

## Paris attacks: Hollande seeks global response

James Chessell, AFR, 18 Nov 2015

French President François Hollande has called for greater international co-operation in the fight against terrorism and warned Europe's open borders are at risk after putting his country on a war footing against the extremist group Islamic State.

In a rare address to both houses of the French parliament on Monday afternoon, Mr Hollande, who did not attend the G20 leaders' summit in Turkey over the weekend, said he would meet with US and Russian leaders in the coming days to discuss pooling resources in an attempt to destroy ISIS, which claimed responsibility for Friday's attacks on Paris which killed more than 130 people and injured hundreds more.

Describing the attacks as an "act of war" against "our country, against its values against its youth, against its way of life", Mr Hollande vowed to continue air strikes against ISIS targets in Syria and revealed he has asked the United Nations security council to meet as soon as possible to pass a resolution for a common fight against terror.

"We must do more. Syria has become the largest factory of terrorists the world has ever known," he said. "We are facing an organisation [ISIS] with territorial, financial resources and military capacity, since the start of the year. This organisation notably hit Paris, Denmark, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Libya."



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Mr Hollande, who said the state of emergency he declared after Friday's attacks would be extended for three months, said the migrant crisis confronting the European Union was "directly linked" to conflicts in the Syria and Iraq. "If Europe doesn't control its external borders it is the return of national borders or walls and barbed wire as we've seen today," he said before calling for "co-ordinated and systematic controls" of the EU's borders. He warned the abandonment of passport-

free travel within the EU - one of the founding principles of the European Project - would represent the dismantling of the European Union.

He also acknowledged the rising threat of home-grown terrorists given many of the gunmen involved in the Paris attacks - Europe's worst act of terrorism since the 2004 Madrid train bombings - were French nationals. "We know it and it's cruel to say it but French people killed other French people on Friday," he said.

The comments came at the end of another dramatic day in France that threw more light on the extremists responsible for Friday's atrocities in the French capital and raised more questions about whether French intelligence services could have done more to prevent the nation's worst attack since World War II.

### Massive raids

Earlier, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said jihadists were planning more attacks in Europe as police carried out 168 anti-terror raids across France and named the suspected ringleader of Friday's deadly series of suicide bombings and shootings in Paris.

"We know that more attacks are being prepared" against France "but also against other European countries", Mr Valls told French radio station RTL.

"Terrorism has struck and can strike again, these days, in the coming weeks," Mr Valls said. "It is a clash of values; it is a clash of civilisations."

France placed 104 people under house arrest after raiding homes concentrated in the cities of Toulouse, Grenoble and Lyon on Sunday night and early Monday morning using powers available under the state of emergency declared by Mr Hollande.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told journalists that weapons including a rocket launcher and a Kalashnikov rifle were seized while 23 people were taken into custody. "It's just a start, these operations are going to continue, the response of the Republic will be huge. It will be total," Mr Cazeneuve said.

Another raid took place in the Brussels suburb of Molenbeek on Monday targeting 26-year-old Salah Abdeslam, who is suspected to have been the eighth terrorist that carried out the attacks on France's national football stadium, the Bataclan concert venue and several restaurants and bars in Paris's fashionable 10th and 11th districts on Friday. His brother, Ibrahim Salah, has been named as one of the seven jihadists who were either shot dead or blew themselves up using suicide vests during the attacks.

Molenbeek has established itself a hotbed for extremism with at least two of the Paris gunmen believed to have spent time in the district already regarded as a breeding ground for radicalisation.

### Mastermind named

French intelligence named the alleged mastermind of the Paris attacks as 27-year-old Belgian extremist Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who is also believed to be linked to thwarted attacks on the Paris-bound high-speed train in August. Abaaoud was the head of a terrorist cell in Verviers which was dismantled by Belgian police last January in a firefight in which two jihadists were killed. A Belgian national from Molenbeek, who is now in Syria, he was sentenced to 20 years in absentia along with

32 other jihadists. "He appears to be the brains behind several planned attacks in Europe," a source close to the investigation told Reuters.

Abaaoud may have benefited from serious intelligence failings on the part of the Belgian security services if an interview he gave to ISIS magazine Dabiq earlier this year is true. He claims to have entered Belgium in late 2013 via Greece despite Belgian police checking him against his wanted photograph.

In other developments:

UK Prime Minister David Cameron revealed British security services had foiled seven planned terrorist attacks over the past 12 months. Mr Cameron also announced plans to recruit 1900 extra intelligence officers to take part in what he described as a "generational struggle" against ISIS extremists intending to "destroy us and our values".

Mr Hollande earlier in the day observed a minute's silence alongside other government ministers and students at the Sorbonne university.

France observed a final day of national mourning. Key tourist attractions such as the Louvre museum reopened to large numbers of tourists on Monday after being closed throughout the weekend.

Mr Valls said no world leader has asked for the critical climate conference in Paris at the end of this month to be delayed but conceded some side events such as a public march through the capital and a concert near the Eiffel Tower could be cancelled.

The Paris attacks are also expected to affect the way European policy-makers deal with the current immigration crisis confronting the continent. One of the suicide bombers who blew himself up outside France's main football stadium, the Stade de France, was found with a Syrian passport bearing the name Ahmad Al Mohammad. The Paris prosecutor's office said fingerprints from the attacker matched those of a person who travelled through Greece last month - a route used by many refugees seeking to asylum in Europe.

The leader of France's far-right Front National party, Marine Le Pen, used her Twitter account to call for an "immediate end to the policy of letting migrants into France and spreading through the country's towns and villages".

Other right-wing politicians in countries such as Poland have argued the Paris attacks underline the need for stricter border controls.