

Police: Truck attack suspect cited ISIS, plotted for weeks

NEW YORK (AP) — The Uzbek immigrant accused of mowing people down along a bike path went on the deadly rental-truck rampage "in the name of ISIS" and planned it for weeks, closely following the extremist group's online instructions, police said Wednesday.

Investigators, meanwhile, questioned Sayfullo Saipov in his hospital bed, working to extract information about the attack that killed eight people Tuesday near the World Trade Center memorial. Saipov, 29, was shot by a police officer after jumping from his Home Depot pickup.

He left behind knives and notes, handwritten in Arabic, that said in essence that the Islamic State group, or ISIS, "would endure forever," said John Miller, deputy police commissioner for intelligence.



Sayfullo Saipov

"He did this in the name of ISIS" and seems to have plotted it "for a number of weeks," Miller said. "He appears to have followed, almost exactly to a T, the instructions that ISIS has put out."

Miller said would not give any details on Saipov's preparations for the attack other than to say that he conducted reconnaissance.

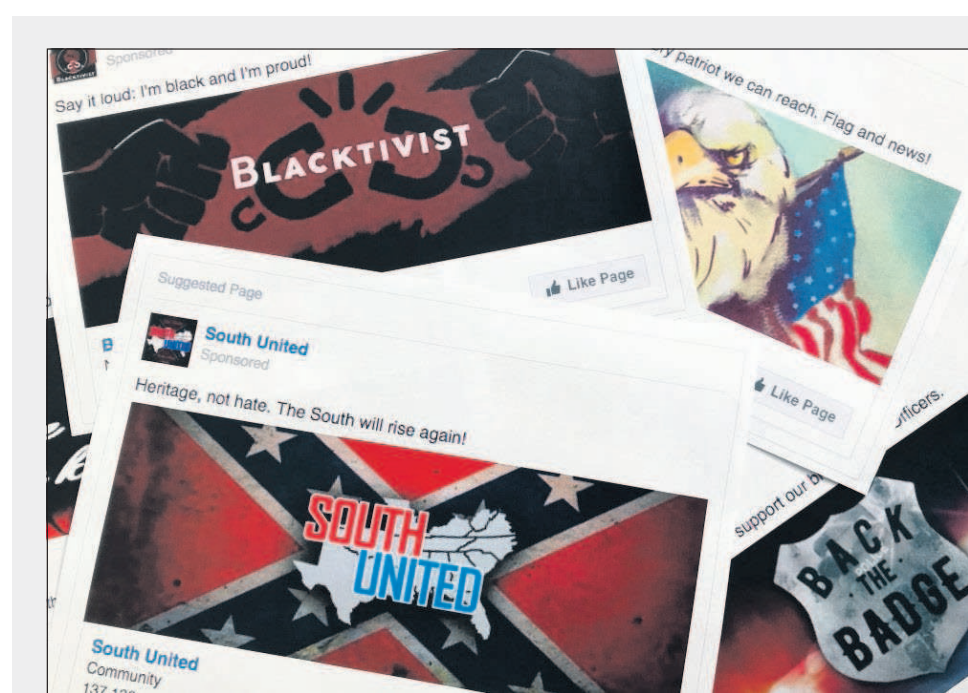
In the past few years, the Islamic State has exhorted followers online to use vehicles, knives or other close-at-hand means of killing people in their home countries. England, France and Germany have all seen deadly vehicle attacks since mid-2016.

A November 2016 issue of the group's online magazine detailed features that an attack truck or van should have, suggested renting such a vehicle and recommended targeting crowded streets and outdoor gatherings, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, a militant-monitoring agency.

Carlos Batista, a neighbor of Saipov's in Paterson, New Jersey, said he had seen the suspect and two friends using the same model of rented truck several times in the past three weeks.

It was not clear whether Saipov had been on authorities' radar. Miller said Saipov had never been the subject of a criminal investigation but appears to have links to people who have been investigated.

In Tuesday's attack, Saipov drove his speeding truck for nearly a mile along a bike path, running down cyclists and pedestrians, then crashed into a school bus, authorities said. He was shot in the abdomen after he



AP Photo/Jon Elswick

Some of the Facebook ads linked to a Russian effort to disrupt the American political process and stir up tensions around divisive social issues, released by members of the U.S. House Intelligence committee.

