

France: 80 killed in Bastille Day attack in Nice

-High Priest Mageson 666

"I think there is a resurgence of anti-Semitism because at this point in time Europe has not yet learned how to be multicultural. And I think we are going to be part of the throes of that transformation, which must take place. Europe is not going to be the monolithic societies they once were in the last century. Jews are going to be at the centre of that. It's a huge transformation for Europe to make. They are now going into a multicultural mode and Jews will be resented because of our leading role."



-- Barbara Lerner Spectre, Sweden, Founder of Paideia, European Jewish Fund in Sweden



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A child's doll lies on the street beside the body of a young girl who was killed in the attack

'We stand in solidarity and partnership with our oldest ally': Obama condemns 'horrific terrorist attack' in Nice as Trump postpones VP nomination announcement
At least 80 people are dead and more than 50 have been injured in a Bastille Day attack in Nice, southern France

A driver moved down a group of hundreds as they watched fireworks

Eyewitnesses said he then opened fire at hotels and cafes before he was gunned down by police

Obama said he has directed his administration to offer assistance to French officials as they investigate attack

Trump postponed Friday's news conference in which he was expected to announce Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate

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President Barack Obama has condemned the 'horrific terrorist attack' that has left at least 80 people dead and more than 50 injured after they were mowed down by a truck in Nice, France.

Obama said America's 'thoughts and prayers' were with the families of the victims, who were watching Bastille Day fireworks when they were killed on Thursday night.

'We stand in solidarity and partnership with France, our oldest ally, as they respond to and recover from this attack,' he said in the statement released by the White House.



At least 80 people have been killed after a truck ploughed through a large group of people in Nice, France during a suspected terrorist attack



Horrific images depicting men and women lying on the side of a road close to the Promenade des Anglais

The president said he has directed his administration to offer any assistance French officials may need to investigate the massacre.

'On this Bastille Day, we are reminded of the extraordinary resilience and democratic values that have made France an inspiration to the world,' Obama said at the end of his statement.

'And we know that the character of the French Republic will endure long after this devastating and tragic loss of life.'

The attack prompted Donald Trump to postpone the unveiling of his running mate, expected to be Indiana Governor Mike Pence.

'In light of the horrible attack in Nice, France, I have postponed tomorrow's news conference concerning my Vice Presidential announcement,' Trump tweeted on Thursday night.

Anti-terror police swooped in as Nice was put on lockdown and residents were warned to stay indoors for their safety, as French authorities revealed they were searching for a second suspect.

The large white truck plunged into the crowd at around 11pm Thursday night as hundreds of people were on Nice's beachfront Promenade des Anglais to watch the fireworks for France's national day.

Local deputy mayor Christian Estrosi said the truck ploughed 1.3 miles through the crowd.

Eyewitnesses said they could hear gunshots ringing out in the street after the truck driver then opened fire on hotels and cafes before police shot him dead.

Guns and grenades were later found inside his truck. Identity documents belonging to a 31-year-old French Tunisian were also found.

The recovered documents indicate that the man is a resident of Nice.

He was alleged said to have shouted 'Allahu Akbar' — God is greatest — before being shot dead by police.

Pro-ISIS groups have been celebrating the attack but as yet the terror group has not officially claimed responsibility.



© Sasha Goldsmith
French police riddled the truck with gunfire in an effort to kill the crazed driver, who opened fire after crashing into a crowd of people watching Bastille Day fireworks

One witness called Antoine said: 'We were at the Neptune beach and a firework display had just finished. That is when we saw a white lorry. It was going quickly at 60 kilometers (40 miles) an hour.'

Wassim Bouhlel, another eyewitness, said that he saw a truck drive into the crowd and then saw the man emerge with a gun and start shooting.

'There was carnage on the road,' Bouhlel said. 'Bodies everywhere.'

Anti-terrorist police have taken over the investigation into the attack, according to the French interior ministry.

France's ambassador to the United States, Gerard Araud, also called last night's incident a 'terrorist attack'.

Addressing a Bastille Day reception in Washington, Araud said: 'Our democracies - France, the United States, our other partners, we are besieged, we face a terrible threat.'



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Stunned eyewitnesses prayed over the bodies of their friends and relatives who were killed in the massacre



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The Paris prosecutor's office opened an investigation for 'murder, attempted murder in an organised group linked to a terrorist enterprise'

Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said the gunman was killed by police and that authorities were continuing to investigate whether he acted alone or had accomplices who fled.

The Paris prosecutor's office opened an investigation for 'murder, attempted murder in an organised group linked to a terrorist enterprise'.

The probe is being handled by France's intelligence agency and judicial police.

Bodies could be seen lying on the floor by the beach, as the police and other emergency services tried to deal with mass panic.

British holidaymaker Esther Serwah, 59, was staying in a hotel a short walk from the scene.

She said she had been on her way to the Promenade des Anglais for dinner with her daughters when people started screaming at her.

Mrs Serwah, from Surrey, said: 'I was just walking to the Promenade and then I saw everybody running and I just didn't know what was going on.'

'People were screaming at me in French but I didn't understand. Some people were lying on the streets dead and people were running over the bodies.'

Fireworks were filling the night sky as the drama unfolded while a crowd of thousands enjoyed the country's biggest public holiday.

Regional newspaper Nice Matin quoted its own reporter at the scene saying there were many injured people and blood on the street.

It published a photograph of a damaged, long-distance delivery truck, which it said was 'riddled with bullets' and images of emergency services treating the injured.

Damien Allemand, the paper's correspondent, was quoted as saying: 'People are running. It's panic. He rode up onto the Prom and piled into the crowd.'

'There are people covered in blood. There must be many injured.'

The attack began just as the fireworks display ended as thousands of people were milling around the waterside.

'A fraction of a second later, an enormous white truck came along at a crazy speed, turning the wheel to mow down the maximum number of people,' Allemand said.

'I saw bodies flying like bowling pins along its route. Heard noises, cries that I will never

forget.'

The area around the Promenade is full of hotels and restaurants, all currently packed at the height of the holiday season.

France is still under a State of Emergency following last year's attacks on Paris, when almost 150 people were murdered by ISIS and Al-Qaeda operatives.

Both groups are well known for driving vehicles into innocent people, prompting fears that tonight's incident could be linked to their activities.



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