



San Bernardino terrorist attack survivors without medicine, counseling as anniversary nears

By [SUZANNE HURT](#)

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Survivors of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino say they're being cut off from anti-depressants, anti-anxiety medication and counseling shortly before the one-year anniversary – making an already traumatic time even more distressing.

On Friday, Nov. 18, several survivors – who all work for San Bernardino County's Environmental Health Services division – said they're being denied the medication and counseling they desperately need approaching the first anniversary of the [mass shooting by coworker Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik](#).

County Risk Management Director Ken Hernandez insisted survivors are getting all the medical care they need.

[Fourteen people were killed and 22 were shot Dec. 2, 2015](#), during a holiday party/training event at the Inland Regional Center. Most of the 57 survivors are struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Santa Ana workers' compensation attorney Geraldine Ly, who represents eight survivors, said she's angry that four have been cut-off cold turkey from anti-depressants or anti-anxiety medication or both. [Counseling](#) has been denied or "stalled" for three.

"I'm just appalled at the lack of sympathy that the county has for their employees who've been injured," she said.

Survivors say the denials are part of a year-long struggle to get help from self-insured San Bernardino County, which administers its own workers' compensation program, and a California workers' comp system not designed for terrorist attacks.

Hernandez said the county sends doctor's requests for prescriptions and other proposed treatment through utilization review, with other physicians weighing in on whether that's medically necessary.

"We're not denying any medication or any treatment that's been approved," he said. "If it's non-certified through utilization review, that's not the county denying any medication."

The county may say approvals are out of their hands, but they're not, Ly said. County risk management can authorize prescriptions, counseling and other needs without sending claims to utilization review, which uses "rigid" standards to find any reason to deny, she said.

Three survivors told county officials about the problems in a tense meeting Thursday, Nov. 17. About 20 to 25 survivors attended the meeting, while at least 16 remain on leave.

Program specialist Sally Cardinale returned to work part-time, but her doctor put her out on medical leave Friday after she began feeling more angry during withdrawal from anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medication denied in mid-October.

Last month, a workers' comp utilization review board sent a letter saying she was authorized for more medication but was going to be weaned off it. But when she went to refill it, her pharmacy said the medicines were no longer authorized.

"On paper, they said they were doing it safely. But in real life, they just cut it off," said Cardinale, 35, who couldn't afford to pay \$300 to \$400 out of pocket. "With anti-depressants, you're not supposed to just stop taking them."

When asked why survivors would be "weaned off" medicines right before the anniversary, Hernandez said that's decided by utilization review.

"If doctors determine they need to wean off, that's their decision. Not mine," he said. "I'm just administering the program based on the doctors' reports."

Survivors Ray Britain, the Environmental Health Services division interim chief on Dec. 2, and lead environmental health specialist Hal Houser get private counseling with victim compensation funding arranged by the San Bernardino District Attorney's office because survivors couldn't get counseling through workers' comp quickly enough right after the attack.

On Friday, Houser nervously drove to a Rite Aide to see if prescriptions for medicines to treat PTSD from his private psychiatrist would be filled.

He had only eight days' worth left – not enough to get through Dec. 2 – after a utilization review board denied prescriptions from a workers' comp psychiatrist in mid-October for a "lack of history showing the need" – at the same time the doctor diagnosed him with PTSD and put him on medical leave.

Houser's new prescriptions were filled later Friday.

"It's that fight, that battle, to get healed. That's what's causing the anxiety," said Houser, 55.

Britain was denied high-blood pressure medicine.

Ly said the denials are now making survivors worse.

"Without the medication they need, the support from the county and the sympathy from those who are involved in the workers' compensation claims process, they are unable to mentally heal," Ly said.

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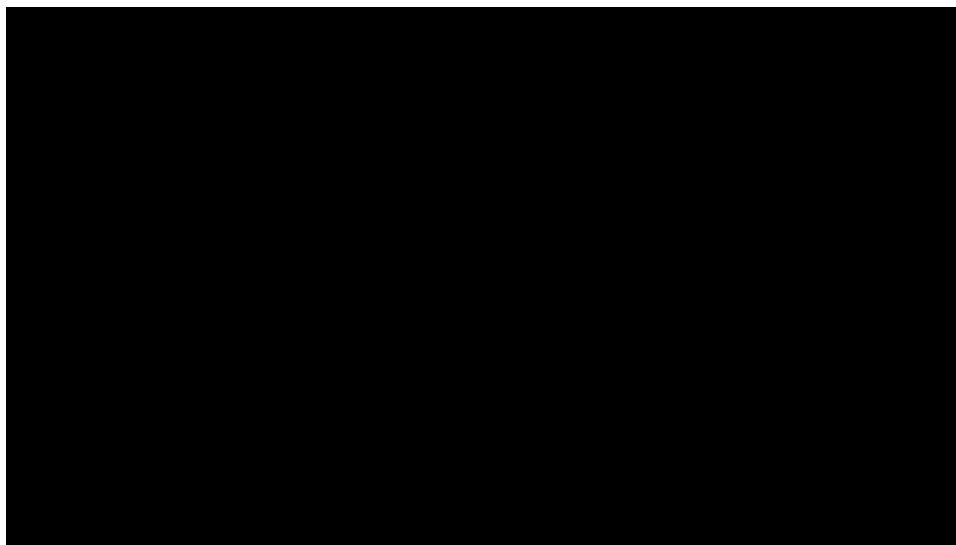
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San Bernardino Massacre Survivors Say They Aren't Getting Critical Medications

November 24, 2016 11:30 AM



LISTEN LIVE



SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA.com) — Three survivors of the San Bernardino massacre allege that the workers compensation division of the county is preventing them from getting the [care](#) they need.

Osama Megalla, the husband of one of the survivors, is going a step further by submitting a letter to the county's [CEO](#), and Gov. Jerry Brown.

In the letter to Brown, he pleaded that he intervene, explaining that his wife Hanan Megalla was shot four times on Dec. 2, 2015.

“I feel there is a conflict of interest. Those doctors are hired to reject the claims for the poor injured workers,” said the victim’s husband to CBS Los Angeles via phone.

During the shooting, Megalla says his wife’s bones were fractured, and nerves were damaged.

He told Brown in the letter, “the surgeon installed a plate with 10 screws to reattach the bone ... she still suffers from severe pain.”

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He went on to allege in the letter that “the county of San Bernardino is denying approval of these medications citing opinion of utilization review doctors.”

Megalla explains that he tried to fill her medication in one instance and was told “by the pharmacy that the approving company saying that the adjuster is not available. She’s not going to be available for two, three days.”

He says the bureaucracy is breaking his wife’s spirit.

“This issue is adding to her anxiety. And she can’t sleep at night. And her mood is just bad, of course. And she’s always scared that she may not even get her medication. And sometimes she feels hopeless,” he said.

Julie Paez, a fellow survivor, also told CBS Los Angeles of similar issues.

Shot twice during the attack, Paez is missing part of her pelvis. She alleges that she was stranded in the hospital because the workers compensation division delayed approvals of medications. Paez is also working with limited physical therapy.

The county says it has no interest in denying medical treatment to survivors of the massacre. A spokesperson said that this wasn’t a financial issue but that the county was simply following a utilization plan it has with the state.

The county Board of Supervisors is scheduled to meet Monday to discuss survivors’ complaints.



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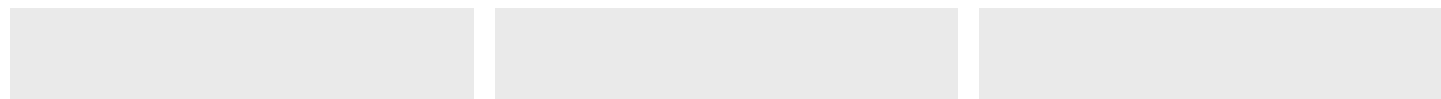
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Family of San Bernardino shooters seeks custody of their orphaned daughter

By **Eli Saslow** November 27 at 8:36 PM

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Maybe the child would be hers one day, so Saira Khan began preparing the house for her niece’s next visit. She sanitized the baby toys and double-checked the child safety locks. She cleaned the nursery where the girl had never been allowed to spend a night and tidied the crib that had been recovered and moved from a crime scene. It had belonged to the baby’s parents, and it was in the apartment where they had left her one morning last December before driving to an office party in San Bernardino, armed with pipe bombs, handguns and AR-15s.

Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik had killed 14 people that day and injured more than 20 others before dying in a shootout with police. They had also orphaned their own 6-month-old daughter. Now that baby had become a toddler who was just beginning to walk, and she was still living in foster care under the official custody of San Bernardino County. Saira, who was Farook’s older sister, had spent 11 months trying to adopt her niece, but so far the county would only agree to grant her regular, six-hour visits.

“Do we have her alone this time, or is someone coming to check on us?” asked Farhan Khan, Saira’s husband.

“I don’t know,” she said.

“More questions? More investigators?”

“Probably,” she said.

They had spent the past year trying to make sense of a shooting in which there were still so many unanswered questions, and lately the one that consumed them most was what would happen to the baby. They were her closest surviving relatives. Maybe caring for their niece, Saira thought, would restore some small bit of order not only to the baby’s life, but also to their own.

So Saira, 32, and Farhan, 42, had gone to court and filed for adoption. They had submitted to regular background checks and home inspections. They had been interviewed several times by Child Protective Services and cleared by the FBI of having any prior knowledge of the shooting. Now the only thing left to do was to wait for a custody decision that was based on the county’s

discretion, even though the county had not indicated when a decision might come. “We are normal people. We are a good family,” Saira had tried to impress upon one CPS representative after the next, and each of her niece’s visits was an opportunity to prove it.

She cleaned the crumbs left on the living room carpet by her 3-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son. She straightened the wall art hanging in the kitchen that read: “In this house, we do second chances. We do grace. We do forgiveness. We do hugs.”

Their three-bedroom house was at the end of a cul-de-sac in a suburb of Riverside, with a lemon tree in the backyard and a view of the La Sierra Hills. Farhan worked in printer sales, managing a team of 12 employees. Saira was finishing her master’s degree in education. They had two children, a hybrid car and a vacation timeshare in San Diego — a nice California life until the day their cul-de-sac had jammed with police cars and television broadcasters, some of whom had mistakenly identified Saira and Farhan as the perpetrators of what was then considered the deadliest act of terrorism in the United States since 9/11.

The shooting had upended so many American families, including theirs. Saira said that her mother was taking sleeping pills to get through the night, and her father was escaping into delusions and becoming harder to understand. Meanwhile, Saira and Farhan were somehow trying to hold everything together, apologizing to the nation at a news conference, reaching out to families of victims, sinking some of their savings into adoption proceedings and returning at the end of each night to the same verse in the Koran: “God is with those who patiently persevere,” it read.

Now Saira walked into the small room in their house that she had set aside for her niece, a nursery wallpapered in blue and pink. She straightened the children’s books on the shelf. She set out some of her niece’s favorite toys and then opened her closet.

The clothing rack was filled with dozens of outfits that had been recovered from Farook and Malik’s apartment. Most of them were frilly dresses with the tags still attached, ranging in size from 9 months to 6 years. The couple had kept the clothes hidden in a suitcase, which the FBI had found in the closet of their apartment. At the same time that Farook and Malik had been stockpiling thousands of rounds of ammunition, they had also been assembling a future wardrobe for the child they did not plan to raise.

“Does any of this fit yet?” Farhan asked. He had followed Saira into the bedroom, but she didn’t seem to hear him. She was sifting through the dresses and looking at the tags.

“Age four. Two. Three. Six,” she said, reading the sizes. “What kind of parent makes plans to abandon their child? How were they capable of something like that and we didn’t know?”

It was the question so many people had been asking ever since the shooting, and over time it had come to sound to Saira more like an accusation or an even an indictment: How could they not have known?

They had heard it in those first days from the FBI; and from friends at the mosque where Saira now sometimes felt isolated at Friday night prayers; and from parents in the drop-off line at their children's elementary school; and from a cousin in Chicago before he hung up and told them not to call again; and from so many strangers at grocery stores or restaurants that, for the first time in her life, Saira had begun traveling with one can of Mace in her car and another in her purse.

Worst of all, it was the same question they had also been asking themselves. Should they somehow have known? Did they miss out on clues? When Farook started becoming increasingly conservative in his beliefs a decade before the shooting, eating only halal foods and saying he didn't believe in birthday parties, should that have somehow been a cause for alarm? Or when he left their wedding celebration early in 2007 because he thought it was sinful to dance or listen to music, did that mean he was becoming a radical Islamist? And when he started to complain vaguely about his office's annual Christmas party, should Saira somehow have concluded that her quietest, most gentle sibling — a man with no criminal record and no history of violence — was planning an attack?

They had not grown up in a particularly religious home. Their father, a truck driver who sometimes struggled to find stable work, rarely visited a mosque. Their mother had worked as a secretary and supported the family through moves to Pakistan, Illinois and California. Saira was the oldest of four, and she had always considered Farook the most easygoing of her siblings — shy, dependable, always happy to babysit her children or change the oil in her car. Not until he went to college did he begin growing out his beard, talking often about traditional Islamic law and searching online for a Muslim wife. He told the rest of the family that he wasn't looking for a beautiful woman, only a devout one. After he met Malik online, he dissuaded his family from traveling to Saudi Arabia for their wedding in 2014.

Saira and Farhan hadn't gone, so they met Malik for the first time when she moved back with Farook to Riverside. She wore a full veil, and she rarely spoke. Whenever Saira and Farhan invited the newlywed couple to their house, Malik would sequester herself away from the men in one of the bedrooms, locking the door for privacy. Farook said it was for religious reasons, but Saira thought it was excessive and rude.

"Doesn't it seem like weird behavior?" she remembered saying to Farhan once.

"Don't worry about it," he told her, because he thought there were so many possible explanations. Malik didn't speak very much English. She was shy. She was new to the United States. She and Farook were newly married and wanted their privacy. "It will get better," Farhan said.

And then Malik became pregnant a few months into the marriage and had the baby, and in some ways things did get better. She texted Saira for advice on breast-feeding and infant sleep cycles. She started coming out of her room with the baby and visiting more freely. When she said that she needed more rest and asked Saira to babysit, there was never any reason for Saira to wonder whether in fact maybe Malik was going to a shooting range. When she asked Saira, who at the time was nursing her own daughter, to occasionally also breast-feed her niece, Saira agreed and regarded it as an honor. She never considered that perhaps it was because Malik was preparing the child to form an attachment with someone else.

So, on Dec. 2, when Saira heard about a shooting in San Bernardino, she turned on the TV news without ever beginning to consider that her brother might be involved. That was not in her mind when her mother called to say Farook and Malik had left the baby with her because of a doctor's appointment. Not when her mother called back a few hours later to say the couple was still gone and the baby was getting hungry. Not when her calls to Farook or Malik went directly to voice mail. Not when the TV news reported that the attack had begun at an office Christmas party. Not even when her own cellphone began to ring over and over — until finally she answered one of the calls, from a journalist in New York.

“Did you know about this?” Saira was asked, for the first time.

By then the FBI had already arrived at Farook and Malik's apartment, where agents found Saira's mother and her hungry niece. It had been six hours since the last time the baby ate. She had never been away from her parents for more than a few hours, and she had never been fed from a bottle. She was crying as agents put her into a separate car, taking her first to an FBI office and then to San Bernardino CPS. Saira had tried to find her niece so that she could breast-feed her, but nobody would tell her where the baby was, so for the next several weeks Saira had sometimes heard the sound of a hungry baby crying in her sleep.

And now here the girl came into Saira's living room for one of her visits, wobbling toward Saira in a diaper, gray sweatpants and a pink shirt. Her hair was pulled back with a pink bow. She was 1 year and 5 months, and lately her face looked more and more like Malik's: light skin, dark eyes and a wide nose. She was giggling and stumbling toward Saira, walking toward a pile of toys. She tripped on a Lego and fell to the ground.

“Whoops,” Saira said, reaching down to pick her up. She set the girl back on her feet, and a few steps later she fell again.

“Careful,” Saira said, but now her niece was laughing.

Saira had postponed a teaching internship and rearranged her class schedule to be available for these visits: two days each week, six hours each time, a schedule of playtime followed by lunch, then a nap, then a snack. Farhan was usually away at work, but Saira had yet to miss a visit. A caseworker had told her that what the girl needed most was consistency, and Saira also wanted to reestablish their bond.

She had seen the girl about once each week for the first six months of her life, but then, after the shooting, Saira had gone about two months without being able to see her. Finally she had been allowed to visit for an hour at a child-care office in Victorville, where a caretaker had handed her a girl that Saira barely recognized. She thought the baby's arms and legs had atrophied. The girl didn't smile much, and she didn't want to interact. “How did she get like this?” Saira had asked, and over time she had learned from caseworkers and doctors what had happened to the girl in the weeks after the shooting. She had been given new caretakers through foster care. A new house. New bottles filled with formula. New siblings in her foster-care home. New language, because her foster family spoke English and not Urdu. New security concerns, which meant that for a short time the girl had been called by an alias and disguised as a boy.

Saira had been told that at one point her niece had stopped gaining weight, so she had spent a few days in the hospital. Doctors had run a series of tests before concluding that the problem was essentially nutrition and stress. They had put the girl on a feeding schedule to double her calories, and her health had begun to improve.

“Ajao,” Saira said to her now, using the Urdu word for “come here.” The girl walked over and Saira handed her a piece of doughnut. “Small bites,” she said.

For the first months after the shooting, their visits had been irregular and heavily supervised, until Saira began to feel as if her niece hardly knew her. “I am afraid she will completely forget us,” Saira had written in an email to CPS, pleading for more time, and in May she had been given permission for in-home visits. Saira thought the girl seemed happy at their house, playing with her cousins, and she had expected to be granted custody early in the fall. But instead there was still no decision or any information about when a decision might come in such a public and sensitive case, and so at each visit Saira’s niece arrived with a sheet of instructions from the foster-care family where she spent most of her time. “Please make sure she gets her medicine today.” “Don’t cut her bangs.” “She needs a good nap.” Saira thought the foster family seemed to take good care of the girl, and she always did what they asked.

Now her niece was starting to fuss, so Saira made lunch. They ate together. They watched a cartoon. She put the girl down for a nap and watched on the monitor as she slept until it was time to leave. Their six hours were almost up, and Saira had to drop her niece back at the CPS office. She woke the girl and started loading everyone into the car. Her 3-year-old daughter was hungry. Her 8-year-old son wanted chips. Her niece was starting to cry, just like she often did when it was time to leave.

“Please,” Saira said. “Everyone just cooperate.”

