

Paris gunman linked to 3rd shooting on same day as newspaper massacre



By **Tribune wire reports** · **Contact Reporter**

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A prosecutor says the shooting of a jogger in a Paris suburb on the same day as the [Charlie Hebdo](#) massacre has been linked to the gunman who killed a female police officer and four hostages at a kosher grocery.

In a brief statement Sunday, the prosecutor said ballistics tests on shell cases from the shooting Wednesday in Fontenay aux Roses linked them to the automatic weapon at the kosher store stormed two days later. The prosecutor said the jogger was seriously wounded.

Amedy Coulibaly was killed when police stormed the market. That raid took place just minutes after security forces killed the brothers who carried out the massacre at Charlie Hebdo, a satirical newspaper that lampooned Islam and other religions.

Coulibaly's widow Hayat Boumeddiene, 26, a young Frenchwoman of North African origin, was being sought Saturday by French police, who think she may have vital information about an Islamic extremist

cell that her common law husband, shot dead by police, may have belonged to.

French authorities, though, may be too late in their hunt for Boumeddiene. Turkish authorities told [The Associated Press](#) that she may be in Syria, after landing in their country days ago and vanishing near the Turkish-Syrian border.

In a 2010 interview with French counterterrorism police, a summary of which was obtained by the AP, Boumeddiene characterized herself as an observant Muslim, and her late common law husband Coulibaly, 32, who worked at the time for Coca-Cola, as somewhat of a party animal.

Coulibaly "is not really very religious," Boumeddiene told police, according to the official judicial documents. "He likes to have a good time (and) all that."

The pair wed in July 2009 in an Islamic religious ceremony not recognized by French law. The judicial records say she was known to French internal security services as being very close to Islamic radicals, and an official circular distributed Friday by French police said she should be considered dangerous and potentially armed.

At dusk Friday, Boumeddiene's husband was killed when police stormed the kosher market in eastern Paris where he had taken hostages. French prosecutors said Coulibaly killed four people before police put an end to the ordeal.

At virtually the same hour near the [Charles de Gaulle](#) airport outside the French capital, two brothers suspected of killing 12 people at the [Charlie Hebdo](#) newspaper Wednesday died in a shootout with police.

It's Boumeddiene who may have key information about how the attackers were linked, officials said. She and the female companion of one of the Kouachi brothers talked to each other by telephone about 500 times, Francois Molins, the Paris public prosecutor, said Friday.

"We can call this complicity by furnishing of means," Christophe Crepin, spokesman for the UNSA police union, told the AP in an interview. "We must interrogate her so she explains exactly if she did this under influence, if she did it by ideology, if she did it to aid and abet."

For Paris authorities, Coulibaly's widow "is considered an important witness to whom we must ask questions," added Crepin. "Since 2010, she has had a relationship with an individual whose ideology has been expressed in violence, and by the execution of poor people who were just doing their shopping in a supermarket."

Official judicial records show Boumeddiene was asked once by French counterterrorism police about her reaction to attacks committed by [al-Qaida](#).

"I don't have any opinion," she answered, according to the documents, but added immediately that innocent people were being killed by the Americans and needed to be defended.

The same year she wed, she told police, she began wearing a full-length Islamic veil—a decision, she told her interrogators that led to losing her job.

On Saturday night, a Turkish intelligence official told AP that authorities believe Boumeddiene arrived in Turkey days before the attacks that shook France, and may have crossed the border into Syria.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a woman by the name of Boumeddiene and who resembled a widely circulated photo of her flew to Istanbul on Jan. 2. Turkish authorities believe she traveled two days later to the Turkish city of Sanliurfa, and "she then disappeared," the intelligence official said.

Of the two spouses, who lived in Bagneux near Paris, Boumeddiene may have been the more religiously observant, said Coulibaly's one-time lawyer, George Sauveur. His former client, Sauveur said, had at least six prior convictions, including three for armed robbery, before he was assigned to defend him in 2011 in a terrorism-related case, in which he said Coulibaly admitted furnishing ammunition for a planned jailbreak intended to free a radical Islamist. He was sentenced to five years.

While behind bars, authorities say, the one-time Coca-Cola employee made the acquaintance of the younger of the Kouachi brothers, Cherif, 32.

In an encounter that, in retrospect, appears astonishing, Coulibaly was among a group of people received in July 2009 by then French President [Nicolas Sarkozy](#) at the Elysee Palace for a meeting on a government program to get more young Frenchmen and women into the work force, the lawyer said.

Before the meeting, an awed and apprehensive Coulibaly, then 27, was interviewed by Le Parisien newspaper.

His temporary job at the local Coca-Cola plant in his hometown of Grigny would be over in two months, he said, adding, "if the president can help me get hired ... "

When he met Coulibaly, Sauveur said, his client said he was earning 2,200 euros (\$2,600) a month— and making money on the side by dealing in Kalashnikov ammunition.

If Coulibaly turned to radical Islam while in prison, he hid it well, two former friends told the AP on Saturday.

One fellow drug dealer from the Paris suburb of Bretigny said Coulibaly regularly sold marijuana and hashish to high school students, and as recently as a month ago, was still dealing dope at La Grande

Borne, a tough public housing estate to the south of Paris.

"He never went to prayers or talked about Islam," said the 19-year-old, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he didn't want to attract police attention. The dealer described Coulibaly as a fitness fan who worked out often and dressed in Nike shoes and athletic gear.

"I was totally shocked when I found out," the former dealer said, referring to the siege at the kosher market and the fatal shooting Thursday of a suburban Paris policewoman that authorities said was also Coulibaly's doing.

Associated Press

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