MSNBC showed a close-up image of Rafia Farook’s driver’s license on live TV today.

Farook is the mother of Syed Farook, or of the accused shooters in the San Bernardino shooting this week.

iMediaEthics watched the video of MSNBC going through Syed Farook’s townhouse after his landlord let media in. The MSNBC reporter went through the rooms, looking through a calendar, a stack of photos of unidentified people, and so on, with the camera showing close-ups.

MSNBC's reporter going through belongings in the townhouse of the suspected San Bernardino shooters.
some. At one point MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell in the studio cautions to not show pictures of the children.

Ironically, on MSNBC later, the commentator said law enforcement wanted to be “slow and correct rather than fast and wrong.”

Over at CNN, Wolf Blitzer discussed the media going through the townhouse.

“Never have I seen something like this,” CNN legal analyst Paul Callan said on air about the media being allowed such access to the townhouse, going through belongings, especially when it doesn’t appear fingerprinting was done yet.

“Turned a crime scene in a terrorist mass murder into a garage sale,” he added.

“I’ve certainly never seen anything like this,” CNN’s Wolf Blitzer commented.

For its part, CNN told Mashable:

“CNN, like many other news organizations, was granted access to the home by the landlord. We made a conscious editorial decision not to show close-up footage of any material that could be considered sensitive or identifiable, such as photos or ID cards.”

NBC News spokesperson Erika Masonhall tweeted:

As @mitchellreports said on @MSNBC: the apt owner permitted the press tour, the FBI has already cleared out useful evidence

The Huffington Post noted: “Multiple television networks, including MSNBC, CNN and CBS, aired footage Friday from inside the home of San Bernardino shooting suspects Syed Rizwan Farook ar Tashfeen Malik.”
Mashable added: “News outlets, including MSNBC, BBC, CBS News and CNN, broadcast live scene as reporters toting cameras and microphones pushed through the open door and reported from inside the apartment.”

Below, see some tweets about the media coverage inside the townhouse.

You May Also Like...

San Bernardino Shootings Coverage: 'We Regret' Showing Photos, License, MSNBC says
Heather Billings
@hbillings

You're journalists. You're supposed to care about integrity, not spectacle. Go to Hollywood where you belong and get out of my profession.
1:05 PM - 4 Dec 2015

Brian Ries
@moneyries

That was some of the nuttiest live TV I've seen in a while. Imagine journalism schools will examine this for years.
12:50 PM - 4 Dec 2015

Marcus Gilmer
@marcusgilmer

brb, giving up america and journalism to be a goat farmer in new zealand
1:17 PM - 4 Dec 2015
MSNBC just doxed Rafia Farook, mother of a terrorist, on live television. I've blurred the important bits.

12:49 PM - 4 Dec 2015

1,374  648

Classy: NBC inside the house of San Bernardino attackers

12:31 PM - 4 Dec 2015

12  10
iMediaEthics has written to MSNBC to ask if it will apologize, blur or remove the driver's license, in particular, from its coverage.

TAGS: MSNBC, SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTINGS, SYED MALIK, TASHFEEN MALIK, U.S.>
Add a comment...
MSNBC shows Rafia Farook's Driver's License, Photos of Unidentified People on Air - iMediaEthics

BBC: Coverage of Syed Farook & Tashfeen Malik’s Apartment ‘Appropriate and Relevant’

Daily Mail Hired a Helicopter to Take Pictures of Prince Andrew’s House for Princess Eugenie’s Birthday Party Stories

San Bernardino Shootings Coverage: ‘We Regret’ Showing Photos, License, MSNBC says

Twice now, UK Courts rule the UK Mail Violated Paul Weller’s Children’s Privacy with Photos

MOST POPULAR

Top 10 Media Ethics Issues of 2014

Pitbull “Molested And Attacked” Toddler?

Rihanna Anti Album Article Accidentally Posted on Yahoo News?

Vladimir Putin Didn’t say ‘To Forgive The Terrorists is Up to God, but to send them to him is up to me’

MSNBC shows Rafia Farook’s Driver’s License, Photos of Unidentified People on Air
BuzzFeed Staffers given OK to call Donald Trump Racist

Do 1/3 of Drunk Vegetarians Eat Meat? Where’s the Survey Media Covered?

BBC: Coverage of Syed Farook & Tashfeen Malik’s Apartment ‘Appropriate and Relevant’

UK Sun Retracts: Freelancer didn’t go from Turkey to France without showing passport

Daily Mail Hired a Helicopter to Take Pictures of Prince Andrew’s House for Princess Eugenie’s Birthday Party Stories

@IMEDIAETHICS ON TWITTER

iMediaEthics @imediaethics · 15 mins ago
RT @SSmithWriter: Remember that survey that said 1/3 of vegetarians eat meat while drunk? Where is it? https://t.co/Q7XTVzQeHb

iMediaEthics @imediaethics · 16 mins ago
RT @julnilsmith: Why #medialiteracy? Because 1/5 of Americans are online at every moment. https://t.co/Cek79NrMsy

iMediaEthics @imediaethics · 3 hours ago
BuzzFeed staff given the OK to call Trump racist liar https://t.co/NyGqsBpznf
iMediaEthics @imediaethics · 7 hours ago
BBC defends coverage of Syed Farook & Tashfeen Malik’s apartment as ‘appropriate & relevant’
https://t.co/nU4Ry63khJ OfCom got 4 complaints

iMediaEthics @imediaethics · 8 hours ago
RT @SSmithWriter: Do 1 out of 3 drunk vegetarians eat meat? Where is the survey the media covered?
https://t.co/Q7XTVzQeHb

Keep an eye on iMediaEthics

About iMediaEthics

iMediaEthics is a not-for-profit, non-partisan news site that publishes the latest media ethics news and investigations into ethical lapses.

Polling Center

Check out iMediaEthics Polling Center, which includes iMediaEthics Polls and Resources on Media Polling.

POLLS ARTICLES
POLLS LINKS
POLLS CARTOONS
DUBIOUS POLLING AWARDS
POLL CHECK

For Educators

Check out iMediaEthics Resources for Educators, a helpful section for colleges, institutions, students and teachers.

ETHICS CODES
CASE STUDIES