

BASTILLE DAY MASSACRE: WORLD REACTION

"We stand in solidarity and partnership with France, our oldest ally, as they respond to and recover from this attack. On this Bastille Day, we are reminded of the extraordinary resilience and democratic values that have made France an inspiration to the entire world"



"Germany stands alongside France in the fight against terrorism. Words can barely express the bond between us and our French friends"



"Russia stands in solidarity with the people of France... we have seen once again that terrorism is completely blind to human morality"



"A sad day for France, for Europe... tragic... that the subjects of the attack were people celebrating liberty, equality and fraternity"



PHOTO: REUTERS

UNSC: "(A) barbaric and cowardly attack... the perpetrators of these acts (need to be brought) to justice"

ASIA-EUROPE SUMMIT STATEMENT: "We strongly condemn the heinous and cowardly terrorist attacks... We reaffirm our commitment to join forces to fight the plague of terrorism and underline the need to bring to justice those responsible for the attacks."

MUSLIM AND MIDEAST LEADERS

Sunni Islam's leading centre of learning, **AL-AZHAR**, said the "vile terrorist attack" contradicted Islam and called for "uniting efforts to defeat terrorism and rid the world of its evil," while the **FRENCH COUNCIL OF THE MUSLIM FAITH (CFCM)** said it "utterly condemned" the bloodshed.

"Every American stands in strong solidarity with the people of France, and we say with one voice: we will not be intimidated. We will never allow terrorists to undermine the egalitarian and democratic values that underpin our very way of life"



"This is war. If you look at it, this is war coming from all different parts"



"There is a moral duty to react. Italy and the international community undertake not to leave the French on their own. The images coming out of Nice make words stick in the throat, fingers halt on the keyboard. Pain, emotion, solidarity."



"We are shocked and concerned by the scenes there. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this terrible incident on what was a day of national celebration"



IS called for car attacks

Transforming a vehicle into a simple but deadly weapon of terror -- as happened to such bloody effect in Nice on Thursday -- is a tactic well known to intelligence agencies. A truck smashed into revellers celebrating France's Bastille Day, killing at least 84 and injuring scores as it ploughed two kilometres through the crowd. This is not the first time in recent years that someone has deliberately driven a truck into pedestrians on a French street. But the scale, speed and death toll from this apparent attack in Nice are unprecedented. It follows a call by so-called Islamic State (IS) spokesman Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani some months ago for IS followers to do exactly what this truck driver did. In 2014, he called on IS supporters to use vehicles to commit terror attacks, if they didn't have access to more traditional weapons. "If you cannot (detonate) a bomb or (fire) a bullet, arrange to meet alone with a French or an American infidel and bash his skull in with a rock, slaughter him with a knife, run him over with your car, throw him off a cliff, strangle him, or inject him with poison," he said. Al-Adnani said there was no need to "consult anyone" as killing all unbelievers is fair game. "It is immaterial if the infidel is a combatant or a civilian... They are both enemies. The blood of both is permitted." Experts say, this, and other calls for attacks in Europe, are partly in response to the significant losses being experienced by IS to the shrinking territory it controls in Syria and Iraq.

RECENT TERROR ATTACKS IN FRANCE

- JUNE 2016:** A man claiming allegiance to so-called Islamic State kills two police officials in Magnanville, near Paris
- NOVEMBER 2015:** Multiple attacks on Paris by seven gunmen and suicide bombers kill 130 people and injure more than 350 in the deadliest terror attack in French history
- JUNE 2015:** A man with suspected links to Islamist radicals decapitates his boss after ramming his car into an area containing flammable liquids at a factory in Lyon
- JANUARY 2015:** three days of attacks by gunmen in Paris leave 17 people dead, starting with an attack on the office of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and ending in two sieges
- MARCH 2012:** A gunman kills seven in Toulouse and Montauban, including a teacher and three children at a Jewish school

