

Attempted Assassinations of President Trump

By Andy F. Nazario, PhD

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Source U.K. News Yahoo

Butler, Pennsylvania Attempt

I do not have access to the actual investigation into this case, yet after spending almost thirty (1979 to 2017) years in law enforcement, and professor of criminal justice, my desire to work cases and find truths drives me to investigate this case. Unfortunately, I must rely on public information available for analysis. We may not be able to learn the actual facts and truths, because the FBI, USSS, and DOJ are doing this investigation and do not make public their investigative facts, yet we will attempt to learn as much as we can and come to some form of an honest conclusion on the available facts. Everyone is a suspect until proven who the perpetrator is.

Known Facts

On July 13, 2024, at or about 6:00 p.m., while speaking at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, person or persons, used deadly force, to which a firearm,, and fired shots at President Trump striking him on the ear and other shots that took the life of one observer and serious injuring at least two others. The weather was clear and sunny.

Butler is a great place to live, work, and relax!

Named by *Smithsonian Magazine* in the top ten best small towns in America; Butler, PA, is home to 14,000 residents. For more than 200 years, Butler has been home to industry, family owned businesses and marking its place in history. Butler County has been an industrial center since the early 1800's to the birthplace of the Bantam Jeep in 1940. From oil refining roots to the present-day Marcellus Shale boom, from railroad car manufacturing in the past, to the headquarters of Westinghouse Nuclear today, Butler County is the industrial hub of the area. Our downtown shopping and restaurant district is a thriving, nationally accredited Main Street community. As the county seat, Butler is also the hub of government and commercial activity. Conveniently close to the city of Pittsburgh and its world-class education medicine, arts and sports, Butler truly provides residents with metropolitan living and small town convenience.

Retrieved July 15, 2024 from [City of Butler | Welcome to Butler, Pennsylvania](#)

Story from Newsmax

What to Know About Trump Assassination Attempt Probe

Authorities want to know how a shooter was able to get on top of a roof so close to where former President Donald Trump was speaking and open fire.

That is one of the focuses of the investigation into Saturday's assassination attempt on Trump as Republicans gather in Milwaukee for their national convention and President Joe Biden implored Americans to reject political violence.

Here is a look at what we know so far:

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how the gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get on a nearby roof and shoot and injure the former president at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania.

The gunman, who officials said was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said. Trump was bloodied and says he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear." A spectator was killed.

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking.

The roof was fewer than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking. Biden has directed an independent review of the security at the rally.

Thomas Matthew Crooks, the 20-year-old nursing-home employee from suburban Pittsburgh who tried to shoot Trump was, a registered Republican who packed explosives in the vehicle he drove to the campaign rally an hour from his home.

Authorities said it was attempted assassination but have not determined what motivated Crooks to try to kill Trump.

Law enforcement officials were working Sunday to learn more about the young man from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, to determine what motivated him.

The FBI has not yet identified any underlying ideology or threatening writing or social media posts from Crooks, who had no past criminal cases against him, according to public court records. The FBI believes Crooks acted alone and the shooting was being investigated as a potential act of domestic terrorism.

Gov. Josh Shapiro on Sunday said the man killed at the Trump rally, **Corey Comperatore**, "dove on his family to protect them."

"Corey died a hero," the governor said. Comperatore, 50, was a former fire chief.

Pennsylvania State Police identified two other men who were shot as David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township. Both men remained hospitalized and were listed in stable condition, state police said.

In a prime-time national address, the president said Sunday that political passions can run high but "we must never descend into violence."

"We can do this," Biden implored, saying the nation was founded on a democracy that gave reason and balance a chance to prevail over brute force.

"American democracy — where arguments are made in good faith. American democracy where the rule of law is respected. Where decency, dignity, fair play aren't just quaint notions, they're living, breathing realities."

The former president is Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention.

Trump's airplane touched down Sunday. The four-day event kicks off Monday with thousands of Republicans coming together to formally choose him as their 2024 presidential nominee.

His aides said he was in "great spirits" and doing well.

Saturday's attack on Trump has put a heightened focus on safety and security of the event.

Trump said he was going to delay his trip by two days because of the attempted assassination "but have just decided that I cannot allow a 'shooter,' or potential assassin, to force change to scheduling, or anything else."

Saturday's attack was the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981, but there have been multiple instances of political violence targeting U.S. presidents, former presidents and major party presidential candidates. **Four U.S. presidents have been assassinated – Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John Kennedy.**

Retrieved July 15, 2024 from [What to Know About Trump Assassination Attempt Probe | Newsmax.com](https://www.newsmax.com/What-to-Know-About-Trump-Assassination-Attempt-Probe/)

Crime Scene

.Trump assassination attempt: Graphics, maps show you what happened

George Petras Janet Loehrke Javier Zarracina Ramon Padilla

USA TODAY

An investigation continues into the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump at a rally in Bulter, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, in which one attendee was shot and killed and two others seriously injured.

The gunman was shot and killed by Secret Service agents. The FBI later identified him as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, about 40 miles south of Butler. His motive is not yet known.

Details continue to emerge. Trump says a bullet pierced the upper part of his right ear before Secret Service agents hustled him off the stage and into a limousine. He was reported to be otherwise unharmed.

The gunman, who is believed to have acted alone, fired at the rally stage from a building rooftop about 150 yards away, outside the rally's security perimeter. Agents recovered an AR-style rifle from the scene.

Here is what we know at the moment. All times are Eastern:





1 p.m.: The Butler Farm Show, site of the rally, opens its doors to attendees. Trump is scheduled to speak at 5 p.m.

6:03 p.m.: Trump takes the stage and greets the crowd as the Lee Greenwood song “God Bless the USA” plays.

6:05 p.m.: The song ends, and Trump begins speaking.

6:11 p.m.: While Trump is speaking, multiple shots are fired toward the stage. Videos show Trump grabbing his right ear, looking at his bloody hand and dropping to the ground behind the podium. People can be heard saying, "Shots, shots, shots."

6:12 p.m.: Secret Service agents jump on top of Trump and escort him off stage and into a vehicle. Trump gives a thumbs up as he leaves.

How many shots were fired?

6:14 p.m.: Trump's motorcade leaves the fairgrounds surrounded by law enforcement vehicles.

6:42 p.m.: The Secret Service issues a statement confirming “an incident” took place at the rally and that Trump “is safe.” Shortly after, the Trump campaign issues a statement saying Trump “is fine and is being checked out at a local medical facility.”

7:24 p.m.: The Butler County district attorney says the suspected shooter is dead and one rally attendee has been killed, the Associated Press reports.

Where was the shooter?



7:49 p.m.: Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi releases a statement saying agents neutralized the shooter and that he was dead. The statement says one person was killed and two spectators have been seriously injured.

8:13 p.m.: In a short televised briefing, President Joe Biden says he was trying to call Trump to speak with him as soon as possible.

8:42 p.m.: Trump posts on Truth Social confirming he was shot:

- “It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead. I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!”

9:33 p.m.: The FBI's Pittsburgh office says it has assumed the lead in the shooting investigation.

11:52 p.m.: In a news conference, Kevin Rojek, special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh FBI office, says the shooting was an attempted assassination of Trump and that investigators are working to determine a motive.

Who shot Trump? What gun was used?

Sunday: Law enforcement sealed off the home of Thomas Matthew Crooks for investigation.

Crooks used a legally-purchased "AR-style 556 rifle," said Kevin Rojek, a special agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh field office, on a call with reporters. The agent likely refers to a rifle that fires 5.56 mm ammunition, though there are some firearm models with "556" in their name.

The weapon was located next to Crooks on the scene, Rojek said.

Rojek said law enforcement located "a suspicious device" when they searched the Crooks' vehicle. The device is being analyzed at the FBI crime lab in Quantico, Virginia.

Agents also obtained a court order to examine Crooks' cellphone in hopes its contents will provide clues into the shooting.

"At this time, the information that we have indicates that the shooter acted alone and that there are currently no public safety concerns," Rojek said. Another unidentified official on the call said the FBI believes the weapon was bought by the shooter's father. The family is cooperating with the investigation, officials said.

Retrieved July 15, 2024 from [Maps, graphics show how Trump assassination attempt unfolded. \(usatoday.com\)](#)

Witnesses

Whistleblower reveals why Trump rally officer assigned to shooter's perch moved

Story by Audrey Conklin

Whistleblowers have told Republican Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley that a law enforcement officer who was assigned to monitor the roof of a building that would-be former President Trump assassin Thomas Crooks fired from on July 13 left their post because it was "too hot."

Crooks, 20, fired multiple rounds from the roof of American Glass Research (AGR) Building 6, which was outside the rally perimeter but had a direct line of sight to where the former president was standing on stage at his campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"This comes from a whistleblower with direct knowledge of the Secret Service plan and setup that day," Hawley said. "And what this whistleblower tells my office is that there was at least one law enforcement person assigned to the roof itself. In other words, the plan called for a law enforcement individual to be on the roof at all times during the rally. And that did not happen. And what the whistleblower tells me is the law enforcement individual who was assigned to that roof abandoned it."

Butler's temperature reached a high of 92 degrees on July 13, and prior to the assassination attempt, emergency personnel at the rally were mostly focused on attending to people suffering from heat-related illnesses.

Hawley, who visited the rally site on July 19, noted that the AGR building in question was about 150 yards or fewer from the main stage of Trump's rally.

While Congress has confirmed that Crooks purchased a ladder at Home Depot prior to the rally shooting that left 50-year-old firefighter and father Corey Comperatore dead and two others — 57-year-old David Dutch and 74-year-old James Copenhaver — critically wounded, he could have accessed the roof of the AGR building without a ladder. Lawmakers who visited the site on Monday were able to reach the roof without a ladder.

The same whistleblower told Hawley that multiple law enforcement personnel were also assigned to patrol the perimeter of the building "to make sure that somebody couldn't just jump up" onto the roof, possibly from one of the air-conditioning units jutting out from the windows of the building, the senator said.

"All of these whistleblowers who've now come forward to my office, saying things like: law enforcement was assigned to be on the roof, and they weren't. They were assigned to be patrolling the perimeter of that building, and they weren't. They were supposed to be communicating over a common radio frequency, and they weren't," Hawley said. "I have to say, none of that surprises me because it is just astounding with those kind of failures and errors that this 20-year-old was able to get up on in plain view of everybody onto that low-slung roof and take multiple shots at the [former] president."

Approximately one hour passed between the time law enforcement officials first identified a suspicious person near the rally grounds and the time Crooks fired. Officials temporarily lost sight of the suspicious person, but then around 5:52 p.m., a sniper "had eyes on him," which was about 20 minutes before the gunfire rang out, Hawley said, citing a briefing he attended with former Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle last week.

The whistleblower also told Hawley that the Secret Service had delegated the AGR building and the roof to local or state law enforcement but noted that both local and federal officials have been pushing blame onto one another.

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICERS NOT ALLOWED IN SECRET SERVICE COMMAND CENTER AT TRUMP RALLY, LAWMAKERS SAY ON SITE

"There's a lot of effort on the part of both Secret Service, on the one hand, and DHS on the other hand, and then also state and local law enforcement to push the responsibility off onto each other. So this is just why we need to get these facts into the open. We need to have real and substantive hearings, not like the one [on Monday] where the former Secret Service director wouldn't even respond to questions. What a farce that was," Hawley said.

