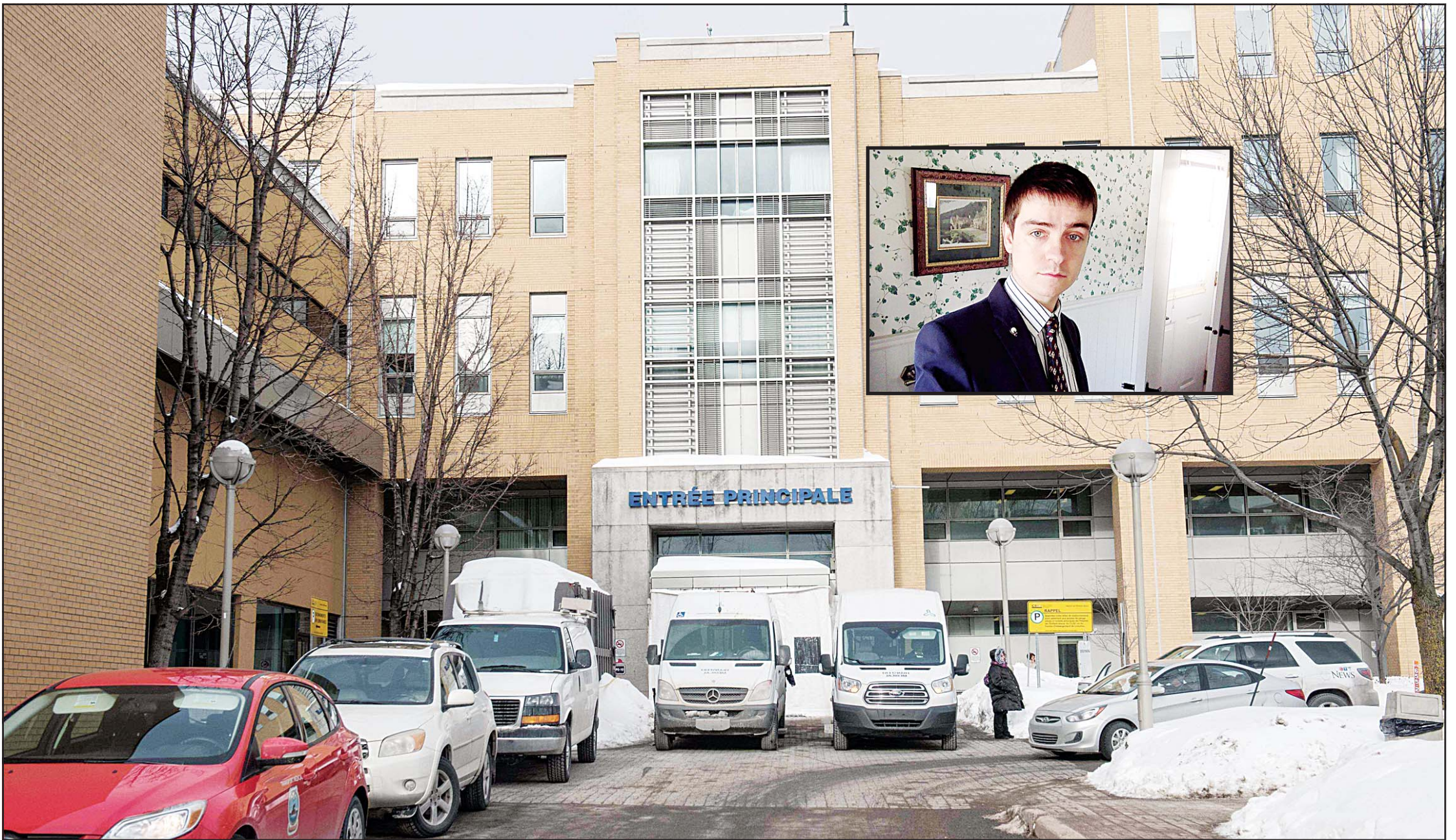


## World News Roundup



L'Enfant-Jesus Hospital is viewed on Jan 31, 2017 in Quebec City, where four victims remain and two victims are in critical condition after the Quebec mosque attack on Jan 29, 2017. (Inset): This undated selfie portrait sourced on social network shows Alexandre Bissonnette, a Canadian political science student known to have nationalist sympathies who was charged with six counts of murder over the shooting spree at a Quebec mosque. (AFP)

## Counterterrorism

## 'Military didn't distort intel'

## No Americans will be targeted in raids: WH

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1. (AP) — The White House said Tuesday that no American citizen "will ever be targeted" in raids against terror suspects, a blanket statement that appeared to signal a break from the Obama administration's strategy for pursuing and targeting suspects in counterterrorism operations overseas.

