

US blacklists Paris, Brussels attacker

Washington

The United States yesterday added the suspected jihadist bombmaker said to have supplied the gangs behind the deadly attacks in Paris and Brussels to its terror blacklist.

French and Belgian authorities believe a militant known as Ahmad Alkhalid provided suicide vests and explosives expertise before the November 13, 2015 attacks on a Paris concert, bars and football crowd that left 130 dead.

He is thought to have fled to Syria, but remained in contact with a gang that later carried out the March 22, 2016 bombings at Brussels airport and a metro station that killed 32 people.

On Thursday, the United States added Alkhalid to what is now a 32-strong list of senior figures in the so-called Islamic State group now dubbed "specially designated global terrorists."

"A Syrian national, Alkhalid traveled to Europe, where he helped plan the Paris attacks and manufacture the explosive belts used in that plot, which killed and injured hundreds of people, including a number of

Smoke rises from a damaged BMW car after a controlled explosion as French police inspect the site after they arrested a suspect on the A16 motorway, near Marquise, northern France, on August 9, 2017, following an attack on servicemen who were hit by a BMW which drove down a quiet street in the upmarket western Paris suburb of Levallois-Perret.



Americans," the department said.

"Following his return to Syria shortly before the attacks in Paris, Alkhalid continued to guide ISIS operatives in Europe on making the bombs used in the March 2016 Brussels attacks."

Alkhalid's false passport was used in Greece in September 2015, where he is thought to have arrived among refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria, before heading to Belgium.

French authorities say they found traces of his DNA on explosive vests used by Brahim Abdeslam -- who blew himself up in a crowded Paris cafe -- and his brother Salah, who abandoned his un-used.

The US terror designation forbids Americans from conducting business with Alkhalid and any assets he is found to possess in areas under US jurisdiction will be seized.

In the same announcement,

the State Department blacklisted Abu Yahya al-Iraqi -- also known as Iyad Hamed Mahl al-Jumaily -- whom it said was a senior lieutenant of Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. (AFP)

IS-held Raqa 'worst place' in Syria: UN



Displaced Syrian boys from Raqa push a wheelbarrow full of jerry cans to a nearby canal to collect water

Geneva

Territory still controlled by the Islamic State group in Raqa is "the worst place" in Syria, the UN said Thursday, as fresh reports emerged of more civilians killed by US-led coalition air strikes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 21 children were among at least 59 civilians killed since Monday in the air strikes aimed at dislodging the jihadists from Raqa.

"The worst place probably today in Syria is the part of

Raqa that is still held by the so-called Islamic state," the UN's humanitarian pointman for Syria, Jan Egeland, told reporters in Geneva.

The UN estimates there are up to 25,000 civilians trapped inside Raqa, the jihadist group's erstwhile de facto Syrian capital.

"They are encircled by the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) fighters and they are used seemingly as human shields by the Islamic state," Egeland added, noting the "constant air raids" by the US-led coalition.

US insists military ready to counter N Korean threats

Santiago

Senior US officials insisted they are ready to respond to any North Korean attack yesterday, after a White House aide dismissed talk of a "military option."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson are trying to pressure North Korea to halt its nuclear weapons programme and come to the table.

While they stress they want to convince Kim Jong-Un's regime through diplomatic means of the need to disarm, they have not dropped the threat of military action.

But their stance was partly undermined on Wednesday when President Donald Trump's strategy chief, Steve Bannon, told a news magazine: "There's no military solution."

A day later, Mattis and Tillerson faced questions about Bannon's remarks as they appeared with their Japanese counterparts at a State Department press conference.



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (C) clapping hands while viewing a stage during his inspecting the Command of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA) at an undisclosed location.

"I don't want to comment on what Mr Bannon's remarks were in that particular interview," Tillerson said.

"I think we have been quite clear as to what the policy and the posture towards North Korea is," he said. "Our approach has been endorsed by the president."

Tillerson warned again that

North Korea faced a "bleak future" if it does not agree to negotiate disarmament, and Mattis insisted that US regional allies are ready.

"In close collaboration with our allies, there are strong military consequences if the DPRK initiates hostilities," the Pentagon chief told reporters.

ARCAPITA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT B.S.C.(C)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	2017 US\$ '000	2016 US\$ '000
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,848	7,398
Receivables and other assets	946	976
Due from a related party	73	108
TOTAL ASSETS	8,867	8,482
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,034	982
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,034	982
EQUITY		
Share capital	7,833	7,500
TOTAL EQUITY	7,833	7,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	8,867	8,482

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Year ended 30 June 2017 US\$ '000	Year ended 30 June 2016 US\$ '000
OPERATING INCOME		
Fee and other income	13,305	12,381
Total operating income	13,305	12,381
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff compensation and benefits	(9,314)	(8,646)
General and administration expenses	(3,131)	(2,763)
Professional and consulting fees	(1,143)	(1,232)
Total operating expenses	(13,588)	(12,641)
Foreign exchange gain	283	260
NET INCOME AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Year ended 30 June 2017 US\$ '000	Year ended 30 June 2016 US\$ '000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income for the year	-	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Due from a related party	35	(108)
Receivables and other assets	30	198
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	52	(1,535)
Net cash from (used) in operating activities	117	(1,445)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Proceeds from the issuance of share capital	333	2,500
Net cash from financing activity	333	2,500
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	450	1,055
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year	7,398	6,343
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	7,848	7,398

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Share capital US\$ '000	Shares pending allotment US\$ '000	Retained earnings US\$ '000	Total equity US\$ '000
As at 1 July 2016	7,500	-	-	7,500
Net income for the year	-	-	-	-
Issuance of share capital	333	-	-	333
As at 30 June 2017	7,833	-	-	7,833
As at 1 July 2015	2,645	2,355	-	5,000
Net income for the year	-	-	-	-
Issuance of share capital	4,855	(2,355)	-	2,500
As at 30 June 2016	7,500	-	-	7,500

These summarized statements have been extracted from the audited financial statements of Arcapita Investment Management B.S.C.(c), an Investment firm Category I (Islamic Principles) licensee regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain. These financial statements have been audited by Ernst & Young and approved by the Board of Directors on 23rd July 2017.