

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 7(1) - This section and pages (2-4) are exempt from the operations of the FOI Act and the following pages have been removed

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent from my iPhone

Dear all,

- 
1. As you will have seen, influential conservative activist and podcaster Charlie Kirk has died after he was shot during an appearance at a university in Utah today. Trump announced his death on Truth Social. s 33(a)(iii)
 - 2.
 - 3.
 4. We are notifying all Consulates-General to be on alert with local authorities for evidence of community violence.
 5. We will also monitor developments closely to ensure the language in our travel advice remains appropriate. s 33(a)(iii)
 6. I will leave it to your discretion as to whom else you distribute this to, including Home Affairs, ASIO, and AFP. But I'm assuming they will be aware of all this through their own channels.
 7. Below are early social media reactions. We will continue to monitor and report as this develops:
 1. Trump on truth Social: "The Great, and even Legendary, Charlie Kirk, is dead. No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie. He was loved and admired by ALL, especially me, and now, he is no longer with us. Melania and my Sympathies go out to his beautiful wife Erika, and family. Charlie, we love you!"
 2. Trump on Truth Social: "We must all pray for Charlie Kirk, who has been shot. A great guy from top to bottom. GOD BLESS HIM!"

- 
3. Trump to media: "'He's not doing well," he said on the phone. "It looks very bad." Asked how Trump is feeling: "Not good. He was a very, very good friend of mine and he was a tremendous person."
 4. Vice President Vance on X: "Say a prayer for Charlie Kirk, a genuinely good guy and a young father."
 5. Gavin Newsom on X: "The attack on Charlie Kirk is disgusting, vile, and reprehensible. In the United States of America, we must reject political violence in EVERY form."
 6. Kamala Harris on X: "Political violence has no place in America. I condemn this act, and we all must work together to ensure this does not lead to more violence."
 7. A-G Bondi on X: "FBI and ATF agents are on the scene. PRAY FOR CHARLIE."
 8. Elon Musk on X: "The Left is the party of murder".
 9. Laura Loomer on X: "Charlie Kirk wasn't even controversial. He was moderate. He was conservative but by no means controversial. Imagine who else the Left is going to hunt down and murder on the right if they wanted to kill a guy who said "get married, have kids, there's 2 genders, vote for Trump." Everyone needs to be very careful in their public surroundings. The Trump administration needs to start arresting everyone on the Left who promotes violence. All of the Leftist groups that pay for these radical protests need to be prosecuted. Enough is enough. More people will be murdered if the Left isn't crushed with the power of the state."

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

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Title: United States: Trump Administration Headlines - 11 September 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 11/09/2025 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Trump marked the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks at the Pentagon this morning, in his remarks he announced he would posthumously award Kirk the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Deputy Secretary of State Landau requested his X followers flag comments from foreigners making light of Kirk's shooting, saying consular officials would take "appropriate action" against foreigners who "glorify hatred and violence". s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. An FBI manhunt is underway for the person who fatally shot prominent conservative activist Charlie Kirk on a university campus in Utah yesterday. Today, Trump announced he would award Kirk a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom. Trump announced Kirk's death on Truth Social yesterday and ordered flags be flown at half-mast until Sunday, later released a video expressing "grief and anger" over the killing and blaming "radical left" rhetoric as being "directly responsible for the terrorism that we're seeing in our country today." Vice President Vance is expected to escort Kirk's body from Utah to his home state of Arizona on Air Force Two, he [posted](#) a eulogy on X late last night.

3. Deputy Secretary of State Landau said on X that he was "disgusted to see some on social media praising, rationalizing, or making light" of Kirk's shooting, and asked his followers to bring such comments by foreigners to his attention. He added that State Department consular officials would be monitoring his feed and would take "appropriate action" against foreigners who "glorify hatred and violence".

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared
by:**

**Approved
by:**

Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/General Economic, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ Final Distribution

Final Distribution

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and pages (11-25) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed



■■■■■■■■■■

██████████

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Subject: Re: Assassination of influential conservative activist Charlie Kirk [REDACTED]

© 2006 The Authors

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47F(1)

Subject: Assassination of influential conservative activist Charlie Kirk [REDACTED]

██████████

Dear all,

1. As you will have seen, influential conservative activist and podcaster Charlie Kirk has died after he was shot during an appearance at a university in Utah today. Trump announced his death on Truth Social. s 33(a)(iii)
- 2.
- 3.
4. We are notifying all Consulates-General to be on alert with local authorities for evidence of community violence.
5. We will also monitor developments closely to ensure the language in our travel advice remains appropriate. s 33(a)(iii)
6. I will leave it to your discretion as to whom else you distribute this to, including Home Affairs, ASIO, and AFP. But I'm assuming they will be aware of all this through their own channels.
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Vice President Vance on X: "Say a prayer for Charlie Kirk, a genuinely good guy and a young father."