Under former President Barack Obama, the Justice Department had issued a legal opinion giving the US the authority to target Americans who are working with terrorists abroad.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters the Trump administration will lean on the guidance of Central Intelligence Agency director Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, but he added that "no American citizen will ever be targeted."

It was not immediately clear whether Spicer's intended to recalibrate US policy.

The US specifically targeted and killed American Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical cleric, in Yemen in 2011. Other Americans, including suspected terrorists, have been killed in US drone strikes, but they were not specifically targeted.

A US service member and an American child died in a ground raid authorized by President Donald Trump last week. The child was the 8-year-old daughter of al-Awlaki. Al-Awlaki's 16-year-old American son was killed in a US drone strike in 2012.

Sunday's raid left nearly 30 others dead, including more than half a dozen militant suspects. Several more children were also killed.

Whether the US should target its own citizens in drone strikes has been the subject of much debate. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump discussed "going after" the families of suspected terrorists, but he did not specify what that meant.

The US has been striking al-Qaeda in Yemen from the air for more than 15 years, mostly using drones. Sunday's surprise pre-dawn raid could signal a new escalation against extremist groups in the poor but strategically located country.

Last week, the Trump administration imposed an immigration and travel ban on people from seven countries, including Yemen, citing terrorism concerns.

Obama said in 2013 that he did "not believe it would be constitu-

tional for the government to target and kill any US citizen — with a drone, or with a shotgun — without due process, nor should any President deploy armed drones over US soil."

He added, however, that if that citizen wages war against America or is actively plotting to kill Americans, "his citizenship should no more serve as a shield than a sniper shooting down on an innocent crowd."

Later that same year, the Obama administration triggered a fiery debate on Capitol Hill over the limits of its drone program following the death of al-Awlaki's teenage son, an American citizen. Sixteen-year-old Abdulrahman al-Awlaki, an American citizen at the time of the 2012 strike that killed him, hadn't seen his father in two years when he was killed. He had no known links to al-Qaeda and is said to have lived the life of an ordinary teenage boy.

A Defense Department review delivered to Congress on Tuesday concludes that senior leaders at the US Central Command did not exaggerate the progress the US was making in fighting Islamic State militants, two US officials said.

The long-awaited report from the Pentagon's inspector general is not expected to satisfy intelligence analysts who complained that officials were improperly reworking intelligence assessments being prepared for President Barack Obama and other top policymakers to offer a rosier view of US operations against IS.

The probe began after at least one civilian analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency told officials at the Florida-based Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East, were improperly reworking the conclusions of these assessments.

A House GOP task force concluded in a report last year that there were "persistent problems" in 2014 and 2015 with the command's analysis of US efforts to train Iraqi forces and fight IS in Iraq and Syria. The several hundred-page classified report, however, did not provide evidence that there were intentional efforts to distort intelligence analyses, said one US official who had been briefed on the report.

While the report provided no evidence that IS intelligence assessments were altered, it did find that analysts' concerns were real and that if they didn't believe their work was being respected that sentiment could have affected the overall intelligence report, a second US official said.

## Talk radio, intolerance in focus as Quebec seeks answers after shooting

In the wake of Sunday's fatal attack on a mosque in Quebec City, attention is turning to the role of populist talk radio stations and their possible role in whipping up resentment against Muslims.

The day after the massacre at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec, one local talk show host in Quebec City told his listeners several times that two hooded men shouting "Allahu Akbar!" had carried out the attack.

"Is this Islamophobia or an Islamist attack?" asked Sylvain Bouchard on station FM93. In fact, police that day charged a white Quebec

man with six counts of premeditated murder and five counts of attempted murder with a restricted weapon for the attack. Members of Quebec's Muslim community suggest views expressed on what is known popularly as "radio poubelle" (garbage pail radio) may be encouraging extremist views in a province which has at times struggled to cope with immigration.

Quebec has seen a steady rise of right-wing groups, especially since a heated debate in 2007 about "reasonable accommodation": how far the province should go to make immigrants feel welcome.

