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# Media Feeding Frenzy as Reporters Stampede Into San Bernardino Suspects' Apartment

—By [Inae Oh \(/authors/inae-oh\)](#) | Fri Dec. 4, 2015 1:56 PM EST

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On Friday afternoon, cable news networks CNN and MSNBC, along with other photographers and reporters, gained access to the home of the couple suspected of carrying out the [deadly mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people and injured 21](#). (<http://www.motherjones.com/moj/2015/12/san-bernardino-shooting>) The rampage, which occurred only two days prior, has since been the subject of an FBI investigation for possible terrorism.

It's still unknown exactly how the journalists gained entry into the apartment. ([There remains some dispute around the role of the landlord](#) (<https://twitter.com/CBSLA/status/672835976054497281>) on the scene.) Reporters could be seen going through children's belongings and even holding up a driver's license that appeared to belong to a family member of one of the suspects. The scene became an instant breaking news item, of blockbuster proportions:

A look inside San Bernardino shooters' home



One of CNN's own security analysts, Harry Houck, appeared appalled by what he was watching live on air, even as CNN continued to show more footage from inside the house. "I'm having chills down my spine what I'm seeing here. This apartment is clearly full of evidence." Watch his reaction below:

CNN analyst: Media in shooters' apartment is shocking



**Victor Blackwell CNN**  
@VictorCNN

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Door of [#SanBernardino](#) shooters' home opened by owner.  
Media heading in.

12:18 PM - 4 Dec 2015

242

220



**Angelo Carusone**  
@GoAngelo

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"Come over here, you can see the baby's toys. We have really quite a number of toys."

12:47 PM - 4 Dec 2015

106 50



**David Boles**  
@DavidBoles

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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



**Brian Stelter**  
@brianstelter

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CNN's @StephanieElam now live inside the home now

12:36 PM - 4 Dec 2015

28 17

CNN even chose to lead with a photo of what appears to be a crib from inside the house on the network's homepage with this banner headline:

The screenshot shows the CNN website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'News', 'Video', 'TV', 'Opinions', and 'More...'. Below that, a secondary bar lists various topics: 'U.S.', 'World', 'Politics', 'Tech', 'Health', 'Entertainment', 'Living', 'Travel', 'Money', 'Sports', and a 'Watch Live TV' button. The main headline is 'ISIS connection to massacre' in large, bold black letters. To the left of the headline is a 'Top stories' sidebar with a list of news items and their timestamps. To the right of the headline is a photograph of a white wooden crib filled with colorful baby clothes and toys.

**Top stories**

- Poll: Trump has his biggest lead 2 h
- Jobs report exceeds expectations
- Intel: UK is next ISIS target 2 h
- Stone Temple Pilots singer dies 25 m
- Senate OKs Obamacare repeal 39 m
- Jeb Bush campaign in free-fall 2 h
- Nightclub Molotov attack kills 12 1 h
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- Cop charged with assault for this

FBI sources tell CBS LA that the investigation at the house concluded Thursday.

**CBS Los Angeles** @CBSLA [Follow](#)

UPDATE: FBI tells CBS News 'search is over' at Redlands home, 'released the scene yesterday' [cbsloc.al/1RtGU0A](https://cbsloc.al/1RtGU0A) [#SanBernardinoShooting](#)

1:47 PM - 4 Dec 2015

**CBS Los Angeles**

**Shredded Documents Found Inside Redlands Home Linked To San Bernardino Shooters**

Media were allowed Friday into the Redlands town house reportedly rented by the San Bernardino attackers.

[View on web](#)

17 1

Nonetheless, outrage was swift on social media:

**Nick Confessore** @nickconfessore [Follow](#)

CNN's law enforcement analyst appears shocked by what CNN's reporters (and other reporters) are doing.

12:40 PM - 4 Dec 2015

200 122

**deray mckesson**  
@deray[Follow](#)

We are watching media made chaos in real-time as @CNN and @MSNBC rummage through the #SanBernadino suspect's house.

12:54 PM - 4 Dec 2015

364 220

**Terrell J. Starr**  
@Russian\_Starr[Follow](#)

What MSNBC is doing is nothing more than boosting ratings. Yet, we look to news orgs like them as the guardians of journalism. Please.