Gavin Newsom on X: "The attack on Charlie Kirk is disgusting, vile, and reprehensible. In the United States of America, we must reject political violence in EVERY form."

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Laura Loomer on X: "Charlie Kirk wasn't even controversial. He was moderate. He was conservative but by no means controversial. Imagine who else the Left is going to hunt down and murder on the right if they wanted to kill a guy who said "get married, have kids, there's 2 genders, vote for Trump." Everyone needs to be very careful in their public surroundings. The Trump administration needs to start arresting everyone on the Left who promotes violence. All of the Leftist groups that pay for these radical protests need to be prosecuted. Enough is enough. More people will be murdered if the Left isn't crushed with the power of the state."

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

From: eSafetyNews <eSafetyNews@eSafety.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 03:10
To: s 47F(1)
Subject: Dealing with distressing content online



Support for young people viewing violent and distressing online content

eSafety is aware that distressing material is circulating online showing the fatal shooting at Utah Valley University, which occurred earlier this week.

Young people who encounter content like this online may be struggling to come to terms with what they have read and seen. It is normal for them to have questions or feel unsettled, and your support can make a big difference.

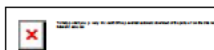
Online spaces should be safe for everyone. If a child sees violent or distressing material, it is important to check in and talk to them about the content they have seen. We also recommend that children use devices in open areas of the home, rather than in their bedroom, so you can be attuned to how they are coping and what they are engaging with online.

Here are some practical steps Australians can take if they come across this type of material online:

- **Report it to the platform:** Most major services have reporting tools for violent and graphic content. Using these tools means harmful material can be flagged and removed quickly.
- **Report it to eSafety:** Australians can lodge a complaint via esafety.gov.au.
- **Do not share the video:** Even if your intent is to raise awareness, reposting graphic material increases the risk of trauma and amplifies harm.

You can find more guidance and information about distressing online content below.

Dealing with distressing content



We know that at challenging times, schools become hubs of support for their communities, with students, staff and families often seeking advice. eSafety has the necessary support and guidance, to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to responding to emerging issues.

There are precautions that we can take to prevent children seeing disturbing content online. eSafety has [a range of helpful resources](#).

For parents and carers

- [How to get started with parental controls](#)
- [General online safety advice for parents](#)

For kids and young people

- [I saw something online I didn't like](#) (for primary-school aged children)
- [Dealing with disturbing content](#) (for young people)

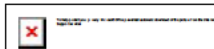
For educators

eSafety's [Toolkit for Schools](#) supports schools to create safer online environments and be prepared with processes in place when incidents do happen.

The [Respond modules](#) provide guidance on reporting requirements, minimising harm and supporting wellbeing. By being informed and prepared, we can all contribute to reducing the risk of children and young people being exposed to this content, and support those who are.

Other resources include:

- [Inappropriate content \(Fact sheet\)](#)
- [Inappropriate content \(Scenarios\)](#)



If your child, student, or someone you know, has come across disturbing content online, there are a range of counselling services you can reach out to for help and support.

If a life is in danger call Triple Zero (000) right now.

- **Kids Helpline**, for 5–25-year-olds: 1800 55 1800 or [kidshelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au) (webchat is also available).
- **headspace**: support for young people, professionals, educators and families
- **Lifeline**: 13 11 14 or [lifeline.org.au](https://www.lifeline.org.au)
- **Beyond Blue**: 1300 22 4636 or [beyondblue.org.au](https://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Find more information on support services, including state-based services for parents and carers at [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

We hope the information above has been useful, and that it provides some practical support for Australian children and families.



eSafety acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past and present.



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[Unsubscribe](#)

Title: United States: Trump Administration Headlines - 12 September 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 12/09/2025 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Trump appeared on morning TV program Fox and Friends this morning where he called for the death penalty for the shooter of Charlie Kirk s 33(a)(iii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Trump this morning called for the death penalty for the shooter of Charlie Kirk.

