Colorado shooter is a terrorist

VANESSA LIUIS
Editor-in-chief

Earlier this week a clinic was attacked in a shooter’s attempt to impose his radical religious views. You may be thinking, “Wow, another attack on innocent people by Muslim extremists,” but you would be dead wrong.

The shooter, whom I refuse to name, is a white, American, Christian male. He shot 12 people and killed three at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colo. The victims of the attack are police officers, a mother of two children, and an Iraq War veteran.

If this were a man of color we would call him a thug or an extremist, a terrorist or a monster; if he were a man of color he would have been shot on sight, particularly after killing an officer of the law. Instead, white men who decide to take the lives of innocent people are deemed as “mentally ill”; instead, after a five-hour shootout, this man was taken alive and arrived at his court hearing in a bullet-proof vest.

Now, I am here to tell you that this needs to stop. Call him what he is. He is a monster, an extremist, a terrorist.

The shooter reportedly said “no more baby parts” after the shooting and expressed anti-abortion and anti-government views. This rhetoric, you may realize, is often expressed by Christian conservatives.

Why are we not calling on moderate Christians to correct their religious extremists? Why are we not blaming the Christian religion?

Because it is not the religion of Adolf Hitler during his reign.

Opposition editor

After last month’s terror attacks in Europe tensions have grown high, with some even speculating about the beginning of the next world war. But here in America the rhetoric that is surrounding us on every news station sounds like we are back in the midst of World War II. We are refusing to take in refugees and have politicians who are almost echoing the words of Adolf Hitler during his reign.

Back in September during a press conference, Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said President Barack Obama is aiming to have the United States take in at least 10,000 Syrian refugees. But as reported by CNN on Nov. 19, after it was found that one person involved with the terror attacks in Paris managed to enter by posing as a Syrian, 31 states have said they will not allow any refugees to enter their state.

The fact of the matter is that individual states do not have the authority to make that decision, but it does outline the xenophobia that is brewing in our country. People are fleeing a war-ridden country in an attempt to find a place to live and raise their children without the fear of impending death, yet we turn them away.

Back in 1939, a boat carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Europe, the SS St. Louis, attempted to seek refuge in Cuba. But, after being turned away, they sailed to Florida, where they were once again turned away by the U.S. government. They were forced to sail back to Europe, where some were granted refuge, but still only half of the passengers on that ship survived the Holocaust.

There were other factors at play at the time, of course. The United States was emerging from the Great Depression and we were not yet a part of the war. But today we are financially stable as a nation, and we have already thrown ourselves into the problems brewing overseas.

It has been projected that it will cost about $1.1 billion to bring in at least 70,000 refugees. In the last fiscal year, the United States spent $598.5 billion on the military alone. The U.S. can afford to allocate a small amount of that to helping.

But let’s say they put that extra burden on the taxpayers, that will cost each taxpayer a little more than $9 a year. Most of us spend more than that during one stop at Starbucks. We can

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Attacks inspire World War II rhetoric

SAM CAMPBELL
Opinions editor

What is your favorite thing about the holidays?

AUDREY ATKINS
Nursing

“Food”

JOSE PELCASTRE
Computer Science

“It’s different, it’s fun, and everyone has a good time”

NAHEEL NAQVI
Ohlone alumnus

“Black Friday. First you get stuffed, then you go to Fry’s and buy new electronics”

STEPHONE DAVIS
Broadcasting

“Spending time with family and just having time to sleep”

MICHAEL CLARK
Early Childhood Studies

“All the food that my family makes, because I don’t have to cook. I just get to eat”

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CAMPUS COMMENT