She began to install the new car seat she had bought for her niece, but the straps were too tight. She readjusted the buckle and it still didn’t fit. Now both of the girls were fussing. “Cooperate,” Saira said again, handing them crackers, and by the time she buckled her niece into the car seat and backed out of the driveway, they were running a few minutes late. The traffic was bad. The kids were fussy. Her daughter kept requesting more crackers. “Ugh. This traffic,” Saira said, and she began to wonder: Would the caseworker notice if they were a little bit late? Would it show up in a report? Would it somehow affect their chances?

“We are a good family,” Saira said, as she pulled onto the freeway.

“We didn’t know anything,” she said, as they passed the first sign for San Bernardino.

Traffic cleared and she pulled up to the CPS building on time. She lifted her niece out of the car as she whined in protest. Maybe she didn’t want to leave. Maybe she just wanted another cracker. “It’s okay,” Saira said, pulling her close, and she carried her into the building.

Then it was quiet. She drove home and the children went into their rooms. The TV stayed off. Farhan came home from work and Saira sat with him, just the two of them in the kitchen, like it had been on so many nights during the past year.

They had always been the most social couple in their family up until the shooting. Saira had sometimes taught Sunday school at the mosque. Farhan had coached youth soccer and organized group lunches at his work. More than 500 people had attended their wedding, but it had taken more than three days after the terrorist attack for some of their friends to come visit. Saira had begun confiding mostly in a therapist, saying that she felt distrusted, misunderstood, secluded, alone — all of which brought her back to thinking about her niece, whom Saira considered the most alone of all.

“When are we going to tell her about her parents?” Saira said now. It was a question she and Farhan asked themselves every few days.

“When she’s older and when we have custody,” he said “Thirteen? Sixteen?”

“How much does she really need to know?” Saira asked.

“Probably a lot,” he said. “The whole story.”

They sat for a few seconds and thought about what that conversation would require. They had saved some mementos from Farook and Malik’s apartment to give to the girl some day — one of Malik’s shawls, a purse, some jewelry and clothes. Everything else had been lost, destroyed or taken as evidence. Saira and Farhan had gone together to visit Farook and Malik’s apartment a few days after the shooting, after the FBI and the media had already been through it, and the place was in utter disarray. There had been broken windows, dishes molding in the sink, baby blankets scattered across the living room and clean diapers lying on the floor.

“We should be the ones to tell her,” Saira said. “Who else can understand?”

“We’ll just keep it simple,” Farhan said, as if such a thing were actually possible. “We’ll say that they were her parents and they did something terrible.”

“Yes, and that she was just a baby,” Saira said. “She didn’t know anything.”

It was getting late, and her niece’s toys were still spread across the house. Saira got up from the kitchen and went into the living room to start cleaning Legos and blocks. Her niece would be back soon for another of her regular visits, and for those six hours, at least, Saira wanted the girl to find everything in its place.

A look back at the victims of the San Bernardino terror attack

By Staff Reports

Sunday, November 27, 2016



Fourteen people were shot and killed during the [terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center Dec. 2, 2015](#) in San Bernardino. Here's a brief look at each of the victims:

Robert Adams

Age: 40

Residence: Yucaipa

Occupation: Environmental health specialist, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health

Family: Wife, Summer; daughter, Savannah

Was known for his jovial spirit, sense of humor and for trying to lift people up if he sensed they were down.

His mother, Carol Adams, said he was an inquisitive child. They visited the library to find answers to his questions. He also was a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart and a hands-on father. The couple had plans to take their daughter to Disneyland for the first time the week after the attack.

Read more about Robert Adams:

- [San Bernardino shooting victim had been planning daughter's first Disneyland trip](#)
- [Yucaipa remembers Robert Adams, victims of San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [Life of Robert Adams, victim of San Bernardino terror attack, celebrated](#)
- [Lights of Little Lives Memorial Walk remembers IRC shooting victim Robert Adams](#)
- [San Bernardino terrorist attack victim's love for Yucaipa neighborhood, daughter honored](#)

Isaac Amanios

Age: 60

Residence: Fontana

Occupation: San Bernardino County environmental health specialist

Family: Wife, Hiwet; sons Bruk and Yosief, daughter Milka

He took part in armed struggles to help his homeland, Eritrea, gain independence from Ethiopia before immigrating to the United States in 2000. Family members said he loved his new country and, in his first election as a U.S. citizen, voted for Barack Obama. Family remembered him as practical and tough, yet caring and supportive of his family. Amanios once worked in Sudan as an interpreter at a refugee camp.

Robel Tekleab, the brother of Amanios' widow, said they bonded over current events, politics and Obama.

Read more about Issac Amanios:

- [Isaac Amanios, cousin of New York Giants player, among San Bernardino mass shooting victims](#)
- [Hundreds gather to mourn Isaac Amanios, San Bernardino terror attack victim](#)
- [Immigrants killed during San Bernardino terror attack suffer tragic fate in new homeland](#)
- [Family of San Bernardino mass shooting victim Issac Amanios receives call from White House](#)
- [In meeting with Obama, San Bernardino victim families share tears, stories](#)

Bennetta Betbadal

Age: 46

Residence: Rialto

Occupation: Inspector, San Bernardino County Health Department

Family: Husband, Arlen Verdehyou; children Jolene, Colin and Ethan

She fled Iran at 18 to avoid persecution of Christians. After settling in New York, she moved to the West Coast and earned a degree in chemistry from Cal Poly Pomona.

She was a scout leader for Assyrian Scout Troop 6732.

Read more about Bennetta Betbadal:

- [Bennetta Betbadal, killed in San Bernardino shooting, fled Iran to avoid Islamic extremism](#)
- [San Bernardino mass shooting victim Bennetta Betbadal remembered](#)
- [Christmas shopping spree given to children of Rialto woman killed in terror attack](#)
- [All United Way money for San Bernardino victims distributed](#)

Harry 'Hal' Bowman

Age: 46

Residence: Upland

Occupation: Statistical analyst with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Services

Family: Daughters Katharine and Elizabeth

Bachelor's and master's degrees from Johns Hopkins, doctorate from Ohio State University

Enjoyed long conversations about Marvel, "Star Wars," Disney, math, science, DC comics, movies, history, space, and "almost every nerdy topic that you can think of," Katharine said.

Read more about Hal Bowman:

- [Harry Bowman, 46, of Upland, devoted father of 2 killed in San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [San Bernardino mass shooting victim Harry Bowman had a new love, a new job](#)
- [Claremont church honors victims and Harry 'Hal' Bowman](#)
- [Harry Bowman's family talks about Obama visit](#)
- [San Bernardino terrorist attack play on hold after victims' families complain](#)
- [After father's death in San Bernardino terror attack teen finds new purpose](#)

Sierra Clayborn

Age: 27

Residence: Moreno Valley

Occupation: San Bernardino County environmental health specialist

Family: Father, Gregory Clayborn; mother, Wendy Womack-Smith; sister, Tamishia Clayborn; brother, Winston Eatmon

She graduated in 2010 from UC Riverside with a biochemistry degree. She was an environmental health specialist for three years and inspected restaurants. She won a county award for outstanding service almost exactly a year before the shooting. She organized the Dec. 2 holiday-themed lunch.

She loved Hello Kitty and anime. Family members want to create "Sierra's Law." Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Redlands, has agreed to sponsor a bill next year.

Read more about Sierra Clayborn:

- [Sierra Clayborn had a 'blooming career' before San Bernardino shooting attack](#)
- [Sierra Clayborn's sunny personality recalled at memorial](#)
- [San Bernardino Healing Memorial Show raises funds for terror attack victims](#)
- [Family of San Bernardino terror attack victim files \\$200M claim](#)
- [San Bernardino shooting victim's father says Apple should cooperate with FBI](#)

Juan Espinoza

Age: 50

Residence: Highland

Occupation: San Bernardino County environmental health inspector

Family: Wife, Sandra Mendoza; daughter, Jerusalem; son, Jonathan Espinoza-Mendoza

After earning his bachelor's degree in science from Cal State San Bernardino, he was hired by San Bernardino County, where he worked his way up to become a health inspector.

Espinoza was a Mexican immigrant born in Sonora. He was the youngest of 12 siblings.

Read more about Juan Espinoza:

- [Juan Espinoza was among the 14 killed in San Bernardino](#)
- [Victim Juan Espinoza 'was fair and honest,' daughter says](#)

Aurora Godoy

Age: 26

Residence: San Jacinto

Occupation: Office assistant for San Bernardino County Department of Environmental Health

Family: Husband, James Godoy; son, Alexander

Received a posthumous degree in May from Los Angeles Harbor College, where she attended and was a few credits short of graduating before her death.

Enjoyed baking, scrapbooking, Disneyland, the Green Bay Packers and "Star Wars" movies.

Read more about Aurora Godoy:

- [Aurora Godoy, 26, of San Jacinto, youngest victim of San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [Carson High friends remember 'happy, optimistic' friend killed in San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [Aurora Godoy, San Bernardino terror attack victim, remembered at memorial services](#)
- ['She was my soul mate,' says husband of Aurora Godoy](#)
- [San Bernardino terrorist attack victim to receive posthumous degree](#)
- [San Bernardino terror attack victim's husband takes it 'day-by-day'](#)

Shannon Johnson

Age: 45

Residence: Los Angeles

Occupation: San Bernardino County environmental health specialist

Family: Brother, Rob Johnson; grandmother, Willie Dell Johnson

Johnson has become a symbol of heroism since the attack. Colleague Denise Peraza said that, when the shooting began, he wrapped his arm around her and said, "I got you" as they took cover under a table. She was shot in the

back but survived and credits Johnson's protection with saving her life. She and Johnson's girlfriend, Mandy Pifer, hope to create the I Got You Fund in his memory.

Read more about Shannon Johnson:

- [Los Angeles resident Shannon Johnson killed in San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [San Bernardino shooting victim had close friendship with shooter, girlfriend says](#)
- [Victim Shannon Johnson lauded as hero](#)
- [Hero's funeral for San Bernardino shooting victim who shielded co-worker](#)
- [President Obama visits families of San Bernardino shooting victims](#)
- [San Bernardino shooting victims' families react to Obama's action on gun laws](#)
- [After San Bernardino mass shooting, counselor faces other side of crisis](#)
- [Mother of Dec. 2 shooting victim Shannon Johnson files \\$5 million claim against county](#)

Daniel Kaufman

Age: 42

Residence: Rialto

Occupation: Job trainer. He operated the coffee kiosk at the Inland Regional Center, training special-needs adults how to run a business

Family: Parents Mark and Julie Sandefur, brother Timothy Sandefur, boyfriend Ryan Reyes

He was born Larry Daniel Eugene Kaufman, but never went by Larry. His mother, a skid row alcoholic, named him Daniel after her favorite Elton John song and Eugene after her father. She said she squeezed in his father's name, Larry, at the last minute. When he was 9, he was adopted by his aunt and uncle, who raised him.

Kaufman participated in the Renaissance Faire in San Bernardino County for 16 years. He was a fan of author H.P. Lovecraft, enjoyed crafts and searched thrift shops for items to repurpose as gifts.

Read more about Daniel Kaufman:

- [San Bernardino mass shooting victim Larry Daniel Kaufman remembered as jovial person who touched lives](#)
- [Friends, family remember Daniel Kaufman, victim in San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [San Bernardino shooting victim Daniel Kaufman laid to rest](#)
- [Victim Daniel Kaufman made the world a brighter place, friends say](#)
- [Renaissance Faire cast members grieve for friend killed in San Bernardino terror attack](#)
- [Partner of San Bernardino terror attack victim denounces anti-Muslim hysteria](#)
- [San Bernardino terror attack victims' loved ones offer coping advice in wake of Orlando shooting](#)
- [Unwitting spokesman tries to move on after loss of boyfriend in San Bernardino terror attack](#)

Damian L. Meins

Age: 58

Residence: Riverside

Occupation: San Bernardino County environmental health inspector. He came out of retirement to join the department in September. He worked for Riverside County 26 years, mostly in the Department of Environmental Health before retiring in 2010.

Family: Wife, Trenna Meins; daughters Tina Meins and Tawnya Meins

Undergraduate degree in economics from UC Riverside. He was known for his sense of humor, wearing ties that matched each holiday, portraying Abraham Lincoln and Santa Claus at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church's elementary school, where he taught art for a year.

He loved reading, learning, traveling, painting, working on cars and sipping port while dreaming by his fish pond, his wife said.

Read more about Damian Meins:

- [San Bernardino shooting victim Damian Meins remembered as 'jovial man'](#)
- [Riverside County employees remember friend killed in San Bernardino shooting](#)
- [San Bernardino mass shooting victim Damian Meins remembered at funeral mass](#)
- [Honoring San Bernardino victims means tackling gun violence, says daughter](#)
- [Takano quotes San Bernardino victim's daughter in House speech](#)
- [Widow of San Bernardino terror attack victim hopes to change gun policies](#)

Tin Nguyen

Age: 31

Residence: Santa Ana

Occupation: San Bernardino County health inspector

Family: Mother, Vanessa Nguyen

Nguyen, who left Vietnam with her mother when she was 8, was planning to marry Haisan Trinh, her boyfriend of six years. She graduated from Cal State Fullerton.

Employees at Hangar 24 Craft Brewery in Redlands, which Nguyen inspected, remembered her so fondly they held a fundraiser for Dec. 2 victims.

Read more about Tin Nguyen:

- [San Bernardino mass shooting victim Tin Nguyen planned to marry in 2016](#)
- [Victim Tin Nguyen 'had a heart bigger than the sun'](#)
- [Mourners attend wake for San Bernardino shooting victim Tin Nguyen](#)

- [Hundreds attend funeral for San Bernardino shooting victim Tin Nguyen](#)
- [Santa Ana's Tin Nguyen 'belongs to heaven now'](#)

Nicholas Thalasinis

Age: 52

Residence: Colton

Occupation: San Bernardino County Health inspector

Family: Wife, Jennifer; two sons

His wife has said he worked closely with Syed Rizwan Farook, but said if he felt friction at work, she would have heard about it.

Was a devoted fan of science fiction and action-hero movies and television shows.

Read more about Nicholas Thalasinis:

- [San Bernardino shooting victim Nicholas Thalasinis had 'deep, spiritual relationship' with wife](#)
- [Victim Nicholas Thalasinis was helpful 'to the end'](#)
- [San Bernardino attack victim Nicholas Thalasinis remembered for his 'zest' of life](#)
- [San Bernardino terrorist attack victim autopsy reports released](#)
- [Mementos help keep husband slain in San Bernardino terror attack close](#)

Yvette Velasco

Age: 27

Residence: Fontana

Occupation: San Bernardino County public health inspector

Family: Parents Robert and Marie Velasco; sisters Adriana, Erica and Genevieve

On the day of the attack, she was set to receive a gold badge recognizing her as an inspector for the county's Division of Environmental Health Services.

Read more about Yvette Velasco:

- [Yvette Velasco of Fontana was loved by all who knew her](#)
- [Hundreds gather to honor Yvette Velasco, first funeral of San Bernardino mass shooting victims](#)
- [Yvette Velasco's family reflects on visit with President Obama](#)
- [Family of San Bernardino terror attack victim struggles to carry on](#)

Michael Wetzel

Age: 37

Residence: Lake Arrowhead

Occupation: San Bernardino County supervising environmental health specialist

Family: Wife, Renee. Blended family with six children: Andrew, Kailee, Caden, Connor, Karlie and Allie

Wetzel graduated from Rim of the World High School in 1996. He earned a biology degree from Cal State San Bernardino in 2001. He was a member of Church of the Woods. He inspected restaurants, swimming pools and other facilities.

Wetzel played soccer on high school, college-fraternity and adult teams as well as coaching his children's soccer teams.

Read more about Michael Wetzel:

- [Michael Wetzel, father of 6, victim of San Bernardino mass shooting](#)
- [Fundraiser for family of San Bernardino shooting victim Michael Wetzel raises over \\$200,000](#)
- [Sunday service at Lake Arrowhead church dedicated to San Bernardino mass shooting victim Mike Wetzel](#)
- [Mourners remember San Bernardino shooting victim Michael Wetzel as 'incredible' family man](#)
- [Child survivors want to help other families impacted by Dec. 2 terrorist attack](#)
- [San Bernardino shooting victim's widow files \\$58M in claims against county](#)
- [San Bernardino terrorist attack victim's son gains strength through high school football](#)

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San Bernardino terror attack victim's husband takes it 'day-by-day'

Raising young son helps James Godoy cope with loss of best friend, high school sweetheart

By Stephen Wall, *The Press-Enterprise*

Sunday, November 27, 2016



Alexander Godoy darts across the living room floor, pushing his Hot Wheels cars across the table and onto the floor as he yells.

Moments later, the 2-year-old tosses a small rubber football to his dad but drops the pass back.

"You got to work on the reaction time, kid," James Godoy tells "Xander."

The dark-haired boy in a powder blue sweater was a whirlwind of activity, racing from his miniature cars to strumming a small guitar to swinging a large broom. He finally slowed down to ask his dad to sketch pictures of the Hulk and Captain America.

"He's high-energy," Godoy said.

Since his wife was killed in the Dec. 2 terrorist attack at Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Godoy's life has been devoted to his only son.

Aurora Godoy, a 26-year-old office assistant for the San Bernardino County Department of Environmental Health, was the youngest of the 14 people who died that day.

The San Jacinto home James Godoy shared with his high school sweetheart and best friend holds many memories.

Photos of James, Aurora and Xander decorate the living room wall. A mantel near the fireplace holds the boy's white dress shoes and a picture of Aurora Godoy holding her son. Alongside are certificates recognizing her public service from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-La Quinta, as well as a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in her honor.

The past year has raced by, James Godoy said.

Hanging out with his extended family, most of whom live in the Los Angeles area, has made it easier to cope with the loss, he said.

"It's been OK for the most part," said James Godoy, 28. "It's kind of day by day. Nothing crazy."

He has taken his son to Disneyland, his wife's favorite place, about 20 times since her death. His sister, Evelyn Godoy, or other family members typically join them.

A large group is planning a weeklong trip to Yucatán, Mexico, in January to visit relatives.

In April, James Godoy quit his job selling memberships at UFC Gym in Corona, a move aimed at giving him more time to spend with his son.

The inseparable pair like to play, relax, read, draw and go to the movies together. They've recently seen "Pete's Dragon" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows" on the big screen and enjoy episodes of "Paw Patrol" at home on Netflix.

Two dogs, a border collie mix named Scarlet and Chaos, a Chihuahua, keep them company.