His comments came the same day Cheatle resigned from her position on Tuesday morning.

"To the Men and Women of the U.S. Secret Service, The Secret Service's solemn mission is to protect our nation's leaders and financial infrastructure," Cheatle wrote in a letter to the agency obtained by Fox News. "On July 13th, we fell short on that mission."

TRUMP SHOOTING SITE GIVES BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF 'DISORGANIZED' RALLY SCENE, WITNESSES SAY

Cheatle said that the "scrutiny" over the last week "has been intense and will continue to remain as our operational tempo increases."

"As your Director, I take full responsibility for the security lapse," she wrote.

Now, Hawley is calling for Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to resign, as well.

Alejandro Mayorkas needs to resign. He's the head of DHS. All of this is in his purview — Secret Service, the DHS personnel," the Missouri senator said. "Another whistleblower tells me that most of the federal security there that day were not Secret Service. Most of them were DHS personnel who had just been detailed over to this event for the day. And they were largely not prepared, not read into the security plan, and were not executing their duties according to what the plan called for."

TRUMP ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT: BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA TOWN MANAGER DEFENDS POLICE AMID RESPONSE 'MISCONCEPTION'

Hawley suggested the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is overwhelmed under Mayorkas' leadership over the agency.

A DHS spokesperson said the agency "cannot comment on matters related to an ongoing investigation. We, of course, are committed to working with the appropriate and relevant investigations of what happened on Saturday, including with Congress, the Inspector General, and both internal and independent reviews."

The Secret Service did not respond to an inquiry from Fox News Digital regarding Hawley's comments.

"I think the fact that you have so many of these DHS security folks, a lot of them are designated as investigators — DHS investigators — whose jobs are actually to be out in on the ground in the continental United States, searching for illegals, looking for crime. So many of them have been sent to the southern border. So there aren't that many of them available to begin with. And then you're pulling people off of other responsibilities and sending them to this rally. They're not adequately briefed. They're not trained to do that," Hawley said.

Mayorkas on Sunday announced that he has tapped a bipartisan panel of law enforcement experts to conduct a 45-day independent review of the assassination attempt.

"The men and women of the U.S. Secret Service make it the greatest protective service in the world, with one of the most solemn and difficult missions in government," the DHS secretary said. "This independent review will make the organization even better."

Hawley's office continues to communicate with whistleblowers about the Trump rally shooting and what went wrong in order for Crooks to gain access to the AGR building rooftop that evening with an AR-15.

Retrieved July 24, 2024 from [Whistleblower reveals why Trump rally officer assigned to shooter's perch moved \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/story/whistleblower-reveals-why-trump-rally-officer-assigned-to-shooter-s-perch-moved)

Suspects/s

Suspect 1

Thomas Crooks

The alleged perpetrator of this case has been described as

Trump Gunman Was Loner Who Wore Hunting Gear to School

Story by Corbin Bolies

A former Bethel Park High School classmate of [Donald Trump](#) shooter Thomas Crooks described him on Sunday as a "loner" who was often bullied in school.

The classmate [told](#) CBS affiliate KDKA that Crooks also often wore hunting outfits to school. He provided the affiliate with photos of Crooks in school wearing a Bethel Park High School hoodie.

Crooks graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2022, where he earned a \$500 award for [achievements in math and science](#), according to a *Bethel Park Journal* [report](#). The Bethel Park School District [told](#) KDKA it would cooperate with law enforcement officials in their investigation.

Crooks was [killed](#) by law enforcement on Saturday after he launched multiple shots from an AR-15-style at Trump during his rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. The president's ear was grazed and one rally attendee was killed. Two other attendees were critically injured. [Crooks' motive has remained unclear](#), and officials have not yet determined whether his political profile—a registered Republican who once made a donation to a Democratic group—contributed to his attack. The FBI identified Crooks by analyzing his DNA, officials [told](#) KDKA, as he did not have any identification on him.

Retrieved July 16, 2024 from [Trump Gunman Was Loner Who Wore Hunting Gear to School \(msn.com\)](#).

This goes on to say

Pentagon: Shooter Not Affiliated With Military

The shooter who came within inches of killing former President Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania rally Saturday was [not affiliated with any military branch](#), [the Pentagon said Monday](#).

"We've confirmed with each of the military service branches that there is no military service affiliation for the suspect with that name or date of birth in any branch active or reserve component in their respective databases," Pentagon deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters.

Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, opened fire from a roof about 164 yards away from where Trump was giving a speech to a crowd of supporters in Butler. Crooks' shots injured, but did not kill, the former president. He was shot and killed shortly after opening fire by a Secret Service sniper.

Retrieved July 16, 2024 from [Pentagon: Shooter Not Affiliated With Military | Newsmax.com](#)

Thomas Matthew Crooks appeared in a 2022 BlackRock ad

Thomas Matthew Crooks, the 20-year-old gunman who opened fire at a Saturday rally for former President Donald Trump, once appeared in an advertisement for investment firm BlackRock, the company said Monday.

The ad, which was produced in 2022, was filmed at Bethel Park High School, where Crooks was a student at the time. BlackRock filmed the spot, part of a series aimed at teachers managing their retirement assets, in a classroom led by a real teacher and which featured real students. Crooks was one of those students, BlackRock told CBS MoneyWatch.

He was not paid, nor was he hired by the company as an actor.

"In 2022, we ran an ad featuring a teacher from Bethel Park High School, in which several unpaid students briefly appeared in the background, including Thomas Matthew Crooks," BlackRock said in a statement to CBS MoneyWatch. "We will make all video footage available to the appropriate authorities, and we have removed the video from circulation out of respect for the victims."

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, also condemned the violence that took place at the Trump rally over the weekend.

"The assassination attempt on former President Trump is abhorrent. We're thankful former President Trump wasn't seriously injured and thinking about all the innocent bystanders and victims of this awful act, especially the person who was killed," BlackRock said in a statement. The company added that it "condemns political violence of any kind."

The Secret Service fatally shot Crooks, whose motive for opening fire remains unknown. The FBI is investigating the shooting as an assassination attempt.

Retrieved August 4, 2024 from [Thomas Matthew Crooks appeared in a 2022 BlackRock ad - CBS News](#)

Suspect 2

People who have demonstrated a motive to attack President Trump. Even though he is not physically capable of performing this act, he has to be listed as possible co-conspiracy by words and actions.

Joe Biden has indicated.

November 9, 2022 P:resident Biden stated

Biden suggests Trump will 'not take power' again if he runs in 2024

When asked at a post-midterms press conference how other world leaders should view this moment for America, with Trump potentially running for the presidency again, Biden said he will make sure Trump doesn't take power.

"We just have to demonstrate that he will not take power if he does run, making sure he — under legitimate efforts of our Constitution — does not become the next president again," Biden said.

Retrieved August 4, 2024 from [Biden suggests Trump will ‘not take power’ again if he runs in 2024 \(thehill.com\)](#)

Biden argues Trump is an existential threat to America; Trump tries to point finger back at Biden

Democracy and election denialism could be defining issues in the 2024 race.

Retrieved August 4, 2024 from [Biden argues Trump is an existential threat to America; Trump tries to point finger back at Biden - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

[President Joe Biden](#) will deliver his first 2024 campaign speech in Montgomery County, [Pennsylvania](#), on Friday afternoon.

The president will speak in his home state at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, marking the **third anniversary of the Jan. 6 attack** on the Capitol, where then-President Donald Trump’s supporters rallied against the **Biden campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez said Trump’s threat to America’s democracy has only grown since 2020 certification of Biden’s 2020 election victory.** “Our message is clear and it is simple: **We are running a campaign like the fate of our democracy depends on it. Because it does,**” Chavez Rodriguez said in a statement.

Retrieved August 2, 2024 from [WATCH LIVE: Biden delivers first 2024 campaign speech in Pennsylvania ahead of Jan. 6 anniversary - Washington Examiner](#)

Remarks by President Biden at a Campaign Event | Raleigh, NC JUNE 28, 2024

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THE PRESIDENT: **Look, and more than — and more than anything, we’re going to preserve, protect, and defend our democracy. (Applause.) Because more than anything else, that is what is at stake in America this election — (applause) — your freedom, your democracy. America itself is at stake. (Applause.)**

Now, folks, I don’t know what you did last night, but I spent 90 stages — 90 minutes on the stage debating the guy who has the morals of an alley cat. (Laughter and applause.)

Did you see Trump last night? My guess he set — and I mean this sincerely — a new record for the most lies told in a single debate. (Applause.)

He lied about the great economy he created. **He lied about the pandemic he botched, killing millions of people. (Applause.) He closed businesses. He closed schools. Losing their homes — people all over this country.**

America was flat on its back. So, I told Trump that he was just one of two presidents in American history who left office with fewer jobs than he started. Herbert Hoover was the other one. (Laughter.) That’s why I call him Donald “Herbert Hoover” Trump. (Applause.) And then he lied about how great he was for veterans.

THE PRESIDENT: But then I told him how he had called a veteran who had given their lives in the country in World War I — he refused to go to the gravesites — he called them “suckers” and “losers.”

THE PRESIDENT: He tried to deny it. But let me ask you, are you going to believe a four-star Marine general, his own former chief of staff, John Kelly, who said he said that or the disgraced, defeated, and lying Donald Trump?

My son was one of those people — not in World War I but in the v- —

Folks, look, how about the fact that 44 —

THE PRESIDENT: How about the fact that 40 out of his 44 top advisors, including the vice president, aren't supporting him this time around? The people who know him best — 40 of them said, “I will not support the man I worked for this time around.” It tells you a lot about — the person who knows him.

Look, he lied about how great he was on crime. I had to remind him that he oversaw a record increase of murder rates in 2020. And on my watch, violent crime has hit a 50-year low. There's more to do, but 50-year low. (Applause.)

And then, I pointed out that the only convicted criminal on the stage last night was Donald Trump. (Applause.)

When I've thought about his 34 felony convictions, his sexual assault on a woman in a public place, his being fined \$400 million for business fraud, I thought to myself, “Donald Trump isn't just a convicted felon. Donald Trump is a one-man crime wave.” (Applause.) And he's got more trials — he's got more trials coming up.

THE PRESIDENT: Look, the thing that bothers me maybe most about him: He has no respect for women or the law. He doesn't.

And then, his biggest lie. He lied about how he had nothing to do with the insurrection on January the 6th.

THE PRESIDENT: We all saw with our own eyes. We watched it on television. We saw thousands of insurrection attack the Capitol. We saw police being attacked, the Capitol being ransacked, the mob hunting for Speaker Pelosi, gallows literally set up for Mike Pence. And then, he told them as he sat in the dining room — the one di- — one — the private dining one door off my Oval Office. He sat there for three hours watching the TV. He did not a single thing to stop it — nothing, nothing at all.

THE PRESIDENT: But, folks, for all his lies, we did learn some- — we learned some important truths about Donald Trump last night. We learned he's still proud of being the person who killed Roe v. Wade.

THE PRESIDENT: No. We learned he's still proud about the pain and cruelty he's inflicted on America's women.

