

My name is Jennifer Kristiansen. I am an attorney and a mother. I live in Portland. I was doxxed following a protest-related arrest. I urge the legislature to put a stop to doxxing, and to enact consequences for those who engage in it.

On July 20, 2020, along with a few thousand other people, I marched into downtown Portland to protest in front of the federal justice center. Following George Floyd's murder at the hands of police officers who have yet to face justice, activists in Portland and elsewhere took to the streets to make their voices heard, and to shout what so many have been shouting for years: stop the brutality. These protests are ongoing, with arrests by local, state, and federal officials occurring nearly every night.

Anyone who is arrested at these protests in Portland finds their mugshot up on Andy Ngo's Twitter feed nearly immediately. Mr. Ngo is a Portlander who calls himself a journalist but who holds himself to no journalistic codes of ethics, and who was in fact fired from Quillette, a publication known for promoting phrenology, after he was found to have plagiarized his work. He now makes his living through GoFundMe donations and by writing for the New York Post, itself not exactly a bastion of journalistic integrity.

When protesters become featured on Mr. Ngo's Twitter feed, he often pairs their mugshot with a photograph he finds on their social media, sometimes cropping the image to remove context or to provoke more ire from his followers. What comes next is a flood of hate – misogyny, transphobia, ageism, disgusting personal speculation, and death threats. Mr. Ngo has over 700,000 followers on Twitter. He is regularly retweeted by Ann Coulter and other well-known talking heads, pundits, and conservative celebrities and politicians, leading to more hate, more threats, and more speculation.

Just after midnight, July 21, 2020, I was arrested by federal agents who, I learned later, were US Marshals. My charges have been dismissed on the government's own motion, and both charges were misdemeanors. Before I could even call my husband from the Multnomah County Detention Center – where I was booked in the morning and held pending arraignment – my mugshot and a social media image were on Mr. Ngo's twitter feed.

My charges (again, misdemeanors which have been dismissed on the government's own motion) were enough to spark speculation and threats. Mr. Ngo's followers, and others inspired by him, said that I should be put away forever, I should be disbarred, I should be shot in the street, I don't deserve my children, I should be hung, I should be raped (or, alternatively, I am too ugly to be raped and death would be a mercy for the rest of the world, so they no longer have to look at me). I have blocked over 300,000 Twitter users. It wasn't enough to stop the barrage.

From Mr. Ngo's twitter feed, my image and the threats that went along with them went to Ms. Coulter's Twitter feed. "I was trash-talked by Ann Coulter on Twitter" was not on my 2020 BINGO card, and yet here we are. In addition to Ms. Coulter, Mr. Ngo's tweet about me was

reposted by countless right-wing Facebook pages, hundreds more right-wing Ngo-fan Twitter feeds and, finally, Kiwi Farms.

Kiwi Farms is a right-wing message board where doxxing runs rampant. It is encouraged, cheered on, promoted, and rewarded. And on that site, thanks to Mr. Ngo, is a photograph of my house, a link to my husband's LinkedIn profile, and horrifically vile commentary about my body, my livelihood, my gender, and my general appearance.

Simultaneously, as these images and Mr. Ngo's tweet kept circulating, I began receiving death threats via Facebook messenger and to my email. Because I am an attorney, I must have either my phone number or my email address listed publicly on the Bar's website. I chose my email address, as that is easier to monitor than calls to my phone, and I knew hate was coming. I also made a new email address, using my surname, which is rather difficult for most people to spell, and after that the vitriol sent directly to me dropped off. I should not have had to take those steps.

I have had to purchase a security system for my home. For months, I did not allow my dog alone in our yard. Over the summer, vehicles went past my home in slow-roll drive-bys, peeling out when I stood up from my garden chair or hammock. My husband still tracks where I am when I leave the house, using the GPS on my car, in case I run into someone with a grudge while running errands. My former employer received calls complaining about me (I had left that job three weeks prior to attending the protest). The Oregon State bar has been tagged in tweets complaining about me and demanding my disbarment; I believe some complaints may have been filed to this effect, though I remain a member in good standing and have not received communication from the OSB about the issue.

I am far from alone in my experience. As I said, anyone who is arrested at a protest appears on Mr. Ngo's feed. In his telling, we are terrorists. We are ugly, we don't deserve our children, our employers should be inundated with calls until we are unemployable. I am fortunate enough to work in a field that supports the First Amendment and those who exercise their right to protest. Not everyone is. The doxxing experienced by the protesters, including our mugshots being used to disparage us, can lead to and has led to loss of income, loss of security, and loss of health. It is only a matter of time before someone gets shot.

Mr. Ngo has now published a book which includes false claims about antifascists and photographs of protesters, including the Wall of Moms, photographs which he claims to have taken but which are actually stolen from other photographers and merely altered by Mr. Ngo, cropped and changed to greyscale. This increased attention and spotlight on Mr. Ngo and his baseless claims places protesters and those who have been doxxed by Mr. Ngo and other right-wing provocateurs in renewed and increased danger. The people featured in the photographs in Mr. Ngo's book did not give permission for their images to be used in this manner, and those who follow him now have a reminder of and validation for their hatred of those of us fighting for a more just and equitable society.

I encourage the legislature to protect citizens from this type of harassment, and to bring consequences for those who engage in it. The real-world consequences of having your name, address, photo of your home, etc. on hate-sites are dire. The people who traffic in this conduct encourage others who are dangerous, who act on the threats that others are so willing to post. Mr. Ngo and those like him claim plausible deniability, but what is undeniable is the real-world, tangible harm this conduct has caused.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Kristiansen
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