



NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | September 6, 2016

ISIS Intended More Operatives, More Targets for Paris Attacks, CNN Reports

An investigative report released by CNN this week provides extensive information about the external operations program of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and indicates that ISIS intended for the bloodshed in the Paris attacks last November to be even worse, and was planning for additional follow-up attacks in Europe. Based on a review of more than 90,000 pages of documents, photographs, and phone data from European investigations, it documents that ISIS has built a significant capability in Syria to support attacks abroad, and it has developed an extensive infrastructure in Europe to provide logistical support for terrorist attacks.

Investigators believe that the attacks in Paris, which killed 130 people, were a “slimmed-down version” of an even more ambitious plan, because some operatives were detained and did not arrive in France in time to participate. Investigators now believe that ISIS intended for the operatives to also attack the Netherlands, as well as other targets in France, including shopping areas and possibly a supermarket in Paris.

The CNN report also provides extensive details about operational cells’ use of encrypted social media for secure communications, the operational security methods used by ISIS handlers in Syria, and the logistical tactics used by operatives to cross borders.

According to CNN, two men, identified as Adel Haddadi (see photo), an Algerian operative, and Muhammad Usman, a suspected bomb-maker for the Pakistani group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, were intended to travel to Paris and participate in the attacks, but were delayed after being detained by Greek security officials for using fake Syrian passports to enter Europe while blending in with refugees. Under interrogation, they identified a Syrian handler, known only as “Abu Ahmad,” who supported them on each leg of their journey by wiring them money and providing instructions and logistical support through an international network of intermediaries.



INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENT OBTAINED BY CNN

Massachusetts Man Charged After Threatening to Attack Mosque, Kill Officers, and Assassinate President Obama

Last week, a Massachusetts man was charged with stockpiling weapons and threatening to attack a mosque, bomb a police station, kill homeland security officers, and assassinate President Obama. Joseph Garguilo (see photo), age 40, of Holliston, Massachusetts, was charged with being a prohibited person (because he was the subject of a restraining order) in possession of ammunition. According to the criminal complaint, the FBI received a tip in late July that Garguilo had acquired parts to make an AR-15 assault rifle and that he was stockpiling weapons. About the same time, he allegedly stated that “he will bomb a police station” and “kill as many homeland security officers as he can before they kill him.” More recently, Garguilo stated that he wanted to attack a mosque and kill President Obama. He allegedly said he wanted to “chain a mosque closed and burn it down.” On August 26, FBI agents searched Garguilo’s residence and seized parts to assemble an AR-15 rifle, ammunition for an AR-15 rifle and for a 9-mm weapon, chemicals that could be used to make incendiary or explosive materials, and hand-written notes threatening violent attacks against Muslims.

Garguilo appears to have been motivated by a variety of factors. Based on the threats, he has anti-Muslim, anti-government, and anti-police sentiments. The criminal complaint says that the original tip reported that he is “unstable and unpredictable” and that he “hates gays, minorities, and the police.” The complainant also stated that he was a drug user who is now actively using again. He apparently subscribes to conspiracy theories. The complainant said that Garguilo “believes that the structure of America will collapse and that America is going to enter a state of martial law.”



Contact Information

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