Xander doesn't ask about his mom, but he can identify her in a photo and knows what plastic water bottle she used, his dad said. He hasn't told his son what happened to his mother but is confident he'll know what to say when the time is right.

The hardest moments are the lonely hours on the road between his sister's Carson home and San Jacinto, when his son falls asleep in the back seat.

"If I'm driving home from my sister's and he's knocked out, you have that moment of silence," James Godoy said. "There are moments when things are more difficult than others."

He might think of his wife when he hears a Luke Bryan or Rascal Flatts song on his Pandora playlist in the car.

"She listened to a lot of country," he said.

When he's not doting on his son, he watches the TV horror series "The Walking Dead" and NFL football, especially the Green Bay Packers. Aurora Godoy was a big fan of the Packers and quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

During the summer, he took an online class to complete his associate degree at Los Angeles Harbor College. It's the same school attended by his wife, who was a few credits short of a degree before her death.

The college's board of trustees awarded her a posthumous degree in May, recognizing her as a member of the Class of 2016.

"They had never done that before," James Godoy said. "It was a big deal."

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Family of San Bernardino terror attack victim struggles to carry on

Velasco family struggles to carry on without Yvette

By David Danelski, *The Press-Enterprise*

Sunday, November 27, 2016



Nearly a year has passed, but the sorrow is far from gone.

“We think about our Yvette every day,” said her father, Robert Velasco. “We think about her when we get up in morning and we think about her when we go to bed at night. ... We are still in pain. We are still grieving.”

Yvette Velasco, 27, of Fontana, was the second-youngest of those who were killed in the San Bernardino terrorist attack.

The youngest of four sisters, she was the baby of a family that her father describes as forever changed.

“We try to go on, but it always seems like something is missing,” he said. “It left a void in our hearts.”

Yet it is the memory of her that helps the family move beyond their loss. Yvette Velasco, her father said, would have wanted her relatives to carry on, to celebrate holidays and to enjoy life. So they do their best.

The family was also heartened, he said, by an outpouring of support, including a visit from President Barack Obama. The family received condolences from all over the country, and a few from outside the United States. Many letters were sent to San Bernardino County offices and later given to the family.

“This gave us some hope in the world,” Robert Velasco said. “We continue to get a lot of support from close friends and family, and that helps us get through each day.”

His voice cracked as he described how well his daughter was doing just before the shootings at the Inland Regional Center, where she was attending a work gathering.

She was living at home and saving money so she could soon share a house with a cousin. She also had just received a raise and a promotion in the county’s Division of Environmental Health Services, where she worked as a health inspector.

“It was a happy time for her,” her father said. “Everything was coming together for her, and it just all came crashing down.”

On Dec. 2, she was going to receive a gold badge, similar to a police badge, recognizing her state certification as a health inspector.

“She never got to see it,” her father said.

Robert Velasco, a retired California Highway Patrol lieutenant, now keeps his daughter’s badge with his CHP retirement badge.

“She will live in our hearts, and that is not going to change.”

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Mementos help keep husband slain in San Bernardino terror attack close

Widow finds comfort in things Nicholas Thalasinios touched, such as a Star of David necklace

By Mark Muckenfuss, The Press-Enterprise

Sunday, November 27, 2016



When Jennifer Thalasinios bars the door of her Colton home, it's not just an expression.

Two massive brass brackets are mounted on either side of her front door, and a polished 2-by-4 leans against the living room wall nearby.

"He was a bit of a prepper," Thalasinios, 42, said of her late husband.

A monitor on a table near the kitchen is connected to security cameras on the perimeter of the house, and a guard dog keeps watch in the backyard.

None of that kept Nicholas Thalasinios from the danger he faced Dec. 2.

Just a few miles away, at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, he lost his life with 13 others. The 52-year-old was a San Bernardino County health inspector.

The time since then has been brutal for Jennifer Thalasinios, but it has also passed by quickly.

"It does not seem possible that it's been a year," she said. "I don't know if I'm ready for the anniversary."

She's been on medical leave from her second-grade teaching job since early October, partly a result of the stress from her husband's death, she said. She spends her days helping her mother, who lives nearby, reading and watching television. She avoids the news channels and, in early November, she couldn't wait for the presidential election to be over.

"They mention San Bernardino and it's hard," she said, referring to the candidates' speeches. "It kind of brings everything right back up."

Not that she doesn't have plenty of reminders of her late husband.

The walls of her living room are covered with photographs. Many of them are of her husband.

One small corner is a kind of shrine. Large collage photos with his face at the center hang on the walls along with framed Bible verses. On a table beneath are several dragon figurines.

"I come from a family of collectors, and so did he," Thalasinios said.

That plays out from the shelves jammed with science fiction and action hero figures and toys to far more intimate objects such as the Star of David necklace Thalasinios wears. Her husband gave it to her and, after his death, she slipped his wedding ring onto the chain.

"I don't leave the house without it," she said.

Shelves and tables in the room are filled with neatly arranged figurines and toys, mostly related to science fiction or action films.

There are toy Groot figures from “Guardians of the Galaxy,” a boxed doll of Johnny Depp’s Mad Hatter, “Dr. Who” dolls and, on the wall near the kitchen, two portraits from the 1980s “Beauty and the Beast” television series.

It was that series that brought the couple together over the Internet.

In 2014, the couple began attending a Messianic congregation in Calimesa, a religious group that blends Christianity with Jewish traditions. On her nightstand, Thalasinis keeps her husband’s prayer shawl and other mementos.

Thalasinis said she is writing a book about him. The working title is “Unlikely Disciple.”

“I’m hoping it will be inspiring for people to see what he was able to accomplish in the two years that he was saved, before the attack,” she said.

Thalasinis wasn’t sure how she would mark the one-year anniversary.

The idea of attending a big event didn’t appeal to her.

“I don’t want to go to something that’s just going to be a photo op for all the politicians,” she said. “I might just do something with my family.”

She knows the pain isn’t over, but she’s optimistic, drawing on her experience from the death of her father several years ago.

“We got through it when my dad died,” she said. “We’ll get through this.”

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Unwitting spokesman tries to move on after loss of boyfriend in San Bernardino terror attack

Ryan Reyes was thrust into the spotlight after his boyfriend was killed in the Dec. 2 attack

By Craig Shultz, *The Press-Enterprise*

Sunday, November 27, 2016



Ryan Reyes didn't set out to be the spokesman for a movement.

Yet there he was, being interviewed on national television, seeing his name and picture in newspapers, and attending the State of the Union address as the guest of first lady Michelle Obama.

The 33-year-old Rialto resident was thrust into an unwanted spotlight after his boyfriend, Daniel Kaufman, was one of 14 people killed in the terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino on Dec. 2.

Despite his grief, Reyes was quick to share a message of peace and say that all Muslims should not be judged by the actions of the two terrorists.

"I didn't ask to be thrown into the position I was thrown into," Reyes said recently, adding that his options were to keep quiet or speak out in hopes such an event never happens again.

His candidness and willingness to talk at such a tragic time put Reyes into the speed-dial of many news organizations. He still gets calls to comment on issues, even some with little connection to the tragedy.

"I became so sought out. Even today I'll hear from a reporter who will want to do an interview or a documentary," Reyes said. "It's very, very weird to be sought out like that. I'm usually not that open."

As the one-year anniversary of the shooting nears, Reyes said he has had good days and bad days as he's moved on without Kaufman, a man described as someone who brightened every room he entered.

"This past year has been touch and go," Reyes said. "Some days are obviously harder than others. I'm still coming to grips with it. I've just tried to press forward with my life and spend time with family and friends."

He said he copes by trying to keep his routine as normal as possible.

"I try doing things I enjoyed doing before. That helps," he said. "The sooner you can get back to stuff you enjoy doing, the better. It does help keep the emotions in check."

For Reyes, that includes writing and reading.

"I love learning things," he said. "Life is a journey, and learning is forever."

Kaufman participated in the Renaissance Faire for 16 years, and he had spoken to Reyes about what to do if anything happened to him.

“One of the things he wanted done was to cut up pieces of his fair costume and give it to anyone who wants it,” Reyes said. “That way, anyone who wants a piece of Daniel could have one.”

Reyes took some of the pieces with him on a recent vacation to Salem, Mass., and hid them around the historic town.

“I’m moving forward,” Reyes said of life after the tragic event. “I’m going to continue to do that.”

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Widow of San Bernardino terror attack victim hopes to change gun policies

Trenna Meins wants to close loopholes in firearm, ammunition laws ‘so nobody else has to go through this’

By Laurie Lucas, The Press-Enterprise

Sunday, November 27, 2016



The widow and daughters of Dec. 2 victim Damian Meins have deliberately decided not to respond with rage, fear, despair or bitterness after his death.

“Some family members were angry at God and at the assailants,” widow Trenna Meins said during a rare public appearance. “They wanted to lash out. But Damian wasn’t like that. Damian would do exactly what we did.”

On Nov. 2, 11 months to the day after her husband’s death, Trenna Meins was guest speaker of Brian Levin, criminal justice professor at

Cal State San Bernardino.

She said this was a major step toward becoming an advocate for policy changes that would make it harder for guns and ammunition to fall into the wrong hands.

“We’re very private,” she said about herself and her daughters, Tina Meins, 33, and Tawnya Meins, 29.

But Trenna Meins, 59, believes it’s time to take action “so nobody else has to go through this.”

During two consecutive classes at CSUSB, she answered personal, painful and political questions in a dialogue with Levin as the two sat side by side at a table.

Here’s what she shared with the students:

BACKGROUND

The couple married May 5, 1979, so that Damian Meins, lousy with dates, could remember his anniversary with a rhyme: “In 1979, I made her mine,” his wife told about 100 students.

After working for Riverside County for 26 years, mostly in the Department of Environmental Health, Damian Meins retired in 2010.

He went back to work in September 2015, joining San Bernardino County’s Environmental Health Services Department as an inspector.

He had worked there two months and 17 days before the terrorist massacre, orchestrated by Syed Rizwan Farook and wife Tashfeen Malik, which took 14 lives at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE SHOOTING

When news of the shooting broke after 10:50 a.m. Dec. 2, Trena Meins began receiving frantic texts from friends.

She couldn't reach her husband.

Damian Meins' best friend since age 9, Steve Van Stockum, accompanied Trena Meins and her daughters to the reunification center in San Bernardino, a few blocks from the Inland Regional Center.

Waiting for any bit of information, they stayed from noon until 10 p.m. with chaplains and families of other victims.

The county coroner's office asked her what her husband was wearing.

The killers had burst in shooting with assault rifles.

Damian Meins, on the other side of the room standing by the Christmas tree, was shot five times in a matter of seconds.

The coroner said he had three fatal wounds.

"He had no time to get down under the table," his wife said.

'ONE MINUTE AT A TIME'

Trena Meins shared how she has tried to reconstruct her life after the attack.

"There just aren't any words. What choice do you have but to go through it, walk through it? It's not something you plan for. You take one minute at a time. Not one step, not one day at a time," Meins said.

HOPING TO CHANGE LAWS

Meins doesn't want to upend the Second Amendment.

"This isn't a gun thing," she said. "I don't want to ban guns or ammunition."

One cousin owns a gun shop, she said. Other relatives are hunters.

But she favors stricter regulations "so that people who don't deserve a gun don't get a gun."

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A year later: San Bernardino terror attack victim families grieve while community tries to heal

Families grieve for the 14 victims of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack, while a community tries to heal

By David Downey, *The Press-Enterprise*

Sunday, November 27, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> A year has passed. But it still hurts.

Survivors still fight tears as they recall that horrific morning when [two masked people burst into the Inland Regional Center and opened fire](#) on more than 70 San Bernardino County workers at a holiday party.

Relatives of those killed in the [Dec. 2 terrorist attack climb Mount Baldy](#), [play at Disneyland](#) and [cling to a Star of David necklace](#).

But memories and mementos can't bring the [14 victims](#) back.

San Bernardino residents no longer explain to newcomers they live halfway between Los Angeles and Palm Springs. But having their town pasted on the international [map by a mass shooting isn't flattering](#).

The immediate danger has long passed. But the [massacre shattered forever the notion](#) that the unthinkable can't happen in relatively quiet, off-the-beaten-path, Inland Southern California.

Many in the area now [lock their windows, avoid public places](#) or rely on guard dogs and guns for protection.

[Area Muslims grieve](#) for the victims. They also watch out for anger that might be vented in their direction.

The terrorists are dead. Yet the [investigation into what at the time was the worst terrorist attack](#) on U.S. soil since 9/11 is far from over. Authorities still can't account for 18 minutes of that fateful day.

Meanwhile, more than [\\$2.5 million has been donated](#) to help victims, survivors and their families. And, in the next few days, memorial ceremonies will see tears and tributes.

The community is determined to never forget.

In a special project, the Southern California News Group looks into the attack's lasting effects on survivors, families, first responders, investigators and other members of the community. Below, find links to our complete coverage:

THE VICTIMS

- [A look back at the victims of the San Bernardino terror attack](#)

- [After father's death in San Bernardino terror attack teen finds new purpose](#)
- [San Bernardino terror attack victim's husband takes it 'day-by-day'](#)
- [Unwitting spokesman tries to move on after loss of boyfriend in San Bernardino terror attack](#)
- [Widow of San Bernardino terror attack victim hopes to change gun policies](#)
- [Mementos help keep husband slain in San Bernardino terror attack close](#)
- [Family of San Bernardino terror attack victim struggles to carry on](#)
- [How you can help San Bernardino terror attack victims and their families](#)

THE HEROES AND SURVIVORS

- [As anniversary nears, San Bernardino terror attack survivors' anxiety grows](#)
- [San Bernardino police chief reflects on role as leader as terror attack anniversary nears](#)
- [For San Bernardino terror attack first responders, healing is ongoing](#)
- [San Bernardino terror attack counselors ease grief, but they also suffer](#)
- [San Bernardino terror attack first responders honored for bravery](#)

THE AFTERMATH

- [A year after attack, San Bernardino struggles to be more than symbol of terror](#)
- [After San Bernardino terror attack, Inland Empire residents reflect on tragedy](#)
- [Inland Empire Muslims live, worship in shadow of terrorism](#)
- [Adjusting to a new normal, San Bernardino on a healing path a year after terror attack](#)
- [#SBStrong logo brings recognition, pain for San Bernardino artist](#)
- [How a reporter got caught in cross fire of gun battle with San Bernardino terrorists](#)

THE INVESTIGATION

- [Everything we know about the San Bernardino terror attack investigation](#)
- [A year later, normalcy returns to Redlands neighborhood of San Bernardino terrorists](#)
- [How the San Bernardino terrorist attack inspired efforts to change laws](#)
- [IRC conference center where San Bernardino terror attack occurred to reopen in 2017](#)

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After father's death in San Bernardino terror attack teen finds new purpose

By Jennifer Iyer, jiyer@scng.com, [@PE_ayer](#) on Twitter

Sunday, November 27, 2016



The memories may seem insignificant.

A laugh. A Hawaiian-themed Thanksgiving. Hikes in the mountains.

But for 15-year-old Katharine “Kate” Bowman they have helped her remember her father since he was killed in the Dec. 2 terrorist attack. Events of the past year also offered inspiration and a new calling in the world of politics for the Upland teenager.

“The feeling of missing him comes through little moments and memories,” Katharine said of her father, Harry “Hal” Bowman, in an email earlier this month. “His loud, funny-sounding laugh,” kayaking,

whale watching, museum visits, that aloha Thanksgiving – “all little things that I never really thought about until he was gone.”

Bowman, a 46-year-old Upland resident, was a statistical analyst with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health’s Division of Environmental Health Services. He had been with the division a few months before the attack at the Inland Regional Center.

A favorite memory of Katharine’s is climbing Mount Baldy, the highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains, with him.

“The entire climb was really fun and took longer than expected because we kept stopping to talk or look out at the view or look at a specific rock with a really interesting geological history that Dad just really had to take a picture of,” she wrote.

When they reached the top, it was time to rest. And talk.

“We talked about the most random stuff, most of which I don’t remember in the slightest,” she wrote. “But, it was just the two of us out in our mountains on a beautiful day.”

Katharine has continued hiking those mountains with her mother, Karen Fagan, her father’s ex-wife, and her sister, Elizabeth Bowman, 12.

But life isn’t as carefree any more.

Now she stands near doors and gets anxious when there are no open exits.

“Logically, I know that nothing will happen, but there’s still a significant part of my mind that remembers that everyone in the San Bernardino shooting thought that, too,” she wrote. “Afterwards, I realized how much comfort I had taken in thinking that nothing that bad could ever happen to me. But, it happened to my dad and it happened to my family and now I no longer have that comfort.”

Despite the tension, she has found herself turned off by the hate and divisiveness that she has seen well up since the attack.

“More division and fear is not what the United States needs,” Katharine wrote. “We need compassion and unity.”

She and her family joined about 200 others for a sometimes tearful speech in January by President Barack Obama in the East Room of the White House. It solidified her belief in the president’s gun control proposal, what she believes is “common sense.”

“The day that I came back from the President’s gun control announcement in D.C., I decided that I wanted to go into politics and that I wouldn’t be silent anymore,” she said.

Katharine applied for and is now studying at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington D.C., which offers high school juniors a semester focusing on international studies and thoughtful leadership development.

“I decided that change wasn’t happening fast enough,” she wrote, “and that it was my responsibility to do something about it.”

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As anniversary nears, San Bernardino terror attack survivors' anxiety grows

As anniversary nears, survivors' anxiety grows

By Suzanne Hurt, The Press-Enterprise

Sunday, November 27, 2016



[Julie Swann-Paez](#) lay on the floor of the Inland Regional Center trying to play dead.

The San Bernardino County employee had been shot twice in the pelvis, and her friends and co-workers were dying around her.

Facing the back of the conference room while shots flew, she texted what she thought might be her last words to her family: “Love you guys. Was shot.”

If she survived, her family would now know to search hospitals for her.

[A year later](#), the memory of being that close to dying and her message to her husband and kids brings tears to her eyes.

[Fourteen people were killed](#) there that day. Swann-Paez was among 57 survivors.

Shortly before 11 a.m. on [Dec. 2, 2015](#), the sound of breaking glass and loud banging outside the IRC's Building 3 – like something had just fallen against the entrance – drew her attention to the doors.

Then a man in a black ski mask and tactical gear stepped inside carrying an assault rifle. Swann-Paez hit the floor.

It was pure instinct. But it didn't protect her from the onslaught.

The man began spraying bullets around the room.

[Swann-Paez was shot in the pubic bone](#), shattering her pelvis.

Her co-workers screamed as what then sounded like two attackers fired bullets back and forth across the room.

Two minutes later, she was shot in the pelvis a second time.

