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MEDIA LIARS

• Many viewers unaware men Rittenhouse shot were white

By the AFP Staff

“The Kyle Rittenhouse verdict is only shocking if you followed the last year of terrible reporting.” That was the headline on a lengthy commentary penned by popular liberal author Matt Taibbi on Nov. 19, the day a jury found Rittenhouse not guilty on all counts of murder.

Rittenhouse had been charged with five counts related to his shooting of three white men on the night of Aug. 25, 2020, following violent riots in Kenosha, Wisc. the previous night. Rittenhouse had been part of a group of several men and one woman protecting a car dealership owned by an Indian family who had immigrated to the United States 12 years ago.

Rittenhouse was charged with “reckless homicide” and “intentional homicide” after he shot and killed Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26, that night. He was also charged with attempted intentional homicide for severely wounding Gaije Grosskreutz, a 27-year-old self-avowed communist from Milwaukee. He also faced two counts of recklessly endangering safety.

After watching video taken that night, it was clear to any objective viewer that Rittenhouse had acted in self defense after he was attacked by Rosenbaum and Huber. Following that, it is clear that Grosskreutz ran at Rittenhouse and



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pointed his own handgun at Rittenhouse. Rittenhouse then shot Grosskreutz in the arm.

Over the course of the next year, if all you watched was mainstream media coverage of the Rittenhouse case, you would have been completely taken by surprise after a jury found Rittenhouse not guilty on all charges. The simple truth is that the national media had spent a year telling the entire country that Rittenhouse was not just guilty of murder. Again and again, they had opined that Rittenhouse was a moral monster whose acquittal would be an in-your-face affirmation of systemic white supremacy.

The thing is, there was zero evi-

dence that Rittenhouse was anything but a kind, thoughtful, patriotic young American. The fact that he liked the police and former President Donald Trump, however, was all it took for celebrity news commentators like MSNBC’s Joy Reid and Joe Scarborough to claim that Rittenhouse went to the protests just to shoot black people.

In the age of weaponizing race, the mainstream media intentionally left out the salient fact that the three men Rittenhouse shot were white, not black, males. At least three foreign news outlet had to run retractions following Rittenhouse’s acquittal after they had wrongly reported the men Rittenhouse shot were black.

These lies about Rittenhouse and the case followed on the even bigger lie about the police shooting of black man Jacob Blake—the incident that prompted multiple nights of protests in Kenosha in August 2020. The mainstream media had repeatedly—and incorrectly—reported that Blake was unarmed and had been shot by police because he was trying to break up a fight between two women. Multiple outlets followed on that reporting, noting that Blake had even received a visit from Democratic vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris. According to Blake’s attorney, Harris “told Jacob that she was . . . proud of him and how he is working through his pain.”

Within hours of the shooting, though, Kenosha police had set the record straight. Blake had been shot after he fought with police officers and grabbed a knife from his car. The truth is, police were attempting to arrest Blake for violating a protective order after he had broken into the home of a woman he had previously sexually assaulted and then tried to steal her car with three children inside.

See pages 10-11 for more on the fake news coverage of this story, yet another damning commentary on the state of the dying mainstream media today. ★

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