

TRUMP TAKES 2 HOURS TO CALL VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER TERRORISM IN BARCELONA, STILL WON'T IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

At around 6PM Barcelona time (12 PM ET), a van drove into pedestrians on Barcelona's Ramblas walkway. Authorities recently announced that 13 people were killed and at least 50 others wounded. ~~Police have arrested Driss Oukabir, a Moroccan immigrant (see update).~~

At precisely 2PM ET, just two hours after the attack, Trump called it terrorism.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

The United States condemns the terror attack in Barcelona, Spain, and will do whatever is necessary to help. Be tough & strong, we love you!

2:00pm · 17 Aug 2017 · Twitter for iPhone

Here's what Trump has tweeted about the vehicular manslaughter attack in Charlottesville on Saturday.

At 1:19PM Trump said we must unite.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

We ALL must be united & condemn all that hate stands for. There is no place for this kind of violence in America. Lets come together as one!

1:19pm · 12 Aug 2017 · Twitter for iPhone

At 1:42 Nazi James Alex Fields Jr drove his car into Heather Heyer and other counterprotestors, killing Heyers and injuring at least 19 others.

It wasn't until 3:33 when Trump made a statement, condemning violence "on many sides."

[W]e're closely following the terrible events unfolding in Charlottesville, Virginia. We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence, on many sides. On many sides. It's been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump, not Barack Obama. This has been going on for a long, long time.

It has no place in America. What is vital now is a swift restoration of law and order and the protection of innocent lives. No citizen should ever fear for their safety and security in our society, and no child should ever be afraid to go outside and play, or be with their parents, and have a good time.

I just got off the phone with the Governor of Virginia, Terry McAuliffe, and we agreed that the hate and the division must stop, and must stop right now. We have to come together as Americans with love for our nation and true affection – really – and I say this so strongly – true affection for each other.

Our country is doing very well in so

many ways. We have record – just absolute record employment. We have unemployment, the lowest it's been in almost 17 years. We have companies pouring into our country. Foxconn and car companies, and so many others, they're coming back to our country. We're renegotiating trade deals to make them great for our country and great for the American worker. We have so many incredible things happening in our country. So when I watch Charlottesville, to me it's very, very sad.

I want to salute the great work of the state and local police in Virginia – incredible people – law enforcement, incredible people – and also the National Guard. They've really been working smart and working hard. They've been doing a terrific job. The federal authorities are also providing tremendous support to the governor. He thanked me for that. And we are here to provide whatever other assistance is needed. We are ready, willing, and able.

Above all else, we must remember this truth: No matter our color, creed, religion or political party, we are all Americans first. We love our country. We love our God. We love our flag. We're proud of our country. We're proud of who we are. So we want to get the situation straightened out in Charlottesville, and we want to study it. And we want to see what we're doing wrong as a country, where things like this can happen.

My administration is restoring the sacred bonds of loyalty between this nation and its citizens, but our citizens must also restore the bonds of trust and loyalty between one another.

We must love each other, respect each other, and cherish our history and our future together. So important. We have to respect each other. Ideally, we have to love each other.

He then posted several tweets of video from his stilted speech, invoking the racist Americans First pledge.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

We must remember this truth: No matter our color, creed, religion or political party, we are ALL AMERICANS FIRST.



5:19pm · 12 Aug 2017 · Media Studio

He eventually got around to offering condolences to Heather Heyer's family that night, though not by name, and offered "best regards" to "all of those injured."



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

Condolences to the family of the young woman killed today, and best regards to all of those injured, in Charlottesville, Virginia. So sad!

7:25pm · 12 Aug 2017 · Twitter for iPhone

Trump finally made some more appropriate prepared comments on Monday, calling out the KKK, neo-Nazis, and white supremacists

specifically (though also mentioning “other hate groups”).

As I said on Saturday, we condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence. It has no place in America.

And as I have said many times before: No matter the color of our skin, we all live under the same laws, we all salute the same great flag, and we are all made by the same almighty God. We must love each other, show affection for each other, and unite together in condemnation of hatred, bigotry, and violence. We must rediscover the bonds of love and loyalty that bring us together as Americans.

