

Bitter fruit of a poisonous tree

Letter to the editor, [Brunswick Beacon](#), 11.09.23

The Chicago neighbors of six-year-old, American-born Wadea Al-Fayoume, who [loved](#) soccer and basketball, [called](#) him “an All-American boy.” Wadea’s landlord, 71-year-old Joseph Czuba, was [like a grandfather](#) to him, building Wadea a tree house and a makeshift pool; bringing him toys. That’s why, when Wadea saw Joseph on Oct.14, he ran to him expecting a hug. Instead, Czuba stabbed Wadea 26 times, [butchering](#) him with the serrated blade of a military-style knife.

When Czuba entered the apartment Wadea shared with his mother, Hanaan, he [screamed](#), “You Palestinians don’t deserve to live!” Czuba was enraged over Hamas’ horrific attacks against Israel, 6,200 miles away. Hanaan replied, “let’s pray for peace.” Instead, Czuba stabbed her a dozen times. She survived. Wadea did not.

[Czuba](#) is an honorably discharged U.S. Air Force veteran and longtime member of his local Catholic Church. Czuba’s wife told police “He listened to conservative talk radio on a regular basis,” becoming [obsessed](#) and fearful that Hanaan would “call over her Palestinian friends or family to harm them.” Marinating in right-wing hate radio, Wadea’s generous ‘grandfather’ morphed into a mindless murderer.

[Right-wing media](#) spreads the antisemitic “[Great Replacement Theory](#),” promoted by [neo-Nazis chanting “blood and soil”](#) and “[Jews will not replace us.](#)” [After Trump’s election](#), antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes grew 86% and 91%. Counties with Trump rallies spawned a [226% increase](#) in hate crimes compared to counties without Trump rallies. Trump [accuses](#) immigrants of “[poisoning the blood of our country](#),” echoing Hitler’s antisemitic manifesto, “[Mein Kampf](#).” Antisemitic incidents in America have increased [388%](#) since the Hamas attack.

The FBI identifies [white-supremacist violence](#) as America’s [greatest domestic threat](#). You can defeat it. Don’t marinate in hate media. Heed the [Sermon on the Mount](#): “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor a bad tree good fruit. Cut down the tree that does not bear good fruit. Throw it into the fire. By their fruits you will know them.”

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