

TEXAS SHOOTING

Who is gunman Patrick Kelley?

CNN ONLINE

A picture is starting to emerge of the suspected gunman in a deadly mass shooting at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Two law enforcement sources briefed on the investigation identified the shooter as Devin Patrick Kelley, 26.

Kelley was once a member of the US Air Force, spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said. He served in logistics readiness at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, starting in 2010.

Kelley was court-martialed in 2012 for two counts of Article 128 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, assault on his spouse and assault on their child, Stefanek said. Kelley received a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 12 months and a reduction in rank, she said. The Air Force did not provide a date of the discharge. Kelley is accused of



A candlelight vigil is observed on Sunday night following the mass shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, USA. PHOTO: AFP

'Not a gun situation'

Trump blames mental health for shooting massacre at Texas church

AFP, Sutherland Springs

President Donald Trump said the United States was living in "dark times" as it grieved yesterday a shooting massacre at a Texas church, but with calls for stricter gun control reinvigorated, he insisted the latest tragedy "isn't a guns situation."

Sunday's carnage, which came just five weeks after the worst gun massacre in modern US history, saw a gunman wearing a bulletproof vest use an assault rifle to open fire on the congregation of a small-town Texas church, killing 26 people and wounding 20 more.

"I think that mental health is your problem here," Trump told journalists when asked if gun control could reduce the rampant firearms violence plaguing the US.

Speaking in Tokyo as part of his Asia tour, the US president dubbed the gunman "deranged" and said the most recent mass shooting to hit the US "isn't a guns situation."

The victims, who ranged in age from five to 72, were gunned down at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, a rural community of some 400 people 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio.

The gunman, widely identified as Devin Kelley, 26, was described by authorities as a young white male who was found dead in his vehicle after being confronted by a local resident.

Dressed all in black, Kelley fired outside the church before entering the building and continuing to spray bullets, said Freeman Martin, regional director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"As he exited the church, a local resident grabbed his rifle and engaged that suspect. The suspect dropped his rifle and fled from the church. Our local citizen pursued the suspect at that time," Martin said.

US PRESIDENT'S 12-DAY ASIA TOUR

Time for 'patience' is over Moon bent on balancing act between US, China

Trump warns North Korea during talks with Japanese PM

act between US, China

AFP, Tokyo

ASIA NEWS NETWORK

The time for "strategic patience" with North Korea is over, US President Donald Trump warned yesterday, after winning Japan's backing for his policy of considering all options to rein in the rogue state.

missile launches, also announced Japanese sanctions on the assets of 35 North Korean groups and individuals.

The United Nations has adopted multiple rounds of sanctions against the reclusive North, the most recent in September following its sixth nuclear test and a flurry of missile launches.

Earlier, Trump had appeared to adopt a more conciliatory tone towards North Korea, saying he would not rule out talks with its bellicose young leader Kim Jong-Un.

"I would sit down with anybody," he said. "I don't think it's strength or weakness, I think sitting down with people is not a bad thing," he said in a television interview.

"So I would certainly be open to doing that but we'll see where it goes, I think we're far too early."

And the president again praised the "great people" of North Korea, adding "they are under a very repressive regime" and that he hoped it "works out for everyone".

But Pyongyang showed no sign of let-up in its attacks on Trump, with ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun calling him the "lunatic old man of the White House" and saying there was no telling when he would start a nuclear war.

Abe and Trump's joint news conference capped two days of chummy behaviour in which the two golf fans have teed off for nine holes and enjoyed informal and relaxed dinners.

With US President Donald Trump in Japan and soon to arrive here with the North Korean nuclear and missile threat high on his agenda, it may be of US interest to keep the two -- arguably the US' closest regional allies -- unified in resolving the standoff with North Korea.

But for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, fresh off from a "let's patch up" deal with China and now bent on performing a balancing act between two great powers, that is not a simple matter.

Washington has long stressed the need for enhanced South Korea-Japan military cooperation to create a stronger defense partnership among the US, South Korea and Japan. A trilateral alliance would not only better counter North Korea, but ease the strain on US defense capabilities in the region, it asserted.