AUDIENCE: Booo —

THE PRESIDENT: We learned he still believes that politicians, not doctors and women, should make decisions about a woman's health.

AUDIENCE: Booo —

THE PRESIDENT: We learned that if he's elected again and the MAGA Republicans pass a national ban on abortion, he will sign it.

AUDIENCE: Booo —

THE PRESIDENT: Donald Trump says he thinks Roe v. Wo- — Roe — overturning Roe v. Wade was a beautiful thing.

AUDIENCE: Booo —

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was a nightmare. (Applause.) No, I really mean it. A nightmare. And I made it clear again last night: If you elect me and Kamala and you give us a Democratic Congress, we will make Roe v. Wade the law of the land again. (Applause.)

He continued to lie. He said I quadrupled taxes — where the hell has he been? — (laughter) — which is a simple lie. I didn't raise the tax on anyone in America that made less than \$400,000 a year, and I won't in my second term either.

We learned that Trump — (applause) — who had the largest deficit of any president in four years because of the \$2 trillion tax cut to the super wealthy — we learned that Trump wants to give another giant tax cut for the very wealthy and the biggest corporations. This time, \$5 trillion — not a joke — \$5 trillion. To pay for it, he's going to cut Medicare and Social Security. He'll cut health care. They'll do it all, with millions of working middle-class Americans all paying for another tax cut for the very wealthy.

Then, to add insult to injury, he wants to raise taxes on the average family \$2,500 a year. What amounts to a new 10 percent sales tax on all products imported in America — that's his new plan — for food, coffee, candy bars, and so much more. It's going to raise the tax on the average family \$2,500 a year.

And most dangerously, though, we learned that Donald Trump will not respect this year's election outcome. He's still not — he rejected the last time out.

AUDIENCE: Booo —

THE PRESIDENT: No, think about it. Every court in the ~~land~~ [land] ruled that it was a fair election. He's still denying it, still telling lies.

Three times, Trump was asked last night by the moderators: Would he respect the election results if he lost this time? Three times, he refused to answer. Three times.

Folks, Donald Trump refused to accept the results in 2020, and we all saw what happened on January the 6th. It's a direct consequence of that. It was an international embarrassment.

By the way, as I go these international meetings — I know every major world leader — I literally — because I've been around, as you might have noticed. (Laughter.) But they ask, "Does he really mean this?" "Is that — was this real?" It caused a constitutional crisis and international embarrassment.

Now, Trump is making it clear that if he doesn't win this time, there will be, in his words, bloodshed — blood-

—

AUDIENCE: Booo —

THE PRESIDENT: No president has ever said anything like that. No president. His words, not mine.

Are we going to let Donald Trump attack our democracy again?

AUDIENCE: No!

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Folks —

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

THE PRESIDENT: Folks, we've come a long way. We've come a long way from the mess that Donald Trump left us. We came out of the pandemic. We're a long way from where — Donald Trump telling us to inject bleach in our skin, that COVID is not that dangerous.

Today, we have the strongest economy in the world without exception — (applause) — 15 million new jobs; 800,000 manufacturing jobs; unemployment under 4 percent for a record two years in a row — (applause) — historic Black and Hispanic unemployment down; historic creation of small businesses — Black and all communities across the nation, particularly in rural areas; historic economic growth; inflation has dropped from 9 percent to 3, and it's still going down. (Applause.)

I know we have more to do to get prices down. We have to take on corporate greed. They're making twice the profit they were before the pandemic.

We got to make housing more affordable — (applause); provide childcare — (applause); make the tax code fair — (applause).

Sixteen Nobel winners of the economic mo- — Nobel Prize have looked at my economy — economic plan. This week, they've i- — issued a report. And on Trump's plan.

Here's what they concluded. They said that my plan would continue to grow the economy and bring down inflation. (Applause.) Sixteen Nobel laureates. And that Trump's plan would send the nation into recession and inflation soaring through the roof.

AUDIENCE: Boo —

THE PRESIDENT: Don't take my word for it.

Folks, let me close with this. I know I'm not a young man — (laughter) — to state the obvious.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I know. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Joe! Joe! Joe!

THE PRESIDENT: Well — I don't —

AUDIENCE: Joe! Joe! Joe!

THE PRESIDENT: Folks, I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate — debate as well as I used to. But I know what I do know: I know how to tell the truth. (Applause.)

I know — I know — I know right from wrong. (Applause.) And I know how to do this job. (Applause.) I know how to get things done. (Applause.) And I know like millions of Americans know: When you get knocked down, you get back up. (Applause.)

I know what it took to take our economy from the depths of pandemic to where it is today: the strongest economy in the world. I know what it'll take to bring this economy to everybody. I know what it'll take to rally the world to stand up against Putin and defend freedom, not yield to him. (Applause.) And I know what it'll take to keep the world safe and free for the years ahead.

Folks, I give you my word as a Biden. I would not be running again if I didn't believe with all my heart and soul I can do this job. (Applause.) Because, quite frankly, the stakes are too high.

AUDIENCE: Yes, you can! Yes, you can! Yes, you can!

THE PRESIDENT: The stakes are too high.

AUDIENCE: Yes, you can! Yes, you can! Yes, you can!

THE PRESIDENT: Donald Trump — Donald Trump is a genuine threat to this nation.

AUDIENCE: Yes!

THE PRESIDENT: He is a threat to our freedom.

AUDIENCE: Yes!

THE PRESIDENT: He is a threat to our democracy.

AUDIENCE: Yes!

THE PRESIDENT: He's literally a threat for everything America stands for.

AUDIENCE: Yes!

THE PRESIDENT: Look, he doesn't understand what I think all of you do. America is the finest, the most unique nation in the world. (Applause.)

We're the only nation in the world — and I mean this sincerely. It's a fact statement, not a hyper- — hyperbolic statement. It's fact. We're the only nation in the world built on an idea. All other nations are built on ethnicity, geography, and other — religion. But we're built on an idea that we're all created equal — (applause) — and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives. (Applause.)

We've never fully lived up, but I'll be damned in the year 2024, just two years — just two years before the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence that I'll let Donald Trump walk away from it. (Applause.)

I give you my word — I give you my word as a Biden. We're still a nation — I believe our civilization believes in honesty, in decency, and treating people with respect. I still believe we're a nation that gives everyone a fair shot and leaves nobody behind. (Applause.)

We are still a nation that gives hate no safe harbor. (Applause.) And we're still the beacon to the world. We can never give up what makes America America. (Applause.)

Donald Trump is motivated by revenge and retribution. But revenge and retribution never built a damn thing. (Applause.)

You and I, we Americans are a nation of hope, optimism, and possibilities. (Applause.) That's what always built America, and that's going to continue to build America today. (Applause.)

The choice in this election is simple. Donald Trump will destroy our democracy; I will defend it. (Applause.)

Well, folks, are you with me? (Applause.)

Donald Trump is the first president I've heard of that stood up there and running for president having been one — one term, saying, "America is a failing nation." Where the hell does he think he is?

AUDIENCE: Boo —

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm serious. A failing — I don't know a president who wouldn't trade places with America in a heartbeat. He's dead wrong. America is not a losing nation. America is winning. (Applause.)

As I stand here today, I can honestly say I've never been more optimistic about America's future in my whole career. We just have to remember who we are. We are the United States of America. (Applause.) And there is — there is nothing, nothing beyond our capacity — nothing — when we act together.

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: You've got it.

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: So, may God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Let's go get them, North Carolina. (Applause.)

Retrieved August 2, 2024 from [Remarks by President Biden at a Campaign Event | Raleigh, NC | The White House](#)

Suspect 3 Media and Democrat Party

Biden gives Democrats the anti-Trump speech they've been waiting for

Analysis: With midterms looming, allies have urged the White House to get tough on threats to democracy. "The radicalization of the GOP is something we can no longer ignore," one said. Jan. 6, 2022

His poll numbers plummeting and Covid cases soaring, President Joe Biden began the new year desperate for a new narrative.

On Thursday, Donald Trump's "bruised ego" may have handed it to him.

In a forceful speech roundly described as his most powerful since he took office, Biden pinned responsibility for the horrors of the Jan. 6 Capitol attack on Trump, painting him as a sore loser whose inability to embrace the truth of his defeat only deepened the political chasm dividing Americans.

"The former president of the United States of America has created and spread a web of lies about the 2020 election. He has done so because he values power over principle, because he sees his own interest as more important than his country's interest, than America's interest," Biden said of Trump. "And because his bruised ego matters more to him than our democracy or our Constitution, he can't accept he lost."

It was a rare moment during Biden's presidency when he stepped outside his cloak of unity and directly blamed the violent upheaval on Trump.

Biden made sure to explicitly and simply state the obvious: "He is not just the former president. He is a defeated former president."

Biden's decision to speak so plainly cheered many of his supporters.

"This is something that will be welcomed by almost every Democrat," said longtime Democratic operative Simon Rosenberg, the president of NDN, a center-left think tank based in Washington. Rosenberg was among those who urged the White House for months to escalate its rhetoric about ongoing threats to democracy.

"The radicalization of the GOP is something we can no longer ignore," he said.

Greg Schultz, Biden's onetime campaign manager, said his phone lit up at the close of the speech with texts like "This is the Biden I supported" and "Literally, the best speech he's given in years."

"This is when Biden is most powerful," Schultz said in an interview, citing Biden's fear of an erosion of democracy as the motivating force behind his White House run. He said Biden finally got personal with Trump on Thursday because there was no way he couldn't.

"This is one of the times when you don't have a choice. It is clear that Jan. 6 wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Trump," Schultz said. "This is one time when you can't remove the instigator, because the event was so egregious to the republic."

Tapping into his party's outrage at "the former president" offered a respite, however brief, from the grim, unrelenting reminders of record Covid case numbers, school closings and rising consumer prices. Some Democrats saw the move as a vital use of the president's bully pulpit, given the looming midterm elections, which could mean unending and unfounded challenges to election results and even the threat of violence.

In the year since a mob of his supporters assaulted the Capitol to disrupt the electoral vote count formalizing Biden's victory, Trump has continually repeated his insistence that the election was stolen. He has solidified his power over Republicans as parts of the party break off into more radicalized factions.

"The president made pretty clear today that defending democracy is going to be central to his agenda in 2022," Rosenberg said. "It was always there, and the primary reason he ran for president. But in 2021 other vital priorities crowded out the president's democracy agenda." He said Biden's remarks made it clear that the battle between democracy and autocracy is now "definitional for the Biden presidency."

That's the case for Democrats in Wisconsin, where Republican Ron Johnson's Senate seat and the critical governor's seat will be up for grabs in the midterms and the Republican-controlled Legislature hasn't been shy about flexing its muscle to question its electoral systems. Retrieved August 2, 2024 from [Biden gives Democrats the anti-Trump speech they've been waiting for \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

Schumer: 'Disgraceful' Trump immunity decision will 'weaken' democracy

by [Alexander Bolton](#) - 07/01/24

Senate Majority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#) (D-N.Y.) slammed the Supreme Court's "disgraceful" decision Monday to shield former President Trump's official acts from prosecution, which will delay his trial on Jan. 6-related charges.

Schumer warned the 6-3 decision "enables the former President to weaken our democracy by breaking the law."

