

**Secret Intelligence Service
Relevant News Reports in Brief
XII**

**French soldiers shoot dead knife
attacker who, shouting 'Allahu
Akbar' - killed two women in
Marseille**

01 10 2017



The Islamic State terrorist group claimed responsibility for this deadly knife attack which left two women dead at a train station in Marseille Sunday. The message, via its propaganda channel, allegedly says the attack was staged in retaliation against the US-led Coalition countries which are fighting against the terror group in Syria and Iraq.

The assailant, who was reportedly shouting 'Allahu Akbar,' was shot dead by an army patrol at the scene.



The two victims of the Marseille knife attack were identified by their first names as cousins and best friends Mauranne (left) and Laura (right), both 20

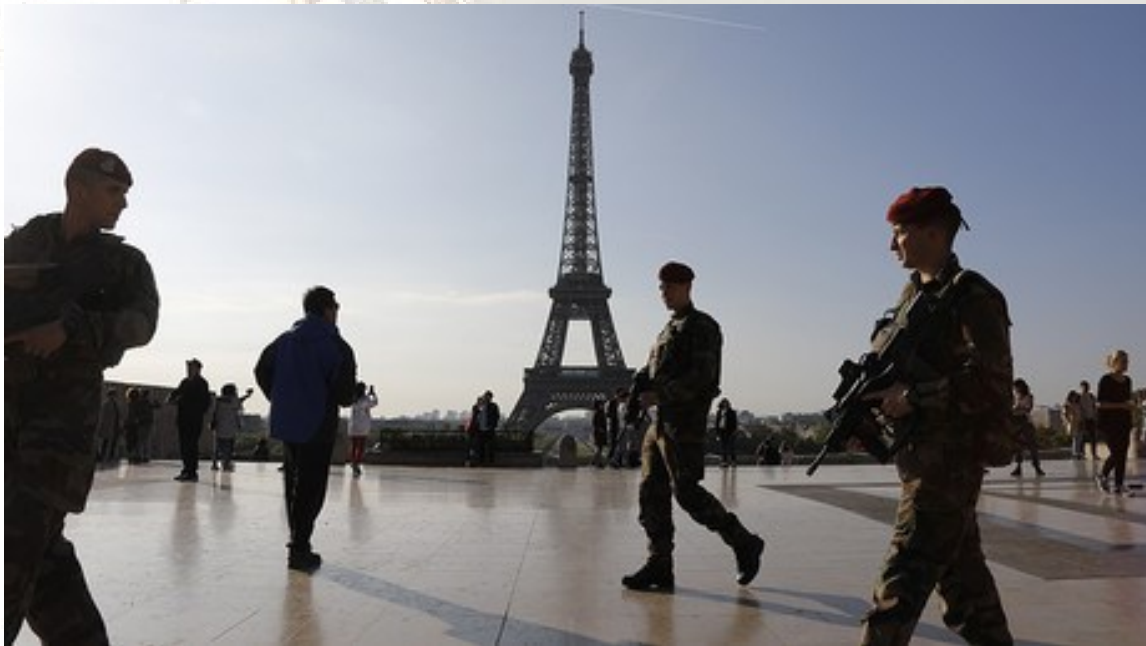
The incident took place at the Saint-Charles train station in Marseille on Sunday, when a man attacked passers-by with a knife. One person was killed by the assailant at the scene, while another succumbed a short while after. - Police chief Olivier de Mazières.

The attacker, who was reportedly shouting "Allahu Akbar," was shot dead by an army patrol. At least two shots were fired. The attacker is described as a man in his late twenties, who was not

carrying any ID. The investigation team is currently running his fingerprints through their databases. The initial findings indicate that the attacker was known to the police as a common criminal.

Both of the attacker's victims were women. One of the victims had her throat slit, while the other was stabbed in her stomach. The victims were 17 and 20-years-old.

The incident is being treated as a "terrorist act" and anti-terror prosecutors have launched an investigation,



The authorities have praised the soldiers who killed the assailant for their swift actions which prevented more casualties.

France's President Emmanuel Macron has denounced the "barbarous" attack, sending his condolences to the relatives of the two victims.

"Deeply upset by this barbarous act, I share the pain of the families and relatives of the victims of Marseille. I salute the soldiers of Sentinel and the police officers who reacted with composure and efficiency."

"We have generally avoided these sort of attacks in Marseille," regional president Renaud Muselier "I think the security services responded extremely quickly. It's difficult to do more

because when you see the distance between the two bodies and the attacker it's only 10 meters, so they intervened quickly."

"If the military had not been there, we would have had a lot more deaths," lawmaker for the Marseille region Samia.

The army patrol which shot the knife-wielding scumbag is a part of Operation Sentinel, aimed to bolster country's security. The operation was launched amid a national state of emergency, which was declared following the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris. The events were the deadliest terrorist acts in country's history, and left over 130 people dead.

There has been lately a surge in the so-called "lone-wolf" attacks, similar to the today's incident in Marseille. The Sentinel patrols themselves have also been targeted by terrorists, as at least seven attacks on patrolling soldiers have taken place.

