

Tarrant effect

The **Tarrant effect** is the legacy of the Christchurch mosque shootings, which were perpetrated by Brenton Tarrant^[1] on March 15, 2019, in Christchurch, New Zealand. The shootings were attributed of a broader rise in Right-wing extremism, and were both inspired by and inspired other attacks. Many people online praised Tarrant and his beliefs, with some even committing copycat crimes.^[2]

Prior to the attack, Tarrant published a 74-page manifesto detailing his belief in the Great replacement and White genocide conspiracy theories.^[3] Unlike other previous attackers, he also livestreamed the shootings on Facebook Live, which was widely circulated on the internet.^[4]

Background

On March 15, 2019, A 28-year-old Australian man, Brenton Harrison Tarrant, attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand; the Al-Noor Mosque, and Linwood Islamic Centre.^[5] Tarrant had planned the attacks for several months, scoping out the intended locations to attack with a drone and researching their busiest times on the internet. Shortly before the shootings, Tarrant made a post on 8chan, claiming that it was "time to stop shitposting", and "make a real life effort post", and linked his Facebook livestream and manifesto.^[6] He killed 44 worshippers at the Al-Noor Mosque, before driving away to the Linwood Islamic center and killing another 7 there. After this, he headed for another mosque in Ashburton, New Zealand, but was rammed by a police vehicle before he could get there. Tarrant was arrested and charged with Murder, Attempted Murder, and committing a terrorist act.^[7] He pleaded guilty and was given a total of 52 life sentences (One for each murder plus one for committing a terrorist act) and 480 years (12 years for each 40 charges of attempted murder for each injured victim).

Previous attacks

Tarrant cited several previous right-wing extremist attackers in his manifesto, mainly Anders Breivik and Dylann Roof. He claimed Breivik, perpetrator of the 2011 Norway Attacks was "The only one (he) took true inspiration from".^[8] Breivik had previously published a lengthy manifesto titled **2083: A European Declaration of Independence**.^[9] He also wrote the names of several previous attackers on his weapons in white marker.^[10] These included Anton Lundin Pettersson, perpetrator of the Trollhättan school stabbing, Luca Traini, perpetrator of the Macerata shooting, and Alexandre Bissonnette, who attacked a mosque in Quebec City, Canada.

Livestream

Although Tarrant was influenced by previous attackers, he was the first to livestream his attack online. Tarrant started his about 6½ minutes before opening fire at the Al-Noor, telling his audience to "Subscribe to PewDiePie,"^[11] and playing the songs Remove Kebab and The British Grenadiers. The livestreamed captured the drive to the first mosque, all of the first shooting and part of the drive to the second mosque before it cut out after about seventeen minutes.

The following livestreamed or attempted to livestream their own attacks as well after being inspired by Tarrant:

John Earnest

A week after the Christchurch shootings, John Timothy Earnest set fire to a mosque in Escondido, California, referencing Tarrant with graffiti in the parking lot. A month later, he opened fire at a Synagogue in Poway, California. Earnest tried, but failed, to livestream the shooting to Facebook in a similar matter to Tarrant.^[12]

Stephan Balliet

On October 9, 2019, 27-year-old neo-Nazi Stephan Balliet perpetrated the Halle synagogue shooting while livestreaming. He started the livestream in his car, telling his audience that he denied the holocaust and blamed feminism for mass immigration. In a livestream lasting over half an hour, Balliet tried but failed to enter the synagogue, instead killing a woman near the entrance of a cemetery next to the synagogue. he then drove around, killing a man in a kebab shop and eventually being apprehended by police.^[13]

Hugo Jackson

On August 19, 2021, 15-year old Hugo Jackson committed the Eslöv school stabbing, injuring a teacher. He also livestreamed using a GoPro mounted on a helmet. Jackson said on the livestream "Remember lads, subscribe to PewDiePie", the same phrase said by Brenton Tarrant before his attack.^[14]

Payton Gendron

On May 14, 2022, Payton S. Gendron killed 10 black people at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York. Gendron and claimed in his manifesto that Tarrant had "started all of this" and inspired him to livestreamed his attack. Gendron's livestream was cut out by twitch less than a minute after he opened fire, and he was arrested and sentenced to life in prison.^[15]

Other copycats

Patrick Crusius

On August 1, 2019, Patrick Crusius killed 23 in the 2019 El Paso shooting He authored a manifesto titled "the inconvenient truth" in which he states he supported the Christchurch shooter and expressed concerns about immigration from Mexicans, whom he targeted in his attack.^[16]

Philip Manshaus

Nine days later on August 10, Philip Manshaus killed his adopted stepsister and then opened fire at a nearby mosque. He injured one before getting subdued by others at the mosque. ^[17]

Juraj Krajčík

In October 2022, Juraj Krajčík killed two in the 2022 Bratislava shooting. Krajčík mentioned Tarrant in a 65-page manifesto published before the shooting. He also claimed he received "New inspiration" from the Buffalo shooting.^[18] He committed suicide shortly afterwards.

Payton S Gendron

On May 14, 2022, a mass shooting occurred ^{[19][20]} in Buffalo, New York, United States, at a Tops Friendly Markets supermarket in the East Side neighborhood. Ten people, all of whom were African Americans, were murdered and three were injured.^{[21][22][23]} The shooter, identified as 18-year-old Payton S. Gendron,^[24] livestreamed part of the attack on Twitch, but the livestream was shut down by the service in under two minutes.^[25] Gendron was taken into custody and charged with first-degree murder. He formally entered a plea of "not guilty" on May 19, 2022.^[26] On November 28, 2022, Gendron pleaded guilty to all state charges in the shooting, including murder, domestic terrorism, and hate crimes.^[27] On February 15, 2023, Gendron was sentenced to 11 consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole;

See also

- Columbine effect
- Christchurch mosque shootings

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