www.axios.com/**trump**-republicans-georgia-runoffs-tweets-7997c1d8-9f1b-47ae-8353-94864426eaea.html](https://www.axios.com/<u>trump</u>-republicans-georgia-runoffs-tweets-7997c1d8-9f1b-47ae-8353-94864426eaea.html)

Load-Date: January 2, 2021

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Enrique Tarrio, leader of rightwing Proud Boys, arrested ahead of rallies

The Guardian (London)

January 5, 2021 Tuesday 2:03 AM GMT

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Version:1

Length: 509 words

Byline: Lois Beckett and agencies

Highlight: He was charged with destruction of property – related to his role in burning a Black Lives Matter banner – and a firearms offense

Body

The leader of the Proud Boys, the **violent** far-right group, was arrested in Washington DC and charged with destruction of property and a firearms offense, according to local police.

The arrest of Enrique Tarrio on Monday comes ahead of pro-Donald **Trump** protests in Washington planned for Tuesday and Wednesday to coincide with the US Congress' vote on Wednesday affirming Joe Biden's election victory.

The demonstrations are organized by the Proud Boys and other rightwing activists, who falsely allege election fraud and want to see the results of the presidential election overturned in **Trump**'s favor.

The property destruction charges are related to Tarrio's admitted role in burning a Black Lives Matter banner torn from a historic Black church during a previous pro-**Trump** protest in Washington on 12 December, which DC police and the FBI said they had been investigating as a potential hate crime. Police said Tarrio, who lives in Miami, Florida, was arrested after his arrival in the District of Columbia on Monday.

DC police said Tarrio had also been charged with possessing two high-capacity ammunition magazines, which were with him when he was arrested. The District of Columbia, which has some of the strictest firearms laws in the nation, bans the possession of firearm magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Less than three weeks before Biden will be sworn in as president, **Trump** has been encouraging supporters to continue to protest over the results of an election he refuses to admit he lost.

The National Park Service said it had received three separate applications for pro-**Trump** protests on Tuesday or Wednesday, with estimated maximum attendance at 15,000 people.

Experts who monitor extremist groups fear the demonstrations could bring more chaos and violence to the US capital, the Washington Post reported, including renewed **violent** attacks by the Proud Boys on leftwing counterprotesters.

Enrique Tarrio, leader of rightwing Proud Boys, arrested ahead of rallies

The US capital has mobilized the national guard ahead of the planned protests. Mayor Muriel Bowser requested a limited national guard deployment to help bolster the metropolitan police department, and has asked local area residents to stay away from downtown DC.

“There are people intent on coming to our city armed,” said Robert Contee, the acting police chief, on Monday.

During a presidential debate in September, **Trump** was asked to condemn the Proud Boys and other **violent** rightwing groups linked to white supremacy, and instead told the group to “stand back and stand by”, adding that “somebody’s got to do something about antifa and the left”.

Over the weekend, **Trump** retweeted a promotion for the rally with the message: “I will be there. Historic Day!”

At a November rally, which drew about 15,000 people, **Trump** staged a limousine drive-by past cheering crowds in Freedom Plaza, on Pennsylvania Avenue. And at the December rally, which drew smaller numbers but a larger contingent of Proud Boys, **Trump**’s helicopter flew low over cheering crowds on the National Mall.

Tarrio’s arrest was first confirmed by the New York Times.

Load-Date: January 5, 2021

Counter-Proud-Boys Protest Planned in D.C. Accuses Holiday Inn of 'Preferring White Supremacists'

Newsweek.com

January 4, 2021 Monday 2:04 PM EST

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The Newsweek logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font against a solid red rectangular background.

Length: 660 words

Byline: Emily Czachor

Highlight: Activists intended to rally outside a hotel where members of the Proud Boys and other far-right groups are reportedly staying ahead of pro-Trump demonstrations Wednesday. But organizers canceled the event after receiving threats.

Body

Activists planned to protest Monday afternoon outside a Holiday Inn in northern Virginia, where right-wing protesters have reportedly booked rooms ahead of rallies in support of President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

The counterprotest, which organizers titled "No Rooms for Fascists," was set for 3 p.m., but less than an hour before then the event was canceled after organizers said they "received credible threats" from Proud Boys members.

Counterprotest participants originally aimed to "expose the Holiday Inn's preference for white supremacists," according to a digital flyer shared to Instagram on Monday morning that included information about the event.

