

Gab Stands Firm Against Censorship Demand From New Zealand Government

Andrew Torba, [August 18, 2023](#)

Share this:

Dear Gab Community,

We want to keep you informed about an important development involving Gab and its commitment to preserving the principles of free speech and open discourse. Our platform, which is based in the United States, has recently received a censorship demand from a foreign country – New Zealand. We feel it is our responsibility to share this news with you, as transparency is crucial in upholding the values we hold dear. As many of you already know we regularly turn down censorship demands from foreign governments including France, Germany, and the UK among others.



Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

**TAKE-DOWN NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 119C OF THE FILMS, VIDEOS, AND PUBLICATIONS
CLASSIFICATION ACT 1993**

TO: Gab.com the Online Content Host

Friday, August 18, 2023

Support Team Gab.com
Gab.com
support@gab.com

Re: 2023/030 Gab.com - The Three Faced Terrorist An Investigation into the Christchurch Shootings Part 2

A publication hosted on your platform has been classified as objectionable by the Classification Office.

Under 119C of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Act), you are required to remove an online publication from your platform.

Details on the material are provided in Schedule A.

A publication is **objectionable** if it describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. It is illegal to make, possess, supply or distribute objectionable content in New Zealand.

You must remove, or prevent access by the New Zealand public to, the online publication as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt of the notice and no later than **Monday, August 21, 2023 5:00 PM NZST**.

The Department does not require you to preserve a copy of the online publication.

A non-compliance warning will be sent if you fail to comply with the take-down notice within the designated timeframe. Failure to comply may result in enforcement proceedings, outlined under section [119H](#) of the Act.

Dear Support Team

Re: 2023/030 Gab.com – The Three Faced Terrorist An Investigation into the Christchurch Shootings Part 2

Te Tari Taiwhenua (The Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand) is responsible for online content regulation under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act (1993). We have identified content on your platform that has been classified as objectionable under this Act.

Attached is a formal take-down notice outlining your responsibility as a platform providing content to New Zealanders. Non-compliance may result in enforcement proceedings, outlined under Section [119H](#) of the Act.

To provide you with clarification of your legal duties and further understanding, please find a link to the Departments [Take-down Notice Guidance](#).

A copy of this email has been sent to the Chief Censor at the Classification Office.

Please contact us if you:

- require any additional information or if you reasonably believe you will not be able to comply within the required period;
- have removed or prevented New Zealand public access to the objectionable online publication from your platform;
- would like to provide us with additional or updated contact information, such as group emails, for your company.

Regards,

First and foremost it's essential to understand that Gab is situated in the United States, where governmental interference with political speech is categorically prohibited. Our platform benefits from the robust protection of U.S. constitutional law, which empowers us to make decisions about the content we host without external influence. Regardless of how offensive certain content may be, we firmly stand behind the principles of free expression.

Our commitment to these principles means that we do not censor lawful content for any reason, and we do not yield to orders from foreign nations that attempt to curtail this fundamental right. It is worth reiterating that Gab's operations are entirely based in the United States, and we have no presence, verification, establishment, or intention to hire personnel in New Zealand.

Addressing [the specific content in question](#), we wish to clarify a significant point. Contrary to the allegations made in the recent letter, Gab does not actually host the content itself. Instead, we provide a hyperlink that serves as a reference to content hosted elsewhere on the Internet. This hyperlink, by design, could potentially lead to any content, contingent on the decisions made by the webhost on the other end.

It has come to our attention that New Zealand is attempting to achieve a particular outcome through indirect means. It appears that the content they seek to remove is self-hosted by a third party, leading to the attempt to erase any reference to it by demanding the removal of a hyperlink posted by a Gab user. This leads us to believe that the original author is non-responsive to their requests, leading to an attempt to exert control over our platform as an alternative avenue.

We want to assure you that we will not comply with this request to remove the link. We stand firm in our commitment to free speech and will not be coerced into suppressing content or stifling open discussion. Any attempt to pressure Gab, regardless of its source, will be met with the same unwavering stance.

In conclusion, we acknowledge that New Zealand has the right to voice its concerns and make decisions for its citizens. However, we believe that respecting the principles of free speech and the values that underpin open dialogue is of utmost importance. Whether New Zealand chooses to align itself with those who have attempted to undermine these values is a matter for them to decide.

Thank you for being a part of the Gab community. Your support is essential as we navigate these challenges and continue to champion the ideals of free expression and open discourse.

Sincerely,

Andrew Torba
CEO, Gab.com
Jesus Christ is King of kings