

# Trial for deadly 2017 Barcelona terrorist attacks begins

*From the English edition of [he said](#). "I don't want to testify anymore."*

In his earlier statements, Chemlal told Catalan police Mossos d'Esquadra four days after the attacks that Es Satty had been in charge of a "radicalisation process" and steering them towards "extremist ideas" in the cell, seen as part of Daesh.

In the video, a cell member named Mohamed Hichamy is heard saying, half in Spanish and half in Catalan: "You're going to regret ever being born, especially you, you Mossos d'Esquadra bastards."

Cell members are seen sitting on the floor, making an explosives belt. Hichamy boasts about how easy it was to assemble the required material. "All this is our own work, and I worked on it in front of our allies. Each gram of this iron is going to get lodged in your heads, in your children and your wives," he says.

Younes Abouyaqoub, who drove the van that killed 14 people on La Rambla, adds: "With the help of Allah, we are going to protect our religion." Abouyaqoub was killed by the police, as was Mohamed Hichamy and four other members of the group.

Investigators explored leads that took them to France, Belgium and Morocco, but were only able to build cases against three suspects, who have been in custody in Spain since their arrest.

Said Ben Iazza used to run a Halal butcher's shop in Vinaròs and he is facing eight years for lending his van and ID to the

terrorists to help them buy acetone, a highly flammable compound.

Driss Oukabir, the only member of the group with a prior police record, allegedly accompanied other cell members to rent a van that was going to be loaded with explosives, but he dropped out at the last minute. Mohamed Houli, the only suspect to have provided a detailed account of the cell's plans, was wounded at the Alcanar explosion.

Co-accused Oukabir denied police reports claiming he was an active member of the cell and said he had never attended the Ripoll mosque. He claimed not to be a practising Muslim and that he was too old (then 28) to get along with the younger men, mostly around 20 years of age, behind the attacks.

Ben Iazza admitted lending them his ID and a car, but denied that he knew they planned to use it to buy the raw materials needed to make explosives. Yesterday, he stuck to that story.

Public prosecutors are also asking for compensation for the more than 30 people who were injured in the Alcanar blast.

There are nearly 20 other parties who have filed a private prosecution and who are seeking murder charges against the three defendants, but the investigating judge has already stated that the latter are not liable for the August 17 events, as Driss was already under arrest while Houli was in the hospital following the Alcanar blast.

The trial is expected to last until mid-December.