



AEROTROPOLIS  
Ekurhuleni

Master Plan Launch:  
17 November 2015

Creating a world class gateway  
to global markets  
www.ekurhuleni.gov.za



ASK  
GEORGIE!  
CONSUMER  
WATCH



► 6

LEADS A  
The Star

Slender  
Oscar  
reports for  
service ► 2



MONDAY NOVEMBER 16 2015

Established October 17 1887

R7,90 inc VAT Annual subscribers: R6,56

For subscriptions contact: gautengsubs@inl.co.za \*\*\*\*\*WWW.STAR.CO.ZA \*\*FINAL

MY.INDEPENDENT APP

WANT NEWS ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICES? GET 4 WEEKS FREE!

SMS star1 to 45387 \*standard rates apply

# Revenge of the French

## Fighter jets strike Islamic State in Syria

PARIS  
AP

FRANCE launched "massive" air strikes on the Islamic State group's de facto capital in Syria last night, destroying a jihadi training camp and a munitions dump in the city of Raqqa, where Iraqi intelligence officials say the attacks on Paris were planned.

Twelve aircraft including 10 fighter jets dropped 20 bombs in the biggest air strikes since France extended its bombing campaign against the extremist group to Syria in September, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The jets launched from sites in Jordan and the Persian Gulf in co-ordination with US forces.

Meanwhile, as police announced seven arrests and hunted for more members of the sleeper cell that carried out the Paris attacks that killed 129 people, French officials revealed to The Associated Press that several key suspects had been stopped and released by police after the attack.

The arrest warrant for Salah Abdeslam, a 26-year-old born in Brussels, calls him very dangerous and warns people not to intervene if they see him.

Yet police already had him in their grasp early on Saturday, when they stopped a car carrying three men near the Belgian border. By then, hours had passed since authorities identified Abdeslam as the renter of a Volkswagen Polo that carried hostage takers to the Paris theatre where so many died.

Three French police officials and a top French security official confirmed that officers let Abdeslam go after checking his ID.



They spoke on condition of anonymity, lacking authorisation to publicly disclose such details.

Clues about the extent of the plot have emerged from Baghdad, where senior Iraqi officials told AP that France and other countries had been warned on Thursday of an imminent attack.

An Iraqi intelligence dispatch warned that Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had ordered his followers to immediately launch gun and bomb attacks and take hostages inside the countries of the coalition fighting them in Iraq and Syria.

The Iraqi dispatch, which was obtained by AP provided no details on when or where attacks would take place, and a senior French

security official told AP that French intelligence received these kinds of warnings "all the time" and "every day".

However, Iraqi intelligence officials told AP that they'd also warned France about specific details - among them, that the attackers were trained for this operation and sent back to France from Raqqa.

The officials said a sleeper cell in France then met with the attackers after their training and helped them to execute the plan. There were 24 people involved in the operation, they said - 19 attackers and five others in charge of logistics and planning.

None of these details have been corroborated by French officials or

Western intelligence agencies.

All these French and Iraqi security and intelligence officials spoke with AP on condition of anonymity, citing the ongoing investigation.

Abdeslam is one of three brothers believed to be involved; one who crossed with him into Belgium was later arrested, and another blew himself up inside the Bataclan theatre after taking the audience hostage and firing on them repeatedly. It was the worst of Friday's synchronised attacks, leaving 89 fatalities and hundreds of people wounded inside.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility. Its statement mocked France's air attacks on suspected Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq and called Paris

"the capital of prostitution and obscenity".

In all, three teams of attackers including seven suicide bombers attacked the national stadium, the concert hall and nearby nightspots. The attacks wounded 350 people, 99 of them seriously.

Abdeslam rented the black Volkswagen Polo used by the hostage-takers, another French security official said. A Brussels parking ticket found inside led police to at least one of the arrests in Belgium, a French police official said.

Three Kalashnikovs were found inside another car known to have been used in the attacks that was found in Montreuil, an eastern Parisian suburb, another French police official said.

## Hail, winds, storms head for Gauteng

STAFF REPORTERS

HAIL and strong winds could hit Gauteng this afternoon in an abrupt about-turn in the weather from one extreme to another.

After last week's heatwave and water shortage, Joburgers have been pleading for rain, but they might get more than they bargained for.

The SA Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm watch for Gauteng this morning.

"We are expecting storms to start developing around 3pm," said forecaster Bransby Bullo. He did not know how long the storms would last.

Bullo didn't have any specific safety advisories, but said if and when the storms developed, the watch would change to a warning, so residents could check in throughout the day.

Meanwhile, as the country battles water shortages, the Grand Central water reservoir in Midrand overflowed this morning, spewing thousands of litres on to roads.

