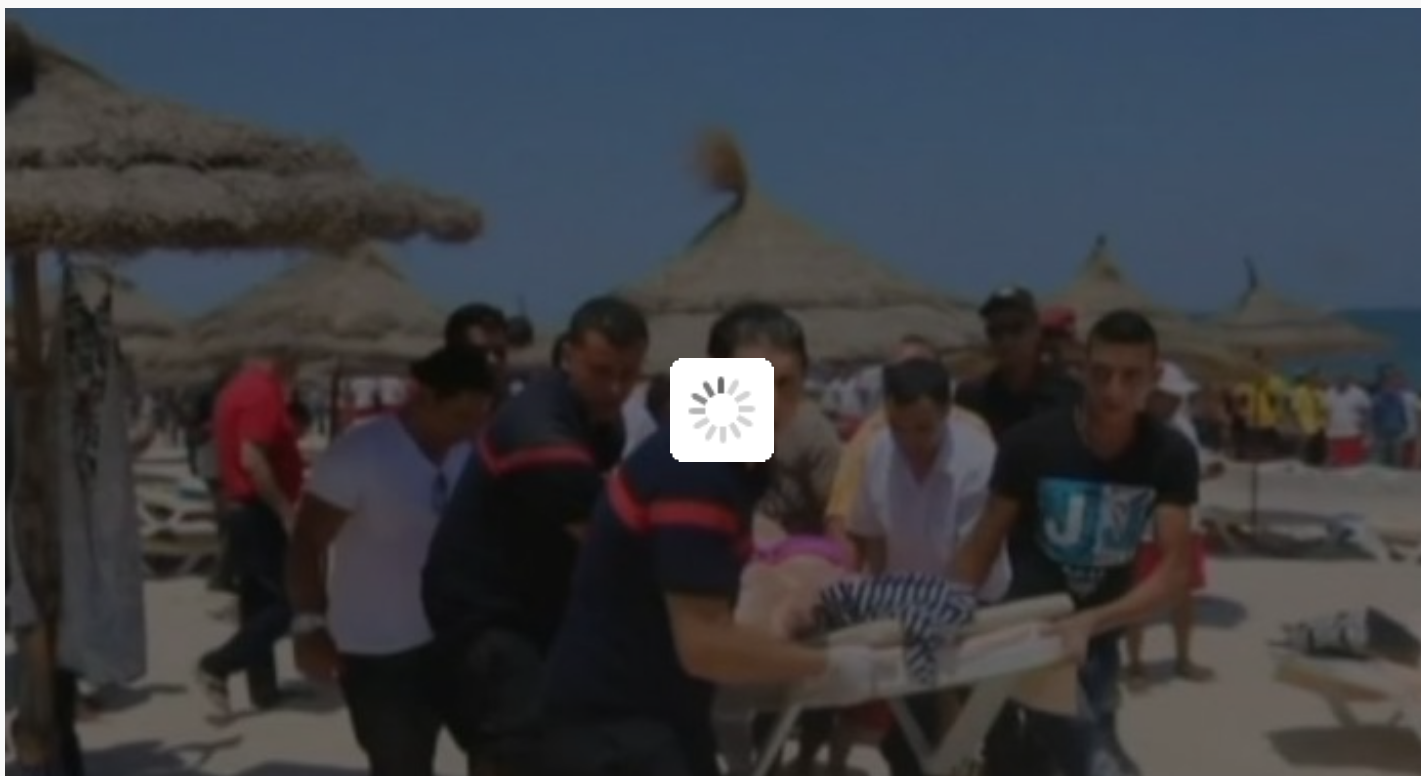


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'Terror attacks' claimed by Islamist militants in Tunisia, Kuwait and France mark day of bloodshed worldwide

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VIDEO: [Series of attacks rock Europe, Middle East](#) (ABC News)

At least 66 people have been killed in attacks claimed by Islamist militants in Tunisia, Kuwait and France in a day of worldwide bloodshed, with several leaders condemning the incidents as acts of "terror" and mobilising security forces.

Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack in Tunisia, with the IS-affiliated group Najd Province reporting on social media it was behind the Kuwait bombing.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the Government was not aware of any Australians involved in the attacks, but [Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the incidents showed IS was threatening Australia.](#)

Ms Bishop said it was too early to say if the attacks were linked.

"We don't have enough details at this stage. We know that Daesh (IS) has claimed responsibility for the attack on the mosque in Kuwait but there have been no reports yet of a connection between the attacks in France and Tunisia and Kuwait," she said.

The deadliest attack was in North Africa, where [38 people were killed when a gunman opened fire on tourists at a beach resort in Sousse, Tunisia.](#)

Health authorities said 36 other people were wounded in the attack at the Imperial Marhaba hotel in the Port El Kantaoui district.

Those killed included British, German and Belgian nationals, the Tunisian health ministry said in a statement. No Australians were among the dead, Ms Bishop said.



PHOTO: [Tunisian lifeguards and medics transport a covered body in the resort town of Sousse, a popular tourist destination 140 kilometres south of Tunisia's capital.](#) (AFP: Bechir Taieb)

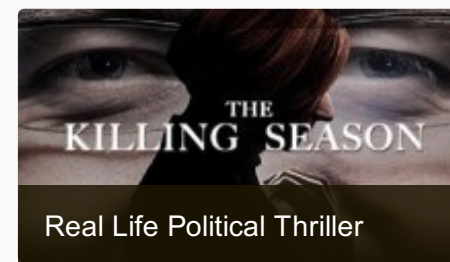
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PHOTO: [The body of a tourist shot dead by a gunman at a beachside hotel in Sousse, Tunisia.](#) (Reuters: Amine Ben Aziza)

An armed man "entered through the back of the hotel and opened fire", Tunisian interior ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui said.