Hero who saved many more lives

Witness says he jumped into the lorry and wrestled with the killer

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
A man slowed the murderous rampage of a man driving a truck through a crowd in Nice by jumping into the cab and seizing his revolver. The attack, 31-year-old Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, was slowed when a heroic member of the public leapt onto the vehicle and wrestled the driver. Police sources in Nice confirmed that the murderous two kilometre charge of the lorry might have been even longer if it had not been for the courage of a member of the public. They said the man had hurled himself into the cab when the 20 tonne truck was held up by an obstruction. He wrestled with the driver, who seized a revolver and



fired several shots at the man and at police officers who arrived on the scene. None was hurt. The driver was then shot dead by two officers. Eyewitness Eric Ciotti told Europe 1 said that as people tried to flee from the truck, someone jumped in and was able to help the police kill the man. "A person jumped on to the truck to try to stop it," he told the radio station. "It's at that moment that the police were able to neutralise this terrorist."

'Sharia test' for US Muslims!

BBC ONLINE
Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has suggested testing all US Muslims to see if they believe in Sharia law, and deporting those who do. Sharia is a legal code based on the Quran and other Islamic scriptures. "Western civilisation is in a war. We should frankly test every person here who is of a Muslim background and if they believe in Sharia they should be deported," Gingrich told Fox News' Sean Hannity. "Sharia is incompatible with western civilisation. Modern Muslims who have given up Sharia, glad to have them as citizens," he added. Gingrich also suggested monitoring US mosques and jailing anyone who visits websites favouring a terror group.

WHEN VEHICLES BECOME WEAPONS

- In Israel and the Palestinian territories, car-ramming attacks have featured heavily in a wave of violence that has killed at least 215 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese since October last year.
- Western authorities have had to deal with three similar attacks in recent years: two in Britain and another in Canada.
- In May 2013, two Islamists smashed their car into British soldier Lee Rigby before attempting to behead him on a London street in broad daylight. The pair, who were of Nigerian heritage, said they attacked the 25-year-old fusilier to avenge the deaths of Muslims at the hands of British troops.
- Just 18 months later, a man claiming to be acting in the name of radical jihad ran over and killed Canadian soldier Patrice Vincent, also injuring a second man. Shortly after, the 25-year-old Muslim convert, Martin Couture-Rouleau, called the police emergency line to dedicate his attack to the cause of jihad.
- And in June 2007, two men in a burning jeep smashed into the main terminal building at Scotland's Glasgow Airport. One of the men was jailed for life, with the judge describing him as a "religious extremist".



WAR ON IS IN SYRIA US calls for joint efforts with Russia

AFP, Moscow
Top US diplomat John Kerry stressed the urgency of closer co-operation in Syria after the Kremlin said yesterday a US proposal for direct military cooperation in the war-torn country had not been addressed in earlier talks with President Vladimir Putin. On the second and final day of his visit to Moscow, Kerry called for stepping up cooperation between the US and Russia to thwart jihadist groups. According to a leaked document seen by the Washington Post, Kerry's key proposal is to offer Russia closer US military cooperation against the al-Nusra Front jihadist group. In exchange, Moscow would be required to pressure its ally Assad to ground his own jets and end attacks on civilians and the moderate opposition.



(From left, clockwise) People stand in silence near the massacre site yesterday to remember the victims of the Bastille Day truck attack in Nice; a man sits next to a body; and shocked people comfort each other after the Thursday's attack. A Tunisian-born man zigzagged a truck through a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in the French city of Nice, killing at least 84 and injuring dozens including children which President Francois Hollande termed as a "terrorist" attack.