Despite the state of emergency, which has been renewed six times so far, the country still experiences frequent terrorism-related incidents. The latest extension was in July and is expected to last until November 1.

An individual armed with a knife threatened a soldier patrolling the Châtelet metro station in Paris

The man was arrested without being able to hurt the Operation Sentinel soldier according to French media, citing the Police Department.

According to a preliminary investigation, the assailant made statements referring to "Allah" and "Daesh" and was quickly seized by the soldier - police source. The individual was not known to the police,

The French army's anti-terrorism Operation Sentinel was established following the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris. This is the seventh attack against the patrolling soldiers.


"This new attack legitimizes what we want to do," French Defense Minister Florence Parly told Europe 1. "The man has been seized, which is further proof of the professionalism and efficiency of the Sentinel soldiers in this protection mission," she said. "We do not know more about the intentions of the aggressor who was arrested, but this new attack fully legitimizes what we want to do, that is to make the forces placement even more unpredictable, even more undetectable for potential aggressors."



© Bertrand Guay / AFP

On August 9, at least six French soldiers were injured, three of them seriously, when they were hit by a vehicle in a north-western Paris suburb. The incident took place in Levallois-Perret commune, only 6 km from the capital. The suspect was arrested hours after the incident on a motorway in northern France.

In June, police shot and injured a man who attacked three officers with a hammer near Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris while shouting "*this is for Syria.*" The man, who injured one of the officers, was also armed with two knives, French media reported. One officer was hit in the head with the hammer, prompting police to fire at the attacker. The assailant had also threatened passersby before targeting the three police officers.



Police later said on Twitter that the attacker had been "neutralized" and taken to hospital.

Two men arrested near Paris planned terrorist attack, wanted to join Islamic State – French prosecutor

Two men who were arrested following the discovery of explosive materials and components at an apartment in a Paris suburb of Villejuif wanted to make a bomb to commit a terrorist attack, Paris

"They had agreed to commit an attack on the [French] territory to take revenge on the coalition but they had not worked out any specific plan to date," Francois Mollins said at a news conference Sunday

The prosecutor added that one of the suspects admitted the two considered attacking soldiers who were deployed to locations deemed vulnerable for the terrorist attacks. The plot was uncovered as part of Operation Sentinel that was launched following the November 2015 Paris attacks and is part of the ongoing state of emergency.

Both suspects admitted that they wanted to join Islamic State and leave for Syria or Iraq as early as in 2015 but they could not because of a *"lack contacts and financial means."* The pair added they were planning to carry out an attack in the name of the terrorist group.

The two suspects planned to make some 10 kilos of TATP, or triacetone triperoxide, an explosive compound that can be made using readily-available ingredients, including nail-polish remover and household bleach, Mollins said.

10 Sep, 2017

Counter-Terror Operation

One of the suspects identified as Frederique L, 37, was "in direct contact" with Rachid Kassim, a French jihadist, who joined IS and left France to fight in Syria and Iraq.

Kassim, who was killed in a US airstrike in February, is suspected of being the instigator of several terrorist attacks on French soil, including the double murder of police officers in Magnaville in June 2016 and the attack on the Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray church in northern France.

On Wednesday, 105 grams of TATP were accidentally discovered in an apartment located in Villejuif along with a liter of sulfuric acid, a liter of hydrochloric acid as well as 8 liters of acetone and a bottle of hydrogen peroxide.

