

NBC News NOW's *Hallie Jackson NOW*

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5:27:02 p.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Train Attack]

HALLIE JACKSON: We've got a lot more to get to coming up here on the show, including at least one person hurt after the second train attack in Charlotte in months. Why police say the suspect shouldn't have even been riding on the train to begin with.

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5:32:20 p.m.

3 minutes and 30 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Train Attack; Suspect in North Carolina Train Stabbing Denied Bond at First Court Appearance]

JACKSON: Let's take you to North Carolina now, where a man accused of stabbing someone on a train last week was denied bond during his first court appearance today. Prosecutors say he was drinking alcohol. He was yelling at people Friday while on the light rail in Charlotte, before allegedly grabbing a knife and stabbing somebody in the chest. He now faces multiple charges, including attempted first degree murder and assault. Police say he admitted to drinking and to stabbing the man and had actually been banned from riding the train even before the attack happened. The Department of Homeland Security says he is also in the country illegally. His next court appearance is set for the end of the month. Aaron Gilchrist is covering this one for us. What else have we learned from court today about the attack, Aaron?

AARON GILCHRIST: So, a mixture of things here Hallie, both from court documents and from prosecutors in the courtroom during this very brief hearing that was held earlier today. We know, as you noted, that there are five charges that Solorzano is facing — that attempted first degree murder charge. He's also been charged with breaking and entering. Apparently, he broke onto that train car, according to prosecutors. He's also charged with being drunk in public. As we understand it, this started with Solorzano having an interaction with one person on the train, yelling, cursing on the train. That person told him to — to back up, to quiet down, to not bother people. And that turned into a physical altercation which ended with, according to prosecutors, Solorzano pulling out what they described as a large, fixed blade knife and stabbing the victim in the chest here. And — and all of this really coming as a result of just, it seems, heavy drinking and a verbal back and forth on the train, Hallie. At this point, we know that prosecutors intend to have Lozano held in jail, obviously with such a serious charge. They also say that he had already been banned from the light rail system in Charlotte, something that we're still looking into to try to figure out what prompted that and then how he was still able to get access to the train system. A lot of questions still remaining here, Hallie.

JACKSON: Especially when you look at the fact that this was the second attack on this train line in Charlotte in just the past few months, right?

GILCHRIST: Yeah, you're absolutely right. There was an attack back in August where a young woman, a Ukrainian refugee, was stabbed to death on the light rail system in Charlotte, something that shook that community, obviously, but also something that got a lot of attention nationally and internationally, prompting President Trump to make comments about safety in Charlotte. We know that the Department of Homeland Security held an immigration action in Charlotte over the last couple of weeks, trying to track down what they described as illegal migrants in the Charlotte area. Safety on the light rail system, obviously, since then is something that a lot of people have been paying attention to. The mayor has said that they have invested in trying to ramp up safety and security on the light rail system. She said that in a comment that was sent out over the weekend, saying that the police department there has also been working with other agencies to ramp up security on the light rail system. The light rail system itself — those — the folks who run that — have said that they have deployed more off duty officers, they've hired private security on the light rail system, instituted some new technology and safety tools for riders. But Hallie, our station, our affiliate in Charlotte, talked to some folks who use the system who said that they are really concerned about their own safety, trying to do basic things like going to work on the train system there in Charlotte.

JACKSON: That's right.

GILCHRIST: They want to see more done.

JACKSON: Like commuting to — to their jobs. Aaron Gilchrist, thank you very much. Appreciate that.