

White Supremacists Rally in York, Pa.

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Abstract: Matthew Hale , leader of white supremacist group World Church of the Creator, speaks to about 70 supporters at rally, York, Pa, while police keep hundreds of anti-racist demonstrators at bay; witnesses report seeing minor confrontations in street (S)d

Witnesses reported minor confrontations in the streets today as the police kept hundreds of demonstrators at bay during a rally by white supremacists in a city still feeling the effects of deadly race riots more than 30 years later.

Matthew Hale , leader of the white supremacist group World Church of the Creator, spoke to about 70 supporters inside a library while police officers in riot gear separated shouting groups of his supporters and antiracist protesters.

Witnesses reported seeing car windows broken and minor confrontations in the streets throughout the afternoon. The police said 25 people were arrested, mostly for disorderly conduct.

Mr. Hale's group has been accused of helping hone the racist beliefs of a man who went on a shooting rampage in 1999. The gunman, Benjamin Smith, killed two people and wounded nine in Illinois and Indiana before committing suicide. The victims were Jewish, black or Asian.

York was the scene of riots in July 1969 after a black teenager was wounded by a white man. A police officer was killed on the second night of the violence. Four days later a black woman was killed by shots fired from a white mob.

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