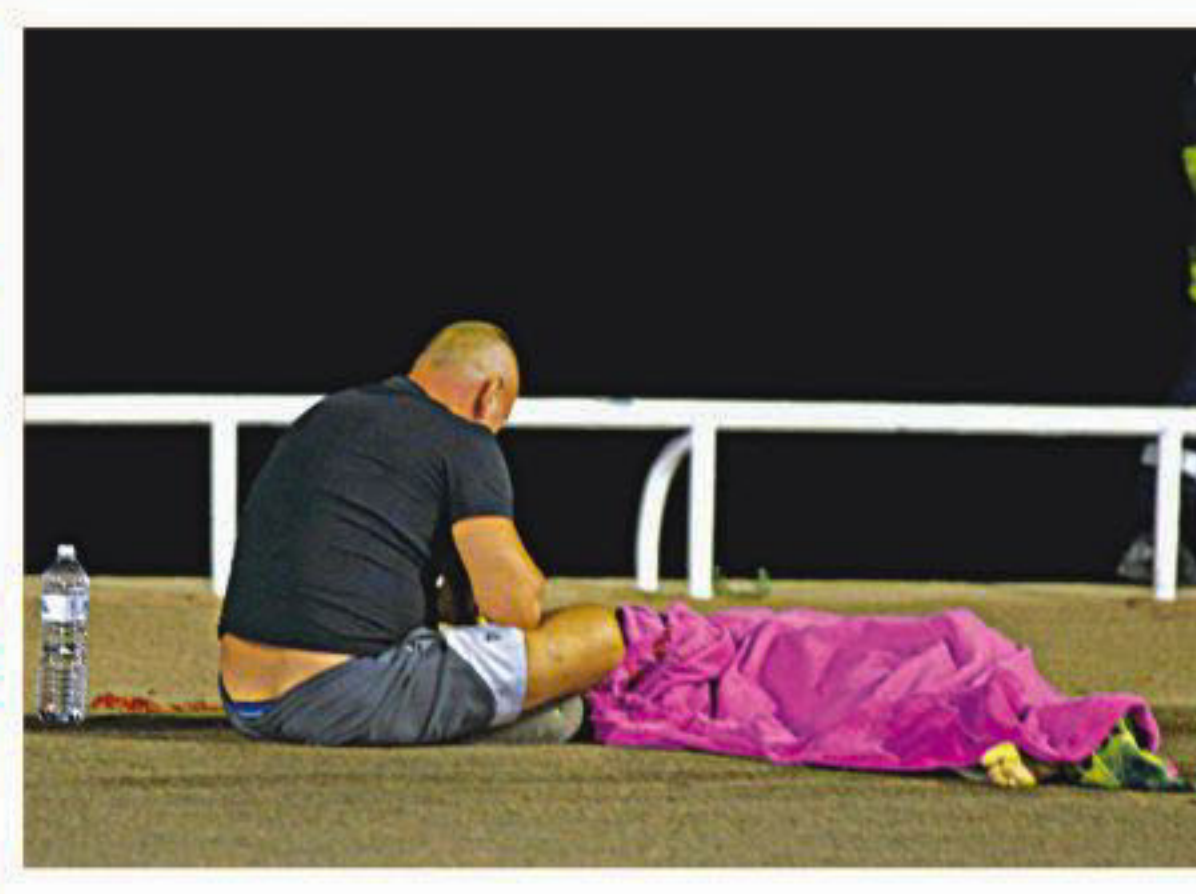


PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW 'Can't lose one centimetre' of areas: China

PTI, Beijing
In the wake of the international tribunal rejecting its claims in the disputed South China Sea, China yesterday said that the issue of sovereignty was the nation's "bottom line" and the country "cannot lose one centimetre" of the area it claims. "The sovereignty issue is China's bottom line," China's top diplomat Yang Jiechi said. "Though China is large, we cannot lose one centimetre of inheritance left by the ancestors," said Yang who is the State Councillor, a rank higher than Foreign Minister, while commenting on the ongoing row over the verdict delivered by an international arbitral tribunal which quashed Beijing's claims of historic rights over the South China Sea. Yang's comments also carry significance for India as he is China's designated special representative for boundary talks along with national security advisor Ajit Doval. India and China have so far held 19 rounds of talks to resolve the boundary dispute. At the centre of the dispute is China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh which it regards as part of southern Tibet. China regards the boundary issue as a legacy from history and refuses to recognise the McMahon Line as the effective boundary between the two countries. While both sides in recent years managed to reduce tensions between troops patrolling disputed areas with various dialogue mechanisms, China has not responded positively to India's proposal to demarcate the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) to avoid border tensions. Meanwhile, the EU urged China and the Philippines to settle peacefully their dispute over the South China Sea but stopped short of pushing Beijing to abide by an international tribunal's ruling against Beijing's claims.

