

Three dead in Belgium anti-terror raids,

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Three people have reportedly been killed during a police counter-terrorism raid in Verviers in the east of the country.

Federal prosecutors told the Belga news agency there had been a police operation near the centre of the town but did not confirm there had been casualties. A number of people have been arrested.

“An operation is under way,” a source in the mayor’s office told AFP without giving further details, while another official said separately that it was “jihadist-related”.

Update: Reports indicate that the gunfight followed a foiled jihadist attack on a local police station.

“A second Paris has been avoided,” a ministry of justice source told Nieuwsblad newspaper.

A local resident said: “I heard two explosions and saw two young men run away. They were between 25 and 30 years of Arab origin.”