

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 21, 2025

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Mark Zuckerberg  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Meta

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

On January 1, 2025, at approximately 3:15 AM CST, an individual driving a white Ford pickup truck intentionally rammed his vehicle into a crowd of people standing on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. The attack damaged at least two businesses, injured 57 individuals, and, most importantly, killed 14 people.<sup>1</sup> The driver of the truck, later identified as Shamsud-Din Jabbar, was killed in a shootout with police shortly after he plowed through the crowded street and then reportedly exited his vehicle and began shooting.<sup>2</sup>

News reports on Jabbar's background indicate that he was a 42-year-old, U.S. citizen from Texas who had served in the U.S. Army from 2007 until 2015.<sup>3</sup> During that time, Jabbar was apparently deployed to Afghanistan from February 2009 to January 2010.<sup>4</sup> Later, Jabbar reportedly joined the Army Reserve as an information technology specialist until 2020.<sup>5</sup>

Following the violent attack, reports indicated that law enforcement located an ISIS flag in Jabbar's truck.<sup>6</sup> According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), two improvised explosive devices (IED) were also recovered from coolers Jabbar had placed near Bourbon Street.<sup>7</sup> According to Chris Raia, deputy assistant director of the FBI's counterterrorism division, one cooler was located at the cross section of Bourbon and Orleans Street and the other was at an intersection two blocks away.<sup>8</sup> Raia stated, "those are the only two devices that we've

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<sup>1</sup> Caroll Alvarado and Elizabeth Wolfe, *supra* note 1; and FBI, *FBI Releases Investigative Update in Bourbon Street Attack*, FBI NEW ORLEANS, (Jan. 14, 2025) <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/neworleans/news/fbi-releases-investigative-update-in-bourbon-street-attack>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*; Jennifer Calfas, *FBI Clarifies 14 Victims Were Killed in New Orleans Attack*, WALL STREET JOURNAL, [https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/new-orleans-truck-attack?mod=WSJ\\_home\\_mediumtopper\\_pos\\_1](https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/new-orleans-truck-attack?mod=WSJ_home_mediumtopper_pos_1).

<sup>3</sup> *Who was Shamsud-Din Jabbar, the suspect in New Orleans truck attack?*, REUTERS, Jan. 2, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/suspect-deadly-new-orleans-truck-attack-served-us-army-2025-01-01/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Who was Shamsud-Din Jabbar, the suspect in New Orleans truck attack?*, REUTERS, Jan. 2, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/suspect-deadly-new-orleans-truck-attack-served-us-army-2025-01-01/>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Caroll Alvarado and Elizabeth Wolfe, *supra* note 1; FBI Press Release, *supra* note 1.

<sup>7</sup> Marlene Lenthang, *Timeline of New Orleans driver's whereabouts*, NBC NEWS, Jan. 2, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/live-blog/live-updates-15-dead-new-orleans-attack-fbi-says-driver-wasnt-acting-arcna185955>; Fox 8 Staff, *FBI releases photos of terror suspect and explosives packed in cooler, seeking public's help*, FOX8, Jan. 2, 2025, <https://www.fox8live.com/2025/01/02/fbi-releases-photos-terror-suspect-explosives-packed-cooler-seeking-public-help/>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

been able to recover that were functional. Both devices were rendered safe on scene.”<sup>9</sup> He noted that the FBI obtained “surveillance footage showing Jabbar placing the devices where they were found.”<sup>10</sup>

According to public reporting, as well as information the FBI provided during a January 2, 2025, briefing to Congress, Jabbar made several Facebook posts prior to his horrific attack.<sup>11</sup> Specifically, Jabbar reportedly posted five videos to his Facebook page on January 1, 2025, from 1:29 AM CST to 3:02 AM CST.<sup>12</sup> In these videos, according to the FBI, Jabbar stated that he wanted to harm his family and friends, joined the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and provided his final will and testament.<sup>13</sup> According to the FBI, Facebook has removed those videos from its website.<sup>14</sup>

Chairmen Grassley and Johnson have previously highlighted individuals’ concerning posts on social media platforms prior to carrying out acts of violence. For example, in June 2016, Chairman Ron Johnson wrote to Facebook regarding Omar Mateen’s Facebook posts before the Pulse nightclub attack.<sup>15</sup> Congress has also raised concerns about social media companies’ information sharing procedures with federal law enforcement agencies.<sup>16</sup> On February 16, 2018, in the aftermath of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Chairman Grassley wrote to Google requesting information about whether the company notified the FBI about a comment left on a video by an individual with the YouTube username “Nikolas Cruz”, which stated, “I’m going to be a professional school shooter.”<sup>17</sup> Additionally, on February 26, 2018, Chairman Grassley wrote to Facebook and Instagram requesting information on how the companies identify harmful content, the process by which the companies take down this content, and if the content is reported to the FBI.<sup>18</sup> This letter came after it was revealed during an FBI briefing that an unidentified caller told the FBI that Cruz posted to

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<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> David Spector and Emily Crane, *New Orleans terrorist posted chilling Facebook videos pledging allegiance to ISIS and threatening to kill his family minutes before attack*, NY POST (Jan. 2, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/01/02/us-news/new-orleans-terrorist-attack-timeline-revealed/>, (“In the first video posted at 1:29 a.m., Jabbar said he’d initially planned to kill his family and friends but was concerned that news headlines wouldn’t focus on the ‘war between the believers and the disbelievers,’ FBI counterterrorism official Chris Raia said.”); Notes on File with Committee Staff.

