Lexical Choice in Muslim and non-Muslim Suspects Representations in The American Channel Fox News: Discourse Analysis Approach

(Dalia EL-Sayed)
(English instructor at Misr University for Science and Technology)

Abstract

The current study attempts to unravel the ideological stance of Western-media coverage of incidents carried out by Muslim suspects. This research analyzes the lexical choices utilized to represent Muslim and non-Muslim suspects, precisely, in the American channel, Fox News. Reports covering the incidents are selected from 'Fox News electronic archives', as it is considered the main source of information in the Western Hemisphere. The research demonstrates how the selection of certain lexical items shapes the identity of Muslim suspects, in contrast to non-Muslim suspects. The analysis framework builds on van Dijk's Socio-cognitive approach to understand how media coverage maintains and reproduces ideology. This study examines and compares the representations of both Muslim and non-Muslim suspects committing similar attacks on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community (LGBT). It is argued that certain linguistic choices emphasize the negative stance towards Muslims and play down the negative effect against non-Muslims.

Keywords: Muslim, Non-Muslim, Media, Ideologies, Critical Discourse Analysis.

مستخلص الدراسة

الاختيار المعجمي في تصوير المشتبه بهم من المسلمين وغير المسلمين في قناة فوكس نيوز الأمريكية: تحليل الخطاب النقدي

تحاول الدراسة الحالية كشف الموقف الأيديولوجي من تغطية وسائل الإعلام الغربية للحوادث التي نفذها المشتبه بهم من المسلمين. ويقوم هذا البحث بتحليل الاختيارات المعجمية المستخدمة لتصوير المشتبه بهم من المسلمين وغير المسلمين خاصة في قناة فوكس نيوز الأمريكية. يتم اختيار تقارير تغطية الحوادث من أرشيف فوكس نيوز الإلكتروني، حيث إنه تعتبر المصدر الرئيسي للمعلومات في نصف الكرة الغربي. ويظهر البحث كيف أن اختيار العناصر المعجمية المعينة يشكل هوية المشتبه بهم المسلمين مقابل المشتبه بهم غير المسلمين. وبالتالي يعتمد إطار التحليل على مقاربة فان دايك المعرفية الاجتماعية لفهم كيفية الحفاظ على التغطية الإعلامية للأيديولوجية وإعادة إنتاجها. تبحث هذه الدراسة وتقارن طرائق تقديم كل من المشتبه بهم المسلمين وغير المسلمين الذين يرتكبون هجمات مماثلة على مجتمع المثليين ومزدوجي التوجه الجنسي والمتحولين جنسيًا (LGBT). ويقال إن بعض الاختيارات اللغوية تؤكد الموقف السلبي تجاه المسلمين وتقلل من التأثير السلبي ضد غير المسلمين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المسلم، غير المسلم، الإعلام، الأيديولوجيات، تحليل الخطاب النقدي.

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1. Introduction:

The knowledge included in the media, especially the press, is manipulative, and transmits false reality about the world to brainwash people's minds into believing certain ideologies (van Dijk, 1988a). Ideologies are institutionalized in discourse; that is, they are convincing to be taken for granted without questioning. Dominant groups, who have the power to control media sources, are able to embed their ideologies within discourse. In the same manner, Fairclough (1995b) explains that media utilize certain syntactic and linguistic structures that construct people's identities and realities about the world in a way that serves the interests of the dominant group. In this respect, Western-media, like Fox News channel, have the power to mediate ideology. Arguably, it communicates an image of Islam and Muslims that is very biased, allowing a considerable number of people to believe that the image captured in the media as a fact.

Evidently, the representations of Muslims and Islam, in general, are highly negative in Western-media as a consequence of the September 11 attacks. According to Ghilan (2015), "Prior to the 9/11 attack, few in the West had an idea about Muslims and their religion Islam. But after the attack, the media took that responsibility of educating the general public about Islam and ended up creating Islamophobia". Thus, Islam is associated with demeaned representations that affirm violence, terror, and primitiveness. Western-media channels, especially Fox News, have a crucial impact on depicting Muslim-related issues negatively. The study investigates Fox News electronic reports, as the channel has the highest ratings among readers according to Nielsen. Nielsen Holdings Plc is a leading global, independent measurement and data company for fast-moving consumer goods, consumer behavior, and media. The company primarily measures television audience by providing electronic ratings for local TV channels.

2. Theoretical Framework:

2.1. Critical discourse analysis CDA

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an eclectic approach that encompasses a number of different approaches that mainly conflate text

analysis with social practice for a better understanding of the construction of power, social inequalities and ideologies. van Dijk (1996) explains that "One of the crucial tasks of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is to account for the relationships between discourse and social power […] how power abuse is enacted reproduced or legitimized by the text and talk of dominant group" (p.84). Fairclough and Wodak (1997), in a similar manner, point out the importance of the critical dimension of CDA that has a unique way of analyzing text in which it takes into consideration "(a) the relationship between language and society, and (b) the relationship between analysis and the practice analysed" (p.258).

According to Fairclough (1989), discourse is where social interaction takes place, in which the "text" is its product. Hence, "language is seen as a social practice", that is, readers perceive knowledge of the world and its social practice presented to them within "socially guaranteed" discourse. Discourse, in other words, has a powerful impact on shaping people's realities. Fairclough (1989), therefore, proposes that any form of language interaction is influenced by social factors that determine the way people interact and define their relationship with each other. Also, as suggested by van Dijk (2001), CDA dissects text to look over any "power abuse, dominance and inequality" that are encoded within discourse and difficult to be questioned. He adds that CDA accounts for the description of the text structure, but also takes into consideration the reasons behind constructing text in a specific organization by interpreting and explaining that in relation to the social context. Accordingly, CDA does not only seek to reveal unnoticeable representations of social realities, which maintain and reproduce social structures, but also interpret and explain them.

2.2. Ideology

Fowler (1982) defines ideology as "a system of beliefs which has come to be constructed as a way of comprehending the world". According to Fowler (1982) and van Dijk (2006), ideology not only establishes "false or distorted consciousness" and "misguided ideas", and convinces people that social inequalities are the norm, but also seeks to legitimize these inequalities and power relations to be taken for granted. Ideology is described as "institutional practices" by Fairclough (1989) as well, who explains that normalizing these practices and power abuse leads to "ideological power", which has the power to persuade people, either by "coercion" or "consent", into accepting ideas implicitly stated in discourse. Furthermore, Fowler points out that such ideologies are embedded in discourse by means of "linguistic structures", which

maintain and make them difficult to uncover. Thus, language is a powerful tool for producing ideology; since all aspects of linguistic features strive to articulate, maintain and reproduce social and power inequalities.

Both Fowler (1982) and Fairclough (1989) indicate the importance of the social factor in constructing ideologies. Fowler elaborates that ideology is socially oriented, which is the product of "social practice". In the same manner, Fairclough explains that such ideological ideas produced within discourse are the result of "social struggle" among social groups. Each group has its own interests and perspective of reality; thus, the dominant groups strive to manipulate discourse to fit their own interests. Similarly, van Dijk (2006) elucidates "ideologies, like languages, are essentially social. There are no personal or individual ideologies, only personal or individual uses of ideologies." (p.729). Based on the above mentioned, it is a question of who has the power to induce their ideology and is able to control all aspects of discourse. In that sense, Fairclough (1989) and van Dijk (2006) argue that dominant groups aim to "normalize" ideologies to be presented as "common sense", since they are the only source of knowledge. Other groups, therefore, perceive the prejudice ideas as the norm or "neutral", as they view the world only through the representation provided to them by dominant groups. As a result, less powerful groups will not be able to question or change discourse manipulation.