Trump s 33(a)(iii) “The radicals on the right oftentimes are radical because they don’t want to see crime, [they’re] worried about the border ... The radicals on the left are the problem, and they’re vicious and they’re horrible and they’re politically savvy”. **A 22-year-old man, Tyler Robinson, has been taken into custody** for the shooting and officials say that they believe he acted alone, saying officials “do not have any information that would lead to any additional arrests”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and the next page are irrelevant and the next page has been removed



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared by: Post

Approved by:

Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/General Economic, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ Final Distribution

Final Distribution



[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Pages (35-49) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 19:06
To: s 47F(1) @pmc.gov.au; s 47F(1)
 @Treasury.gov.au; s 47F(1)
 @pm.gov.au; s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @treasury.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47F(1) [REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(1)(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)


s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and pages (52-55) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Sunday, 14 September 2025 20:33
To: s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au; s 47F(1)
 @pm.gov.au
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 [REDACTED]

Dear s 47F(1)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)


s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,
s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 9:07 AM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: DM GPD USB-Directors
Subject: FW: eSafety Action Taken against UVU Assassination Video [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]
Attachments: 2025-09-12 - IB SitRep (3) - IRCT - Charlie Kirk shooting videos .pdf; Dealing with distressing content online

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal privilege**

Fyi in case it comes up in DC.

From: s 47F(1) @eSafety.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 14 September 2025 10:16 PM
To: s 47F(1) @aph.gov.au; s 47F(1) @mo.communications.gov.au>
s 47F(1) @mo.communications.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @agd.gov.au; s 47F(1)
@dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47F(1)
@infrastructure.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @infrastructure.gov.au>; s 47F(1)
@pm.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @pm.gov.au; s 47F(1) @homeaffairs.gov.au
s 47F(1) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU
s 47F(1) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Cc: s 47F(1) @esafety.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @esafety.gov.au>; s 47F(1)
@eSafety.gov.au>; s 47F(1) @esafety.gov.au>; s 47F(1)
@esafety.gov.au>
Subject: eSafety Action Taken against UVU Assassination Video [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal Privilege**

All:

s 22(1)(a)(ii) I wanted to update you with the actions taken in response to the assassination of Charlie Kirk, and how the major platforms have responded. Attached is a StiRep prepared by s 47F(1) and overseeing our investigations division.

eSafety has received multiple complaints and issued two removal notices in relation to online material showing the fatal shooting at Utah Valley University on 10 September 2025. A number of these include reports school age children have accessed unedited video footage of the shooting via popular social media platforms without safety warnings or content labels to prevent users, including young people, from coming across it inadvertently.

At eSafety's request, the Classification Board has reviewed two especially graphic instances of the material and assessed it Refused Classification (RC), meaning it is outside generally accepted community standards and exceeds what can be included in the R 18+ and X 18+ ratings. Whilst this was happening, we investigated to see where this content was going viral and engaged with social media companies to alert them to the presence of this material on their platforms. This also served to remind them of their obligations under the

Online Safety Act of 2021 to remove such material and in the first instance, to apply sensitive content warnings or interstitials to prevent involuntary viewing of the graphic content.

Tik Tok has voluntarily removed the material and were taking efforts to prevent further posting of the content. Other platforms took measures such as applying age or content warnings but ultimately, eSafety issued removal notices to Meta and X, requiring them to geoblock the material for Australian users from the URLs we provided them. As of this evening, both notices had been complied with and the material was not accessible to Australian users on either platform. There are a lot of continued attempts to upload and circumvent the filters and blocks so we will continue to monitor for compliance.

In terms of our public information sharing, we have encouraged members of the public can report harmful material to the platform they see it on and directly to eSafety at esafety.gov.au, rather than to share it further, even if this to alert others to the danger.

We also updated our home page banner to link to guidance on dealing with violent and distressing content, including how to discuss with children. We did a blitz on socials and also sent out the attached EDM to parents, educators and carers.

