

# Decapitated Head Found in Suspected Islamist Attack

A decapitated head covered in Arabic writing was found at a U.S. gas company in southeast France on Friday, police sources and French media said, after two assailants rammed a car into the premises, exploding gas containers.

The attack, in which one person was killed and at least one was injured, bore the hallmarks of Islamist militants.

The French public prosecutor said its anti-terrorist section had been deployed to investigate what it described as a suspected organized attack.

Police sources said the decapitated head was found at the site, along with a flag bearing Islamist inscriptions.

Local newspaper *Le Dauphine* said the head was also covered in Arabic writing. One suspect had been arrested and was already known to French intelligence sources, one of the sources said.

If confirmed as an attack, it would be the second major such incident in France this year, coming after Islamist gunmen killed 17 people in January in attacks on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly and a Jewish food store.

“Two individuals deliberately rammed a car into the gas containers to trigger an explosion,” the police source said.

The site belonged to Air Products, a industrial gases technology company, according to a spokeswoman for Air Liquide, a French company in the same sector. It was immediately ringfenced by police and emergency services.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve was heading to the site in the town of Saint-Quentin-Fallavier, around 30 km (20 miles) southeast of the city of Lyon.

French media said the government had ordered security to be stepped up around sensitive sites in the surrounding Rhone-Alpes region.

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