In The News Three

Two FBI agents were shot and killed last week. Here's why that's a rare tragedy.

By Phil Gast, CNN.com, 2/8/2021

Analyzed by Alexei Hooks

The article in question is more than 2 to 3 weeks old, and I recognize that, but I do believe that the information in question is more important to the broader scope of this class, so I am asking for a pardon as I found this article quite interesting.

The week before this article was written, two FBI agents were shot and killed along with 3 others being wounded when trying to serve a search warrant to a citizen who possibly committed violent crimes against children. The killing of FBI agents is a rare occurrence, as the last agent who was killed on duty was in 2008 in our state's city of Pittsburgh. The rarity of FBI agent's death on duty is quite surprising when calling in to question the violent actions that the people they put behind bars commit. To that point, police officers have a much higher rate of death from gunshot wounds than FBI agents as they deal with more arrests a year than the Bureau. As FBI agents deal with worse crimes than local and state law enforcement, the danger should be on the shoulders of the agents, but it turns out this is not the case.

The dangers that flow from being a part of the fight against violence and terrorism is one in the same. Every agent and employee that signs up to put an end to terrorism automatically has a target on their head, as the enemy can pick their targets. As we have been learning in class, terrorism is all about control and ruling through fear. The killing of government officials is a very quick way to get your organization's name recognized by the US, along with instilling fear a bit of fear in the citizens of America as our agents are our "knights."

As terrorism usually is sparked from unfairness in economics, politics, or religious beliefs, we have to be cognizant when making political moves that affect certain groups, as to not incite violence. The end result is bloodshed when dealing with terrorists as they have no bounds as they seek for power. Executive decisions need to be made as if we are ruling a kingdom, and sparing your agent's lives, or knight's lives, should be on the forefront of the conversation.

In the new world the enemy is all around us, even inside our boarders, so security is crucial to try and prevent the next attack. It is imperative that we, as a country keep our citizen's lives first, and that means eliminating enemies who want to cause us harm. When looking at targets of the enemies, we can see from class that terrorists look for heavily populated areas or points of meaning, such as religious buildings and memorials. In order to secure the country from potential terrorist threats, the government agencies must work together in an organized fashion so that terrorists may not harm anymore agents or civilians.

I believe that the article in question is one of the upmost importance, as it deals with how the big decisions made for fighting terrorism and violence affects the foot soldiers of our government. It is important to think about the lives that certain situations can change forever, and whose hands their blood is on.

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