2.3. Media discourse

van Dijk (1988b) highlights that the news as a concept is difficult to be interpreted or classified into one notion as it is opaque; for that reason, he embarks on clarifying the concept of news, which according to him, is categorized into two main 'notions': 'new information' and media discourse. Media, as van Dijk (1988b) explains, is a type of discourse that aims at defining features of news text and underlining what makes it different from everyday conversation. He adds that a critical discourse approach to media scrutinizes the structure of media discourse to unveil the cognitive and social factors that contribute to the production of the media text. van Dijk (1988b) further elaborates that being able to define the relationship between "text and context" uncovers how social and cognitive processes affect the construction of the news structure as well as how the organization of text structure influences the way readers perceive news. In the same line, Fairclough (1989) suggests that in media discourse, including radio, television and newspapers, encompasses "hidden relations of power", and that there is a substantial distinction between "face-to-face" discourse and "media discourse". Media discourse

has the ability to transmit ideological ideas without being questioned for it is not "clear". Its "one-sidedness" vests the discourse with power to be the only source of information in contrast to "face-to-face" interactions. Thus, the media is the "producer" that has control over what is being said and how it is being communicated; "therefore determine(s) what is included and excluded".

Similarly, Fowler (1991) and Thronborrow (1999) point out that the ideas presented in the media go through a process of selection, to decide what is "newsworthy" and what is not. Nonetheless, media, as Fowler (1991) and Thronborrow (1999) indicate, guide readers' attention to endorse certain perspective over another that serves the interest of the dominant group. It also influences people's perception of the world through implicit and explicit social and political representation of the world, according to van Dijk (1991) and Thronborrow (1999). Thus, media have the ability to transform beliefs and knowledge as well as affirm them, especially when it is easily accessed through many sources like, TV, radio, Newspaper and World Wide Web. Hence, readers or audience of the news are exposed daily to salient knowledge and information that affect their understanding of the world and define their identity as well as their roles in society along with their relationship with one another. Accordingly, the media shape every bit of reality, which as specified by Fowler (1991), is not the truth, rather it is selected bits of what seems to reflect reality.

2.4. van Dijk Socio-Cognitive approach

van Dijk (2009b) developed a socio-cognitive approach to analyze the text in accordance with readers and writers' cognition. He elaborates that what affects the text production is not only the social context, but also, more importantly, mental process. Thus, socio-cognitive approach links between social context and textual structure through cognition. Cognition, as van Dijk (2009b) elucidates, influences readers' interpretation of the text and text production as well as revealing the relation between language, power and ideology. Accordingly, not only the social interaction and people relation to one another determine the construction of the text or the way people understand it, but also the readers' common knowledge and beliefs affect their interpretation of the text.

van Dijk (2000, 2009a) states that readers' cognition impacts their understanding of the text based on three components: memory, mental models and social cognition. van Dijk (2009a) explains that in order for one community to have similar attitudes, beliefs and representations on

social events and groups, mental models undergo a process of social cognition. The process influences social participants of the same community to interpret and produce discourse according to shared social knowledge. On that account, context model is what determines what and how is being included and ignored within discourse. The decision of the writer to communicate particular meaning covertly or overtly depends on the shared background information and common knowledge they have with their readers, (van Dijk, 2000). As a result, context model, as van Dijk (2008a) remarks, is dynamic and its schema has "control mechanism" over "Setting", "Participants" and "Communicative and other Actions/Events".

Therefore, social participants are able to make sense of the meaning communicated when it is placed in its social context. In other words, readers' knowledge and shared beliefs induce them into interpreting the social event at hand by recalling relevant common knowledge. However, if readers are not aware and have no knowledge of the current social situation, this expose readers to new knowledge, which can be manipulative and fallacy. Hence, for the absence of background knowledge readers tend to receive, for granted, the new information without questioning, (van Dijk, 2009a). Which is the case with news on Muslims in the media; American citizens do not know any information about their identity. Thus, they accept unconsciously the representations constructed by their media, which in return influence the readers' attitude and beliefs towards Muslims.

van Dijk (1988b) further shades light on the notion of schemata in the news that carries attitudes, values and beliefs on social groups that are not based on "immediate observation", which in turn establishes bias and stereotypical images on these groups. The structure of the news reports, as van Dijk (1988b) recalls, is divided into two levels, which are macrolevel and microlevel of discourse, in other words, macrostructure and microstructure. He defines macrolevel as the 'gist' or the global meaning; whereas microlevel is local meaning that deals with sentence structure and the choice of lexical items – which is what is used in the analysis of this research data .

2.5. Lexical choices

Fowler (1982) explains that language constitutes a system of labelling in order to provide identities to objects and people in accordance with their "function" in the world. Fowler (1982) adds that language also "classifies these objectivations by groupings into lexical sets", which shape the relations and roles among objects or, in other sense, social groups. Not only do words assign identities, but also seek to negotiate

knowledge and meanings about the real world. Moreover, Fowler (1985) points out that vocabulary is referred to by the term "lexicalization" and explains that it "reflects and expresses the interest of the group". He lists two lexical processes: "overlexicalization" and "underlexicalization". The first refers to the excessive utilization of words that embodies the same idea, which in return reveals the dominance of such idea. On the contrary, the latter deals with utilizing less words to demolish certain ideas. Similarly, according to Fairclough (1989), the writers' ideology is induced in the text through some techniques among which are "rewording" and "overwording".

He noted that "rewording" is "an existing, dominant, and naturalized, wording is being systematically replaced by another one in conscious opposition to it." (p.113). On the other hand, "overwording" is "an unusually high degree of wording, often involving many words which are near synonyms." (p.115). Hence, selecting specific words over others discloses the ideological stance of the text, which is indicated as well by Goatly (1997) who elaborates that "the conceptual or representational dimension of language shows itself in two ways: first, in the vocabulary we use to categorize and refer to phenomena…." (p.51). Both Fairclough (1989) and Goatly (1997) mention the use of "contested terms", which are utilized to depict social groups unfavorably because of their negative emotive nature. Words do not only reflect identities, but also transmit emotive meanings to be highly effective. Goatly (1997) draws upon this by stating that word types, like 'intensifiers' and 'euphemisms', play on the readers emotions and can portray things as either highly negative or positive, for example, 'completely' and 'terribly'.

Along similar line, van Dijk (1991) explains that the process of lexicalization of the words' meaning gives prominence to certain representations which are always asymmetrical from reality. The decision of the writer to utilize specific lexical items to be deemed positive or negative for the same situation or social group decodes the ideological viewpoint of the writer. van Dijk (1991) elucidates the above by providing an example on the way "the civil disturbances in Britain in 1985" is portrayed in the media. The newspaper headline represents the incident through the choice of vocabulary that depicts negative connotations. He concluded that the word selection not only views the identity of social groups and situation in accordance with the reporters' ideology but also includes their evaluation. He suggests that scrutinizing different representations on the same situation through comparing different newspapers reveals the interests and ideologies of each reporter.

However, all the aforementioned emphasize on the crucial role of selecting existing lexical items over other existing ones to disseminate specific representation and knowledge on the world.

Similar to Van Dijk, John Richardson (2007) focuses on analyzing the press and states that scrutinizing words used in media discourse is a crucial step to reveal meanings and common-sense knowledge about the world. Richardson (2007) renders that "words convey the imprint of society and of value judgement in particular – they convey connoted as well as denoted meanings" (p. 47). An example is illustrated by Richardson to illuminate on how the utilization of specific adjectives, adverbs and verbs frame reality in a certain way that is difficult to be questioned. The example presented on the war on Iraq led by the US shows the manipulation of the news to portray the British troops favorably, despite killing innocent Iraqis, and the Iraqis negatively. Therefore, lexicalization is a salient tool to emphasize and de-emphasize ideas or attitudes about events or social groups, which persuades readers unnoticeably. As a manifestation to the idea at hand, "Naming and reference" and "Prediction" are two strategies proposed by Richardson on the basis of Wodak (2001) linguistic realization strategies, used to identify social actors and events. The first deals with how people are being referred to within discourse; what kind of words are used to describe them. This, of course, defines their identity and how they are related to other social actors, in addition to emphasizing social category over another, like being a Muslim, British or a doctor. Whereas the latter points out social actors' 'qualities', 'attributes' and 'characteristic' through labelling them in a certain way that either demean or praise them.

