

TERROR: Raids in two locations end in bloodshed

Continued from 1A

American forces in Iraq, and both were on the U.S. no-fly list, according to a U.S. official.

President Francois Hollande urged his nation to remain united and vigilant, and the city shut down a famed Jewish neighborhood amid fears of more violence.

“The threats facing France are not finished,” Hollande said. “We are a free people who cave to no pressure.”

The drama, which played out on live TV and social media, began with the brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi methodically massacring 12 people Wednesday at the Charlie Hebdo offices, stopping to shoot a wounded police officer in the head before escaping by car.

On Thursday, a gunman police identified as Amedy Coulibaly shot a policewoman to death south of Paris, although authorities were not sure at first if it was related to the Charlie Hebdo shootings.

It all ended at dusk Friday with near-simultaneous raids in two locations: a printing plant in the town of Dammartin-en-Goele, northeast of Paris, where the Kouachis were holed up, and the Paris supermarket where Coulibaly killed four hostages and threatened more violence unless the police let the Kouachis go.

As scores of black-clad security forces surrounded both sites, booming explosions, heavy gunfire and dense smoke heralded the news that the twin sieges finally had ended.

The three gunmen were dead — but the authorities also discovered four dead hostages at the market. Sixteen hostages were freed, one from the printing plant and 15 others from the store.

The attackers had ties both to each other and to terrorist activities that reached back years and extended from Paris to al-Qaida in Yemen. They epitomized Western authorities’ greatest fear: Islamic radicals who trained abroad and came home to stage attacks.



AP photo by Michel Euler

Security officers escort released hostages after they stormed a kosher market to end a hostage situation, Paris on Friday.

After the killings at the Charlie Hebdo offices, Cherif Kouachi, 32, and his 34-year-old brother Said led police on a chase around northeastern France, robbing a gas station and stealing a car before ending up at the printing plant in Dammartin-en-Goele, near Charles de Gaulle airport. One of the brothers was wounded in the neck at one point during a shootout with police after he commandeered a car, Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins said.

Authorities said the brothers temporarily took a man hostage at the plant but let him go, and a second man was later discovered to have been hiding inside the building.

A member of the al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula gave a statement in English to The Associated Press saying the group’s leadership “directed the operations and they have chosen their target carefully.”

The attack was in line with warnings from the late al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden to the West about “the consequences of the persistence in the blasphemy against Muslim sanctities,” the member said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the group’s regulations do not permit him to give his name.

The brothers were cornered there for much of the day before the explosions and gunfire rang out in the twilight and a police SWAT team clambered onto the roof.

“They said they want to die as martyrs,” Yves Albarello, a local lawmaker inside the command post, told French television station i-Tele.

At the kosher grocery near the Porte de Vincennes neighborhood of the capital, the gunman burst in shooting just a few hours before the Jewish Sabbath began, declaring “You know who I am,” the official recounted.

The attack came before sundown when the store would have been crowded with shoppers, and Hollande called it “a terrifying anti-Semitic act.”

French probe terror links; new attacks may be ahead

PARIS (AP) — What started as a hunt for two terror suspects grew into something worse — fears of a nest of terrorists that could strike again in the heart of Paris. The suspects in three attacks knew each other, had been linked to previous terrorist activities, and one had fought or trained with al-Qaida in Yemen, which claimed ownership Friday of this week’s newspaper massacre.

Investigators are now trying to determine to what extent the attacks were coordinated.

The Kouachi brothers had been the subject of a vast manhunt following the armed attack on the Charlie Hebdo weekly that claimed 12 lives on Wednesday. The brothers died Friday when police attacked the building near Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris where they had barricaded themselves.

An acquaintance of at least one of the Kouachis, Amedy Coulibaly, 32, was identified as the suspected killer of a policewoman in suburban Paris the previous day —and as the man armed with a semi-automatic rifle who opened fire Friday in a kosher market near Paris’ Porte de Vincennes and holed up with hostages there.

He threatened to kill his captives if the Kouachis weren’t freed. Like the brothers, he was killed when police moved in.

According to French judicial documents obtained by The Associated Press, the connections among the terrorist suspects date back to 2010, when Coulibaly was sentenced to five years in prison for an abortive attempt to free another terrorist from prison. Smain Ait Ali Belkacem was serving a life sentence for a bombing attack on the Paris rapid transit system in 1995.