1:20 PM - 4 Dec 2015

54 56

**Zeynep Tufekci**  
@zeynep[Follow](#)

CNN and MSNBC put lives of innocent people, including children, at stake and destroyed a crime scene. For WHAT? Everyone lost their minds?

12:59 PM - 4 Dec 2015

709 567

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[Here's the Awful Way the New York Post Changed Its San Bernardino Shooting Cover \(/mixed-media/2015/12/new-york-post-san-bernardino-cover-muslim\)](#)

[New York Daily News Just Upped Its Front Page Game—Again \(/mixed-media/2015/12/new-york-daily-news-front-page-guns-awesome\)](#)

**INAE OH (/authors/inae-oh)** Associate Engagement Editor

Inae Oh is the assistant engagement editor at *Mother Jones*. Follow her on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/eenayo) (<http://twitter.com/eenayo>)  
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[Breaking: Female Suspect in San Bernardino Shooting Reportedly Pledged Allegiance to ISIS \(/mojo/2015/12/tashfeen-malik-san-bernardino-shooting-isis\)](#)

The Facebook post has since been deleted.

**President Obama on San Bernardino: It Is "Possible" Attack Was Terrorist-Related** (/mojo/2015/12/president-obama-san-bernardino)

Now the FBI is in charge of the investigation of the most recent mass shooting that killed 14.

**Hillary Clinton Was Discussing Gun Control Just as the San Bernardino Shooting Happened** (/politics/2015/12/hillary-clinton-san-bernardino-shooting-gun-control)

Here's what she said.

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60 Comments

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**Helz** · 5 days ago

this could actually harm the prosecution's case, if you dont also care about innocent people and that

^ | v · Reply · Share

**Brett Hoover** → Helz · 5 days ago

What case? The people are dead.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**painedumonde** → Brett Hoover · 5 days ago

Ah Brett [pats head, offers lollipop]

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**d f** → Brett Hoover · 5 days ago

the case against anyone who might have helped them. the two shooters may be dead, but there might be other guilty parties as well. it's not just about prosecution, but investigation to find out if they had a network, etc.

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**jenny\_whyme** → Helz · 5 days ago

According to the police, it was no longer an active crime scene. The police had been there, did what they needed to do and turned the house back over to the land lord.

That being said, the sensationalism is needless. Terrorism is now the latest "reality show." ABC is showing footage, too.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Oginikwe** → jenny\_whyme · 5 days ago

The landlord should have charged them \$5,000 a head to get in. \$20,000 to be first.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Regular\_Joe666699** → Oginikwe · 5 days ago

It wasn't the landlords place or legal authority to enter. It isn't his premises - it's a RENTED apartment. The remaining family members have the legal right to enter, NOT the landlord. What a clusterfuck.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**jenny\_whyme** → Regular\_Joe666699 · 5 days ago

That's another kettle of fish, isn't it?

^ | v · Reply · Share

**Jexpat** → Regular\_Joe666699 · 4 days ago

Tiny details like that never stopped a grifter from hustling other grifters.

^ | v · Reply · Share

**Sam the Sham** → jenny\_whyme · 5 days ago



No way this crime scene was properly processed less than 24 hours and was ready to release to the world. NO WAY. Leaving ID's, passports, shredded doc's, computer printer, no fingerprinting or collecting touch DNA for co-conspirators? This is amateur hour at best.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Dano2** → Sam the Sham · 5 days ago

Agreed. What the h\*ll is going on here?

Best,

D

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**SarahD** → Sam the Sham · 5 days ago

I was thinking the exact same thing. How could the investigators possibly be done? I mean, how long did they spend searching the Boston Bombers' homes and dorm? It felt like weeks!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Winifred** → Sam the Sham · 5 days ago

What Sam said X10000000

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jay23kj** → jenny\_whyme · 5 days ago

You seem not to understand that the FBI said this AFTER the landlord (probably illegally) entered the apartment. What the hell else could the FBI use after the contamination of an unsecured crime scene? Something tells me that behind the scenes someone is getting flamed and possibly fired because of incompetence or criminal negligence. The FBI isn't clairvoyant or scryers. Anything material that ties a person to the deceased perpetrators, any evidence from apartment that's required or needed (did they fingerprint that place?) for further analysis isn't credible. So yes, they don't need the apartment by default - their first sweep was likely to ensure that a mass event isn't in progress and the landlord saying the FBI released the apartment, without having actual correspondence saying so, that isn't worth the paper it's printed on. And, there's still the matter of the child's and grandmother's rights possibly being violated. Say what you want - it's a serious fuck up that could be debilitating to an ongoing investigation.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**jenny\_whyme** → Jay23kj · 5 days ago

The POLICE said they released the property to the land lord before the land lord let them in. The police took what they needed. There's even a list (as required by law) of the evidence confiscated in the search.

