

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2025

Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Vehicular Explosion in Las Vegas, Nevada, From Camp David, Maryland

January 1, 2025

Good evening.

I know I can speak for all Americans when I say our hearts are with the people in New Orleans after the despicable attack that occurred in the early morning hours.

To all the families of those who were killed, to all those who were injured, to all the people in New Orleans who are grieving today, I want you to know I grieve with you. Our Nation grieves with you. We're going to stand with you as you mourn and as you heal in the weeks to come.

I want to thank our brave first responders and law enforcement personnel who stopped the attacker in his tracks before he could kill or injure even more people.

And I want to thank you to everyone at the Department of the Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, including the FBI, for working nonstop to investigate this heinous act. The FBI is leading the investigation to determine what happened, why it happened, and whether there is any continuing threat to public safety.

Here's what we know so far. The FBI has reported to me the killer was an American citizen, born in Texas. He served in the United States Army on Active Duty for many years. He also served in the Army Reserve until a few years ago.

The FBI also reported to me that mere hours before the attack, he posted videos on social media indicating that he was inspired by ISIS, expressing a desire to kill—a desire to kill. The ISIS flag was found in his vehicle, which he rented to conduct this attack. Possible explosives were found in the vehicle as well, and more explosives were near—were found nearby.

The situation is very fluid, and the investigation is at a preliminary stage. And the fact is that right now—excuse me—

[At this point, the President flipped through some pages in a binder on the podium.]

There you go—the law enforcement and intelligence community are continuing to look for any connections, associations, or coconspirators.

We have nothing additional to report at this time. The investigation is continuing to be active, and no one should jump to conclusions. I've directed my Attorney General, the FBI Director, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the head of the National Counterintelligence—terrorism Center, and the intelligence community to work on this intensively until we have a full and complete information. And once we have that information, I will share that information as soon as I—we can confirm it.

Additionally, we're tracking the explosion of a Cybertruck outside the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas. Law enforcement and the intelligence community are investigating this as well, including whether there's any possible connection with the attack in New Orleans. Thus far, there's nothing to report on that score at this time.

I directed my team to make sure every resource—every resource—is made available to Federal, State, and local law enforcement to complete the investigation in New Orleans quickly and to make sure there's no remaining threat to the American people.

And we'll—we will support the people in New Orleans as they begin the hard work of healing.

New Orleans is a place unlike any other place in the world. It's a city full of charm and joy. So many people around the world love New Orleans because of its history, its culture, and above all, its people. So I know, while this person committed a terrible assault on the city, the spirit of our New Orleans will never, never, never be defeated. It always will shine forth.

We've seen that time and time again throughout its history, and I know we'll see it again in the days and weeks ahead.

May God bless the people of New Orleans. May our—God bless our police and our first responders, and may God protect our troops.

And we'll keep you fully, contemporaneously informed.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. Biden, have you spoken to President Trump?

Q. Do you plan to visit New Orleans?

Q. Can you tell us—[inaudible]—New Orleans attack?

Q. Have you spoken to President Trump?

Q. —investigated as a terror attack?

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 6:30 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Shamsud-Din Jabbar, suspect in the vehicular attack in New Orleans, LA, on January 1; Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Christopher A. Wray; and Brett M. Holmgren, Acting Director, National Counterterrorism Center. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization. A reporter referred to President-elect Donald J. Trump. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 2.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Terrorist attack in New Orleans, LA, and vehicular explosion in Las Vegas, NV, remarks from Camp David, MD.

Locations: Camp David, MD.

Names: Garland, Merrick B.; Holmgren, Brett M.; Jabbar, Shamsud-Din; Mayorkas, Alejandro N.; Wray, Christopher A.

Subjects: Attorney General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; First responders, service and dedication; Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization; Law enforcement officers, service and dedication; Louisiana, terrorist attack in New Orleans; Louisiana, vehicular explosion in Las Vegas; Maryland, President's visit; National Counterterrorism Center; Secretary of Homeland Security.

DCPD Number: DCPD202500003.