

# Attacks spark global horror

## Paris, France

Attacks on two mosques in New Zealand which left at least 49 people dead yesterday have sparked horror, revulsion and dismay around the world.

One of the gunmen – believed to be an Australian extremist

-- apparently livestreamed the deadly assault.

"It is clear that this can now only be described as a terrorist attack," said Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, describing it as "one of New Zealand's darkest days."

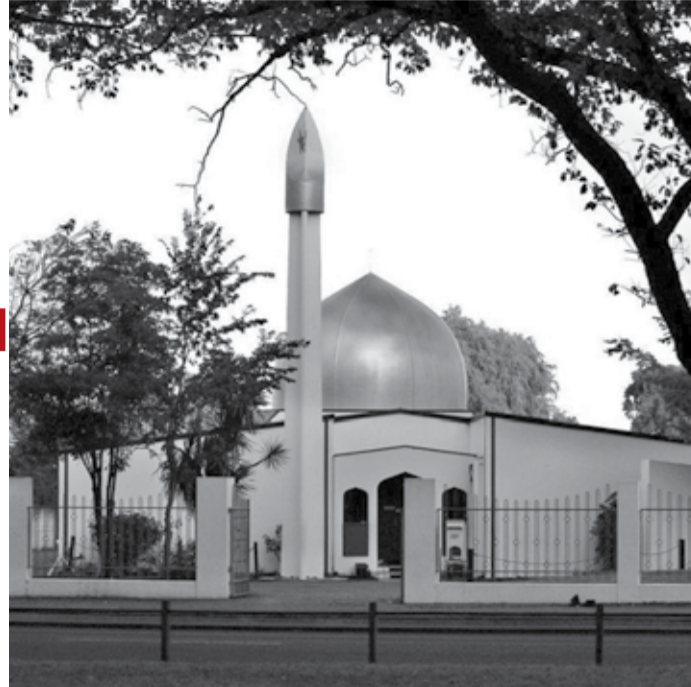
Here is a summary of the main international reactions so far.

## Muslims face 'mass killing'



**With this attack, hostility towards Islam that the world has been has been idly watching and even encouraging for some time, has gone beyond the boundaries of individual harassment to reach the level of mass killing. If measures are not taken right away, news of other disasters will follow this one... I am calling on the world, in particular the West, to take quick measures**

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN, TURKISH PRESIDENT



A view of the Al Noor Mosque on Deans Avenue in Christchurch, New Zealand (file)

## Survivors tell of terror

### Christchurch, New Zealand

Survivors of the Christchurch mosque shootings have recalled how elderly worshippers and children were mercilessly gunned down as a heavily armed attacker methodically targeted Muslims Friday in New Zealand's worst massacre.

Anwar Alsaleh was preparing for Friday prayers at the Masjid al Noor mosque in central Christchurch -- where 41 victims were killed -- when a gunman walked in.

Anwar hid in a bathroom and tried to call emergency services as shots rang out, telling stuff.co.nz he heard the gunman say an expletive about Muslims and "We're going to kill you today."

He said he heard people begging for their lives. "They shot them until they died," he said.

At least another seven people died at the Linwood Avenue mosque, about five kilometres away, where Syed Mazharuddin said a man wearing body armour and a helmet opened fire.

"Just around the entrance door there were elderly people sitting there praying and he just started shooting at them," he told the New Zealand Herald.

"There was a lady screaming and he shot her point blank in the face."

The attacker live-streamed the attack, with footage showing him firing repeatedly at worshippers as he moves from room to room.

Witnesses at the Masjid al Noor mosque said the shooter was a white male with maga-

zines of ammunition strapped to his legs.

One told Radio New Zealand the gunman was "very calm" during the rampage.

Mirwaiz, an Afghan refugee who did not want to provide his surname, said he came close to death when a bullet grazed his head.

"He started shooting at our side of the room and I lay down on the floor as a bullet grazed my head. A couple of centimetres lower and I would be dead," he told stuff.co.nz, saying he fled from the mosque while the gunman's attention was elsewhere.

Carl Pomare was driving past the Masjid al Noor with an employee when he saw people running from the mosque and falling to the ground.

"We managed to get her into the car of one of the people who was helping and got her to the hospital, she was critical," he told RNZ.

There were tales of heroism at the Linwood mosque too, where Syed Mazharuddin said a man wrestled a weapon off the attacker, who cut short his killing spree and ran to a waiting car.

"The young guy who usually takes care of the mosque ... he saw an opportunity and pounced on him (the gunman) and grabbed his gun," Mazharuddin said.

"This guy, the hero, tried to chase but he couldn't find the trigger in the gun... he ran behind him but there were people waiting for (the shooter) in the car and he fled."