"This is a sad day for America and a sad day for our democracy. The very basis of our judicial system is that no one is above the law. Treason or incitement of insurrection should not be considered a core constitutional power afforded to a president," he said.

Schumer also warned that the Supreme Court has undermined its credibility, echoing the criticisms of other Senate Democrats who have accused conservative justices on the court of becoming partisan players.

"This decision undermines the credibility of the Supreme Court, and suggests that political influence trumps all in our courts today," Schumer said.

The Supreme Court on Monday morning ruled that Trump is immune from prosecution for his official acts as president, but directed lower courts to decide whether Trump's actions in the lead-up to and on the day of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol were taken in an official or private capacity.

Other Democrats also railed against the decision.

"The Supreme Court has put lawbreaking presidents like Donald Trump above the law. This cravenly political decision to shield President Trump grants him a legal armor that no other citizen enjoys," said [Sen. Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-Conn.), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, in a statement on the social platform X.

"My stomach turns with fear & anger that our democracy can be so endangered by an out-of-control Court. The members of Court's conservative majority will now be rightly perceived by the American people as extreme & nakedly partisan hacks – politicians in robes," Blumenthal said.

[Sen. Peter Welch](#) (D-Vt.), another member of the Judiciary Committee, said the court "has lost all credibility" and slammed conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito for not recusing themselves from Trump-related cases because of their wives' political activism or expressions of partisan favor.

"This activist Supreme Court has unconscionably allowed Donald Trump to evade criminal liability, a move that all but ensures he will never face justice for his attempts to subvert our

democracy. It defies logic and our nation’s democratic principle that no person is above the law. Today the Supreme Court stood up for a political figure rather than the rule of law,” **Welch** said in a statement.

Welch said Thomas and Alito, in particular, showed a “**glaring lack of impartiality**” before voting with the majority to grant Trump significant immunity.

“It is clear that Donald Trump does not believe the law applies to him. This decision makes it clear that conservative justices of this Supreme Court believe the same,” he said.

Retrieved August 2, 2024 from [Chuck Schumer slams Supreme Court's Donald Trump immunity decision \(thehill.com\)](https://www.thehill.com/policy/immigration/2024/08/02/chuck-schumer-slams-supreme-court-trump-immunity/)

(A direct way to go after your enemy is to)

No Kings Act: How Democrats are seeking to overturn Trump immunity ruling

Democrats in the U.S. are pursuing multiple attempts to overturn the [U.S. Supreme Court's](https://www.supremecourt.gov/) landmark decision on [presidential immunity](https://www.supremecourt.gov/) from criminal prosecution, driving up messaging on what the party hopes will become a key election issue.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Thursday introduced legislation, dubbed the No Kings Act, that would try to invalidate the ruling by declaring that presidents are not immune from criminal law and **clarifying that Congress, not the nation's highest court, determines to whom federal criminal law is applied.**

Retrieved August 3, 2024, from [No Kings Act: How Democrats are seeking to overturn Trump immunity ruling \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/story/no-kings-act-how-democrats-are-seeking-to-overturn-trump-immunity-ruling)

LEADER JEFFRIES: “TRUMP’S PROJECT 2025 IS DANGEROUS, DIABOLICAL AND DASTARDLY”

*Washington, DC – Today, Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries held a press conference where he highlighted that while **House Republicans are taking orders from Trump and pushing his extreme MAGA agenda, House Democrats are laser-focused on lowering costs, defending reproductive freedom and protecting our democracy.***

July 11, 2024

LEADER JEFFRIES: Good afternoon, everyone. This week has once again made clear that **the extreme MAGA Republican agenda is to jam Trump’s Project 2025 down the throats of the American people.** What is Project 2025? **It’s dangerous, it’s dastardly and it’s diabolical.** Project 2025, the Trump and extreme MAGA Republican agenda, will criminalize abortion care and impose a nationwide ban on reproductive freedom. Trump’s Project 2025 will end Social Security and Medicare as we know it. Trump’s Project 2025 will destroy working families and the middle class in favor of the wealthy, the well-off and well-connected corporations. **Trump’s Project 2025 is dangerous, diabolical and dastardly. And we will not let the extreme MAGA Republicans hide this reckless agenda from the American people, and we need the American people to join us so we can stop it.**

Retrieved August 3, 2024 from [LEADER JEFFRIES: “TRUMP’S PROJECT 2025 IS DANGEROUS, DIABOLICAL AND DASTARDLY” – Congressman Hakeem Jeffries \(house.gov\)](#)

Doctors told Pelosi of concern for Trump’s mental health, ex-speaker says in book

Exclusive: Pelosi calls Trump ‘unhinged’ and reveals exchange with doctors at 2019 memorial for top psychiatrist

In early 2019, at a memorial service for a prominent psychiatrist, a succession of “doctors and other mental health professionals” told Nancy Pelosi they were “deeply concerned that there was something seriously wrong” with Donald Trump, “and that his mental and psychological health was in decline”.

“I’m not a doctor,” the former speaker writes in an eagerly awaited memoir, “but I did find his behaviors difficult to understand.”

Pelosi’s book, [The Art of Power: My Story as America’s First Woman Speaker of the House](#), will be published next week. The Guardian obtained a copy.

Pelosi was speaker between 2007 and 2011, and between 2019 and 2023, the latter spell coinciding with Trump’s chaotic presidency. Her memoir comes out amid a tumultuous 2024 presidential campaign, in which Trump is the Republican nominee for a third successive election.

Questions about Trump’s fitness for office form a thread through the book. At 78, Trump is the oldest candidate ever, his campaign-trail utterances studied for frequent mistakes, his speeches are often rambling and marked by [bizarre references](#).

Retrieved August 3, 2024 from [Doctors told Pelosi of concern for Trump’s mental health, ex-speaker says in book | Books | The Guardian](#)

Suspect 4

The three unknown suspicious suspects identified earlier before the event started.

Suspect 5

FBI, DOJ, and USSS

This is an example of the Information being withheld by the FBI and DOJ

Tenn. Newspaper Publishes Covenant Shooter's Journal

A newspaper in Tennessee on Tuesday published 90 pages of writings it said were left by The Covenant School killer Audrey Elizabeth Hale, who murdered three children and three staffers in March 2023 before being shot dead by police.

[The Tennessee Star](#) said it believes that Tuesday’s release, which it calls “The Covenant Killer’s 2023 Journal,” was written by Hale between January and March 2023. Hale was 28 years old when she entered The Covenant School, a private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 27, 2023, and shot dead three 9-year-old students in addition to the three adults.

Hale was female but identified as male, often signing her journal entries as "Aiden," according to the Star.

“We legally obtained this handwritten journal – which we refer to as ‘The Covenant Killer’s 2023 Journal’ to distinguish it from the many journals written by Hale prior to 2023 – in early June of 2024 from a source familiar with the MNPD investigation,” Star Editor-in-Chief Michael Patrick Leahy [wrote in a statement](#) accompanying the published documents.

The Metro Nashville Police Department found 20 additional journals written by Hale between 2007 and 2022 at the Nashville house she shared with her parents, the Star reported.

“We believe it to be authentic. In addition to our belief, the journal was confirmed as authentic in court by a Metro Nashville Government lawyer in attendance at a June 2024 court hearing,” Leahy added. “We have had a First Amendment right to publish these unredacted documents from the moment we legally obtained them.”

The Star published roughly 50 articles since June 5 based on information from Hale’s journal without including “actual pages from that journal,” the paper wrote. The Star wrote that publishing the journal pages revealed new information.

One, Hale would draw an octagonal symbol when writing about her planned attack on The Covenant School. And two, her gender identity. The octagon was drawn on the cover of Hale’s notebook, too. It’s unclear what the meaning was behind the octagon.

“Soon I will leave this world! You [and] your friends will be just fine. Does it even matter if I am alive?” Hale wrote in one passage, according to the Star, which included the octagonal symbol, and above it wrote, “No regrets by the gun!!!”

Hale wrote about her desire to transition to a male and a purported autism diagnosis while adding she was not bi-polar, according to the Star.

Hale wrote of considering several dates before landing on March 27 to attack the Covenant School, according to the Star. Further, while she did not explicitly write of a motive for the attack in the journal published Tuesday, according to the Star, she complained that the United States did not respect rights of disabled people, gun owners, and transgender people [in an entry](#) the month before.

“So now in America, it makes one a criminal to have a gun or, be transgender, or non-binary,” Hale wrote on Feb. 20, 2023, 35 days before the attack, according to the Star. “So now [because] of you, I wish death on myself cause of the pure hatred of my female gender,” Hale wrote, adding, “with no rights, anyone’s country is a s***** dictatorship,” according to the Star.

In a separate 3-page manifesto released to conservative social media influencer Steven Crowder last November, Hale purportedly wrote, “Wanna kill all you little crackers!!! Bunch of little fa***ts w/ your white privileges.”

Retrieved September 4, 2024, from [Tenn. Newspaper Publishes Covenant Shooter's Journal | Newsmax.com](#)

Suspect 6

Iran

Exclusive: Secret Service ramped up security after intel of Iran plot to assassinate Trump; no known connection to shooting

US authorities obtained intelligence from a human source in recent weeks on a plot by Iran to try to assassinate Donald Trump, a development that led to the Secret Service increasing security around the former president, multiple people briefed on the matter told CNN.

There’s no indication that Thomas Matthew Crooks, the would-be assassin who attempted to kill the former president on Saturday, was connected to the plot, the sources said.

The existence of the intelligence threat from a hostile foreign intelligence agency — and the enhanced security for Trump — raises new questions about the security lapses at the Saturday rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, and how a 20-year-old man managed to access a nearby rooftop to fire shots that injured the former president.

A US national security official said the Secret Service and Trump campaign were made aware of the threat before Saturday's rally.

"Secret Service learned of the increased threat from this threat stream," the official told CNN. "NSC directly contacted USSS at a senior level to be absolutely sure they continued to track the latest reporting. USSS shared this information with the detail lead, and the Trump campaign was made aware of an evolving threat. In response to the increased threat, Secret Service surged resources and assets for the protection of former President Trump. All of this was in advance of Saturday."

The Trump campaign would not disclose whether it was made aware of the Iran threat. "We do not comment on President Trump's security detail. All questions should be directed to The United States Secret Service," the campaign said in a statement.

Secret Service officials have warned the Trump campaign repeatedly against holding outdoor rallies, which pose greater risks than events to which the agency can better control access, people briefed on the matter said. The warnings have been more general in nature, the sources said.

"The Secret Service and other agencies are constantly receiving new potential threat information and taking action to adjust resources, as needed," Anthony Guglielmi, an agency spokesman, said on Tuesday. "We cannot comment on any specific threat stream, other than to say that the Secret Service takes threats seriously and responds accordingly."

At one point during this election cycle, the campaign stopped holding spontaneous off-the-record events where guests weren't swept by Secret Service beforehand due to security concerns, a source familiar with the matter told CNN.

The FBI, which is conducting the investigation into Saturday's shooting, declined to comment.

NSC spokesperson Adrienne Watson said there's no known link between shooter Thomas Matthew Crooks and anyone else at the moment.

