

# The suicide bomber who blew himself up when police stormed Saint-Denis identified

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Portrait of Chakib Akrouh, born August 27, 1990 in Belgium, Belgian-Moroccan nationality.

After nearly two months of research, the investigators eventually **identified** the suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt was during the assault led by the RAID against an apartment **Saint-Denis, November 18th**. By comparing his DNA with that of his mother, they established that it was Chakib Akrouh, a Belgian-Moroccan of 25, announced Thursday, January 14, the prosecutor of **Paris** in a statement. Of the ten authors of the **attacks of November 13**, only two of the three suicide bombers from the Stade de **France**, the holders of forged **Syrian passport**, remain to be identified.

Known Belgian counterterrorism services for over two years, Chakib Akrouh is believed to have visited Syria twice, between January 2013 and January 2015. The assumption that he could, as Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the coordinator of attacks of November 13, **perform** several alley-and-forth between the **Syria** and **Belgium** question the quality of surveillance which he was subject. Freedom of movement even more surprising that he was targeted, according to the information *world*, **for an arrest warrant internationally** since May 28, 2014 and was written off three months later municipal registers Molenbeek neighborhood Brussels where he lived.

Chakib Akrouh was sentenced in absence in July 2015 to five years in prison in the first large **trial** Syrian jihadist die tried in Belgium: the file says "Zerkani", named after one of the largest Belgian jihadist recruiters recent years. Like the majority of the thirty-two defendants, including Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a member of the industry, Chakib Akrouh did not attend the hearing.

## The "constant" trips to Syria

During this trial unconventional were summarized all the excesses of the new Franco-Belgian jihadism. Shoplifting, burglaries, robberies: **the debates** have revealed a low intensity delinquency exclusively for **financing** departures. Many defendants had made at least two round trips to Syria. Under the terms of the judgment, some even chained so **"relentless"** short breaks between **Turkey**, **Syria** and **Belgium**.

At the hearing, Chakib Akrouh was not specifically named as the most active of these Pellerin of jihad. But several elements lead to [think](#) that it has also benefited from the generosity of policing. Witnesses have seen at Brussels Airport, January 4, 2013, with a one-way ticket to Istanbul. He was accompanied by right arm recruiter Zerkani Khalid, a Gelel Attar, the investigators established that he had participated in combat during his stay in Syria. On the occasion of a search at the home of Chakib Akrouh in April 2013, the [Police](#) Belgian find a handwritten testament, attesting to the likely departure.

Its presence in Syria will also be established by a bank transfer and photographs on which it poses, February 22, 2013, an assault rifle in hand. He then fought in the ranks of the katiba "Al-Muhajirin" (literally "the immigrants" in Arabic) of the Islamic State in [Iraq](#) and the Levant (EIL). An accused tell investigators he held discussions in December 2013 with Skype Chakib Akrouh: *"I asked for news of there, in Syria. He [Chakib Akrouh] fighting"*. According to the [Justice](#) French Chakib Akrouh left at least deuxième time in Syria, beginning in January 2015, days before the dismantling of the terrorist cell of Verviers, Belgium, already led by Abdelhamid Abaaoud, he was near.

While living in Belgium, Chakib Akrouh Luqman went to the mosque in Molenbeek, also frequented by Ayoub El-Khazzani, the author of the attack failed in part Thalys Amsterdam-Paris in August 2015, a record on which still hangs the shadow of Abaaoud. Place of worship to the informal unregistered premises, this mosque was in the viewfinder of the municipality of Molenbeek.

Despite his description in the literature of Belgian services, the genetic profile of Chakib Akrouh not appear in any police file. Despite several traces of DNA identification has taken nearly two months. It is only by capturing a screen RATP video surveillance camera that investigators were able to [go back](#) to its probable civil status. His formal identification was finally confirmed on Thursday by the comparison of DNA taken from his body after the attack RAID and his mother, with a confidence rating of 99.998%.

