

Belgium arrests two over New Year terror plot

31st December, 2015



Police in Belgium say they have arrested two people suspected of planning terror attacks in Brussels on New Year's Eve. Police initially made six arrests but later released four without charge.

Investigators found military clothing and Islamic State propaganda in the houses, but no weapons or explosives. They issued a statement, saying: "Our investigation revealed serious threats of an attack on symbolic places in Brussels during the celebrations for New Year's Eve." The two suspects were arrested following searches Sunday and Monday in Brussels and across Belgium. The police did not say whether the suspects were male or female, nor if they were looking for other suspects.

The arrests are not linked to the November Paris attacks in which 130 people were killed. Brussels has been on high alert since those attacks, with intelligence reports suggesting an attack of some kind was coming. In the wake of the Paris attacks, schools, universities and the Metro were shut down in Brussels for several days in November. The city was put on the highest state of alert as authorities warned of a "serious and imminent" terror threat. Brussels has also been at the centre of investigations into the Paris attacks after it emerged that two of the Paris suicide bombers had lived in Belgium. Other major European cities are also on alert and police have warned citizens to be vigilant.

Sources: *Sky.com / BBC.co.uk / Mirror.co.uk*

Writing

All cities should increase their state of alert regarding terror attacks. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

police / planning / arrests / weapons / investigation / symbolic / searches / suspects / linked / high alert / intelligence / several days / imminent / authorities / vigilant

True / False

- a) Police have arrested several people in Paris over a suspected attack. T / F
- b) Police made six arrests but they let four people go. T / F
- c) Police found weapons and explosives in the houses of those arrested. T / F
- d) The police did not say whether the suspects were men or women. T / F
- e) Police say the arrests are linked to the Paris attacks in November. T / F
- f) Brussels was put on the second highest state of alert in November. T / F
- g) Two of the Paris attackers lived in Brussels. T / F
- h) European police have asked citizens to be vigilant. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. planning | a. locations |
| 2. initially | b. because of |
| 3. propaganda | c. connected |
| 4. places | d. information |
| 5. whether | e. became known |
| 6. linked | f. organising |
| 7. in the wake of | g. on the lookout |
| 8. imminent | h. at first |
| 9. emerged | i. fast approaching |
| 10. vigilant | j. if |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How worried are you about terror attacks?
- c) Why do you think Belgium is a target?
- d) What can governments do to reduce the likelihood of terror attacks?
- e) How do authorities get intelligence on terror attacks?
- f) Should people modify their behaviour because of possible attacks?
- g) How dangerous is it to be a police officer fighting terror?
- h) Will terror attacks ever completely disappear?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. Police initially made six arrests but
 2. no weapons
 3. serious threats
 4. during the celebrations
 5. police did not say whether the suspects
 6. intelligence
 7. put on the highest
 8. authorities warned of a serious and imminent
 9. Other major European cities are
 10. police have warned
- a. also on alert
 - b. for New Year's Eve
 - c. terror threat
 - d. later released four
 - e. reports
 - f. of an attack
 - g. citizens to be vigilant
 - h. were male or female
 - i. state of alert
 - j. or explosives

Discussion – Student B

- a) Why do the terror groups carry out attacks?
- b) What would you do if your town was shut down for four days?
- c) What happens during the highest state of alert?
- d) How vigilant are you?
- e) Would you ever move house to avoid terror attacks?
- f) Is the world safer or more dangerous than it was 20 years ago?
- g) What message do you have for those planning attacks?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the police chiefs?

Spelling

1. Police inayiltli made six arrests
2. Investigators found iytimlar clothing
3. no weapons or psleioxesv
4. Our investigation ealevder serious threats
5. aesnbltrieoc for New Year's Eve
6. looking for other sescptus
7. nlegteilcen reports
8. for elvrsae days
9. hiiusorttea warned of a...
10. a serious and iimtmenn terror threat
11. sciued bombers
12. police have warned citizens to be ntgivali

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. d	4. a	5. j
6. c	7. b	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Eiffel Tower

You think the Eiffel Tower is the best place. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China or the White House.

Role B – Pyramids

You think the Pyramids is the best place. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Eiffel Tower, the Great Wall of China or the White House.

Role C – Great Wall of China

You think the Great Wall of China is the best place. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Pyramids, the Eiffel Tower or the White House.

Role D – The White House

You think the White House is the best place. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China or the Eiffel Tower.

Speaking – Places

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Eiffel Tower
- Big Ben
- Sydney Opera House
- Pyramids
- The White House
- The Great Wall of China
- The Kremlin
- Machu Picchu

Answers – True False

a F b T c F d T e F f F g T h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.