"Holiday Inn Alexandria is hosting violent white supremacists and neo-Nazis on the week of Jan 6," the flyer said, referencing reports that members of the Proud Boys and other far-right groups secured accommodations there. Trump's supporters are expected to arrive in Washington, D.C., from across the country for the rallies on Wednesday, which many fear could turn violent.

"We reject Holiday Inn's support of violent fascists who intend to harm our community," organizers wrote in the statement on the Instagram flyer. A group called Smash the Fash NoVA is hosting the event. Another group, called Shut Down DC, reposted the message to its own account as a gesture of solidarity. Activists called on community members to participate in the demonstration.

An Instagram post announcing the afternoon action's cancellation replaced Smash the Fash NoVa's original flyer shortly after 2 p.m. ET on Wednesday.

"URGENT UPDATE: we have received credible threats from fascists, in the interest of safety this event is CANCELED. Please share widely," the new post read. A spokesperson from Smash the Fash NoVA later told *Newsweek* that threats came from Proud Boys members.

Counter-Proud-Boys Protest Planned in D.C. Accuses Holiday Inn of 'Preferring White Supremacists'

The spokesperson cited comments added to a blog post published by thedonald.win, a pro-**Trump** online forum that originated as a Reddit thread during the 2016 presidential race. It became an independent website after Reddit banned the community for violations this past summer.

Comments regarding the counterprotests appeared below an initial post notifying members of its timing and location details.

"Do they realize they will be outnumbered [by] A LOT?" one comment read, while another asked, "Why not come Jan 6th? Are they afraid?"

"If you're there early it's time to give them a show of force," another commenter added.

The spokesperson from Smash the Fash NoVA said demonstrators "were most concerned" by the final comment.

"We don't tolerate white supremacists in our community, but we also will not put our community members/leaders in [harm's] way," the activist explained in comments emailed to *Newsweek*.

In a recent announcement posted to the conservative social media platform Parler, Proud Boys Chairman Enrique Tarrio confirmed that individuals associated with the far-right group would attend Wednesday's rallies "incognito." The Proud Boys are known for their involvement in **violent** confrontations at protests.

The pro-**Trump** rallies on Wednesday will coincide with lawmakers meeting to certify President-elect Joe Biden's Electoral College victory last month. Protesters oppose the certification, and several Republican representatives intend to formally object to it during Wednesday's meeting. Despite there being no evidence of widespread voter fraud, **Trump** and many of his loyalists have not accepted Biden's election win as legitimate.

The **Trump** campaign and allies have filed numerous lawsuits since Election Day seeking to reverse results in key swing states that Biden won. Most such legal actions have been quickly dismissed in court because of a lack of evidence. However, **Trump** and his supporters continue to question the validity of some states' election outcomes.

This story was updated at 3:01 p.m. to reflect the counterprotest's cancellation and include comments from the spokesperson at Smash the Fash NoVa.

Link to Image

Graphic

Proud Boys, Washington, D.C., Donald **Trump**

Tasos Katopodis/Getty

Activists are planning to rally outside of a Holiday Inn, where Proud Boys members are reportedly staying ahead of this week's pro-**Trump** protests, on Monday afternoon. In the photograph above, members of the Proud Boys and Antifa stand off near Black Lives Matter Plaza on December 12, 2020 in Washington, DC.

Load-Date: January 4, 2021

Extremism on the rise, experts say

Tribune-Review (Greensburg, PA)

January 2, 2021 Saturday

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Length: 404 words

Byline: The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Body

ATLANTA -- Watchdogs and the U.S. intelligence community observed with growing concern as domestic extremist groups rose in prominence in recent years, escalating into a crescendo of chaos and **violent** outbursts around the presidential election.

They are not going away in 2021, experts told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"Things indeed are escalating," said Eric Ward, executive director of the Western States Center, a progressive nonprofit that promotes democratic engagement. "We have elected officials who are now being escorted into legislative session by law enforcement because of the level of threats they are experiencing. ... Political violence is going to be part of our reality in 2021."

Mark Pitcavage, senior research fellow at the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, said radical extremist groups may actually grow in 2021 and "find new energy."

That's particularly true for movements with an anti-government ideology, like the far-right paramilitary militia movement. Pitcavage said the militia movement has an "odd relationship" with President **Trump**, admiring him for his outsider demeanor while mistrusting the government he leads.

