

'Mental instability' must be considered when looking for motive behind attack: psychologist

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What makes Monday's horrific van attack so deeply terrifying is almost the "banality" of the new violence, said an expert in crime and human behaviour.

"Here you have a major thoroughfare in a major city and people are going about their lives and a van driving down the street just goes up the curb and starts cruising down the sidewalk," said Frank Farley, a Canadian-born professor of psychological studies and education at Temple University in Philadelphia.

"That's what makes it so exceptionally scary. This is almost a new form of violence that takes place in our 9 to 5 lives."