Lawmakers release Russia-linked Facebook ads

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers on Wednesday released a trove of Facebook ads linked to a Russian effort to disrupt the American political process and whip up tensions around sensitive social issues such as Islam, race and gun control.

The ads were released as representatives from Facebook, Google and Twitter faced criticism on Capitol Hill about why they hadn't done more to combat Russian interference on their sites.

The few dozen ads, a small sampling of the roughly 3,000 Russian-connected ones that Facebook has identified and turned over to Congress, underscore how foreign agents sought to sow discord among Americans through social media messages on hot-button political topics. U.S. intelligence services say the Russian use of social media was part of a broad-scale effort to sway the 2016 presidential election in favor of Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Many of the ads disclosed Wednesday appear aimed at creating confusion and

anger among Facebook users, encouraging them in some cases to attend rallies in support of or against a political cause and using real news stories as a basis for attacks against political candidates.

One advertisement cited a real October 2016 news story — about a gunman's battle with Boston police officers — then used it to attack Democrat Hillary Clinton as "the main hardliner against cops" and promote Trump as the candidate who can "defend the police from terrorists."

Some 34,000 Trump supporters were shown an ad calling for Clinton's removal from the ballot, citing "dynastic succession of the Clinton family" as a breach of core principles laid out by the Founding Fathers. Clicking on it took Facebook users to a petition at WhiteHouse.gov. Another, seen by more than 15,000 people and getting some 1,300 clicks, equated Clinton with President Barack Obama's "anti-police and anti-constitutional propaganda."

jumped out of the vehicle brandishing two air guns, one in each hand, and yelling "God is great!" in Arabic, they said.

Trump demands 'much tougher' immigration law after NY attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roused by the first major ISIS-inspired attack on U.S. soil since he took office, President Donald Trump urged swift repeal of an immigration

program that brought the suspect to America and laid into a political foe he said was responsible for it — though Republican George H. W. Bush signed the law.

Trump insisted Wednesday that Congress must end the visa lottery program under which Uzbek immigrant Sayfullo Saipov entered the country, and he ordered still tighter scrutiny of immigrants already subject to what he calls "extreme vetting." But the White House offered no indication of what new steps the president might be planning.

"We have to get much tougher, much

smarter, and less politically correct," Trump said. He also said the U.S. justice system for dealing with such cases must be strengthened, declaring, "What we have right now is a joke and it's a laughingstock." Again, there was no elaboration from the White House.

Trump denounced the 29-year-old suspect in the truck attack, which killed eight and injured many more, as an "animal," and said he was open to sending the man to the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, instead of to trial in New York. "I would certainly consider that. Send him to Gitmo," Trump said.

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the White House considered Saipov an "enemy combatant" and had yet to decide whether to seek to move him out of the civilian judicial system to military detention.

House GOP to keep income tax rate for top earners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Furiously working to finish a tax bill, House Republicans have decided to keep the income tax rate for the wealthiest earners in the face of Democratic criticism that the overhaul pushed by President Donald Trump would benefit the rich.

Trump and the GOP consider a revamp of the nation's tax code, the first in three decades, a legislative and political imperative after the collapse this past summer of Republican attempt to repeal Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. Republicans insist they must deliver on taxes to keep their congressional majorities in next year's midterm elections.

Health care was clearly a consideration in Trump's tweet Wednesday morning as he suggested repealing the requirement that Americans get health insurance or face a tax penalty.

Russia probe snags GOP, Democratic interests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The indictment that alleges covert foreign lobbying by two former Trump campaign officials is casting shadows on three powerful Washington lobbying and legal firms, with Democratic as well as Republican ties.

The focus on those firms is broadening the stakes of the Russia investigation and drawing in the brother of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.

The Podesta Group, founded by Washington powerbroker Tony Podesta, was among the three firms cited by pseudonym or other references in the indictment. None is charged with a crime.

Prosecutors are implicating all three in covert work for pro-Russian Ukrainian interests, the heart of the criminal case against former Trump campaign officials Paul Manafort and Rick Gates.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

Table with 24 columns (12 PM to 11:30 PM) and 18 rows of TV channels and programs.

NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Table with 24 columns (12 PM to 11:30 PM) and 38 rows of TV channels and programs.

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT & FRIDAY MORNING

Table with 24 columns (12 AM to 11:30 PM) and 10 rows of TV channels and programs.