While acknowledging stronger ties with Japan are essential in deterring the North, South Korea has drawn a line in the scope of

its military cooperation with Japan.

"I don't think it is appropriate to develop the cooperation to the level of a (trilateral) military alliance," President Moon Jae-in said in an interview with Singapore's Channel NewsAsia on Friday. "The cooperation is (specifically) aimed at countering North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations."

"While the US is our ally, Japan is not," Moon was quoted as saying by an anonymous senior presidential aide who relayed it to Yonhap News Agency on Sunday.

But there has been an obstacle for improving ties. South Korea believes Japan has yet to fully atone

for its colonial atrocities and worries about its military expansion. "If Japan uses a nuclear armed North Korea as an excuse for its military expansion, it would not be appropriate for ASEAN nations as well," Moon told Channel NewsAsia, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, whose members also suffered under Imperial Japan.



Abe agrees all options on table on Pyongyang

South Korea imposes sanctions on N Koreans

The president has signalled in the past that Washington could look beyond a diplomatic solution to the North's nuclear weapons ambitions and consider military intervention.

"The era of strategic patience is over," he declared alongside his host, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Washington in the past hoped that sanctions pressure and internal stresses in the isolated country would gradually bring about change. But critics said that policy gave Pyongyang room to push ahead with its nuclear ambitions.

Close ally Abe echoed Trump's remarks, voicing Japan's support for Washington's policy that "all options are on the table" to deal with the North Korean threat -- including military force.

Abe, whose country is under the path of North Korean

UN climate talks open in Bonn

AFP, Bonn

Following a cascade of grim reports on the gathering pace of global warming, Fiji's prime minister yesterday appealed for "urgent action" on climate change at UN negotiations in Bonn.

"The need for urgency is obvious," said Frank Bainimarama.

"Our world is in distress from extreme weather events caused by climate change -- destructive hurricanes, fires, floods, droughts, melting ice and changes to agriculture that threaten our food security," he told the opening plenary of the 12-day talks, over which he will preside.

"Our collective plea for the world is to maintain the course we set in Paris," he added, referring to the 196-nation treaty inked in 2015.

But five months after US President Donald Trump said he would yank the United States out of that pact, diplomats and leaders are still wondering to what extent he will make their jobs more difficult.

The Paris treaty calls for capping global warming at "well under" two degrees Celsius, and 1.5 C if possible.

So far, Earth's average temperature has gone up 1 C compared to pre-industrial levels -- enough to wreak havoc in many parts of the world.

Voluntary national pledges to reduce carbon pollution would still see the world heat up by a blistering 3 C, leaving a critical "emissions gap," and very little time to fill it.



US President Donald Trump pours fish food out as Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe looks on while they were feeding carps before their working lunch at Akasaka Palace in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. Watching from the rear is US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sacked Catalan leader freed by Belgian judge

AFP, Brussels

Catalonia's sacked separatist leader Carles Puigdemont yesterday denounced Spain as an undemocratic country that "unjustly" jailed his colleagues, his first reaction since he was freed on bail in Belgium.

Puigdemont and four former ministers were released with conditions Sunday night after turning themselves in to Belgian authorities to face a Spanish warrant for their arrest on charges of rebellion and sedition.

"Released without bail. Our thoughts are with colleagues unjustly imprisoned by a state that is far from democratic norms," Puigdemont said on Twitter hours after the five were released.

A Spanish judge in Madrid had on Thursday put Puigdemont's deputy and seven other deposed regional ministers behind bars because of a risk they would flee.

Belgium's Foreign Minister Didier Reynders insisted it was a legal matter and not one for politicians to deal with, despite

recent criticism of Spain from some Flemish separatist members of his own government.

"We must let the Belgian and Spanish courts do their work," Reynders told his country's media.

Puigdemont and his allies escaped to Belgium a week ago after Spain dismissed the Catalan executive and imposed direct rule on the semi-autonomous region following the declaration of independence by the parliament there last month.

Spain issued European arrest warrants on Friday after Puigdemont and his allies ignored a summons to appear before a judge on allegations linked to the move to declare Catalonia an independent state.

Puigdemont's PDeCAT party said Sunday that he had turned himself in to show his "willingness not to flee from the judicial process but to defend himself in a fair and impartial process, which is possible in Belgium, and highly doubtful in Spain".



