

THE CHARLIE HEBDO SHOOTING

On the morning of 7 January 2015 in Paris, Cherif and Said Kouachi, two Islamist terrorists, got into the offices of the French satirical newspaper "Charlie Hebdo", killing 11 of the newspaper's employees and a police officer, while injuring 11 others. After that event, more terrorist attacks followed in the Ile-de-France region. The total victims of all five attacks were 42, including 20 fatalities and 22 non-fatal injuries, making them some of the most tragic terrorist attacks in the nation's latest history. The "Je Suis Charlie" (French for "I am Charlie") slogan became a worldwide motto of supporting the victims, their families, the newspaper and the French citizens.

"Charlie Hebdo" is one of the few French exclusively satirical newspapers. Since its publication, it has sparked controversy multiple times, mainly due to the caricatures of Muhammad. As a consequence, in 2011 Islamist terrorists fire bombed the newspaper's office. Fortunately, nobody was harmed by the attack. However, on 7 January 2015, two Islamist gunmen forced their way into and opened fire in the Paris headquarters of "Charlie Hebdo", killing twelve: staff cartoonists Charb, Cabu, Honoré, Tignous and Wolinski, economist Bernard Maris, editors Elsa Cayat and Mustapha Ourrad, guest Michel Renaud, maintenance worker Frédéric Boisseau and police officers Brinsolaro and Merabet, and wounding eleven, four of them seriously.

The responsibility for the attack was taken by the Yemen branch of Al Qaeda. The first victim of the attack was a maintenance worker who was killed in the lobby. The Kouachi brothers continued, and threatened a cartoonist working there to lead them to the second floor, where 15 of the newspaper's employees were having an editing meeting. As soon as they got in the office, they called out Charb's name (the newspaper's director of publication), and opened fire. It lasted 10 minutes.