

How one man pushed harassment 'raids,' sold racist paraphernalia online, while in federal custody

Caution: This story refers to racist and homophobic language.

It's a recent Monday afternoon and Paul Nicholas Miller is doing the same thing he's been doing almost every day for months.

Dressed head-to-toe as the Joker, wearing a full face of makeup and bright reflective sunglasses, Miller is cruising the online chatting website Omegle, which lets complete strangers video chat with each other at random.

Miller's face lights up every time he is coupled with a Black person, or somebody of Latin descent. Anybody who is non-white breaks his face into a grotesque grin, accentuated by the creepy makeup.

He will crow the N-word into the camera whenever a Black person comes on screen.

If he can engage his prey, Miller – who goes by the moniker “Gypsy Crusader” online and has amassed a following of thousands – will shout spurious statistics at them. He'll rant about Black crime rates or how Jewish people control the economy. He'll shout at anybody — from adults to young children — about how non-white and LGBTQ people have ruined America. He'll lean sideways and unfurl the swastika flag that serves as his backdrop.

Miller punctuates his onslaughts by “firing” a toy gun that reveals a red-and-black flag with racial slurs. When he meets a fellow neo-Nazi online — and many of them crowd onto Omegle when they know there's a Gypsy Crusader session happening — he'll greet them with a Nazi salute and shout “white power.” His fanboys often giggle, before showing off their own swastika flags or Nazi artifacts.

More from this report: They were flooded by online harassment and hatred. They didn't know a targeted campaign caused it

Miller isn't that different from countless trolls who have created their own racist gimmicks to sell merchandise and cultivate attention from a legion of online fans.

Except for one thing: Miller waged his campaign of hate while in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Miller, who is 34, was convicted of aggravated assault and drug possession in 2007 in New Jersey. He was arrested again in March 2021 on charges of illegally possessing firearms after the FBI raided his home in Florida. He was sentenced later that year to serve 41 months in federal prison, but was released in January after spending less than two years locked up.

Paul Nicholas Miller was arrested in Florida in March 2021 on charges of illegally possessing firearms. He was sentenced to federal prison.

He then entered a gray area of “incarceration” under the banner of the federal Residential Reentry Management (RRM) network — essentially a system of halfway houses and home confinement monitored by regional RRM offices.

The Bureau of Prisons wouldn’t divulge Miller’s whereabouts when USA TODAY first inquired about him in mid-April. Citing inmate privacy rules, the Bureau only said the convicted felon was under the supervision of an RRM office in Philadelphia.