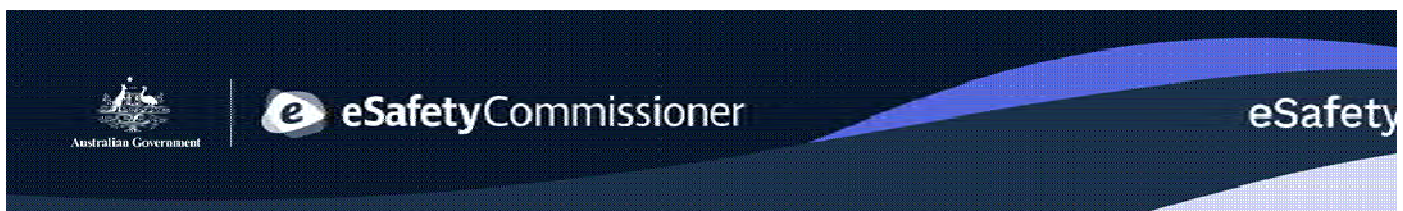
As indicated, we will keep monitoring and given the highly politicised and emotional dialogue around this tragic event, we have holding lines we will be using reactively only.

Please let us know if you have any further questions.

s 47F(1)



Executive Assistant: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @esafety.gov.au



eSafety acknowledges all First Nations people for their continuing care of everything Country encompasses — land, waters and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, and to Elders past, present and future.

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eSafetyinvestigations

Regulatory Operations Group

Investigations Branch - Situation Report

Investigation / Operation:	Content depicting the murder of Charlie Kirk
CRM Reference (if applicable):	CYR-0687167 CYR-0687168 CYR-0687178 CYR-0687184 CYR-0687196 CYR-0687210 CYR-0687241 CYR-0687252 INV-2025-05224 INV-2025-05226
Scheme:	Illegal and Restricted Content
Risk / Sensitivities:	High/ Public figure, high impact violence and media interest
Sit Rep Number:	2025/47
Recorded by:	s 47F(1)
Approved by:	
Date:	14/09/2025

Issue:

1

This situation report contains information that may be operational sensitive and is not to be further disseminated without consultation.

SENSITIVE – NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

eSafetyinvestigations

Investigation update, 14 September 2025.

Removal notices issued to Meta on 12 September 2025 and X on 13 September 2025 in relation to Class 1 content posted on both social media platforms depicting the fatal shooting of U.S. political commentator Charlie Kirk.

Background:

See [2025-09-11 - IB SitRep - IRCT - Charlie Kirk shooting videos.docx](#)

[2025-09-12 - IB SitRep \(2\) - IRCT - Charlie Kirk shooting videos .docx](#)

On **10 September 2025**, U.S. political commentator and influencer Charlie Kirk was fatally shot while speaking at a public event at Utah Valley University. Multiple videos capturing the incident have since circulated across social media platforms including Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and X.

On **11 September 2025**, two URLs containing footage of the incident were submitted to the Classification Board for review. The content was subsequently rated Refused Classification (**RC**) due to its graphic nature.

The videos, which were found on TikTok, X, and Instagram, depict the shooting in explicit detail from two different angles. The platforms were notified and provided with the URLs, along with information indicating that the content was under investigation by the eSafety Commissioner following public complaints.

TikTok confirmed that the video in question had been removed and advised that proactive measures are being taken to identify and remove similar content in accordance with their Community Guidelines on shocking and graphic material. Investigations have verified that the content is no longer accessible on TikTok.

On **13 September 2025**, investigations confirmed that the content classified by the Board as RC(1)(b) meets the criteria for Class 1 material and is therefore subject to removal under Part 9 of the Online Safety Act (OSA). This content was verified as being accessible on the Meta and X platform. Following consultation with the Legal and ICE Branches, a formal letter (the **Letter**) was drafted to notify all relevant platforms of the Classification Board's recent RC determination. The letter will also serve to remind platforms of their obligations regarding the removal of Class 1 content under the OSA.

Current Position:

On 12 September 2025 a section **109 removal notice** was issued to Meta for the Class 1 content still available on Facebook and Instagram (**Meta notice**). The previously mentioned **Letter** was included with the removal notice to reinforce the Classification Board's determination and remind Meta of its obligations under the OSA.

2

This situation report contains information that may be operational sensitive and is not to be further disseminated without consultation.

SENSITIVE – NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

eSafetyinvestigations

On 13 September 2025 investigators confirmed that Meta has complied with the removal notice and geo-blocked access to Australian users.

In relation to the content hosted on **X**, investigators confirmed that the content was still available after the **Letter** was issued. Subsequently a section 109 removal notice was issued to X on 13 September 2025. This notice has been complied with on **14 September 2025**, investigators confirming the Class 1 content is no longer able to be accessed by Australian users of the platform. This action concludes phase 1 of the planned IRC investigations.