Cars were backed up and forced to drive slowly as the water gushed out. Workers from Rand Water were seen trying to do some damage control; a sensor that should have kicked in when the reservoir filled up failed, causing the overflow.

Joburg Water spokesman Hilgard Matthews said: "Our control room picked it up immediately and a team was dispatched to sort the problem out."

He could however not give an indication of the amount of litres lost.

And while water flowed freely into the streets of Midrand, residents of Northcliff woke up to dry taps this morning due to an overnight power failure.

See Page 4

## UCT graduate plays dead to survive Paris attack

LEANNE JANSEN, NOMASWAZI  
NKOSI AND REUTERS

IN A heart-wrenching account, a 22-year-old University of Cape Town BCom graduate has described how she survived the terrorist attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris on Friday night.

In her account posted on Facebook on Saturday, along with a photograph of her bloodstained top, Isobel Bowdery said she initially thought the men who stormed the venue with guns were part of the show.

The University of Cape Town yesterday confirmed that Bowdery graduated from the university last year, but couldn't confirm her nationality. She had gone to watch rock band Eagles of Death Metal. Revellers were dancing and smiling when a group of men stormed in.

Bowdery wrote on Facebook that the image of the attackers circling the concertgoers like vultures would haunt her for the rest of her life. She recounted how she repeat-

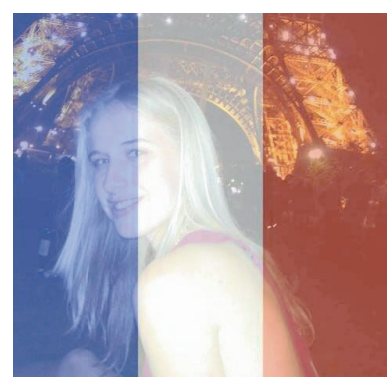
edly whispered "I love you" for each of her loved ones while she waited to be shot. Her post had received close to 1.8 million likes by late yesterday afternoon.

"The atmosphere was so happy and everyone was dancing and smiling... It wasn't just a terrorist attack, it was a massacre. Dozens of people were shot right in front of me. Pools of blood filled the floor."

"Cries of grown men who held their girlfriends' dead bodies pierced the small music venue. Futures demolished, families heartbroken. In an instant. Shocked and alone, I pretended to be dead for over an hour, lying among people who could see their loved ones motionless. Holding my breath, trying to not move, not cry - not giving those men the fear they longed to see."

At least 89 people were killed in the concert hall, and the body count for the attacks on restaurants, the concert venue and a soccer stadium had reached 129 by last night.

Islamic State claimed responsi-



CLOSE CALL: The Facebook profile picture of Isobel Bowdery, who survived the tragedy in Paris.

bility on Saturday, and world leaders yesterday spoke out about ramping up the fight against them.

Also lucky to have survived Friday's assaults are a Pretoria couple who visited Paris last week.

The couple, who asked not to be identified, had been in the city for almost a week when the attacks

took place.

"We were meant to go out (on the night of the attacks). We went to a friend's place and she couldn't find a place where her child could be allowed in, so we decided to stay at her house," the man said.

They had planned to go to the Bataclan Café, which was attached to the concert hall.

He said they had been to the Place de la Republique on numerous occasions during their week-long visit and he noted that it was always busy and full of protesters.

With hindsight, the man said on Friday he noticed that the trains, which they used to travel around the city, were full of police and soldiers but he didn't think anything of it since he thought Paris was a very safe place. The couple alerted their families back in South Africa that there had been terrorist attacks in Paris but that they were safe. They spent the rest of the night watching the news.

French President Francois Hollande was at the stadium watching

a soccer match between France and Germany when the attacks began.

He announced a state of emergency, and the country is observing three days of national mourning following the attacks.

Meanwhile, SAA spokesman Tlali Tlali said the airline, which uses Lufthansa as its operating carrier to Paris, had not received any information about any changes in its operations. This means there hasn't been an increase in South Africans in Paris trying to leave the country or change their flights.

Air France said none of its flights to and from Paris had been disrupted but it had made provisions for people who wanted to delay their departure from Paris, and they could do so at no extra cost until November 22.

Department of International Relations and Co-operation spokesman Clayson Monyela said they had not yet received any reports about South Africans either killed or injured during the Paris attacks.

See Page 10



AEROTROPOLIS  
Ekurhuleni

Creating a world class gateway  
to global markets

Master Plan Launch:  
17 November 2015



SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS  
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

With South African Airways, there's a story  
in every seat. Book yours now at flysaa.com



The Star Afternoon edition



9 771816 485008