3. Data collection

This study examines the lexical choices utilized to represent Muslim and non-Muslim suspects in the American state channel Fox News to unravel stereotypical representations against Islam. The research conducts a qualitative analysis on two incidents, one committed by a Muslim suspect, and the other committed by a non-Muslim suspect. Both incidents are covered by Fox News electronic reports. The data selected based on the similarity of the two incidents in terms of number of victims, time and manner of the attack. The two incidents targeted the LGBT community and were committed by shooting the victims. Fox news is selected among other cable networks for its high ratings as the most widely watched TV channel, according to Nielsen ratings. The reports are analyzed in accordance with van Dijk's (1998-2009) socio-cognitive approach and CDA tools. The two incidents are investigated in

comparison to one another for revealing media bias. The incidents compared are:

- Oslo shooting that took place in Norway, On 25 June 2022 by a Muslim suspect, Zaniar Matapour
- Colorado Springs nightclub shooting that took place in the United States, On November 19–20, 2022 by a non-Muslim suspect, Anderson Lee Aldrich

4. Data Analysis:

4.1 Summery of the two incidents

The first news report covers Oslo shooting on 25 June, 2022 in Norway. The suspect, Zaniar Matapour opened fire on a group of people celebrating LGBTQ pride event organized by Norwegian Organisation for Sexual and Gender Diversity. The gunman, who killed two people, claimed to be a radicalized Islamist who has a history of violence offences. On the other hand, the second news report covers Colorado Springs night club shooting on 19-20 November, 2022 in the United States, which targeted LGBTQ night club as well. The suspect, Anderson Lee Aldrich, carried out the shooting on the eve of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, in which he entered club Q and started firing at people celebrating there, killing 5 and injuring 5.

4.2. Analysis:

This part illustrates the analysis of lexical choices concerning both incidents, Muslim and non-Muslim. The first three appendices, (A), (B) and (C) cover Oslo shooting, while appendices (D), (E), (F), (G) and (H) cover Colorado shooting. It is noted that Fox News utilizes certain lexical choices that portray the Muslim incident negatively and de-emphasize the non-Muslim suspect's negative actions.

Oslo shooting

1. **Norway nightclub shooting**: 2 dead, 10 injured in **suspected terror-linked attack** (headline)
2. A **shooting** at a Norway nightclub and in nearby streets that left two dead and 10 wounded Saturday night is being investigated as **a possible terrorist attack** (Norwegian police said)
3. **A Norwegian citizen** Police said the suspected gunman, **a 42-year-old originally from Iran**, was arrested after opening fire at three locations.
4. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre shared his sentiments on his Facebook page, calling the attack a "**terrible and deeply shocking attack on innocent people**".

(See appendix A)

5. **Norway mass shooting: Terror alert raised** after 2 killed, 10 seriously wounded at Pride event (headline)

6. police are investigating as **a possible terrorist attack** during the Norwegian capital's annual Pride festival. (Lead)

7. The Norwegian security service PST has **raised its terror alert to the highest level**.

8. Acting PST chief Roger Berg called the shootings an "**extreme Islamist terror act.**

9. Acting PST chief Roger Berg [..]the gunman, **a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran** who was arrested shortly after the shootings, had a "**long history of violence and threats."**

10. Police attorney Christian Hatlo said **the suspect** was being held on **suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism,** based on the number of people targeted at multiple locations.

11. "Our overall assessment is that there are grounds to believe that he wanted to **cause grave fear in the population**," Hatlo said.

12. The shootings happened around 1 a.m. local time, sending **panicked revelers fleeing** into the streets or trying to hide from the gunman.

13. **One of the shootings** happened outside the London Pub, a bar popular with the city's LGBTQ community, just hours before the parade was set to begin.

14. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said in a Facebook post that "**the shooting** outside London Pub in Oslo tonight **was a cruel and deeply shocking attack on innocent people**."

15. **the shooting** had **caused fear and grief** in the LGBTQ community.

16. King Harald V also offered condolences and said he and Norway's royal family were **"horrified by the night's shooting tragedy."** - **"[…] send warm thoughts to all who** are now **scared, restless and in grief,"**

17. A lot of people **starting to run and there was a lot of screaming**

18. send warm thoughts to all who are now **scared, restless and in grief**

19. Many were **fearing for their lives,**

20. people **running** down Oslo streets **in panic** as shots rang out in the background

21. the Norwegian organisation for sexual and gender diversity, said **the shooting has shaken the Nordic country's gay community**.

22. the Norwegian monarch said in a statement. "**We** must **stand together** to defend **our values: freedom, diversity and respect for each other**. **We** must continue to stand up for all people **to feel safe**."

(See appendix B)

23. Norway: Suspect in Pride Month **'Islamist terror act'** won't talk to police
24. The suspect in **a mass shooting** during
25. **The man**, whom authorities described as **a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran**, [….] He is being held on suspicion **of murder, attempted murder and terrorism.**
26. Two people were killed and more than 20 were injured in what the Norwegian security service called an **"Islamist terror act."**
27. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said during Sunday's memorial service that "**the shooting** in the night hours **put an end to the Pride parade**, but it did not stop the fight and the efforts to fight **discrimination, prejudice and hatred**."
28. I know how many of you felt when it turned out that **the perpetrator** belonged to the **Islamic community**. Many of you experienced **fear and unrest**. You should know this: (Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere)
29. **We** stand together, **we** are **one community** and **we** are responsible for the community together," (Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere)
30. Norwegian media said **Matapour** arrived in Norway with his family from **a Kurdish part of Iran** in the 1990s.
31. He had **a prior criminal record** that included **a narcotics offense** and a **weapons offense** for carrying a knife.
32. aware of the suspect in 2015 and later grew concerned [he had become **radicalized**](#) and was part of an **unspecified Islamist network.**
    (The Norwegian domestic security agency, pst)
33. allegedly was in close contact with an **Islamic extremist** living in Norway whom Norwegian police had been aware of for a long time.

(See Appendix C)

The headline of the three reports not only frame the shooting as "terrorism" but also as "Islamist". The above three reports utilize predicational strategies that portray the act of shooting and the suspect as

"terrorist" and "Islamic". To begin with, the immediate coverage on the shooting, in appendix (A), frames the incident as a terrorist like act in using words such as "suspected terror-linked attack" and "possible terrorist attack", see examples (1) and (2). Since it is not a bombing incident, which is a manner adopted by jihadi terrorist, the first report commences by the word "terror" to induce the readers into believing that it is carried out by a Muslim perpetrator, which is determined by the point of view of the channel. Likewise, the second coverage of the incident is framed as "terror"; however, unlike the prior coverage, it is not portrayed as "suspected"; rather, in example (5) and (10), the headline and the Police attorney Christian Hatlo refers to the act as "terror", "Norway mass shooting: Terror alert raised", and to the suspect's action as "terrorism". The depiction of the shooting as "Islamic" is made salient afterwards. The coverage of the incidents, see appendices (B) and (C), describe the act as a Muslim attack by *Acting PST chief Roger Berg* and *the Norwegian security service*: "extreme Islamist terror", see examples (8), (23) and (26).

Accordingly, the idea of being a "terrorist" attack attributed to Muslims is greatly highlighted throughout the reports. First, in the most prominent position, the headlines, in which the most important information is "terror-linked", "terror alert" and "Islamist terror act". Such depiction is further accentuated and deemed credible through the iteration of the word "terror" and "Islamist" by elite sources; *Norwegian police, Acting PST chief Roger Berg* and *the Norwegian security service* in examples (2), (6), (7), (8), (10) and (28). Quoting officials directly and indirectly convinces the readers that terrorism is not an assumption, as pointed out in the first coverage, but a fact delivered by credible sources, which in return fixates on the terror aspect of the incident. In addition, the words "terror", "terrorist", "Islamist" and "Islamic" are repeated 10 and 6 times throughout the reports with different word forms. For instance, the adjective "Islamist" is utilized to describe the noun "terror" and "network". These nouns give the impression that the shooting is an outside attack; in which it represents the suspect as being part of an international terror group. Similarly, the adjective "Islamic" describes "extremists" and "community" to focus on the identity of the suspect as a Muslim extremist, see examples (8), (23), (26), (28), (32) and (33). The word "Islamist" can be used as an adjective or a noun that represents religious principle of Islam which is only associated with "terror" in the reports. The channel portrays the Muslim perpetrator as someone who seeks to implement Islam values of "extremism" and "radicalism".