"The investigation of Saturday's attempted assassination of former President Trump is active and ongoing. At this time, law enforcement has reported that their investigation has not identified ties between the shooter and any accomplice or co-conspirator, foreign or domestic," Watson said. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations denied there is an Iranian plot to assassinate Trump.

"These accusations are unsubstantiated and malicious. From the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Trump is a criminal who must be prosecuted and punished in a court of law for ordering the assassination of General Soleimani. Iran has chosen the legal path to bring him to justice," a spokesperson for the mission told CNN, referencing Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian military's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, who was killed by a US airstrike at Baghdad International Airport in January 2020.

CNN's Fareed Zakaria pressed Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani on the alleged Iranian assassination plot, asking in an interview if the plot was in retaliation for Soleimani's killing, which took place during the Trump administration.

"I told you explicitly that we would resort to legal and judicial procedures and frameworks at the domestic level and international level in order to bring the perpetrators and military advisers of

General Soleimani's assassination to justice," Kani told Zakaria in an interview that will air Sunday on CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS."

Pressed further if that meant not using violent measures, Kani said, "We will only resort to Iranian and international legal and judicial procedures."

"Until now, we have done it, and this is our right and of course we will continue it. And the Americans openly said that, that they assassinated the senior Iranian military commander. So it is our natural right in order to follow this issue, and those who are accused in this case, they should be brought to justice in a — in a just court," Kani said.

Trump and the Republican vice presidential nominee, Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, will hold their first official campaign rally together on Saturday at an indoor arena in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the campaign announced Tuesday.

Surge of threats from Iranian state-backed media

Iran has repeatedly vowed revenge for the US military's killing of Soleimani. And former senior Trump administration officials who worked on national security have had tight security since leaving the government.

In August 2022, the Justice Department announced criminal charges against a member of the IRGC for allegedly trying to orchestrate the assassination of John Bolton, who served as Trump's national security adviser. US prosecutors said the plot against Bolton was "likely in retaliation" for Soleimani's assassination.

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was also a target of the Iranian assassination plot, according to a federal law enforcement source familiar with the investigation and a source close to Pompeo.

Trump's former national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, had a US government security detail due to threats from Iran, like Pompeo and other former Trump officials, but that detail was dropped last summer, according to sources familiar with the matter. O'Brien is now paying for his own private security detail, sources said. Lawmakers were not given a specific reason for the decision, which led to frustration. O'Brien did not respond to a request for comment.

Bolton still has his Secret Service detail.

For months, law enforcement officials have been concerned about the persistent threat of Iran potentially attempting to assassinate former Trump officials and the former president himself, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter. But the recent intelligence suggested a significant uptick in the threat, the sources told CNN.

Warnings about that operational planning have coincided with a noticeable surge of online messaging from Iranian accounts and state-backed media mentioning Trump, which has raised security concerns among US officials, one of the sources told CNN.

Retrieved August 27, 2024 from [Secret Service ramped up security after receiving intel of Iranian plot to assassinate Trump; no known connection to shooting | CNN Politics](#)

Investigation

Acting Secret Service Boss 'Ashamed' of Trump Rally Security Lapses

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

The acting director of the Secret Service said Tuesday he “cannot defend” why the roof used by the gunman in the assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump was not secured. Ronald Rowe, testifying before two Senate committees, said recently traveled to the Pennsylvania shooting site and “What I saw made me ashamed.”

The FBI’s No. 2 official said a social media account believed to be associated with the gunman suspected in the assassination attempt espoused political violence and included antisemitic and anti-immigrant sentiment. The posts were from the 2019 and 2020 timeframe, when the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, would have been in high school.

Senate lawmakers are grilling the officials about law enforcement lapses in the hours before the attempted assassination of Trump in the latest in a series of congressional hearings dedicated to the shooting.

Rowe became acting director of the agency last week after Kimberly Cheatle resigned in the aftermath of a House hearing in which she was berated by lawmakers and failed to answer specific questions about the communication failures preceding the July 13 shooting.

Rowe is being joined by FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate at a joint hearing of the Senate committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security.

“If this happened in the military, a lot of people would be fired,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. “And if a lot of people are not fired, the system failed yet again.

He added: “Nothing’s going to change until somebody loses their job.”

The hearing comes one day after the FBI released new details about its investigation into the shooting, revealing that the gunman had looked online for information about mass shootings, power plants, improvised explosive devices and the May assassination attempt of the Slovakian prime minister.

The FBI also said that Trump, the 2024 Republican presidential nominee, has agreed to be interviewed by agents as a crime victim. The bureau said last week that the former president had been struck in the ear by a bullet or fragment of one. Trump said Monday evening that he expected that interview to take place on Thursday.

But most of the questions Tuesday are expected to be directed at Rowe as lawmakers demand answers about how Crooks was able to get so close to Trump. Investigators believe Crooks fired eight shots in Trump's direction from an AR-style rifle after scaling the roof of a building of some 135 meters (147 yards) from where Trump was speaking in Butler, Pennsylvania.

One rallygoer was killed, and two others were injured. Crooks was shot dead by a Secret Service counter-sniper.

At her hearing last week, Cheatle said the Secret Service had “failed” in its mission to protect Trump. She called the attempt on Trump’s life the Secret Service’s “most significant operational failure” in decades and vowed to “move heaven and earth” to get to the bottom of what went wrong and make sure there’s no repeat of it.

Cheatle acknowledged that the Secret Service was told about a suspicious person two to five times before the shooting at the rally. She also revealed that the roof from which Crooks opened fire had been identified as a potential vulnerability days before the rally.

Cheatle said she apologized to Trump in a phone call after the assassination attempt.

In a Monday night interview on Fox News Channel, Trump defended the Secret Service agents who protected him from the shooting but said that someone should have been on the roof with Crooks and that there should have been better communication with local police.

“They didn’t speak to each other,” he said.

He praised the sniper who killed Crooks with what he said was an amazing shot but noted: “It would have been good if it was nine seconds sooner.”

Retrieved July 30, 2024, from [Acting Secret Service Boss Says he 'cannot Defend' Why Roof in Trump Rally Shooting Was Not Secured | Newsmax.com](#)

Secret Service director: Trump rally shooter was identified as 'potential person of suspicion'

Greg Norman, Chris Pandolfo, Michael Ruiz

The head of the Secret Service has revealed that the shooter who tried to kill [former President Trump](#) was identified as a "potential person of suspicion," but by the time units were able to track him down, he had managed to open fire at the rally in Pennsylvania.

United States Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle made the remark in an interview that aired on ABC News just hours after [Fox News Digital reported](#) that a local law enforcement officer spotted a suspicious man carrying a range-finder just 30 minutes before Saturday’s attempted assassination in Butler.

That officer reported the sighting to state police, a law enforcement source said. He took a photo, and there was a discussion about whether what he was carrying was a pair of binoculars to try and see the rally better. But then a few minutes into Trump's remarks, the would-be assassin — identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20 — began shooting, according to authorities.

"I'm being told that the shooter was actually identified as a potential person of suspicion. Units started responding to seek that individual out," Cheatle told ABC News. "Unfortunately, with the rapid succession of how things unfolded, by the time that individual was eventually located, they were on the rooftop and were able to fire off at the former president."

Retrieved July 16, 2024 from [Secret Service director: Trump rally shooter was identified as 'potential person of suspicion' \(yahoo.com\)](#)

Pennsylvania state police identified Trump shooter as 'suspicious' prior to attack

Story by Melissa Chan

The gunman who tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump was [identified as suspicious before the shooting](#) because he was hanging around but never attempted to enter the July 13 campaign rally and that suspicion was later heightened when he was seen with a rangefinder, the commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police testified Tuesday.

[Thomas Crooks, 20](#), first became suspicious because he “was milling about and he stood out to them because he never made his way to a point of ingress to the venue,” Pennsylvania State Police Col. Christopher Paris said at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing.

The suspicion grew when Crooks was later seen with a range-finder, a device that measures the distance from a target.

In his testimony, Paris said that in his briefings he was told that [in addition to Crooks, three other people had been identified as suspicious.](#)

Paris said the Butler County Emergency Services Unit (ESU), which was tasked with securing the building where Crooks fired from, relayed the suspicion and a photo of Crooks to the state police, which then passed along the message to the Secret Service.

Officers with the Butler County ESU spotted Crooks from a second-story window and left their post to search for him, Paris said, adding that he cannot give an exact timeline

Retrieved July 23, 2024 from [Pennsylvania state police identified Trump shooter as 'suspicious' prior to attack \(msn.com\)](#)

Iowa Sen. Grassley posts video of aftermath of Trump shooter's killing

Story by Phil Helsel

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley on Tuesday posted video that showed the aftermath of the killing of Trump shooter [Thomas Crooks](#), with law enforcement agents on a rooftop alongside his body. Grassley [on X demanded answers](#) and accountability following the July 13 assassination attempt targeting former President Donald Trump as he spoke at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Trump was shot in the ear.

[Crooks was shot and killed after firing at Trump.](#) Crooks [shot and killed one other person](#) and wounded two others when he opened fire at the event.

The body camera video posted by Grassley, R-Iowa, shows Crooks' body on the roof of the building from where he fired. The video also showed blood by the shooter's body.

["We NEED detailed answers ASAP on security failures,"](#) Grassley wrote on X.

"TRANSPARENCY BRINGS ACCOUNTABILITY."

In the video, someone in a black suit and sunglasses speaks with law enforcement officers armed with rifles and wearing body armor following the shooting and Crooks' subsequent killing.

An officer points out a rifle lying on the roof, though it is not clear whether it is Crooks'.

[The officer whose body camera is recording mentions that a sniper had seen a person coming from a bike and setting a backpack down, but lost sight of him.](#) It is not clear in the video if the officer is talking about Crooks.

Grassley wrote that [the video was obtained from the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit](#) after requests from Congress. The Beaver County Sheriff's Office has an unit by that name, which is a tactical team that responds to high-risk incidents.

The U.S. Secret Service and Beaver County Sheriff's Office did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday night.

[Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers in Congress have demanded answers about how Crooks was able to open fire at a former president,](#) and the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General [said it has opened three reviews](#) surrounding the incident.

U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle [resigned Tuesday](#). She wrote in a resignation letter that she takes "full responsibility for the security lapse."

Crooks' motive has not been determined.

Pennsylvania State Police Col. Christopher Paris, who heads the agency, told a House Homeland Security Committee hearing Tuesday [that Crooks had been identified as suspicious before the shooting.](#)

Crooks had been spotted "milling about and he stood out to them because he never made his way to a point of ingress to the venue," meaning Crooks was milling about but not trying to enter, and that Crooks was later seen with a range finder.

Paris said the Butler County Emergency Services Unit, tasked with securing the building where Crooks fired from, relayed the suspicion and a photo of Crooks to the state police, which then passed along the message to the Secret Service.

Crooks was not designated as an actual threat until seconds before he opened fire, Paris said.

Trump, now [the official Republican nominee](#) for president, plans to [no longer hold outdoor rallies](#) following the assassination attempt, according to two sources familiar with his campaign's operations. The current plans are for those events to be held indoors instead, they said.

