

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## Eight Killed in Terror Attack in New York

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Eight people were killed and at least a dozen injured on Tuesday when a truck mowed down pedestrians and cyclists on a lower Manhattan bike path in what officials said was a “cowardly act of terror,” the deadliest attack in New York City since Sept. 11, 2001.

The driver shouted “God is great” in Arabic when he got out of his truck and was confronted by police, a law-enforcement official said.

He was identified by officials as Sayfullo Saipov, a 29-year-old from Tampa, Fla., who came to the U.S. in 2010 and is originally from Uzbekistan. He is in custody at a local hospital after he was shot in the abdomen by an officer, police said.

A law-enforcement official said police found handwritten notes near the truck saying that the suspect carried out the attack in the name of ISIS.

The terror unfolded shortly after 3 p.m., when the suspect drove a flatbed pickup truck rented from Home Depot for nearly a mile along a picturesque stretch of a bike path along the Hudson River, leaving behind mangled bikes and bodies.

The carnage ended at an intersection in Tribeca near the World Trade Center, where the truck smashed into a small school bus. Then the suspect exited his truck, brandishing a paintball gun and pellet gun before being shot by a New York Police Department officer.

### Sequence of Events

At least eight people are dead following a rampage by the driver of a truck in lower Manhattan.

“This was an act of terror,” New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a news conference. “A particularly cowardly act of terror aimed at innocent civilians.”

Since the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, there have been 23 incidents of radical Islamist-motivated attacks that have resulted in 119 fatalities, through the Orlando, Fla., nightclub shooting in June 2016, according to an April report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The number of fatalities caused by domestic violent extremists has ranged from one to 49 in a given year, according to the GAO report.

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE SUSPECT

#### Sayfullo Saipov

- Age: 29

- **Background:** Originally from Uzbekistan, he came to the U.S. in 2010. Mr. Saipov has lived in several places across the U.S., and Uber confirmed he worked as a driver for the company.

Many of the incidents have involved lone-wolf attackers inspired by Islamic State, allowing the terror group to become an international threat without always directing attacks itself.

President Donald Trump said in a Twitter message Tuesday: “In NYC, looks like another attack by a very sick and deranged person.”

Later, he indicated there could be changes to U.S. immigration policy. “I have just ordered Homeland Security to step up our already Extreme Vetting Program,” he said in a tweet Tuesday evening. “Being politically correct is fine, but not for this!”

In another series of tweets Wednesday morning, the president singled out Sen. Charles Schumer (D., N.Y.) and the nation’s visa system for criticism in the aftermath of the tragedy.

“The terrorist came into our country through what is called the “Diversity Visa Lottery Program,” a Chuck Schumer beauty,” the Twitter message said, “I want merit based.”

Mr. Schumer said, “I guess it’s not too soon to politicize a tragedy” in a Twitter message.

Officials have not revealed how the suspect entered the country.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said there was no evidence that Tuesday’s incident was part of a wider plot. He directed state agencies to increase security at high-profile locations around the state, including subways, bridges and airports, though NYPD officials said there was no information to suggest that there was a continuing threat.

Asked if the suspect had previously been on authorities’ radar, a law-enforcement official familiar with the investigation said, “An associate of Saipov was and is known to authorities.”

The suspect worked as a driver for Uber Technologies Inc., the ride-hailing company confirmed.

#### New York Terror Attack: What Happened

A driver mowed down pedestrians and cyclists on a bike path in lower Manhattan on Tuesday, killing several people and injuring at least a dozen others, in what officials are calling an "act of terror." Photo: AFP/Getty Images

“We are horrified by this senseless act of violence,” an Uber spokeswoman said. “Our hearts are with the victims and their families. We have reached out to law enforcement to provide our full assistance.”

The city’s fire commissioner, Daniel Nigro, said the deaths and serious injuries were caused by the truck, rather than the paintball or pellet guns. Mr. Nigro said six of the eight people killed in the attack were male and were pronounced dead at the scene, and two more were pronounced dead at a hospital.

Among the dead were five friends visiting New York City from Rosario, Argentina. Another member of the group remains hospitalized. In Rosario, local media said the six men were part of a group of 10 friends who flew to the U.S. to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation from high school. They spent time in Boston before traveling to New York, according to the reports.

