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U.S.

# Landlord Lets Reporters Into San Bernardino Suspects' Home

By **RICK ROJAS** and **CHRISTINE HAUSER** DEC. 4, 2015

REDLANDS, Calif. — Standing in a townhouse that had been the home of the husband and wife suspected in a shooting rampage that left 14 people dead and wounded 21, a television reporter asked his producer to check a calendar to see if anything had been marked down on the December day when the massacre occurred.

The local police and federal law enforcement officials had sealed the townhouse in the hours after the couple, Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, were killed in a shootout with the police after the massacre.

On Friday, the owner of the townhouse, Doyle Miller, went there to assess the damage after law enforcement officers had finished their search. Journalists at the scene asked to see inside, and Mr. Miller allowed them in.

“That just opened the flood,” Mr. Miller’s wife, Judy, said in an interview at their home on Friday, adding that they did not anticipate the chaotic scene it would soon become. “It got way out of hand.”

Dozens of reporters and camera crews rushed in, perusing closets and cabinets, and picking up documents. People walked openly through a front doorway that had been covered by plywood, the door itself broken nearly in half and off its hinges. Papers, business cards, even California driver's licenses were strewn across a bed in a back bedroom. (A reporter and photographer from The New York Times also went through the house.)

At first, the images of journalists rifling through the belongings raised questions on social media and many cable news outlets about what arrangements, if any, had been made in coordination with investigators, or if any were even necessary.

But officials said that investigators had concluded their work at the townhouse. David Bowdich, assistant director of the F.B.I.'s Los Angeles office, said in a news conference after the journalists visited the townhouse that a search warrant was executed at the apartment and then "we turned that over."

"Once the residents have the apartment and we're not in it anymore, we don't control it," Mr. Bowdich said.

Signs that investigators had already scoured the two-bedroom, one-bathroom residence intermingled with items so commonplace they suggested just another ordinary suburban life of young parents: a treadmill, a baby bouncer, rolled-up blankets, suitcases and brightly colored toys.

But there was also the couple's mail, books, identity documents and other papers, spread across a bed and other surfaces.

A ceiling door into an attic crawl space gaped open. Family photographs had been spread over a bathroom counter.

Formula was set out on a counter, and a white crib was piled with pillowed, toys and blankets in one of the bedrooms. Dirty dishes were stacked

in the sink, and half of a cookies-and-cream ice cream cake sat in the freezer.

There were signs throughout the home signaling Muslim faith of the occupants. There was the sticker pasted on a chest of drawers: "Praise be to Allah Who relieved me from suffering and gave me relief."

And the books: "The Characteristics of the Prophet Muhammad" in a linen closet and "Common Mistakes Regarding Prayer" on a bedside table.

In what appeared to be the living room, a sparkly banner typical of those that recount the 99 names for Allah was affixed to the wall. A sticker was attached to a piece of furniture, saying, in part, "Praise be to Allah who relieved me from suffering and gave me relief."

MSNBC and CNN both issued statements saying that they were given access to the home by the landlord.

But in its statement, MSNBC said, "We regret that we briefly showed images of photographs and identification cards that should not have been aired without review."

CNN said it decided not to show close-up images of any material that could be considered sensitive or identifiable, such as photos or identity cards.

Stephanie Elam, a CNN correspondent, picked up the wife's prayer beads at one point, then took viewers into a closet to show a hole in the ceiling she said was created by investigators.

"I've seen passports. I've seen driver's license," she said, adding later, "There are signs that this room has been ransacked, before the media got here."



**David Boles**

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MSNBC just doxed Rafia Farook, mother of a terrorist, on live television. I've blurred the important bits.

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Rick Rojas reported from Redlands and Christine Hauser reported from New York.

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