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Governor: Suspect in Kirk’s death taken into custody



Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, with FBI Director Kash Patel, speaks at a news conference Sept. 12, announcing details on the suspect in the shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk two days prior. CHENEY ORR/REUTERS

Family friend says man confessed ‘or implied’ to killing

Joey Garrison, Davis Winkie and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY NETWORK

“Ladies and gentlemen, we got him,” Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said at a news conference the morning of Sept. 12.

By “him,” he meant the person suspected of killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a college speaking event on Sept. 10.

The suspect was identified as Tyler Robinson, Cox said. A family member contacted a family friend, who told authorities Robinson “confessed to them or

implied that he committed the incident.”

The suspect was taken into custody at 10 p.m. local time Sept. 11, FBI Director Kash Patel said.

President Donald Trump said earlier Sept. 12 on “Fox and Friends” that the family friend was “a person of faith, a minister.”

Kirk, 31, was killed while speaking in front of some 3,000 people at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. Authorities tied Robinson to the crime through online messages, surveillance video and interviews with his family and friends.

Ammunition and shell casings recov-

ered from the shooting scene included anti-fascist and taunting messages, Cox said. One casing read: “Hey fascist! Catch!” Another quoted “Bella Ciao,” an Italian song dedicated to resistance fighters against Nazi occupiers; it is a rallying cry for anti-fascists. Another was inscribed with terms frequently referenced by video game streamers.

Robinson, 22, had no criminal history, according to state records. He is a registered voter in Utah, but does not

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Guard seeks to help with cleanup in DC

Presence is controversial with residents of capital

Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Matthew Cohen couldn’t believe the District of Columbia National Guard was offering up its soldiers to help with neighborhood cleanup.

“To have the National Guard come to our neighborhood to help pick up litter is absurd,” said Cohen, an advisory neighborhood commissioner, one of Washington’s hyper-local elected officials for part of the AU Park and Tenleytown neighborhoods in the city’s northwest.

But he could use the help.

So long as thousands of soldiers had standing orders from President Donald Trump to remain on duty in the nation’s capital, Cohen wondered, what was the harm if his community took them up on the offer?

Troops that deployed to the city in August were supposedly there to combat what Trump called a crime emergency. Groups of camouflage-clad soldiers have since become a familiar presence, pacing the underground platforms of Metro stations in the city’s downtown, along the marble halls of Union Station and at the National Mall, home to the city’s popular monuments.

Soldiers have also been spotted in parks carrying out tasks typically assigned to gardeners and landscapers – shoveling mulch, blowing leaves and scooping up trash.

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Israeli strikes continue to intensify in Gaza City

Nidal al-Mughrabi
REUTERS

CAIRO – Israeli strikes killed at least 40 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Sept. 12, local health authorities said, most of them in Gaza City where many residents are staying put despite Israeli evacuation orders because they have nowhere safe to go.

Israel has stated its intention to take full control of the ruined city, where about

a million people are sheltering, as part of its plan to wipe out the militant group Hamas, and has been intensifying its attacks, residents said.

“The explosions never stopped since yesterday,” said father-of-two Adel, 60, who lives in Gaza City close to Beach refugee camp. He did not wish to give his full name for safety reasons.

“Many families left their homes and that is what the occupation wants,” he told Reuters via a chat app. “By these

bombardments they are telling people ‘You either leave your area or die there.’”

Witnesses said at least 15 houses inside Beach camp had been hit by air strikes, and the Israeli army had since called the occupants of other houses telling them strikes on their homes were imminent. They were now scrambling to leave, and neighbors feared their own homes would be damaged.

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