She couldn't get away, so Swann-Paez, a 50-year-old environmental health specialist, played dead.

Curled up on the ground, she wished those near her could stop wailing.

Please, please – just be quiet, she thought, eyes closed. Don't bring him over to this corner of the room again.

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About 71 county public health employees – all but two of them environmental health services staff – were on a break from a training session in the IRC's rented conference room when the terrorist attack began.

Swann-Paez and lead environmental health specialist Hal Houser stood in a group gathered for a photo at a Christmas tree.

Houser heard five or six bangs outside – what sounded to him like a nail gun, but was actually the killing of IRC job coach Daniel Kaufman, on a break from his coffee cart, and community environmental health specialist Isaac Amanios, 60, sitting on a bench.

A side door flipped open. The barrel of a long, strange gun poked inside and started firing.

Confusion and disbelief – several at first thought it was an active shooter drill – changed to terror.

Houser, in survival mode, developed tunnel vision, hearing screams and startlingly loud, violent gunshots but not seeing what was going on around him.

A gun owner, he saw only the shooter – and his chance to escape when the massacre stopped briefly and the attacker struggled to reload, bending over from effort.

“He ran out of bullets and I said, ‘Go,’” Houser said.

Houser first walked into a small storage room already crammed with two hiding co-workers. As Houser ran out another door, he saw the other side door open and a second, shorter person in black enter and open fire.

A woman got shot in the back of the head and died instantly. Others were hit by multiple bullets.

Many lay on the floor for 4 1/2 minutes, watching friends die and wondering if they, too, would be shot by the masked man and woman now walking up to moaning victims and shooting them point blank.

Even now, Houser wonders if it was better to be shot in the back of the head than to know you were about to die.

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Co-worker Anies Kondoker was walking in a hall, returning from the bathroom, when she was hit by three bullets or fragments in the arm and stomach.

Kondoker never saw the shooters.

“She didn't even know where the bullets were coming from,” said her husband, Salihin Kondoker.

Bleeding, the Riverside woman retreated into the bathroom and warned those inside an attack was underway. The women blocked the door from inside.

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Houser fled to a nearby room where 20 others were hiding.

There was no way out. Some co-workers hid in cabinets and under Kaufman's coffee cart. Houser, vector control Program Manager Jason Phillippe and public health Assistant Director Corwin Porter held the doors closed.

Minutes later, rescuers led by San Bernardino police Lt. Mike Madden entered and signaled the group to escape to the next building while police hunted the attackers.

Two officers holding guns ready protected the survivors in another room for 10 to 15 minutes until the building was cleared and they were escorted to San Bernardino Golf Club across the street.

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San Bernardino paramedics couldn't get into the IRC right away because the suspects were at large, and police hadn't finished searching the building.

San Bernardino SWAT tactical medic Ryan Starling arrived in minutes and risked his life to enter the room – where undetonated explosives were later found – and triage survivors for evacuation.

Outside, paramedics administered intravenous fluids and began treating gunshot wounds and other injuries. The 21 wounded were rushed to hospitals. A 22nd person was treated later, after she got home and found a graze wound.

Initially reluctant to talk, Houser and Swann-Paez think that what happened that day needs to be told.

“Because no one is talking; no one knows how horrific it was,” Swann-Paez said.

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With survivors' help, police quickly learned one attacker was county health inspector Syed Rizwan Farook, 28.

He and his wife, 29-year-old Pakistani immigrant Tashfeen Malik, disappeared from the IRC in a rented SUV after their assault on his co-workers, which investigators said was inspired by radical Islam.

Four hours later, the couple fired at police pursuing them from their Redlands home back into San Bernardino. They were killed in a shootout with at least 23 officers.

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Today, survivors are still hurting.

Most don't want to talk about the attack. Some feel incredibly alone, forgotten.

Many can't bear to see Farook's picture or hear his name.

Swann-Paez said people feel betrayed by the former co-worker she described as a “twisted individual.”

Sitting on her living room couch recently, she said survivors want the public to remember those who were attacked that day – not him.

“You can rattle off his name. But can you name three of the victims?”

Following the attack, survivors recovered at hospitals, attended colleagues' funerals and began dealing with the psychological trauma, initially at the former Environmental Health Services division chief's home.

The division reopened Dec. 14 with temporary help from retirees and other counties.

By mid-November, survivors said, about 36 of them were back working. Sixteen people were on full-time leave, county spokesman David Wert said.

Some have “just fallen off the planet,” Houser said.

Most survivors haven't recovered as much as they thought they would by now. They're struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder. Other stress just makes things worse.

Survivors have leaned on each other while seeking help from the county and a California workers' compensation system designed for workplace injuries, not terrorist attacks.

They've gone through what some describe as secondary trauma trying to make sense of claims paperwork and deal with denials and delays in medical care or equipment, counseling, physical therapy and prescriptions like painkillers and anti-anxiety medications. Some have hired lawyers.

They feel abandoned by administrators and politicians who haven't helped or reached out to see how survivors are doing. The lack of support at times overwhelms even Swann-Paez, who tries to focus on the positive.

"There's a certain amount of anger, and feeling that no one cares about us," she said. "I think people assumed, 'Of course they're taking care of them.'"

In early November, a receptionist at Loma Linda University Medical Center who set up Swann-Paez's first physical therapy session in five months didn't remember the attack.

"Oh, I kinda forgot that happened," Swann-Paez said the receptionist told her.

"I haven't forgotten," Swann-Paez said the next day. "We won't forget."

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Most survivors don't feel safe anymore.

Few go out in public settings like restaurants. Most, if not all, struggle with anxiety. Many have trouble sleeping and concentrating. They're still trying to make the nightmares stop.

Some have flashbacks. Many get upset or cry when reliving the attack.

Swann-Paez, who hasn't returned to work, began walking again with a walker and protruding metal stabilizing rods holding her shattered pelvis together.

After limited physical therapy, she and others, such as a survivor with a colostomy bag and paralyzed arm, needed part-time help from caregivers to continue recovering at home.

She's now free of the walker but moves slowly, as she did on her patio one recent morning while pruning geraniums and impatiens.

Sounds and everyday occurrences can trigger memories. Swann-Paez said July Fourth fireworks set off an adrenaline surge. Lights going out at a restaurant sent her into semi-panic.

Salihin Kondoker said his wife still is recovering psychologically. Anies Kondoker, a 43-year-old health inspector, works half-days three or four times a week.

"Time. That's what she needs to get healed from this," said Salihin Kondoker, who went to Farook's mosque but didn't know him.

Survivors struggle to accept the mass shooting, he said, adding the FBI's final report would help.

He said no "normal person" will ever understand why the couple attacked, but their violence makes even less sense because the Farooks seemed to have dreams for their future: The couple was raising a child, and Farook was working on his master's degree.

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Houser returned to work in early January and dove into his role as union shop steward to help others.

But he hasn't felt secure since the attack.

Some survivors' anxiety increased after they returned to their old office during remodeling. Doors had no security system and were propped open while workers went in and out. An unarmed guard was stationed outside the office's main door, but not two other doors. New people were hired.

"What's going to make me feel secure? Not a bunch of strangers walking around," said Houser, 55, sitting in Swann-Paez's living room in shorts, a red T-shirt and Sperry Topsiders.

He's always vigilant, even in restaurants, parking lots and a dog park playing with his two yellow Labs – seeing everyone as a potential threat.

"The world is no longer safe," he said.

In mid-October, Houser had a flashback walking into his gym. A construction worker next door fired a nail gun that sounded like the gunshots outside the IRC, slamming him back to the attack and the memory of not knowing what that sound had actually been.

He went out on a workers' comp leave in October. A traumatic stress specialist predicted many wouldn't return.

"She told us, 'About 60 percent of you will never go back to work,'" he said.

The smell of gunpowder sticks with many survivors. A few months after the attack, Houser and two surviving co-workers – one a former cop, the other ex-military – went to a gun range to see if they could tolerate being around guns again.

They stood outside for 15 minutes taking in the sound of gunfire until they knew they could handle it. Then they walked inside and shot at targets, a nerve-racking experience as they stood next to strangers with guns.

Houser said he and his two colleagues felt guilt over not having guns that day, yet wondered whether they would have been able to shoot back in time.

"We 'what-iffed' it to death. At least you wouldn't have to feel you're that helpless," he said.

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Survivors' anxiety has been growing as the one-year anniversary nears. An expert told them it'd be so horrible they wouldn't believe it.

The first-year anniversary may feel as distressing as the attack itself, said ICF International traumatic stress specialist April Naturale, who has told the survivors what to expect.

Humans give much weight to anniversaries. Reactions vary, often including grief, sadness, jumpiness and sleeplessness.

"In the remembering, we remember not only the event – what happened and seeing it in our minds, and the sounds, the smells – but the feelings that go along with what happened," Naturale said.

The year likely has been chaotic for survivors, said Sallie Lynch of New York-based Tuesday's Children, which supports communities hit by terrorist attacks and loss.

Now survivors may feel like they're in a fishbowl as the community mourns, marking the anniversary with media coverage and public events.

A public memorial can help some, but for others, it triggers trauma and blocks them from processing grief.

Survivors say they're unlikely to attend the city memorial. They may attend a survivor-organized private event.

The most helpful thing would be for them to have a safe space where they can feel part of the community and have the chance to tell their story, but not be pressured to, Lynch said.

Many may begin feeling better and resume recovery after the anniversary.

As Dec. 2 approaches, Houser has been reliving the attack. Swann-Paez's anxiety also has surged.

On a recent morning, she walked her dog, Jimmy, a Tibetan terrier mix, past her street's grand pepper trees.

Swann-Paez had walked 5 to 10 miles a day before the attack. After pushing herself to do physical therapy exercises at home, she's back to walking every day, but with a painful limp she's trying to eliminate.

Like she does two or three times a week, she was able to walk 1.6 miles that day, wearing a black T-shirt bearing the names of survivors and the dead.

Warm sunlight filtered through tiny emerald leaves as she shared her concern for other survivors and said message-bearing wooden "stars of hope" that had hung from the trees' gnarled trunks had just been removed by city code enforcement after a neighbor's complaint.

The stars on her "Walk of Hope" had encouraged her and reminded her of the friends and family who helped paint them. Thankfulness for their support got her to the one-year mark.

"My gratitude is huge," she said, tears in her eyes. "I'd rather take a bullet and deal with this than die and have my family deal with a lifetime of that."

Houser said his family also has brought him to this point. He cherished a recent family trip to Hawaii and watching his son learn to surf.

He'll see his son and daughter graduate from high school.

"I'm alive to be able to be there for my kids," he said.

They have to be grateful they lived, Swann-Paez added.

"You're just changed, and that's the sad thing. We're changed for life."

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161127/as-anniversary-nears-san-bernardino-terror-attack-survivors-anxiety-grows>

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For San Bernardino terror attack first responders, healing is ongoing

From receiving counseling to sharing lessons with others, many have found ways to deal with trauma

By Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Sunday, November 27, 2016



After his officers were subjected to two traumatic events Dec. 2 – viewing the carnage at the Inland Regional Center and engaging the terrorists who caused it in a gunfight to the death – San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan acted to support his officers’ mental health.

By policy, the officers who fired their weapons, killing the terrorists who had slain 14 at the IRC, were sent to counseling. And he directed some who responded to the IRC to receive counseling as well.

Burguan also had counselors attend police briefings and asked supervisors to watch officers for signs they were struggling with their experiences.

Mental health experts say such actions are important for officers’ well-being in the short and long term.

“Law enforcement is probably the most toxic work environment day in and day out,” said Ron Clark, a former police officer in Connecticut and chairman of the board of The Badge of Life, an organization that tries to reduce the effects of stress on officers and retirees and provides information on police suicides. “You won’t find another profession that has as much trauma in it.”

Some first responders who saw the Dec. 2 tragedy firsthand, meanwhile, have coped by using lessons learned to educate others.

Burguan said recently that he doesn’t know how many of his officers received counseling or how often they went.

“Cops are cops, and some didn’t feel like they needed to take advantage of it,” Burguan said. “It’s always a bit of a tough thing that the people we draw into this profession, that they don’t always seek these types of services.”

Mental health professionals say police should have the opportunity to talk with peers or receive counseling – not just after a traumatic event but as part of an annual mental health checkup.

Single traumatic events or the cumulative effect of exposure to crime, physical confrontations and tragedy can cause officers to suffer feelings of hopelessness, shame or despair; depression or anxiety; drinking or drug problems; physical problems; and relationship troubles, according to PolicePTSD.com, an online resource on post-traumatic stress disorder for officers and service members.

“I could fill a whole stadium with retired officers with PTSD,” Clark said.

TURNING TRAGEDY INTO TEACHING

While no police officers contacted ahead of the one-year anniversary would talk publicly about how the tragedy affected them, a few other first responders who were on the front lines Dec. 2 were willing to speak about their feelings or issues they deal with daily.

A lasting impression for all was that the experiences helped them prepare others for the next attack.

Ryan Starling is a San Bernardino County Fire Department engineer who was a San Bernardino city firefighter at the time of the attack. He also was the tactical medic for the San Bernardino police SWAT team.

Starling experienced the horrific scene inside the IRC in what he called “sensory overload.” Amid the smell of gunpowder, the sounds of crying and moaning and the sight of blood being washed out of the conference room by fire sprinklers, Starling went from victim to victim, checking to see who could be saved and who couldn’t.

Yet Starling said the event ultimately affected him in a positive way: He has been able to teach others around the county about first responders’ experiences.

“I feel it’s my duty to pass on lessons learned, what we did right, or what we did wrong, or what we could have done better,” Starling said. “That way those lives that were lost that day weren’t for nothing.”

The tragedy was difficult on Starling’s wife, who turned on the television when news of the shooting broke. She watched as Ryan rode the armored vehicle at the IRC.

“It was hard on my family big-time,” Starling said. “Now she has to watch it live and real, and it changes everything. You have a visual sense.”

David Molloy, a paramedic and the operations manager for American Medical Response’s Redlands office, had a supervisory role at the IRC on Dec. 2. He watched as victims were loaded into ambulances, and the experience gave him mixed emotions to deal with over the past year.

His family knew two of the victims. And subsequent attacks at an Orlando nightclub and elsewhere reinforced to Molloy that paramedics are increasingly rushing to perilous situations.

“I’ve had my ups and downs during the year,” he said.

But like Starling, Molloy said he took pride in traveling across the country in the past year to give presentations on lessons learned from his experience. Foremost among them, he said, was to give your best effort and rely on your training.

“You have to try to find what pieces or aspects you can hold on to in a tragedy. Giving lectures has definitely been therapeutic for me,” Molloy said.

Those are Molloy’s highs.

“The lows are that I still think about that day and all the victims that were lost, and the fact that these events are still happening. It makes you feel grateful to be alive and do the best for all the people who are out there,” he said.

Dr. Ho-Wang Yuen was on duty in the emergency room at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton when patients began arriving.

“The initial chaos is still really fresh in my mind,” Yuen said. “The feeling of not knowing what is going to come through the door – and also how well the whole emergency teams worked together.”

But Yuen said what continues to trouble him most is not memories of treating patients but the understanding, triggered by the June attack in Orlando that killed 49 and wounded 53, that such a tragedy could happen again.

“The difficult part was, ‘Why does it keep happening?’ The hardest part was realizing this was the new world we are living in. The homegrown terrorist is not legend. It is not myth. It’s part of daily life,” Yuen said.

Officials at Arrowhead and Loma Linda University Medical Center jointly published a lessons-learned paper. The key points, Yuen said, were communications and expediting the processing of patients.

‘A CAREER EVENT’

Every police department should have a plan to provide mental health resources to its officers before disaster happens, Clark said. But he said some small departments don’t even have employee-assistance programs.

San Bernardino police policy on responding to critical events such as the Dec. 2 massacre allows management the discretion to order counseling for officers even when it’s not required by rule, Burguan said.

“We knew we had something very, very significant, and for a lot of folks, this was a career event. You don’t have a mass casualty event with a terrorist component every day,” he said. “Everybody who was there ... this will be with them forever.”

So Burguan called in an outside counseling team and came up with a plan to take care of the officers. A few, he said, offered feedback that it was not enough. Another few, he said, complained that it was too much.

“Cops are a pretty difficult group to corral,” Burguan said. “Even though people think of us as clones of each other, we are a very diverse group.”

Clark advocates for peer support, where officers can talk one-on-one as a bridge to counseling. San Bernardino has such a program.

Clark said he believes all officers should have an annual mental health checkup with a counselor they trust. Younger officers, he said, have been especially receptive to this, and it makes them better equipped to deal with traumatic incidents.

“To send an officer in the field with little to no training in emotional wellness is almost criminal,” Clark said.

Staff writer Doug Saunders contributed to this report.

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San Bernardino terror attack first responders honored for bravery

By David Downey, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, November 26, 2016



There were many heroes on Dec. 2.

Multiple honors have been bestowed upon those who rescued and treated victims of the San Bernardino terrorist attack or pursued the perpetrators.

Perhaps most notable, half a dozen law enforcement officers received the state's highest award for valor recently for their role in the fierce firefight on San Bernardino Avenue hours after the attack that ended with concluded in the deaths of shooters Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik.

The six were among eight public safety officers statewide to receive the Medal of Valor from Gov. Jerry Brown and Attorney General Kamala Harris in a September ceremony at the Capitol.

The recipients were Officers Brian Olvera and Nicholas Koahou of the San Bernardino Police Department, Officer Joseph Aguilar of the Redlands Police Department, Deputy Bruce Southworth and Cpls. Chad Johnson and Rafael Ixco of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

“The men we are honoring today exemplify something beyond the ordinary, beyond duty,” Brown said. “That is to see something that somebody else needs and to respond, even at the risk of your own life.”

Earlier, in February, San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos presented a department Medal of Valor to Thomas H. Boyles, a senior investigator with the office.

Boyles was working a plainclothes assignment tracking auto thieves on Dec. 2 when he learned of the terrorist attack. He and his partner shifted gears and looked for the suspects. Boyles then joined the shootout.

It was the first such medal to be awarded by the District Attorney's Office.

Other awards and honors

The Helene and Joseph Sherwood Family Prize for Combating Hate, awarded by the Anti-Defamation League in March to several law enforcement agencies:

The San Bernardino Police Department, FBI, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, San Bernardino City Unified School District Police Department, California Highway Patrol, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Attorney's Office and Colton, Fontana, Redlands and Rialto police. The prize was awarded in a ceremony at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

San Bernardino city firefighters who responded to the attack were honored at a ceremony in July.

Engineer Ryan Starling was singled out for his service as a member of a SWAT team and the first medic to assess the wounded and dead that day.

