

Beat: Politics

## FRANCE MOURNS THE TWELVE KILLED BY TERRORISTS AND IS IN NATIONAL MOURNING

### TWO GUNMEN OPENED FIRE AT CHARLIE HEBDO

Paris, Washington DC, 09.01.2015, 02:29 Time

**USPA NEWS** - The French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo was attacked yesterday, in Paris by two black hooded gunmen using powerful weapons, and killed twelve people, in Charlie's office. It was around 11h30 am while an editorial meeting was held, when two terrorists opened fire, cowardly and with cold blood.

The French President spoke to the nation, condemning this barbarian attack and announced national day mourning today. He said, "France was attacked in its heart, in central Paris. Our real weapon is unity". The French President called the "gathering of all, in all forms, to defeat together ". Very quickly and spontaneous, the same evening, many people (150 000 in all France) gathered in silence in Paris ( 35 000), Lyon (15 000) and Toulouse, Nantes, London, and other big cities, (OUtside France) to pay their respects for the victims of the terror attack against the satirical newspaper. Standing together the people hold up, pens and posters reading 'I am Charlie' in French as they also meaning expressing 'Not afraid'.

CHARLIE HEBDO AND THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK-----Charlie Hebdo is famous for their anti islamic publication, but not only. The magazine has a long history of satiric weekly publication. Charlie Hebdo's mission, was to make a satire of the society in many ways, according to the expression of free press, so that their cartoonists became iconic for some of them. The attack of Charlie Hebdo is signed by these terrorists against freedom, especially the freedom of speech or to draw. The French President said "These victims are our heros", before announcing the the flags are at half mast in all public places for 3 days. These cartoonists became the terrorist's target just because they were drawing cartoons. They have bee cowardly killed as said Barack Obama who expressed his horror.

### TWELVE INNOCENT ASSASSINATED AND 11 IN A TRAGIC STATE-----

The twelve dead include the Charlie Hebdo team as Stéphane Charbonnier, who used the pen name Charb and was the editor of Charlie Hebdo. The cartoonists Jean Cabut (who signed his work Cabu), Bernard Verlhac (Tignous), Georges Wolinski, and Philippe Honoré; Mustapha Ourrad, a copy editor; the economic columnists Bernard Maris and Elsa Cayat----- Frederic Boiseau who was a building maintenance worker. The two police officers are Ahmed Merabet and Franck Brinsolaro. And, Michel Renaud who happened to be here as he was a guest invited at the office-----

All of them were assassinated by the gunmen who stole a car and fled after the massacre.-----

The magazine made fun of people""of many faiths, for many follies, which we all need to be reminded that we have. Some of the cartoons were blatantly, roughly sexual, and not designed to endear them to Jews or Christians. (The New Yorker)

Recently, the magazine had mocked the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS. The last tweet on the magazine's account before news of the attack was of a cartoon of the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. As the BBC noted, there are questions about its exact timing and provenance. But making fun of al-Baghdadi is not recklessness; it's how one knows that ISIS has not won, and never will.

### THE PUBLICATION OF THE SHOOTING

The current issue of Charlie Hebdo, published the day of the shooting, featured a caricature of the novelist Michel Houellebecq on the cover. Houellebecq's new novel, "Submission,"[?] also out Wednesday, according to the Times, "predicts a future France run by Muslims, in which women forsake Western dress and polygamy is introduced." [?] The drawing of Houellebecq, is just a funny comic, not at Houellebecq advantage.-----

#### CONDEMNATIONS SOLIDARITY AND THE DEMONSTRATIONS -----

Barack Obama, David Cameron, and Angela Merkel, François the pope, have all quickly condemned the attack and the wider assault on the press. The rector of Paris's Grand Mosque added his voice, saying, according to the Times, "We are horrified. "Our community is stunned by what just happened. It's a whole section of our democracy that is seriously affected. Am afraid for our muslim community and wish they will be no confusion, these people do not belong to Islam, this is not about Islam" [?]

#### A MINUTE OF SILENCE AND NATIONAL MOURNING DAY IN FRANCE-----

Today is a sad day in France-----

French tricolour flags flew at half mast throughout the country. French President Francois Hollande led a minute of silence held across the country. He joined police officers at the Prefecture of Police in Paris for the ceremony. The French Prime Minister, M Manuel Valls sang the country's national anthem outside his official Paris residence, Matignon Palace, as a mark of respect. At the House of representative (Chamber of deputies), the members of France's National Assembly also sang the anthem outside their building. Other tributes to the victims and families continue to be the subject of protests both from the civil and political leaders and the media groups particularly affected by tragedy a fellow activist for freedom of expression.

A republican march is scheduled for next Saturday calling for unity to confront terrorism, and the horror that touches the French Nation, bringing together all the forces of the country, which their political color. This initiative was launched by the Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who launched the invitation to the former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

Meanwhile large crowds gathered in the rain outside the Notre Dame cathedral in the capital as a symbol of fraternity.

#### **Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-3182/-france-mourns-the-twelve-killed-by-terrorists-and-is-in-national-mourning.html>

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