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UNITED STATES (/TOPIC/UNITED-STATES)

Reporters Entered the Home of the San Bernardino Shooting Suspects, and Things Got Weird



By VICE News (/contributor/vice-news)

December 4, 2015 | 4:05 pm

Two major cable news networks entered an apartment Friday in which the suspects of the San Bernardino shooting apparently resided and broadcast themselves rummaging through items ranging from personal identification to baby clothes, prompting a flood of indignation on social media.

Reporters from MSNBC and CNN reportedly forced their way into Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik's home and began rifling through the suspects' personal belongings, holding up documents to the camera including family photos, a social security card, and an expired driver's license belonging to Farook's mother, who is not a suspect in the shooting case.



MSNBC reporter Kerry Sanders holds up the Social Security card belonging to one of the shooters' mother.



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

Not long after the streams were broadcast, many people, including members of the media, took to Twitter and Facebook to call out the news organizations for their lack of ethics and potential violation of the scene of an active crime investigation. Shortly after the incident, MSNBC defended its actions by claiming that authorities were aware of their presence and that the landlord had let the crew into the apartment.



Erika Masonhall

@ErikaMasonhall

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

12:42 PM - 4 Dec 2015

55

19

A man named Doyle Miller, who said he was the couple's landlord, later told CBS News that reporters "rushed" into the apartment after he pried a plank of wood from the shuttered home, and he did not willingly let them in.



CBS Los Angeles

@CBSLA

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Landlord says he didn't allow media into San Bernardino shooters' apartment: 'they rushed' [cbsn.ws/1cUhbOw](https://www.cbsn.ws/1cUhbOw)

12:52 PM - 4 Dec 2015

1,184

396

Someone at the FBI's Los Angeles bureau reportedly told Mashable at about the same time that the bureau hadn't approved the press tour.



Brian Ries

@moneyries

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Asked FBI Los Angeles if suspects' apartment now open to the media/public: "I don't believe so...it is still an ongoing investigation."

12:31 PM - 4 Dec 2015

1,079

518

About 30 minutes later, however, politics writer Greg Sargent tweeted (<https://twitter.com/ThePlumLineGS/status/672838106014482432>) that the FBI's LA bureau told him that the home was no longer under active investigation, saying "Our search is over. We released the scene yesterday."

Martin Reardon, a former FBI counterterrorism officer and current senior vice president of strategic security firm the Soufan Group, told VICE News that it was likely that the FBI's evidence response team had already thoroughly swept the apartment to look for things like cellphones and laptops, as well as other physical evidence, such as explosive residue, IEDs, weapons, and any letters.

"This is the biggest investigation the FBI current has," he said. "But they do this day in and day out, and I'm fairly confident they wouldn't release [the home] back to the owner without gathering all the evidence they needed. They can't keep it locked up indefinitely."

The FBI echoed Reardon.

"Regarding Redlands, we searched the residence and seized evidence on Wednesday evening and the search lasted until Thursday evening," Laura Eimiller, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Los Angeles office, told VICE News. "We left the residence without incident. Once we conclude a search, the location is again in the custody of the property owner/residents. The landlord evidently let them in this morning. It's his prerogative regardless of how unusual. We have no say in a matter of private property once it's in custody of others."

CNN later clarified that it had specifically made an editorial decision not to show "close-up" footage of the personal materials, but the backlash was swift on social media.



Adam Goldstein

@A_H_Goldstein

4 Dec

"Looks like pictures of children"

- MSNBC sickeningly reviewing physical photos live on camera



Adam Goldstein

@A_H_Goldstein

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This is journalistic malpractice.

12:32 PM - 4 Dec 2015 · Washington, DC, United States



1,104

730

It was also not clear whether members of the public had joined the journalists as they scoured the apartment, handling everything from baby toys and photos to items in the couples' closet. One man appeared to be standing in the apartment casually holding a can of soda.

Hours after the media melee, the FBI also announced that they are now officially looking into the shooting as an act of terrorism. Earlier today, law enforcement officials told the AP and CNN that Malik had pledged allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State in a Facebook post the day of the shooting, but had deleted it before carrying out the attack with her husband Wednesday.