UK PM visits Scotland

Defends UK's unity in talks with Nicola Sturgeon

AFP, Edinburgh
Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday defended the UK's unity in Edinburgh on her first visit as Britain's premier but said she was prepared to discuss options for Scotland's post-Brexit EU ties. Two days after taking office, May travelled north to try to allay Scots' fears for their future in a country set to chart its own course outside EU. While 52 percent of voters across the UK voted to leave the EU, 62 percent in Scotland opted for Britain to remain in the bloc, triggering calls for a second Scottish referendum on independence. May told Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon she had made Edinburgh her first port of call to show how "very important" Scotland was to her. "I want to get the best possible deal for the whole of the United Kingdom out of our negotiations for the UK leaving the EU," she said. Questioned about Sturgeon's threat to organise another plebiscite on leaving the UK, two years after Scots voted to remain part of the kingdom, the Conservative

leader said: "As far as I'm concerned, the Scottish people had their vote." But she also signalled some flexibility on Scotland's demands to be allowed to chart a divergent course. "I want the Scottish government to be fully engaged in our discussions and our considerations, and I will listen to any options that they bring forward," she said. May took office after David Cameron stepped down as premier in the wake of the Brexit referendum. The vote result sent shockwaves around the world and sparked fears of an economic downturn, with Britain potentially facing exclusion from Europe's single market -- a key concern for Sturgeon. The Scottish nationalist leader, who has been adamant that Scots cannot be taken out of the EU against their will, said she was encouraged by her meeting with May. "I was very pleased that Theresa May said that she was absolutely willing to consider any options that the Scottish government now bring forward to secure Scotland's relationship with the European Union," she said.



KASHMIR ISSUE AND TERROR UN, US humiliate Pakistan

AGENCIES
Pakistan was humiliated on the world stage on Wednesday after it attempted to crank up international pressure on India on the Kashmir issue. A range of lawmakers, analysts, and diplomats called Pakistan a terrorist entity, said it should be denied foreign aid, and proposed that its leaders, including its military generals, be sanctioned and stopped from traveling to the United States for consistently cheating the world community on terrorism. A congressional hearing in Washington and the United Nations general assembly were the forums for Pakistan's public shaming after its representatives tried to rake up the Kashmir situation in the wake of the violence in the Indian state. Accusing his counterpart of misusing the UN platform with phony concern about human rights, India's permanent representative at the UN Syed Akbaruddin lashed out at Pakistan, calling it "a country that covets the territory of others; a country that uses terrorism as state policy towards that misguided end; a country that extols the virtues of terrorists and that provides sanctuary to UN-designated terrorists." India's scorching of Pakistan was mild compared to what transpired in the US Congress a few hours before. US lawmakers and experts testifying before a congressional panel called for designating Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism and for cutting off all aid to Islamabad, reports Times of India. "They are making chumps out of us. They see us being so stupid. It seems agreed. Not one stood up for Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani on Thursday said the people of Pakistan are appalled at the views expressed by certain American lawmakers in the US Congress regarding Pakistan, reports Dawn. Further needling India on the Kashmir issue, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday declared slain Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani a "martyr" and said July 19 will be observed as a "black day" to express solidarity with people of Kashmir. Addressing a special cabinet meeting in Lahore to discuss the situation in Kashmir, Sharif termed the "movement of Kashmiris as a movement of freedom". "Pakistan would continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support for Kashmiris in their just struggle for right to self-determination," the Prime Minister said. Moreover he directed all the relevant departments to highlight the Kashmir issue at international fora. Curfew was yesterday clamped in all the 10 districts of the Kashmir. 36 persons have died and over 3,100 injured in clashes following the killing of Burhan Wani last week.

US LAWMAKERS CALL FOR DESIGNATING ISLAMABAD AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM
PAK PM DECLARES J&K SEPARATIST WANI A 'MARTYR'