This article was originally published on [NBCNews.com](#)

Retrieved July 24, 2024 from [Iowa Sen. Grassley posts video of aftermath of Trump shooter's killing \(msn.com\)](#)

[BREAKING: Trump rally shooter bodycam released after assassination attempt | LiveNOW from FOX \(youtube.com\)](#)

FBI Update After Trump Attacked At Rally

Sources claim that the man whom authorities believe attempted to kill former President Donald Trump managed to get to the rally's roof by scaling over an air conditioning unit next to the structure.

Despite reports from law enforcement sources that Thomas Matthew Crooks may have bought a 5-foot ladder from a Home Depot before the shooting, the ladder does not seem to have been utilized to scale the roof and was not discovered there.

There are still unanswered issues regarding how the 20-year-old managed to sneak up to the roof, have a clear view of the former president, and fire multiple bullets at him while the FBI investigates. The inquiry into the alleged gunman's motivation is still ongoing as of Wednesday.

The Secret Service reported that Crooks had been slain on the spot.

"Investigators said Tuesday they found a remote transmitter in the suspect's pocket that may have been intended to set off two suspicious devices found in the suspect's car and one in his home, according to law enforcement sources. Devices at both locations were similarly constructed in ammunition containers using components including receivers that appear to have been paired with the remote control found in the suspect's pocket, sources said," ABC News [reported](#).

"The receivers in each device were connected to a series of components that investigators say met the 'eye test' — having parts present that could have made viable devices, although the functionality of the devices is still being determined. The purpose of the devices is also unknown. Whether they were intended to cause a significant blast effect and hurt people or if they were designed to create smoke, fire and a low-grade blast for a diversion is unclear," the outlet added.

ABC continued: "Investigators also found a tactical vest in the suspect's car, though it is unclear why he did not wear it during the assault on the former president's rally. Some investigators are wondering whether he anticipated dying in the attack. The shooter also asked his employer if he could take a day off on Saturday but said he would return to work perhaps as soon as Sunday, the

day after this attack, according to law enforcement sources. But thus far, investigators have turned up nothing to suggest that he had any accomplices or other support to carry out his deadly objective.”

After the FBI examined and unlocked his phone, nothing noteworthy about the suspect’s intentions was found, only what insiders called “routine” information for a male 20-year-old. Investigators have reportedly found nothing so far to indicate that he needed collaborators or more assistance to accomplish his lethal goal.

In a statement, the Pennsylvania State Police said that while it “was not responsible for securing the building or property” outside the security perimeter where the would-be assassin opened fire, it did provide “all resources” to the Secret Service, including thirty to forty troopers to help secure the inside perimeter of the campaign rally venue in Butler Township, Pennsylvania. U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle told ABC News that while the gunman was on the roof shooting at Trump, local police were inside the building. Cheatle added that securing the structure fell to the local government.

“In this particular instance, we did share support for that particular site and that the Secret Service was responsible for the inner perimeter,” Cheatle said. “And then we sought assistance from our local counterparts for the outer perimeter.”

After the federal protection agency claimed that local police were required to have secured the building and rooftop used by the 20-year-old shooter who attempted to assassinate former President Donald Trump on Saturday, the head of the Fraternal Order of Police ripped into the U.S. Secret Service.

The group’s president, Patrick Yoes, also said that the Secret Service’s primary function is to protect Trump wherever he is, including the Butler, Pa., venue where he was nearly killed.

Yoes made his remarks after the agency’s director, Kimberly Cheatle, doubled down on her agency’s claim that local police were supposed to secure that building.

“All of us want answers,” Yoes said in a statement, noting remarks by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas that the failure in security nearly resulted in Trump losing his life. “All of us in law enforcement can agree that the roof of the building should have been secured by law enforcement. It clearly was not.”

Fox News adds:

The Secret Service has come under fire after it was revealed the alleged shooter was able to obtain an elevated shooting position just outside the security perimeter of the rally. Yoes noted that the agency relies on the support and assistance of local authorities for such events.

“Suggestions made in the media that suggest local agencies should play no role in assisting the USSS at events like that one in Butler simply do not know what they are talking about,” he said. Yoes said the Secret Service will rely more on local police agencies as the election nears.

Retrieved July 23, 2024 from [FBI Update After Trump Attacked At Rally \(conservativebrief.com\)](https://www.conservativebrief.com)

July 14, 2024

Update on the FBI Investigation of the Attempted Assassination of Former President Donald Trump

Update: July 15, 2024, 3:05 p.m. EDT:

The FBI continues to investigate the shooting incident at the July 13 rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, as an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump and as potential domestic terrorism. The investigation is still in the early stages, and the FBI is providing the following updates:

- FBI technical specialists successfully gained access to Thomas Matthew Crooks' phone, and they continue to analyze his electronic devices.
- The search of the subject's residence and vehicle are complete.
- The FBI has conducted nearly 100 interviews of law enforcement personnel, event attendees, and other witnesses. That work continues.
- The FBI has received hundreds of digital media tips which include photos and videos taken at the scene, and we continue to review incoming tips. We encourage anyone with information that may assist with the ongoing investigation to continue to submit it online at tips.fbi.gov or call 1-800-CALL-FBI.
- While the investigative work continues, FBI victim services personnel have offered assistance to the victims of Saturday's incident.

Original Statement: July 14, 10 p.m. EDT:

The FBI is investigating the shooting incident at the July 13 rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, which resulted in one victim's death and injuries to former President Trump and other spectators, as an assassination attempt and potential domestic terrorism.

While the investigation to date indicates the shooter acted alone, the FBI continues to conduct logical investigative activity to determine if there were any co-conspirators associated with this attack. At this time, there are no current public safety concerns.

The FBI has not identified a motive for the shooter's actions, but we are working to determine the sequence of events and the shooter's movements prior to the shooting, collecting and reviewing evidence, conducting interviews, and following up on all leads. We have also obtained the shooter's telephone for examination.

The FBI has searched the shooter's home and vehicle to collect additional evidence. Suspicious devices found at both locations have been rendered safe by bomb technicians and are being evaluated at the FBI Laboratory.

The firearm used in the shooting was purchased legally.

The shooter was not known to the FBI prior to this incident.

The FBI investigation is being led by the FBI's Pittsburgh Field Office in coordination with our local, state, and federal partners. Anyone with information that may assist with the ongoing investigation is encouraged to submit it online at tips.fbi.gov or call 1-800-CALL-FBI.

Previous official statements about this incident can be found at fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-statement-on-incident-in-butler-pennsylvania.

Retrieved July 24, 2024 from [Update on the FBI Investigation of the Attempted Assassination of Former President Donald Trump — FBI](#)

Trump Rally Gunman May Have Had Pro-Biden Account on Far-Right Site

Story by Owen Lavine

Andrew Torba, the founder of the [far-right favorite](#) social media site [Gab](#), wrote in a blog post Wednesday that Thomas Matthew Crooks, the man who attempted to take former President Donald Trump's life at a campaign rally earlier this month, may have been a user of the site.

"Today Gab learned that Thomas Crooks, the deranged Joe Biden supporter who attempted to assassinate President Donald Trump, may have had [an account on our platform](#)," Torba [wrote in the post](#). "We are unable to confirm that the account in question actually belonged to him, but have reason to believe it does after receiving an emergency disclosure request from a law enforcement agency."

The account called 'epicMicrowave' was created in September 2019 and made nine posts on the site, most of which defended various policies championed by President Joe Biden.

"The account was last active on the site in 2021. As far as we are aware, the account did not use the site to send any direct messages," Torba added.

One post from Feb. 4, 2021 tags right-wing internet personality [@Catturd](#) and reads: "Didn't you also think Biden would lose in a landslide yeah I would not be very confident in your election predictions."

A Feb. 3, 2021 post directly replied to Torba, reading "[@a](#) Im sorry explain to me how trump was ever concerned with what the left wanted, or anybody in the GOP for that matter?"

All nine of Crooks' alleged posts were made between Jan. 20, 2021—the same day Crooks [donated](#) to a Democrat-affiliated PAC—and Feb. 4, 2021.

FBI officials previously said that Thomas Matthew Crooks did not have any known social media accounts.

Retrieved July 26, 2024, from [Trump Rally Gunman May Have Had Pro-Biden Account on Far-Right Site \(msn.com\)](#)

Trump gunman planned to create 'diversion' with explosives to escape, Mike McCaul says

House Foreign Affairs Chair Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas) said Sunday that the gunman behind the assassination attempt against Donald Trump had wanted to [create a "diversion" with explosives so that he could escape](#).

FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before the House Judiciary Committee last Wednesday that as part of its investigation into the shooting at Trump's campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, [law enforcement recovered from Thomas Crooks' vehicle a drone and explosive devices](#) that could be detonated remotely. Crooks also had a transmitter, although remote detonation likely "would not have worked" from his location, Wray said.

While the FBI still does not know Crooks' motive, McCaul — who formerly chaired the House Committee on Homeland Security — provided new details on Crooks' plans before the assassination attempt.

"What's interesting, Robert, is that he had a detonation device on him and two bombs in the car," McCaul told host Robert Costa on CBS' "Face the Nation." "What his plan was was to assassinate the president, create a diversion by blowing up his vehicle on the other side of the property, and then he could escape."

Secret Service snipers shot Crooks dead after he fired an AR-15 from the top of a building just 400 feet from Trump, killing one rallygoer and injuring two other attendees on July 13. In addition, Trump [sustained a 2 cm-wide wound](#) to his ear during the shooting and the bullet was less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head, according to the former president's doctor. Retrieved July 29, 2024 from [Trump gunman planned to create 'diversion' with explosives to escape, Mike McCaul says \(msn.com\)](#)

Trump's golf club attempt

Known Facts

Shots fired in Trump's vicinity, FBI investigating attempted assassination

The Trump campaign states that the former President is safe following gunshots in his vicinity. Suspect arrested. FBI says it is investigating "what appears to be an attempted assassination" of Trump.

Shots were fired on Sunday outside Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump's golf club while he was playing golf.

"President Trump is safe following gunshots in his vicinity. No further details at this time," the Trump campaign stated.

The FBI said it was investigating "what appears to be an attempted assassination" of Trump. Palm Beach County, Florida, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said an AK-47 with a scope, two backpacks and a GoPro camera were recovered in the bushes near the golf course.

Bradshaw added that Trump was "probably between" 300-500 yards away from where the armed suspect was spotted.

Martin County Sheriff William D. Snyder said his department's deputies arrested a suspect in the shooting.

"There was a lone driver in the vehicle. That driver is now in custody," Snyder said, adding the suspect was "relatively calm" and "not displaying a lot of emotions."

CNN cited sources familiar with the matter who said officials believe that the shots were intended for the former President.

The former President's son, Donald Jr. reported that according to law enforcement, an AK-47 assault rifle was discovered in the bushes near the scene.

Trump issued a statement in which he said, "There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL! Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER! I will always love you for supporting me. Unity. Peace. Make America Great Again."

The White House stated: "The President and Vice President have been briefed about the security incident at the Trump International Golf Course, where former President Trump was golfing. They are relieved to know that he is safe. They will be kept regularly updated by their team."

Two months ago, an attempt was made on the former President's life during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. The would-be assassin, identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, fired at Trump from a nearby rooftop and was eliminated at the scene. One spectator was murdered during the attempted assassination. Trump was lightly wounded when one of the bullets hit his ear.