As a result, the concept of threat is foregrounded by emphasizing the negativity of the word "terror". For instance, Fox News states in its headline that "Terror alert raised", and the *Norwegian security service PST has* "raised its terror alert to the highest level", see examples (5) and (7). The word "terror" links with fear and promotes threat; at the same time, threat is accentuated by incorporating the word "alert" with the superlative form "the highest level", especially when it is reported by security forces. The word "alert" indicates potential threat from outside. As regards, the threat and the concept of outside attack are further manifested in the representation of the suspect as an outgroup. The suspect portrayal foregrounds his identity as Muslim Iranian and background his Norwegian nationality; thus, he is estranged from the Western identity. This is apparent in referring to his Iranian roots and repeating that he is being held on terrorism offences. To put it mildly, the report overly iterates that the gunman is "A Norwegian citizen ,[..] a 42-year-old originally from Iran", see examples (3), (9) and (25). It is worth noting that, after giving prominence to the incident as a terrorist attack, the suspect who was first identified as a Norwegian citizen referred to as "originally from Iran". Therefore, overstating that the suspect has different origins and faith magnifies the negative impact of the incident.

Accordingly, this representation conveys to the readers that the horrifying deed is carried out by an Islamist and not a Western citizen, Norwegian. Fox News further alienates the Muslim suspect by impersonalizing him. The reports do not address the gunman by his name; he is referred to as "the suspect", "the sole perpetrator", "the man" and "the gunman", to not to individualize the Muslim suspect and to feel distant from him. Thus, representing the suspect as not one of "Us" is prominent. The dichotomy of "Us" versus "them" is significantly stressed by mentioning the pronouns "we" and "our" in the direct quote of *the Norwegian monarch* and *the Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere* in example (22). The direct quotations pinpoint the referential strategy that depicts the Muslim suspect as an outgroup. Stating phrases like "one community", "stand together" and "our values" along with the pronouns "we" and "our" stand in contrast to "Islamic community" and "Kurdish part of Iran", see examples (29) and (30). The quotes accentuate the distinction between both communities, Western LGBT community and the non-Western Muslim community, which highly pronounce the estrangement of Muslim suspect even more.

Both communities, West and Islamic, are represented differently in a way that promotes positive self-representation and negative other

representations. First, "our community" is depicted favorably as having "values: freedom, diversity and respect for each other"; hence, "Us" is associated with positive traits. On the contrary, the Muslim suspect's actions and their impact are exceedingly represented as negative. To begin with, the negative attribution accompanied with the Islamic identity is immensely evident in the reports. The channel prone to associate terms like "Islamist" and "Islamic" with "terror" and "fear and unrest", examples (8), (23) and (28). Let alone the identity of the gunman as Muslim Iranian is demeaned. After mentioning the suspect's Iranian roots, a respectful well-known source, acting *PST chief Roger Berg,* presents the suspect with negative labels such as "violence" and "threat" as well as addressing his previous offenses: *a* narcotics offense and a weapons offense", see examples (9) and (31). Moreover, the impact of the Muslim gunman's shooting is overly represented as causing fear and threat. This is depicted through drawing a vivid image to display the victims' sufferings like "grave fear", "panicked revelers fleeing", "to run and there was a lot of screaming", "running", "in panic", "scared, restless and in grief" and "fearing for their lives". It is noted that all the word forms utilized to describe the agony of the victims, 'scream', 'run', 'panic' and 'flee', connote feelings of fear. In addition, the use of the adjective "*panicked*" with the noun "*revelers*" draws more attention to the fact that people were at peace enjoying their freedom of choice but that was transformed into something outrages, which made them feel fear instead of content.

The shooting as well is represented with adjectives that greatly undergird its negative emotional intensity of fear. The shooting is described as "terrible", "deeply shocking" and "cruel" as delivered by *Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre* in examples (14) and (15). The above adjectives are intensifiers that affect the readers emotionally. The three adjectives are overwording of the word "terror"; in which the word "terrible" means to cause terror and fear. The words "shock" and "cruel" insinuate that the act is highly offensive and primitive that caused pain and suffering. Furthermore, the adverb "deeply" intensifies the affective aspect of the adjective. Thus, there is a high degree of overwording of the word 'terror' that is manifested in victims and witnesses' experience of the shooting. The representations of suspect's actions as "discrimination, prejudice and hatred" and the negative impact of the shooting contrasts sharply with the depiction of victims as "revelers" and "innocent people", which generates less favorable attitudes towards Islam. Such image of good and evil is made clearer by stating that the perpetrator targeted "a bar popular with the city's LGBTQ community," to show the

intentionality in targeting a considerable number of vulnerable crowds. On that account, it is obvious that the American channel strongly portrays Islam as oppressing and against diversity and freedom.

According to the above contradicting image between Western and Islamic communities drawn by Fox News, Islam is associated with terror, violence and oppression. Using rhetorical devices and iteration to underline such association allows the readers to accept unnoticeably that Islam is terrorizing and only causes pain and suffering. Hence, the American channel reports seeks to underpins that terrorism and threat is part and parcel of the Islamic identity.

Colorado shooting
1. Cops identify suspect in Colorado **LGBTQ nightclub shooting**
2. Colorado Police are still investigating whether the attack at Colorado Springs Club Q was **a hate crime**
3. but are still investigating whether the attack was **a hate crime**.
4. Police say **Anderson Lee Aldrich**, 22, used a long rifle to carry out the attack and was already subdued by patrons at Club Q by the time officers arrived.
5. **Aldrich** is in custody and is receiving treatment of injuries at a local hospital.
6. **Aldrich** had a previous run-in with police in 2021, when police arrested him for allegedly making a bomb threat against two homes in Colorado Springs, according to KRDO.

(See appendix D)
7. Biden says 'no motive' clear in **Colorado nightclub shooting**, calls for **assault weapons** ban (headline)
8. Police have arrested suspect **Anderson Lee Aldrich** in connection with the Club Q shooting (Lead)
9. President Biden condemned **gun violence and attacks** on the LGBTQ community following Saturday's **mass shooting** at Club Q in Colorado on Sunday.
10. Police say 22-year-old Anderson Lee Aldrich killed at least five people and injured 18 more in **his assault** on the nightclub.
11. "While no motive in this attack is yet clear, we know that the LGBTQI+ community has been subjected to **horrific hate violence** in recent years," Biden wrote.

12. **Gun violence** continues to have a devastating and particular impact on LGBTQI+ communities across our nation and **threats of violence** are increasing. We saw it six years ago in Orlando

13. "We must address **the public health epidemic of gun violence** in all of its forms.[…] We need to enact **an assault weapons** ban to get weapons of war off America's streets," he added. (Biden)

14. Biden's statement came just after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also addressed the attack, calling it a "**senseless slaughter** of five beautiful souls."

15. Police say 22-year-old [Anderson Lee Aldrich](#) killed at least five people and injured 18 more in his assault on the nightclub

16. **Aldrich** is currently in custody and receiving treatment for injuries at a local hospital in Colorado Springs.

17. "**The attack** on Club Q, which fell on the eve of Transgender Day of Remembrance, is **despicable** — [..]"While Democrats have taken important steps to **combat gun violence** this Congress, **this deadly attack** is a challenge to our conscience and a reminder that we must keep fighting to do more." ([House Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#))

18. Authorities say no motive has been determined for **Saturday's shooting** so far, and they are still investigating whether it was **a hate crime**.

19. Many have concluded **the shooting** was motivated by **anti-LGBTQ bias**, including the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

20. Club Q described the incident as a "**hate attack**" in a statement, bud did not respond to a request for clarification from Fox News Digital.