## The third terraces shooter

Identifying Chakib Akrouh allows most likely to [put](#) a name on the last member of the commando Parisian terraces. On the evening of November 13, three men boarded a Seat for a killing spree: they slaughter thirty-nine people at table at outdoor cafes of the east of the capital. Shortly after the massacre, the [car](#) file one of the shooters, Brahim Abdeslam, Voltaire before the counter, where it will [explode](#) a few minutes later. The vehicle resumed its course with two men on board: Abdelhamid Abaaoud and Chakib Akrouh.

The two killers abandon their vehicle [Montreuil](#) to 21 h 50. Inside, investigators found three Kalashnikov. On one, they fall DNA Chakib Akrouh. His genetic profile not emerging any font file, it is not identified. After the abandonment of their car, the two men rush into a subway entrance, direction Nation. It is in the corridors of the metro and the RATP video surveillance records their trip, and especially their face.



Chakib Akrouh photo taken from the video surveillance RATP.

The [picture](#) derived from these images is then compared with different font files. The face of the mysterious companion of Abaaoud strongly resembles that of a jihadist appearing on the photographic plates of Belgian anti-terrorist services: Chakib Akrouh. Investigators then proceed to a genetic comparison with DNA from his mother who will, after several weeks, to identify it with near certainty.

**Read also: Assault Saint-Denis: RAID's report does not clarify the gray areas** ([/attaques-a-paris/article/2015/12/23/assaut-de-saint-denis-le-rapport-du-raid-n-eclaircit-pas-les-zones-d-ombre\\_4837134\\_4809495.html](#))

The night of November 13, Abdelhamid Abaaoud and Chakib Akrouh who just abandoned their cars in Montreuil, head to the [center](#) of Paris. Their phone terminal 00 h 28 rue Saint-Ambroise, close to Bataclan, where BIS has [to](#) the assault. They then travel by [public transport](#) share in Aubervilliers, where their phone terminal 00 h 44. During this time, the two men are in permanent contact with a localized line in Belgium, which seems [to have](#) coordinated ranged attacks.

## "Buisson conspiratorial"

It was at Aubervilliers they will take up residence on a slope below the A86 for the next four nights. Police officers assigned to inspect a few days later that "*conspiratorial bush*" in rise up the following description: a "*plant igloo*" where they find food leftovers and a foam mattress and a "*pretend headboard resulting a DIY*".

Between 14 and 17 November, and Abdelhamid Abaaoud Chakib Akrouh multiply telephone contacts with localized contact in Belgium, in charge of them [find](#) a new hideout. This man has not yet been identified. But investigators know that [traveled](#) under the false identity of Samir Bouzid and was checked September 9 at the Austrian-Hungarian border in the company of Abdeslam Salah, one of the perpetrators of Paris.

Since their buissoneux refuge, one of the two killers, no doubt Chakib Akrouh, the least known of both, allows the [luxury](#) to perform during the three days stash several incursions in the 18<sup>th</sup> arrondissement and near the Buttes-Chaumont, as evidenced terminals attached by one of their phones.

## The assault RAID

Aided by the cousin Abaaoud, Hasna Aït Boulahcen, the two accomplices eventually find a reference in an apartment in the Rue du Corbillon in Saint-Denis, generously made available by some Jawad Bendaoud, which will be a few days later questioned live before the cameras of BFM TV. According to the confidences of Abaaoud is this mark since they intended to prepare the final act of the attacks in Paris: two attacks in a commercial center of the defense and in a police station, scheduled for Thursday, November 19.

Alerted by a witness who called the 197 attack warning, the police set up a spinning mill on Hasna Aït Boulahcen and install surveillance cameras in front of the "conspiratorial bush". Abdelhamid Abaaoud and Chakib Akrouh not know, but they are monitored remotely. Each of their every move is watched, each of their intercepted telephone conversations.

November 17 to 22 h 28, a camera CCTV shows Hasna Aït Boulahcen accompanied by Abdelhamid Abaaoud and Chakib Akrouh, carrying a PSG hat, standing at the entrance to the building from the street of Corbillon . 20 around 4 am the next morning, the RAID launching the assault. Drowned under a barrage of shots saturation Chakib Akrouh eventually triggered his explosive belt, killing of Abaaoud and his cousin, no bullet will hit the RAID during the assault.