St. Denis Siege Over: 2 killed, 7 arrested in plot to attack La Defense Paris Business District

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St. Denis Paris Suburb siege

Source: AP

The seven hour siege at an apartment house in heavily Muslim St. Denis has ended. The toll 2 killed, including a woman who exploded her suicide belt, seven have been arrested. Five police were wounded and a SWAT team dog, Diesel, was killed by the debris from the explosion of the female terrorist suicide belt. There were unconfirmed reports of the possibility that the terror mastermind of last Friday's massacre in Paris, Belgian a radical ISIS operative, Abdel amid Abaaoud. AP reported French prosecutor, Francois Molins saying that the planned raid that began early Wednesday morning was intended to entrap him. French police are awaiting forensic investigation to determine the identities of those killed and arrested. in the raid. There are unconfirmed reports that terrorists may have been on the verge of launching another terror attack directed at disrupting La Defense, France's business center in Paris.

Fox News <u>reported</u> eyewitness accounts of the assault on the apartment complex in St. Denis located less than a mile from the French Soccer stadium, scene of suicide bombings last Friday:

Police vans and fire trucks rushed to the scene north of Paris, just over a mile from the Stade de France stadium,

which was targeted by three suicide bombers during Friday's attacks. Riot police cleared people from the streets, pointing guns at curious residents to move them off the roads.

Residents said an initial explosion shook the neighborhood at about 4 a.m. (10 p.m. EST).

"Then there was second big explosion. Then two more explosions. There was an hour of gunfire," said Baptiste Marie, a 26-year-old independent journalist who lives in the neighborhood.

Another witness, Amine Guizani, said he heard the sound of grenades and automatic gunfire.

"They were shooting for an hour. Nonstop. There were grenades. It was going, stopping. Kalashnikovs. Starting again," Guizani said.

Sporadic bangs and explosions continued, and at 7:30 a.m. (1:30 a.m. EST) at least seven explosions shook the center of Saint-Denis. Associated Press reporters at the scene could hear what sounded like grenade blasts from the direction of the standoff.

One local resident posted a 10-second video of the scene on her street near the siege. A series of bangs sounding like automatic weapons fire could be heard. The message accompanying the tweet translates to "It's an intervention by police ... street closed, officers, etc."

Earlier in the United States, two Air France flights were diverted Tuesday night after phone calls were received alleging bombs may have been planted aboard. *CNN* reported:

Both flights landed safely Tuesday night, and were searched and given the all-clear by Canadian and U.S. authorities.

Flight 65, en route from Los Angeles to Paris, was diverted to Salt Lake City after a bomb threat was called in from the ground, a U.S. government official said.

The official did not know whether anyone was arrested and was not aware of any unruly passengers on board.

Shortly afterward, Air France Flight 55 from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris was diverted to an airport in Halifax, Nova Scotia — also because of a called-in bomb threat, a government source said.

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Syrian passport of suicide bomber Ahmad Alomohammad

In another development, there were reports that eight Syrian passports were found on migrants in Europe with the name of the suicide bomber at the French Soccer stadium last Friday. One man was arrested in Serbia who carried one of the forged documents. *The Daily Mail* reported:

The full scale of the trade in false passports that allows terrorists to slip into Europe was exposed last night.

It lets Islamic State fanatics who are bent on murder pose as refugees fleeing war and persecution.

Eight migrants have reached Europe using documents almost identical to those carried by one of the Paris suicide bombers.

He claimed asylum on the Greek island of Leros last month with a fake