A 31-year old Belgian mother of two small children was visiting New York City with her mother and two sisters when she died in the attack, the mayor of the her hometown of Staden said in an interview Wednesday.

Ann-Laure Decadt leaves behind her husband and her three year-old and three month-old children, said Francesco Vanderjeugd, mayor of Staden, a town of 11,400 people in Western Flanders, Belgium.

In a tweet on Monday, Didier Reynders, the deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister for Belgium, said three other Belgians were hospitalized.

Stuyvesant High School and the Borough of Manhattan Community College are among the schools located in the area; most were temporarily locked down until the scene was secured in the early evening, just hours ahead of the city's popular Halloween parade, which attracts thousands to the west side of Manhattan not far from where the incident occurred.

A New York Police Department officer stands over the covered body of a victim near World Trade Center memorial in New York, where a driver struck and killed several people on Tuesday.

Mr. de Blasio said at the news conference that the city would deploy additional officers Tuesday evening and in the days ahead, including heavy-weapon teams and sand trucks that are used to block vehicles.

"This is a tragedy of the greatest magnitude," NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill said.

The police officer who shot the driver was identified by a city council member as Officer Ryan Nash. "Here's the hero cop the world should be talking about," Councilman Joe Borelli, a Staten Island Republican, said on Twitter.

A senior law-enforcement official said the driver entered New York City via the George Washington Bridge, more than 10 miles from the attack site.

Over the past two years, Mr. O'Neill said, police have made efforts to prevent vehicle attacks such as the ones that occurred in France and Germany. Mr. O'Neill said there are 148 truck-rental locations in the area and the NYPD has done extensive outreach to those businesses to help prevent attacks.

John Miller, deputy commissioner of the NYPD's counterterrorism and intelligence unit, said in June that there have been about 25 terrorist plots against New York City since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, most of which were thwarted. Common targets included Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge and John F. Kennedy International Airport, he said.

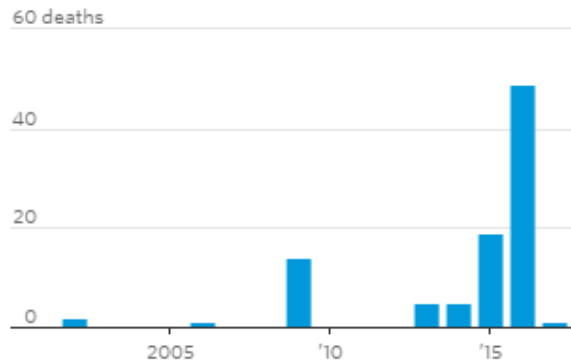
The lower Manhattan neighborhood was swarmed with police and trick-or-treaters late in the afternoon. Many children were in costume with their parents. Police blocked off the West Side Highway south of 14th Street and ushered pedestrians away from the scene. Traffic in the area was at a standstill.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene Tuesday afternoon as people struggled to figure out the source and nature of the threat.

## Deadly Attacks

Eight additional people were killed in an Oct. 31 attack in New York City.

### Deaths from Islamist-<sup>L</sup>motivated attacks<sup>L</sup> on U.S. soil



Note: 2017 Data through Jan. 31. An earlier version of this chart incorrectly stated the number of fatalities in 2009.

Source: Alex Nowrasteh, Cato Institute  
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Bill Tsapalas, 55, was working from home when he heard “loud pops” just after 3 p.m. Mr. Tsapalas’s apartment overlooks the West Side Highway, and he said when he got to the window he saw people running east along Chambers Street and police running west.

Ezequiel Gonzalez said he was walking west on Chambers Street toward the West Side Highway when a commotion and other pedestrians urged him to stand back. The 18-year-old Columbia University freshman said he saw a truck with a large dent and a white sheet in the street that he believed was a body bag.

Tawhid Kabir, a 20-year-old student at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, said he witnessed the final moments when the suspect was shot by police.

“He was scared, and he was just running randomly in the street with the two guns,” said Mr. Kabir of the suspect and the imitation weapons police later said he was carrying. “When I heard the shot, then I saw him down on the ground.”

Mr. Cuomo told New Yorkers to go on living their lives.

“We’re not going to let them win,” he said at the briefing. “Live your life and don’t let them change or deter us in any manner or form.”