Soldiers of Odin USA

Read the full report, Soldiers of Odin USA: The Extreme European Anti-Refugee Group Comes to America (PDF).

Only months after its formation in Finland, a controversial anti-refugee vigilante group known as the Soldiers of Odin has already found a welcome home in the United States.

Its new American chapter, known as Soldiers of Odin USA, has—just since February—already amassed thousands of American members and cheerleaders ready and eager to support the group’s chapters in Finland and other countries—and to bring its anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and refugee-hating ideology to American shores.

Though it claims not to be racist, many Soldiers of Odin USA members and supporters are in fact open white supremacists, ranging from racist Odinists to Ku Klux Klan members. Moreover, Soldiers of Odin USA is also attracting anti-government extremists from the militia movement and the related "Three Percenters," in addition to other extremists.

What brings these different segments of the extreme right together is a shared hatred and fear of immigrants and, especially, Muslims. In effect, the Soldiers of Odin USA represents the largest alliance of different types of right-wing extremists in the U.S. in several decades.
Soldiers of Odin USA held its first formal "patrol" in a Denver suburb in March and more are on the way, raising the specter of a new wave of vigilante activity like the anti-immigrant Minutemen of a decade ago.

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