21. "You can draw a straight line from the **false and vile rhetoric about LGBTQ** people spread by **extremists and amplified** across social media, to the nearly 300 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced this year, to the dozens of attacks on our community like this one," GLAAD's president and CEO, Sarah Kate Ellis, said in a statement to the Denver Post.

(See appendix E)

22. Colorado Springs mayor: LGBTQ nightclub **mass shooting** 'has all the trappings of a **hate crime'**   (headline)

23. The mayor of Colorado Springs said Monday that the [LGBTQ nightclub shooting](#) that left five dead "**has all the trappings of a hate crime**."

24. but it certainly as I say has the **trappings of a hate crime** (Mayor John Suthers)

(See appendix F)

25. Colorado Club Q shooting suspect is **'non-binary**,' public defenders say (headline) x2
26. Colorado Club Q shooting suspect Anderson Lee Aldrich referred to in court documents as **'Mx. Aldrich'** (lead)
27. "**Anderson Aldrich is non-binary**," reads the footnotes in the documents. "They use **they/them pronouns**, and for the purposes of all formal filings, will be addressed as **Mx. Aldrich**."
28. A website posting from June 2015 that **attacked** a teenager named Nick Brink suggests **they** may have been **bullied in high school**. The post included photos similar to ones of the shooting suspect and **ridiculed** Brink over **their weight**, **lack of money** and what it said was an **interest in Chinese cartoons**.

(See appendix G)

29. Colorado shooting suspect's father, **a former MMA fighte**r and **porn star**, '**praised**' son for '**violent behavior**'
30. Father of Colorado shooting suspect Anderson Aldrich says he believed his son **committed suicide** in 2016 until six months ago
31. Brink is a former MMA fighter and adult film star. He has struggled with a severe addiction to crystal meth in the past
32. "I **praised him for violent behavior really early**. I told him it works. It is instant, and you'll get immediate results," Brink said.
33. Brink told the outlet his family is "**Mormon**" and "**conservative Republican**." He said that the first fear he had after finding out the news was that his son is gay.
34. Public defenders representing Aldrich, […]describe the 22-year-old in court **documents as "nonbinary."**

(See appendix H)

On the contrary to the Muslim incident that was portrayed immediately as suspected "terrorism", the non-Muslim incident is represented as a "hate crime". The immediate coverage on the shooting raised the assumption of being acted out of hate and not terrorism. The depiction is presented in the most prominent position, the headline and the lead, to influence the readers unnoticeably that there is no terrorism involved and it might be another "hate crime". Accordingly, the feeling of threat and fear is diminished among the readers, since the coverage

insinuates that it is another white man's deed. The "hate crime" frame is highly pronounced by the high degree of iteration of the word "hate" throughout the reports. It is repeated 10 times by officials and presented to the fore. For instance, examples (2), (22) and (23) are the headline and the lead of the reports. The rest of the examples: "hate crime", "horrific hate violence" and "hate attack", as presented above, see examples (2), (3), (11), (18), (20), (22), (23) and (24), are delivered by *Fox News*, the *US president Biden*, *Club Q* and *Colorado Spring mayor John Suthers*. All the above direct and indirect quotes assert the depiction of the shooting as being hate crime.

It is worth noting that the word "hate" is not only associated with "crime", but also with "horrific", "violence" and "attack". These are all intensifiers which add to the emotional intensity to the word "hate" and reassure the representation of being "hate" incident. In addition, the overwording of the word 'hate' as demonstrated by "senseless slaughter" and "despicable" further adds to the representation of the incident as something evil. Moreover, the incident is also labeled as "gun violence and attacks", "mass shooting", "assaults", and "this deadly attack", see examples (9) and (10). Accordingly, the report headline promotes the idea of being a weapon problem to lessen the emotional impact on the readers of having possible threat. This idea is communicated implicitly to frame the events as another "assault" by guns. This is highly evident in quoting the president of the US, Biden, stating "assault weapons ban" to foreground the idea of being a gun problem and to imply that this information is more important than mentioning the number of victims and who carried out the attack. Nevertheless, the immediate paragraph following the headline further accentuates the gun problem in stating that "the public health epidemic of gun violence" and "combat gun violence", see examples (13) and (17). The above words are quoted by Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to portray the violence and threat caused by guns as a disease which minimize its effect as a serious problem. Therefore, the attack is depicted as a general problem the US government failed to contain. Hence, addressing the shooting as a political issue lifts the blame off the non-Muslim suspect.

As regards, the non-Muslim perpetrator is represented with labels that undermine his negative actions albeit having higher number of casualties than the Muslim gunman's incident. It is obvious from the start that the non-Muslim gunman is individualized by the media coverage of the events. Fox News reports refer to the suspect by his first and last name every time the channel mentions information about him. In all the above-mentioned examples the Muslim suspect is addressed by

"Anderson Lee Aldrich". Not even once the non-Muslim suspect was associated with labels like "terrorist", "attacker" or even "gunman". The channel makes every effort to represent the non-Muslim suspect as an ordinary US citizen, which implicitly conveys that he is one of "Us" and there is no threat. This stands in contrast to the Muslim suspect who was immediately highlighted as a "terrorist", "violent" and "criminal", the non-Muslim suspect representations, on the other hand, conceal his negative actions. For instance, when mentioning his prior criminal records, Fox News decides to utilize the word "allegedly" to insinuate that it might be just a claim, which can be untrue.

What further adds to the abating of non-Muslim suspect's actions is the diminishing of his responsibility of the shooting. Presenting, see example (21), that "extremists and amplified" influence on social media by promoting "false and vile rhetoric about LGBTQ" is what drive ordinary people to hold grudge against LGBT community to commit crimes against them. This strongly conveys that the gunman's action is not his sole responsibility as a result of being brainwashed by "extremists' rhetoric". Such statement is reported by *GLAAD's president and CEO, Sarah Kate Ellis*, which strengths the claim to be convincing to the readers. Another point is the inclusiveness of the non-Muslim suspect with the LGBT community that triggers the idea of being one of them. Fox News reports assert the representation of the gunman as being one of the LGBT communities, which is put to the fore of the reports. The most important information in the headline and the lead is the depiction of the non-Muslim suspect as "non-binary". It is worth noting that non-binary means that the suspect cannot determine his gender category as male or female; hence, he is considered as "they". Such portrayal of the suspect's identity is exaggerated by repeatedly labelling him "non-binary", "Mx. Aldrich" who uses "they/them pronouns" to refer to himself. Fox News makes every effort to strengthen this idea by not only presenting it in the most prominent position but also by delivering it through the words of credible sources, for example, *public defenders* and *court documents,* see examples (25), (26), (27) and (34).

Accordingly, the depiction of the suspect's identity refrains his actions of being "hate crime". By identifying him as "non-binary", it communicates implicitly that the suspect does not hold grudge, hate or bias towards such community rather it represents him as a member of the LGBT community. Following such representation on the suspect, which paves the way for another reason behind the shooting, mental illness is made valid. The idea of mental impairment is put to the surface through

spotting the light on his suffering as a child and teenager from domestic violence and being a target of bullying. The non-Muslim suspect was "attacked", "bullied", "ridiculed" over "their weight, lack of money" and "their interest in Chinese cartoons", see example (28). The channel utilizes highly strong lexical items to delineate the grave aggressiveness the suspect experienced as a teenager at school over every aspect of his life, his physical appearance and interests. Moreover, the reports employ pronouns "they" and "their" to address the suspect with, which heavily emphasize his representation as an in-group of the LGBT community. The lexical choices that describe the suspect's suffering as teenager greatly represent him as a victim and fuels excuses of violent behavior towards society. To be more convincing, the information is delivered by court in Texas, a website post and the Washington Post. Nonetheless, feelings of sympathy are raised among the readers towards the suspect to covertly comprehend that his actions are not fully his responsibility to avert the blame on the society and not him.

