

December 4, 2015 3:27 pm

## Twitter Freaked Out While Watching Cable-News Reporters Enter Mass Shooting Suspects' Home

By Jay Hathaway



On Friday morning, cable-news personnel descended en masse on the townhouse of deceased San Bernardino mass shooting suspects Tashfeen Malik and Syed Rizwan Farook, reporters eagerly waiting for the landlord to let them in so they could deliver an exclusive to the hungry public. But the public — at least the segment on Twitter — didn't want it. In fact, the public was appalled.

But did brave Twitter media critics turn off their TV sets in disgust? No. They live-tweeted every minute of the utter clusterfuck.

MSNBC, moving first, sent Kerry Sanders into the shooters' closet — proudly trumpeting the move on Twitter, perhaps not aware of how people were going to react.



**MSNBC**  
@MSNBC

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TUNE IN: Kerry Sanders is live inside [#SanBernardino](#) attackers' apartment. [on.msnbc.com/1NwAnw0](https://on.msnbc.com/1NwAnw0)

12:23 PM - 4 Dec 2015

75

35

**Maxim Eristavi**

@MaximEristavi

[Follow](#)This is what rock bottom of journalism looks like [#SanBernadino](#)

1:02 PM - 4 Dec 2015

1,977

1,239

Viewers immediately wanted to know “WTF” he was doing in there, rummaging through what was presumably still the site of an active investigation:

**Nancy** @raceworthrun · 1h[@MSNBC](#) so unprofessional. What is wrong with this network? Shouldn't this home be protected for evidence?

16

**marybeth** @mbcrowley · 1h[@MSNBC](#) I am shocked that you have access to the apartment to go through stuff??

1



18

**Dan Arel** @danarel · 1h[@MSNBC](#) [@BibleReloaded](#) well, we can rule out ISIS. I feel like ISIS would use wire hangers.

1



11

**elevate53** @elevate53 · 1h[@MSNBC](#) This is creepy and sick regardless of who the things belong to. The owner hasn't got the right to allow it to happen.

11

**mia** @zulugirl13 · 1h[@MSNBC](#) this is the weirdest reporting.. w t f

1



15

**Viv** @Dark4eyes · 1h[@MSNBC](#) SHAME ON YOU [#msnbc](#) !! The ghoulish invasion of the apartment of San Bernadino attackers' home is beneath you!

1



10

**Glenn Greenwald**

@ggreenwald

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MSNBC reporter: "oh, look: here's a pic of the child": holding it.  
Andrea Mitchell: "yeah, let's not show the child"

[gawker.com/msnbc-reporter...](http://gawker.com/msnbc-reporter...)

1:43 PM - 4 Dec 2015

### Cable News Is Going Nuts Rummaging Arou...

Today the owner of the apartment complex in which the alleged San Bernardino shooters lived allowed several media outlets to tour (and inspect [gawker.com](http://gawker.com)

250

159

Those watching were particularly shocked to see ID cards, including one apparently belonging to Farook's mother, displayed for the MSNBC cameras with no information blurred out. Those calling out the network made sure to censor their screenshots:



**Stephen Miller**

@redsteeze

Follow

Screenshots from MSNBC. I added the redout

12:43 PM - 4 Dec 2015

1,035

492



CNN's Victor Blackwell followed, and received the same shocked reaction from his audience:





**Victor Blackwell CNN**

@VictorBlackwell

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

12:18 PM - 4 Dec 2015

225

209

**Eduardo** @edjames01 · 1h

@VictorCNN How much is the owner getting paid for allowing the media in?



1



14

**Vibe** @VillainousVibe · 1h

@VictorCNN @cnnbrk ? WTF is this shit



4

**gloria smith** @good2theladrop · 1h

@VictorCNN @cnnbrk What The Hell Is Wrong With This Landlord!!



3

**Marc Dempsey** @Canadian\_Shield · 1h

@VictorCNN @johnbowman Guess it's a good thing there weren't any boobytraps



2

**AmericaTheBeautiful** @AmericanLizzy · 1h

@VictorCNN What a bunch of wackos!



2



Blackwell had initially tweeted photos from inside the suspects' home, but later deleted them and reported that the door had been boarded back up — by private citizens, he made sure to note, not by the authorities.

**Victor Blackwell CNN**

@VictorBlackwell

[Follow](#)

Door to home of [#SanBernardino](#) shooters now sealed again by private citizens - not by local police or FBI.

2:01 PM - 4 Dec 2015

102

50

Many on Twitter noted parallels between the cable channels and someone else who creepily invaded a home with a camera: Jake Gyllenhaal's character in *Nightcrawler*. It didn't take long for the comparison to become a meme:

**Dr. Bloodmoney**

@PhilipKDingus

[Follow](#)

Hell yeah [@MSNBC](#) get the hot news!!!!

12:49 PM - 4 Dec 2015

139

223

**Jordan Hoffman** @jhoffman

12/4/15, 9:44 AM

MSNBC's really nailing this NIGHTCRAWLER cosplay.

**Jeff Spross** @jeffspross

12/4/15, 9:46 AM

So basically MSNBC and CNN are both run by Jake Gyllenhaal's character from "Nightcrawler."

