

# Survivor of Orlando Massacre Says the Shooter Asked, "Are There Any Black People in Here?"



Patience Carter, a survivor of the Orlando massacre

Patience Carter, one of the victims who survived the massacre at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, says that while trapped in the bathroom with the shooter, Omar Mateen, he asked if there were any Black people in the club.

After one Black person replied yes, Mateen then said, "I don't have a problem with black people. This is about my country. You guys suffered enough." Carter says, he then went on to shoot and kill three more people before police stormed into the bathroom.

Carter, says she is from Philadelphia and was taking a vacation in Orlando. She says that she and many others fled to the bathroom when they heard the initial gunshots.

During a recent press conference, in which victims talked about their horrific experience, Carter recited a poem that she said she wrote from her hospital bed to cope the night before. Though very grateful to be alive, Carter said it's also very difficult.

She told reporters, "The guilt of feeling grateful to be alive is heavy. Wanting to smile about surviving, but not sure if the people around you are ready as the world mourns the victims killed and viciously slain. I feel guilty about screaming about my legs in pain because I could feel nothing like the other 49 who weren't so lucky to feel this pain of mine."

Sadly, that dreadful night, 49 people were killed and more than 50 were seriously injured.

## Was this the first massacre in America?

### 300 Black Union Army Soldiers Massacred April 12, 1864 after they had surrendered To the South Confederate Army

By Hamm

As a member of the Black Press we are obligated to state where necessary truthful accurate records of black America. This is one.

Its recorded that the massacre of black union army soldiers who were former slaves that had been trained as bona fide mem-

bers of the Union Army; entitled to all the recognition of a soldier in the Army of the United States including respect accorded to prisoner of war.

However, the Confederate Army under the leadership of confederate General Forrest did not recognize their status and

had sworn to eliminate them where necessary and did so at Fort Pillow, Tennessee April 12, 1864 after retaking the fort from the Union Army and taking as prisoner 300 black Union Army soldiers.

There were a few white Union Army soldiers among the captured

group.

It's reported that after surrendering the Confederate Army mowed down all with withering gun fire. Many of their bodies are buried in a cemetery in nearby Memphis, Tennessee.

Question, was this the first massacre in

America?

It was the deliberate murder of 300 black and white Union Army soldiers.

The massacre brought a battle cry from the Union Army forces "remember Ft Pillow" unleashing a determination to defeat the South

Confederate Army.

A similar massacre occurred in WWII when several American soldiers were taken prisoner by the Germans, unleashing an American response to not be taking prisoner and fight to death, bringing about a German defeat.

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## Power rapidly being restored across Alabama, 4,200 outages statewide

By Erin Edgemon



Power is rapidly being restored to thousands of Alabamians across the state who experienced outages in Friday's storms.

About 115,000 households were without power Friday night when Gov. Robert Bentley declared a state of emergency. This declaration allows crews from other

states to come assist Alabama Power in restoring power until Tuesday.

As of 5 p.m. Saturday, 4,200 Alabama Power customers across the state were still without power.

Of those, 1,550 are in the Birmingham area, 1,300 in the Montgomery area and 600 in Mobile area.

About 300 line crew

personnel from outside the state are working to restore power, according to Alabama Power. These include contract crews and crews from power companies in Florida and Mississippi.

Updated at 5:14 p.m. with updated power outage numbers. Updated at 11:05 a.m. with corrected numbers from Alabama Power.

## Woman Rejected by Airline Decides to Start Her Own Airline And Does!



When Sibongile Sambo, a 42-year old woman from South Africa, was told by South African Airways that she did not qualify for a flight attendant position because she did not meet their minimum height requirement, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

She became an entrepreneur, and started her very own airline called SRS Aviation, and until this day, her company is the only Black woman-owned and operated aviation company in Africa.

**So, how did she do it?**

Starting an airline is not an easy or cheap thing to do, but despite this, she was still able to get it off the ground.

First, she formed her company and gave it the name of SRS Aviation. Then, she bid and won a

contract for cargo transport issued by the South African government and formed a partnership with MCC Aviation - a South African-based fixed & rotor wing charter operator.

Finally, she sold her car and cashed out her mother's pension to help her obtain an Air Operating Certificate from the South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

It wasn't an easy process, but she was able to raise the needed capital and make it work!

Now, Sambo's company offers their clients professional and personalized flight options to destinations in Africa and around the world.

Their services include VIP charters, tourist charters, cargo charters, game count & capture, and helicopter services. Her cus-

tomers pay anywhere from \$1,000 USD to \$200,000 USD per flight.

**Her vision**

Sambo's vision is to be the number one choice in affordable air service solutions for individuals and businesses, locally and worldwide, by providing an unparalleled air service. She also aims to uphold the highest safety standards.

When it comes to giving back to her local community, she is also very passionate about helping young people by sharing her knowledge and expertise. During a recent interview with CNN, she commented, "I'm where I am today because somebody invested in me. It's my opportunity now to invest in other people."

For more details about SRS Aviation, visit [www.srsaviation.co.za](http://www.srsaviation.co.za)

## Weekly Report from the Board Meeting at Holman Prison 6.8.16

We are very pleased to report that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals reversed Jerry Smith's death sentence for the fourth time, finding that the sentence sought by Houston County District Attorney Doug Valeska was again unconstitutionally obtained. Jerry is represented by

EJI. And so now our state will have to put up the money, which it doesn't have, to resentence a man who with a well established I.Q. of 67 was never even eligible for a death sentence to begin with! But then Jerry is African American! We quote from EJI:

"EJI also argued that

Mr. Valeska illegally barred African Americans from serving on the jury for Mr. Smith's fourth sentencing trial. Mr. Valeska removed every one of the 11 qualified African Americans from the jury. As a result, Mr. Smith, who is black, was tried by an all-white jury in a county whose population is 25

percent African American.

The Court of Criminal Appeals did not address this issue in today's opinion because it reversed Mr. Smith's death sentence because his right to a public trial was violated.

On behalf of African Americans who were

barred from serving on juries in Houston County, EJI filed a civil rights lawsuit contending that Mr. Valeska has illegally excluded qualified African Americans from serving on juries in serious felony cases, especially capital cases, for decades."

On Monday the U.S. Supreme Court remanded the case of Inmate Ronnie Kirksey back to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals for reconsideration of his appeal in light of the Hurst *(Continued on page 4A)*