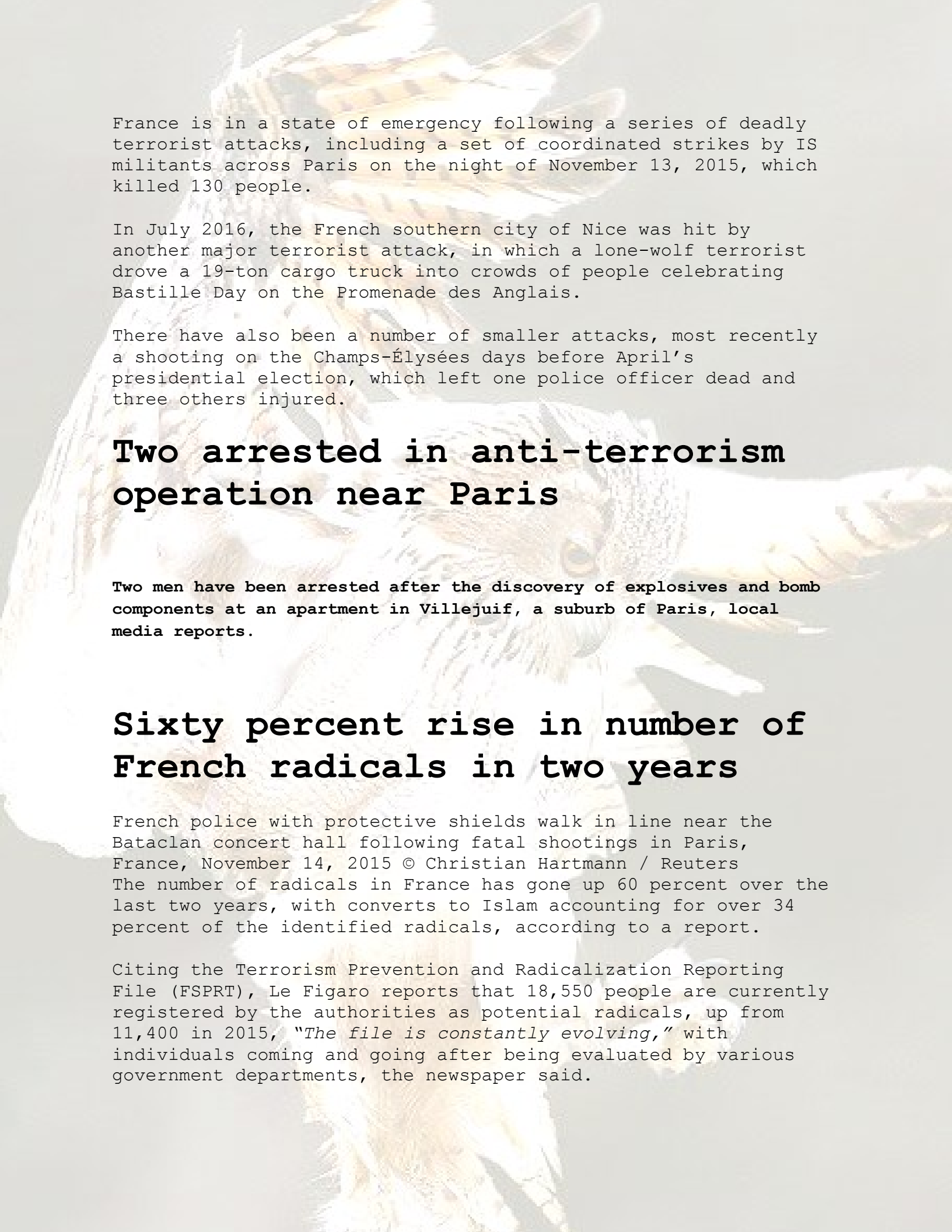
Mollins said "the substances discovered at the scene could be used to produce between three and four kilos of TATP." Investigators also found components needed to make a detonator, including wires, electric batteries, match heads and bulbs from Christmas wreaths.

A USB device containing videos showing a series of explosives tests on the terrace of the Villejuif apartment raided by the police was also found at the scene. Islamic State propaganda videos on a computer belonging to one of the suspects and leaflets with inscriptions in Arabic were also found in the apartment.

Frederique L, born in 1980, converted to Islam in 2008 and was radicalized around 2015. He was previously known to police as an Islamic State sympathizer, Le Parisien reports. The second suspect was identified as Ali M.-R., 36, a Franco-Algerian national who owned the apartment where the bomb making materials were found.

On Sunday, investigators also discovered 11 liters of acetone, sulfuric acid and 83 liters of industrial pipe clearing liquid in a garage belonging to Ali M.-R.

Both men were charged with terrorism-related activities; attempt to commit one or more crimes; as well as with manufacturing, possessing and transporting explosives. A third man, identified as Ichem L., 47, who was also arrested Wednesday following the discovery of the explosives, was released without charge, Le Parisien reports.



France is in a state of emergency following a series of deadly terrorist attacks, including a set of coordinated strikes by IS militants across Paris on the night of November 13, 2015, which killed 130 people.

In July 2016, the French southern city of Nice was hit by another major terrorist attack, in which a lone-wolf terrorist drove a 19-ton cargo truck into crowds of people celebrating Bastille Day on the Promenade des Anglais.

There have also been a number of smaller attacks, most recently a shooting on the Champs-Élysées days before April's presidential election, which left one police officer dead and three others injured.

