

News

World News Briefs

Prosecutor: Paris attacks mastermind not arrested in raid

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP) — Heavily armed French SWAT teams swooped in Wednesday and neutralized a cell that was planning to launch new attacks, leaving at least two people dead after firing 5,000 rounds during an hours-long gunbattle, a prosecutor said. Eight people were arrested.

The raid had targeted the suspected planner of the attacks, 27-year-old Abdelhamid Abaaoud, but his fate remained unclear.

Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said the identities of the dead were still being investigated, but that neither Abaaoud nor the fugitive attacker Salah Abdeslam was in custody.

“At this time, I’m not in a position to give a precise and definitive number for the people who died, nor their identities, but there are at least two dead people,” he told reporters.

Earlier, the prosecutor’s office had said the dead included a woman who detonated an explosive vest and a man hit by projectiles and grenades. But at a later news conference, Molins backed away from the earlier statement that the woman blew herself up, saying: “This point needs to be verified by an analysis of the body and human remains, as well as by all the forensic police operations.”

Radical’s transformation may have begun in prison

BRUSSELS (AP) — Much about Abdelhamid Abaaoud’s path to armed Islamic radicalism remains mysterious.

In the words of Koen Geens, the Belgian justice minister, he mutated from a student at an upscale Brussels school into “an extremely professional commando,” one seemingly able to slip across borders at will. Someone who



AP PHOTO/PETER DEJONG

French soldiers take up position in Paris suburb Saint-Denis, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015. Explosions and gunfire rang out early Wednesday as heavily armed police surrounded a suburban Paris apartment in a raid targeting the suspected mastermind of last week’s Paris attacks. At least two people were killed and two arrested.

openly mocked the inability of Western law enforcement agencies to catch him.

On Wednesday, the fate of the son of an immigrant shopkeeper from Morocco remained unclear. Police raided a suburban Paris apartment where they believed he was hiding. The siege ended with two deaths and seven arrests but no definitive information on Abaaoud, who French authorities have called the mastermind of the violence that killed at least 129 in Paris last week.

The wanted jihadi’s own father believes prison — where he served time for petty crimes — changed him for the worse. After his son got out, Omar Abaaoud noticed “signs of radicalization,” the elder Abaaoud’s lawyer, Nathalie Gallant, told RTBF broadcasting Wednesday.

If so, that would fit the pattern of a number of jihadis who were radicalized in prison.

Passport in Paris attacks fuels fears of refugees

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — After the bombs and Kalashnikov fire of the Paris attacks, a mere document — a passport — found near the body of an attacker is generating a new wave of

dread throughout Europe and beyond. But whether the document ended up there by chance, or was part of an elaborate plot to sow panic, is not clear.

Regardless of the answer, the passport has played into the Islamic State group’s hands by raising concerns that militants may be marching alongside the thousands of asylum seekers flowing into Europe. That possibility is redefining the debate over immigration in Europe and even the United States, and prompting a backlash against Muslim refugees.

The far-right French leader Marine Le Pen called for an immediate end to the flow of migrants into France, while

across the Atlantic about half of U.S. governors are taking steps to prevent absorbing Syrian refugees in their states, citing the passport.

“This terrorist attack will clearly change Europe’s refugee policies and how the arrivals in Europe are treated,” said Konrad Pedziwiatr, a sociologist and expert on Islam in Europe at the Krakow University of Economics.

“Already the open-door policy (in Germany and Sweden) of welcoming refugees was going to be reformed because the countries cannot cope with the numbers,” he said. “What the Paris attacks add to this difficult situation is the additional element of fear.”

Student at Lewis & Clark Walk Out in Reponse to Racist Posts

About 200 students at Lewis & Clark held a sit-in on campus Wednesday after a student posted a series of racist comments on Yik Yak, a social networking site.

The school’s Black Student Union organized the rally, encouraging students to skip class and hold an open discussion about race on campus.

The initial post included the hashtag “#bringbackslavery” and said, “I just want to hang you ignorant black people.”

The Black Student Union also drafted a list of demands Thursday night, including active recruitment of faculty of color, more authors of color in the freshman core curriculum and an increase in financial resources for students of color and low-income students. The list of demands includes a demand for specific timelines when the college intends to meet the goals.

Anna Gonzalez, the school’s dean of students, sent an email to the student body saying school officials have contacted the Portland Police Bureau.

Sgt. Pete Simpson, spokesperson for PPB, confirmed the bureau had taken a report regarding the posts.

“Based on the information in the report, there is no specific threat mentioned and nothing that would rise to a criminal act. Appears to be

yet another example of the anonymous use of social media for free expression, offensive as it may be,” Simpson told *The Skanner News*.

“If we learn of any criminal behavior or specific threats, we’ll continue to investigate and work with Lewis & Clark,” Simpson added.

“Hate has no place at Lewis & Clark,” Gonzalez wrote. More than 50 faculty members have signed a petition in support of the students. Members of the public can sign a supporting petition here: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/support-for-black-students-at-lewis-clark/>.

Earlier this month, students at the University of Missouri posted threats on Yik Yak that resulted in African American students evacuating campus. On Nov. 9, University of Missouri student Connor Stottlemire, 19, and Hunter Park, also 19, a student at a nearby Missouri college, were arrested in connection with the threatening comments. Similar threats were reported on a Michigan campus over the weekend.

Last year, Lewis & Clark officials launched an investigation of racist comments posted to Yik Yak that included racial slurs and an image of a gun. The incident resulted in tighter restrictions on dorm swipe card access.

—Christen McCurdy

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