With Joe Biden in power, that may change, Pitcavage said. "There is a very legitimate chance we could see a resurgence of the militia movement," he said.

As president, Biden wants to renew the assault weapons ban, expand background checks and ban high-capacity magazines, which have the potential to trigger militia groups.

"With a Biden administration coming in, the militia movement is no longer going to be limited in its anger at the federal government as it has been," Pitcavage said.

If **Trump** remains a visible force in American politics over the next four years, Pitcavage said fringe right-wing groups could be further energized by his rhetoric.

One such group is the Proud Boys, which gained national notoriety during the first presidential debate when Biden called on **Trump** to denounce the group. **Trump's** cryptic statement to "stand back and stand by" was enthusiastically taken by the group as a presidential endorsement, despite a subsequent rejection by the president on Fox News's "Hannity."

Extremism on the rise, experts say

Since the election, the Proud Boys have been involved in numerous street demonstrations, including a protest earlier this month in Washington, D.C., that included **violent** altercations with left-wing counter protesters, and resulted in several stabbings.

Load-Date: January 4, 2021

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GOP lawmaker says violence may be recourse

The Philadelphia Inquirer

January 3, 2021 Sunday

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Section: NATION & WORLD; Pg. A4

Length: 240 words

Byline: DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Body

WASHINGTON - Rep. Louie Gohmert (R., Texas) suggested that "violence in the streets" may be the only remaining option to block Joe Biden from becoming president, after a federal judge rejected his lawsuit aiming to force Vice President Mike Pence to overturn the election.

Judge Jeremy Kernodle, a **Trump** appointee, threw out the suit Friday, ruling that Gohmert and other plaintiffs - including the GOP chairwoman in Arizona and that state's defeated slate of Republican electors - lacked standing. An appeals court agreed Saturday.

Late Friday on Newsmax, Gohmert said he had sought redress in court "so that you didn't have to have riots and violence in the street."

"Bottom line is, the court is saying, 'We're not going to touch this, you have no remedy,' " Gohmert said. "Basically, in effect, the ruling would be that you've got to go to the streets and be as **violent** as antifa and BLM."

It's not the first time Gohmert - a former state trial court judge who just won his ninth term in Congress - has talked about the use of violence to overturn an election. At a "Million MAGA March" in November near the White House, he urged **Trump** supporters to consider "revolution" like the Egyptian uprising seven years ago and the American colonies' revolt against England.

Congress meets Wednesday to certify the Electoral College results. Biden defeated President Donald **Trump** by a decisive 306-232 margin and topped him by 7 million votes nationwide.

Load-Date: January 3, 2021

US right-wing group head arrested over torched banner

Agence France Presse -- English

January 5, 2021 Tuesday 2:13 AM GMT

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Length: 286 words

Dateline: Washington, Jan 5 2021

Body

The chairman of the right-wing Proud Boys group was arrested Monday in Washington over the torching last month of a Black Lives Matter banner taken from a church during violent protests, police said.

Enrique Tarrio, 36, was taken into custody as the US capital braces for demonstrations against lawmakers' certification this week of Joe Biden as the next US president.

Tarrio, who had just arrived in the city from Florida, was charged with destruction of property at the Asbury United Methodist Church, a mainly African American church where he and others allegedly burned the banner during violent protests on December 12.

He was hit with additional charges of possessing two illegal high capacity firearm magazines at the time of his arrest, police said.

In a parallel court case unveiled Monday, Tarrio and other members of the Proud Boys were accused by the historic Metropolitan AME church, also mainly African American, with tearing down and burning its banner during the protests last month.

"The conduct of the Proud Boys in Washington, DC on December 12, 2020, amounted to a new and dangerous chapter in the long and terrible history of white supremacist mob violence targeting Black houses of worship," the church said in its filing.

The arrest came ahead of protests planned on Tuesday and Wednesday by backers of President Donald Trump supporting his unfounded claim that he, and not Biden, won the November 3 presidential election.

Washington police said Monday they were worried about potential violence, particularly from groups like the Proud Boys, and warned that people carrying firearms would be arrested.

"We will not allow people to incite violence or intimidate our residents," said Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Load-Date: January 4, 2021

US right-wing group head arrested over torched banner

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