

## **ISIS Terrorist Attacks on Paris**

*“France is at war. The acts committed in Paris on Friday evening, these are acts of war. They caused at least 129 deaths and many injured. And they constitute an aggression, an attack against our country, against its values, against its young people and against its way of life.” – French President Francois Hollande to Parliament*

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**Three Waves of Attacks.** Just after 9 pm on Friday, November 13, ISIS launched three waves of terrorist attacks on the French capital of Paris, killing at least 129 people and wounding over 350 more. At least one American, Nohemi Gonzalez of Long Beach, California, was killed in the attacks while several more were injured.

The first wave involved three suicide bombers outside the Stade de France, a stadium where French President Francois Hollande was watching a soccer game between France and Germany. The second wave involved shootings at several restaurants, bars, and cafes in an area known for its nightlife while a suicide bomber blew himself up on a nearby street. The third wave involved a mass shooting at the Bataclan Theater, where an American rock band was playing. The attackers took theater attendees hostage and detonated suicide vests as the police launched an assault on the theater.

Seven terrorists were killed in the attacks. However, French police discovered an abandoned car that contained several AK-47 rifles that appear to have been used by the attackers, leading French authorities to believe that one or more attackers are on the run. Reports indicate that one of the bombers had an emergency Syrian passport issued by a refugee center in Greece, fueling concerns that ISIS has embedded terrorists within the Syrian refugees fleeing to Europe.



**A Growing ISIS Threat.** ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks, calling them “the first of the storm.” The Paris attacks come a day after ISIS carried out a double suicide bombing in Beirut, Lebanon and two weeks after ISIS claimed responsibility for downing a Russian passenger jet in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. U.S. officials, including CIA Director John Brennan, have warned that these three attacks demonstrate a commitment by ISIS to conduct additional attacks outside of Syria and Iraq. Three days after the Paris attacks, ISIS released a video threatening attacks on Washington, D.C., which U.S. counterterrorism officials are taking seriously.

### **Key Points**

- **France is the United States’ oldest ally. This week the House will vote on a resolution condemning the ISIS attack and offering support for the effort to bring the attackers to justice.**
- **The cowardly attacks in Paris represent an evolution of the ISIS threat. This brutal terrorist group is no longer content with creating a so-called “caliphate” in Syria and Iraq—it has attacked one of our closest allies and now threatens to attack the United States.**
- **On the day of the attack the President claimed that ISIS is “contained.” Containment will not work. ISIS must be denied a safe haven in Syria and Iraq from which to plot attacks.**
- **The Obama Administration has failed to develop a viable strategy. We must work with France and our other allies to empower partners on the ground to retake territory. Together we must defeat ISIS.**