

Call it for what it is: an Islamist terror attack

Chris Kenny, The Australian, 12:00AM December 23, 2017

We have all been knocked off kilter by this terror attack in Melbourne, another cowardly, vicious and sickening attack using a car to mow down innocent civilians. The police arrested an Afghan migrant who according to their own reports cited the treatment of Muslims as his grievance and his motivation.

Yet Victoria Police waited five hours before sharing any of the detailed information and even then denied any link to terrorism.

This denial is so worrying so ignorant and so dangerous, yet even the Prime Minister adopted this same ridiculous line.

They tell us a Muslim migrant from Afghanistan has mown down people and raved about the treatment of Muslims yet they say there is no link to terrorism.

How can the public feel safe if the authorities and politicians won't even confront the very real enemy of Islamist extremism terrorism.

This is the evil whose name they dare not speak — they are in jihad denialism.

And this is not about demonising our Muslim Australians they understand this threat better than most. They don't want their lives ruined or threatened by these extremists any more than you or I do.

Many political leaders, some security agencies and much of the media are too timid to even discuss the ideology that wishes us ill. They prefer to talk about methods or weapons. Hosting a global summit on the threat in 2015, Barack Obama talked about "countering violent extremism". Don't mention the religion. Avert your eyes from the inspiration.

When a Muslim extremist invoked Islamic State and took people hostage in a Sydney cafe, journalists and activists tried to redefine it as a mental health episode. When a teenager walked from a Parramatta mosque and shot a stranger dead while yelling "Allahu akbar", the police said, hours later, there was nothing to suggest terrorism. Even ASIO head Duncan Lewis called on politicians to refrain from linking Islamism and terrorism.

It is difficult for most of us to comprehend this determination to deny or play down how Islamist extremism foments these attacks. Do people believe if we ignore the jihadists they will go away?