

News Item

Facebook removes "Kenosha Guard" militia page after complaints | Vox

By Shirin Ghaffary August 27, 2020

Facebook didn't take heed when its users sounded the alarm about a militia group issuing a "call to arms" on its platform. That call to arms came before the violence in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Tuesday night, which left two people dead and one injured, according to a new report. A man who has been arrested as a suspect in the shooting reportedly self-identified as a militia member, though he was not a follower of the Facebook page users had flagged.

Before the shooting, at least two Facebook users flagged a page called "Kenosha Guard" for inciting violence, according to The Verge. But the company told users that the page did not meet the company's criteria for removal. On Wednesday morning, after violence at the protests already broke out — and armed militia groups took to the streets — Facebook ended up taking down the page for violating its policies on dangerous groups.

Just last week, Facebook expanded its Dangerous Individuals and Organizations policy to include domestic militia groups that encourage violence. But in spite of those recent efforts, it seems that some of the content and groups the company has deemed dangerous under this new policy are still slipping through the cracks.

[...]

Source: Facebook removes "Kenosha Guard" militia page after complaints - Vox