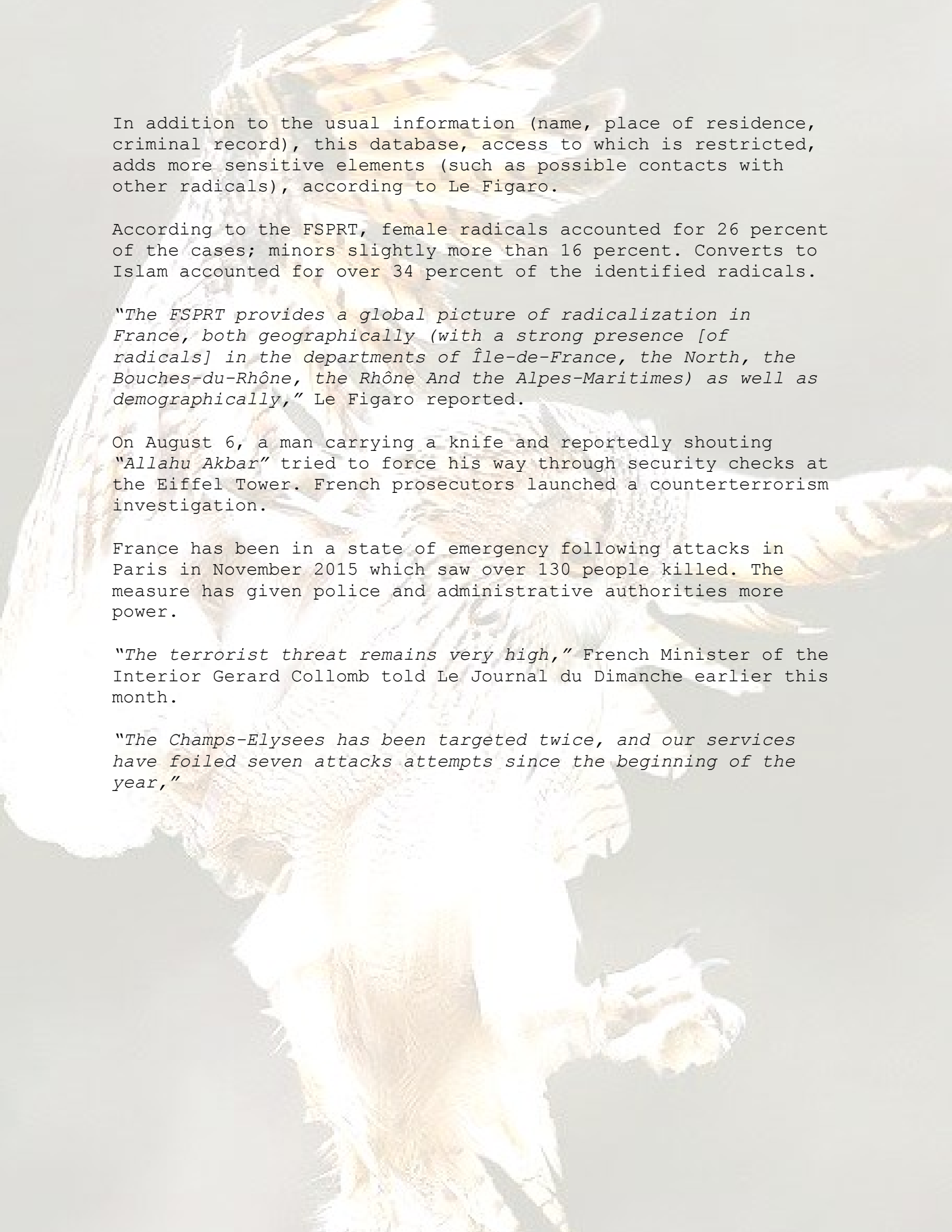
Two arrested in anti-terrorism operation near Paris

Two men have been arrested after the discovery of explosives and bomb components at an apartment in Villejuif, a suburb of Paris, local media reports.

Sixty percent rise in number of French radicals in two years

French police with protective shields walk in line near the Bataclan concert hall following fatal shootings in Paris, France, November 14, 2015 © Christian Hartmann / Reuters
The number of radicals in France has gone up 60 percent over the last two years, with converts to Islam accounting for over 34 percent of the identified radicals, according to a report.

Citing the Terrorism Prevention and Radicalization Reporting File (FSPRT), Le Figaro reports that 18,550 people are currently registered by the authorities as potential radicals, up from 11,400 in 2015, "*The file is constantly evolving,*" with individuals coming and going after being evaluated by various government departments, the newspaper said.



In addition to the usual information (name, place of residence, criminal record), this database, access to which is restricted, adds more sensitive elements (such as possible contacts with other radicals), according to Le Figaro.

According to the FSPRT, female radicals accounted for 26 percent of the cases; minors slightly more than 16 percent. Converts to Islam accounted for over 34 percent of the identified radicals.

"The FSPRT provides a global picture of radicalization in France, both geographically (with a strong presence [of radicals] in the departments of Île-de-France, the North, the Bouches-du-Rhône, the Rhône And the Alpes-Maritimes) as well as demographically," Le Figaro reported.

On August 6, a man carrying a knife and reportedly shouting "Allahu Akbar" tried to force his way through security checks at the Eiffel Tower. French prosecutors launched a counterterrorism investigation.

France has been in a state of emergency following attacks in Paris in November 2015 which saw over 130 people killed. The measure has given police and administrative authorities more power.

"The terrorist threat remains very high," French Minister of the Interior Gerard Collomb told Le Journal du Dimanche earlier this month.

"The Champs-Elysees has been targeted twice, and our services have foiled seven attacks attempts since the beginning of the year,"

No-go zones: Alt-right fantasy or new face of Europe



Rosengard in Malmo, Sweden. / Reuters

Immigrant-dominated, crime-ridden and largely Muslim enclaves across Europe, the so-called "no-go zones," have become as much an ideological battleground as a literal one, but many arguing about them have never been to one.

For most people at most times, the designation "no-go zone" should not be taken literally.

