

Idiom by Lon Yan

速戰速決

su4 zhan4 su4 jue2

A man drove a light truck onto a bicycle lane in Manhattan, ran over bikers indiscriminately (恣意地), killing eight of them and injured many others. As president of the United States, Donald Trump naturally had to say something on the horrendous (令人震驚的) crime. And as usual, he said inappropriate things.

First, he suggested sending the 29-year-old suspect to the wartime prison at Guantanamo Bay, a facility for holding terrorism suspects. But on second thought, he decided it would be better just to execute the suspect, saying on Twitter:

"Would love to send the NYC terrorist to Guantanamo but statistically that process takes much longer than going through the Federal system. There is also something appropriate about keeping him in the home

of the horrible crime he committed. Should move fast. DEATH PENALTY!"

This latest approach he suggested is "速戰速決" (*su4 zhan4 su4 jue2*).

"速" (*su4*) is "fast," "quick," "rapid," "speedy," "戰" (*zhan4*) "to fight," "a battle," "速" (*su4*), again, is "fast," "quick," "rapid," "speedy," and "決" (*jue2*) "to decide," "to determine." Literally, "速戰速決" (*su4 zhan4 su4 jue2*) is "to wage a quick battle to force a speedy result."

The idiom means "to employ a blitzkrieg (閃電戰) strategy," "to get something done quickly,"

"速戰速決" (*su4 zhan4 su4 jue2*) is used to describe an actual war strategy. It also applies to other situations that call for prompt action. When you want a problem resolved, or a challenging task completed without delay, you can say "Let's "速戰速決" (*su4 zhan4 su4 jue2*)!"

Terms containing the character "速" (*su4*) include:

速度 (*su4 du4*) – speed; velocity

速記 (*su4 ji4*) - shorthand

迅速 (*xun4 su4*) – rapid; fast; prompt

高速公路 (*gao1 su4 gong1 lu4*) – an expressway; a super highway