

Intelligence Bulletin: Gorki-2, Moscow School Attack

December 18, 2025

Executive Summary

- On December 15th, 2025, a 15-year-old Russian student carried out a fatal stabbing at a school near Moscow after arriving on campus armed with a knife, pepper spray, and tactical-style gear, resulting in the death of a 10-year-old student and injury to a security guard.
- The attack exhibited a range of extremist indicators and behaviors, including:
 - Nihilistic violent extremism and militant accelerationism: use of “No Lives Matter” messaging; attack preparation documentation and dissemination online; and emulation of Brenton Tarrant through symbolic references and visual signaling on weaponry and gear.
 - TCC/school-shooter fandom: selection of a school as the target of violence and adoption of Columbine-linked symbolism, such as “Natural Selection,” consistent with established TCC aesthetic patterns.
 - Additional extremist indicators: antisemitic and neo-Nazi symbols and reported identity-based targeting behavior such as questioning victims’ race before attacking them.
- The radicalization and attack by Timofey K. underscores the growing risk of cross-pollination between online subcultures (e.g., militant accelerationism, nihilistic extremism, and fandom-driven imitation) that glorify violence and offline youth-perpetrated attacks.

Overview

On Monday, 15 December 2025, 15-year-old Timofey K. carried out a fatal [stabbing](#) at a school near Moscow after arriving on campus armed with a knife, pepper spray, and tactical-style gear. He pepper-sprayed and stabbed a security guard, then pursued younger students inside the school, fatally stabbing a 10-year-old boy. The attacker was detained at the scene following the incident. The perpetrator’s equipment selection, chosen aesthetics and target behavior indicate premeditation and viable connections to nihilistic violent extremist (NVE) networks and a desire to recreate Brenton Tarrant’s Saint Culture tactical script.

The attack reflects a broader pattern of youth-driven violence shaped by transnational extremist aesthetics, where ideological signaling, online performativity, and symbolic alignment play roles equal to or greater than tactical outcomes. The perpetrator acted as a self-radicalized individual operating within digitally mediated extremist ecosystems, rather than as a member of a formal organization.

Indicators of NVE and Militant Accelerationism

The perpetrator wore clothing bearing the slogan “No Lives Matter,” a phrase commonly associated with NVE subcultures. No Lives Matter (NLM) is a growing brand within NVE and militant accelerationist communities, filling the gap left behind by the previously dominant [Terrorgram Collective](#). NLM glorifies death, advocates the destruction of humanity, and encourages apolitical violent offline action. As a phrase, it overlaps with accelerationist narratives that frame mass-casualty attacks as a means of destabilization rather than of ideological purposes.

The perpetrator’s engagement in tactical documentation and dissemination further ties this case to a trend of lone actor mobilization rooted in NVE pathways. Prior to the attack, Timofey. K prepared a

manifesto, a recorded video of the attack, and various images to be shared across social media, first appearing on Telegram. Such behaviors are consistent with past extremist performative violence, where visibility, notoriety, and replication function as implicit objectives. This model has been repeatedly [demonstrated](#) in militant accelerationist attacks, influenced predominantly by Brenton Tarrant's 2019 Christchurch, New Zealand attack which is cited as an origin point for this propagandistic approach.

Timofey K. displayed multiple behaviors consistent with glorification and emulation of Brenton Tarrant and the Christchurch attack, including reported use of a handwritten sign referencing Tarrant's birthday, numerical references to "51" corresponding to the Christchurch casualty count, and the use of inscriptions and white lettering on [weapons](#) and gear. The perpetrator also reportedly adorned tactical-style equipment with white supremacist symbols and phrases, mirroring visual and behavioral patterns repeatedly observed in attacks inspired by Tarrant. These choices align with established militant accelerationist norms in which attackers are framed as "[saints](#)," and where repetition of symbols, numbers, and visual motifs serves to reinforce collective identity. Combined, these indicators suggest that Timofey K. was likely influenced by NVE/militant accelerationist communities that valorize prior attackers through shared aesthetics, ritualized emulation, and propaganda-driven performance violence.

Indicators Associated With School Shooter Fandoms (TCC)

The perpetrator's selection of a school as the attack location and reported use of a "Natural Selection" shirt align with established emulation patterns associated with Columbine-influenced school-shooter fandoms/True Crime Community (TCC), a growing threat amongst youth perpetrators.

