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"Will you be ready to shoot in the crowd? "

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"He just told me to pick an easy target, a concert for example, where there are people. He said the better, after it was waiting response forces there and to die fighting with hostages." In the offices of the Directorate General of Internal Security (ISB) this Thursday, August 13, 2015, a jihadist apprentice confesses.

Arrested two days earlier in Paris on his return from Syria, Reda H., a Parisian of 30 years, tells all investigators: the reasons for his departure, crossing the Syrian border, military training, metal splinters found in his knee ... He says he was especially commissioned to Rakka by a certain Abu Omar, the "Kounia" (Muslim nickname) Abdelhamid Abaaoud, one of the coordinators of the events of November 13, 2015, to commit a massacre in a "rock concert".

His premonitory confessions, three months before the bloody hostage-taking of Bataclan, still haunt the intelligence services. *"All I can tell you is that this will happen very soon, insists the young man in custody. There, it was a real factory, and they really try to hit in France or Europe."*

She was the target of this plan of attack was taken seriously enough? Would it have taken to enhance security Parisian concert halls? *"The procedure described by H. Reda in his hearings"* in any case *"exactly the one that was used by the perpetrators of the November 13, 2015"*, says an officer of the RPS in a report made to the investigation file of attacks in Paris.

H. Reda says he never intended to pass the act. Before the investigators, it appears as a reformed jihadist and clumsy, which would be injured in training by jumping on its own grenade. The exact nature of his intentions is difficult to define. His account of his stay in Syria, extremely detailed, on the other hand allows a better understanding of how the organization Islamic State (EI) recruits and trains some supporters to hit Europe.

Milf Parisian Muslim, Reda H. does not correspond to the idea we generally of a candidate for martyrdom. It does not come from one of these ghettoized neighborhoods in the relegation sense is what this bed shelter identity became radical Islam. It is also not native to these suburban sets where the lack of perspective sometimes switch those called rather quickly the "converted" in the last alternative ideology of the XXIth century.

The motivations: "I was mitigated"

Born in the 17th arrondissement of Paris, Reda H. lived until he left for Syria in a rather upscale area of 15th district and worked in computer maintenance at Astrium, a subsidiary of Airbus space group. In April 2014, he lost his job. Incensed by the Syrian conflict raging since 2011, he sinks into idleness and sets out to join his brothers fighters:

"I consider legitimate the fight against the regime of Bashar al-Assad to slaughter his own people", is he justified in custody. "I was initially attracted by the efficiency of the Islamic State in Iraq, and then Syria. They get to do with only 30,000 men, it is incredible. The Free Syrian Army [ASL, the only non-jihadist opposition force], it is a group of thieves and greedy mercenaries who take power accounted for financial reasons," he understands.

"I'VE SEEN THINGS THAT HAVE TURNED AROUND, LIKE CHILDREN WHO WERE HOLDING SEVERED HEADS OF SYRIAN SOLDIERS"

ASL between a discredited by the propaganda of IS and a "backlash"

claiming to be indignation is mixed with religious considerations. Asked about his perception of sharia, Islamic law, he admits that it was *"one of the reasons"* for his departure: *"The law of God is applied anywhere on earth. Only the Islamic State claims apply. "The officer then attempts to define the degree of radicalization:*

"Do you consider legitimate to cut off the hand of a thief, knowing that you were arrested in 2007 for a series of flights to the trailer?

- I agree with the principle of cutting off the hand of a thief, but I think this should apply only to repeat offenders.

- Have you not been shocked by the number of beheadings attributable to EI on the videos you have seen [before leaving]?

- I've seen some stuff that turned around, as children who were holding severed heads of Syrian soldiers. I started to doubt. But something inside me told me that it was only the media who said it. (...) What made me doubt was that these videos are broadcast by the Islamic State itself. I was mixed. "

Reda H. does not trust the media *"tell lies"*: it develops its project starting by learning exclusively on the Internet. Between two videos of decapitation, it comes into contact, in spring 2014, with two jihadists on social networks: the French Quentin Lebrun, alias Abu Osama Al-Faransi, and the Belgian Tarik Jadaoun, aka Abu Hamza Al-Belgiki.

The first called in a video released in November 2014, his *"brothers"* Muslims to join Syria or, where appropriate, to *"kill the disbelievers"* in France. The second had threatened Belgium in another video in January 2015, days after the dismantling of a Belgian in Verviers terrorist cell led by Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the future recruiter Reda H.

The journey: "I told my mother that I was going on holiday in Greece"

In early May 2015, prohibited the Parisian adventure happen. Following the advice of his new friends, the future jihadist buys a pair of Timberland shoes and trek in anticipation of the passage *"difficult"* the Turkish-Syrian border. It also offers wide trousers - *"for religious reasons, do not wear tight pants in Syria"* - and a tablet to *"take advantage of the Wi-Fi"*. With 1300 euros in his pocket, he announced to his mother that he goes on holiday in Greece on 15 May.

"HE JUST TOLD ME" KOUNIA? "HE SPOKE NEITHER FRENCH NOR ARABIC. I SAID, "ABU OMAR AL-FARANSI." HE SPENT A PHONE CALL AND TOLD ME THAT IT WAS OK "

A Alanya, on the south coast of Turkey, there some time in the hotel goes - *"I went out, I went to the beach, all that"* - and contacts, for encrypted messaging, an interlocutor who is Rakka . On June 3, the latter asked him to travel to Gaziantep, a city near the Syrian border. Reda H. jump on a bus and runs along the coast for 600 kilometers. Once there, the caller orders him to take a taxi to a residential area, where a waiting van. The driver Turkish: *"He just told me he spoke neither French nor Arabic" Kounia? ". I said "Abu Omar Al-Faransi." He spent a phone call and told me that it was OK. "*

After half an hour's drive, the van stopped in a residential area between Urfa and Gaziantep, before a *"beige home"*. The driver up his bags. H. Reda finds himself in a room with an Australian *"pure strain"* and his wife, a Kurd, an Egyptian with his wife and son, two Algerians, a Luxembourg accompanied by his wife and two children aged 4 and six months, a child of 10 years, an Indian and his wife, and a Qatari. Women are in separate rooms. *"Everyone was*

happy, he recalls. *Someone brought the races, and we had to eat. "*

The border: "Women niqab was not very discreet"

The big moment approaches. The small colony came from all corners of the planet is about to tread the land of the "Caliph" Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the self-proclaimed successor of the Prophet. Around 3:00 am, June 4, the start is given. Two vehicles expect candidates to exile: a van for men, another for women. After *"rolled like balls,"* all lights off for more than an hour on dirt roads, the convoy stopped on a vacant lot. The border is there, nearby. The sun is just rising.

"It was a good group. Women niqab was not very discreet, remembers the young man. We were told to run. The women were in the galley. One moment there was a violent gap to cross. Fortunately, I had my Timberland. Indian woman broke her leg through it. We had to run between 500 meters and one kilometer across fields and stuff that bite. There was like a trail. At the end, we saw a small village with flags of the Islamic state. We were happy and relieved. "

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Cham land arrivals (the ancient name of Syria), new recruits are greeted by two Jeep: one for men, one for women, a leitmotif of their Syrian stay. On board, armed men. The convoy rolls through the fields, through several checkpoints and a village. *"I have not seen women in this village. If only one, outside her house in full niqab could only see his eyes. "*

The group halted in a first home. Everyone sits as he can on mattresses. The recruits are then invited to present with their identity documents and computer equipment, detailing the way they have borrowed and to decline the Kounia their "guarantor". Forced to handle the incredible success of its

recruitment campaign, the IU is obsessed with spies infiltration.

Reception: "They were happy for me to come to Paris"

Reda H. patient in a small room with a handful of men armed with Kalashnikovs and *"tripod machine guns"*. Again he wondered about his career and his motives. *"They were happy for me to come to Paris, they had impressed the air. "The young man then seems to ignore that this detail will soon make him a choice recruit to commit an attack in his hometown.*

In the afternoon, a van picks recruits. The landscape scrolls, punctuated with flags of EI, peasants at work and armed Mujahideen *"posted everywhere"*. New stop in a large building *"that looked like a school"*, with black tables. Officials make the call again, *"like school"*. The group boards a bus *"conditioning"* and bound Rakka, the stronghold of the Islamic state. Reda H., lost child of secular schools, moved forward, *"so as not to see the women"*.

Along the road, black flags everywhere. A land of pirates. *"We felt they really had control of the territory, it was not a joke. "After crossing the bridge over the Euphrates, which marks the entrance of the city, two young gunmen asking passengers to lower the blinds:" They told us that there were traitors who place Rakka electronic chips in buildings to direct missiles, and that we should not look outside. "*

Regulation: "For each offense, you you eat a cross"

The bus stops in front of a six-storey building. Terminus. Recruits join *"a hundred people"* parked in a large room, which *"many Filipinos"*, Russians, Bosnians, Chechens, Chinese, an American, Indian or Moroccan. To pass the time, Reda H. converse with an Algerian, who explains that some waiting patiently here for weeks and forbidden to go out. *"There, I began to regret"*, remembers the young man. It is advised to attend the Moroccans or Algerians and avoid the French, who have *"bad reputation"*: *"They often behave like the city", are we slipping him.*

Reda H. lucky. His expectations will be brief. The same evening, *"a wardrobe with a big beard"* just make the call. The youth exchange new means of transport - this time a military truck - to a last point drop. Candidates are grouped by nationality and sent to rooms. *"There was no French, so I was with Moroccans and Algerians. "*

The next day, during the dawn prayer, a part of the present EI program to new recruits. Tossed Jeep pickup truck, from building to building, Reda H. does not include everything. Her new boyfriend Algerian explains what to expect: a month of religious training, plus a month of military training.

"Morally, I was not well at that time," admits the young man. As part of the IE exposes the internal regulations, worthy of a religious boarding school. Reda H., who has just turned 30 years old, learns that no longer have the right to leave his room past 22 hours. *"They have a cross system. For each infraction of the rules, do you eat a cross, and after three crosses, do you eat a week longer. "*

Recruitment: "He looked at me with love"

An "organizer" of IE comes soon in the barracks and asks who is Abu Omar al-Faransi. *"When I told him it was me, he looked at me with love. He said he would return. "Shortly after 22 pm that night, a man," surely a Syrian ", just get him to his room, asked him to prepare his things and follow him:" Everybody looked at me with wide eyes. "Reda H. is elected. But what election? "Outside, a guy in the face concealed told me to look down and not look at anything. I prayed like I was dying. "*

After a stretch of road in the back of a military truck, Reda H. was transferred to a SUV tinted windows. The driver is speaking. "Gef Ahead", he orders. Face hidden under a "brown scarf", his handgun in a shoulder row holster, the man said simply that he Kounia the same as him: Abu Omar. Reda ignores H. whereas it is Abdelhamid Abaaoud. It is only once the premises of SID will recognize that the coordinator of major projects bombing targeted the France since early 2015.

<p>"HE TOLD ME THAT THAT DARKENS ONLY FACE THE ENEMY WITHOUT TURNING AROUND, HE HAS THE REWARD OF TWO MARTYRS"</p>	<p>Apparently seduced by the profile of Parisian Abaaoud probe his rookie: <i>"He asked me if I was interested in going abroad. He said, for example: "Imagine a rock concert in a European country, if you going to arm you, is that you would be ready to shoot in the crowd?" To find weapons there told me that there was no problem. I had only to ask for what I needed, in France or in Europe. I told him I wanted to fight the soldiers of Bashar al-Assad. "</i></p> <p>Commercial good, Abaaoud place his dialectic: <i>"He told me that he who rushes alone against the enemy without turning around, he has the reward of two martyrs. He said that if his head like mine, it would have taken my passport and would have gone himself. He said he would show me the war wounded to make me understand that I had the chance to return to France. He told me that if I refused, I would regret it. He added that if many civilians were affected, the foreign policy of France would change. "</i></p>
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After the laborious odyssey that took him to the land of the "Caliph" Reda H. hardly seems excited to turn back to die. In any case what he said to the investigators. *"There, I knew it was the only way for me to keep my passport. I asked him one time to think. I knew that, given the expiry of my passport, I was going home soon in France. So I said OK, with the sole aim to get out of this quagmire. "*

