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*Austin American-Statesman*

**Supplemental  
Material**

**Tony Plohetski**

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## Social media

Tony Plohetski routinely broke news of national significance after the Uvalde mass shooting via social media.

Plohetski first reported a horrific death toll 10 minutes before Gov. Greg Abbott publicly confirmed it.

← **Tweet**



**Tony Plohetski** ✓  
@tplohetski



**BREAKING:** As many as 14 students are feared dead, according to preliminary reports provided to top state officials, as well as the shooter, who is thought to be 18 years old. This is unfolding in Uvalde, Texas.



**Tony Plohetski** ✓ @tplohetski · May 24, 2022

**BREAKING:** Law enforcement sources say they are expecting a significant death toll from a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

2:34 PM · May 24, 2022

607 Retweets 517 Quote Tweets 946 Likes

[Click here to read online](#)

Twitter | Published May 26, 2022

## Police actions under scrutiny

Three days after the shooting, Investigative Reporter Tony Plohetski broke the news on Twitter that authorities were expanding the shooting investigation to include the law enforcement response.

His Tweet was widely shared, with more than 9,000 retweets and 50,000 likes.

Later that day, authorities publicly confirmed the expanded investigation.



[Click here to read online](#)

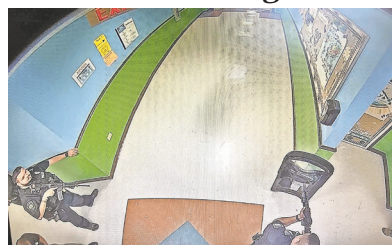
Published June 20, 2022

# Statesman obtains first Uvalde image

In June, Plohetski obtained the first image from inside Robb Elementary School. It showed officers with high-powered weapons and protective gear 19 minutes after the shooting. Plohetski initially broke the news on Twitter, and we quickly updated a digital story.



## Officers arrived with gear 19 minutes after gunman



**Documents show new timeline in Uvalde shooting**  
 Tony Plohetski and Chuck Lindell  
 Multiple police officers stood in a hallway at Robb Elementary School armed with rifles and at least one ballistic shield 19 minutes after the shooting, according to documents reviewed by the American-Statesman, a newspaper near Austin.

**The long journey to obtaining a legal abortion**  
 Mattie Matney-Burg  
 DALLAS — The city was still dark when the women began pushing through the front entrance of the clinic. They entered one by one and some

Thread

Tony Plohetski @tplohetski

BREAKING: Multiple officers were inside Robb Elementary School with rifles and at least one ballistic shield at 11:52 a.m. the day of the shooting, new video and other evidence shows. They didn't enter the classroom for another 58 minutes. More soon via @statesman and @KVUE. 1/2

Time: 11:52:28.13

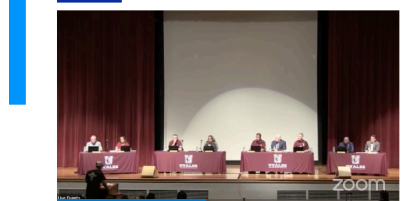
4:00 PM · Jun 20, 2022

29.1K Retweets 8,226 Quote Tweets 81.8K Likes



## Exclusive: Officers arrived at Uvalde school with rifles, ballistic shield 19 minutes after gunman

Tony Plohetski and Chuck Lindell | Austin American-Statesman  
 Published 5:12 p.m. CT June 20, 2022 | Updated 2:19 p.m. CT July 20, 2022



Uvalde parents demand answers and accountability into Texas school shooting  
 At a school board, parents and family members of victims of the Uvalde school shooting spoke out. Ricardo B. Brasciel, ABC24

Multiple police officers stood in a hallway at Robb Elementary School armed with rifles and at least one ballistic shield within 19 minutes of a gunman arriving at the campus, according to documents reviewed by the American-Statesman and KVUE-TV, a devastating new revelation deepening questions about why police didn't act faster to stop the shooter who killed 19 children and two teachers last month.

Even as officers with high-powered weapons and ballistic shields massed inside the blue and green hallway, the gunman could be heard firing rounds — including at 12:21 p.m., 29 minutes before officers entered the classroom and killed him, the documents show.

Investigators say the latest information indicates officers had more than enough firepower and protection to take down the gunman long before they finally did.