The province last year unveiled draft legislation to ban face-coverings in the public sector in a move criticized as marginalizing Muslim women and potentially inflaming anti-immigrant tensions.

"This unhealthy climate is fed by garbage pail radio where you can say anything and where the hosts vomit all over Muslims, Jews — in short, everyone who isn't 'us' but 'them,'" wrote Michele Ouimet, a columnist for the La Presse daily.

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard on Tuesday would not answer directly when asked by a reporter whether the radio stations were

partly to blame.

But, he added: "Words are important — written words, spoken words. People need to think carefully about that."

By Tuesday morning, Bouchard had radically changed his tune. "Did I make a mistake? Yes," he said on air warning listeners to beware of unverified social media messages.

He also interviewed Quebec City Muslims, who called for acceptance in Quebec society, and Mathieu Fiset, a native-born Quebecer, who went from skin-head neo-Nazi to opponent of the alternative-right. (RTRS)

## America

**Widow seeks jail release:** Lawyers for the widow of the man who carried out a deadly attack at a Florida nightclub are urging a judge to release her from jail pending trial on charges she supported her husband's terroristic plans.

**Noor Salman's** attorney on Wednesday are expected to argue in an Oakland federal court that the widow is not a threat to public safety or at risk of fleeing. Family members have pledged their homes as collateral. Salman was arrested in November at her mother's home in Rodeo, California, a San Francisco suburb. She is charged with helping her husband plan his attack of the Pulse nightclub, where he killed 49 people and wounded 53 others.

Attorney Haitham Amin said prosecutors have yet to turn over to Salman's legal team much of the evidence they have collected to make their case. Amin and court papers filed Tuesday by Salman's lead attorney Charles Swift say it appears Salman is charged with being present when her husband was making plans to attack the nightclub. In particular, Swift cites media accounts reporting that Salman accompanied Mateen on a "scouting trip" in a car to the nightclub in the days before the attack and that she was with her husband when he purchased ammunition at a Walmart near their Fort Pierce home.

Swift wrote "the evidence will show that the purported scouting trip occurred while the family was on their way home from babysitting the children of a relative, that Mateen chose to drive into Orlando and to pass by the Pulse Night Club, and that Noor, who did not possess a driver's license at the time, was at most a reluctant passenger who wanted to go home."

Federal authorities arrested Salman in November at her mother's suburban San Francisco home and charged her with aiding Mateen's support of the Islamic State and then lying to FBI agents and police investigating the Orlando, Florida nightclub attack. (AP)

**Jury convicts plotter:** A federal jury convicted a man Tuesday of a plot to detonate a nail-filled backpack bomb on a Florida Keys beach that prosecutors said was inspired by the Islamic State extremist group.

Court records show the jury in Key West convicted Harlem Suarez, 25, on Tuesday of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and providing material support to a terrorist organization after a seven-day trial. Suarez faces a

maximum of life in prison at sentencing set for April 18. Suarez, whose family emigrated from Cuba, came to the FBI's attention through Facebook posts praising the Islamic State group and containing extremist rhetoric, according to an FBI affidavit.

"By intending to place an explosive device on a public beach, Harlem Suarez posed a grave threat to the residents and visitors of Key West," said Miami US Attorney Wifredo Ferrer in

a news release. "Let this case serve as an example to others that the US attorney's office and our law enforcement partners stand as a united front against all domestic threats."

According to a criminal complaint, Suarez told an FBI informant he wanted to make a bomb, bury it on a Key West beach and detonate it.

He was arrested in 2015 after taking possession of an inert explosive device provided by an FBI informant, it

added. Suarez had given the informant some bomb supplies, including two boxes of galvanized nails, the backpack and a cellphone to be used as a detonator, the complaint said.

"I can go to the beach at the night time, put the thing in the sand, cover it up, so the next day I just call and the thing is gonna, is gonna make, a real hard noise from nowhere," Suarez told an FBI source in a recorded call, according to the complaint. (AP)

## American International School Activities Reflects Global Cultures



The American International School held a musical concert for the Mexican guitarist Paco Rentaria under the patronage and presence of his Excellency Mr. Migel Asido the Mexican Ambassador in Kuwait and other Ambassadors. The students also attended the concert representing the school's mission in recognizing other nation's cultures

and traditions through musical, athletics, and other activities enhancing communication and confluence of different cultures in order to become an international citizen and contribute to improve the nation through their knowledge and respect of different cultures.