"It was a terrorist attack," he said, adding that the gunman was shot dead by police.

British holiday maker Debbie Horsefall said she was right next to one of the gunman.

"We were in the hotel spa and ... he was just over a little sandbank next to us and as he began to fire we just got up and just ran straight to our hotel, it was just terrifying," she said.

"One lady from the next-door hotel saw her husband get shot but didn't know what was happening because she couldn't get back to him."

Kuwait security forces mobilised, alert level raised

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PHOTO: Kuwaiti security forces and emergency personnel gather outside a Shiite mosque after it was targeted by a suicide bombing during Friday prayers. (AFP: Yasser Al-Zayyat)

In Kuwait, a suicide bomber killed 27 people in an attack on a Shiite Muslim mosque.

Health authorities said more than 200 people were wounded, with eight in a critical condition.

A witness said the bombing happened when the Al-Imam al-Sadeq mosque was packed with some 2,000 worshippers during Friday prayers.

Two of the victims in the attack were Iranian nationals living in Kuwait, Iran said on Saturday.

Najd Province claimed responsibility for the deadly attack in a statement posted on social media.

The statement identified the bomber as Abu Suleiman al-Muwahed and said the target was a "temple of the

rejectionists" — a term used by the Islamist militant group to refer to Shiite Muslims — and said dozens were killed or wounded.

The owner of the vehicle that took the suicide bomber to the mosque has been detained, state media reported on Saturday.

The interior ministry said it was now looking for the driver of the Japanese-made car, who left the mosque immediately after Friday's bombing, local media reported.

A security source told news agency Reuters that "numerous arrests" had been made in connection with Friday's bombing.

Najd Province has claimed similar bombings against Shiite mosques in Saudi Arabia in recent weeks.

Kuwaiti prime minister Sheikh Jaber al-Mubarak al-Sabah said the attack was an attempt to threaten the country's national unity.

"This incident targets our internal front, our national unity," Mr Sheikh Jaber said, after visiting the wounded at the Emiri hospital.

"But this is too difficult for them and we are much stronger than that."

The Kuwaiti cabinet went into an emergency meeting to discuss the incident, as the interior ministry raised the level of alert and mobilised all security forces.

French police interrogate attack suspect after grisly decapitation





PHOTO: [French Gendarmes stand guard next to a black plastic sheet outside a gas company site in central-eastern France.](#)
(Reuters: Emmanuel Foudrot)

French police interrogated a 35-year-old man of North African origin over a suspected Islamist attack on Saturday after [a severed head covered in Arabic writing was found at a United States gas company site.](#)

The suspect, named as Yassin Salhi, was also being held by police for causing an explosion by driving a delivery van into a warehouse containing bottles of dangerous gas and chemicals at the Air Products factory, some 40 kilometres from Lyon.

Firefighters overpowered Salhi before discovering the decapitated body of his 54-year-old boss — who ran a delivery firm — near the car, along with a knife.

The victim's head was pinned to a nearby fence.

"The head was surrounded by two Islamic flags bearing the Shahada, the profession of (the Muslim) faith," French prosecutor Francois Molins said.

Salhi is being held in Lyon, where he was refusing to respond to interrogators on Saturday, according to a law-enforcement source. His wife, sister and a fourth person are also in detention.

Sources close to the investigation said Salhi sent a picture of himself with the severed head via the WhatsApp messaging service.

The message was sent to a North American number but investigators said they were still working to

determine the final recipient, as the number used could be a relay.

Speaking from a European Union summit in Brussels, French president Francois Hollande described it as a terrorist attack and said all measures would be taken to stop any future attacks on a country still reeling from Islamist assaults in January.

"The intent was without doubt to cause an explosion. It was a terrorist attack," he said.

"The attack was of a terrorist nature since a body was discovered, decapitated and with inscriptions."

Salhi was already known to French intelligence sources, Mr Hollande said.

Mr Hollande called an urgent meeting with prime minister Manuel Valls and key ministers on Saturday, as his government grapples with the Islamist threat facing France, which has seen hundreds of citizens leave to wage jihad in Iraq and Syria.

Mr Valls said France would face more attacks as the grisly killing created tension in the country — home to Western Europe's largest Muslim population — that would be "exploited".

"It's difficult for a society to live for years under the threat of attack," he said.

"The question is not ... if there will be another attack, but when."

ABC/wires





Tunisian lifeguards and medics transport a covered body in the resort town of Sousse, a popular tourist destination 140 kilometres south of Tunisia's capital. (AFP: Bechir Taieb)

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GALLERY: [Terror attacks in Tunisia, Europe and the Middle East](#)

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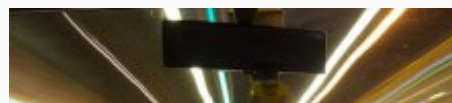
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ANU physics researcher Murray Hollis believes installing a "black box" in every car on the road is a simple way to cut the number of road deaths.



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Photos of the dead, including of infants, will form part of a planned exhibition examining how photographers deal with challenging subjects.



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