

VOA / VA Tech Coverage

All VOA language services provided breaking news coverage of the tragic events at VA Tech and followed up with detailed analysis and reaction, interviewing students, professors, parents and members of the VA Tech community who are from their target areas and/or speak the language of their target areas. Several services supplemented this coverage with other special interviews and reports, produced special web pages and sent special feeds to affiliate stations. For example:

KOREAN interviewed Dennis Hong, professor of VT, who witnessed the second shooting where most deaths occurred. Hong captured the scene with his Web camera and has given VOA rights to use the footage. The service also interviewed Kim, Myung-gil, N. Korean Deputy Ambassador to the U.N. for his response about the incident. "This thing (shooting) should not have happened and should be strongly denounced," said Kim.

CHINA BRANCH sent a reporter to VA Tech immediately after the shootings and has provided wall-to-wall coverage on radio and television. The China Branch Web Site also moved very quickly, posting the first report of the shootings at 12:15 pm and providing six updates by 1:30 the same day. It now has a special promo and page with stories and photos including original photos from the Mandarin reporter in Blacksburg. Video and audio of all special packages are streamed on the Internet. The China Branch has published a photo gallery, a profile of the shooter and profiles of the victims. In call-in and talk shows, the subjects were renewed concerns about gun control and public security and how schools are managed.

INDONESIAN dispatched reporters to the scene immediately and has done 15 special television feeds to affiliate stations, including the biggest networks in Indonesia. The Indonesian service is, in effect, getting top billing because of its reporting on the circumstances of an Indonesian Ph.D. candidate who died in the tragedy. The Indonesian service has also created a special web page telling the story of the shootings and the aftermath.

ENGLISH TO AFRICA conducted an interview with the International Action Network on Small Arms, to get an international perspective. The group says shootings at schools are not a rare occurrence. It says at least 263 children and 235 adults have been killed since 1996 in school shootings around the world.

VIETNAMESE interviewed a Vietnamese American mental health specialist, Dr. Nguyen Y Duc, who discussed the likely trauma and mental anguish experienced by the survivors, relatives, and fellow Virginia Tech students. He said the severe psychological impact on those affected will last for several months.

ENGLISH sent four video packages to its affiliate in New Delhi, *Headlines Today*, did eight telephone interviews with HT and two live Q&A with Arrirang Radio in Seoul. One of the video-chats was done from Centreville, home of Cho Seung Hui.

SPANISH radio responded to over two dozen radio requests for "live Q&A's" from affiliate and non-affiliated radio stations in Latin America on the first day of the tragedy, and a couple of dozen more requests since. Some of the stations are among the biggest radio networks in Latin America such as Radio Mitre of Argentina with over 100 repeater stations in the country and Radio Centro of Mexico City, which is also a national network. The Spanish TV Unit continued to obtain comments from other students from Latin America and from the father of the Peruvian student who was killed. The weekly call-in show "Hablemos con Washington" pre-empted its scheduled program to discuss events at VT. Guests were Dr. Gerardo Flintsch, an Environmental Civil Engineer Professor from Uruguay at the University, Dr. David Gavia, a Spanish-speaking mental health and clinical psychiatrist, and two Hispanic students. They responded to questions from Brazil, to Mexico.

GREEK sent a TV interview with a Greek student who was also a witness to some of the shooting events to affiliates in Greece and Cyprus. A Greek Service radio interview with the Vice President of the Hellenic Association of Virginia Tech was simulcast by Radio SKAI, VOA's premiere affiliate in Athens and Radio City International, in Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest media market.