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I, Nudnick · 5 days ago

Unless CA law states that a tenant's death voids occupancy; the apartment still belongs to the tenants through their Estate. And while the landlord is entitled to have a key to the apartment, it's understood that the LL cannot infringe their privacy unless he has permission from the tenant/Estate; a warrant is served, or an emergency - such as smoke, flooding or cries of help are smelled, seen or heard, respectively. Your living rights and responsibilities are represented through your Estate; Will or no Will. It's the reason why Jessie Ventura was still able to sue Chris Kyle. Saying this, the Estate is responsible for any extra costs the LL incurs on behalf of maintaining the Estate: such as rent for storage, changing locks and so on. The LL accepting \$1,000 from a news outlet for "first looksies" does not fit any of the criteria and he will most likely be sued (rightfully so) for his tacking so. The reporters who broadcast all of the Id's on live TV will probably be sued on everything from Privacy Violations to Lack of Due Diligence to

live TV will probably be sued on everything from Privacy violations to Lack of Due Diligence to Child/Personal Endangerment.

Remarkably if Farooq had given an extra key to a relative, friend, an AirBnBer, housecleaner or the like, they would have been able to give the tour because they had express permission (by being given the key) for access. They could even occupy/squat on the premises.

14 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Bodie → I, Nudnick • 5 days ago

The tenants surely violated their leasing agreement through their illegal activities within the residence and their lease is now void. The property within does still belong to their estate, however.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



I, Nudnick → Bodie • 5 days ago

Right. But they weren't evicted (I know - they're dead), the LL still has to go through the motions of terminating the lease and getting the Sheriff to evict them. And, as long as property occupies the premises before any court action is taken; the Estate is the lawful tenant. The first thing the lawyers for the family should have done was send in a gofer to occupy the apartment, or get in touch with the LL, and represent the Estate, so as to keep prying eyes out.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



I, Nudnick → Bodie • 2 days ago

Actually, wasn't the mother still living there? Granted, she may not have been inside at the time, but I imagine her clothes, mattress and other possessions were still inside; which makes the apartment 'occupied'. The LL and the media (who invaded) have a potentially big problem on their hands.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Bodie → I, Nudnick • 2 days ago

Oh, I wasn't aware any other family members were residing in the apartment. I just saw there's serious speculation -- I mean, it's commonsensical really -- that the family knew. If they were living in that apartment as well, there's no way they didn't. And it would be irrelevant (if they weren't an Administration-protected class) because they would still be charged.

For example: A felon in the US who has lost his right to possess firearms cannot live in a home where they are present. Even if the felon had no idea the person they lived with was a legal owner of a firearm and kept one in the residence, they (the felon) would be arrested if discovered by police.

This should be no different. But it will be. The guy who purchased the guns the terrorist couple used has already had his home raided, and has

been arrested over possibly providing the guns to the couple in the act of a straw purchase (illegal). Yet the family is.....free? If they were in fact living in that apartment, it's pretty revolting that they're still out free (especially with the mother's ties to the organization they linked her to -- whose focus is to establish the caliphate in North America). There's signs of serious rifts between the FBI and the Obama Admin on this attack.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Nathan Ebbesen → Bodie · 2 days ago

That's actually not true either, the whole felon and firearm thing. It depends entirely on state law, and even at the federal level a felon can absolutely co-occupy a home with any non-felon who owns a gun. The felon just may not have access to that gun or any ammunition. It must be kept in a lock box or safe. But in essence, everything about the statement you made regarding felons and guns is false.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Bodie → Nathan Ebbesen · 2 days ago

If the law parallels the way Class 3 weapons are to be stored by their registered owner within a dwelling where multiple residents live, then I am mistaken. But I was led to believe guns in a home with a felon are a no-no, period.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



I, Nudnick → Bodie · 2 days ago

Hmm my.... Okay... I'm not sure any of your points gives the landlord and press unfettered access to an occupied residence.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Bodie → I, Nudnick · 2 days ago

My fault. If that's the vibe I let off, I apologize. My only point was there's no criminal trespass. Now, violating a crime scene, absolutely. Plus, it's just sick. I watched one of the channel's live feeds and it was a mad house. "Journalists" are like roaches. I even saw some people in the background that looked like random citizens who joined in for a peep show. One dude was just videoing everything to himself with his iPhone.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



I, Nudnick → Bodie · 2 days ago

I'm on your side...

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



This comment was deleted.



free doms → Guest · 4 days ago

u.s dont have any more media...or real reporters...all of them msm...cnnn, abc, msnbc fox...etcc... all work for the devil...the corrupt...they are all government employees.... the audience has switched to alternative news long ago...only 18percent zombies and the un informed watch them. they stormed in becuz they forgot that they are media...they taught they are cia/fbi.....etc...

