

The shadow of Abdelhamid Abaaoud behind the attacks

SPECIAL ATTACKS. The Belgian Abaaoud Abdelhamid, who left Syria in 2013, is considered one of the most influential French jihadists. He probably oversaw the Paris bombings Friday.

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The Belgian Abdelhamid Abaaoud in Raqqa for over two years, became a part of EI and could have planned many leading projects in Europe. **(AFP / HO.)**

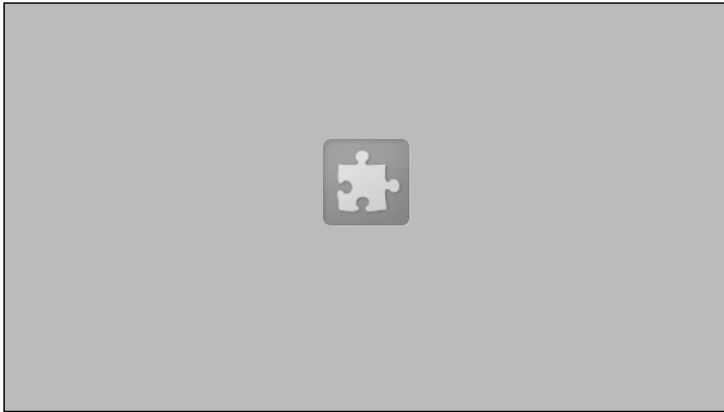
For anti-terrorist services, the Belgian Abdelhamid Abaaoud is anything but a jihadist among others. Born in 1987, he whose name fighter Abu Omar al-Soussi is considered one of the most dangerous terrorists francophones and influential group of Islamic state. Party of Belgium in early 2013 to Raqqa, main stronghold of the caliphate in Syria, it became a part of the terrorist organization, according to our information, an important member of the EMNI, the intelligence service and espionage of the EI, notably in charge of the preparation of attacks abroad.

Without being a wealthy, the young Abdelhamid does not come from a disadvantaged environment. His father, Omar, was holding a clothing store in the Prado Street in Molenbeek. This is a very pedestrian shopping street with, among others, clothes shops in the Middle East. The part of the town square street where Abdeslam lives in the family. In fact, the shop is 30 meters from the apartment. "We know very well that family. They are merchants of the town, they participate in economic life. They have a reasonable standard of living, they are not affected by the vulnerability. This proves that they are not necessarily disadvantaged youth who rock in terrorism," says Ahmed El Khanoussi, MP and alderman of Molenbeek. Abaaoud Abdeslam met the brothers as a child. It then appears particularly close to Salah, the eighth suspected terrorist, always actively sought, which leased the black Polo abandoned before the Bataclan. Together, they are involved in business robbery (<http://actualites.leparisien.fr/braquage.html>) committed in Brussels in 2010. In early 2013, he left Belgium for Syria with his little brother 13 years and joined the Islamic State group directly, rather than its competitor so much more powerful, the Al-Nusra Front, affiliated to Al Qaeda. "It integrates that moment the brigade called immigrants, which brings together European fighters who are not perfect Arabic," says a source close to the matter. It is then responsible for recruiting new fighters, particularly in his home country. **Casual facing death** At that time, Abu Omar al-Soussi is not yet a big fish. In March 2014, a French journalist returning from Syria reveals Francophone jihadist videos dating from the previous month that have entrusted the members of the Free Syrian Army. We see young fighters including dragging of bodies of civilians in the back of a pickup. The driver has since been formally identified by intelligence services as Abaaoud. "He behaves with complete casualness face of death, laughing, joking blood in body side. (<http://actualites.leparisien.fr/mort.html>) We also see that, despite its status as a jihadist among others, it is already behaving like a leader," says Etienne Huvert, the journalist who recovered these documents. VIDEO. Attacks: Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the gravedigger of Daesh (<http://actualites.leparisien.fr/attentats.html>)

(<http://actualites.leparisien.fr/braquage.html>)

(<http://actualites.leparisien.fr/mort.html>)

(<http://actualites.leparisien.fr/attentats.html>)



Since these videos, Abu Omar al-Soussi made the grade. "It went from recruiter to attack planner," says a judicial source. In January 2015, the Belgian anti-terrorist investigators dismantle a jihadist cell ready to act in the town of Verviers. Abaaoud appears as the headend. In June 2015, this new attack planner status appears far more accurate even at the hearing in June a French jihadist return Raqqa. "I know he is now working for the EMNI, it is the internal security of the Islamic state. The EMNI is also responsible for sending spies in Europe," he says. An undated photo taken of the online magazine in English Dabiq the EI group, probably showing Abdelhamid Abaaoud. (AFP) **Involved in the case of the Thalys and the project aborted Sid Ahmed Glam** The hearing of the suspect shows that France is also a target of the Belgian. "I knew him before he left Belgium (*note: in Verviers*). It has gone to commit attacks and perhaps even France. Once, I saw two people who were responsible for sending people to attack Belgium and even France. Both are Tunisian, one of them speaks French very well. "These two Tunisians appear as the real makers of attacks projects, but also provides Abaaoud lighting. "They look so you are not burnt in your country, if you are trusted. Each key spy € 50,000 by EMNI for an attack in Europe. This is Abu Omar who has a look at the files, but these are the two Tunisians who decide to send or not," he says. In France, Abaaoud could be mixed with other high-profile terrorism cases, as the attack on the Thalys or project aborted Sid Ahmed Glam. According to "the world" telephone contact with Mehdi Nemmouche in January 2014 were also found. "The context of these investigations makes its likely involvement but nothing more," an informed source nuance. In Belgium, the cacique of IE has already been sentenced in absentia to twenty years in jail last July for organizing the departure of many Belgians in Raqqa, including that of his own brother. According to the French intelligence services, the teenager has since died on Syrian soil.



An attack in a theater raised in August

it was a terrorist case among others. She takes another dimension since Friday. August 11, Reda Hame was arrested in the Paris region. Radicalized recently, this Parisian was not followed by the intelligence services. It is thanks to another Spanish jihadist heard by the antiterrorist justice in his country, the young man appears on French radar. According to his comrade, Reda Hame was at his side in Raqqa, Syria, in May 2015 before the pair return to their respective countries. Placed under surveillance and shadowed in July by the French services, Reda Hame presents no particular suspicious activity. The Directorate General of Internal Security nevertheless decides to place him in custody. Before the investigators, Reda table and starts his story book. Immersed in radical Islam through a "brother" Ile-known anti-terrorist services, the Parisien says that he went to Raqqa, Syrian headquarters Daech, by its own means. There, he participated in military training. But from the first days, the apprentice jihadist injured his leg during training. A few days later, he was summoned by an officer of the EI which offers him a deal as a threat: either he returned to France commit an attack, or it is executed. The young man chooses the first option but, back in France, he abandons his fatal project. In custody still, Reda precise targets mentioned by the hierarchy of Daech, including an auditorium. It is this latter element which today leads the investigators to réintéresser closely on this. Especially as the complete suspect his hearing the name of the senior official Abdelhamid Abaaoud. "This testimony is considered entirely credible," says a source close to the matter. Since Reda Hame was indicted and detained.

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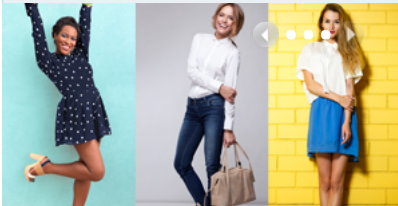
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