

Singers Billie Eilish, Dave Matthews, Neil Young denounce ICE murder, while Golden Globes offers “95 percent cheery pabulum”

David Walsh
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The cold-blooded murder January 7 of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent has outraged millions in the US and around the world. Trump administration officials and their supporters have rallied around the criminal and his crime. Not coincidentally, it came to light Monday that billionaire Bill Ackman had contributed \$10,000 to an online fundraiser aiding the legal defense of ICE agent Jonathan Ross.

Prominent figures in film and music, and sports, have not been shy about condemning the Minneapolis killing. Among those deplored ICE and its campaign of terror were singer Billie Eilish, Dave Matthews, Neil Young, Sonic Youth's Kim Gordo and Pearl Jam member Jeff Ament.

The list of actors, comics and entertainers weighing in against ICE is a long one, including Mark Ruffalo, Wanda Sykes, Simu Liu, Amanda Seyfried, Cynthia Nixon, Eva Longoria, Ayo Edebiri, Kerry Washington, Eric Andre, Megan Stalter, Chrissy Teigen, Billy Eichner, Alan Cumming, Nancy Lee Grahn, Sophia Bush, Caleb Heron, Natasha Lyonne, Ariana Grande and Jean Smart.

On January 9, Eilish reposted this message on Instagram:

ICE IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED AND SUPPORTED TERRORIST GROUP UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY THAT HAS DONE NOTHING TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER. THEY ARE THE DOMESTIC TERRORISTS TEARING APART FAMILIES, TERRORIZING CITIZENS, AND NOW MURDERING INNOCENT PEOPLE.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Eilish also reposted that “Renee Nicole Good wasn’t the first killed by ICE... In 2025, 32 people died in ICE custody,” followed by a list of the names of victims. These messages were viewed by millions. All in all, Eilish has 124 million followers.

In response, Tricia McLaughlin, one of the chief thugs at the Department of Homeland Security, shared a nervous statement with *Billboard*, accusing Eilish of the type of “garbage rhetoric that is leading to a 1,300 percent increase in assaults and 3,200 percent increase in vehicle rammings against our brave law enforcement.”

McLaughlin asserted that Eilish

has not seen the newly released footage, which corroborates what DHS has stated all along—that this individual [Good] was impeding law enforcement and weaponized her vehicle in an attempt to kill or cause bodily harm to federal law enforcement.

Of course, the footage does no such thing, nor could it, insofar as Good was obviously attempting to steer her vehicle away from, not toward the assorted thugs confronting her.

The social and moral divide in the music, film and television world continues to deepen. At the same time as Eilish and others were angrily denouncing the Trump administration for its homicidal policies, the Golden Globes ceremony went off Sunday with virtually no controversy.

A number of valuable or semi-valuable films and series received prizes at the event. Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another*, which contains devastating scenes of ICE-type criminality against immigrants and has a generally anti-establishment character and tone, won a number of major awards. It collected one of the top best film awards (although bizarrely in the “comedy or musical” category), best director and screenplay (Anderson) and best supporting actress (Teyana Taylor).

Kleber Mendonça Filho's *Secret Agent*, about a former professor caught up in the persecutions and oppression of the Brazilian military dictatorship in the 1970s, won for best non-English language film. Wagner Moura, for the same film, took home the honor for best performance by a male actor in a film drama.

The Pitt, the highly praised series about a big city hospital emergency room, won the award for best dramatic television series, and its leading performer, Noah Wyle, received the prize for best male actor in a television drama.

The WSWS described *Adolescence* as “gripping realism.” Another critically acclaimed series, centering on a 13-year-old boy accused of killing a girl in his school, it won awards Sunday for best limited series and best supporting male (Stephen Graham) and female (Erin Doherty) actors on television.

The Golden Globes ceremony was broadcast on CBS and streamed on Paramount+, owned by the billionaire, pro-Trump and pro-Zionist Ellison family. CBS and Paramount now constitute the most consciously right-wing media conglomerate. It would seem self-evident under the present circumstances that CBS-Paramount executives placed intense pressure on everyone involved with the

Golden Globes to ensure no expressions of political or social criticism were uttered.