There are exceptions. In the Stockholm suburb of Rinkeby the local police station was shut down in 2014, following the latest in a series of fire-bombing riots, and the one currently under construction is reminiscent of a war-zone outpost, to which police officers will have to be driven. Sparked by seemingly routine encounters between petty criminals and the cops, mass violent protests have originated in the district most years since 2010, though just as notably car burnings and stone-throwing flash riots are at times so frequent they are barely reported in the local media.

While Rinkeby, with its colorful moniker Little Mogadishu, and its own melting-pot dialect that has been studied by linguists, is beloved by journalists, there are other areas in Sweden, and throughout Europe, where police prefer to operate without uniforms, or do not bother to enter, unless they have a specific order, or fear violence spilling out beyond.

8 more areas in Sweden added to list of so-called 'no-go zones'

Journalists are similarly made to feel unwelcome. Thousands of reports are filed from deprived neighborhoods without incident each year, and it is the exceptions that get reported, but attacks on TV crews and live report spots in particular are not infrequent.

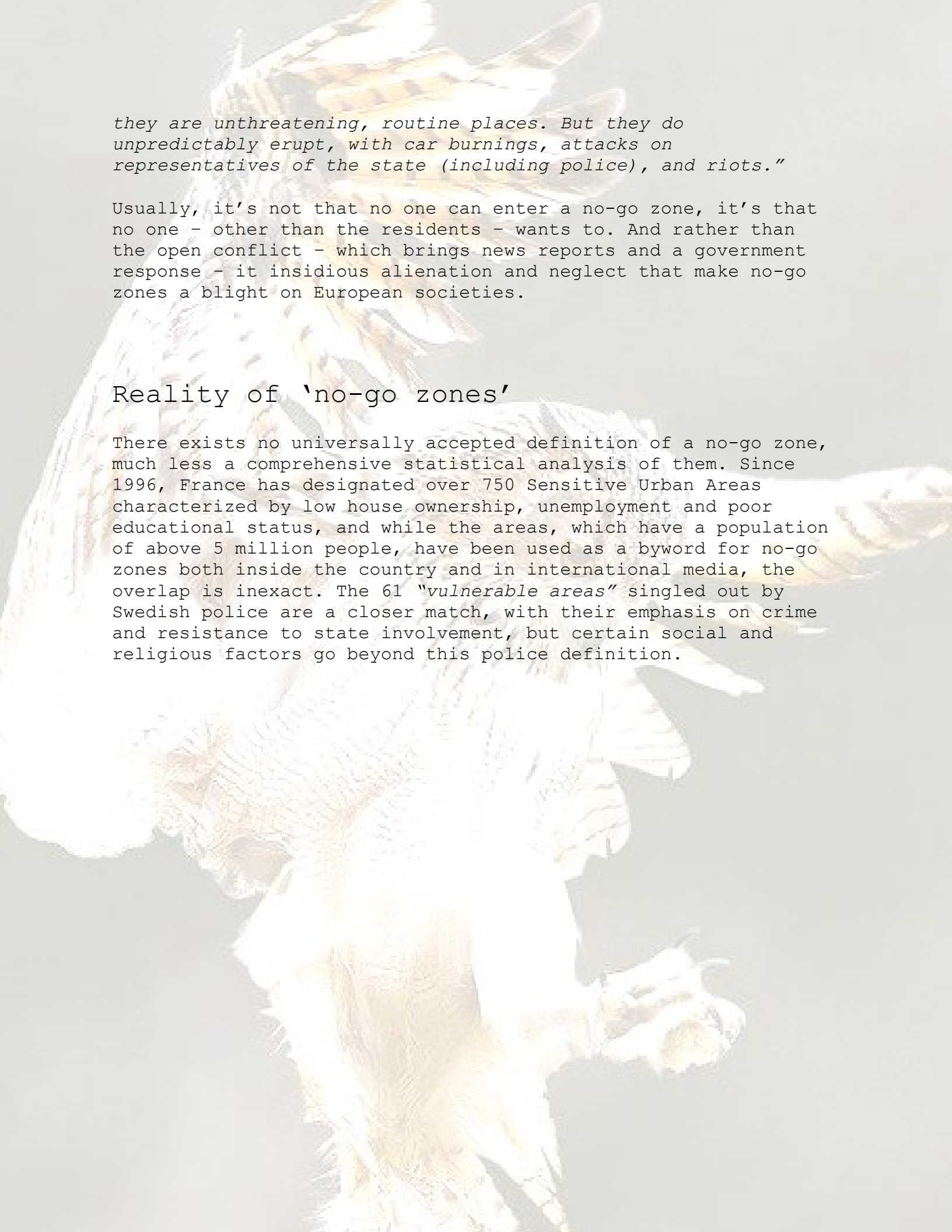
More alarming, if harder to document day-to-day, is the hostility toward women and Jews. A petition launched by women in the Paris district of La Chapelle gathered 20,000 signatures, and was endorsed by the city's mayor, after women complained of aggressive comments from migrants towards women dressed in Western outfits, such as "*What's up your skirt?*" and "*Lower your eyes, slut.*"