Retrieved September 16, 2024 from [Shots fired in Trump's vicinity, FBI investigating attempted assassination | Israel National News - Arutz Sheva](#)

Suspect

Trump would-be assassin identified as Ryan Wesley Routh
Law enforcement sources say the man who pointed a rifle with a scope into former President's golf club and was arrested is Ryan Wesley Routh. Authorities are working to determine a motive.

The man who authorities say [pointed a rifle with a scope](#) into former US President Donald Trump's golf club and was arrested on Sunday is **Ryan Wesley Routh, 58**, three law enforcement officials told *The Associated Press*.

Secret Service agents shot at the suspect, who was taken into custody after fleeing the scene of what the FBI is calling an apparent attempted assassination of the Republican presidential nominee.

Authorities are working to determine a motive.

AP reported that **Routh was convicted in 2002 of possessing a weapon of mass destruction, citing online North Carolina Department of Adult Correction records.**

While the records do not provide details about the case, a *News & Record* story from 2002 said a man with the same name was arrested after a three-hour standoff with police.

Routh was reportedly charged with carrying a concealed weapon and possessing a weapon of mass destruction, "referring to a fully automatic machine gun."

More details about the shooter were reported by The New York Post, which said Routh's **LinkedIn profile shows that he attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, but relocated to Hawaii sometime around 2018.**

Routh is described on LinkedIn as "mechanically minded" and enjoying "ideas and invention and creative projects with artistic flair."

The suspect is the owner of Camp Box Honolulu, a shed building company with few positive reviews, according to *The New York Post*. While Routh hadn't posted on his X account in a year, he frequently criticized politicians including Trump, current President Joe Biden, and celebrities like Bruno Mars.

In addition, he made anti-Israel posts on social media, including last December when he wrote **that all of Israel is "historically Palestinian".**

The FBI said earlier on Sunday it was investigating "what appears to be an attempted assassination" of Trump.

Palm Beach County, Florida, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said an AK-47 with a scope, two backpacks and a GoPro camera were recovered in the bushes near the golf course.

Bradshaw added that Trump was "probably between" 300-500 yards away from where the armed suspect was spotted.

Trump issued a statement in which he said, “There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL! Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER! I will always love you for supporting me. Unity. Peace. Make America Great Again.”

The White House stated: “The President and Vice President have been briefed about the security incident at the Trump International Golf Course, where former President Trump was golfing. They are relieved to know that he is safe. They will be kept regularly updated by their team.”

Retrieved September 16, 2024 from [Trump would-be assassin identified as Ryan Wesley Routh | Israel National News - Arutz Sheva](#)

IRGC Special Operations Department Attempt

Israel eliminates man behind Trump assassination attempt

Israel has eliminated Rahman Makadam, head of the IRGC Special Operations Department, who was behind the assassination attempt on President Donald Trump.

Israel has eliminated Rahman Makadam, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Special Operations Department, according to a report by *Channel 12*.

Makadam was reportedly responsible for the assassination attempt on Donald Trump ahead of the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

The report added that Trump was informed in recent hours by Israeli officials of Makadam’s killing.

The assassination attempt took place on July 13, 2024, during a campaign rally near Butler, Pennsylvania. Trump was lightly wounded in the shooting, suffering an injury to his right ear, and was evacuated from the scene conscious and in stable condition.

Retrieved March 4, 2026, from [Israel News | Israel National News](#)

White House Correspondents’ Dinner Attempt, Washington Hilton

Trump rushed off stage at Correspondents’ Dinner after shots fired

Trump escorted off stage after shots reported at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner. The President, First Lady, Vice President Vance and other Cabinet members are safe

[Israel National News](#) Published: Apr 26, 2026

US President Donald Trump was swiftly escorted off the stage by Secret Service agents during the White House Correspondents' Dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday night. Vice President JD Vance and members of Trump's Cabinet who were attending the event were also rushed out.

A source told *CNN* that Trump is safe. According to an administration official, Cabinet members are also unharmed.

Fox News reported that shots had been fired during the event, and that the "threat has been neutralized."

An FBI source told *Reuters* that the suspect attempted to pass through security at the venue while armed with a shotgun, and then opened fire at a Secret Service agent. The source added that the officer was wearing a protective vest and is unharmed.

Suspect

The shooting suspect has been identified as Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, two law enforcement officials told *The Associated Press*.

According to *The New York Times*, Allen acted alone and was not shot or injured by security forces, but was taken to a hospital for medical evaluation.

The federal prosecutor for the District of Columbia, Jeanine Pirro, said he is being charged with two counts: using a firearm during a violent crime and assaulting a federal employee with a dangerous weapon. The investigation is being led by the FBI's counterterrorism unit.

Trump commented on the incident in a post on Truth Social, writing, "Quite an evening in D.C. Secret Service and Law Enforcement did a fantastic job. They acted quickly and bravely. The shooter has been apprehended, and I have recommended that we 'LET THE SHOW GO ON' but, will entirely be guided by Law Enforcement. They will make a decision shortly. Regardless of that decision, the evening will be much different than planned, and we'll just, plain, have to do it again."

He later published another post in which he said he would leave the premises as per the instructions of law enforcement.

"Law Enforcement has requested that we leave the premises, consistent with protocol, which we will do, immediately. I will be giving a press conference in 30 minutes from the White House Press Briefing Room. The First Lady, plus the Vice President, and all Cabinet members, are in perfect condition. We will be speaking to you in a half an hour. I have spoken with all the representatives in charge of the event, and we will be rescheduling within 30 days," wrote Trump.

The US Secret Service said in a statement that, in coordination with the Metropolitan Police Department, it is investigating a shooting incident near the main magnetometer screening area at the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

"The president and the first lady are safe along all protectees. One individual is in custody."

"The condition of those involved is not yet known, and law enforcement is actively assessing the situation."

In a press conference later in the evening, Trump said the shooting suspect was armed with multiple weapons before being stopped by the Secret Service. One officer was shot, but he was protected by a good bulletproof vest.

"He was shot from very close distance with a very powerful gun, and the vest did the job," Trump said.

The President called for tougher security measures, saying that "today, we need levels of security that probably nobody has ever seen before."

Trump said he does not think the incident was related to the Iran war.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said charges will be filed shortly, and that the nature of the charges would be obvious considering what had happened at the dinner. Blanche stressed that "the investigation is obviously ongoing and just started."

FBI Director Kash Patel said the agency is examining a long gun and shell casings recovered from the scene, as well as interviewing witnesses from the dinner. He urged anyone with information to come forward.

Retrieved April 26, 2026 from [Israel News | Israel National News](#)

Blanche: Dinner Gunman Likely Targeting Trump, Administration

The accused gunman who tried to storm the ballroom at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner with guns and knives traveled across the country before the event and is believed to have been targeting President Donald Trump and members of his administration, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said Sunday.

Blanche also said officials believe the suspect traveled by train from California to Chicago and then on to Washington, where in recent days he checked in as a guest at the hotel where one of the glitziest events in the nation's capital was being held Saturday night.

Investigators have not publicly named the suspect, but two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter have identified him to The Associated Press as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen of Torrance, California.

The accused gunman who tried to storm the ballroom at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner with guns and knives traveled across the country before the event and is believed to have been targeting President Donald Trump and members of his administration, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said Sunday.

Blanche also said officials believe the suspect traveled by train from California to Chicago and then on to Washington, where in recent days he checked in as a guest at the hotel where one of the glitziest events in the nation's capital was being held Saturday night.

Investigators have not publicly named the suspect, but two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter have identified him to The Associated Press as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen of Torrance, California.

Law enforcement officials who have examined the gunman's electronic devices and his writings preliminarily believe he intended to target administration members in attendance at the dinner. He attempted to charge into the cavernous ballroom at the Washington Hilton but was tackled to the ground in a chaotic scene that resulted in shots being fired, President Donald Trump being hurried off the stage and guests ducking for cover beneath their tables.

"It does appear that he did in fact set out to target folks who work in the administration, likely including the president," Blanche told NBC's "Meet the Press."

The suspect is believed to have purchased the two firearms he carried within the last couple of years, Blanche said. He is not being cooperative and is expected to face multiple charges on Monday.

Video posted by Trump showed the suspect running past security barricades as Secret Service agents ran toward him.

One officer was shot in a bullet-resistant vest but was recovering, officials said. The gunman was taken into custody and was not injured, but was being evaluated at a hospital, police said.

"He failed," Blanche said on CBS's "Face the Nation." "Law enforcement did their jobs."

Authorities believe the suspect fired the shot that hit the Secret Service officer, who is expected to make a full recovery, Blanche said.

"He's going to be great, he's going to be fine, and thank God he was wearing a bulletproof vest," Blanche said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

Social media posts that appear to match the suspect show he is a highly educated tutor and amateur video game developer.

A May 2025 profile photo of Allen appears to match the appearance of the man in a photo of the alleged attacker being taken into custody that was posted Saturday night by Trump.

The photo, posted to the social networking site LinkedIn, shows him in a cap and gown after graduating with a master's degree in computer science from California State University Dominguez Hills.

Allen earned a bachelor's degree in 2017 in mechanical engineering from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. He listed his involvement there in a Christian student fellowship and a campus group that battled with Nerf guns.

The shooting at the security barricades happened minutes after the event got underway. The Secret Service and other authorities swarmed the room as guests ducked under tables by the hundreds. Gasps echoed through the ballroom as guests realized something was happening.

Hundreds of journalists immediately got on phones to call in information. "Out of the way, sir!" someone yelled. Others yelled to duck. From one corner, a "God Bless America" chant began as the president was escorted offstage.

Outside the hotel, members of the National Guard and other authorities flooded the area as helicopters circled overhead.

After an initial attempt to resume the event, it was scrapped for the night and will be rescheduled.

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Retrieved April 26, 2026 from [Blanche: Dinner Gunman Likely Targeting Trump, Administration | Newsmax.com](#)

Read White House Correspondents' Dinner gunman Cole Allen's full anti-Trump manifesto

Story by Steven Nelson, Chris Nesi

Accused White House Correspondents' Dinner gunman Cole Allen sent a sprawling, crazed manifesto to family members 10 minutes before Saturday's attack, sources told The Post. In the 1,052-word missive obtained by The Post Sunday morning — signed Cole 'coldForce' 'Friendly Federal Assassin' Allen" — and outlined his "rules of engagement" for the shooting and stated he believed it was his righteous duty to target administration officials.

Cole Allen's manifesto in full:

Hello everybody!

So I may have given a lot of people a surprise today. Let me start off by apologizing to everyone whose trust I abused.

I apologize to my parents for saying I had an interview without specifying it was for "Most Wanted."

I apologize to my colleagues and students for saying I had a personal emergency (by the time anyone reads this, I probably most certainly DO need to go to the ER, but can hardly call that not a self-inflicted status.)

I apologize to all of the people I traveled next to, all the workers who handled my luggage, and all the other non-targeted people at the hotel who I put in danger simply by being near.

I apologize to everyone who was abused and/or murdered before this, to all those who suffered before I was able to attempt this, to all who may still suffer after, regardless of my success or failure.

I don't expect forgiveness, but if I could have seen any other way to get this close, I would have taken it. Again, my sincere apologies.