An April ceremony at San Manuel Amphitheater in Devore San Bernardino honored 132 officers, deputies and civilian employees. Award recipients, by agency, included:

San Bernardino police: Imran Ahmed, Robert Albright, Frank Alvarez, Matt Block, John Cardillo, Tiffany Emon, Eric Fyvie, Tony Kink, Jennifer Kohrell, Emil Kokesh, Ed Lee, Bryan Lentz, Melvin Lucas, Mike Madden, Stacy Moreno, Serbando Saenz, Joe Shuck, Ryan Starling (SBFD), Robert Sullivan, Equino Thomas, Lane Thompson, Von Verbanic, Vicki Cervantes, Lanier Rogers, Daani-Ruth Svonkin, Chris Flowers, Nathan Barilics, Erick Campos, John Echevarria, George Gabera, Brian Harris, Francisco Hernandez, Jonathan Keil, Brian Lewis, Ron Maass, Brett Murphy, Brian Olivera, Shaun Sandoval, Siobhan Sansone, Donald Sawyer, Josh Simpson, Jason Stack, Robert Snyder, Gerald Walent, Dave Green, Annie Teall, John Vasek, Travis Walker, Gerald Beall, Erick Bennett, Ray Bonshire, Jeff Harvey, Brian Karmann, Nick Koahou, Jose Loera, Scott Murray, Gary Schuelke, Ryan Schuelke and Jose Vasquez.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department: John Amrhein, Al Daniel, Charles Elder, Mike Ells, Mary Jean Higgins, Brad Phillips, JoJo, Joann Quiroz, Thad Riley, Roland Schmiedel, Steve Scovel, Lance Stuart, Robert Whiteside, Tim Branske, Dave Cruz, Albert Ixco, Chad Johnson, Bernabe Ortiz, Bruce Southworth, Eric Trujillo and Shaun Wallen.

San Bernardino County Probation: Richard Brower, William Brown Jr., Paul Castro Jr., Nathan Clark, Michael Del Cid, Nicholas Gonzalez, Topaz Good, John Holmes, Isabel Jaramillo, Gi Kim, Lesley Kink, Jerad Linnell, Oleg Llaurado, Alicia Martinez, Robb Myers, Anthony Polino, Kyle Reyes, Nathan Scarano, Juli Schlobohm, Pomposo Urquidies and Samuel Wakentin.

San Bernardino County District Attorney's office: Flerida Alarcon, Tom Boyles.

San Bernardino County Fire: Jack Dejong and Eric Sherwin.

California Highway Patrol: Brian Alvarez, William Osegueda, Sean Pomerleau, Thomas Ramos and Mike White.

San Bernardino City Unified School District police: Roberto Jauregui, Robert Arellano, Garrett Riddall, Victor Young and Linda Bardere.

Redlands police: Kelli Bishop, Patrick Estrada, Jenna Heusterberg, Kimberly Howard, Kathryn Ramirez, Ryan Steinhaus, Shayna Walker, Andrew Capps, Daniel Gonzalez, Mathis Knudsen, Jonathan Manly and Joseph Aguilar.

Fontana police: Scott Snyder and Michael Ernes.

Colton police: Robert Wilson, Jaime Ramirez and Joshua Higgins.

Special events, such as the Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series at Glen Helen in July and Little League Baseball Western Regional Tournament in at San Bernardino's Al Houghton Stadium in August, honored first responders.

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San Bernardino police chief reflects on role as leader as terror attack anniversary nears

By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Friday, November 25, 2016



On a recent chilly morning, Jarrod Burguan, coffee mug in hand, walked the second floor halls of the San Bernardino Police Department stopping to get updates by a member of his executive staff.

The tall and broad-shouldered chief of police wearing a jacket with the police logo on the left breast, settled into his office where the sounds of the police scanner intermingled with Paula Abdul's "Forever Your Girl" playing in the background.

During a rare quiet moment, Burguan reflected on how he and the city he is tasked with protecting, were thrust into the national spotlight nearly a year ago. The late morning of Dec. 2 when a Redlands couple entered the Inland Regional Center's conference room and opened fire on dozens of San Bernardino County employees [killing 14 and wounding 22 others](#).

He acknowledged San Bernardino has now found an unenviable place on the global stage alongside cities like Boston, Paris and New York, cities that have been touched by terror.

However, Burguan, who joined the department in 1992, sees something more intimate and personal that may have fallen by the wayside in the frenzy to cover what at that time was called the deadliest terrorist attack in this country since 9/11.

"You have people that were victims that day and you have family members that lost loved ones that day and that day takes on a different meaning to them," said Burguan who grew up in Rialto, only a few miles from San Bernardino. "They are almost on the side listening to all this stuff. And I think in some ways it's incredibly hurtful to them."

Burguan said survivors have expressed how misinformation, speculation and even leaked classified data released — sometimes without warning — have pained them as the investigation continues.

In the days and months following last year's attack, Burguan and other law enforcement leaders, including San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon and Redlands Police Chief Mark Garcia, have participated in dozens of lessons-learned debriefings and speaking engagements. Across the country, they were sharing their perspectives on the operations that fell into place minutes after [Syed Rizwan Farook, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik](#), opened fire on a group of Farook's colleagues.

During those presentations, Burguan has always expressed the importance of training and his pride in the men and women from his and neighboring departments who responded but on that morning in his office, the former Bloomington Christian High football player expressed his respect and gratitude for the survivors.

“It’s been a little therapeutic. It helps balance me out,” Burguan said. “You get used to talking about this incident from the standpoint of being a chief talking to other chiefs and organization and the lessons learned but it balances you out when you can go back and talk to those folks.”

Those who know Burguan are not surprised by his professional and personal response.

“I think Jarrod is a good leader at the time of this event and up until now,” said Garcia who served alongside Burguan at the San Bernardino Police Department. “It’s always important to keep the focus on the victims and survivors.”

In the more than 20 years in the department and his nearly three years as chief, Burguan is no stranger to speaking to victims of crimes, but he has felt a connection to those left to live in the wake of the Inland Regional Center shooting.

“My past experience with victims, is obviously as a cop, you would go out, you would handle something, you would work with the victims throughout the trial ... and go back to your police work or you get buried in all the other work you’re doing. This has been a little bit different,” he said adding that many times officers get “busy being busy.”

However, in the months following the deadly shooting, Burguan and other investigators have had extended and more personal interactions with dozens of survivors and family members.

“You talk to them, you ask them how they’re doing, how they’re kids are doing,” he said. “You see kids who have grown up over the past year.”

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San Bernardino terror attack counselors ease grief, but they also suffer

While they focused on first responders, survivors and victims' families, they also had to take care of themselves

By Ali Tadayon, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, November 26, 2016



With San Bernardino's Inland Regional Center visible from her office window, psychotherapist Nancy Bohl-Penrod is constantly reminded of the deadly terrorist shooting that occurred there Dec. 2 and the months she and her colleagues spent consoling first responders, victims' families and survivors.

As Bohl-Penrod and other counselors worked tirelessly to guide those affected by the attack through the tragedy, they suffered themselves. Some internalized their patients' grief, while others grew exhausted from the hours of emotionally demanding work.

"We're not exempt," Bohl-Penrod said. "Just because we give and give and give who we are in our hearts, and try to use our skills to help people through these bad times, doesn't mean it doesn't touch us too."

Bohl-Penrod is the director of The Counseling Team International, a group of psychotherapists that responds to traumatic situations. Eleven of its counselors aided first responders – who were required to undergo counseling – and victims' families.

Additionally, counselors from the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office's Bureau of Victim Services provided initial assistance to survivors and slain victims' families.

Other counselors were brought in to assist.

San Bernardino police Chief Jarrod Burguan said the counselors provided a critical service. Though a stigma exists against law enforcement officers undergoing counseling after traumatic experiences, Burguan said, the first responders greatly benefited from it.

"For professionals in this business, taking care of themselves not only physically but mentally is important," Burguan said.

'ALL HANDS ON DECK'

On Dec. 2, the Counseling Team's San Bernardino office was put on lockdown while first responders accounted for victims.

Once the lockdown was lifted, Bohl-Penrod – who had to get back from a meeting in Oceanside – sent everyone home. The next day, the office turned into a "command post" and remained so for weeks.

"It was all hands on deck for a long time," she said.

The District Attorney's Office's victim advocates also jumped into action, said Florida Alarcon, the chief of Victim Services. Their first task was making death notifications to the families of the 14 people killed. Bohl-Penrod's team assisted with that task.

Though the work was emotionally challenging, Alarcon said, offering the families some assistance was rewarding.

"I wish I could take their pain away, but that's not something we could do," Alarcon said. "I hope that what we've done will help alleviate some of the stress they had."

Bohl-Penrod said she was so focused on her role that it took some time for what happened to sink in.

Weeks afterward, she and other psychotherapists took a group of clients to the IRC for a support session. That's when it struck her that something so devastating happened in a city she holds dear.

"I shed a lot of tears for the families, for the first responders, for our nation in general," she said. "Never in my wildest imagination did I think this would happen in San Bernardino."

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Both Bohl-Penrod and Alarcon said their teams took proactive steps to take care of themselves emotionally during their response and afterward.

"When you're working with victims of crimes, all types of crimes, you are working with people who are suffering every day," Alarcon said. "It's something we are aware of; we recognize we need to take care of ourselves to not suffer from it in such a negative way. But naturally, it is something that sits with you."

The Counseling Team led a peer-support team for counselors, Alarcon said.

"This work takes a toll, but we practice what we preach," Bohl-Penrod said. "The most important thing is we practice self-care."

Tammy McCoy, a licensed clinical psychologist with The Counseling Team, said the counselors relied on one another for support.

"We're a team, and I think that we lean on each other like any team," McCoy said. "We support each other and are there for each other. We can't talk about a lot of stuff because of confidentiality, but even when we can't say anything, we can be silent and be together. It's a family."

Dec. 2 changed The Counseling Team.

"We all got closer," Bohl-Penrod said. "Like any family or group of people, you might have your little conflicts that go on between employees, but all the conflicts went out the window. Everybody just came together because this was so personal."

Del Mar psychotherapist Ken Druck, who consoled victims' families, said the experience was positive for him. After his daughter died in 1996, Druck devoted his life to helping others who have lost a loved one. He has helped families of victims of the Columbine High School massacre, 9/11 and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

"It still affects me, but not in a way that robs me of my energy," Druck said. "It actually gives me energy. ... My heart is with those families. I understand this is a lifelong process, not something people get over."

McCoy said she feels honored to have served the first responders who served the community.

“I think about these people and what they went through to protect me and my family,” McCoy said. “I feel inspired by their heroism, commitment and dedication.”

‘POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH’

Bohl-Penrod said her colleagues, like others affected by the Dec. 2 attack, are experiencing what she calls “post-traumatic growth.” As tough as the past year has been, the ordeal has shaped them into better people.

“No matter how bad things are, as time moves forward, we pick the pieces up and we get together and people move forward,” she said. “At some point they become a different type of person, and they look at themselves differently and feel good about who they’ve become.”

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161126/san-bernardino-terror-attack-counselors-ease-grief-but-they-also-suffer>

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#SBStrong logo brings recognition, pain for San Bernardino artist

By Mark Muckenfuss, The Press-Enterprise

Friday, November 25, 2016



Juan Garcia-Ruiz has mixed feelings about the famous logo he created.

The San Bernardino graphic artist is responsible for the “SB Strong” stenciled across a black arrowhead, which spawned a movement of support following the Dec. 2 shootings last year. The image, he said, came to him the same day as the attack as he was processing the events that night like so many other residents.

Within days, the logo was showing up on T-shirts and signs. The shirts were sold as a fundraiser to support the families affected by the shootings. Garcia-Ruiz said \$46,000 was raised before the money was distributed and the fundraising ran its course.

“I’m just glad that a creation I did was able to help out the families,” said Garcia-Ruiz, 27.

It’s also brought him recognition.

“It’s opened many doors for me,” he said. “I got to meet the mayor of San Bernardino, twice. I feel extremely grateful.”

And he feels conflicted.

“It’s unfortunate that one of my most recognized works came out of a tragedy,” he said. “I’m happy people were able to resonate with it. It broke barriers down.”

But he doesn’t like showing off the image. His own T-shirt with the logo, he said, rarely gets worn outside of his home.

“I don’t wear it much out in public,” he said. “I don’t want to be insensitive if I run into a family member and it brings back memories.”

Garcia-Ruiz works for Dean Houston, a national advertising agency. Recently, he said, his logo was nominated for the company’s Professional of the Year award.

“It validated my work more,” he said of the logo’s popularity. “Now I get questioned less on my work.”

He enjoys that advantage, he said, but he’s happier about what grew out of a simple, but powerful, idea. The image, he said, spoke to people.

“They felt the same grief I felt,” he said. “I’m just glad it brought people together.”

A year after attack, San Bernardino struggles to be more than symbol of terror

As national attention wanes, San Bernardino soldiers on

By Ryan Hagen, *The Sun*

Saturday, November 26, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> The world knows this city.

It's the city where [14 lives were lost and countless others changed forever](#), wounded physically or psychologically by the [deadliest terrorist attack on American soil since Sept. 11, 2001](#).

It's the city where America learned that [terrorism can strike anywhere](#).

It is also home to 215,000 people who, despite the national spotlight, continue to struggle with the more immediate issues of [high crime](#) and a dearth of jobs.

• **Related Story:** [After San Bernardino terror attack, Inland Empire residents reflect on tragedy](#)

Before and after the [Dec. 2 attack at the Inland Regional Center](#), San Bernardino faced great hardship – [municipal bankruptcy](#), crime, poverty – and great hope.

But as the anniversary of the attack approaches, the struggle continues to avoid becoming just a symbol of a terrorist target, said Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-San Bernardino.

“It’s painful when we hear that, or when we hear [San Bernardino become a punch line in a presidential debate or speech](#) or just become a talking point,” Aguilar said. “It’s much more than that, and this community has so much more to offer than that alone. So I hope whenever someone talks about San Bernardino, they’re also willing to back it up and to help us come together and to achieve the resources that we need in order to effectuate change.”

• **Related Story:** [San Bernardino terror attack counselors ease grief, but they also suffer](#)

There are clear signs that [people want to help](#).

Beginning the day after the attack and for months afterward, donations poured into an Arrowhead United Way [fund to help the victims of the attack](#). When the money was distributed in July, [\\$2.5 million had been collected](#), and occasional donations have come in since then, said Doug Rowand, the organization’s president.

[Bills to compensate the agencies that responded](#) to the attack went forward in Congress and the Legislature, as has other assistance. But work continues to decide just what “San Bernardino” will mean.

A HOME BECOMES A SYMBOL

More than most outside of San Bernardino, Pat Llodra understands part of what the city is going through.

As first selectman in Newtown, Conn., Llodra holds the highest elected office in the town known for the deadliest mass shooting of schoolchildren in U.S. history on Dec. 14, 2012.

“You have to experience that kind of terror and trauma personally to understand,” Llodra said. “The world that hasn’t experienced it can’t.”

For the first two years after 26 people were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, every time she introduced herself she was met with expressions of sympathy and questions about the shooting.

• **Related Story:** [San Bernardino police chief reflects on role as leader as terror attack anniversary nears](#)

“We were so identified with that tragedy that I know there was a reluctance of some people to say they were from here,” Llodra said. “Not that they were ashamed, but it always was the first thing people would say. There was a struggle. It was a struggle trying to define ourselves.”

Aguilar said he gets a similar response.

“People give us their thoughts and prayers. It’s an ‘ohhh’ response,” he said. “I used to tell people I represented the 31st District in San Bernardino, ‘halfway between L.A. and Palm Springs.’ I don’t need to add that anymore. They all know.”

Particularly within California, though, San Bernardino was known for other things. It’s not a quiet New England town like Newtown, which Llodra said is most distinctive for the quality of its schools and environment.

“Candidly, I hear more people talking about the bankruptcy and Measure L,” said Connie Leyva, D-Chino, who represents part of the city in the state Senate and was referring to the initiative to change the city charter that residents passed in November.

• **Related Story:** [How the San Bernardino terrorist attack inspired efforts to change laws](#)

Mayor Carey Davis also said that outside the city he hears mostly about the bankruptcy and steps to improve quality of life and the crime rate.

“I do meet with a number of electeds from other communities, and it’s my sentiment that people are wanting to see the city regain its foothold,” he said. “And it’s a genuine communication on their part to me that they see that we are starting to see some improvements. People will come to me and say the city is looking better.”

When San Bernardino is invoked on the national stage, it’s often as an argument for policy proposals that promise to make tragedies like the Dec. 2 attack less likely.

That’s also similar to Newtown, a touchstone in the [gun-control debate](#).

The horror of the mass shooting provoked different reactions from different people, Llodra said.

“There’s been no referendum in our community about gun control. We are as diverse in that perspective as any other community in the nation,” said Llodra, a Republican. “On a personal level, I have been very active in Mayors Against Guns. I am a supporter of many of the common-sense gun reform movements; to me, they are common sense.”

• **Related Story:** [Adjusting to a new normal. San Bernardino on a healing path a year after terror attack](#)

President-elect Donald Trump also repeatedly has mentioned San Bernardino, proposing a ban on Muslims entering the U.S. after the attack here and saying that many people saw bombs in the terrorists’ apartment – something fact checkers say is not true.

In general, the proposals aimed at preventing “another San Bernardino” aren’t generated in San Bernardino, Davis said.

“Those are national issues,” he said, praising police for enforcing existing laws.

Aguilar also has supported efforts such as universal background checks and “No Fly, No Buy” that he relates to the attack.

“There isn’t one thing that can be done that would have eliminated Dec. 2. There isn’t one law that we could’ve passed that would’ve kept it from happening,” he said. “But shame on us if we don’t work to help our community. That means jobs, but it also means gun violence and crime in our community.”

BECOMING WHOLE

Legislators have gotten federal and state funding to reimburse much of the cost of the attack. However, [Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed Leyva’s bill](#), passed unanimously in the Senate and Assembly, to have the state fully reimburse costs the federal government doesn’t cover.

“I recognize the unique circumstances of this horrific terrorist attack,” Brown said in his veto message. “However, this bill sets the expectation that the state will assume all financial responsibility for future emergency costs. The general fund cannot afford this precedent.”

Leyva said she still is working with the governor’s office to get full compensation. The shortfall is about \$1.6 million, she said.

• **Related Story:** [IRC conference center where San Bernardino terror attack occurred to reopen in 2017](#)

“He said he didn’t want to set a precedent, but we’re still working to get reimbursement for those things that don’t usually get covered – porta-potties, having to feed all these folks – things that add up,” she said.