Let me guess. You're a conspiracy nut, right? The facts don't fit your narrative so you make shit up out of thin air.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jay23kj** → jenny\_whyme · 5 days ago

Excuse me. There's no conspiracy. It's called CHRONOLOGY and that's the source of the facts. And, as you point out, the police SAID they released the home to the landlord because they were finished with it - that's confirmed by all credible news accounts (I still maintain I that there's needs to be a letter somewhere. The presence of a list - that can be amended doesn't strengthen your position AT ALL) . However, those with EXPERTISE consider the procedure, the situation and events as UNUSUAL and, therefore, questionable in its development and occurrence. Further, don't sit here and tell me I can't question my government, its agencies or its agents. That's why we have a democracy - not a dictatorship or absolute monarchy. Now, you go and live by what the police said. Don't oppress me with your limited cognitive and intellectual function as I perform my role as a citizen: hold my leadership to account.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**jenny\_whyme** → Jay23kj · 4 days ago

"Look she's oppressing me... did you see it? Did you? Did you?"

Don't tell me I can't question your questioning.... Don't oppress me with your word salads.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Crissa** → jenny\_whyme · 5 days ago

The police said what? None of that was the landlord's property. He did not have the right to do anything with the crime scene - nor with personal belongings or private spaces.

Landlords in California are prohibited from entering rented apartments. That includes dead people's apartments.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**jenny\_whyme** → Crissa · 4 days ago

Now you're moving the goal posts from "actively destroying a crime scene" to the landlord "didn't have a right to let them in." Those are two totally separate issues.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**painedumonde** · 5 days ago

C'est le fin de le Quatrième État.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**mark0521** → painedumonde · 5 days ago

well put, I believe you have summed up the entirety of the situation.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jerri** → painedumonde · 5 days ago

I think le fin de le Quatrième État happened long ago. Fox News alone was enough to put the nail in coffin.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jexpat** → painedumonde · 4 days ago

Eerily similar to this satirical film: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt28...>

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**painedumonde** → Jexpat · 4 days ago

I loved that flick. So dark, just perfect.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Clyde Barrow** · 5 days ago

Looks like some cops and reporters better start typing their resumés. At the minimum, they should be losing their jobs, if not prosecuted for interfering with a crime scene.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**MaryNOLA** · 5 days ago

Watching the crush of people in that apartment ruined my lunch. I'm surprised someone wasn't killed in the stampede.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Phyllis Murray** · 5 days ago

The media is out of control. In general, their focus is on being first (but not with accuracy) and sensationalism. May as well be reading The National Enquire while waiting to pay for groceries in the check-out lane.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Regular\_Joe666699** · 5 days ago

Since the Landlord violated the law and had no legal grounds to enter the home much less let others in, the family of the terrorists have every right to sue him for any items that they claim were stolen or missing .... and he would have to pay. It was an illegal entry.

If I were the family of the shooters, I would sue him and the press for this. There is an heir and survivor - the child (and the remaining family that had nothing to do with this). I do hope they sue.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**DisillusionedLiberal** → Regular\_Joe666699 · 5 days ago

Why? Why do you have such concern for the welfare of these horrible people? They have completely failed at the basics of human existence. I share your disdain for the media, but to give these people any sort of sympathy is unimaginable to me. They deserve their fate.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jay23kj** → DisillusionedLiberal · 5 days ago

We live in a nation ruled by law and not the rule of the jungle. If the US is going to be an example of good governance then we follow our laws - otherwise let's be a developing nation without the capacity for proper functioning and make you the king of the beastly. Let's see how you like rising that tiger. Further, you never know when YOU may need the law's protections; don't get too silly here.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Winifred** → DisillusionedLiberal · 5 days ago

Please provide what actions the Infant has done to qualify as one of "these horrible people"???????

