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FBI Will Investigate San Bernardino Shootings as Terrorist Act



FBI Director James Comey and Attorney General Loretta Lynch speak to reporters about this week's mass shooting in San Bernardino, California during a press availability held December 4, 2015 at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. | [High-res image](#)

The FBI announced today that it is assuming a leadership role in the investigation into the mass shooting that occurred earlier this week in San Bernardino, California, and that the attack that killed 14 people and injured 21 others has been deemed an act of terrorism.

"This is now a federal terrorism investigation, led by the FBI," said Director James Comey, speaking to reporters at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He was joined by Attorney General Loretta Lynch. "The reason for that," Comey said, "is that the investigation so far has developed indications of radicalization by the killers and of the potential inspiration by foreign terrorist organizations." The Bureau's work, however, continues in close cooperation with our federal, state, and local partners.

Comey cautioned that it is early in the investigation, "but so far, there is no indication that these killers are part of an organized larger group." He added that hundreds of FBI personnel are following leads all over the world. "We are trying to understand the motives of these killers and trying to understand every detail of their lives."

The FBI is in possession of a large volume of electronic evidence that belonged to the husband and wife shooters, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik. Comey said the couple tried to conceal and destroy electronic evidence before they were killed in a shootout with police Wednesday.

Comey assured the public that the FBI is working as fast as it can to find answers. "We aspire to do it quickly," he said, "but we most of all aspire to do it well and do it carefully."

"Our hearts continue to ache for the people lost and wounded in San Bernardino and their families," Comey said, echoing Lynch's earlier sentiments to keep the victims and their families "in our prayers."

- [Remarks by Attorney General Lynch and Director Comey](#)
- [FBI, This Week podcast: Director Comey Speaks on San Bernardino Investigation](#)

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