Aguilar and Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona, secured federal reimbursement for state and local agencies for overtime and regular salary costs.

What hasn’t come, in reaction to either the bankruptcy or the attack, is much additional funding to help the city recover in the long term, Davis said.

“We now have that national recognition, and hopefully that will assist in our ability to acquire those resources,” he said before naming a number of grants the city had applied for but not gotten. “We’ll continue applying and hopefully will get them.”

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Community Oriented Policing Services did give the city a \$2.8 million grant for 11 police officers, part of \$119 million in grants it announced nationwide in October.

Aguilar’s letter supporting the city’s application mentioned the city still was recovering from the terrorist attack, but he said he thinks it was the statistics about San Bernardino crime and policing that made the case.

• **Related Story:** [How you can help San Bernardino terror attack victims and their families](#)

Though the FBI recommends 2.4 officers per 1,000 residents in a city of San Bernardino’s size, the Police Department had 0.9 officer per 1,000 residents because of difficulties in financing and recruitment.

Although there was no discernible effect on recruiting from the attack itself, Davis said he has seen the city’s reputation consistently improve.

He attributes that mostly to elected officials working better together and to good management, starting with City Manager Mark Scott, who applied days before the attack.

But, he said, praise for first responders’ handling of the attack is not only well-deserved but a positive for the city.

“That sentiment, I think, got carried on throughout the nation, and we’ve seen that ongoing sense with our (police) chief, who’s been called upon (to tell conferences): Why was San Bernardino able to deploy so quickly and so effectively?” Davis said.

“That, I think, has helped modify the reputation for the city – and it was on a national and worldwide scale.”

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Adjusting to a new normal, San Bernardino on a healing path a year after terror attack

By Michel Nolan, *San Bernardino Sun*

Saturday, November 26, 2016



One year or many.

Grief has no deadlines.

In the raw aftermath of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack, we were shaken to our core, looking for understanding.

The gut-wrenching horror seemed surreal — the facts did not coincide with our sense of reality.

In the days and weeks that followed, the whole community tried to make sense of what happened that day at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

But it was senseless.

After a few days, the City Council went back to business; local organizations held vigils and still others sponsored fundraisers for the victims and their families.

There were marches and meetings, and then the mournful drumbeat of funerals and memorials.

A pall hung over the city.

That was one year ago — not a milestone except on the calendar.

In mid-December, I spoke to Randy Stier, a licensed marriage and family therapist and clinical counselor who focuses on grief, loss and bereavement.

He told me then that the loss was traumatic and unanticipated.

“People lose their assumptive world — it messes up their ideas of what is safe and disrupts the equilibrium of families,” he said.

These days, we go on living the best we can.

“Normal activities are good,” Stier said then. “Normalcy is important — especially for kids, who may have suffered secondary losses.”

So we go on — families and jobs, band practice and school work, picnics and making ends meet. Weddings, yard work, football games.

The poignant makeshift memorial that appeared after the tragedy at the corner of Orange Show Road and Waterman Avenue has diminished in size, but weathered stuffed animals, sympathy banners and wooden stars bearing names of the victims remain. Mostly there are American flags lining the chain-link fence.

The city is planning a permanent memorial to pay tribute to the lives lost.

San Bernardino is beginning to heal the holes in its heart, but scars remain.

We are forever changed.

Chad Dziedzickie, a full-time hospice bereavement coordinator and minister, was personally touched by grief that day.

Dziedzickie and his colleagues at Compassus Hospice in Colton were at an office meeting when they heard the news of what was happening at the nearby IRC.

Some colleagues lost loved ones, he said.

“You are adjusting to a new normal — adjusting to the world around you and what’s going on inside of you.”

You never get over it, he said, you just work through it.

“We all grieve differently, even members of the same family,” he said.

Some of us try to compartmentalize tragedy — a coping mechanism that relegates pain to a sort of shoebox in our brains.

We process, but the loss weighs on our shoulders.

“There are a lot of variables in how you grieve, but a spiritual connection is crucial — very important,” Dziedzickie said.

“We always consider the spiritual connection for bereavement risk assessment. It’s documented that having a belief system helps.”

Working through it is important, but knowing you will be happy again is important, too, Chad said.

So, although we can heal, we will never be the same.

“For some people, it never ends,” said Jennifer Hughey, a licensed marriage and family therapist in San Bernardino.

There’s no timetable, but the level of intensity does change, according to Dawn Duckworth-Ouellet, a licensed marriage and family therapist who lives in Lake Arrowhead.

“For some people, grieving doesn’t even start until more than a year later — some have to unmask past losses first,” she said.

“Grief does change something in you — in time you find the meaning in it.”

It’s true. We don’t anticipate horror. Caught off guard and reeling, we were catapulted into a nightmare.

We couldn’t expect that kind of darkness.

Those darkest days will weigh on the minds of the community for years, and in the hearts of the families forever.

A parent, spouse or child can only survive this blow to the heart with prayer and loving support.

With that support — and the will — we go on.

As Dziedzickie, and other counselors have told me, we will be happy again.

Maybe learning to grieve with hope is the answer.

Michel Nolan is a columnist for the Southern California News Group. Reach her at mnolan@scng.com or on Twitter @MichelNolan.

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A year later, normalcy returns to Redlands neighborhood of San Bernardino terrorists

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

Sunday, November 27, 2016



REDLANDS >> Nearly a year after law enforcement raided the [townhouse](#) that was home to the couple behind the San Bernardino terrorist attack, there are no visible signs of the chaos that attracted worldwide attention.

The townhouse where Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, plotted the [Dec. 2, 2015, attack](#) at the Inland Regional Center, has since been renovated and has a new tenant.

Another resident at the complex says life in there has returned to normal, though she and her neighbors are much more aware of one another.

“All my neighbors are making more of an effort to tell each other our names and smile more,” said Annie Frost, who has lived in the neighborhood since 2008. “I think we are just being more aware of who’s around us. There seems to be a more concerted effort by all the people here since then.”

Frost lives next door to the townhouse that became the focal point for law enforcement hours after Farook and Malik killed 14 people and wounded 22 others. Law enforcement found thousands of rounds of ammunition, pipe bombs and pipe bomb-making materials.

Frost said she was home with her son that day, and learned from a neighbor that law enforcement planned to raid the townhouse next door.

“When they told me that, I never experienced so much fear and anxiety,” she said. “I just tried to stay calm.”

Frost took her son to a family member’s house where she watched the raid on her neighbors’ home unfold on television.

“It was surreal — I really don’t know how else to describe it — and terrifying,” Frost said. “Absolutely terrifying.”

When Frost returned home the next day, she said, the weight of what happened hit hard.

“The streets were all blocked off. It was like a ghost town — FBI agents everywhere,” she said. “When I saw the door blown and glass everywhere, I just broke down and cried.”

The raid drew the attention of local, national and international media, many of whom got a glimpse inside the townhouse after the FBI finished its investigation.

The media attention soon died off, said Redlands police Cmdr. Chris Catren, and the department has not seen an increase in incidents there after the raid.

“We didn’t see any big increase in activity over there outside of what we asked everybody to do, which is just report anything suspicious they see no matter where they live,” Catren said.

Catren said activity in the neighborhood is consistent with other apartment communities in Redlands.

“As a department we get a lot of suspicious subject and suspicious vehicle calls, which is part of our campaign of ‘See Something, Say Something,’” Catren said. “That generates a lot of those types of calls all throughout the city.”

Frost said she met Farook and would see him coming home from work or getting the mail, but never noticed anything suspicious.

“I met him,” Frost said. “I saw his mother. I heard the baby next door. I didn’t suspect anything.”

When responding to speculation in the media about what the neighbors knew, Frost said there wasn’t anything to say.

“These things happen, but there’s always hope,” Frost said. “Not all your neighbors are bad. There’s always hope, and people and the community can’t be fearful.”

Doyle and Judy Miller, who own the townhouse, renovated it before briefly putting it on the market. Rather than sell the property, however, they decided to rent it. The couple had no problem finding a tenant.

Judy Miller said there was interest in renting the townhouse almost immediately after the raid.

“As long as we own it and when we sell it we will have to divulge who lived there because that’s my job, but outside of that there hasn’t been any stigma,” she said. “It’s a good area with lots of wonderful neighbors. It’s really getting more and more people buying in that complex.”

In the year since the raid, Miller said her friends, church and family have helped the couple cope.

“There’s hardly a day that goes by that we’re not reminded of what happened,” she said, “and not a day that goes by that we don’t think about the people that were killed over there and the ones that were injured.”

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Everything we know about the San Bernardino terror attack investigation

Some questions still not answered

By Richard De Atley

Sunday, November 27, 2016



It was at the time the worst terrorist attack on American soil since 9/11. The Dec. 2 shooting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, which left 14 dead and 22 wounded, saw a massive response from law enforcement agencies from throughout the region, along with the FBI.

Nearly a year later, FBI agents remain on the case. Here's a look at where the investigation has led:

QUICKLY IDENTIFIED

Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 29, both of Redlands, were identified as the shooters shortly after the attack and died in a gunfight with law enforcement near San Bernardino Avenue and Richardson Street about five hours after the massacre.

Malik, a Pakistani who came to the United States in 2014 to marry Chicago-born Farook, made a Facebook statement in support of terrorist organization Islamic State around the time of the shootings.

It appeared the couple otherwise kept their radicalized views off open social media. They also destroyed some of their mobile phones before the attack. But at least one was left intact.

The couple had drawn a flat line with only a violent spike at the end for investigators to pick apart.

AT THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK

The attack with semi-automatic, military-style rifles took place during a combination training session and holiday party for Farook's co-workers at the San Bernardino County Environmental Health Department, where he worked as a health inspector.

A bag Farook had placed on a table in the meeting room at the IRC where about 80 of his colleagues had gathered was later found to contain explosive devices, wired for remote detonation.

In the weeks that followed the massacre, the FBI's investigation would reach to the bottom of a local lake to look for possible ditched evidence and into unmapped areas of constitutional law as it tried to pry information from an encrypted Apple iPhone during a world-watched court case.

Agents used shoe leather, witness interviews, and private and public outdoor closed-circuit video cameras to account for all but 18 minutes of where Farook and Malik aimlessly traveled in their rented black SUV in the hours after the shooting.

That gap still has not been filled, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said in an email on Nov. 10.

“But we continue to evaluate any new information that comes to our attention.”

MARQUEZ’S ALLEGED DISCLOSURES

Agents went into Inland neighborhoods and overseas through their legal attachés and interviewed at least 500 people – among them witnesses, associates, and friends of Farook and Malik.

One them, Enrique Marquez Jr., 24, of Riverside allegedly described during several days of interviews with agents a shocking account of earlier, unfulfilled gun-and-bomb attack plans he made with Farook that could have killed untold numbers of victims.

DETAILS OF ATTACK PLANS

The two wanted to open fire on people at Riverside City College and attack motorists at an inescapable chokepoint along the 91 Freeway, Marquez said.

The plans were halted in 2012 when FBI agents coincidentally arrested a group of Inland men who planned to join Al-Qaida overseas and attack American service personnel there, according to an FBI affidavit filed in federal court.

Marquez also unspooled a soap-opera style scheme in which authorities said he married the Russian sister of Farook’s brother’s wife, but lived apart from her. It was allegedly done in exchange for payments to Marquez because the marriage allowed his bride to change the status of her expired visa, the affidavit said.

Marquez is accused in Riverside federal court of supplying rifles and explosive powder used in the attack, which he originally purchased for the 2012 schemes, as well as one count of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, two counts of lying on federal forms for gun purchases and two counts of marriage fraud.

Marquez pleaded not guilty to the charges in January and faces up to 50 years in federal prison if convicted on all of them. He faces trial Sept. 26.

Marquez is the only person charged in the attack. He told agents he was radicalized and converted to Islam by Farook when they were neighbors in Riverside.

Eimiller said the investigation remains open.

THE IPHONE CASE

When FBI agents conducted warranted searches of the Redlands townhouse that Farook and Malik shared with their then-6-month-old daughter and Farook’s mother, Rafia, they seized pipe bombs, bomb-making materials and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

In late December, divers from the FBI and San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department checked the bottom of Secombe Lake in San Bernardino, reportedly looking for a hard drive the couple may have tossed into the water. They found nothing but said due diligence required the search.

Agents also found Farook’s undamaged San Bernardino County-issued iPhone in his mother’s black Lexus.

Farook had entered a private pass code for the iPhone 5c that was not shared with the county, and agents were concerned they would permanently lose any data on it if they failed too many times to open it.

Instead, they got a federal magistrate in Riverside to issue an order in February for Apple engineers to develop software for a backdoor entry to the phone.

Apple, which had cooperated with the FBI in other efforts to get the information from the Farook iPhone, drew the line.

Creation of such a “brute force” program could threaten the encryption security of all Apple devices using a pass code, the tech giant argued.

Apple filed in court to block the order, and CEO Tim Cook personally took up the cause as the media covered every move in the case, in and out of court.

Heated court documents were traded exploring where the law stood on the right to privacy and public safety and whether the 18th-century All Writs Act and 20th-century rulings on government access to telephone records could apply to the 21st-century device at the center of the case.

Then, on the eve of a March court hearing to decide the issues, the FBI announced it had found a third party that could hack the phone. The hearing was taken off calendar, the FBI reported the phone was successfully entered – and the case ended unresolved.

FBI spokeswoman Eimiller declined to comment Nov. 10 on whether the phone yielded anything.

THIRD SHOOTER REPORTS

Reports of a third person involved in the IRC attack or afterward in the shootout with law enforcement officers have not been substantiated beyond anecdotes.

“Investigative efforts (which were exhaustive) and data all indicated there were two shooters,” Eimiller said in her email.

A 162-page report, “Bringing Calm to Chaos,” written by Community Oriented Policing Services and the Police Foundation, written with a grant and the cooperation of the Justice Department, identified only Farook and Malik as the shooters at the IRC.

The report also looked at similar reports from the shootout and concluded “authorities determined that there was not a third suspect” at that scene.

Among the listed sources for the report were the FBI, the San Bernardino Police Department, and the spectrum of local law enforcement involved in the attack and its aftermath, as well as the attack victims and their families and audio and video files.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161127/everything-we-know-about-the-san-bernardino-terror-attack-investigation>

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How the San Bernardino terrorist attack inspired efforts to change laws

By David Downey, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, November 26, 2016



In the aftermath of the San Bernardino attack, lawmakers seized the moment.

They proposed a flurry of legislation to take assault weapons out of shooters' hands, spur better reporting of suspected terrorist activity and reimburse first responders for their exhaustive — and expensive — efforts.

Bills were introduced in Sacramento and Washington. Some were signed into law; others never saw the light of day.

More bills may be introduced in 2017.

Inland Empire officials were disappointed with Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown's September veto of a bill sponsored by Sen. Connie Leyva, D-Chino, that had passed unanimously through the state Senate and Assembly.

San Bernardino County agencies spent an estimated \$20 million responding to the mass shooting that took 14 lives and wounded 22 others. Leyva's bill would have fully reimbursed them.

But Brown, in a veto message, said approval would have set a precedent of the state assuming "all financial responsibility for future emergency costs."

Brown did sign into law, in July, a package of half a dozen bills that strengthened California's already-strict gun laws.

In introducing earlier this year bills that ended up securing the governor's signature, sponsors cited Dec. 2.

One of those, Senate Bill 1446, bans possession of magazines with the capacity to hold more than 10 rounds. It also requires people who have them to eventually turn them in.

"High-capacity magazines have been used in every single one of the mass shootings that have horrified this country," Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Oakland, said in a video promoting the bill after it passed the Legislature in summer. "And I think after Orlando and after San Bernardino, this Legislature has said, 'Enough is enough.'"

Hancock said she sought to close what she termed a loophole in California law about such magazines.

"For years we have said you can't bring them into the state, you can't sell them in the state, you can't manufacture them in the state, but if you own one you can have one," she said.

Brown also signed Assembly Bill 1695, by Assemblyman Rob Bonta, D-Oakland, that targeted straw purchasers — people who buy weapons on behalf of those who legally cannot.

“Most recently, a straw purchase was what led to the shooters in San Bernardino to get the guns that they had and create the tragedy, the murders and terror in San Bernardino,” Bonta said.

There was talk of passing a law in honor of Sierra Clayborn, one of the Dec. 2 victims.

In the aftermath of the massacre, members of her family said they wanted to create a legacy for the Moreno Valley resident by pursuing legislation named “Sierra’s Law.” So far no legislation has passed.

Family attorney Theida Salazar of Burbank said recently that Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Redlands, has agreed to sponsor legislation next year.

According to Aguilar’s office, his bill may require that multiple agencies — law enforcement, intelligence, Homeland Security — collaborate on an after-action report to examine why the mass shooting happened and how to prevent future attacks.

Other legislative proposals include:

- A bill by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-San Francisco, to require social media outlets to report terrorism-related activity – the Requiring Reporting of Online Terrorist Activity Act. According to Feinstein’s office, the bill has yet to be considered in committee, but tech companies such as Twitter and Facebook have voluntarily taken steps to more actively monitor potential terrorist content.

Feinstein’s bill to authorize the attorney general to block gun sales to known or suspected terrorists already was in the works, having been introduced in February 2015. The Senate killed the bill in a vote the day after the attack. She later offered a similar measure in a spending-bill amendment, but the Senate rejected it in June.

“Another chance for Congress to take meaningful action,” Feinstein said then. “Another missed opportunity.”

- A bill by Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona, to mandate stricter screening of visa applicants. His Secure Accountability for Emigres and Refugees Act sought to tighten the Syrian and Iraqi refugee security vetting process. That bill has not been voted on by the House.

Also in connection to the Dec. 2 attack, Reps. Calvert and Aguilar have pushed for federal reimbursement of first responder costs. To date, a Calvert spokesman said, \$1 million has been provided.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161126/how-the-san-bernardino-terrorist-attack-inspired-efforts-to-change-laws>

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How you can help San Bernardino terror attack victims and their families

The relief fund has paid out \$2.5 million to victims' families and those injured in the terrorist attack

By David Downey, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, November 26, 2016



Though the window is closing, there's a little more time to open your wallet to help Dec. 2 victims.

“We are still giving people the opportunity to contribute because we are finding that people still want to,” said Doug Rowand, president and chief executive officer of Arrowhead United Way.

Arrowhead oversees the San Bernardino United Relief Fund, created after the terrorist attack.

In March, a 15-member volunteer committee headed by former San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris decided to distribute 80 percent of the money to families of those who died. The rest went to 24 people treated at the hospital and 37 others present during the attack.

