

# Oregon gunman singled out Christians during rampage

By Chris Perez, October 1, 2015 | 7:04pm  
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**Authorities carry a shooting victim away from the scene after a gunman opened fire at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore. on Oct. 1.**

A 26-year-old gunman singled out Christians for slaughter during a rampage at an Oregon community college Thursday, leaving at least 9 people dead and many more wounded, survivors and authorities said.

"The shooter was lining people up and asking if they were Christian," tweeted "@bodhilooney," who said her grandmother was inside the Umpqua Community College classroom that was the scene of the 10:40 a.m. carnage.



**Chris Harper-Mercer, Photo: Myspace**

"If they said yes, then they were shot in the head. If they said no, or didn't answer, they were shot in the legs."

Student Kortney Moore, 18, said she was attending a Writing 115 class inside the Roseburg college's Snyder Hall when a bullet pierced a window, the southwestern Oregon city's News-Review newspaper reported.

She saw her teacher get shot in the head and said the gunman asked people to state their religion before he opened fire.

The gunman, identified as Chris Harper-Mercer, was killed during a shootout with police outside one of the classrooms, according Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin.

"There was an exchange of gunfire," he said. "The shooter threat was neutralized."

Although police put the official death toll at 10 — including Harper-Mercer — with seven people injured, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum had said 13 people died.

### **In other developments:**

The killer was carrying four guns — including three pistols and a rifle — during the attack, a source told CNN.

An anonymous user wrote in an ominous post on the online bulletin board 4chan Wednesday night: "Some of you guys are alright. Don't go to school tomorrow if you are in the northwest. "happening thread will be posted tomorrow morning. so long space robots," the post concluded.

Online profiles linked to Harper-Mercer showed that the deranged man had a fascination with terror tactics of the Irish Republican Party and bought Nazi memorabilia. He also wrote a blog post that mentioned Virginia shooter Vester Lee Flanagan, according to CBS news.

"Seems like the more people you kill, the more you're in the limelight," he wrote.



**A woman is comforted as friends and family wait for students at the local fairgrounds after a shooting at Umpqua Community College. Photo: AP**

A former president of the college said that the school has only one unarmed security officer and that the community decided against armed guards last year.

"I suspect this is going to start a discussion across the country about how community colleges prepare themselves for events like this," Joe Olson told CBS News.

President Obama issued a plea for greater gun control and bemoaned that America is "the only advanced country on Earth who sees these kind of mass shooting every few months."

"Each time we see one of these mass shootings, our thoughts and prayers are not enough," he said Thursday evening. "It's not enough. It does not capture the heartache, the grief and anger we should feel, and it does nothing to prevent this carnage from being inflicted in America."

[Obama calls for gun control Video](#)

This attacks brings the total number of mass shootings in the country to 294 this year, according to the Mass Shooting Tracker. The web site defines mass shootings as incidents in which four or more people are killed or injured by gunfire. Witnesses described a chaotic scene inside Snyder Hall.

People were scrambling "like ants" when the gunman opened fire at around 10:38 a.m., according to Brady Winder, a 23-year-old student from Portland.

“People [were] screaming, ‘Get out!’ ” he told The News-Review, adding he saw a girl frantically swimming across a creek to escape.

Student Hannah Miles was also sitting in a classroom next door when she heard a pop that sounded like a yardstick slapping on a chalkboard.



**Student Hannah Miles sits with her sister after she was reunited with her family. Photo: Andy Nelson/The Register-Guard via AP**

Everyone in her classroom fled as more gunfire erupted. Student Brandy Winter recalled on Facebook how she fled to the farthest reaches of campus.

“I ran to the edge of the campus, down a hill and waited. From talking with a student in the classroom where it happen, almost every person in the room was shot by a man with four guns,” she wrote.

Another student, Luke Rogers, said he saw blood in a classroom as he was evacuated from the building

“As we passed by the classroom, on the ground there were drops of blood,” the first-year Umpqua student told CNN. “We didn’t see any bodies. We saw books on the ground.”

Douglas County Fire Marshal Ray Shoulfer said victims were found in “multiple classrooms,” according to CNN. After the shooter was taken down, students’ cellphones were

confiscated and they were escorted out of their buildings with their hands up as authorities patted them down and lined them up to be evacuated to nearby fairground on buses, according to The News-Review.



**Two women wait outside Umpqua Community College campus after a shooting. Photo: AP**

Many of the wounded were transported to the nearby Mercy Medical Center, which received at least 10 patients, and three female victims were airlifted to PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center, about 70 miles away.

More than 100 authorities combed the campus afterward. "This is a shock to the community," Sheriff Hanlin said. In a national address, Obama lamented that mass shootings have become routine in America.

"I hope and pray that I don't have to come out again during my tenure as president to offer my condolences to families in these circumstances," he said. "But based on my experience as president, I can't guarantee that, and that's terrible to say, and it can change."

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