

NBC's *Today*

03/09/26

7:01:11 a.m. Central [TEASE]

19 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; FBI Raid]

CRAIG MELVIN: Breaking overnight, authorities raiding the homes of two suspects accused of throwing dangerous explosives near the New York mayor's residence. [SHOUTING] Just ahead, inside the chaos as it unfolded. The dramatic arrests, and the terror investigation now underway.

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7:13:16 a.m.

3 minutes and 7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: NYC Mayor's Mansion Terror Investigation]

HODA KOTB: Meantime, we are learning more about an alarming incident right here in New York over the weekend. An improvised explosive device thrown at a demonstration outside of the mayor's official residence. Two teenage suspects taken into custody. The FBI now launching a terror investigation. NBC Sam Brock's got the very latest. Hey Sam, morning.

SAM BROCK: Hoda, correct. Good morning. According to two people familiar with the matter, the two men allegedly made pro-ISIS statements during their arrest. Well, amazingly, nobody was seriously injured. This, guys, could have been far worse, with the FBI saying the explosive devices were ignited, but did not actually detonate. Mayor Mamdani, who was inside the residence at the time, condemning those who would deploy violence and bigotry. This morning, federal investigators probing for possible ties to terrorism after two suspects, seen here handling what the FBI describes as an improvised explosive device or IED during an anti-Islam demonstration outside New York City Mayor's Zohran Mamdani's residence, Gracie Manchin. Police then say a much larger counter-protest formed, including the two suspects who, according to the FBI, ignited the devices, which failed to detonate.

NYPD COMMISSIONER JESSICA TISCH: The devices, which were a bit smaller than a football, appear to be a jar wrapped in black tape — importantly — with nuts, bolts, and screws along with a hobby fuse that could be lit.

BROCK: Video shows the men identified as 19-year-old Ibrahim Kajumi and 18-year-old Amir Balat from Pennsylvania, being detained by a swarm of officers. According to two people familiar with the investigation, initial tests of the device revealed TATP, a volatile and dangerous type of homemade explosive. Also according to two sources familiar with the matter, both men allegedly made pro-ISIS statements during their arrest and investigators are now looking at their past travel outside the country. Overnight, authorities searching their homes in Pennsylvania as Mayor Mamdani, who was inside Gracie Mansion when the incident unfolded, said “violence at

a protest is never. The attempt to use an explosive device at hurt others is not only criminal, it is reprehensible.” The startling sequence, coming just days after a polarizing talk show host in the city, calling the mayor a jihadist before later apologizing.

MAYOR ZOHRAN MAMDANI (D) [on 03/03/26]: Muslims in this city, for almost as long as we have been in this city, have had to deal with those with power and platform dehumanizing us. [SCREEN WIPE] I am not ashamed of my faith, I am not ashamed of being the first Muslim mayor in the history of our city.

BROCK: No charges have yet been filed against the suspects, though that could change today, guys. And another person briefed on the investigation telling NBC News that a container found inside a car believed to be used by the suspects nearby was also concerning and has been taken to the NYPD’s bomb squad facility in the Bronx for further examination. Clearly, there are a lot of questions left here to be answered.

KOTB: Indeed.

MELVIN: Yes.

KOTB: All right, Sam, thank you so much.