Future Direction:

The investigation will include the following phases.

Phase 2 – Respond to any additional complaints about content relating to the fatal shooting of Kirk as per IRC standard practices. Commence own motion investigations as per s42 of the OSA with regard to the accessibility and availability of the content.

Phase 3 – In consultation with Legal and ICE Branches consider the use of SPN under Part 9 of the OSA. Conduct an assessment of the outcomes of the investigations and share these insights as required.

Next Sitrep:

As required.

Media/Political/Reputational Impacts:

High – Current media interest and the possibility of political scrutiny

Distribution:

IB Executive Manager

Strat Comms Executive Manager

GM Regulatory Operations Group

GM Tech & Strategy Group

GM Legal Division

ESafety Commissioner

This situation report contains information that may be operational sensitive and is not to be further disseminated without consultation.

Title: United States: Trump Administration Headlines - 15 September 2025

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 15/09/2025 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Vice President Vance today hosted the Charlie Kirk Show podcast, interviewing senior White House and other conservative figures and denouncing 'radical left' violence. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Vice President Vance hosted the Charlie Kirk Show podcast s 33(a)(iii)

following Kirk's

assassination. Vance said the Administration would not seek to limit "constitutionally protected speech" but rather would look to tackle the "network that foments, facilitates and engages in violence" on the "far left". He interviewed key Administration figures including White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt and Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F Kennedy Jr, as well as conservative media figure Tucker Carlson. **Trump has confirmed he will attend Kirk's memorial service, to be held on Sunday in Arizona.**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

6. **Rubio said today that the US should be revoking visas or refusing to grant visas to people who celebrate violence**, telling media ““We should not be giving visas to people who are going to come to the United States and do things like celebrate the murder, the execution, the assassination of a political figure ... And if they’re already here, we should be revoking their visa.” Deputy Secretary of State Landau last week announced on X s 22(1)(a)(ii) that State would take action against foreigners over offensive online posts related to the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by: Post
Approved by:
Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/General Economic, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ Final Distribution

Final Distribution



[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Pages (66-80) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Title: United States: Trump Administration Headlines - 16 September 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 16/09/2025 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Secretary of State Rubio said that the State Department had begun denying visas to foreign citizens who have posted messages online approving of assassinations. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

4. Secretary of State Rubio told reporters in Tel Aviv this morning that **the State Department had begun denying visas to foreign citizens who have posted messages online approving of assassinations**, including the killing of Charlie Kirk. He said, "I want everybody to think about this for a moment, OK? You're out there celebrating the

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

assassination in cold blood of someone,” adding, “Why would we want anybody like that in our country, as a tourist, as anything?”

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and the next page are irrelevant and the next page has been removed

[REDACTED]



text ends

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by: Post
Approved by:
Topics: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/General Economic, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political

▼ Final Distribution

Final Distribution

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and pages (85-98) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed



[REDACTED]

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Sunday, 21 September 2025 09:57
To: s 47F(1)

Cc: s 47F(1)

Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)


s 22(1)(a)(ii)

One factor for us to bear in mind is that today is the memorial service for Charlie Kirk in Arizona. President Trump, vice president Vance and a large representation from the cabinet, as well as from the Congress. will be attending the service. s 33(a)(iii)

s 47F(1)



s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Pages (101-104) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

Title: United States: The assassination of Charlie Kirk
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii) 11/09/2025 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

The immediate aftermath of the fatal shooting of conservative political activist Charlie Kirk s 33(a)(iii) Flags are flying at half-mast and the Vice President is escorting Kirk's body home on Air Force Two. The State Department has said it will 'take action' against foreigners who post on social media making light of the shooting. s 33(a)(iii)

The assassination of Charlie Kirk

The immediate aftermath of the fatal shooting of conservative political activist Charlie Kirk s 33(a)(iii) The Administration s 33(a)(iii) are i n mourning and genuine shock, Trump and other conservative figures have expressed rage and accused “the left” of “terrorism”, and claimed that Kirk is a “martyr” and “a casualty of war” (Elon Musk, Steve Bannon, Laura Loomer). Democrats have also reacted with shock and condemned the act of political violence.

2. The President, who was the first to announce Kirk’s death, has ordered flags be flown at half mask until Sunday s 33(a)(iii)

Trump has said he will posthumously award him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the US’ highest civilian honour.