That formula was used to divide \$2,522,095 collected through June, Morris said, and it will be followed for future donations.

Morris urged donors to continue stepping up as the anniversary approaches, saying, “It is important to keep in mind the families of the victims who were killed that morning as well as the individuals who are still recovering from the trauma of physical injuries.”

From June 30 to early November, Rowand said, \$22,646 more had been collected.

Most came in small amounts, with the notable exceptions of a \$10,000 donation from Little League International and \$5,000 raised by San Bernardino's Indian Springs High School students through sales of “SB Strong” lapel pins, he said.

“That's the high school that President (Barack) Obama visited,” he said.

Rowand anticipates a contribution surge around the anniversary. At some point after that, he said, the account will be closed.

HOW TO HELP

The San Bernardino United Relief Fund, for victims of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack, is still accepting donations.

To donate: Text “SBUNITED” to 71777 or visit arrowheadunitedway.org.

So far, the relief fund has paid out \$2.5 million to victims' families and those injured in the terrorist attack.

Inland Empire Muslims live, worship in shadow of terrorism

By Beau Yarbrough, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Saturday, November 26, 2016



When Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik opened fire at [San Bernardino's Inland Regional Center on Dec. 2](#), the Inland Empire's Muslim community braced for a backlash.

“Every incident that happens, when there's a terrorist attack or somebody being killed, there's gunshots, my parents sit (watching) the news and say ‘I hope he's not Muslim, I hope he's not Muslim, I hope he's not Muslim,’” said Chaffey College student Bayan Zehlif. “We didn't do anything, so why should we be hated on? I don't want to live a life full of fear every time something happens: ‘Please don't be a Muslim.’”

Since Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks committed by Muslims have cast a shadow over the [estimated 3.3 million Muslims living in the United States](#). The December 2015 attack in San Bernardino, in which 14 people were killed and 22 wounded, rekindled and intensified Muslim anxieties - feelings of “otherness,” frustration, embarrassment and fear.

On Dec. 3, Zehlif's mother tried to talk her out of going to fitness boot camp, out of a concern for her safety.

“I told her that, if something happens to me because of my religion, then I will proudly deal with the sacrifice,” Zehlif said. “You lock yourself at home because of something you didn't do, knowing that you're going to receive hate for it. And it's scary and it's sad, and I wouldn't want my kids to grow up like that.’ ... That doesn't make sense. Let me continue my life normally, I had nothing to with it. We share the same religion, we don't share the same values.”

“This is my test”

Mohammad Hossain, who founded the Redlands Islamic Center, located less than two miles from the Redlands townhouse rented by Farook and Malik, knows what it's like to be treated like an unwelcome alien by his neighbors. A Bangladeshi immigrant, Hossain worked and taught at nearby Loma Linda University Medical Center.

“One of the doctors said ‘Why did you come here? Why don't you go somewhere else?’”

One of his neighbors called police over and over again for a decade, falsely reporting that Hossain's dog was barking in the middle of the night.

“You would say ‘hello,’ and people would look away from you, they would not even look you in the face,” he said. “This is my test. That's the way I took it.”

The neighbors who shunned and complained about Hossain and his family in the 1980s moved away over time, replaced with newer, more tolerant ones.

Understanding started in an unlikely way. Hossain founded the Islamic center in 2000, a year before the Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

“After 9/11, everybody is looking at me. The whole city, the whole county, everybody,” he said. “And they started coming to me, saying ‘tell me, Dr. Hossain, tell us about Islam.’”

He printed up a four-page leaflet he would give to the curious and regularly spoke before church and service groups.

“People thought 9/11 was going to make people hate Islam. But it was exactly the opposite,” Hossain said. “The awareness worked in our favor. They understood that it wasn’t a religion of violence, it was a religion of peace.”

He didn’t change everyone’s minds, of course.

“Somebody put (feces) in a brown bag and left it in front of our mosque,” Hossain said. “Sometimes they used to put a little note, or put it in the mailbox, that said ‘terrorist,’ or something like that.”

In 2004, the center itself was vandalized. Drunken neighbors yelled “terrorist, terrorist, terrorist” as attendees arrived at the mosque for evening prayers.

“Some of the neighbors came into the parking lot and they broke some of the lights and poured beer into the car seats inside,” Hossain said.

But the Redlands community, especially the city’s Mormon residents, raised money to repair the lights.

“They told me ‘we are coming early in the morning and we are going to have a pancake breakfast,’” Hossain said. “They raised about \$2,000 -- cash on the spot.”

“No empathy at all”

But that embrace of Muslim community members can feel tenuous.

Bayan Zehlif wears a [hijab](#), a head scarf worn by many Muslim women to show modesty. For the most part, students at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga were respectful of her faith, she said, but she was still regularly reminded that she was different from them.

“They’d put their hoods up and say ‘oh my god, I’m Bayan,’” she said. “Like ha ha ha, I get it, we’re friends. You can’t do that. But I would just stay quiet so they wouldn’t hate me.”

And not everyone was tolerant.

“On the day of 9/11, we all know we’re going to do that speech, the teacher’s going to talk, you feel like everyone’s staring at you,” Zehlif said. One year, her teacher “just looks up and says ‘I just think that the people who caused 9/11 shouldn’t be here today.’ And all my friends look at me, and I was just, like, OK ...”

That feeling of otherness exploded this past spring, when Zehlif’s senior yearbook came out. It was riddled with errors and her picture, featuring Zehlif in a hijab, was printed with the name “[Isis Phillips](#)” under it. Hurt, [she vented on Facebook](#), saying “let’s be real” that the mislabelling was a typo, and not a reference to the terrorist group that has used the same name. (Shortly before the attack on the Inland Regional Center, [Malik pledged her support to ISIS on Facebook](#).)

The Facebook post was picked up by media around the world. Students she thought were her friends turned on Zehlif.

“It became a thing of teams: ‘Team Bayan’ or ‘Team Yearbook,’” she said. “But it shouldn’t be like that: This girl was obviously hurt, she was obviously embarrassed.”

School officials ordered students to return the yearbooks so they could have a sticker correcting the error placed over the offending page. Some students refused to return them and some even tried to resell an “Isis Edition” of the yearbook for a mark-up.

“There was no empathy at all. I missed my last two weeks of school. I went back for one day and I ended up sitting in the office, alone, knowing that no one wanted to talk to me,” Zehlif said. “That was my last day of high school.”

Her unwelcome labelling as “Isis Phillips” hasn’t followed her to Chaffey College, she said, although she continues to worry about being attacked for being a Muslim.

“My friend recently was victimized,” Zehlif said. “He pulled her scarf off and punched her and took her pepper spray and pepper sprayed her. And because of that, she took off her scarf.”

“You’re a terrorist”

Mohammad Salahat is a fourth-year student at Cal State San Bernardino, studying criminal justice with a minor in pre-law, and hoping to intern with the FBI.

Born in Jordan, Salahat was a Moreno Valley High School freshman in 2002. No one ever gave him much trouble about being a Muslim until after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

“Then the problems started coming in,” he said. “‘Terrorist,’ ‘you go back to your own country,’ showing me pictures of Osama bin-Laden and telling me ‘that’s your father.’ And everything in between.”

He had a couple fights with other students over the bullying before deciding to turn the other cheek. His fellow students also started respecting him and his faith more, he said.

The hostility flared up again last year at CSUSB. In November, [ISIS launched a terrorist attack in Paris that killed 130 people](#).

“After the Paris attack, (a fellow student) told me ‘you’re a terrorist on this campus,’” Salahat said. “I went to his face, shook his hand and said ‘thank you.’ Walked away. I face that every time something horrific happens.”

Salahat is an active member of the [CSUSB’s Muslim Student Association](#). There was a [Muslim Student Association at Riverside Community College](#), where Farook and his former neighbor Enrique Marquez, [planned to throw pipe bombs into the college cafeteria](#). The group has apparently disbanded some time during the 2015-16 school year. Attempts to reach past members have been unsuccessful.

Salahat believes Islamophobia isn’t going anywhere.

“I’m hoping it’ll go away. I’m praying it’ll go away,” he said. “But it’ll never go away.”

Salahat met Trena Meins, the widow of Dec. 2 victim Damian Meins, when she spoke before two classes at CSUSB on Nov. 2.

“After she was finished, I raised my hand,” Salahat said. “I said ‘I apologize for your loss. Please do not label the 1.6 billion Muslims who worship like I worship, who follow the bylaws, who follow the rules, like every other human being.’ ... She looked at me and responded and said ‘I know, I know. I have a Muslim friend, we’re closer than ever.’”

After the presentation, they spoke more, and embraced.

“I know it’s not your fault, it’s not Islam’s fault,” Salahat recalled Meins saying. “It’s that particular group. The bad apples.”

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161126/inland-empire-muslims-live-worship-in-shadow-of-terrorism>

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IRC conference center where San Bernardino terror attack occurred to reopen in 2017

By Jim Steinberg, San Bernardino Sun

Friday, November 25, 2016



Laurie Harper and Duke Richardson approached the makeshift memorial at the southeast corner of Waterman Avenue and Orange Show Road.

Some of the artificial flowers have faded. But a row of miniature American flags continue to display the spirit of those who have come to honor the 14 killed nearby almost one year ago.

“I’ve been doing this every month since it happened,” said Richardson, 46, who lives less than 2 miles from the site where so many were killed.

Harper, his friend from childhood growing up in San Bernardino, accompanied him on this day in early November.

“I try to make it as close to the date (of the shootings) as I can,” he said. “I’m not related to anyone killed that day ... and didn’t know anyone. But it was really sad that all those people were killed on that one day” — Dec. 2, 2015.

That day 14 people were killed and 22 others wounded at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino. Time has marched on, but the memory persists.

“We will never forget,” Harper said.

The Inland Regional Center, on Waterman Avenue since 2009, provides services and support to more than 31,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families, in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. After the shootings, the site was temporarily closed.

Two of the three buildings on site reopened Jan. 4. The third, the IRC Conference Center, will reopen next year, according to Lavinia Johnson, IRC executive director.

The building saw major water damage on the first floor after bullets from the shooting tore through water pipes for the building’s fire sprinkler system, said Steve von Rajcs., president and CEO of Redlands-based California Housing Foundation, a private nonprofit that owns the building.

“The rebuild on the bottom floor is putting it back the way it was, pretty much,” he said.

While that work is under way, the conference center has been separated by a fence. Only top management from the IRC has been allowed inside during the re-construction phase, von Rajcs said.

The 31,295-square-foot, two-story conference center was used by IRC staff and outside government agencies and nonprofits, von Rajcs said. But IRC officials said they do not know when outside groups can rent the space again.

The tragedy that took place that December day has given way to committees and groups wanting to come together to honor those whose lives were lost and a community forever changed.

A number of events are planned for the anniversary of the attack, including a gathering on site.

A memorial ceremony for IRC staff and guests to remember of the victims will take place at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2.

Johnson and Keith Nelson, chairman of the IRC board of trustees, will speak. And organizations that offered shelter to staff after the attack will be honored.

Just before 11 a.m., the time that tragedy struck one year ago, those who are gathered will honor those no longer here with a moment of silence.

PUBLIC MEMORIAL COMING

A committee was created earlier this year to focus on the development of a public memorial.

Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos assigned Supervisor Josie Gonzales to build the team and lead it, according to Dan Flores, her chief of staff.

The group is comprised of family members of the victims, county employees who were present during the attack, and representatives from various county departments.

“There have been several meetings and a mission statement has been drafted,” Flores said.

The memorial will:

- Focus on the county family and be dedicated primarily to those whose lives were taken.
- Recognize those who were injured and give consideration to first responders.
- Be a place of quiet reflection.
- Recognize the broad ethnic and cultural diversity of those who died.
- Celebrate life.

“The time line is that it will take several years, if not longer,” to decide how to best honor the lives that were lost, Flores said. The group wants to take as much time as needed to get the desired outcome.

“Getting it right is the most important thing,” Flores said.

The group has been studying how other memorials have taken shape following such events as the mass shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Conn., and Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., as well as the September 11 memorial in New York City.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20161125/irc-conference-center-where-san-bernardino-terror-attack-occurred-to-reopen-in-2017>

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Plans for Dec. 2 memorial moving forward

Sunday

Posted Nov 27, 2016 at 10:03 AM

Updated Nov 27, 2016 at 10:03 AM

By Staff reports

SAN BERNARDINO — Plans continue for a Dec. 2 memorial, county officials say, as an internal committee is tasked with creating the permanent dedication to the 14 people killed and 22 injured in last year's terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center.

The December 2nd Memorial Committee, which consists of representatives from multiple county departments and victims' family members, recently reviewed several memorials from around the U.S. Next, the committee will enter talks at the onset of 2017 on how to proceed with the Dec. 2 memorial.

"The committee is making it a point to put careful consideration into each aspect of the memorial process, understanding that memorials can take up to a decade to develop," county spokeswoman Felisa Cardona said in a statement last week. "As the first anniversary of this tragic event approaches, the committee members want the public to know that work is progressing in a thoughtful and inclusive manner."

She said that the committee's earlier reviews of other memorials essentially showed how the sponsoring agency "used a structured process to allow artists, architects and designers to submit proposals."

On Dec. 2, shooters Syed Farook, a county environmental health inspector, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, stormed into the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino and shot to death 14 — mostly county workers — and injured nearly two dozen more. They were later killed in a fierce gun battle with authorities.

Cardona said the memorial committee, launched in February, has already held several meetings since then to establish a vision for the dedication.

"The committee has determined the memorial should recognize the broad diversity and lives of the victims, as well as those who stepped up to preserve and protect life," she said. "The memorial will also provide enduring recognition of the county employees who witnessed the attack, many of whom were physically injured and all of whom were emotionally impacted.

"The committee believes the memorial should be a place for quiet reflection."

SBIAA floored by Sheriff's Aviation costs

Posted: Saturday, November 26, 2016 8:37 am

Since Jody Scott did not run for reelection on the Highland City Council, she can no longer represent the city on the San Bernardino International Airport Authority (SBIAA) Board of Commissioners. Members of the Commission must be elected representatives of their member cities.

That was why the Commission, represented by Board President Carey Davis, gave her a framed resolution recognizing her work on the Commission at its regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The city of San Bernardino, represented by Commissioner Fred Shorett, presented its own resolution, and the airport staff, represented by Airport Executive Director Michael Burrows, gave her a big bouquet.

Scott has one more City Council meeting before she steps down due to redistricting that put her and Mayor Pro Tem Penny Lilburn in the same district.

In airport business, the Commission authorized a \$542,580 contract to reinstall flooring for the new Sheriff's Aviation building. The initial installation was defective because the original contractor failed to insulate the concrete from the flooring, causing it to buckle.

The old flooring has to be taken out, the concrete repaired, and the new flooring installed. Burrows said the original contractor had not been fully paid and the final cost is still unknown.

The Commission also approved installation of a wash rack system for the Sheriff's Aviation hangar at a cost of \$57,392.



Jody Scott lauded

Highland City Councilwoman Jody Scott is given a resolution for her service on the San Bernardino International Airport Authority (SBIAA) by Board President Carey Davis for her service on the SBIAA Commission.

Activity high: Adelanto has approved more than 50 pot permits

Saturday

Posted Nov 26, 2016 at 9:56 AM

Updated Nov 26, 2016 at 9:57 AM

By **Shea Johnson**

Staff Writer

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ADELANTO — The city has so far approved 42 medical marijuana cultivation permits and 14 pot manufacturing permits, while others have either been denied, withdrawn by the applicant or remain outstanding, according to documents provided by the city's senior planner in the past week.

The 42 successful permits for cultivation — Adelanto's first approved activity for its burgeoning medical cannabis industry — run the gamut in size: One applicant approved on Beaver Road wants a 5,000-square-foot facility. Another on the same strip within the industrial park could boast a site as small as 30,000 square feet or as large as 300,000, the documents show.

Either way, the permit activity backs the narrative that there isn't a lack of interest from entrepreneurs. In fact, the city recently authorized hiring a contract planning firm to alleviate the backlog associated with the wave of paperwork flooding into City Hall.

About half of OK'd cultivation permits were stamped in late December at a time when the ordinance allowing such activity was brand new. Three more were approved during the spring, and several more were green lit between August and last month.

For manufacturing, which was the second activity later authorized by the City Council, permits were approved in August and September.

Many of the entrepreneurs here have applied for and been granted licenses for both cultivation and manufacturing. It's an industry that was boosted earlier this month by the passage of Measure R, the city's 5-percent pot excise tax, and Proposition 64, which legalizes recreational marijuana in California.

The nascent industry in Adelanto has whipped up promises of an economic resurgence and, at least in the short term, a return to a balanced budget for a city that has struggled to enter the black in recent years.

The 56 combined permits approved thus far also represent a significant departure from initial plans last year, when the proposed maximum was five permits. The cap was later bumped to six before officials ultimately settled on simply allowing the available space in the city's industrial parks — where the activity is designated — to dictate how many permits could be issued.

In September, Genex Trading broke ground on the first cultivation and manufacturing facility within city limits.

Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@DP_Shea](https://twitter.com/DP_Shea).

'Not a very friendly town': Lawsuit dismissed, former resident recalls life as a gay man in Apple Valley

Friday

Posted Nov 25, 2016 at 11:45 AM

Updated Nov 26, 2016 at 8:35 PM

By **Matthew Cabe**
Staff Writer

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APPLE VALLEY — A former Apple Valley resident offered a few choice words to officials and citizens last week following the dismissal of a lawsuit against him.

In May 2015, the Town of Apple Valley brought a civil lawsuit against Mark Gudmundsen for allegedly operating a “bondage fantasy” business without a license. The suit was settled this summer, but not before Gudmundsen said he fell victim to discrimination and hate speech.

Gudmundsen, who lived in Apple Valley for six months and has since resettled in Iowa, told the Daily Press his sexual orientation loomed large in both the case against him and among some residents.

“It was not a very friendly town,” he said. “I had some things happen to me, especially when (my story) got in the paper. I did have some hate stuff against me. I had someone actually drive by in a truck and yell some obscenities at me.”

The obscenities, which included derogatory terms for homosexuals, scared Gudmundsen — who moved away before the town dropped its case — in order to escape fear and stress.

“I was like, ‘I’m out of here,’ he said. “I’m not going to have rocks thrown through the windows or something like that. I didn’t have the stomach for it. All of the reason for me leaving was because I felt discriminated against in Apple Valley.”

Despite moving, Gudmundsen suffered a minor stroke in February that left him temporarily blind in one eye. He said the stroke was brought on by stress related to both the case and discrimination.