<sup>12</sup> Spector *supra* note 8; Notes *supra* note 8.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, to Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Facebook, Inc. (June 15, 2016), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/06/16/us/document-JohnsonFacebookletter-2.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, to Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer, Google Inc. (Feb. 16, 2018), [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2018-02-16%20CEG%20to%20Google%20\(Nikolas%20Cruz%20Shooting\).pdf](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2018-02-16%20CEG%20to%20Google%20(Nikolas%20Cruz%20Shooting).pdf); Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, to Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Facebook, and Kevin Systrom, Chief Executive Officer, Instagram (Feb. 26, 2018), On File with Committee Staff; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Announces Oversight Hearing of Parkland Shooting*, NEWS RELEASES (Mar. 1, 2018), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-announces-oversight-hearing-parkland-shooting>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley: We Must Hold Government Accountable for Failures Before Parkland Tragedy*, NEWS RELEASES (Mar. 14, 2018), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-we-must-hold-government-accountable-failures-parkland-tragedy>.

<sup>17</sup> Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley to Sundar Pichai *supra* note 16.

<sup>18</sup> Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley to Mark Zuckerberg and Kevin Systrom *supra* note 16.

Instagram that he “wants to kill people,” and posted photos of guns.<sup>19</sup> Further, on March 14, 2018, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing titled, “See Something, Say Something: Oversight of the Parkland Shooting and Legislative Proposals to Improve School Safety.”<sup>20</sup> This hearing revealed that despite the FBI receiving a tip that the shooter posted disturbing statements and pictures of weapons and mutilated animals on his social media accounts, the FBI call taker concluded there was not an imminent threat.<sup>21</sup> As a result of congressional oversight of the Parkland shooting tragedy, social media companies like Google and Facebook briefed Judiciary Committee staff on the companies’ responses to warnings of the shooter’s behavior.<sup>22</sup>

Accordingly, so Congress may conduct objective and independent oversight concerning the horrific New Year’s attack in New Orleans, please provide the following information no later than February 4, 2025:

1. How and when did Meta become aware of Jabbar’s posts on January 1, 2025 to his Facebook account? Provide all records referring or relating to Meta’s awareness of these posts.<sup>23</sup>
2. How many Meta platform accounts, including personal or business pages are associated with Jabbar?<sup>24</sup>
3. Did Meta notify the FBI or any other federal law enforcement agency about Jabbar’s January 1, 2025, posts? If so, when? Provide all records of any notification to federal law enforcement.
4. Were there any comments left on Jabbar’s posts from January 1, 2025? If so, provide those comments, including the names associated with the comments and links to those individuals’ profiles.
5. Provide a timeline of when the videos associated with Jabbar were posted and then taken down by Meta.
6. What is the process by which Meta monitors Facebook posts for harmful or threatening content? What is the process by which Meta monitors Facebook posts for terrorist propaganda? What is the process and standard Meta follows to provide information to federal and state law enforcement? Provide all records.

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<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Grassley: We Must Hold Government Accountable for Failures Before Parkland Tragedy supra* note 12.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Grassley Announces Oversight Hearing of Parkland Shooting supra* note 12.

<sup>23</sup> “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).

<sup>24</sup> For purposes of this letter Meta platform accounts includes any Meta subsidiary or product, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

7. Did Meta receive any flags or other reports from other Facebook users regarding Jabbar's posts from January 1, 2025? If so, when? Provide all records.
8. Prior to Jabbar's posts on January 1, 2025, had Meta removed any other Facebook posts from Jabbar's account(s)? If so, provide the dates and contents of those posts. If so, did Meta notify the FBI or any other federal law enforcement agency of these posts? If not, why not? Provide all records.
9. Has Meta ever received any reports from other Facebook users regarding Jabbar's posts prior to January 1, 2025? If so, what were those posts and when were the reports made? Provide all records.
10. Has Meta ever received a request from the FBI or any other law enforcement agency seeking information regarding any of Jabbar's activity on Facebook prior to the January 1, 2025 attack and after? Provide all records.
11. Has Meta ever notified the FBI or any other federal law enforcement agency about any Facebook post Jabbar made prior to January 1, 2025? If so, when and why? Provide all records.
12. It has been reported that Jabbar used Meta Glasses to record the New Orleans attack, as well as record footage in the days leading up to the attack.<sup>25</sup> Is this accurate? If so, when did Meta become aware of these recordings? Provide all recordings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. In your response, please answer according to each corresponding question.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary



Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

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<sup>25</sup> Leah Sarnoff, *FBI releases timeline of suspect Shamsud-Dim Jabbar's New Orleans attack* (Jan. 5, 2025), CBS News, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/fbi-releases-timeline-suspect-shamsud-dim-jabbar-new/story?id=117280639>.

cc:

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations