

Belgian raids net 6th terror suspect in attacks



Doug Stanglin, USA TODAY

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(Photo: Geert Vanden Wijngaert, AP)

Belgian police, who arrested six terrorist suspects Friday, descended on a building in central Brussels on Saturday with snipers and bomb disposal units, according to media reports.

Residents of the building in the [Etterbeek](#) district were evacuated as police and forensics experts spent several hours searching the building, [Reuters reports](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-belgium-blast-raids-idUSKCN0X60EP) (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-belgium-blast-raids-idUSKCN0X60EP>).

At least 50 bomb disposal experts were also on the scene, according to the Belgian broadcaster RTBF.

Belgian broadcaster VRT [reported Saturday](http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/News/1.2624180) (<http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/News/1.2624180>) that the sixth suspect rounded up in a day of sweeping arrests Friday was Bilal El Makhoukhi. The suspect was convicted last year in a trial in [Antwerp](#) for involvement in the radical group [Sharia4Belgium](#) but was serving his sentence at home while outfitted with an electronic surveillance tag.

El Makhoukhi went to [Syria](#) in 2012 but returned to Belgium after losing his leg while fighting with [Islamic extremists](#), according to VRT. He was arrested Friday in Brussels' [Laken](#) district, but it is unclear whether he was suspected of involvement in the March 22 terror attacks that killed 32 people at [Brussels Airport](#) and a metro station.

The other five suspects taken into custody Friday included Mohamed Abrini, the last known fugitive on the run after November's deadly Paris attacks, according to Belgian prosecutor Eric Van der Sypt.

The prosecutor said investigators are still unsure whether Abrini is the elusive "man in the hat" seen on surveillance video leaving Brussels Airport minutes before the attack last month. He was arrested one day after authorities released several videos showing the suspect walking through Brussels streets and appealed to the public for information on his whereabouts.

Also arrested Friday was Osama Krayem, alias Naim al Ahmed, who is believed to be linked to the subway attack, according to Belgian media reports.

Abrini was the object of a massive manhunt following the Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris that left 130 people dead.

The Belgian-Moroccan was seen on surveillance video driving another terror suspect, Salah Abdeslam, to Paris two days before the deadly rampage.

Abdeslam was arrested by Belgian police four days before the Brussels terror attacks.

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