

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers visit <http://www.djreprints.com>.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/brussels-on-edge-as-lockdown-continues-1448280916>

WORLD

Belgium Charges Suspect in Connection With Paris Attacks

Prosecutors didn't release the name of the man arrested in raids Sunday

By **NATALIA DROZDIAK** And **GABRIELE STEINHAUSER**

Updated Nov. 23, 2015 1:25 p.m. ET

BRUSSELS—A man arrested in a raid in Belgium has been charged in connection with the Paris attacks, the country's federal prosecutor said Monday.

“He has been charged with participating in the activities of a terrorist group and a terrorist attack [in Paris],” the prosecutor's office said.

The man was arrested during raids Sunday night, the prosecutor's office said, without giving the man's name or any other details.

Following the raids Sunday, prosecutors said that the people taken in the raids didn't include Salah Abdeslam, a suspect in the Paris attacks who has been at the center of an international manhunt for over a week.

A further 15 people arrested last night were released after questioning, the prosecutor's office said. Five others were detained this morning, and two have been released.

“Is not uncommon, during large-scale search operations like the one last night, to bring in several people merely for thorough questioning or to clarify why they were found on

the searched premises,” the prosecutor’s office said. “The risk of being confronted with weapons, explosives or dangerous persons as well as experiences in the recent past, necessitate the use of exceptional precautionary and safety measures in these kinds of operations.”

Police armed with automatic rifles patrolled in front of government buildings, international hotels and closed schools as the city’s lockdown continued for a third day and authorities hunted a suspected terror cell they believe could be planning a follow-up to the Paris attacks.

Belgium has been on edge since the government virtually shut down the capital—closing the subway, canceling major sporting events and ordering schools and universities shut —after police found automatic weapons and the makings of a suicide belt in a raid on Friday.

Brussels Terror Alert Brings Deserted Streets »

Photos: Soldiers patrolled the streets of the Belgian capital Saturday after Belgium raised the alert status for the city to the highest level. Stores were closed and the metro system was shut down.



1 of 9

U.S. and Belgian officials have said authorities believe there is another cell related to the suspects who carried out the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris. Authorities said they believe that as they close in on the suspects, terrorists will try to hastily execute a strike modeled on those attacks on public places that killed 130 people in the French capital. They haven’t given any details on who they suspect the would-be assailants could be.

Streets in Brussels that would normally be bustling on a Monday were eerily quiet. The subway remained closed, but normally clogged roadways were also empty, as many employers told staff to stay home.

RELATED

Still,
many

- U.S. to Speed Up ISIS Fight, Kerry Says (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-to-speed-up-efforts-to-fight-islamic-state-says-kerry-1448289146?>)
- U.K.'s Cameron Urges Lawmakers to Back Syria Airstrikes (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-k-s-cameron-urges-lawmakers-to-back-syria-airstrikes-1448272454>)
- Paris Attacks Show Cracks in French Counterterrorism Efforts (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/paris-attacks-show-cracks-in-frances-counterterrorism-effort-1448244796>)
- Putin, Khamenei Meet on Syria (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-president-putin-irans-supreme-leader-khamenei-meet-over-syria-1448300828?tesla=y>)

restaurants and supermarkets were open for business. Belgian stocks showed no signs of concern over the continued lockdown. Although several other European bourses started the week lower, Belgian stocks were up 0.2% at 3708.3 mid morning.

As raids intensified in Brussels on Sunday night, authorities asked residents not to post on social media on the operation or police positions in an effort avoid tipping off the suspects. Instead, many people replaced their pictures of heavily armed police and military vehicles with cat pictures under the hashtag #BrusselsLockdown.



Soldiers and police patrol in Brussels on Monday as the city remained on lockdown. *PHOTO: JAKUB DOSPIVA/CTK/ZUMA PRESS*

The police operation Sunday in the heavily Muslim Brussels district of Molenbeek, where at least three of the suspected Paris attackers lived, was so big that one

shopkeeper likened it to a combat zone. “It was war,” the man said, describing hovering helicopters and masked troops pointing guns as they approached and smashed into a nearby house.

—*Laurence Norman*

and Tom Fairless contributed to this article.

Write to Julian E. Barnes at julian.barnes@wsj.com and Valentina Pop at valentina.pop@wsj.com

Copyright 2014 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our Subscriber Agreement and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com.