On to why I did any of this:

I am a citizen of the United States of America.

What my representatives do reflects on me.

And I am no longer willing to permit a pedophile, rapist, and traitor to coat my hands with his crimes.

(Well, to be completely honest, I was no longer willing a long time ago, but this is the first real opportunity I've had to do something about it.)

While I'm discussing this, I'll also go over my expected rules of engagement (probably in a terrible format, but I'm not military so too bad.)

Administration officials (not including Mr. Patel): they are targets, prioritized from highest-ranking to lowest

Secret Service: they are targets only if necessary, and to be incapacitated non-lethally if possible (aka, I hope they're wearing body armor because center mass with shotguns messes up people who *aren't*

Hotel Security: not targets if at all possible (aka unless they shoot at me)

Capitol Police: same as Hotel Security

National Guard: same as Hotel Security

Hotel Employees: not targets at all

Guests: not targets at all

In order to minimize casualties I will also be using buckshot rather than slugs (less penetration through walls)

I would still go through most everyone here to get to the targets if it were absolutely necessary (on the basis that most people *chose* to attend a speech by a pedophile, rapist, and traitor, and are thus complicit) but I really hope it doesn't come to that.

Rebuttals to objections:

Objection 1: As a Christian, you should turn the other cheek.

Rebuttal: Turning the other cheek is for when you yourself are oppressed. I'm not the person raped in a detention camp. I'm not the fisherman executed without trial. I'm not a schoolkid blown up or a child starved or a teenage girl abused by the many criminals in this administration. Turning the other cheek when *someone else* is oppressed is not Christian behavior; it is complicity in the oppressor's crimes.

Objection 2: This is not a convenient time for you to do this.

Rebuttal: I need whoever thinks this way to take a couple minutes and realize that the world isn't about them. Do you think that when I see someone raped or murdered or abused, I should walk on by because it would be "inconvenient" for people who aren't the victim?

This was the best timing and chance of success I could come up with.

Objection 3: You didn't get them all.

Rebuttal: Gotta start somewhere.

Objection 4: As a half-black, half-white person, you shouldn't be the one doing this.

Rebuttal: I don't see anyone else picking up the slack

Objection 5: Yield unto Caesar what is Caesar's.

Rebuttal: The United States of America are ruled by the law, not by any one or several people. In so far as representatives and judges do not follow the law, no one is required to yield them anything so unlawfully ordered.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to a great many people since I will not be likely to be able to talk with them again (unless the Secret Service is *astoundingly* incompetent.)

Thank you to my family, both personal and church, for your love over these 31 years.

Thank you to my friends, for your companionship over many years.

Thank you to my colleagues over many jobs, for your positivity and professionalism.

Thank you to my students for your enthusiasm and love of learning.

Thank you to the many acquaintances I've met, in person and online, for short interactions and long-term relationships, for your perspectives and inspiration.

Thank you all for everything.

Sincerely,

Cole "coldForce" "Friendly Federal Assassin" Allen

PS: Ok now that all the sappy stuff is done, what the hell is the Secret Service doing? Sorry, gonna rant a bit here and drop the formal tone.

Like, I expected security cameras at every bend, bugged hotel rooms, armed agents every 10 feet, metal detectors out the wazoo.

What I got (who knows, maybe they're pranking me!) is nothing.

No damn security.

Not in transport.

Not in the hotel.

Not in the event.

Like, the one thing that I immediately noticed walking into the hotel is the sense of arrogance. I walk in with multiple weapons and not a single person there considers the possibility that I could be a threat.

The security at the event is all outside, focused on protestors and current arrivals, because apparently no one thought about what happens if someone checks in the day before.

Like, this level of incompetence is insane, and I very sincerely hope it's corrected by the time this country gets actually competent leadership again.

Like, if I was an Iranian agent, instead of an American citizen, I could have brought a damn Ma Deuce in here and no one would have noticed shit.

Actually insane.

Oh and if anyone is curious is how doing something like feels: it's awful. I want to throw up; I want to cry for all the things I wanted to do and never will, for all the people whose trust this betrays; I experience rage thinking about everything this administration has done.

Can't really recommend it! Stay in school, kids.

Retrieved April 27, 2026 from [Read White House Correspondents' Dinner gunman Cole Allen's full anti-Trump manifesto](#)

June 16, 2026

Explosive drone, sniper attack planned for Trump birthday event at White House thwarted

The FBI confirmed that 5 suspects were arrested for allegedly planning to carry out a major terrorist attack during President Trump's birthday event at the White House.

The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) prevented a complex attempt to carry out a coordinated terrorist attack involving explosive drones and sniper fire, which targeted the festive showcase event held by President Donald Trump for his birthday.

The event took place two days ago on the South Lawn of the White House. According to information provided by FBI Director Kash Patel, law enforcement authorities have so far arrested five people suspected of involvement in planning the attack.

Details published in a report by the *New York Post* indicate that the uncovered plot was based on a multi-stage operational plan. In the first stage, members of the cell allegedly intended to launch drones carrying explosives in order to strike buildings near the event compound. The explosions were meant to create mass panic among attendees and cause the large crowd to flee in a direction that would lead them directly toward a team of snipers positioned in advance to target them. The plan then included a "second wave" of attackers whose role was to carry out a ground assault on the gates of the White House.

The investigation found that the FBI uncovered the plot last Wednesday, June 10. Following the intelligence information received, FBI agents carried out a targeted raid in Cincinnati, where the first suspect in the case was arrested.

Retrieved June 16, 2026, from [Israel News | Israel National News](#)

Conclusion

With the Butler Pennsylvania, the investigation thus far indicates a failure of the Secret Service to secure the event properly and communicate with the local law enforcement. They sent Trump out on stage and did not have agents to cover the outer perimeter. The public information also mentioned there being three (3) suspicious persons at the event that day by police. We also know he had explosive devices, a drone, a range finder besides the rifle. This indicates a preplanned act and not a spur of the moment type of reaction. Questions are as to how he obtained and learned how to use the explosive devices? The planning may have started as far back as 2019 and thus leads to the question of what interviews with teachers, students, and friends of the suspect, Crooks, revealed. The suspect was eliminated so there are no investigative interviews with him. The IRGC attempt was detected by the Israeli Government and eliminated. This person was involved in the Butler Pennsylvania attack on Trump. President George Washington also survived an assassination attempt at Butler Count Pennsylvania.

The Golf Course attempt at Mara Logo in Florida was averted by the Secret Service spotting the gunman before he could attack the president. He supposedly acted alone. The suspect was apprehended and charged.

The Washington Hotel attempt was stopped by the Secret Service and security before the perpetrator could enter the ballroom. One officer was injured in the arrest. Initial interview was that President Trump and his staff were the targets. President Ronald Regan was also the victim of assassination attempt at this same hotel and was wounded in the attack. The person was arrested and sentenced.

Motive for committing criminal acts, specifically homicide, can be based on several factors, the mind set of the actor, or actors, motivation (can be from love hate relationships, revenge, an act in the commission), or in the act of another crime, for financial reasons, political, hate, jealousy, are to name a few.

Resources

How the nation’s first president was nearly shot in Butler County long before Trump was wounded in attempted assassination

By Shari Berg Eagle Correspondent **July 29, 2024**

Following the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, some Butler County residents were asking why it had to happen here. Butler County has strongly favored Trump and his candidacy: he won 66% of the vote in Butler County in 2016 and 2020.

Trump isn’t the first person to hold the highest office in the country who was a target of a shooting in the area.

It wasn’t far from the spot where the shooter attempted to kill Trump that the nation’s first president — George Washington — narrowly escaped death. A state historical marker identifies the spot on a trail where a Native American shot at Washington from just 15 paces away.

Retrieved April 26, 2026 from [How the nation’s first president was nearly shot in Butler County long before Trump was wounded in a – Butler Eagle](#)

Assassination Attempt on Reagan

MARCH 30, 1981

On a rainy afternoon after just 69 days in office, President Ronald Reagan addressed the National Conference of Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO at the Washington Hilton Hotel. After concluding his remarks, the President exited the hotel and encountered a group of several hundred people. As he made his way to his motorcade, President Reagan passed John Hinckley, who was part of the crowd. Hinckley was able to fire six shots, all missing the president. The first bullet hit Press Secretary James Brady. The second bullet hit District of Columbia police officer Thomas Delahanty. The third bullet hit a window across the street from the hotel. The fourth bullet hit Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy. The fifth bullet hit the limousine window. The sixth bullet hit the limousine and ricocheted into President Reagan.

Retrieved April 26, 2026 from [Assassination Attempt on Reagan | Ronald Reagan](#)

Bible

2 Samuel

Chapter 11

David and Bath-sheba

1And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.

David's lust of women, as 2 Sam. 5:11, will become the cause of his sin before God. The woman is also tempting others by bathing on the roof of the house so others can see her. She may have been doing that on purpose to attract men.

3And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

Leviticus 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

4And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

5And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, *I am* with child.

A child of an adulterous affair. How will God punish them?

6And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

8And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess *of meat* from the king.

9But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

10And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from *thy* journey? why *then* didst thou not go down unto thine house?

11And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as* thou livest, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

He will not have comfort while his fellow soldiers are in the field.

12And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

13And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

14And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.

15And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

16And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men *were*.

17And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

It was like a murder for David to do this to Uriah, knowing they would likely die in battle.

18Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

19And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,

20And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?

21Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

22So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

23And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

24And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and *some* of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

25Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

26And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

Mystery of Trump Assassination Attempt

[The Mystery Behind The Trump Assassination Attempt | Jonathan Cahn Prophetic \(youtube.com\)](#)

Leviticus 8:

22 And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

23 And he slew *it*; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put *it* upon the tip of Aaron's right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.

24 And he brought Aaron's sons, and Moses put of the blood upon the tip of their right ear, and upon the thumbs of their right hands, and upon the great toes of their right feet: and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

25 And he took the fat, and the rump, and all the fat that *was* upon the inwards, and the caul *above* the liver, and the two kidneys, and their fat, and the right shoulder:

26 And out of the basket of unleavened bread, that *was* before the LORD, he took one unleavened cake, and a cake of oiled bread, and one wafer, and put *them* on the fat, and upon the right shoulder:

27 And he put all upon Aaron's hands, and upon his sons' hands, and waved them *for* a wave offering before the LORD.

28 And Moses took them from off their hands, and burnt *them* on the altar upon the burnt offering: they *were* consecrations for a sweet savour: it *is* an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

29 And Moses took the breast, and waved it *for* a wave offering before the LORD: *for* of the ram of consecration it was Moses' part; as the LORD commanded Moses.

30 And Moses took of the anointing oil, and of the blood which *was* upon the altar, and sprinkled *it* upon Aaron, *and* upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon his sons' garments with him; and sanctified Aaron, *and* his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.

31 And Moses said unto Aaron and to his sons, Boil the flesh *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and there eat it with the bread that *is* in the basket of consecrations, as I commanded, saying, Aaron and his sons shall eat it.

32 And that which remaineth of the flesh and of the bread shall ye burn with fire.

33 And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation *in* seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you.

34 As he hath done this day, *so* the LORD hath commanded to do, to make an atonement for you.

35 Therefore shall ye abide *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.

36 So Aaron and his sons did all things which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.