To further confirm that the problem is not the suspect's behavior but the circumstances he was raised in, the reports pay great attention to his early childhood. The non-Muslim suspect's father is a highly violent and cruel person who pushed his son to "commit suicide" and to change his name to flee the "domestic violence" and to "protect himself". To add to the above, the suspect's father is represented by the channel as "MMA fighter" and "porn star" who was addicted to "crystal meth", which implies gravely negative impact on the suspect's conduct as a child. Being an "MMA fighter", the suspect's father "praised" son for "violent behavior", as displayed in examples (29) and (32). Hence, the representation of the father as strongly negative impact on the suspect's childhood is greatly accentuated by the iteration and the use of intensifiers like "really" and "eagerly". The channel does not only depict the father as the reason behind his violent behavior, but also his sexual orientation. Being raised in "Mormon" and "conservative Republican" conveys the oppression the suspect experienced to not to live his true sexuality. The repeated information on the suspect's childhood is uttered by the father himself, which frames it as highly convincing. As a result, after building up information about non-Muslim suspect's tragic childhood, he is exceedingly being presented as mentally ill who did not find freedom or safety. Thus, the depiction of his identity as oppressed and badly treated justifies his atrocity.

5.   Conclusion

Oslo and Colorado shootings, which were committed by Muslim and non-Muslim suspects respectively, targeted people in the LGBT

community. Both incidents are horrifying acts of murder that caused grief and agony among people. However, it has been proven through the analysis of the mentioned reports that there is a prominent distinction between the labels used in the media coverage of both incidents. The American channel, Fox News, utilizes manipulative strategies to represent the Muslim and non-Muslim incidents according to its ideology. The analysis of lexical choices managed to decode embedded ideologies the Western channel employed to maintain bias representations against Muslims. First, the data analysis has shown that Fox News tends to represent Oslo shooting heavily as a terrorist attack the moment it made sure it was carried out by a Muslim suspect. Conversely, the non-Muslim related incident, Colorado shooting, is depicted as a hate crime. The Western channel news exerts much effort to distort the image of Islam related issues through utilizing lexemes that connotes implicitly and explicitly terror, fear and threat. On the other hand, Fox News inclined to diminish the negativity of the non-Muslim incident, through assigning lexical items that frame the events as being something evil, like 'hate' and 'despicable' in its media reports. As a result, the portrayal of the incident denies possible threats and feelings of fear.

Secondly, it is noted that Fox News exaggerates the negative impact of the Muslim incident and understate that of the non-Muslim incident. The recurrent use of exceedingly negative and emotive words to represent the actions of the Muslim suspect and its outcome pervades the reports. The impact as well as the identity of the suspect as a Muslim is bombarded with overwording and intensifiers that fuel hate and panic into the readers against him. The headline and the lead paragraphs are presented with words like "terror", "terrible", "alert", "extreme Islamist" and "shocking" to refer to the suspect's actions. Not to mention, the overwhelmingly negative coverage during and after the shooting as delineated by the suffering of the victims who are 'running', 'screaming' and feel grave 'fear', 'panic' and 'unrest'. By contrast, Fox news averts readers attention away from the negative impact of the non-Muslim suspect incident by focusing on the 'epidemic' of gun problems. Such strategy is used by the media to portray the attack as the government's responsibility for not controlling weapons purchase. Let alone almost all the negative lexical items are associated with guns and not with the suspect's actions, in stating "gun violence", "gun attacks" and "weapons assault", nor did the reports pay attention to the suffering of the victims. Accordingly, the Muslim incident is far more threatening and affective

than the non-Muslim incident that backgrounds and even ignores the negative impact of the shooting.

Finally, despite carrying out the same incident, the identities of the Muslim and non-Muslim suspects are depicted completely different. The American Western channel utilizes distinctly lexical choices to portray the identity of Muslim suspect as an outgroup and the non-Muslim suspect as an ingroup. It is noted that there is a pressing representation of the Oslo perpetrator's identity as being of different religion and origins that is portrayed as hostile and evil. The negative image is further accentuated by the juxtaposition of the Muslim suspect conduct with the 'Us' positive values. Therefore, the Muslim suspect is seen as an outsider who attacks the West values of freedom; hence, the outside threat and fear as well as the affiliation to terrorist cells is prominent. Meanwhile, the inclusiveness of non-Muslim suspect's identity with LGBT community, his suffering as a child from abusive parent and his mental illness, which are put to the fore, eradicates any possible threat. The non-Muslim suspect's behavior, on that account, is excused due to the circumstances he was raised in which is out of his control. The above depiction of the Muslim suspect's identity in contrast to the non-Muslim one reveals the ideological point of view of Fox news channel has towards Islam. To put it mildly, the media coverage seeks to put a slant on Muslim related issues to confirm Islam representations as a religion against freedom, which stands for oppression and calls for terrorizing and killing nonbelievers.

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Appendix (A)

Norway nightclub shooting: 2 dead, 10 injured in suspected terror-linked attack

The shooting took place at a local LGBTQ+ club in Norway's capital of Oslo, hours before the Pride Parade

A shooting at a Norway nightclub and in nearby streets that left two dead and 10 wounded Saturday night is being investigated as a possible terrorist attack, Norwegian police said.

A Norwegian citizen opened fire at the London Pub, a local LQBTQ+ bar in Oslo, just a few hours before the Oslo Pride Parade was set to take place. Police said the suspected gunman, a 42-year-old originally from Iran, was arrested after opening fire at three locations.

Barstad said the motive of the shooting was not immediately evident and it was unclear whether the shooting had any connection to the Pride Parade, according to The Guardian.

"Police are in contact with the organizers of the Pride event this Saturday," Barstad said, according to The Guardian. "There will be a continuous assessment of what measures police should take to protect that event and whether this incident has a connection to Pride at all."

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre shared his sentiments on his Facebook page, calling the attack a "terrible and deeply shocking attack on innocent people".

The suspect was believed to be the sole perpetrator of the crime. Two firearms were seized, including a handgun and an automatic weapon.

Norwegian journalist Olav Roenneberg recalled witnessing the shooting, saying he saw a man arrive with a bag who then began shooting.

"First I thought it was an air gun. Then the glass of the bar next door was shattered and I understood I had to run for cover," he told Norwegian public broadcaster NRK.

Christian Bredeli was also at the bar when the shooting took place, telling Norwegian newspaper VG he was stuck on the fourth floor with a group of approximately 10 people until they were given the all-clear to leave.

"On our way out we saw several injured people, so we understood that something serious had happened," Bredeli said.

All Pride events for the remainder of the day were canceled per police orders.

"Oslo Pride therefore urges everyone who planned to participate or watch the parade to not show up. All events in connection with Oslo Prides are canceled," the organizers wrote on the official event Facebook page.

Norway previously experienced a deadly mass killing in 2011, where a gunman left 69 people dead on the island of Utoya after setting off a bomb in Oslo, killing an additional 8 people as a result.

Appendix (B)

Norway mass shooting: Terror alert raised after 2 killed, 10 seriously wounded at Pride event

OSLO, Norway - A gunman opened fire in Oslo's night-life district early Saturday, killing two people and leaving 10 seriously wounded in what police are investigating as a possible terrorist attack during the Norwegian capital's annual Pride festival.

The Norwegian security service PST has raised its terror alert to the highest level. Acting PST chief Roger Berg called the shootings an "extreme Islamist terror act." He said the gunman, a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran who was arrested shortly after the shootings, had a "long history of violence and threats."

While the motive was unclear, organizers of Oslo Pride canceled a parade that was set for Saturday as the highlight of a weeklong festival. One of the shootings happened outside the London Pub, a bar popular with the city's LGBTQ community, just hours before the parade was set to begin.

Police attorney Christian Hatlo said the suspect was being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism, based on the number of people targeted at multiple locations.

"Our overall assessment is that there are grounds to believe that he wanted to cause grave fear in the population," Hatlo said.

Hatlo said the suspect's mental health was also being investigated.

"We need to go through his medical history, if he has any. It's not something that we're aware of now," he said.

The shootings happened around 1 a.m. local time, sending panicked revelers fleeing into the streets or trying to hide from the gunman.

