

# A divided Senate answers Orlando with gridlock on gun restrictions

By ALAN FRAM AND MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided Senate blocked rival election-year plans to curb guns Monday, eight days after the horror of Orlando's mass shooting intensified pressure on lawmakers to act but knotted them in gridlock anyway — even over restricting firearms for terrorists.

In largely party-line votes, senators rejected one proposal from each side to keep extremists from acquiring guns and a second shoring up the government's system of required background checks for many firearms purchases.

With the chamber's visitors' galleries unusually crowded for a Monday evening — including relatives of victims of past mass shootings and people wearing orange T-shirts saying #ENOUGH gun violence — each measure fell short of the 60 votes needed to progress. Democrats called the GOP proposals unacceptably weak while Republicans said the Democratic plans were too restrictive.

The stalemate underscored the pressure on each party to stand firm on the emotional gun issue going into November's presidential and congressional elections. It also highlighted the potency of the National Rifle Association, which urged its huge and fiercely loyal membership to lobby senators to oppose the Democratic bills.

"Republicans say, 'Hey look, we tried,'" said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "And all the time, their cheerleaders, the bosses at the NRA, are cheering them."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the Orlando shootings — in which the FBI says the American-born gunman swore allegiance to a Islamic

## Guns of mass shootings

The gunman in the Orlando nightclub shooting used an assault rifle and a handgun. A look at guns used in other attacks:

	ASSAULT RIFLE	HANDGUN/OTHER
<b>Feb. 25, 2016</b> Hesston, Kansas	AK-47 semi-automatic	Glock
<b>Feb. 20, 2016</b> Kalamazo, Michigan		Semi-automatic handguns
<b>Dec. 2, 2015</b> San Bernardino, California	DPMS Smith & Wesson	Llama Possibly a Springfield Armory
<b>Oct. 1, 2015</b> Rosenburg, Oregon	Del-Ton	Glock Taurus Smith & Wesson
<b>June 17, 2015</b> Charleston, South Carolina		Glock pistol
<b>May 23, 2014</b> Santa Barbara, California		Sig Sauer Glock pistols
<b>Sept. 16, 2013</b> Washington Navy Yard		Remington shotgun
<b>Dec. 14, 2012</b> Newtown, Connecticut	Bushmaster rifle	Sig Sauer Glock

SOURCE: News reports

AP

State group leader — show the best way to prevent extremists' attacks here is to defeat them overseas.

"No one wants terrorists to be able to buy guns," McConnell said. He suggested that Democrats used the day's votes "to push a partisan agenda or craft the next 30-second campaign ad."

That Monday's four roll-call votes occurred at all was testament to the political currents buffeting lawmakers after gunman Omar Mateen's June 12 attack on a gay nightclub. The 49 victims who died made it the largest

mass shooting in recent U.S. history, topping a string of such incidents that have punctuated recent years.

The FBI said Mateen — a focus of two terror investigations that were dropped — described himself as an Islamic soldier in a 911 call during the shootings. That let gun control advocates add national security and the specter of terrorism to their arguments for firearms curbs.

After the votes, presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton issued a one-word statement, "Enough," followed by the

## Orlando gunman said he was Islamic soldier

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Orlando gunman Omar Mateen identified himself as an Islamic soldier in calls with authorities during his rampage and warned a crisis negotiator that in coming days "you're going to see more of this type of action going on," according to transcripts released by the FBI on Monday.

The partial transcripts were of a 911 call made by Mateen and three conversations he had with the police crisis negotiators during the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, in which 49 people died and dozens were wounded.

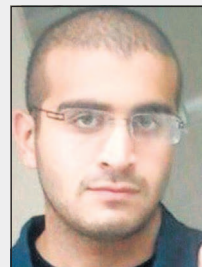
Those communications, along with Facebook posts and searches Mateen made around the time of the shootings, add to the public understanding of the final hours of Mateen's life and to the possible motivations behind the rampage.

The first call came more than a half-hour after shots rang out, when Mateen told a 911 operator, "Praise be to God, and prayers as well as peace be upon the prophet of God," he told the dispatcher, referring to God in Arabic.

"I let you know, I'm in Orlando and I did the shootings."

During the 50-second call with a dispatcher, Mateen "made murderous statements in a 'chilling, calm and deliberate manner,'" Ronald Hopper, FBI assistant special agent in charge in Orlando, said during a news conference.

However, there is no evidence Mateen was directed by a foreign terrorist group, and he was radicalized domestically and on his own, Hopper said.



Mateen

vote on her plan, and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said that according to McConnell, if Collins wants a vote on her proposal, "She'll get one."

Monday's votes came after Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., led a near 15-hour filibuster last week demanding a Senate response to the Orlando killings. Murphy entered the Senate shortly after the December 2012 massacre of 20 first-graders and six educators in Newtown, Connecticut, but that slaughter and others have failed to spur Congress to tighten gun curbs. The last were enacted in 2007, when the background check system was strengthened after that year's mass shooting at Virginia Tech.

With Mateen's professed loyalty to extremist groups and his 10-month inclusion on a federal terrorism watch list, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., proposed letting the government block many gun sales to known or suspected terrorists. People buying firearms from federally licensed gun dealers can currently be denied for several reasons, chiefly for serious crimes or mental problems, but there is no specific prohibition for those on the terrorist watch list.

That list currently contains around 1 million people — including fewer than 5,000 Americans or legal permanent residents, according to the latest government figures. The narrower no-fly list has just 81,000 names.