The phrase "Natural Selection" directly references Eric Harris's attire during the 1999 Columbine High School massacre and remains one of the most persistent aesthetic markers adopted by TCC perpetrators. Columbine continues to function as a foundational cultural and tactical script for school-based violence, shaping offender behavior through recognizable symbols, target selection, and legacy-seeking actions rather than through formal ideological alignment. This behavioral emulation, while most popularized in the United States, has previously been exported to Russia. In a 2018 attack at Kerch Polytechnic College in Russian-occupied Crimea, perpetrator [Vladislav Roslyakov](#) wore a white shirt displaying "НЕНАВИСТЬ" (Russian for "HATRED") in black writing, also emulating Eric Harris's own "Natural Selection" shirt. This inspiration was recently identified as present in the November [Jakarta](#) mosque attack

Antisemitic and Miscellaneous Extremist Indicators

Across Timofey K.'s aesthetic markers is a consistent presence of antisemitic and neo-Nazi slogans or markings. Such symbols are frequently employed as shorthand within far-right and extremist subcultures. However, their use reinforces alignment with violent extremist narratives that frame minority groups as legitimate targets.

Reports that the perpetrator questioned individuals about ethnicity prior to assault further suggest the possibility of identity-based targeting. While intent remains under investigation, this behavior is consistent with hate-motivated violence patterns observed in both ideologically driven attacks and hybrid cases involving personal grievance layered with extremist symbolism, such as in the 2015 Umpqua Community College attack.

Imagery and Translations



Image 1. Perpetrator Timofey K., wearing “No Lives Matter” shirt, tactical headgear and gloves, and kneeling in the Heil Hitler salute.



Image 2. Timofey K.'s tactical vest, adorned with the *Sonnenrad* symbol, in reference to Tarrant and Buffalo perpetrator Payton Gendron. Includes a keychain that resembles the “Celtic cross”/“white pride world wide” style symbol that is widely used in white supremacist and neo-Nazi contexts. Note the duct taped go-pro used to film the attack, similar to many militant accelerationist attackers.



Image 3. Timofey K. with a handwritten sign, adorned with white power symbols (Celtic Cross, *Othala*) and verbal indicators. Referencing Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch, New Zealand attacker. “51” is in reference to the number of victims from that attack.

Translation:
 “27. 10. 2025 (October 27th, 2025)
 Happy Birthday Brenton!”



Image 4. Helmet, right-side and back. Includes:

- “Well I had to do it because somebody had to do something”: From Dylann Roof, describing his motive for the 2015 Charleston Emanuel AME Church massacre in his post-arrest interview
 - Othala Rune: neo-Nazi hate symbol.
- The acronym SYGAOWN (Stop Your Genocide Against Our White Nations), reference to 2022 Buffalo Shooting where attacker Payton Gendron wrote on one of his firearms.
 - 2083: Title of Anders Behring Breivik’s manifesto
- Natural Selection: Reference to the shirt Eric Harris wore during his attack on Columbine.
 - NLM: No Lives Matter
- “For Bataclan”: reference to the Bataclan, the Paris concert hall targeted during the 13 November 2015 Islamic State terrorist attacks in which 90 people were murdered inside the venue and 130 people were killed across Paris in coordinated shootings and bombings. In far-right and accelerationist milieus, invoking “Bataclan” on gear or clothing typically signals fixation on that mass-casualty event—either as a model for spectacular violence or as a shorthand for retaliatory or vengeful narratives tied to jihadist attacks in Europe.
- “13/52, Let’s kill them!”: 13/52 is a racist shorthand used to indicate the false belief that Black Americans commit a wildly disproportionate share of violent crime. Paired with “let’s kill them!” underpins genocidal incitement.
- “бей жидов. спасай россию. раса родина революция”: Translation: Beat the Jews. Save Russia. Race of the Homeland. Revolution.



Image 5. IED with "Trollface" meme, used to represent trolling, mockery, or deliberately provoking reactions online.



Image 6. Assembly of tactical gear and weaponry.



Image 7. Assembly of tactical gear and weaponry. Note the white lettering on the handgun, a strong indication of militant accelerationist mimicry.