

Secret Intelligence Service

Relevant Reports in Brief

Room No. 15

The imam suspected of organizing Spain terror attacks avoided deportation, and was labelled as 'not being a threat'.

23 08 2017




The Moroccan man who instigated the attacks in and around Barcelona escaped expulsion from Spain in 2015 - subsequent to serving a sentence for drug trafficking. The imam posed "no real threat," the judge did rule at that time.

Albdelbaki Es Satty, one of the deceased members of the Islamist cell which carried out the attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils, was ordered to leave Spain in 2014 at the end of his jail term for drug trafficking.

Es Satty - was the key organizer of the plot, as the four surviving suspects gave statements at the high court in Madrid on Tuesday.

Although Es Satty's role is yet to be defined, Catalan police chief Joseph Lluís Trapero indicated that investigators are working on a theory that the imam radicalized the group's members. - 'La voz de Galicia'a report.



Earlier, however, a police spokesperson said they "cannot compromise evidence or leads, or give unreliable information" concerning Es Satty.

The Moroccan-born preacher was detained during 2010 on charges of committing crimes against public health, and was sentenced to prison for four years and one month. He served time from 2012 to 2014.

During his time at the Castellon prison, Es Satty made contact with Rachid Aglif, one of the jihadists behind the Madrid train bombings in 2004.

Subsequent to his being released from prison, Es Satty was ordered by the local authorities to leave Spain, and was banned entry for five years, based on the Aliens Act (which allows the deportation of foreigners charged with wilful misconduct and who are serving custodial sentences of more than a year).

Es Satty's lawyer appealed the decree, on the grounds that it would infringe the defendant's international rights. The judge, Pablo de la Rubia, sided with the appeal and ruled that the Moroccan was of no danger and showed "efforts of integrating into Spanish society," - despite being charged with a serious offense.

The Moroccan imam blew himself up in an accidental blast in a house in Alcanar, where the cell was trying to manufacture explosives a day before the attacks.

In 2016, the Belgian authorities requested information from the Spanish security forces on whether Es Satty had links with Islamist terrorism after suspicions emerged during his stay in the Belgian city of Vilvoorde that year.

The head of Vilvoorde's mosque voiced his concerns after Es Satty "turned up unannounced and said he wanted to be an imam because he had no future in Spain."

According to an official, the Spanish authorities replied that there was no indication of Es Satty being engaged in radical Islam. Both Belgian and Spanish authorities refused to comment to the press, only saying that the imam's background was not suspicious and they do not usually share sensitive intelligence.

Es Satty is also believed to have traveled to France on several occasions to take "courses" on bomb-making.

During Tuesday's hearing in Madrid, one of the suspected assailants, Mohamed Houli Chemlal, admitted the group planned a larger attack with explosives. Police revealed they had discovered an explosive belt at the house in Alcanar, as well as more than 100 butane canisters, 500 litres of acetone and nails.

It is not the first time a person with a criminal record has escaped deportation, only to appear later as a terrorist having slipped off the radar of law enforcement.

