

The Christchurch Mosque Shooting in the Words of a Young Muslim

The Christchurch mosque shooting attack was a cruel and cowardly act. It caused fifty-one deaths and forty-nine attempted murders. This act was the worst terrorist attack in New Zealand history. Brenton Tarrant executed his plan the 15th of March 2019, to try send terror to the Muslim community, New Zealand, and the world. This inhuman attack will be explained in this essay showing the horror, bravery, and the outcome of this attack. I wrote this essay as I'm a part of the New Zealand Muslim community that suffered through this attack. Losing a close family friend and my father being a survivor of this assault.

Brenton Tarrant planned his attack for more than two years, equipped with the required weapons and information. Sadly, no one knew how much hate stood inside as he walked through the streets of Christchurch. He had been seen in libraries, reading through Law books to find out the laws of New Zealand. How he had gotten his hands on the gun that he would use in this very attack was unknown, he modified all guns to be fully automatic. Brenton Tarrant had researched to find out when Muslims would have their weekly Friday prayer and where.

The Al noor Mosque was his best target to go for but he still had the Linwood mosque in mind, he spent a while finding out all the entrances, exits, and all the rooms. On the morning of the attack, he drove from Dunedin to make sure he would be there on time for the Friday prayer. Driving his way to the mosque as he started his live stream. While this tragic, cruel attack had begun with his first victims last words being, "Hello Brother." The victim did not know how much hate stood inside the man in front of him.

Bullets filled with hatred shot through Muslim worshippers, their bloody bodies dropped to the floor staining the prayer mats. While this was just the first wave of this attack, it sent panic through the whole mosque. Muslims running out not knowing what manslaughter was going on in a place they felt connected with God. Muslims hiding under dead bodies thinking this will be the last few moments on earth. Not knowing if they will ever see their family again and 51 never did make it out of that mosque alive. The shooter —inhuman, cruel, hateful— came in and out of the mosque three times to get new fully loaded guns to shoot at the already killed and the people who were hiding.

Mucad Ibrahim —young, happy, little— the youngest victim of this cruel attack, his clear white shirt, was not white anymore but stained with bright red blood. His joyful bright brown eyes, usually filled with happiness, were not bright but closed being rushed to the hospital. While ambulances rushed to the mosque, they could not take everyone. They could only take the ones that had a chance of survival as there were too many bodies.

This attack continued to a second mosque called Linwood Mosque. No one there had yet heard the tragic news that happened there, not knowing that they were next. Brenton Tarrant rushed to Linwood Mosque but he had known too much about this mosque and where the entrance was, so he shot through the windows killing four. Fortunately, Abdul Aziz, one of the Muslims in the Linwood Mosque had seen an empty gun on the floor. While Brenton Tarrant was distracted, he threw an ATM machine at the shooter and pointed the empty gun at him. The shooter didn't know it was empty, so he got inside his car and drove away like the coward he is. He was shortly found driving to a Muslim based kindergarten.

New Zealand stood with the Muslim community proudly, funding for the victim's family who were their main supporters. Another example of how New Zealand stood with the Muslim community is that Jacinda Ardern quickly made new gun laws making sure nothing like this would ever happen in New Zealand. Only a few weeks after almost ten thousand guns were traded in. Victims who had wished to bring family from other countries or go see their family in other countries were funded to be able to go. Many events and protests were made to help the victims family cope with this tragedy.

The Muslim community is now safer. For example, the Friday weekly prayer held at Al noor and Linwood Mosque was completely public and not guarded. The mosque also didn't have any surveillance inside or outside. This left the Mosque right in the open for anything to happen. Now there are usually two to four police outside the mosque before, during, and after the Friday weekly prayer. This made a huge difference for the Muslims safety and also made them feel more comfortable in the Mosque. Another example of why Muslims feel safer is that Brenton Tarrant has finally received the punishment he deserved. He got a life sentence without parole which is the longest sentence in New Zealand that was ever received. Justice was finally served for the victims of this cruel act.

This essay has displayed the fear, tremble, courage, and outcome; conveying the reality of this attack, describing the panic and blood to illustrate into your mind. Fifty-one might be dead but this will never change the connection that we have to Allah in those two mosques. Those fifty-one died in Allah's house and will be carried to heaven, without any judgement. I will end this essay with the same last words as those that were killed in the Mosques, 'La ilaha illallah muhammadur rasulullah'.

References

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