

Attacks against butterflies

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By Roberto Morejón

Under different names and monikers, extreme right-wing groups in the United States are opening spaces and disrupting political and social life.

Whether they are called militias, QAnons, Proud Boys or something else, the extremists promote ideas and outlandish positions through television, rallies and marches or social networks, to disrupt daily life, as happened recently in Texas.

The National Butterfly Center in that state, near the Mexican border, received so many threats from fanatics that it was forced to close its doors temporarily.

Followers of the QAnon conspiracy movement, among other zealots, accused the center of being a haven for human trafficking and illegal immigration without evidence.

The terms used seem delusional because they alluded to the compound being headed by what they called leftist thugs with false interest in butterflies.

It would be a mistake to minimize or ignore threats and attitudes such as those noted in a country capable of being the scene of a seditious mob assault on the Capitol in January 2021 to prevent what the rioters considered an electoral fraud.

Still many supporters of former President Donald Trump, who instigated the bigots, claim to believe that their idol won the November 2020 election.

Under that reminder, Americans are wondering whether the rest of this year will see an increase in the actions of supremacist and other recalcitrant groups ahead of the midterm elections.

In a highly polarized society, despite the fact that President Joseph Biden promised to work to reduce divisiveness, it is very possible that individuals, in many cases armed, will become inflamed and even paroxysmal.

Recall that during the election campaign even Trump himself identified Democratic opponents as representatives of the left, an appeal that is far from implying only a political weapon.

Trump's most radical followers are awaiting his next steps because he seems to be groping for the nomination for the upcoming presidential elections.

They don't care that the tycoon has goaded the likes of Jake Angeli, the bison-helmeted individual whose image traveled the world because of the insurrection against the Capitol.

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