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**DisillusionedLiberal** → Winifred · 4 days ago

I don't believe the infant has any idea what happened. She won't remember a thing. If she is in danger, that is the result of her parents' actions. It is the result of the actions of her useless and clueless grand parents and extended family who have failed her... Failed to protect her from her horrible parents. They won't go to prison for it, but I certainly hope they are rendered bankrupt and homeless by civil litigation. They are horrible people and perhaps the best thing for the child would be for her to be rescued from them and raised by someone with better judgment than that horrible family.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Crissa** → DisillusionedLiberal · 5 days ago

The child is a horrible person? Wha?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jexpat** → Crissa · 4 days ago

Arkansas Republican Tom Cotton most assuredly thinks so.

That's where the King of Trolls got his recent bloviation about going after the families from.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**dsh\_nva** · 5 days ago

>> San Bernardino Suspects' Apartment  
"Suspects" is misspelled in the headline.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Karen Bennett** · 5 days ago

They have put the grandmother in danger by publishing her info as well as the child who was left in her care. . Apparently the family had no idea what these two were up to. They kept their plans and ideas to themselves. Also, apparently they knew their family members would not approve of their plans. What did they expect to find once Law Enforcement was finished? Anything damaging had already been removed. What did the media feel was actually newsworthy? A child's toys? A Q'ran? Is using a Q'ran now a sign of something nefarious? Did the media get to go through the home of the PP shooter? Would it be newsworthy to find a Bible in his home? Geesh

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Jay23kj** → Karen Bennett · 5 days ago

Did anything and all things damaging get removed before this fiasco? I wouldn't get too far out ahead of the facts here. What is sure is that if there was an accomplice then evidence from that apartment can't be admitted. So by default the FBI is finished - not because the investigation was complete. There's some parsing to be done here.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**DisillusionedLiberal** · 5 days ago

This is certainly a great illustration of the moral bankruptcy of the media. Now that the deed is done it is also, I think, useful as a tool to humiliate and punish the families.

They are far from innocent. We have no legal recourse against them, but this shaming, humiliation, and shunning should proceed without delay.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Dano2** → **DisillusionedLiberal** · 5 days ago

Why the h\*ll did law enforcement let them in there?!?!?!?!?

Best,

D

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**DisillusionedLiberal** → **Dano2** · 5 days ago

Maybe they were finished with their review of the property. The police don't own the place, the owner had every right to do as he pleased with the property.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Dano2** → **DisillusionedLiberal** · 5 days ago

Federal crime scene clean after 24 hours?

Sure.

Best,

D

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**DisillusionedLiberal** → **Dano2** · 5 days ago

The F.B.I. director, James B. Comey, said at a news conference in Washington that he had seen the video of the reporters in the townhouse. "I think I'm neither unhappy nor happy," he said. "When we are done with a location, we return it to their rightful owners and we have to leave an inventory under the law about what was taken. So, people got to see our great criminal justice system in action."

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Dano2** → **DisillusionedLiberal** · 5 days ago

Exactly. What other federal crime scenes were crawled over by the media after 24 hours?

Best,

d

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**DisillusionedLiberal** → **Dano2** · 4 days ago

For what it's worth, here it is the next day and cnn is still showing video from the apartment. If they had any regrets about this, it hasn't affected their coverage yet.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Dano2** → **DisillusionedLiberal** · 4 days ago

Sigh...

Best,

D

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Crissa** → **DisillusionedLiberal** · 5 days ago

The landlord is *not* the rightful owner.

Under California law, he is not allowed to just enter someone's apartment - or let people inside.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**DisillusionedLiberal** → Crissa · 4 days ago

I'm sure I'm wrong to think this, but it almost seems like this violation is more upsetting to some than, you know, the terrorist's crimes. I'm sure that's not the case with you.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**jayoheseeef** → DisillusionedLiberal · 4 days ago

I consider it taking a very bad situation and making it worse. There's nothing to be learned from rummaging through their apartment. The media has devolved into just another reality t.v. show. The more outrageous the better. Not sure about the legality of allowing the media in, but it's in poor judgement if you ask me regardless. But everyone wants their 5 to 15 min of fame, which the media is more than happy to oblige.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**CapnVan** → DisillusionedLiberal · 4 days ago

I se. They're guilty by association.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

**Anon** · 5 days ago

Shades of princess Diana... Media doesn't know when to stay the f away.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

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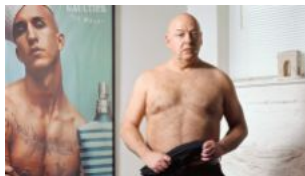
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