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Tyrion4Prez → Guest · 5 days ago

The owner would need to file a formal complaint for that to happen.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



This comment was deleted.



fondlebus → Guest · 5 days ago

uhhhhhhhh....doubt that will be happening anytime soon

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



This comment was deleted.



Space Karate → Guest · 5 days ago

Not true.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



timesg → Space Karate · 4 days ago

Not not true. It depends on state, city, and even sometimes municipal code as to whether the items within a domicile and (accompanying rights) can become the landlords after either a) breach in contract b) felonious arrest w/or w/out police search of domicile c) any city/municipal law that doesn't overreach existing state/federal law.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Space Karate → timesg · 4 days ago

Due process.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Tyrion4Prez → Guest · 5 days ago

Sounds like the media is just blowing this out of proportion. If he was really mad he would have.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



rg9rts → fondlebus · 3 days ago

The family sure could

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Louis CIPHER → Guest · 5 days ago

....Fully backed by the CIA and the NWO agenda.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



DarkWandering85 → Louis CIPHER · 5 days ago

yep, these guys backed this move 110% <http://mwae.tripod.com/nwowwf...>

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → Louis CIPHER · 5 days ago

Misinformation and propaganda is for intelligent people, not you!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Louis CIPHER → JohnathanA · 5 days ago

I'm surprised you can even read with that lopsided head of yours.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → Louis CIPHER · 5 days ago

You are a juvenile delinquent.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Louis CIPHER → JohnathanA · 5 days ago

Goat Raper.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → Louis CIPHER · 4 days ago

Is that what people say to you mohammed/ali?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → Guest · 5 days ago

As if the muslim terrorists have any rights.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Sir Heywood → JohnathanA · 4 days ago

You're missing the point: It's a crime scene and should be treated as such.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → Sir Heywood · 3 days ago

Did you miss the part where the FBI said they were done with the crime scene and home to muslim terrorists?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Sir Heywood → JohnathanA · 3 days ago



No, I didn't miss it and I think it was unwise for the FBI and/or other authorities to allow newsmedia to rifle through the place so soon.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mike Austin → Guest · 4 days ago

Shiiteheads? you know that shiites have little to do with wahhabism right? Or is this just a joke made in bad taste?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



This comment was deleted.



Sir Heywood → Guest · 4 days ago

Better make that a triple to get around the PC police too.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mike Austin → Guest · 4 days ago

oh got it.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



taz mahoney → Guest · 4 days ago

when some dies or is killed-the landlord has to clean out the apartment for new renters. I assume their rent was paid until the end of December so the family should have had control of the contents-then the first month last month thing kicks in-landlord cleans up puts it on the street-I don't think he is even allowed to sell it because he actually hasn't lost any money. I can imagine what that is going to look like-memorabilia hunters-.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



LAEFMC · 5 days ago

Reminds me of that Jake Gyllenhaal movie, "Nightcrawler"..

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Louis CIPHER → LAEFMC · 5 days ago

Exactly. Since it was MSNBC and CNN, we can just call it "Dirty Zionist Controlled, CIA Backed Crawler"

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → Louis CIPHER · 5 days ago

How are the Jews involved in this muslim terrorist attack?

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



whomedoyou → JohnathanA · 4 days ago

Read his statement again - he is alluding that the news orgs are owned by jews and hence the analogy with Nightcrawler.

Nobody said anything about Jews being involved in the attack until you misunderstood.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → whomedoyou · 4 days ago

You really seem to think you can say that and be credible?
Why did your brother even mention the Jews?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



whomedoyou → JohnathanA · 2 days ago

my brother?
do you even understand the reference to nightcrawler?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



JohnathanA → whomedoyou · 2 days ago

Your offended response makes no sense.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



whomedoyou → JohnathanA · 2 days ago

... ..

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VICE News reporter Danny Gold gains access inside the jail of Usulután, where members from opposing gangs — MS-13 and 18th Street Gang — are held in separate wings.

03:32 ▶ der-el-salvadors-jails-excerpt-from-gangs-of-el-salvador)

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This Thursday at 12pm EST Neha Shastry will join On The Line to take your questions on the Navajo Nation's contaminated water crisis.

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The men and women are members of the anti-war group Veterans For Peace.

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