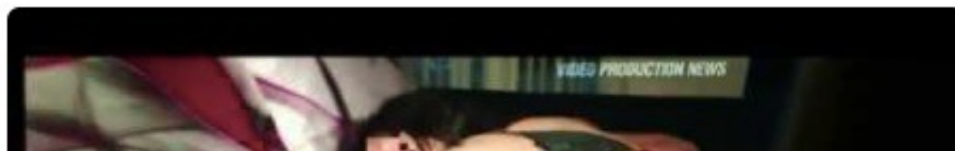
**Julie DiCaro** @JulieDiCaro

12/4/15, 9:46 AM

From what I'm seeing in my timeline, @MSNBC appears to have gone full Nightcrawler on the San Bernadino story.

**SteveDalInternet** @SteveDalInternet

12/4/15, 11:19 AM

So MSNBC and CNN basically recreated this scene from Nightcrawler (warning, graphic content) [youtube.com/watch?v=KnC4AU...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnC4AU...)

Things got even worse when a reporter was seen coming out of the building with what appeared to be a Popsicle.

**Glenn Greenwald**

@ggreenwald

Follow

They literally found, displayed and analyzed a popsicle - appeared to be cherry [twitter.com/Eric\\_Bartoszak...](https://twitter.com/Eric_Bartoszak...)  
[twitter.com/digby56/status...](https://twitter.com/digby56/status...)

2:13 PM - 4 Dec 2015

140

111

Someone stole a popsicle it's like a SNL skit already [pic.twitter.com/k6RhIKhXvq](https://pic.twitter.com/k6RhIKhXvq)

— Eric Bartoszak (@Eric\_Bartoszak) [December 4, 2015](https://twitter.com/eric_bartoszak/status/231111111111111111)

But the reporter, Toby Harnden of the *Sunday Times of London*, later clarified that he hadn't stolen any frozen goodies from the scene. He was just handing an upside-down screwdriver to the landlord, who was trying to open the boarded-up door.

**Toby Harnden**

@tobyharnden

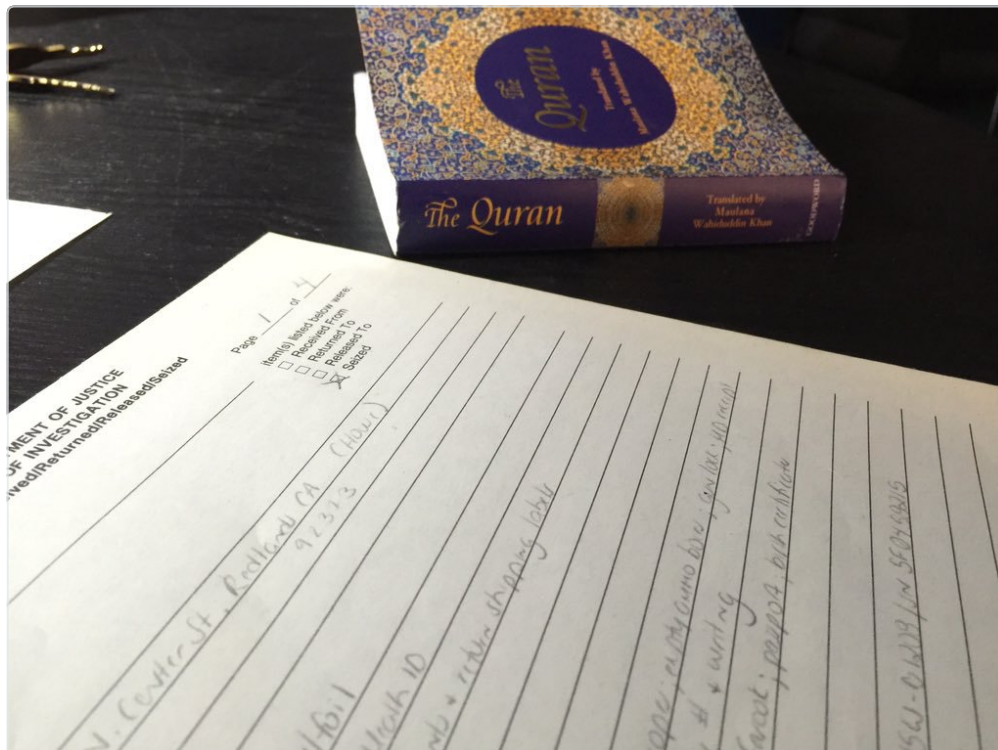
Follow

This is me. It's a screwdriver, not a popsicle. I was helping landlord, who was right beside me, take off the board.  
[twitter.com/ned\\_donovan/st...](https://twitter.com/ned_donovan/status/231111111111111111)

139      104

CNN reported that the property owner, one Doyle Miller, had let reporters in by prying open the boarded-up door with a crowbar, and Anderson Cooper had an expert on to justify the invasion, speculating that “had this not been a released scene, there would have been a larger police presence.”

But that seemed strange to some, because there was a list of seized materials still sitting inside the apartment:



**Kim Brunhuber**  
@kimbrunhuber

Follow

Bizarre feeling going through suspects' house. List of seized materials: box after box of ammo

7 5

"I don't know what's going on," Deputy Olivia Bozek, a spokesperson for the San Bernardino County sheriff's department, told social-media news site Grasswire. "That is not a cleared crime scene. There's still an active investigation going on."

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