[Click here to read online](#)

Username: StatesmanJudge@gmail.com | Password: ContestJudge

Twitter | Published June 1, 2022

## Dead suspect loophole

In a viral Twitter thread, Plohetski used his experience to center issues of a lack of transparency written into Texas open records laws.

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread with four tweets by Tony Plohetski (@tplohetski) dated June 1, 2022. The first tweet is the start of a thread, mentioning public release of evidence from the Uvalde shooting and the 'dead suspect loophole'. The second tweet explains that under state law, police can hide files unless a person is convicted, citing a 2020 case. The third tweet notes that the law leaves the decision to release to police, often used to withhold evidence. The fourth tweet states that Plohetski has been able to convince police to release information in some cases but that lawmakers need to pass legislation to end the loophole.

← Thread

**Tony Plohetski** @tplohetski

THREAD: Public release of videos, 911 calls and other evidence from the Uvalde shooting could provide the most accurate account of that terrible day, but there are obstacles that we Texas journalists often call the "dead suspect loophole" that could get in the way. 1/4

1:21 PM · Jun 1, 2022

1,371 Retweets 104 Quote Tweets 4,252 Likes

**Tony Plohetski** @tplohetski · Jun 1, 2022

Replying to @tplohetski

Under state law, police agencies may hide an investigative file unless a person is convicted. Over the years, journalists have revealed cases where — stunningly — families could not learn circumstances of a loved one dying in police custody because he was never convicted. 2/4

7 269 1,316

**Tony Plohetski** @tplohetski · Jun 1, 2022

The law leaves the decision to release to the police. At times, I've been able to convince them to release information, as was the case in 2020 with reporting Javier Ambler II's death. More often, agencies cite this provision as a reason to withhold evidence from the public. 3/4

6 166 1,095

**Tony Plohetski** @tplohetski · Jun 1, 2022

We do not yet know how police will respond to requests for information from dozens of media outlets in Texas and nationally seeking information in Uvalde. We can only hope they will be transparent — and that our lawmakers will pass legislation that will end this loophole. 4/4

40 222 1,516

[Click here to read online](#)

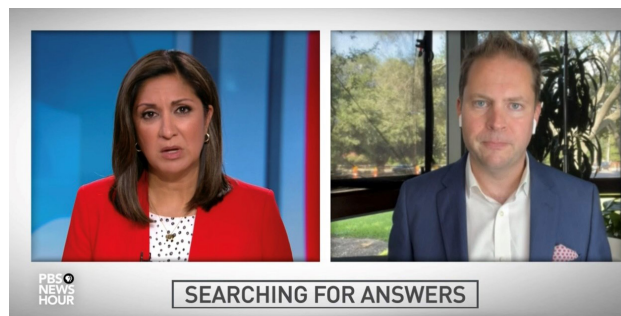
UVALDE SHOOTING

# Austin American-Statesman

## National Authority

The Austin American-Statesman became a recognized national source in the immediate aftermath and months after the shooting.

Between May 24 and July 31, investigative reporter Tony Plohetski made nearly 50 national network appearances, including on PBS NewsHour, CNN, MSNBC and NPR.



Recognition | Published August 2022

# Tony Plohetski wins August Sidney for Exposing the Police Failure to Respond in Uvalde

Investigative Reporter Tony Plohetski received a Sidney Award for his reporting on the Robb Elementary School video.

The screenshot shows the website for The Sidney Hillman Foundation. The header includes navigation links for HOME, ABOUT US, and CONTACT US, along with social media icons for Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Email. The main content area is titled "Sidney Awards" and features a sidebar with "Winners", "About the Award", and "Nominations". The main article is dated "August, 2022" and is titled "Tony Plohetski wins August Sidney for Exposing the Police Failure to Respond in Uvalde". The article text describes how Tony Plohetski of the Austin American-Statesman and KVUE-TV won the August Sidney Award for his exclusive report titled "Watch Uvalde school shooting video obtained by Statesman showing police response." It details the shooting at Robb Elementary on March 24, 2022, and the subsequent police response. A photo of Tony Plohetski is included on the right side of the article.

“Plohetski’s reporting cut through the self-serving official accounts and changed the national conversation about this tragedy.”

[Click here to read online](#)