## What happened?

During afternoon prayers on Friday -- Islam's holy day -- a gunman opened fire inside the Masjid al Noor mosque in central Christchurch, killing forty-one. Another seven were slain at a second mosque five kilometres away in suburban Linwood, three of them outside the building. It is unclear where the remaining victim died.

Witnesses said some victims were shot at close range, with a Palestinian man at one of the mosques saying he saw someone shot in the head.

He described shots fired in quick succession and scenes of panic as people started running out "covered in blood". Another said he saw his wife lying dead outside as he escaped, with one more saying he witnessed children being shot.

## What is known about the attacker?

He has not been officially named, but Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he was an Australian citizen, and described him as "an extremist, right-wing, violent terrorist".

He published a racist manifesto on Twitter before the shooting then livestreamed his rampage on Facebook. Entitled "The Great Replacement", the 74-page manifesto said the gunman -- who identified himself as an Australia-born, 28-year-old white male from a low-income, working-class family -- had wanted to attack Muslims.

## Bangladesh cricket team escapes

### Christchurch, New Zealand

Bangladesh's cricket team escaped unscathed after the deadly shooting.

Cricket Board spokesman Jalal Yunus said most of the team were bussed to the mosque in Christchurch and were about to go inside when the incident happened.

"They are safe. But they are mentally shocked. We have asked the team to stay confined in the hotel," he said.

## Worst attacks against civilians

2019  
JANUARY

A terror attack on a luxury hotel in the Kenyan capital Nairobi claims 14 lives. The attack was claimed by the Al-Qaeda-linked Somali group Al-Shabaab.

2018  
NOVEMBER

A 28-year-old former US Marine kills 12 people in a crowded California country music bar.

OCTOBER

A gunman opens fire at the Tree of Life synagogue in the northeastern city of Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018, killing 11 people. He reportedly yelled "All Jews must die!" during the attack.

FEBRUARY

A former student opens fire at a high school in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018, killing 15 people on the premises. Two others died in hospital.

2017  
DECEMBER

An Islamic State (IS) group gunman kills nine people in an attack on a church in a south Cairo suburb.

NOVEMBER

A gunman opens fire with an assault rifle during a Sunday morning church service in the rural Texan community of Sutherland Springs on November 5, 2017, killing 26 people and wounding 20.

OCTOBER

A heavily armed "lone wolf" gunman opens fire from a 32-floor hotel room on an open-air concert on the Las Vegas Strip. He kills 58 people before turning the gun on himself. Around 500 are wounded. The IS group claims the gunman but the FBI says it finds no such connection.

AUGUST

A 22-year-old Moroccan man mows down pedestrians with a van on Barcelona's most famous street, Las Ramblas, killing 14 people. The IS group says its "soldiers" carried out the attack.

JUNE

A van rams into a crowd on London Bridge in the British capital and three assailants attack passers-by. Eight people are killed and around 50 wounded.

MAY

A bombing at a pop concert by US star Ariana Grande in the British city of Manchester kills 22 people, including children. Islamist extremists again claim responsibility.

APRIL

A truck ploughs into shoppers outside a busy department store in central Stockholm, killing five people.

- Two churches are bombed on Palm Sunday in Egypt, killing 45 people. The IS group claims responsibility and says both were suicide attacks.

MARCH

- Five people die when a man rams his car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge in London and then fatally stabs a police officer outside parliament.

JANUARY

- A 29-year-old shoots dead 6 worshippers at a Quebec City mosque.



## 'Do the necessary'

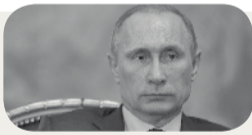
**I hope New Zealand will arrest these terrorists and do the necessary under the law of the country**

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR MOHAMAD



**We strongly condemn these kind of violent acts**

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO



## Cruel, cynical attack

**An attack against peaceful people gathering for prayer is shocking in its cruelty and cynicism**

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN



## Sickening violence

**My thoughts are with all of those affected by this sickening act of violence**

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY



## Racist hatred

**We stand together against such acts of terrorism**

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL



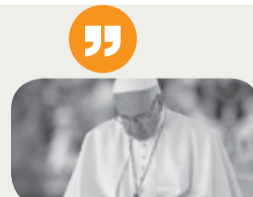
**France stands against any form of extremism**

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON



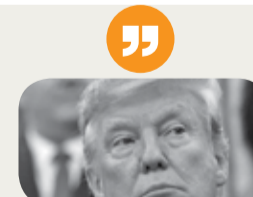
**The brutal attack... will never diminish the tolerance and decency that New Zealand is famous for**

EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT DONALD TUSK



**Deeply saddened to learn of the injury and loss of life caused by the senseless acts of violence. I assures all New Zealanders, and in particular the Muslim community, heartfelt solidarity**

POPE FRANCIS



**My warmest sympathy and best wishes goes out to the people of New Zealand after the horrible massacre in the Mosques. The US stands by New Zealand for anything we can do. God bless all!**

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP