

Suspect in Maryland newspaper rampage charged with murder

By BRIAN WITTE
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A man with a long grudge against Maryland's capital-city newspaper was charged today with five counts of first-degree murder after police said he blasted his way into the newsroom with a pump-action shotgun in an attack that left four journalists and a sales employee dead.

Jarrod W. Ramos, 38, was swiftly arrested as he tried to hide under a desk Thursday afternoon at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, police said. In court papers, authorities described him as "recalcitrant."

It was one of the deadliest attacks



The victims of the shooting at the Capital Gazette, from left: John McNamara, Wendi Winters, Rob Hiaasen, Gerald Fischman and Rebecca Smith.

on journalists in U.S. history.

"The fellow was there to kill as many people as he could," Anne Arundel County Chief Timothy Altomare said today.

Ramos had a well-documented

history of harassing the paper's journalists, a feud that apparently began over a column about Ramos pleading guilty to harassing a woman. He filed a defamation suit against the paper in 2012 that was thrown out as ground-

less, and he often railed against its staff members in profanity-laced tweets.

Police said surveillance video recorded the attack, which began with a shotgun blast that shattered the glass entrance to the open newsroom.

Journalists crawled under desks and sought other hiding places, describing agonizing minutes of terror as they heard his footsteps and the repeated blasts of the weapon.

Officers responded in about 60 seconds and arrested him without firing a shot, police said. They recovered a gun and said he also carried smoke grenades. Some 300 local, state and federal officers converged on the

scene, Altomare said.

The "bad guy" was identified quickly with help of facial recognition technology from the Maryland Image Repository System, Altomare said, refusing to give him the satisfaction of identifying him by name. He also confirmed that the weapon was a pump-action shotgun, legally purchased about a year ago.

The rampage immediately stirred fears that the recent political attacks on the "fake news media" and the branding of reporters as "enemies of the people" had finally exploded into violence. But by all accounts, Ramos had a longstanding, specific grievance against the paper.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Family separations spark protests in Portland, around nation

PORTLAND — Immigrants who have spent years fighting to change the country's immigration system are getting newfound support from liberal activists, moms and first-time protesters motivated by a visceral narrative: President Donald Trump's administration separating children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Groups that pulled off massive women's marches the past two years and other left-leaning rallies are throwing their weight behind migrant families Saturday. More than 600 marches could draw hundreds of thousands of people nationwide, from immigrant-friendly cities like Los Angeles and New York City to conservative Appalachia and Wyoming.

Though many are seasoned anti-Trump demonstrators, others are new to immigration activism, including parents who say they feel compelled to show up after heart-wrenching accounts of children forcibly taken from their families as they crossed the border illegally.

In Portland, for example, several stay-at-home moms are organizing their first rally while caring for young kids.

"I'm not a radical, and I'm not an activist," said Kate Sharaf, a co-organizer in Portland's event. "I just reached a point where I felt I had to do more."

She and her co-organizers are undaunted after nearly 600 women wearing white and railing against the now-abandoned separation policy were arrested Thursday in Washington, D.C. With demonstrations emerging nationwide, immigrant advocacy groups say they're thrilled — and surprised — to see the issue gaining traction among those not tied to immigration.

In Portland, Sharaf and other mothers are working to organize a march expected to attract 5,000 people

— all while they change diapers, nurse babies and prepare snacks. They have marched for women's rights but have never spearheaded a political rally.

European Union moves on migrant plans, while 100 reported missing at sea

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders drew up new plans today to screen migrants in North Africa for eligibility to enter Europe, saying they set aside major differences over stemming the flow of people seeking sanctuary or better lives. But the show of unity did little to hide the fact that the hardest work still lies ahead.

Even as they met in Brussels for a second day, Libya's coast guard said about 100 people were missing and feared dead after their boat capsized in the Mediterranean.

The leaders agreed on a "new approach" to manage those rescued at sea, just as bickering over who should take responsibility for them undermines unity and threatens cross-border business and travel in Europe.

Italy, Greece and Spain bear responsibility for accepting most of the migrants and have felt abandoned by their EU partners. Italy, with a new anti-European government, has refused to take charge of people rescued at sea in recent weeks, sparking a diplomatic row with France and Malta. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition partner is demanding she take a tougher line on migrants, undermining her leadership.

The new plan is to receive people from rescue ships in EU nations that agree to share responsibility for handing migration with the EU's main point-of-entry countries like Spain, Italy and Greece. But they also will receive them in centers in North Africa and possibly the Balkans.

New Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, whose populist government has rocked the EU's political landscape, said: "On the whole, we can say we are satisfied. Italy is no longer alone, as we requested."



Red Huber/Orlando Sentinel
A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches just before dawn today at Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

SpaceX launches AI robot, strong coffee for station crew

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A SpaceX rocket that flew just two months ago with a NASA satellite roared back into action today, launching the first orbiting robot with artificial intelligence and other station supplies.

The used Falcon rocket blasted off before dawn, hauling nearly 6,000 pounds of cargo including the spherical AI bot named Cimon, genetically identical mice and super-caffeinated coffee for the crew of the International Space Station.

The shipment — packed into a Dragon capsule that's also recycled — should reach the station Monday.

It was an especially gorgeous launch, delighting spectators as the rocket plume expanded in the clear night sky like a giant halo beneath a nearly full moon and a gleaming Mars.

SpaceX's Jessica Jensen described the high-altitude plume, illuminated against the dark sky, as "the space jellyfish that's coming down after us."

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