Cherif Kouachi, 32, the younger of the brothers, was detained in that investigation, but freed later without being tried. A former pizza deliveryman, he appeared in a 2005 French TV documentary on Islamic extremism and was sentenced to 18 months in prison in 2008 for trying to join up with fighters battling in Iraq.

The French judicial documents said Coulibaly and the younger Kouachi knew each another, and traveled with their wives in 2010 to central France to visit a radical Islamist, Djamel Beghal, who had been sentenced to 10 years in prison on a terrorism-related charge.

Police issued a bulletin Friday asking anyone with information about Coulibaly’s wife, 26-year-old Hayat Boumeddiene, to contact them, saying she was potentially “armed and dangerous.”

According to the judicial documents, a police search of Coulibaly’s residence in 2010 turned up a crossbow, 240 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, films and photos of him during a trip to Malaysia, and letters seeking false official documents.

In a police interview that same year, Coulibaly identified Cherif Kouachi as a friend he had met in prison and said they saw each other frequently, according to a transcript of the interview obtained by the Journal du Dimanche newspaper and posted on the newspaper’s website.

According to the newspaper, he told the police that people he met in prison used the nickname “Dolly” for him. He said he was employed as a temp worker at a Coca-Cola factory.

“I know a lot of criminals because I met heaps of them in detention,” he is quoted as telling the police.

SEX CRIMES: Bedard, Wickert get more than six years

Continued from 1A

duct, and Wickert in February pleaded guilty to three counts of second-degree sexual abuse. The child who suffered the crimes is related to Wickert.

Bedard appeared in court in cuffs and yellow jail clothes. His mother and father and other supporters sat in the benches behind him along with defense attorney Jon Lieuallen. Chief deputy district attorney Richard Bunney represented the state.

Bunney told the court he was in contact with the sex crimes survivor and her family, and they understood the plea deals and decided not to come to court or provide a statement. Lieuallen, though, read a Christmas card the victim’s family sent to Bedard that stated they knew someone compelled him to commit his crimes.

The card did not identify who that was, nor did anyone else, but in hearings early in the case Bunney portrayed Malcom as the ringleader.

Bedard apologized to his parents and others for his involvement in the crimes. He said he was the victim of manipulation and never hurt anyone before. He cried during much of his statement and while he read a letter of apology to the girl and her family.

“At a time I should have been strong and protected you, I was a coward,” he read.

He also said Oregon law allows judges to make exceptions for certain offenders of some crimes, and he fell under that. He implored the judge not to send him to prison.

But Brauer gave him 75

months for the rape charge and 70 months concurrent for the other, per the plea deal. “It’s now time for you to pay your dues,” the judge said.

Wickert during her sentencing appeared via video from the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. She had no supporters in court.

“I just want to say I’m going to take and learn my lesson from this experience and become a better person in life,” she told Brauer.

He also sentenced her according to the deal she reached: 18 months in prison on two counts apiece and 39 months on the third, all consecutive, for a total of 75.

Bedard and Wickert have been in the county jail since 2012 and will receive credit for the time they served. They also will have probation after prison and must register as sex offenders.

Brauer also ordered they cannot have contact with the girl they victimized. But Bunney told Brauer that at some point after she turns 18 she wants to have contact with Wickert. Dean Gushwa, Wickert’s attorney, said there is a process for that. Brauer said that is not for the court to decide now.

The proceedings conclude one of the largest sex crimes cases the county has had in recent years. Bunney said afterward he was pleased with the hefty sentence Malcom will serve, and the prison time for Bedard and Wickert reflects their willingness to cooperate with the state. He also expressed his hope this helps the survivor and her family.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

Farewell to Parade

Parade magazine has been a beloved part of many American newspapers – including the East Oregonian – for decades. We regret to inform our readers that the company that now publishes **Parade** – Athlon Media Group – will discontinue distribution in smaller media markets such as ours, effective January 1, 2015.



Athlon Media Group has also announced that **American Profile** magazine will reduce their publication schedule from weekly to twice a month, starting in January 2015.

Athlon’s food magazine, **Relish**, will continue to be distributed in the East Oregonian 11 times a year, with a combined January/February issue. We will also continue to distribute Athlon’s health and wellness magazine, **Spry**, every month.