Racism is evil. And those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans.

We are a nation founded on the truth that all of us are created equal. We are equal in the eyes of our Creator. We are equal under the law. And we are equal under our Constitution. Those who spread violence in the name of bigotry strike at the very core of America.

Two days ago, a young American woman, Heather Heyer, was tragically killed. Her death fills us with grief, and we send her family our thoughts, our prayers, and our love.

We also mourn the two Virginia state troopers who died in service to their community, their commonwealth, and their country. Troopers Jay Cullen and Burke Bates exemplify the very best of America, and our hearts go out to their families, their friends, and every member of American law enforcement.

These three fallen Americans embody the goodness and decency of our nation. In times such as these, America has always shown its true character: responding to hate with love, division with unity, and violence with an unwavering resolve for justice.

As a candidate, I promised to restore law and order to our country, and our federal law enforcement agencies are following through on that pledge. We will spare no resource in fighting so that every American child can grow up free from violence and fear. We will defend and protect the sacred rights of all Americans, and we will work together so that every citizen in this blessed land is free to follow their dreams in their hearts, and to express the love and joy in their souls.

Just hours later, he bitched that the media didn't celebrate his belated, halfhearted statement.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

Made additional remarks on Charlottesville and realize once again that the **#Fake News Media** will never be satisfied...truly bad people!

6:29pm · 14 Aug 2017 · Twitter for iPhone

Wednesday, he finally got around to naming Heyer on Twitter.



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

Memorial service today for beautiful and incredible Heather Heyer, a truly special young woman. She will be long remembered by all!

10:58am · 16 Aug 2017 · Twitter for iPhone

He of course then made off the cuff comments at an announcement on infrastructure. After explaining the delay in condemning white supremacists because he wanted to wait until he had the facts, he refused to call the attack terrorism.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know David Duke was there. I wanted to see the facts. And the facts, as they started coming out, were very well stated. In fact, everybody said, "His statement was beautiful. If he would have made it sooner, that would have been good." I couldn't have made it sooner because I didn't know all of the facts. Frankly, people still don't know all of the facts.

It was very important – excuse me, excuse me – it was very important to me to get the facts out and correctly. Because if I would have made a fast statement – and the first statement was made without knowing much, other than what we were seeing. The second statement was made after, with knowledge, with great knowledge. There are still things – excuse me – there are still things that people don't know.

I want to make a statement with knowledge. I wanted to know the facts.

Q Two questions. Was this terrorism? And can you tell us how you're feeling about your chief strategist, Stephen Bannon?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the driver of the car is a disgrace to himself, his family, and this country. And that is – you can call it terrorism. You can call it murder. You can call it whatever you want. I would just call it as “the fastest one to come up with a good verdict.” That’s what I’d call it. Because there is a question: Is it murder? Is it terrorism? And then you get into legal semantics. The driver of the car is a murderer. And what he did was a horrible, horrible, inexcusable thing.

He went on to complain that the press had treated some “fine people” protesting alongside Nazis unfairly.

THE PRESIDENT: So you know what, it’s fine. You’re changing history. You’re changing culture. And you had people – and I’m not talking about the neo-Nazis and the white nationalists – because they should be condemned totally. But you had many people in that group other than neo-Nazis and white nationalists. Okay? And the press has treated them absolutely unfairly.

Now, in the other group also, you had some fine people. But you also had troublemakers, and you see them come with the black outfits and with the helmets, and with the baseball bats. You had a lot of bad people in the other group.

Then, this morning, in response to Lindsey Graham’s (among others) criticism of those comments, Trump lashed out.



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump 8h

...and people like Ms. Heyer. Such a disgusting lie. He just can't forget his election trouncing. The people of South Carolina will remember!



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump 8h

Publicity seeking Lindsey Graham falsely stated that I said there is moral equivalency between the KKK, neo-Nazis & white supremacists.....



As of this moment, Trump still hasn't called the terrorist attack in Charlottesville a terrorist attack (to say nothing of mentioning the attack on a Minnesota mosque last week).

Update: According to later reports Oukabir voluntarily went to the authorities and reported his documents had been stolen.