The generally complacent and unreal character of Sunday's ceremony was noted by various observers. Daniel Fienberg of the *Hollywood Reporter* offered one of the most scathing comments:

In a world on fire, the telecast was 95 percent cheery pabulum, as the producers, directors and stars of films about the necessity of rebellion (*One Battle After Another*), the searing pain of trauma (*Hamnet*), the lingering trauma of fascism (*The Secret Agent*), the lingering trauma of racism (*Sinners*) and the hollow narcissism of the American Dream (*Marty Supreme*) got up and cheerily thanked various corporate overlords and sang the praises of the healing power of cinema.

Fienberg continued:

Nobody mentioned "Trump," "ICE," "Renee Good," "Venezuela" or "Gaza." Nobody referenced that it was exactly a year ago that the city of Los Angeles was on fire. But at least we got dozens of shots of [Hollywood executives] David Zaslav and Ted Sarandos and David Ellison, all beaming.

The concerted corporate effort to chloroform the public and suppress criticism from within the entertainment industry is running up against objective limits. It is increasingly impossible to conceal the aggressive fascistic nature of the Trump administration, as it carries out kidnappings and bombings of foreign cities, piracy on the high seas and murder on the streets of US cities.

Eilish's repostings reflects growing popular anger, as do certain of the other comments. South African-born Dave Matthews, in a video on Instagram, condemned the kidnapping of foreign presidents and wars launched on "false pretenses." It is "revolting and disgusting," he said. "I don't want my taxes to pay for a genocide in Gaza. ... I don't want my taxes to pay for ICE, masked thugs, to roam our streets and terrorize our communities and rip families apart."

Matthews went on to talk about the case of Renee Nicole Good,

murdered in front of her fellow citizens in Minneapolis, murdered in the streets. And no matter what narrative this administration is trying to sell us, we can see the videos. ... And he shot her three times in the head, murdered in cold blood.

This administration, he asserted, is "so horrific," adding that Trump, Kristi Noem, Stephen Miller, Pete Hegseth, Kash Patel and Pam Bondi were "just deeply, deeply dishonest people. Just cowardly, shameful, dishonest people. Fuck them. They are revolting."

Neil Young, in a post, commented,

This morning an ICE officer shot a woman in the face 3 times for no reason in Minneapolis. These ICE people do not operate like police. They are thugs. poor ID. Covered faces. Is

ICE the new American Thug police?

As well, Trump's advisor Stephen Miller is now suggesting taking Greenland and other countries in the Western hemisphere, like it was our right.

And further:

We need to take Trump at his word. Make America Great Again. It won't be easy while he is trying to turn our cities into battlegrounds so he can cancel our elections with martial law and escape all accountability.

Something has to change this. We know what to do. Rise up. Peacefully in millions. Too many innocent people are dying.

Chinese-born, Marvel Cinematic Universe star Simu Liu posted on X, "beyond appalled at the murderous actions of ICE agents in Minneapolis. Don't be manipulated by rhetoric; there is a video, and it clearly shows the murder of an unarmed woman driving away. AWAY. Immigration laws can be enforced in a dignified way. f*** ICE forever."

Sonic Youth front-woman Kim Gordon reshared a post to her Instagram story, which read: "Her name was Renee Nicole Good. She was 37 years old, married, and the mother of a six-year-old son. Her life mattered, and she deserved to be safe and alive today."

Former tennis champion Martina Navratilova has posted widely condemning the "murder" of Good, characterizing ICE as "sick f---s" and asserting that "no one is safe" from them.

Golden State Warriors head coach Steve Kerr, according to the *Guardian*, "delivered a blistering condemnation of the US federal government on Friday, criticizing official accounts of the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis." Kerr insisted the response from federal authorities, claiming that the ICE agent had acted in self-defense, was "shameful."

The Minnesota Timberwolves of the NBA held a moment of silence for Good last week before a game. The scoreboard showed a photo of a vigil with the words "In memory of Renee Nicole Good." During the moment of silence, according to news reports, "one fan in attendance yelled, 'Go home, ICE.' Another yelled, 'F--- ICE,' and cheers erupted."



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