

2 Killed, Several Injured in Kentucky Church Shooting

A gunman in Kentucky went on a violent spree Sunday that left two women dead and several others injured, including a state trooper, before the suspect was fatally shot by law enforcement.

Lexington Police Chief Lawrence Weathers said the incident began just before noon when a state trooper stopped the suspect following a license plate reader alert near Blue Grass Airport. The suspect opened fire on the trooper, injuring him. "There were some people en route to the airport, and they got out and assisted the trooper," Weathers said. "I appreciate them for getting out and doing what they did."

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As reported by Fox News, the suspect fled the scene and carjacked a vehicle without injuring anyone. Using air support and real-time tracking, police traced the suspect to Richmond Road Baptist Church, where he opened fire, killing two women and injuring two men. The victims were identified as Beverly Gumm, 72, and Christina Combs, 32. One of the wounded men was listed in critical condition, while the other was stable.

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Weathers stated that the suspect may have had a connection to the church, but the motive remains under investigation. "The suspect was shot by responding law enforcement and was pronounced deceased at the scene," he said. Three Lexington police officers discharged their weapons and have been placed on administrative assignment per department policy.

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Sen. Rand Paul responded to the tragedy, saying, "Kelley and I are praying for all the victims, the injured trooper, and their families. We are grateful for the brave first responders. Violence like this has no place."

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear also called for prayer, writing, "Please pray for everyone affected by these senseless acts of violence, and let's give thanks for the swift response by the Lexington Police Department and Kentucky State Police."

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As the investigation continues, let us join in prayer for the victims, their loved ones, the wounded trooper and the entire Lexington community as they face the aftermath of this devastating tragedy.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.