



"Terrorists around the world should know -- the United States and our allies are resolved to find you and bring you to justice."

*US Secretary of State
Rex Tillerson*



"I send my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims, as well as to Prime Minister Rajoy and the people of Spain."

*European Commission
President
Jean-Claude Juncker*



"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones and the people who are recovering in hospital."

*Britain's Queen
Elizabeth II*



"China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism, supports efforts to combat terrorism and supports peace and stability, and would like to cooperate with Spain to enhance counter-terrorism operations."

*Chinese President
Xi Jinping*



"Parisians are at your side. Barcelona and Paris are cities that share love and tolerance. Our values are much stronger than this heinous and cowardly act of terrorism."

*Paris Mayor
Anne Hidalgo*

Night of eerie silence after car rampage

Barcelona

In Barcelona's old town, dozens of stunned tourists dressed in shorts and t-shirts stood behind security tape in the early hours, witnesses to the shocking attack on the famous boulevard of Las Ramblas.

Thirteen people were killed and more than 100 injured when a white van sped into the historic promenade, which was packed with tourists, knocking people down in a scene of chaos and horror.

Close to the statue of Christopher Columbus, which depicts the explorer pointing out to sea, a distressed Scottish couple in their sixties who watched the attack unfold studied the security cordon blocking off the street.

"We were sitting on the balcony of the hotel. We saw everything... the car... the panic everywhere," said the man, who did not want to be named, adding that they now could not get back to their hotel.

"The police, they arrived in two minutes, they were very good," the woman said, staring blankly ahead. "We had to talk with them."

As the city was bathed in sunshine hours earlier, Barcelona was shaken by the first attack on Spanish soil claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.

Its target was the crowd enjoying the summer afternoon, browsing stalls selling flowers and souvenirs along the central pathway of Las Ramblas, an avenue that stretches more than a kilometre towards the sea.

On a narrow street closeby, 45-year-old Benjamin, a Barcelona resident, stood staring at the spot where the van hit a stall.

"Where we can see the forensic police working, in their white suits, that's



People gather to leave candles, flowers, messages, stuffed toys and many different objects for the victims yesterday at the spot where yesterday a van ploughed into the crowd

Police hunting four suspects

Madrid

Spanish police are looking for four suspects linked to the deadly terror attacks in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils, newspaper La Vanguardia reported yesterday.

The suspects, aged 17, 18, 22 and 24, are of Moroccan origin, the online edition of the Barcelona-based newspaper reported citing

an internal police document obtained from investigation sources.

Three suspects live in Ripoll, a town of around 10,000 people located about 100 kilometres north of Barcelona, while a fourth is from the Catalan town of Ribes de Freser, the newspaper added.

Among those police are hunting is Moussa Oukabir, the brother of Driss Oukabir

who was arrested on Thursday in Ripoll just hours after a van sped into crowds.

Police said earlier that they were searching for Moussa Oukabir but did not know if he was the driver of the van. They have also said the driver could have been one of the suspected terrorists killed in a police shootout in Cambrils where the second attack took place.

where the van ran up against a kiosk," said the industrial mechanic.

In the city of 1.6 million people -- where nine million tourists come to stay every year -- several cruise ships were also waiting as passengers tried to return to the pier.

The tragedy took the city by surprise: FC Barcelona was digesting a defeat to Real Madrid, the Catalan government was in the middle

of its protracted fight for an independence referendum and security staff were striking at the airport.

But the city which hosted the Olympics in 1992 soon rallied in solidarity with those caught up in the devastation.

The strike was suspended, taxis offered rides free of charge and volunteers rushed to donate blood, according to local media.

Hotels close to Las Ramblas

welcomed tourists, offering them shelter and blankets.

Eerie silence

An eerie silence pervaded the centre of a city that would usually be bustling until the early hours at the height of the mid-August holidays.

"It's a strangely quiet atmosphere," said Remy Gredin, a 23-year-old student from Marseille, finishing dinner at one of the few restaurants open on the Rambla del Raval, a street that runs parallel to the main promenade.

"We are waiting to go back to the apartment we are renting on the Ramblas. The attack happened just below but we had left an hour before to visit the Park Guell," he said as he ate with three French friends.

Beneath the lampposts, road sweepers in fluorescent vests rubbed shoulders with plain

Italian father slain in front of kids in Barcelona

Rome

An Italian father who was killed in the Barcelona attack died in front of his wife and two young children who narrowly escaped harm when a van ploughed into tourists.

Bruno Gulotta, 35, was one of two Italian nationals killed in Thursday's Islamist attack on Las Ramblas, which left 14 people dead and over 100 injured.

The other Italian victim was named as 25-year-old Luca Russo, whose girlfriend was one of three Italians injured in the attack.

"Italy will remember Bruno Gulotta and Luca Russo and expresses its solidarity with their families," Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni said in a tweet. "Freedom will triumph over barbarism and terrorism."

The death of Gulotta was announced by computer company Tom's Hardware, for whom he worked in sales and marketing.

clothes policeman.

"It was a matter of time (before an attack in Spain) but we did not know if it would be in Madrid or here," said Juan Manuel Ruiz, a 43-year-old waiter from Barcelona.

"From now on, it will not be the same, and we must not allow just anyone to come in: It is not a question of racism but of keeping order. You are given food, do not come and kill us," he said.

However his colleague Marc de la Iglesia, 29, said "it makes no sense to be alarmed".

"There needs to be a message of unity, we must help the people who have suffered and ensure Barcelona's reputation is not too damaged."

A text message spread from phone to phone with a warning not to share photos of the attack. "That's what they (the attackers) want," it said. (AFP)

Spain suspects planned bigger attack, say police

Barcelona

Suspects in Spain's deadly twin terror attacks were preparing an even bigger assault that was foiled as events unfolded, police said Friday as the death toll rose to 14 with over 100 injured.

Police said they killed five "suspected terrorists" during the night and arrested three

others as Spain reeled from the double tragedy in Barcelona and in Cambrils, some 120 kilometres (75 miles) south.

In a poignant moment Friday, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, King Felipe VI and the president of Catalonia -- where both attacks took place -- held a minute of

silence in Barcelona. It was followed by applause and shouts of "not afraid".

In what has been a fast-moving investigation, police were quick to connect the two attacks, and at a briefing Friday afternoon revealed the suspects had apparently been planning something bigger.