Abaaoud deposits it into a place to sleep. Reda H. spend the evening in the company of an Iranian shot in the leg, armed with a M16 Kazakh and a "impressive knife" and two Afghans clad scars. *"They were friendly, but n had no common language. And then we felt they were not kidding ... "*

Training: "He was stressing me shouting"

The next morning, June 6, Abdelhamid Abaaoud going to take the 4 × 4 to explain his future mission. Around Rakka, it initiates Reda H. mounting and dismounting a Kalashnikov: *"I struggled a bit, I hurt my thumb, but I have finally arrived. "*

The two men go in a park sunburned. Abaaoud Parisien says a Kalashnikov and a tactical vest with five chargers. *"I was very hot. There was a small house in white walls with target and bullet holes. It made me take piecemeal and continuously. I yelled because, burst, I was shooting in the air. He made me do a lot of exercises. Dried herbs have even caught fire. "After the first day of training, Reda H. returned to his dormitory. There, a "Black" English, computer, provides each resident a USB key containing encryption software, TrueCrypt. Terrorist mission of the basic kit.*

The next day, look back Abaaoud Reda H. drive. We must complete the formation of the new soldier. The two men returned to the park: *"He gave me a gun and a stun grenade. He explained that it was set to three seconds. He drew silhouettes in the house. He asked me to take the weapon, throwing grenades inside, wait for the explosion, and then enter and shoot the targets. It was hot, I was tired, I could more. I went there, it stress me screaming. I threw the grenade into the house, I heard a small explosion, I went into the house, I fired three targets, then the grenade exploded. I was bleeding from the arm, leg. "*

Back in France: "The disbelievers are innocent"

After a brief stint in a hospital Rakka, Reda H., who is only slightly wounded, joined the apartments that we have assigned to it. He spent three days in "doing nothing", that is to say, to watch "videos on methods of elite troops". Abdelhamid back Abaaoud see. *"He said he had to go because my passport was soon out of date. "He gives her 2,000 euros in cash, advises him to go through Prague and a Turkish scribbled phone number on a paper" with Dad written over ". Abaaoud takes his new recruit in his arms and said "goodbye".*

At dusk, a van going to take it. On 12 June, Reda H. is conveyed to the Turkish border, in the company of a Belgian of Moroccan descent with a false passport, also commissioned to carry out an attack in Europe and will be arraigned in Warsaw three days later. At the border post, the two men dismounted: *"We ran up a barbed wire fence with an iron door. A young Turkish pulled the door and*

we were in Turkey. "The young man has spent a week in Syria.

After a few days in Istanbul with his Belgian companion, Reda H. is flying, June 15, to Prague. Two days later he flew to Amsterdam and then take a train to Brussels where he, according to him, threw the phone number of Abaaoud well as the username and password provided by the computer "black". The next day he takes a Thalys train which arrives in North Station.

"I PREFER TO DIE
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Arrested August 11 after several weeks of surveillance, Reda H. hides behind a fanciful version of its journey. He claims to have made a simple pleasure trip in Turkey and had been wounded in the leg during a demonstration in Istanbul repressed. Investigators found no record of this gathering, the apprentice jihadist confesses.

His story, very detailed, investigators revealed a planned attack they did not suspect. The young man says he never had any intention to obey orders. It will purchase yet, on the way back, a smart phone in Turkey, two in Prague, and will make a copy of the encryption software that was provided to him, and scrupulously following the instructions received in Syria.

Reda H. he was about to commit an attack in France? *"I'd rather die on the way to paradise killing innocent and go to hell, he provides to investigators. Then he adds: I said that the miscreants are innocent, if only because they can become believers. "A very relative vision of innocence.*

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