

# Gunman In Orlando Nightclub Shooting That Left Nearly 20 Dead Identified As Omar Mateen

They are now talking about 50 dead and 53 injured. Mateen is also identified as a US citizen born to Afghan parents. ORLANDO, Fla. ([CBS News](#) the gunman has been identified as Omar Mateen, a U.S. citizen from Port St. Lucie. Mateen was born to Afghan parents in 1986. CBS News reports Mateen has no apparent criminal history and that authorities are investigating whether he had ties to Islamic terrorism.

CBS News reports that authorities are “leaning towards Islamic terrorism” as a motive. Law enforcement sources said the shooting had similarities to the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels.

CBS2’s Magdalena Doris reported the hostage standoff lasted for three hours.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Office said it was an act of “domestic terror.”

“At this point, this is an incident, as I can see it, we can certainly classify as a domestic terror incident,” Jerry Demings of the Orange County Sheriff’s Office said.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent in Charge Danny Banks said during a news conference that the mass shooting is being investigated as an act of terrorism. He says authorities are looking into whether this was an act of domestic or international terror, and if the shooter was a lone wolf.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Ron Hopper said there's no further threat to Orlando or the surrounding area.

When asked if the gunman had a connection to radical Islamic terrorism, Hopper said, "we do have suggestions that individual has leanings towards that."

Police had said previously on Twitter that there was a "controlled explosion" at the scene of the shooting at Pulse Orlando. Mina said that noise was caused by a device intended to distract the shooter.

President Barack Obama has been briefed on the nightclub attack.