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Manhattan attack wouldn't have happened if CIA 'spent less time' arming terrorists – Assange

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WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange slammed the CIA, saying the deadly terrorist attack in New York overnight might not have happened if the agency investigated terrorists instead of training and arming them.

### **Trends** [Manhattan attack](#)

*"If the CIA spent more time investigating terrorists and less time training and arming them we might not have had today's truck attack in New York,"* the whistleblower tweeted following the attack in lower Manhattan that left eight people dead and a dozen injured on Tuesday.

[@JulianAssange](#) If the CIA spent more time investigating terrorists and less time training and arming them we might not have had today's truck attack in New York.

The suspect, reportedly [identified](#) as 29-year-old Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbekistan native, drove a rented truck onto a bike path near the World Trade Center memorial, striking several pedestrians and cyclists. The vehicle did not stop until it hit a school bus, then the suspect left his vehicle holding two *"imitation firearms"* and shouting *"Allahu Akbar."* He was shot by police officers before being taken

into custody.

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The suspect reportedly had a note in his truck that said he committed the attack on behalf of Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL), law enforcement [told](#) NBC News.

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