Olav Roenneberg, a journalist from Norwegian public broadcaster NRK, said he witnessed the shooting.

"I saw a man arrive at the site with a bag. He picked up a weapon and started shooting," Roenneberg told NRK. "First I thought it was an air gun. Then the glass of the bar next door was shattered and I understood I had to run for cover."

Another witness, Marcus Nybakken, 46, said he was alerted to the incident by a commotion in the area.

"When I walked into Cesar's bar there were a lot of people starting to run and there was a lot of screaming. I thought it was a fight out there, so I pulled out. But then I heard that it was a shooting and that there was someone shooting with a submachine gun," Nybakken told Norwegian broadcaster TV2.

Police inspector Tore Soldal said two of the shooting victims died and 10 people were being treated for serious injuries, but none of them was believed to be life-threatening.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said in a Facebook post that "the shooting outside London Pub in Oslo tonight was a cruel and deeply shocking attack on innocent people."

He said that while the motive was unclear, the shooting had caused fear and grief in the LGBTQ community.

"We all stand by you," Gahr Stoere wrote.

King Harald V also offered condolences and said he and Norway's royal family were "horrified by the night's shooting tragedy."

"We sympathize with all relatives and affected and send warm thoughts to all who are now scared, restless and in grief," the Norwegian monarch said in a statement. "We must stand together to defend our values: freedom, diversity and respect for each other. We must continue to stand up for all people to feel safe."

Christian Bredeli, who was at the bar, told Norwegian newspaper VG that he hid on the fourth floor with a group of about 10 people until he was told it was safe to come out.

"Many were fearing for their lives," he said. "On our way out we saw several injured people, so we understood that something serious had happened."

Norwegian broadcaster TV2 showed footage of people running down Oslo streets in panic as shots rang out in the background.

Investigators said the suspect was known to police, as well as to Norway's security police, but not for any major violent crimes. His criminal record included a narcotics offense and a weapons offense for carrying a knife, Hatlo said.

Hatlo said police seized two weapons after the attack: a handgun and an automatic weapon, both of which he described as "not modern" without giving details.

He said the suspect had not made any statement to the police and was in contact with a defense lawyer.

Hatlo said it was too early to say whether the gunman specifically targeted members of the LGBTQ community.

"We have to look closer at that, we don't know yet," he said.

Still, police advised organizers of the Pride festival to cancel the parade Saturday.

"Oslo Pride therefore urges everyone who planned to participate or watch the parade to not show up. All events in connection with Oslo Prides are canceled," organizers said on the official Facebook page of the event.

Inge Alexander Gjestvang, leader of FRI, the Norwegian organisation for sexual and gender diversity, said the shooting has shaken the Nordic country's gay community.

"It's tough for the queer movement to experience this," he was quoted by TV2 as saying. "We encourage everyone to stand together, take care of each other. We'll be back later, proud, visible but right now it's not the time for that."

Norway has a relatively low crime rate but has experienced violent attacks by right-wing extremists, including one of the worst mass shootings in Europe in

2011, when a gunman killed 69 people on the island of Utoya after setting off a bomb in Oslo that left eight dead.

In 2019, another right-wing extremist killed his stepsister and then opened fire in a mosque but was overpowered before anyone there was injured.

Appendix (C)

Norway: Suspect in Pride Month 'Islamist terror act' won't talk to police

The suspect in a mass shooting during Norway's Pride Month will now spend the next four weeks in pretrial custody

The suspect in a mass shooting during an LGBTQ festival in Norway has refused to explain his actions to investigators and will remain in pretrial custody for the next four weeks, police and his defense lawyer said Sunday.

The man, whom authorities described as a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran, was arrested shortly after the shooting in Oslo's nightlife district early Saturday. He is being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism.

Two people were killed and more than 20 were injured in what the Norwegian security service called an "Islamist terror act."

Oslo police said they tried to question the suspect on Saturday and again on Sunday without success. Norwegian media identified him as Zaniar Matapour.

Matapour's defense lawyer, John Christian Elden, told The Associated Press by email that his client refused to have his statement recorded and videotaped unless police released the entire recording to the public "with no time delay so it won't be censored or manipulated."

Recording interrogations is a standard police practice.

Elden previously said his client did not deny being the shooter but had not divulged any motive. The lawyer said Sunday that Matapour did not object to remaining in custody for four weeks so would not appear in court on Monday.

In Norway, pre-trial detention hearings are normally held every four weeks.

Norway's prime minister and members of the royal family joined mourners at a memorial service Sunday at Oslo Cathedral for the victims of the attack.

The gunman opened fire at three locations, including outside the London Pub, a popular gay bar in Oslo. Police investigators said it was too early to say whether the attacker specifically targeted the LGBTQ community.

A Pride parade scheduled for Saturday was called off because of the shooting.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said during Sunday's memorial service that "the shooting in the night hours put an end to the Pride parade, but it did not stop the fight and the efforts to fight discrimination, prejudice and hatred."

He also addressed Norway's Muslim community.

"I know how many of you felt when it turned out that the perpetrator belonged to the Islamic community. Many of you experienced fear and unrest. You should know this: We stand together, we are one community and we are responsible for the community together," Stoere said during the church service, which was also attended by Crown Princess Mette-Marit.

Norwegian media said Matapour arrived in Norway with his family from a Kurdish part of Iran in the 1990s.

He had a prior criminal record that included a narcotics offense and a weapons offense for carrying a knife. Investigators said they seized two weapons after Saturday's shootings: a handgun and an automatic weapon.

The Norwegian domestic security agency, known by its Norwegian acronym PST, said Saturday it first became aware of the suspect in 2015 and later grew concerned he had become radicalized and was part of an unspecified Islamist network.

On Sunday, Norwegian media outlets reported that Matapour allegedly was in close contact with an Islamic extremist living in Norway whom Norwegian police had been aware of for a long time.

Appendix (D)

Cops identify suspect in Colorado LGBTQ nightclub shooting

Colorado Police are still investigating whether the attack at Colorado Springs Club Q was a hate crime

Police have identified the suspect in Saturday night's mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado, but are still investigating whether the attack was a hate crime.

Police say Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, used a long rifle to carry out the attack and was already subdued by patrons at Club Q by the time officers arrived. Authorities say at least 5 people were killed and 18 injured in the attack, though they warned that those numbers are not final.

Colorado Springs Police Chief Adrian Vasquez delivered an update to reporters alongside city Mayor John Suthers and other officials Sunday morning. Aldrich is in custody and is receiving treatment of injuries at a local hospital.

Police say they received the first call regarding the attack at 11:56 p.m. on Saturday, and the first officer was dispatched to the scene at 11:57. The officer arrived to the scene at 12:02 a.m. and took the already-subdued suspect into custody before calling for more support.

Aldrich had a previous run-in with police in 2021, when police arrested him for allegedly making a bomb threat against two homes in Colorado Springs, according to KRDO.

It was reported to police at the time that Aldrich, then 21, had created a homemade explosive device and had weapons and ammunition. Police arrived to the scene and Aldrich refused to surrender, but was later taken into custody.

Aldrich faced two counts of felony menacing and three counts of first-degree kidnapping for the incident.

Officials say the number of victims at the club is fluctuating, as some of those injured traveled to area hospitals using private means.

Vasquez says "at least two heroic people" took action to stop the shooter from causing more damage.

The investigation is in its early stages, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation is on the scene to assist.

A spokesperson for the Colorado Springs Fire department told FOX 21 that 34 firefighters and 11 ambulances responded to the scene.

Appendix (E)

Biden says 'no motive' clear in Colorado nightclub shooting, calls for assault weapons ban

Police have arrested suspect Anderson Lee Aldrich in connection with the Club Q shooting

President Biden condemned gun violence and attacks on the LGBTQ community following Saturday's mass shooting at Club Q in Colorado on Sunday.

