

DID CHRISTIANITY INSPIRE ABORTION KILLER?

A recent *New York Times* front-page story, “Religion, Abuse and Rage in Colorado’s Suspect’s Trial,” tried to establish a connection between the Planned Parenthood killer, Robert Dear, and Christianity. But most of the article described his multiple abuses of women. This explained why a *Washington Post* story from the same day was titled, “Colo. Shooting Suspect Has Long Trail of Abuse Allegations.”

Dear’s three wives said that he believed in the Bible. But they also acknowledged that he was never a practicing Christian. Indeed, there was no evidence that he ever belonged to a church congregation in his entire life, or that he was ever involved in a Christian community. This is significant: When survey researchers seek to measure religiosity, or how religiously committed someone is, the first question asked is how often the respondent attends church services.

The previous day, the *Times* ran a front-page story on Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the Muslim ringleader who masterminded the Paris killings. But there was a glaring omission—he was never identified as a Muslim (his role in the Islamist State’s hierarchy is the closest the story gets to identifying his religion). In fact, the only religion mentioned was Catholicism: the story said he was “sent to an exclusive Catholic school.” It did not say that he lasted only one year; he either flunked out or was dismissed for bad behavior.

Now consider this: The *New York Post* reported that Abaaoud was raised in a Brussels neighborhood known as “a hotbed of Islamic extremism—before joining ISIS and embracing its war against the West.” More important, the issue of the *New York Times* from the previous day failed to report what Abaaoud said in a video just last year: “I pray that Allah will break the

backs of those who oppose him...and that he will exterminate them."

So which killer was more motivated by his religion? Dear or Abaaoud?