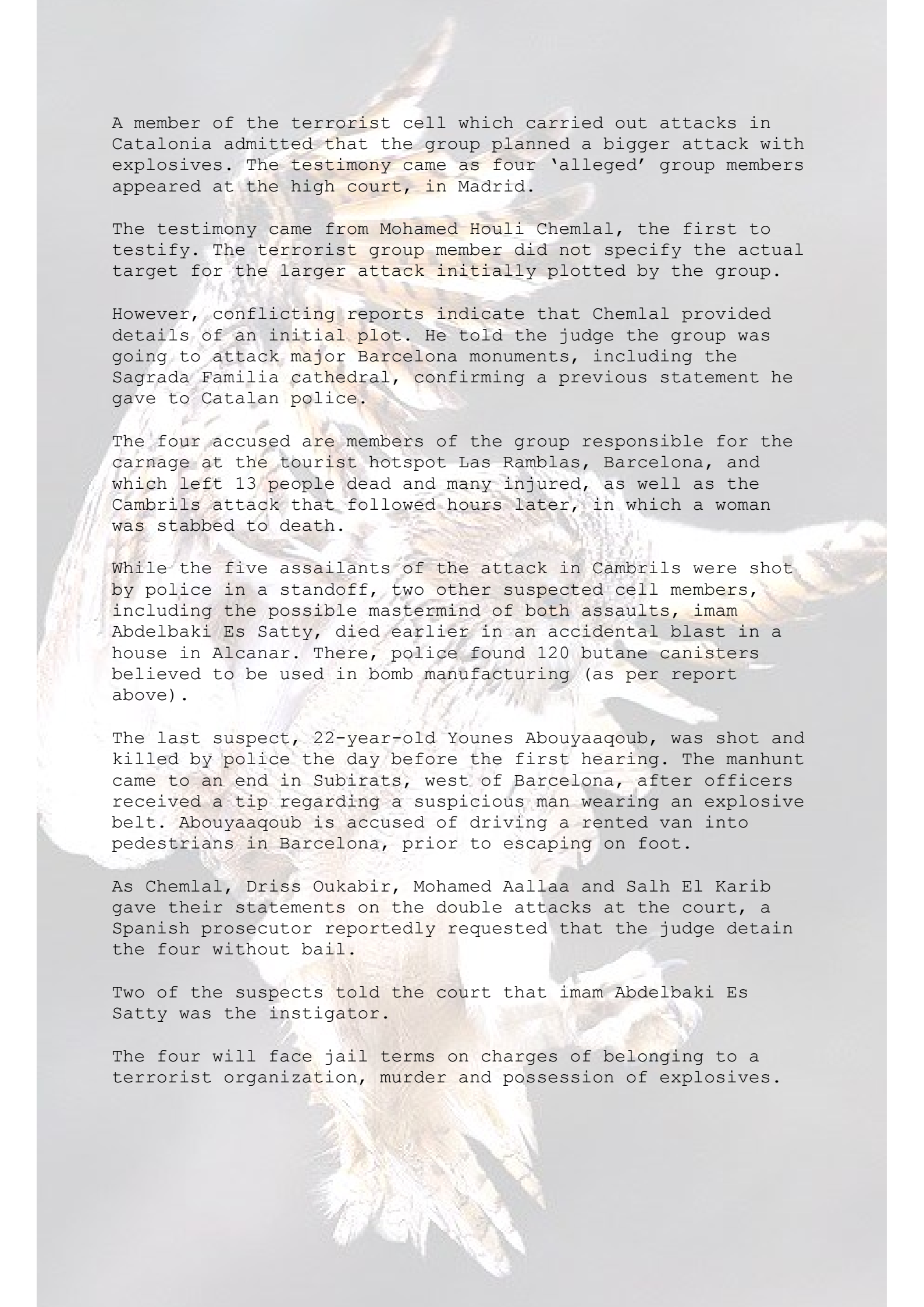
In a similar case, the perpetrator of the Berlin attack 2016, Anis Amri, faced deportation from Italy and Germany, but a lack of necessary papers impeded the procedures. With authorities being warned regarding a possible threat, the Tunisian drove a truck into crowds at a Christmas market, killing 12 people and injuring dozens of other.

The Barcelona terror attacker revealed that a bigger attack with explosives was planned

22 08 2017



Above photograph : (L - R) Mohamed Houli Chemlal, Driss Oukabir, Salah El Karib, and Mohamed Aallaa, terror cell that carried out twin attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils, escorted by Spanish Civil Guards from a detention centre in Tres Cantos, near Madrid, on 22 08 2017.



A member of the terrorist cell which carried out attacks in Catalonia admitted that the group planned a bigger attack with explosives. The testimony came as four 'alleged' group members appeared at the high court, in Madrid.

The testimony came from Mohamed Houli Chemlal, the first to testify. The terrorist group member did not specify the actual target for the larger attack initially plotted by the group.

