



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Terror in Trump's America

FRESNO—In recent days, a series of homemade pipe bombs were mailed to several prominent Democrats, journalists and other critics of Donald Trump. On the target list were Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, Rep. Maxine Waters of California, Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz of Florida and former CIA director John Brennan. Billionaire activist George Soros and the New York CNN offices also received these explosive packages, as well as politically vocal actor Robert DeNiro.

Fortunately, none of the devices detonated and several were intercepted before arriving at their destinations. The FBI is currently investigating, and a suspect has been arrested.

Within minutes of the news of the mail bombs breaking, right-wing voices filled the Internet to claim the explosives were obviously sent by Democrats as an attempt to discredit the Republican Party. These attacks and the reaction to them demonstrate that a disturbingly large percentage of the country has lost touch with reality and exists in a terrifying dimension of paranoia and anger.

“Words have consequences,” says Michael D. Evans, chair of the Fresno County Democratic Party. “There is little question that the inflammatory rhetoric of Donald Trump has created an environment that could drive an unstable person to commit such a crime.”

These attacks against prominent Democrats are a deeply disturbing sign of what Trump and his radical right-wing cronies have wrought in our nation. This is the direct result of the violent extremist rhetoric that is ubiquitous at Trump rallies and among right-wing and nationalistic online groups.

In response, Trump gave a quick condemnation of the attacks but could not help also fanning the flames. He immediately added that, “A very big part of the anger we see today in our society is caused by the purposely false and inaccurate reporting of the mainstream media that I refer to as fake news.”

This narrative that anyone who reports on the failings of the right-wing Trump administration or dissents is an enemy can be considered a likely motive for this act of domestic terrorism against Democrats and journalists. Trump is not directly responsible for these attacks, but he is complicit in making events like this more likely.

“We can return law-and-order to our nation through the ballot box,” said Evans. “Electing a Democratic Congress is important—not only in terms of fixing the policy challenges facing our country but also to ensure that the dangerous level of hate-filled and toxic rhetoric that is poisoning our country is checked.”

People have the power. Vote on Nov. 6.

The Fresno County Democratic Party can be reached at [559-495-0606](tel:559-495-0606) or dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org.