

SELFLESS LOVE

Hero dad riddled with bullets shielding his toddler son during New Zealand mosque massacre – and both survived

The dad is in intensive care after he threw himself in front of his son during the attack

- [Molly Rose Pike](#)

- The Sun, 17 Mar 2019, 0:57

Updated: 20 Mar 2019, 11:57

A HERO dad was riddled with bullets when he shielded his two-year-old son as a gunman opened fire on innocent worshippers in the horrific New Zealand mosque attacks.

Zulfirman Syah was shot several times after throwing himself in front of his toddler son Averroes - with both now expected to survive.



Zulfirman Syah was shot several times after he shielded his two-year-old Averroes during the New Zealand mosque attacks



He underwent reconstructive surgery and his condition is said to be improving. Pictured with his son and wife Alta Marie

Fifty people were killed as Brenton Harrison Tarrant, 28, opened fire on two mosques in the deadliest mass shooting in New Zealand's modern history.

Survivor Zulfirman's wife Alta Marie revealed how her husband had bravely shielded their son as bullets rained down on innocent worshippers at the Linwood mosque.

Writing on Facebook, she said: "My husband shielded our son during the attack at Linwood Islamic Centre, which caused him to receive most of the bullets and much more complex injuries than our son.

"He is in stable condition following the extensive exploratory and reconstructive surgery he had earlier today.

"While he is still in the intensive care unit at this stage, he will be moved to the general ward whenever it is deemed appropriate - likely in the next day or so.

"While the road to recovery will be long, his condition has only improved since he arrived at the hospital yesterday."

And in a heart-wrenching video, panicked Averroes can be seen clambering over his injured father in the wake of the attack.

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Alta Marie

Alta said she searched for their son for hours - thankfully finding him injured but alive.

Young Averroes suffered more minor injuries, including a gunshot wound to the leg and backside, and underwent surgery to remove shrapnel.

Mum Alta said: "He had surgery this morning to extract some shrapnel while checking for internal injuries.

"He is recovering nicely and has been cheerful while keeping the staff on the children's ward entertained with his talkative and energetic nature."

A GoFundMe page for the family has already reached more than £16,000 in donations.

RISING DEATH TOLL

Overnight, New Zealand police confirmed tragic news that the death toll from Friday's massacre had reached 40.

Cops are thought to have found the body at Al Noor mosque — the first of Tarrant's two targets. There were fears the toll could rise to 60 as dozens were injured in the shooting.

Several children died during the attacks, including Mucad Ibrahim, three, and Abdullahi Dirie, four.

Also among the dead was keen footballer Heba Sami, 12. He had recently been pictured with a sign saying: "Everyone love everyone."

A 65-year-old woman, who sponsored a Bangladeshi boy she is thought to have taken to prayers, was reported to have died in the arms of another woman.

DETAILS OF MASSACRE REVEALED

Brenton Tarrant stormed at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Friday - with the devastating massacre made worse as he live-streamed it in a 17-minute Facebook video.

He was arrested and dragged from his car, which was rigged with two bombs, 36 minutes after police were first called.

The world was left shocked as Tarrant's twisted declarations were revealed in the wake of the shooting, having published a chilling 74-page manifesto before the rampage.

Tarrant now remains in custody, charged with murder. More charges are expected to follow.

The accused even smirked as he was taken into Christchurch District Court for his first appearance - flashing a white power symbol as he arrived.