

CNN's *The Arena*

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4 minutes and 29 seconds

KASIE HUNT: The President, Jamie Gangel, spoke about this earlier today. And, again, he is framing it as “radical left problem.” Let’s watch.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: [T]he radical left is causing this problem, not the right, the radical left and it’s going to get worse. And ultimately it’s going to go back on them. I mean, bad things happen when they play these games and I’ll give you a little clue. The right is a lot tougher than the left. But the right is not doing this. They’re not doing it and they better not get them energized because it won’t be good for the left.

HUNT: Ummm.

JAMIE GANGEL: So, there’s no evidence of that in — in what happened here today? What happened was horrific. It was unacceptable. One person has died. Two others have been injured, but as John Miller just said, and as the acting U.S. Attorney said he apparently, as we know now, acted alone. He apparently was not a member of any group. There’s just no basis for what the President is saying here.

HUNT: And Adam Kinzinger, I want to play something that Stephen Miller said yesterday about the Democratic Party. Let’s — let’s watch and you’ll see why I’m interested in your opinion about it.

STEPHEN MILLER [on FNC’s *Hannity*, 09/24/25]: The Democrat Party does not fight for, care about, or represent American citizens. It is an entity devoted exclusively to the defense of hardened criminals, gang bangers, and illegal alien killers and terrorists. The Democrat Party is not a political party. It is a domestic extremist organization.

HUNT: He is calling half the country a domestic extremist organization!

ADAM KINZINGER: He also goes ganga bangers. Look, this guy, I mean, he’s — he’s — he stews and hate. He does just, like, just pure his division. And the president of the United States seemingly does the same. I think this is my concern is every time we’ve had pretty low points in American history, you always have a President that comes in and can calm. And I think society reflects what a President says here. It seems like there’s division just being constantly served. And to call the Democratic Party say they don’t represent Americans well. Yeah, actually they do represent about half the country Americans — that’s exactly what they do — is — is wrong. And it’s, again, divisive. The thing that we need to be looking at is not — is this the right? Is this the left? Is it whatever. It’s why are young white males doing this? Why do they feel so disconnected from society that they have to turn to violence? And that’s not what the President is talking about. Instead, he’s talking about it’s the left. And I got to tell you, we’re missing. We’re missing the point here.

DOUG HEYE You know, Kasie, I — I was at the RNC at that Saturday morning when Gabby Giffords was shot. I drove in the office, got on a conference call with colleagues in Mitch McConnell's office, John Boehner's office, the NRSC, NRCC. And we essentially held up a mirror to ourselves and said, how are we going to talk about this? How are we going to demonstrate to our member offices, to our colleagues that we can talk about this tragedy in a responsible way? And my fear is Donald Trump feeds — fans a lot of this is that incentive structure doesn't exist in the way that it used to. And what we often do now, and I think the Stephen Miller clip shows that we hold up a mirror to our opponents. We rarely hold ourselves accountable anymore.

SABRINA SIGH: I totally agree. I was going to say, you know, where is the mirror being held to the president? I think in moments where you have extreme tragedy, whether it be 9/11, what happened in South Carolina when President Obama went down, of course, to the AME Church? You know, president Clinton after the Oklahoma bombings, you had moments where leaders really rise to the occasion and rally the country around a message and unity, and you're just seeing this fracturing further and further divisiveness permeate our society. And to your point of like, why do we keep having these shootings? I think I have seen no solutions being offered by this administration, and I'm not saying gun — gun reform, our background checks, laws, there's a lot that you can tackle. But I have seen nothing put forward, not by Stephen Miller, not by the President to address any of the shootings that have happened other than pointing fingers.

HUNT: The one person that we did hear from was Erika Kirk, who talked about forgiveness and what that means which, you know, is a message our political leaders could offer, but that, of course, the President seemed to explicitly not offer at that same event.