

I was arrested at a Portland protest in August for disorderly conduct and interfering with a peace officer, the standard bullshit charges that mean nothing more than "you were in the street and didn't disperse quickly enough". Those were dropped but not before I spent 10 hours overnight in a poorly ventilated holding area with over a dozen other arrestees. Andy Ngo posted my mugshot the next day.

I had spent the hours after my release scouring the internet of my name. I already had a pretty small social media footprint so my name had very few hits:

- 1) All the standard people-finder whitepage directories, where I requested my name be taken down
- 2) A group photo from a college reunion a few years ago
- 3) Public property records for my home address

Andy posted the college photo and used it to boost the narrative of antifa as the rich liberal elite, which his followers ate up. (Never mind that I was only able to attend on need-based scholarships.)

Most of the comments on his tweet were more laughable than threatening. They said I looked like a loser living in my mother's basement who would never find love (I'm married with a house and a child) and that I was the epitome of antifa ugliness (you try looking pretty at 4am in handcuffs). But one was disturbing.

The comment referenced the exact property value of my home and named my wife, who is also listed on the deed. Unlike the other comments it was not a joke between one of Andy's followers and another; it was addressed to me. The poster had correctly assumed I'd find Andy's tweet and had a message for me personally: "I know where you live."

I reported that comment immediately when I saw it, and it was removed. That account is now suspended. But for several days and weeks after the arrest, I was worried for my family's safety based primarily on that comment.

It amazed me to see how many of Andy's followers boosted that mugshot: it was retweeted over 350 times. No one reposting it knew me personally or was in my social network, they were just people broadcasting the face and name of a stranger who they'd been told was dangerous. Now thanks to Andy and other mugshot aggregators, this arrest record is pretty much the only thing that appears when you search my name. I had done such a good job of protecting my online identity that there was nothing else to drown out those results.

I'm positive that PPB and other police departments count on this effect to intimidate and discourage participation in protests. They know that by arresting someone on even the tiniest of charges that will immediately be dropped, they can permanently stain someone's record and potentially land them in danger from right-wing violence.