The president acknowledged that "no motive" had yet been determined in the shooting, but nevertheless connected the attack to the mass shooting at Pulse nightclub in Florida six years ago. Police say 22-year-old Anderson Lee Aldrich killed at least five people and injured 18 more in his assault on the nightclub.

"While no motive in this attack is yet clear, we know that the LGBTQI+ community has been subjected to horrific hate violence in recent years," Biden wrote. "Gun violence continues to have a devastating and particular impact on LGBTQI+ communities across our nation and threats of violence are increasing. We saw it six years ago in Orlando, when our nation suffered the deadliest attack affecting the LGBTQI+ community in American history."

"We must address the public health epidemic of gun violence in all of its forms. Earlier this year, I signed the most significant gun safety law in nearly three decades, in addition to taking other historic actions. But we must do more. We need to enact an assault weapons ban to get weapons of war off America's streets," he added.

Biden's statement came just after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also addressed the attack, calling it a "senseless slaughter of five beautiful souls."

"The attack on Club Q, which fell on the eve of Transgender Day of Remembrance, is despicable — further shattering the sense of safety of LGBTQ Americans across the country," she wrote in a statement. "While Democrats have taken important steps to combat gun violence this Congress, this deadly attack is a challenge to our conscience and a reminder that we must keep fighting to do more."

Authorities say no motive has been determined for Saturday's shooting so far, and they are still investigating whether it was a hate crime. Aldrich is currently in custody and receiving treatment for injuries at a local hospital in Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs Police Chief Adrian Vasquez says at least two "heroic" patrons were able to subdue Aldrich just before police arrived.

Police say they received the first call regarding the attack at 11:56 p.m. on Saturday, and the first officer was dispatched to the scene at 11:57. The officer arrived to the scene at 12:02 a.m. and took the already-subdued suspect into custody before calling for more support.

The investigation is in its early stages, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation is on the scene to assist. Many have concluded the shooting was motivated by

anti-LGBTQ bias, including the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

"You can draw a straight line from the false and vile rhetoric about LGBTQ people spread by extremists and amplified across social media, to the nearly 300 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced this year, to the dozens of attacks on our community like this one," GLAAD's president and CEO, Sarah Kate Ellis, said in a statement to the Denver Post.

Club Q described the incident as a "hate attack" in a statement, bud did not respond to a request for clarification from Fox News Digital.

Appendix (F)

Colorado Springs mayor: LGBTQ nightclub mass shooting 'has all the trappings of a hate crime'

John Suthers hails 'incredible act of heroism' to subdue gunman at Club Q

The mayor of Colorado Springs said Monday that the LGBTQ nightclub shooting that left five dead "has all the trappings of a hate crime."

Mayor John Suthers made the comment on NBC's "Today" show as law enforcement is still trying to figure out why Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, allegedly walked into Club Q just before midnight Saturday and started opening fire, injuring 25 others as well.

"We need to look at social media. We need to look at all kinds of other information that we are gathering from people that knew the individual before we make any definitive conclusions about a motivation but it certainly as I say has the trappings of a hate crime," Suthers said.

Aldrich had previously been arrested in June 2021 for making multiple bomb threats and refusing to surrender to police.

Police received reports from Aldrich's mother on June 18, 2021, stating that Aldrich was "threatening to cause harm to her with a homemade bomb, multiple weapons, and ammunition," according to the El Paso Sheriff's Department.

"Unfortunately, under Colorado law, we are unable to comment upon any other interactions with law enforcement at this time," Suthers said Monday.

"I think the district attorney will be filing some motions in court today that will allow law enforcement to talk more about any criminal history that this individual might have," he added.

Suthers also hailed the "incredible act of heroism" by two people at the nightclub who subdued the gunman.

"The police get a dispatch at 11:57, they arrive at 12 and by 12:02 the perpetrator is subdued," Suthers told NBC. "And that is largely because two – but primarily one as I understand it – are able to take a handgun that he has got in his possession, take it away from him, and use that weapon not by shooting it but by hitting him and disabling him."

"When you look at this in the time frame, that act probably saved a lot of lives," he added. "There is no question about that."

Suthers said his community is now in mourning, but "we are a community that is determined to make sure that the actions of a lone gunman don't define our community."

Appendix (G)

Colorado Club Q shooting suspect is 'non-binary,' public defenders say

Colorado Club Q shooting suspect Anderson Lee Aldrich referred to in court documents as 'Mx. Aldrich'

Public defenders representing Anderson Lee Aldrich, the suspect accused of killing five people and injuring 17 more in a mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado, over the weekend, are describing the 22-year-old in court documents as "non-binary."

In several standard motions filed on behalf of Aldrich on Tuesday, the public defenders refer to the suspect as "Mx. Aldrich." The motions deal with issues like unsealing documents and evidence gathering, not Aldrich's identity, and there was no elaboration about it.

"Anderson Aldrich is non-binary," reads the footnotes in the documents. "They use they/them pronouns, and for the purposes of all formal filings, will be addressed as Mx. Aldrich."

The motive in the shooting is still under investigation, but authorities said Aldrich faces possible murder and hate crime charges.

Hate crime charges would require proving that the shooter was motivated by bias, such as against the victims' actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The charges against Aldrich are preliminary, and prosecutors have not yet filed formal charges. Aldrich is represented by Joseph Archambault, a chief trial deputy with the state public defender's office.

It was also revealed Tuesday that Aldrich's name was changed more than six years ago as a teenager, after filing a legal petition in Texas seeking to "protect himself" from a father with a criminal history including domestic violence against Aldrich's mother.

Aldrich was known as Nicholas Franklin Brink until 2016. Weeks before turning 16, Aldrich petitioned a Texas court for a name change, court records show. A petition for the name change was submitted on Brink's behalf by their grandparents, who were their legal guardians at the time.

Aldrich's request for a name change came months after Aldrich was apparently targeted by online bullying. A website posting from June 2015 that attacked a teenager named Nick Brink suggests they may have been bullied in high school. The post included photos similar to ones of the shooting suspect and ridiculed Brink over their weight, lack of money and what it said was an interest in Chinese cartoons.

The name change and bullying were first reported by The Washington Post.

Court documents laying out Aldrich's arrest were sealed at the request of prosecutors. Aldrich has been released from a hospital following the shooting and is being held at the El Paso County jail, police said.

Appendix (H)

Colorado shooting suspect's father, a former MMA fighter and porn star, 'praised' son for 'violent behavior'

Father of Colorado shooting suspect Anderson Aldrich says he believed his son committed suicide in 2016 until six months ago

The father of Colorado Springs mass shooting suspect Anderson Lee Aldrich thought that his son was dead until just six months ago, he told media in a confusing interview.

Aaron Brink, the 48-year-old father of the suspect in the Club Q shooting, told media in a somewhat incoherent interview that he "praised" his son for "violent behavior" as a child and believed him to have committed suicide in 2016.

"I thought he was dead. I mourned his loss. I had gone through a meltdown and thought I had lost my son," Brink said to local outlet CBS 8.

Brink is a former MMA fighter and adult film star. He has struggled with a severe addiction to crystal meth in the past. He believed his son was dead for six years until receiving an irate phone call from him six months ago.

Aldrich's father also shed light on his son's upbringing.

"I praised him for violent behavior really early. I told him it works. It is instant, and you'll get immediate results," Brink said.

Brink told the outlet his family is "Mormon" and "conservative Republican." He said that the first fear he had after finding out the news was that his son is gay.

"You know Mormons don't do gay. We don't do gay. There's no gays in the Mormon church. We don't do gay," Brink said.

Public defenders representing Aldrich, who is accused of killing five people and injuring 17 more in the gay nightclub shooting, describe the 22-year-old in court documents as "nonbinary."

Brink expressed remorse for what his son is accused of doing, "There's no excuse for going and killing people. If you're killing people, there's something wrong. It's not the answer."

"I'm sorry for your loss," Brink said of the victims' families. "Life is so fragile and it's valuable. Those people's lives were valuable. You know, they're valuable. They're good people, probably. It's not something you kill somebody over. I'm sorry I let my son down."

"I love my son no matter what. I love my son," he added