However, conflicting reports indicate that Chemlal provided details of an initial plot. He told the judge the group was going to attack major Barcelona monuments, including the Sagrada Familia cathedral, confirming a previous statement he gave to Catalan police.

The four accused are members of the group responsible for the carnage at the tourist hotspot Las Ramblas, Barcelona, and which left 13 people dead and many injured, as well as the Cambrils attack that followed hours later, in which a woman was stabbed to death.

While the five assailants of the attack in Cambrils were shot by police in a standoff, two other suspected cell members, including the possible mastermind of both assaults, imam Abdelbaki Es Satty, died earlier in an accidental blast in a house in Alcanar. There, police found 120 butane canisters believed to be used in bomb manufacturing (as per report above).

The last suspect, 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub, was shot and killed by police the day before the first hearing. The manhunt came to an end in Subirats, west of Barcelona, after officers received a tip regarding a suspicious man wearing an explosive belt. Abouyaaqoub is accused of driving a rented van into pedestrians in Barcelona, prior to escaping on foot.

As Chemlal, Driss Oukabir, Mohamed Aallaa and Salh El Karib gave their statements on the double attacks at the court, a Spanish prosecutor reportedly requested that the judge detain the four without bail.

Two of the suspects told the court that imam Abdelbaki Es Satty was the instigator.

The four will face jail terms on charges of belonging to a terrorist organization, murder and possession of explosives.



Police officers direct people to leave Plaza Catalonia following the terror attack in central Barcelona, Spain, on 17 08 2017. Photograph © 2017 courtesy Lino De Vallier

On the Barcelona Attack, David Videcette, a UK Terrorism expert said that 'certain mosques rear jihadists

23 08 2017

An imam was among those involved in the Barcelona terrorist cell. Is there always an imam or "spiritual leader" for these killers or are they "radicalized in the shadows" through the internet without the knowledge of any mosques?

Since the terror events in Barcelona, Cambrils and Alcanar details have emerged suggesting Abdel-Baki es-Sati, an imam at a mosque in the Catalan town of Ripoll, was the mastermind behind the ISLAMIC STATE supporting cell.

Es-Sati, who died in an explosion at a bomb factory a few days before the August 17 van attack in Barcelona, had been radicalized himself after meeting the 2004 Madrid bombers in jail.

The mosque where the imam preached is placing blame on the Catalan police for not alerting them of Es Satty's criminal convictions.

David Videcette, an ex-counter terrorist officer with the U.K. Metropolitan Police, and author, said es-Sati appeared to have been not just a spiritual leader, but the mastermind and possibly even the bomb maker.

"In my experience there is always someone who is a 'pir' or spiritual leader, who keeps them on track and says what they are doing is supported by God."

"When we examine terrorism in the U.K., we know that it is not evenly spread geographically. We know that there are certain areas and certain mosques which appear to breed terrorists at a much faster rate than anywhere else.

"But we see media commentators saying things like, so-and-so was radicalized over the Internet and there is no linkage to imams here or there. That is obviously totally incorrect," - Videcette.

"There are certain mosques in the U.K. and in other countries which breed jihadists and terrorists at a much greater rate than others, and there are imams and mosques which are much more involved in these activities than others. - Videcette.



RECALL : On 17 08 2017 a van, driven by Younes Abouyaaqoub, hit pedestrians in the centre of Barcelona, killing 13 and injuring over 130 others.

Hours after the Barcelona incident, another vehicle attack took place in Catalonia's southern town of Cambrils. In the attack, a police officer and six civilians were injured and at least one of them died later.

The responsibility for the van attack in Barcelona was reportedly claimed by the Islamic State.

Abouyaaqoub was shot dead in the suburb of Subirats on 21 08 2017.

It has also emerged that es-Sati had also lived in the Belgian city of Vilvoorde, for three months during 2016.



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Adversitate. Custodi. Per Verum