Saudi prince killed in helicopter crash

AFP, Riyadh

A Saudi prince was killed on Sunday when a helicopter with several officials on board crashed near the kingdom's southern border with war-torn Yemen, state television said.

The news channel Al-Ekhabariya announced the death of Prince Mansour bin Moqren, the deputy governor of Asir province and son of a former crown prince.

It did not reveal the cause of the crash or the fate of the other officials aboard the aircraft.

News of the crash comes as Saudi Arabia pursues a sweeping purge of the kingdom's upper ranks, with dozens of princes, ministers and a billionaire tycoon arrested as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman cements his hold on power.

Already viewed as the de facto ruler controlling all the major levers of government, from defence to the economy, Prince Mohammed is widely seen to be stamping out traces of internal dissent before a formal transfer of power from his 81-year-old father King Salman.

The helicopter crash also comes after Saudi Arabia on Saturday intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile near Riyadh's international airport after it was fired from Yemen in an escalation of the kingdom's war against Iran-backed Huthi rebels.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia announced rewards of up to \$30-million for information that would help arrest or track down some of the top Huthi rebel leaders and planners.

Mugabe sacks 'disloyal' vice-president

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe fired Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa yesterday, the government said, as the battle between Mnangagwa and Mugabe's wife Grace to succeed the veteran leader intensified.

"(President) Mugabe has exercised his powers to relieve honourable vice president E.D. Mnangagwa of his position as vice president," Information Minister Simon Khaya Moyo told a press briefing in Harare, accusing him of "disloyalty".

Mugabe's dramatic move came after a weekend of high drama between Mnangagwa and Grace after which Mugabe appeared to finally back his wife in the succession race.

PARADISE PAPERS

WHAT DO THEY TELL US?

The leak of 13.4m documents shows the scale of the offshore empire and involves everyone from the Queen to Facebook.

WHAT ARE THE PARADISE PAPERS?

More than 13 million leaked secret corporate files, about half of which belong to offshore law and corporate services provider Appleby, which has ten offices around the globe.

There also documents from corporate registries in 19 tax havens.

These are mostly Caribbean and Atlantic islands such as Bermuda, Grenada and the Bahamas, but also include Malta, Lebanon, Labuan (an island territory in Malaysia), Samoa, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands. They cover the period between 1950 and 2016.

IS THIS THE SAME AS PANAMA PAPERS?

The Panama Papers involved millions of files leaked from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, showing how some of their clients laundered money, dodged sanctions and avoided tax.

This is a separate leak, although will raise many of the same questions.

WHO GOT THE DOCUMENTS, AND HOW?

The German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung obtained the files and shared them with 95 other media organisations around the world.

In all, 381 journalists in 67 countries have been analysing the material for one year. Sueddeutsche Zeitung has not revealed its source.

WHAT DO THE LEAKS CONTAIN?

Documents outlining the tax and financial affairs of hundreds of people and companies connected to Appleby and the 19 tax havens, with many appearing to have invested or sheltered huge amounts of cash in offshore tax havens.



WHO DO THEY INVOLVE?

Multinational companies, wealthy individuals, heads of state, politicians and sports stars from around the world, including many from the UK.

Some of the biggest names to emerge so far include the Queen, Facebook and Donald Trump's cabinet members and advisers.

WHY IS IT CONTROVERSIAL TO PUT MONEY OFFSHORE?

Offshore tax havens typically offer low or zero tax rates to non-residents who keep money there. Experts estimate that around \$10 trillion (£7.6 trillion) is held offshore around the world.

That money would potentially otherwise be taxed in the owner's home country, meaning governments are potentially missing out on billions in revenue. Critics also say the secrecy makes it easy for companies to hide wrongdoing.

WILL THIS CAUSE A ROW ABOUT TAX AVOIDANCE?

Further evidence of the extent of cash being held in tax havens is certain to spur anger and calls for a crackdown on tax avoidance practices. However, recent leaks including the Panama Papers may have created a certain level of 'leak fatigue', denting the documents' impact.

SOURCE: MAIL ONLINE