3. Vice President Vance, a close friend of Kirk’s, posted s 33(a)(iii) on X s 33(a)(iii)

Kirk “*didn't just help us win in 2024, he helped us staff the entire government*”. Vance has forgone his scheduled engagements in New York today where he was due to visit Ground Zero to mark the anniversary of 9/11 and has instead travelled to Utah to hold vigil with Kirk’s wife Erika before escorting Kirk’s body and family back to their home state Arizona on Air Force Two s 33(a)(iii)

4. Kirk s 33(a)(iii)

is credited for swaying a significant youth vote (especially young men) for Trumps s 33(a)(iii) He was close to Vance, Donald Trump Jr, and a host of other key Administration and conservative figures, he is described as being on a first name basis with *“an entire generation of White House officials[...] twenty- and thirtysomethings who came of political age in the era after [Trump] first took office”*. Kirk was the founder and director of ‘Turning Point USA’ a conservative youth political action organisation which organised campus events at universities to debate issues and promote conservative values. He is a popular podcaster and had around 10 million social media followers across various platforms. Those eulogising him today have championed his focus on debate as a way to express political differences s 33(a)(iii)

5. The USA Travel Advice already contains appropriate warnings about gun violence. However we are tracking developments and will ensure the TA remains relevant.

What comes next?

6. A manhunt led by the FBI is underway in Utah to find Kirk’s killer, they have released images of the shooter and set a \$100,000 reward for information leading to their capture. s 33(a)(iii)

Trump said last night that his Administration will *“find each and every one of those who contributed to this atrocity, and to other political violence, including the organizations that fund it and support it.”*

7. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau today announced on X that consular officers would investigate and take action against foreigners who “glorify hatred and violence” by posting on social media *“praising, rationalizing, or making light”* of Kirk’s shooting. s 33(a)(iii)

8. Kirk’s funeral which will be held in Pheonix, Arizona in the next week or so is expected to be attended by thousands of supporters and may attract anti-Trump protests. We would expect that President Trump, VP Vance and many senior Administration officials and political figures from across the spectrum will attend.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

12. Administration/ Trump family:

Trump: "The Great, and even Legendary, Charlie Kirk, is dead. No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie. He was loved and admired by ALL, especially me, and now, he is no longer with us. Melania and my Sympathies go out to his beautiful wife Erika, and family. Charlie, we love you!"

Vance: "Charlie Kirk was a true friend. The kind of guy you could say something to and know it would always stay with him. [...] because he was a true friend, you could instinctively trust the people Charlie introduced you to. So much of the success we've had in this administration traces directly to Charlie's ability to organize and convene. He didn't just help us win in 2024, he helped us staff the entire government."

Donald Trump Jr: "Charlie wasn't just a friend — he was like a little brother to me - and to millions of people around the world - he was a true inspiration. [...] This is an unimaginable loss. For me, for his family, for everyone who loved him, and for America."

13. Democrats:

Gavin Newsom: "The attack on Charlie Kirk is disgusting, vile, and reprehensible. In the United States of America, we must reject political violence in EVERY form."

Kamala Harris: "Political violence has no place in America. I condemn this act, and we all must work together to ensure this does not lead to more violence."

Barak Obama: "We don't yet know what motivated the person who shot and killed Charlie Kirk, but this kind of despicable violence has no place in our democracy. Michelle and I will be praying for Charlie's family tonight, especially his wife Erika and their two young children."



14. MAGA and conservative commentariat:

- Elon Musk: "The Left is the party of murder".
- Laura Loomer: "Charlie Kirk wasn't even controversial. He was moderate. He was conservative but by no means controversial. Imagine who else the Left is going to hunt down and murder on the right if they wanted to kill a guy who said "get married, have kids, there's 2 genders, vote for Trump." Everyone needs to be very careful in their public surroundings. The Trump administration needs to start arresting everyone on the Left who promotes violence. All of the Leftist groups that pay for these radical protests need to be prosecuted. Enough is enough. More people will be murdered if the Left isn't crushed with the power of the state."
- Benny Johnson: "Charlie Kirk is a martyr. And martyrs only become more powerful. We must all, in our own poor and inadequate ways, seek to carry on Charlie's mission."
- Steve Bannon: "Charlie Kirk gave his life for his country on the battlefield of political combat. They cut him down with an assassin's bullet. Let's be blunt. He was cut down with an assassin's bullet."

text ends

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s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and pages (109-111) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

