

## Suspect in Quebec Mosque Attack Quickly Depicted as a Moroccan Muslim. He's a White Nationalist.

By [Glenn Greenwald](#) and [Murtaza Hussain](#)

Global Research, January 31, 2017

[The Intercept](#) 30 January 2017

Region: [Canada](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#)

A [MASS SHOOTING](#) at a Quebec City mosque last night left six people dead and eight wounded. The targeted mosque, the Cultural Islamic Center of Quebec, was the same one at which [a severed pig's head was left](#) during Ramadan last June. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called the episode a "terrorist attack on Muslims."

Almost immediately, various news outlets and political figures depicted the shooter as Muslim. Right-wing nationalist tabloids in the UK instantly linked it to Islamic violence. Fox News claimed that "witnesses said at least one gunman shouted 'Allahu akbar!'," and then added this about the shooter's national origin:



White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer [exploited the attack](#) to justify President Trump's ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries. "It's a terrible reminder of why we must remain vigilant and why the President is taking steps to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to our nation's safety and security," [Spicer said](#) at this afternoon's briefing when speaking of the Quebec City attack.

But these assertions are utterly false. The suspect is neither Moroccan nor Muslim. The Moroccan individual, Mohamed Belkhadir, was actually [one of the worshippers at the mosque](#) and called 911 to summon the police, and played no role whatsoever in the shooting.

The actual shooting suspect is 27-year-old Alexandre Bissonnette, a white French Canadian who is, by all appearances, a rabid anti-immigrant nationalist. A leader of a local immigration rights groups, François Deschamps, [told a local paper](#) he recognized his photo as an anti-immigrant far-right “troll” who has been hostile to the group online.

The Globe and Mail [added](#) that he “was known in the city’s activist circles as a right-wing troll who frequently took anti-foreigner and anti-feminist positions and stood up for U.S. President Donald Trump.” And Bissonnette’s Facebook page – now taken down [but still archived](#) – lists among its “likes” the far right French nationalist Marine Le Pen, Islam critics Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, the Israeli Defense Forces, and Donald J. Trump (he also “likes” the liberal Canadian Party NDP along with more neutral “likes” such as Tom Hanks, the Sopranos and Katy Perry).

It is usually the case that there is significant confusion in the wake of attacks of this sort. And local police did apparently arrest two suspects at first: both Bissonnette along with el Khadir. And until the investigation is complete, one cannot know for certain what the motives here were. One should be careful about trying to infer too much from a hodgepodge of Facebook “likes” and, this early, even anecdotal claims about his political views. As for reports that someone yelled “Allahu akbar,” it is perfectly natural that someone in a mosque would say that upon seeing a homicidal killer randomly shooting people, or it’s possible that the shooter said it mockingly.

But this is exactly why no responsible news organization, let alone the White House, should rush to depict the shooter as Muslim and of Moroccan descent when so little is known about what happened. Yet not only did Fox and the Trump White House do exactly that, but worse, neither has retracted or corrected their claims long after it became clear that it was false:



The inflammatory effect of this sort of reckless, biased “reporting” is as predictable as it is toxic. All day long, [people around the world](#) cited these reports to justify Trump’s ban as well as their own ugly views of Muslims:



**TRUMP MOVEMENT**  
@TRUMPMOVEMENTUS

Follow

Quebec gunman 'is Muslim Moroccan' [dailym.ai/2kDFm8e](https://dailymail.com/2kDFm8e) via @MailOnline

10:17 AM - 30 Jan 2017



**Student is sole suspect in Quebec City mosque massacre**

University student Alexandre Bissonnette (pictured) is suspected of carrying out the Quebec City mosque massacre alone, police  
[dailymail.co.uk](https://dailymail.co.uk)

70 29



**Seven**  
@StocksAlotTEMP

Follow

I fully condemn the shooting in Quebec City. But remember the shooters weren't yelling "Trump" they were yelling "Allahu akbar"  
[#MsuslimBan](https://twitter.com/MSuslimBan)

11:14 PM - 29 Jan 2017

2,339 3,745

The only part of any of this that's true is that it was an act of terrorism: terrorism aimed, yet again, at Muslims by someone who has apparently been indoctrinated with a great deal of hate toward them. Media outlets and the White House led people all over the world today to believe exactly the opposite.

The original source of this article is [The Intercept](#)  
Copyright © [Glenn Greenwald](#) and [Murtaza Hussain](#), [The Intercept](#), 2017

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

## **Become a Member of Global Research**

Articles by: [Glenn Greenwald](#)  
and [Murtaza Hussain](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)