The Jewish population of Malmo has halved in a decade, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles has recommended that those who remain leave the city since 2010, with dozens of religiously-motivated street attacks recorded by the police each year. A journalist filming a documentary in the widely-covered Iraqi and Bosnian-dominated district of Rosengard while wearing a kippah was pelted with eggs and cries of "*Jewish Satan!*"

Stockholm police tighten security at anti-deportation protest after attack

But for all the lurid stories of Sharia patrols and men-only establishments, at first sight even the most notorious no-go zones are not scenes of post-apocalyptic breakdown adorned with ISIS flags, but often post-war brutalist inner-city housing blocks that have been abandoned by the native population, and have not yet been gentrified. The immediate dangers to visitors are not stray bullets or gangland enforcers, but the calorific options at plentiful local takeaways, and freely available hard drugs.

"*These are not full-fledged no-go zones.*" - Daniel Pipes, the conservative writer who largely popularized the term, and went on to visit over a dozen such areas in Europe. "*In normal times,*



they are unthreatening, routine places. But they do unpredictably erupt, with car burnings, attacks on representatives of the state (including police), and riots."

Usually, it's not that no one can enter a no-go zone, it's that no one - other than the residents - wants to. And rather than the open conflict - which brings news reports and a government response - it insidious alienation and neglect that make no-go zones a blight on European societies.

Reality of 'no-go zones'

There exists no universally accepted definition of a no-go zone, much less a comprehensive statistical analysis of them. Since 1996, France has designated over 750 Sensitive Urban Areas characterized by low house ownership, unemployment and poor educational status, and while the areas, which have a population of above 5 million people, have been used as a byword for no-go zones both inside the country and in international media, the overlap is inexact. The 61 "vulnerable areas" singled out by Swedish police are a closer match, with their emphasis on crime and resistance to state involvement, but certain social and religious factors go beyond this police definition.



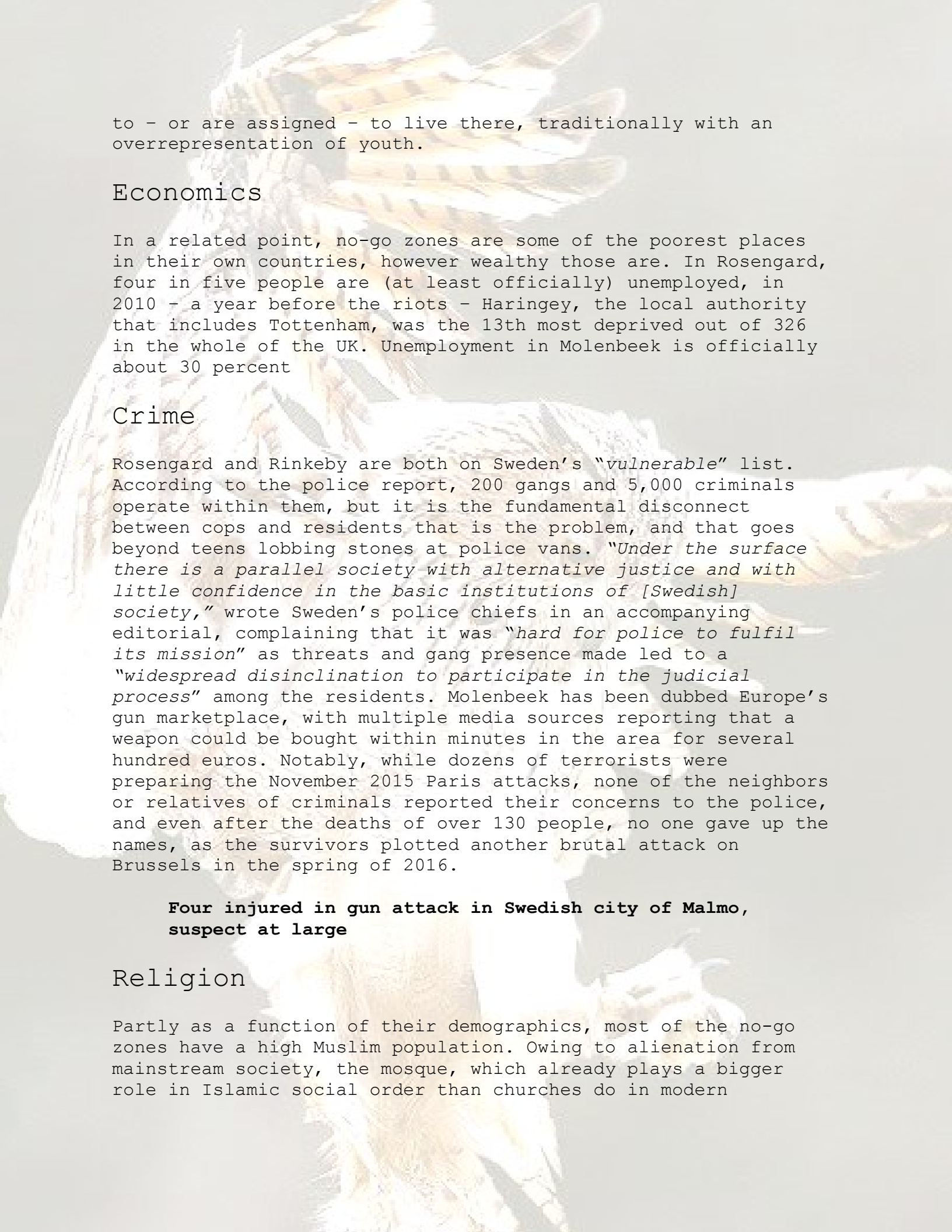
FILE PHOTO: Rosengard in Malmo in southern Sweden December 18, 2008 © Drago Prvulovic / Reuters

