***A Guide to the Charlottesville Aftermath***

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/13/us/charlottesville-virginia-overview.html?mcubz=1>

#### **What happened on Saturday**

**White nationalists** gathered on Saturday for a “Unite the Right” march in Charlottesville. Around 1:45 p.m., **a car**[**plowed into a group of counterprotesters**](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/13/us/charlottesville-protests-unite-the-right.html)**and another car.**

One person was killed: **Heather D. Heyer, 32**, a paralegal from Charlottesville who “was a passionate advocate for the disenfranchised and was often moved to tears by the world’s injustices.” Read [The Times’s profile of Ms. Heyer](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/13/us/heather-heyer-charlottesville-victim.html), and [an article about the counterprotesters](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/us/who-were-the-counterprotesters-in-charlottesville.html).

**Two state troopers also died on Saturday.** Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Berke M. M. Bates were in a helicopter monitoring the demonstrations, [when the helicopter fell and burst into flames](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/us/virginia-police-helicopter-crash.html).

In total, at least 34 people were wounded in the clashes.

The driver of the car was **James Alex Fields Jr.**, 20, of Maumee, Ohio, a city near Toledo, officials said. He faces an array of charges, including a count of second-degree murder. On Monday, [a judge denied Mr. Fields bail](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/us/charlottesville-white-nationalists-james-alex-fields.html)and said he would appoint a lawyer for him. Here is [what we know about Mr. Fields](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/13/us/james-alex-fields-charlottesville-driver-.html); a Times reporter [responded to reader questions](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/reader-center/james-alex-fields-profile.html) about why The Times would profile him.

#### **The background to the violence**

Nominally, the rally on Saturday was organized in opposition to **a plan by local officials**[**to remove a statue**](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/13/us/charlottesville-rally-protest-statue.html)**of Robert E. Lee**, the Confederacy’s top general, from Emancipation Park in Charlottesville. That plan prompted [a similar protest in May](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/14/us/confederate-statue-protests-virginia.html), led by the white nationalist Richard B. Spencer, as well as [a Ku Klux Klan rally in July](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/08/us/kkk-rally-charlottesville-robert-e-lee-statue.html). The removal of Confederate monuments has also stirred up anger in cities [like New Orleans](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/12/us/tributes-to-the-confederacy-history-or-a-racial-reminder-in-new-orleans.html), and officials in several states [are now making similar efforts](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/us/confederate-statue-kentucky.html). On Monday evening, protesters in Durham, N.C., [toppled a statue](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ef-AUulrXrg) of a Confederate soldier.

However, the forces behind the rally run much deeper than the removal of statues. Right-wing extremism, including white nationalism and white supremacy, is on the rise, [according to the Southern Poverty Law Center](https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2017/year-hate-and-extremism). And a string of killings in recent months [raised the specter of far-right violence](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/us/charlottesville-nazi-kkk-attacks.html) well before last weekend.