
Dispatch #23: Updates on Protests, Violence, and More from TRUST Network

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Our goal is to build a national cohesion and security infrastructure for the US, including an early warning/early action system, to prevent violent conflict.

Important Update from TRUST Network's Media Monitoring Team and Founding Partner, PIRUSA:

There have been signs of increased extremist activity over the last month, much of which seems to be associated with a rise in both the number and intensity of Covid-19-related protests. The number of anti-mask or anti-vaccination protests--usually related to either school mask mandates, vaccination mandates for health care workers, or requirements for proof of vaccination in the hospitality industry--has risen from an average of under 15 a week at the beginning of July to close to 50 a week by the end of the month.



The number of people attending such events also seems to be rising: whereas many anti-mask events a couple of months ago struggled to attract more than 10-15, we have been seeing protests in places like Redding and San Diego (both California),

From The Oregonian: A far-right extremist points an airsoft gun at Willamette Week journalist Justin Yau on August 8, 2021 in Portland, Oregon. Anti-fascists and far-right extremists clashed near a religious gathering in downtown Portland for the second day in a row without a police response. (Photo by Nathan Howard/Getty Images)

as well as Oklahoma City, with well over 200 attendees. Many of the prominent figures at these demonstrations related to Covid-19 restrictions are the same

figures who were closely involved with 'Stop the Steal' events back in November and December of last year; beyond that, many of them have associations with violent extremist groups such as the Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer (though this does vary according to location, with the closest correlation probably being seen in the Portland-Vancouver area). Even the Three Percenters' flags and tattoos were seen in [San Diego](#) recently.

Another disquieting, but related, development has been the extent to which the violent "street-fighting culture" fringe of anti-state extremists has sought violent contact with their "enemies" on the left whom they deem with the blanket term "antifa." After several months of being inconspicuous, they have shown a renewed self-confidence in physical altercations with "antifa" and we have just seen this on successive weekends first in [Portland](#) and then [LA](#). So far the casualties have been restricted to broken bones and one or two stabbings, but this appetite for direct physical clashes is worrying.



From the San Diego Union Tribune: Counter-protestors confront a person opposed to COVID-19 vaccination mandates during a rally at Rady's Children's Hospital in San Diego. America's Healthcare Workers for Medical Freedom organized the demonstration.
(Brittany Cruz-Fejeran / The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Conditions on the ground are constantly shifting as is our knowledge of what is happening. To stay up to date on these developments please visit us on Slack where TRUST Network members can share and discuss events as they happen.

Please email us at info@thetrustnetwork.net to be invited to our Slack channel or to receive further information on becoming a trusted observer with the TRUST Network. More resources can be found on our website at www.thetrustnetwork.net.

Community Call to Action

From the National Association for Community Mediation:

Congress is discussing a federal micro-grant program for community-based organizations, like you who promote peacebuilding, hate crime prevention, and dialogue to name just a few areas of focus. The current funding amount proposed is \$30 million for this program.

We encourage you to send a short note to Representative Grace Meng of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) sub-committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Meng has been the key advocate in Congress focused on developing this micro-grant opportunity. This proposal is contained in the CJS subcommittee's appropriations recommendations released in the FY 2022 funding bill earlier in July.

The bill represents a big win on funding. Community Relations Service (CRS) in this proposed budget is funded at \$22 million and again the bill creates a new \$30 million grant program for community-based organizations.

If you would send an electronic thank you email we suggest you send your letter to Representative Meng through her Legislative Director Tom Dinegar; his email address is tom.dinegar@mail.house.gov.

Thank you to the Alliance for Peacebuilding--your proactive investment and advocacy created this opportunity!

Upcoming Events from our Partners



Urban Rural Action

UR Action brings together Americans across geographic, political, racial, and generational divides to build relationships, strengthen collaboration skills, explore different perspectives, and tackle issues that impact all communities.

Calling all Marylanders! The Uniting for Action on the MD Economy program will bring Marylanders together to build relationships, strengthen collaboration skills, explore different views, and work together across geographic, racial, political, and generational divides to address economic challenges in MD. Don't miss the opportunity to apply the Aug 8 deadline to be a part of this incredible program: [Apply Here](#)



DC Peace Team

We commit to unleashing the power of ordinary civilians to increasingly become nonviolent people by serving our communities using creative nonviolent skills, with a particular focus on unarmed accompaniment and protection.

8/18 We will offer an ONLINE Trauma Sensitive Restorative Justice Series: Trauma and Relationship Dynamics from 7-9pm EDT. [REGISTER HERE](#)

8/21 We will offer an ONLINE Introduction to Unarmed Civilian Protection from 12-5pm EDT with a 1 hr. break. [REGISTER HERE](#)

8/21 For Goodness Sakes Music Festival: Donate to Support DC Peace Team! This [event](#) is bringing joy and raising resources for peacebuilding organizations. Each time someone donates with this donation code (*DCPEACE*) the DC Peace Team gets 25% back. You can donate at goodness-sake.org/donate or text

GOODNESS to 833-440-1989. Event is on Sat. Aug. 21st at 2pm EDT.

8/25 We will offer an ONLINE Trauma Sensitive Restorative Justice Series: Breaking the Cycle of Trauma and Violence from 7-9pm EDT. [REGISTER HERE](#)

8/28 We will offer an ONLINE Introduction to Bystander Intervention and De-Escalation training 10am-3pm EDT with 1 hr. break. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

9/11 We will offer an ONLINE Introduction to Restorative Justice. Details forthcoming.

9/25 We will offer an ONLINE Spirituality and Restorative Justice Practices. Details forthcoming.



Alliance for Peacebuilding

Alliance for Peacebuilding is a network of over 150+ organizations working in 181 countries to end conflict, reduce violence and build sustainable peace. We build coalitions in critical areas of strategy and policy, develop an adaptive and rigorous evaluative culture, and build powerful partnerships and networks to elevate the entire peacebuilding field.

9/8 WEBINAR Addressing Systemic Racism: The U.S. Movement to establish a Truth, racial healing, and transformation commission. 2:00pm. [Details here.](#)

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