No background checks are required for anyone buying guns privately online or at gun shows.

The GOP response to Feinstein was an NRA-backed plan by Cornyn. It would let the government deny a sale to a known or suspected terrorist — but only if prosecutors could convince a judge within three days that the would-be buyer was involved in terrorism.

names and ages of Orlando's victims.

On Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor," expected GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump said he "absolutely" agrees that people on the government's terror watch list should be barred from owning guns. He did not say if he supported the Republican or Democratic versions of bills rejected Monday.

Only a handful of lawmakers changed positions from votes cast last December on similar proposals, highlighting each party's enduring stances on guns. And there's little sign that the House's GOP leaders will allow votes.

Even so, GOP senators facing re-election this fall in swing states were under extraordinary pressure.

One vulnerable Republican, New Hampshire's Sen. Kelly Ayotte, backed both bills blocking gun sales to terrorists, a switch from when she joined most Republicans in killing a similar Democratic plan last December. She expressed support for a narrower bipartisan plan, like one being crafted by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Collins was trying to fashion a bipartisan bill preventing people on the government's no-fly list from getting guns. She expressed optimism the Senate would

## Trump fires his campaign manager in dramatic shake-up

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump abruptly fired campaign manager Corey Lewandowski on Monday in a dramatic shake-up designed to calm panicked Republican leaders and end an internal power struggle plaguing the billionaire businessman's White House bid.

In dismissing his longtime campaign chief — just a month before the party's national convention — Trump signaled, at least for a day, a departure from the seat-of-the-pants style that has fueled his unlikely rise in Republican politics. Perhaps more than anyone else in Trump's inner circle, the ousted aide has preached a simple mantra: "Let Trump be Trump."

"I have no regrets," Lewandowski told CNN just hours after he was escorted out of Trump's Manhattan campaign headquarters. Still, the former conservative activist seemed to acknowledge the limitations of his approach, which has sparked widespread concern among the GOP's top donors, operatives, elected officials, and even some of Trump's family members.

"The campaign needs to continue to grow to be successful," he said.

Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, described Lewandowski as a "good man" who helped "a small, beautiful, well-united campaign" during the primary season.

"I think it's time now for a different kind of a campaign," Trump said on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor."

People close to Trump, including adult children Ivanka, Eric and Donald Jr., had long-simmering concerns about Lewandowski, who had limited experience on the national scale before becoming Trump's campaign

leader. Like many Republican officials, Trump's family urged the billionaire businessman to professionalize a bare-bones campaign that had previously resisted adding staff and paid advertising heading into the general election.

A person close to Trump said Lewandowski was forced out largely because of the campaign's worsening relationship with the Republican National Committee, donors and GOP officials, who have increasingly criticized the candidate's message and campaign infrastructure in recent weeks. That person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss internal deliberations.

While Trump dismissed his critics publicly, he has been privately concerned that so many party leaders — House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell among them — have been reluctant to support him, the person said. Trump at least partially blamed Lewandowski.

Yet in his response Monday evening, Trump left little indication that he was prepared to abandon his divisive rhetoric.

He repeatedly called Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren "Pocahontas" in the Fox interview. He also said "facts" suggest President Barack Obama sympathizes with Muslim terrorists.

"Firing your campaign manager in June is never a good thing," said veteran Republican operative Kevin Madden. "The campaign will have to show dramatic changes immediately on everything from fundraising and organizing to candidate performance and discipline in order to demonstrate there's been a course correction. Otherwise it's just cosmetics."

## UN urges solutions as refugee population hits record

GENEVA (AP) — Imagine the entire population of France uprooted from their homes, forced to flee danger, persecution or starvation. The U.N. refugee agency says more people than that — 65 million — were displaced worldwide at the end of last year, easily setting a new postwar record.

And it warned that European and other rich nations can expect the flow to continue if root causes aren't addressed.

After a year when more than a million people arrived on European shores, UNHCR said Monday — World Refugee Day — that continued conflicts and persecution in places like Syria and Afghanistan fueled a nearly 10-percent increase in the total number of refugees and internally displaced people in 2015.

"I hope that the message carried by those forcibly displaced reaches the leaders: We need action, political action, to stop conflicts," said Filippo Grandi, the



AP Photo/Francisco Seco

People hold banners that read in Spanish: "Mediterranean Mass Grave" and "EU Kills" during a protest in solidarity with refugees entering in Europe and marking the World Refugee Day at the Retiro park in Madrid on Monday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. "The message that they have carried is: 'If you don't solve problems, problems will come to you.'"

The Geneva-based agency's latest Global Trends Report shows that for the first time since World War II, the 60-million mark was crossed.

"If these 65.3 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 21st largest

in the world," the report said.

In stark detail, UNHCR said that, on average, 24 people had been displaced every minute last year — or 34,000 people a day — up from 6 every minute in

2005. The total number of displaced people has roughly doubled since 1997, and risen by 50 percent since 2011 alone, when the Syria war began.

About 11.5 million people from Syria have fled their homes: 6.6 million remaining within the war-ravaged country and 4.9 million moving abroad. At the end of last year, more than half of all refugees were from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia. More than half of all displaced people were children, UNCHR said.

Turkey was the top host country for the second year running, with 2.5 million refugees — nearly all from neighboring Syria. Afghanistan's neighbor Pakistan had 1.6 million, while Lebanon, next to Syria, hosted 1.1 million.

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