Nonetheless, however they are labeled, no-go zones are “real” - insofar as that areas that have gained notoriety as such share a series of substantive characteristics and problems that are exceedingly similar around the continent.

‘No-Go Zone’ app allows Parisians to report & locate aggression, other crime

Demographics

In Malmo, a city where over 40 percent of the population is of foreign origin, in areas such as Rosengard - before it was merged with another district - the number rose to 9 in 10, three out of four residents of Tottenham, where the 2011 riots started are non-White British, while the majority in Molenbeek, Brussels’ hotbed of terrorism, was also born abroad. Unlike stereotypical ghettos - a community united by a single culture or race - these areas have a diverse mix of immigrants, their make-up repeating the layers of migration into the country. In Rosengard, the former Yugoslavs were replaced by Iraqis, who are now being supplemented by Syrians, with Africans a steady but growing flow through the years. No-go zones are magnets for the least integrated and most unstable populations, who can afford



to - or are assigned - to live there, traditionally with an overrepresentation of youth.

Economics

In a related point, no-go zones are some of the poorest places in their own countries, however wealthy those are. In Rosengard, four in five people are (at least officially) unemployed, in 2010 - a year before the riots - Haringey, the local authority that includes Tottenham, was the 13th most deprived out of 326 in the whole of the UK. Unemployment in Molenbeek is officially about 30 percent

