

Beat: News

A large police operation in Argenteuil arrested a terrorist with attack plans

Remarks of Interior Minister Cazeneuve

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USPA NEWS - "Today an important inquiry carried out by the French Police, which helped thwart a planned attack in France, led to an advanced stage. A French national is suspected to be involved in high level in this project, was arrested. He is evolved into a terrorist network that planned to strike France."^[?]

Further the terrorists attacks of Brussels, on Monday morning, that killed 31 people and 300 serious wounded, provoked the maximal level of alert in France. The National Police and the DGSE, today launched an operation with security perimeters and searches in the outskirts of Paris, in districts harboring "terrorist suspects". The minister of the interior made a press conference and here is the Remarks of Bernard Cazeneuve.-----

A police operation is currently underway in Argenteuil, Val d'Oise (12 km from Paris, North). The officers of the Directorate General of Internal Security, acting under delegated powers of a judge of the antiterrorist center of Paris, led a search of an apartment building. The building was evacuated of its occupants and clearance operations are underway to allow police to conduct a search of the apartment, parking and common areas in optimal conditions.-----

A security perimeter was established around the building by the national police, and I asked the prefectural government to take all measures appropriate to the situation. I ask the media to kindly comply scrupulously with the demands of security forces standing afar off, so as not to interfere with ongoing operations.-----

This follows an important inquiry carried out this morning by the DGSE (Directorate-General for External Security, French Homeland Services), which helped thwart a planned attack in France, led to an advanced stage.-----

The individual arrested, a French national is suspected to be involved in high level in this project. It evolved into a terrorist network that planned to strike France.-----

This arrest is the result of a thorough investigation conducted for several weeks, which mobilized important means of physical and technical surveillance, as well as close and constant cooperation between European services. It demonstrates once again the intense activity of our counter-terrorism services. I recall that it is already 75 individuals linked to terrorist activities were arrested in our territory since the beginning of 2016. The arrests led to 37 indictments and 28 incarcerations.

At this stage, no tangible evidence linking the project to the attacks of Paris and Brussels. The ongoing investigation will determine the contours of this criminal enterprise and possible complicity. It will be up to the Prosecutor of Paris, if deemed useful based on the outcome of the investigation, to make public more evidence.-----

In a context of unprecedented terrorist threat, the Brussels attacks were a tragic news event and recalled the sharpness, I commend again the tireless work of our intelligence services and counterterrorism internal security.-----

The Government strives to protect the French from this threat: we stay and remain absolutely vigilant. Thank you."^[?] Official Remark of french Interior Minister, Bernard Cazeneuve.

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