

As World Struggles to Stop Deaths, Far Right Celebrates COVID-19

Some hardliners want to use the virus as a weapon to kill minorities, as others spread further hate and conspiracy.

By [Michael Colborne](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

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The new coronavirus has already infected hundreds of thousands of people, taken more than 20,000 lives and caused a level of economic, social and political disruption not seen in decades.

But for many far-right hardliners, it's a crisis to be welcomed.

The hardest-core "accelerationists" – violent neo-Nazis who want civilisation to crumble, hope that [COVID-19](#) will turn out to be their secret weapon.

"The situation is ripe for exploitation by the far right," Cynthia Miller-Idriss, American University sociologist and expert on the far-right, told Al Jazeera.

Aside from feeding into "accelerationist and apocalyptic ideas", Miller-Idriss said "the uncertainty the pandemic creates creates fertile ground for claims about the need for change or the solutions the far right purports to offer."

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