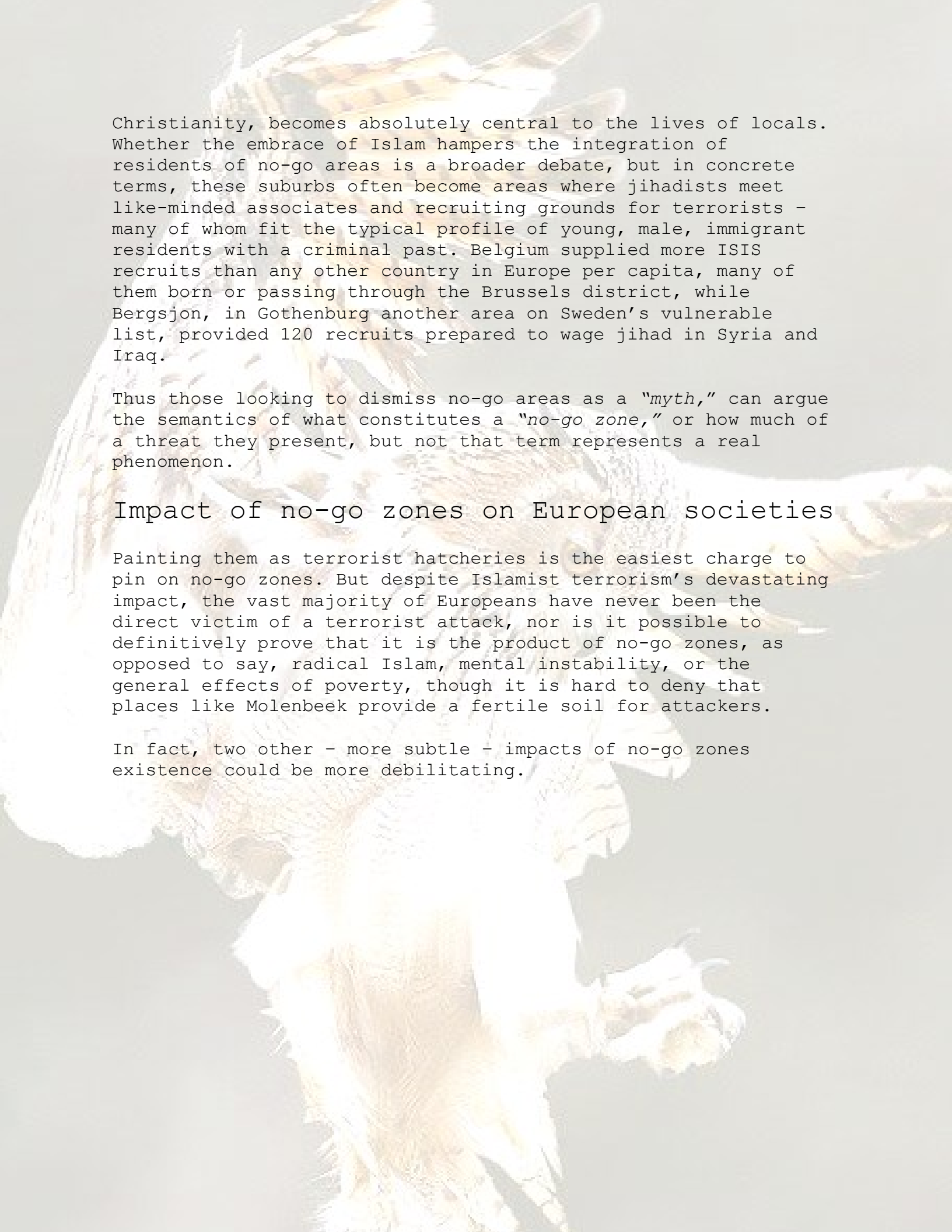
Crime

Rosengard and Rinkeby are both on Sweden's "vulnerable" list. According to the police report, 200 gangs and 5,000 criminals operate within them, but it is the fundamental disconnect between cops and residents that is the problem, and that goes beyond teens lobbing stones at police vans. *"Under the surface there is a parallel society with alternative justice and with little confidence in the basic institutions of [Swedish] society,"* wrote Sweden's police chiefs in an accompanying editorial, complaining that it was *"hard for police to fulfil its mission"* as threats and gang presence made led to a *"widespread disinclination to participate in the judicial process"* among the residents. Molenbeek has been dubbed Europe's gun marketplace, with multiple media sources reporting that a weapon could be bought within minutes in the area for several hundred euros. Notably, while dozens of terrorists were preparing the November 2015 Paris attacks, none of the neighbors or relatives of criminals reported their concerns to the police, and even after the deaths of over 130 people, no one gave up the names, as the survivors plotted another brutal attack on Brussels in the spring of 2016.

Four injured in gun attack in Swedish city of Malmo, suspect at large

Religion

Partly as a function of their demographics, most of the no-go zones have a high Muslim population. Owing to alienation from mainstream society, the mosque, which already plays a bigger role in Islamic social order than churches do in modern



Christianity, becomes absolutely central to the lives of locals. Whether the embrace of Islam hampers the integration of residents of no-go areas is a broader debate, but in concrete terms, these suburbs often become areas where jihadists meet like-minded associates and recruiting grounds for terrorists - many of whom fit the typical profile of young, male, immigrant residents with a criminal past. Belgium supplied more ISIS recruits than any other country in Europe per capita, many of them born or passing through the Brussels district, while Bergsjon, in Gothenburg another area on Sweden's vulnerable list, provided 120 recruits prepared to wage jihad in Syria and Iraq.

Thus those looking to dismiss no-go areas as a "myth," can argue the semantics of what constitutes a "no-go zone," or how much of a threat they present, but not that term represents a real phenomenon.

Impact of no-go zones on European societies

Painting them as terrorist hatcheries is the easiest charge to pin on no-go zones. But despite Islamist terrorism's devastating impact, the vast majority of Europeans have never been the direct victim of a terrorist attack, nor is it possible to definitively prove that it is the product of no-go zones, as opposed to say, radical Islam, mental instability, or the general effects of poverty, though it is hard to deny that places like Molenbeek provide a fertile soil for attackers.

In fact, two other - more subtle - impacts of no-go zones existence could be more debilitating.



FILE PHOTO: Molenbeek, Brussels, Belgium on April 2, 2016 © Global Look Press

The existence of areas of such stark cultural difference, and in the midst of some of Europe's most prominent cities, creates alienation and resentment on both sides - from the native population that feels threatened by newcomers, to those inside the modern-day ghettos, resentful about their lack of jobs, education in schools where no one speaks the native language, or encounters with authorities who they feel may treat them unfairly. And while incidents of poor relations between the area residents and other populations may be trivial, their effects are often cumulative, and according to several prominent studies, only better integration can lead to a restoration of social trust.

Police in Swedish city appeal for public help amid 'upward spiral of violence'

The other is the breakdown of trust in social institutions, if an area is allowed to exist outside of accepted norms. Once again, this applies not only on those who see immigrants commit crimes and don't want to pay taxes to furnish them with benefits, but also the residents, who feel betrayed by the system.

"If people are hit by crimes which then aren't investigated, they will lose faith in the rule of law," Malmo's chief prosecutor, Ola Sjostrand, complained last year, when he noted that the entire judicial system in the city was on the verge of collapse.

"No-go areas" - whatever their exact delineation - are both the symbol and the coalface of Europe's interaction with immigration, foreign culture, and both social cohesion and prosperity depend on reversing the worrying trends that are only likely to get worse, considering the influx of new migrants into Europe since 2015.



Secret Intelligence Service

Relevant News Reports in Brief. XII

Adversitate. Custodi. Per Verum