Town officials declined to comment on the litigation and could not initially provide the amount paid in attorneys fees related to the lawsuit; the Daily Press filed a public records request last Tuesday to obtain the amount.

In July 2015, Gudmundsen said an offer was made to settle the matter: Agree to a permanent injunction and pay town attorney costs.

"I'm willing to say I'm not going to run a business here, but I'm not willing to pay \$20,000 to not run a business," he said at the time, specifying the alleged settlement amount.

Ann Lakhman, with Lakhman & Kasamatsu LLP, represented Gudmundsen. She confirmed the terms of the settlement are confidential before questioning the town’s dismissal.

“Why did the plaintiff dismiss?” Lakhman wondered. “They have all the power. Why did they dismiss? There must be some other exposure they don’t want to face.”

A judge approved a temporary restraining order sought by the town in May 2015, before issuing a preliminary injunction the next month. In court documents, town officials said Gudmundsen was conducting a business without a license, adding that the “bondage fantasy” business was a public nuisance.

Gudmundsen countered that the non-sexual role-play scenarios involved a small group of friends and featured “incarceration” and the use of restraints in a jail or mental-institution setting.

A deleted post that appeared on his non-pornographic website, _____, when he still lived in Apple Valley seemed to suggest that \$450 was required for participation in the role playing, but Gudmundsen said that was a suggested donation to help defray costs of transportation, meals and equipment used inside his residence.

Gudmundsen maintains that the town's reasoning behind the case involved "something completely discriminatory."

"It was because I'm gay," he said.

Town Attorney John Brown previously said that the Code Enforcement action against Gudmundsen's role playing was "based on the character of the activity, not the person conducting the activity."

Gudmundsen explained he's no stranger to discrimination. He said he went through a "nasty divorce" that included the other side "acting like I was insane" because of his interest in slave and incarceration fantasies.

He underwent treatment designed to change a person's sexual orientation.

"I grew up in a religion where they considered being homosexual as a mental illness, and I was convinced I was mentally ill at a young age," Gudmundsen said. "I went to what they call reparative therapy, which is a conversion-based therapy that's just a complete fraud. I've dealt with so much prejudice over the years until I figured out that you're not mentally ill because you're gay."

Gudmundsen now operates a second website, _____, which features writings that formerly appeared on the Men In Chains site. He said the initial goal of his writings was to "reach out to people who didn't understand themselves" and to be a "voice of reason" to those who don't understand non-traditional interests.

"If you're a little bit kinky, you're not crazy," he said.

Now, with litigation behind him, he said he's settling nicely into life in Iowa.

"Oh my gosh, I love this town," he said. "I found this old Victorian house that was almost just a shell. I paid \$35,000 for it and started fixing it up, but I just fell in love with the town so I think I'm just going to stay here."

“It’s just this quaint little small town, and everybody is totally friendly. I live across the street from the Methodist church, which is very accepting of gays. I’m friends with the minister, and the town is just — everyone’s nice. Most of the people are probably much more conservative than I am, but it doesn’t matter. They’re all nice.”

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County awarded \$2M in settlement with BP over environmental violation claims

Friday

Posted Nov 25, 2016 at 12:01 AM

Updated Nov 25, 2016 at 7:23 AM

By Shea Johnson Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — San Bernardino County has been awarded more than \$2 million in a settlement with BP and subsidiary ARCO over allegations that hazardous materials and waste laws were broken at more than five dozen gas stations in the county, officials said.

District Attorney Mike Ramos announced the settlement this week with BP West Coast Products LLC, BP Products North America and Atlantic Richfield Company. The \$2.07 million settlement was part of a larger \$14 million deal to resolve claims statewide.

"BP failed to properly maintain and monitor their underground storage tank systems so as to prevent leaks of fuel into our groundwater supplies," Ramos said in a statement Monday. "This result should send a strong message to would-be environmental violators: If you don't follow the laws and rules designed to protect our natural resources, you will be prosecuted."

The settlement ultimately resolves a civil complaint brought by the state Attorney General's office and filed in August 2013 that claims BP had violated environmental laws since 2006. The complaint alleges that BP owned or controlled gas stations that "failed to properly maintain leak detection devices, test secondary containment systems, conduct monthly inspections, train employees in proper protocol, and maintain operational alarm systems, among other violations," according to the county's DA office.

The violations were alleged to have occurred at hundreds of gas stations in California; 67 were in this county. A statewide investigation found violations of environmental law in 36 of California's 58 counties, said Douglas Poston, lead deputy district attorney in San Bernardino County who oversees the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit and prosecuted the case.

"BP has sold nearly all of their interests in the underground storage tank sites in California," Poston said. "The parties have agreed to resolve the matter and anticipate final judicial approval of the settlement."

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[GIVE BIG: Mountain Non-Profits Benefit From November 29 Webathon](#)

in [For Your Information](#), [Ticker](#) / by [Michael P. Neufeld](#) / on November 28, 2016 at 12:05 am /



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GIVE BIG San Bernardino County's 24-hour webathon is Tuesday, November 29, benefitting non-profit organizations. (Contributed Photo)

By Michael P. Neufeld

Mountain Communities – Eleven non-profit organizations in the mountain communities are encouraging everyone to participate in Tuesday's **GIVE BIG** San Bernardino County campaign.



GIVE BIG is a 24-hour fund-raising webathon scheduled to start November 29 to raise money for numerous non-profit organizations in the mountain communities and throughout the county.

MOUNTAIN NON-PROFITS

Here is a list of the agencies in the mountain communities participating in **GIVE BIG**:

Bear Valley Meals on Wheels (Big Bear)

Big Bear Valley American Association of University Women (Big Bear)

Big Bear Valley Education Trust (Big Bear)

Crest Forest Senior Citizens' Club (Crestline)

Friends of Bear Valley (Fawnskin)

Friends of the Crestline Library (Crestline)

Friends of the Moonridge Alpine Zoo (Big Bear)

Oaktree Tree Foundation (Big Bear)

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Dozens of vehicles stuck due to wintry road conditions in San Bernardino mountains

By John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Saturday, November 26, 2016

LAKE ARROWHEAD >> So many drivers are getting stuck on slippery roads that even AAA has stopped taking reports due to a shortage of tow trucks, according to a California Highway Patrol dispatcher.

By 6:30 p.m. Saturday no accidents had yet been reported, said the dispatcher, who declined to give his name.

“A lot of vehicles are just stuck on the ice and snow,” he said.

About 3:30 p.m., Caltrans District 8 tweeted chains were required in all San Bernardino mountain areas. Apparently few motorists got the message; the CHP dispatcher said many people were unprepared for the wintry road conditions.

Most stuck vehicles were being reported between Highway 18 and Rim Forest all the way to Highway 38 past Onyx Peak, the dispatcher said.

Reports started coming in about 4 p.m., according to a CHP online incident log that indicated dozens of stuck vehicles reported by shortly before 7 p.m.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161126/dozens-of-vehicles-stuck-due-to-wintery-road-conditions-in-san-bernardino-mountains>

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A mega-quake stretching from L.A. to San Francisco would devastate California, with \$289 billion in losses, study finds

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Scientists say they've found a way to give you a little extra warning before an earthquake strikes.



By **Rong-Gong Lin II**

NOVEMBER 23, 2016, 11:15 AM

A sobering new report on California's seismic vulnerabilities said that up to 3.5 million homes could be damaged if an 8.0 earthquake ruptured on the San Andreas fault.

The new estimate, from the data firm [CoreLogic](#), is based on a theoretical rupture of the entire San Andreas fault, which passes through Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area and spans more than 800 miles, from the Pacific Ocean south of Eureka to Imperial County near the Mexican border.

Scientists now say it is possible — although not likely — that the northern and southern sections of the San Andreas fault can rupture simultaneously.

The cost of reconstruction could be greater than \$289 billion.

The CoreLogic report was calculated based upon a new government forecast on earthquake risks [released about a year and a half ago](#), which accepted the possibility — however remote — of a San Andreas fault earthquake simultaneously striking Northern and Southern California.

Scientists had long thought that no large earthquakes could occur on a so-called “creeping” section of the San Andreas fault in San Benito and Monterey counties. Creeping sections of the faults generally produce small earthquakes, like those magnitude 5 or less, but were not thought to produce large ones.

“Locked” sections of faults, meanwhile, are the ones we generally worry about, gathering stress over decades or centuries, and building strain to be released in a catastrophic earthquake someday.

Researchers had long believed that the central San Andreas’ creeping section essentially acted as a barrier for the fault, dividing it into two sections. Such a division would have meant that the same San Andreas earthquake could not be unleashed on both Los Angeles County and the Bay Area at the same time.

But recent computer simulations show that large earthquakes can sometimes punch through parts of a fault that are creeping.

Yet something that is possible is not all that probable.

An earthquake that stretches from all ends of the San Andreas fault simultaneously is probably not going to happen in our lifetime. Such a quake probably happens about every 150,000 years on average, “so it is extremely unlikely,” said Morgan Page, a U.S. Geological Survey research geophysicist.

Even a relatively shorter earthquake on the San Andreas — from Point Reyes in the San Francisco Bay Area to the Mojave Desert in Southern California — would likely occur once every 2,500 years.

The government’s model, called the Third Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, or UCERF3, included earthquakes that were theoretically possible, even though they were not particularly likely.

“It is important to include many possibilities, so we won’t be surprised by an earthquake that occurs but was not included in the model,” Page said. “There are a lot of ‘surprising’ earthquakes in seismology. For example, the 2011 magnitude 9 earthquake that hit Japan ... was not included in the Japanese hazard models at the time. But it still happened.”

How strong is ‘disaster culture’ in earthquake-prone L.A.? »

A magnitude 8 earthquake would particularly threaten large structures, based on the physics of earthquake waves, and could be problematic for large bridges or skyscrapers.

A more likely scenario in California’s future would be a 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas fault that ruptures from the Salton Sea through the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County.

A government estimate of that Southern California earthquake scenario, known as ShakeOut, estimated a death toll of some 2,000 people, 50,000 injuries and \$200 billion in damage and other losses. Experts projected that five steel-frame high-rise buildings would collapse, as would 50 brittle concrete buildings, either completely or partially. About 900 unreinforced brick buildings would be irreparably damaged in this scenario.

In the Bay Area, scientists are more worried about a magnitude 7 earthquake on the Hayward fault, which lies underneath the densely populated cities of Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward and Fremont, and stretches from Silicon Valley to San Pablo Bay.

The San Andreas fault’s southernmost stretch has not ruptured since about 1680 — more than 330 years ago, scientists estimate. And a big earthquake happens on average in this area once every 150 or 200 years, so experts think the region is long overdue for a major quake.

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ALSO

[Feeling earthquake anxiety? Here's what you can do to be prepared](#)

With hate crimes on the rise, police are going undercover and monitoring social media for signs of trouble



Many protests after Donald Trump's election victory have focused on rebutting a culture of racism that critics say he helped foster. Law enforcement officials are now facing heightened concerns about bias crimes. (Associated Press)

By **James Queally and Veronica Rocha**

NOVEMBER 28, 2016, 5:00 AM

In Redwood City, a man slugged a gas station employee and told police he did it because he wanted to hit a Mexican.

In Danville, a black student walked into a restroom at Monte Vista High School and found someone had scrawled the words “colored” and “whites” over separate urinals.

In Orange County, a local Republican official faced bipartisan scorn after she wrote on Facebook that she did not “want any type of Muslims in our country.”

FROM OUR PARTNERS: THREE CALIFORNIA MOSQUES RECEIVE HATEFUL LETTERS MENTIONING TRUMP

Then, over the Thanksgiving Day holiday, numerous California mosques received handwritten letters that threatened the genocide of Muslims and praised President-elect [Donald Trump](#).

Since election day, there have been reports in California and across the country of hate crimes, ugly verbal confrontations and other incidents. The election was one of the most divisive in modern history, punctuated with issues over illegal immigration, Muslims and treatment of women.

Despite numerous high-profile incidents, officials said they don't know whether there are actually more hate crimes since the election or whether they are simply getting more attention.

Law enforcement agencies are trying to get ahead of the problem. Some are launching task forces to quickly investigate hate allegations. San Francisco, for example, is sending undercover officers into neighborhoods to see if they become the victims of hate crimes. It's similar to [a program the department](#) launched to reduce sport-related violence by having undercover cops wearing rival team gear during playoffs.

Other agencies are stepping up outreach efforts to encourage people to report hate crimes and incidents of bigotry that are likely protected by the 1st Amendment, but that officials still vowed to investigate.

“In times of turmoil, in times of uncertainty, in times of strife, hate crimes increase. The fear of other is very, very strong in humanity,” Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said. “This cannot stand. This cannot be something we allow as a people.”

Over the last week, law enforcement agencies throughout California have launched a public awareness campaign hoping to deter the perpetrators of hate crimes and to remind victims that they should feel safe in reporting such incidents to police.

Authorities in Los Angeles and San Francisco are monitoring social media comments that might rise to the level of a criminal threat or serve as a precursor of a hate crime.

San Francisco Dist. Atty. George Gascon said he hopes the efforts will not only deter criminal activity but also make those who fear being targeted feel safer.

“There are several things that are very concerning. The fear level that has been impacting a lot of communities ... people are not going out into certain places,” Gascon said. “You’re seeing Muslim women afraid to wear their traditional garb.”

Experts say hate crimes are generally considered underreported, in part because the victims either speak poor English or fear that interaction with law enforcement might spark questions about their immigration status.

As a result, it’s difficult to get a clear sense of hate crime trends. But one thing is clear: Even before the presidential election cycle, hate crime reports were rising both nationally and in California.

Reported hate crimes throughout the U.S. rose 7% in 2015, according to the FBI. Incidents specifically targeting Muslims grew the most, with 257 reported incidents last year compared with 154 the year before. In California, hate crime reports increased by 10.4% in 2015, according to the state attorney general’s office.

Officials are quick to point out that there is a difference between a hate crime and cruel or hurtful comments, many of which are protected under the 1st Amendment. The law makes it illegal to physically harm someone based on his or her race, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation, among other characteristics.

But Gascon and Beck also urged people to report incidents that might not be prosecutable but still might constitute racist or bigoted behavior. Police want to track those as well, and hope that by collecting information on racist behavior and speaking out against it, they can battle back what some call the “normalization” of hate.

“This is a new world for law enforcement,” Beck said. “We have people that monitor social media particularly in and around the things that we think may be related to hate crimes, and then we make value judgments based on the law.”

In September, the LAPD, the Rand Corp. and a group of British researchers [announced plans](#) to monitor millions of tweets related to the L.A. area in an effort to identify patterns and markers that prejudice-motivated violence is about to occur in real time. The researchers then will compare the data against records of reported violent acts.

The academics said the program could help determine whether police can predict when and where hate crimes are likely to occur and deploy law enforcement resources to prevent them.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week announced the establishment of a special police unit to investigate hate crimes and established a hotline for potential victims to call.

The [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) last week reported [701 incidents](#) of harassment since Trump's win, with most occurring in the first three days following the election. Of those, 206 incidents were anti-immigrant and 51 were anti-Muslim.

There also were 27 reported anti-Trump incidents, according to the SPLC.

Civil rights advocates say identifying perpetrators of hate crimes is difficult.

“In general the majority of hate crimes are not perpetrated by card-carrying members of racist organizations,” said Joanna Mendelson, an investigative researcher with the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism. “There are so many more incidents that are perpetrated by your juveniles, by your neighborhood bigots. But they're not members of your National Socialist Movement or your local KKK.”

Trump has disavowed support from prominent white supremacists, including former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke, though critics say his outspoken views have contributed to the tense political atmosphere. In an interview with “60 Minutes” given days after the election, Trump also said he was “saddened” by reports of increased bias attacks.

“And I say, ‘Stop it.’ ... I will say right to the cameras: ‘Stop it,’” Trump said.

Some experts on extremism hope Trump will do more.

“We would like to see a speech addressing this specifically, not just saying the words ‘Stop it,’” said Brian Levin, executive director of the Cal State San Bernardino Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism.

Aside from a call for unity from Trump, other activists called for greater outreach from local police. Hussam Ayloush, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in the greater Los Angeles area, said he would like to see police and prosecutors visiting local mosques and schools in an effort to assuage fears.

Ayloush said many of the incidents reported to CAIR after the election involved harassment rather than violence. Muslims in Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange counties have reported at least 15 incidents to CAIR, saying they were screamed at for wearing religious garb in public or received anti-Islamic slurs in recent weeks, according to Ayloush.

One Muslim college professor walked into class and found a note on his desk that read, “this is not your country, this is Trump's country,” Ayloush said.

Over the last few days, at least four mosques around California received copies of a handwritten letter addressed to “the children of Satan” that called Muslims a “vile and filthy people.”

“Your day of reckoning has arrived,” the letter states, according to CAIR. “There’s a new sheriff in town — President Donald Trump. He’s going to cleanse America and make it shine again. And, he’s going to start with you Muslims.”

“There’s a lot of concern today,” Ayloush said. “When I visit people at mosques, people are worried, especially people who are visibly Muslim.”

Law enforcement officials and Muslim leaders will discuss the letters during a news conference Monday at the Islamic Center of Southern California.

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Follow @JamesQueallyLAT for crime and police news in California.

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Search will continue for missing couple in the Northern California mountains

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7 sent to hospital after active shooter reported at Ohio State



Police respond to reports of an active shooter on campus at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. (Andrew Welsh-Huggins / Associated Press)

By **Associated Press**

NOVEMBER 28, 2016, 7:50 AM | REPORTING FROM COLUMBUS, OHIO

Ohio State University is telling students there's an active shooter on campus and they should “Run Hide Fight.”

Seven people have been sent to the hospital, with two in stable condition, according to the Columbus Fire Department. There were no details on the other five victims.

Ohio State's official Twitter page retweeted a post from OSU Emergency Management saying there is an active shooter on campus in Columbus on Monday morning.

The tweet says: “Buckeye Alert: Active Shooter on campus. Run Hide Fight. Watts Hall. 19th and College.” Watts Hall is a materials science and engineering building.

“Run, hide, fight” is standard protocol for active shooter situations. It means: run, evacuate if possible; hide, get silently out of view; or fight, as a last resort, take action to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter if your life is in imminent danger.

OSU Emergency Management sent follow-up tweets, including one at 10:35 a.m. Eastern time telling students: “Continue to shelter in place. Wait for Police officers directions.”

A Columbus police dispatcher declined to comment on the reports, but police vehicles were seen at the scene.

UPDATES:

7:52 a.m.: Updated with 7 sent to hospital.

7:35 a.m.: Updated with details throughout.

This post originally published at 7:25 a.m.

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