

Who Are Patrick Crusius and Connor Betts?

by Gary Fouse



On Saturday, two American cities were hit with mass murder. In El Paso, a 21-year-old man named Patrick Crusius attacked a shopping area in El Paso, killing 20 people before being arrested. Later, in Dayton, Ohio, 24-year-old Connor Betts carried out a similar operation in Dayton, killing 8 including his own sister before being cut down by police.

In the first hours following each incident, the country wondered who the shooters were and their motives. First, we learned that they were both white, and the next assumption was that they were white nationalists, racists, and probably Trump supporters. In the case of El Paso, that appears to be the case. Crusius' "manifesto" indicates he was angry about what he perceived as a "Mexican invasion". Thus, he attacked an area heavily populated by Hispanics. His writings indicated that he had held anti-Mexican immigrant views long before Trump became president, and thus, Trump should not be blamed

for his (Crusius') actions. In short, the mainstream media and leading Democrats like Beto O'Rourke and Cory Booker have not hesitated one minute before declaring Trump complicit though his tweets and populist, "racist" rhetoric. Mr Crusius may or may not be a Trump supporter, but the President is no supporter of Crusius. He has strongly condemned both shootings.

In the case of Betts, the Dayton shooter, a different picture is emerging. It appears from his online rants that Betts was anything but a Trump supporter. Back in his high school days, he was freaking out a lot of fellow students with talks of "kill lists" and "rape lists," which led to a suspension. Rather than hating any particular ethnic groups, it appears Betts just had a problem with people in general. Politically, it appears that he is a leftist, an anarchist, a Democrat, and an (gasp) Elizabeth Warren supporter.

However, while all you have to do is turn on CNN or MSNBC to learn of Crusius's political leanings, you have to dig a bit deeper to learn of Betts' –like the conservative