

# Facebook says video was online too long

Fatal shooting of Cleveland man was posted nearly 2 hours

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@jswartz USA TODAY, 4/18/17

**SAN FRANCISCO** Facebook said Monday it took too long to identify and take down videos of the fatal shooting Sunday of an elderly man and his alleged killer's plan and live confession — a series of disturbing incidents that again raise questions about the giant social network's ability to address objectionable material on its platform.

The video of Robert Godwin, 74, in Cleveland was posted for nearly two hours before Facebook took it down. The suspect in the killing, Steve Stephens, 37, posted a video first announcing his intent to commit the crime and later talked about his exploits on Facebook Live, according to a timeline supplied by Facebook. "As a result of this terrible series of events, we are reviewing our reporting flows to be sure people can report videos and other material that violates our standards as easily and quickly as possible," Justin Osofsky, vice president of global operations at Facebook, said in a blog post Monday. "In this case, we did not receive a report about the first video, and we only received a report about the second video — containing the shooting — more than an hour and 45 minutes after it was posted. We received reports about the third video, containing the man's live confession, only after it had ended."

Osofsky said Facebook disabled Stephens' account "within 23 minutes of receiving the first report about the murder video, and two hours after receiving a report of any kind. But we know we need to do better."

The incident, which garnered heavy coverage, is likely to intensify pressure on Facebook to more closely monitor content on its platforms, media experts say.

For months, the popular Facebook Live app — normally used by millions to broadcast weddings, concerts and other personal events — has increasingly become a forum for violent acts such as killings, rapes, torture and suicides. That, in turn, has intensified fears that those posting videos — live or recorded — are seeking, and gaining, attention that could lead to copycat offenders trying to "top" previous crimes.



**Robert Godwin Sr., moments before being shot.**

FACEBOOK VIA AP