

# March 2021 Terror Attacks

*In March 2021 two terror attacks were registered in Europe*

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Vetlanda, Sweden:** a 22-year-old Afghan immigrant armed with a large knife injured 7 people in 5 different locations of the city before being wounded and arrested by the police.

According to the Swedish Police and public records, the attacker's arrival in Sweden was registered in 2018 as a refugee, and he had moved to Vetlanda in April 2020 from another town nearby. He did not speak much Swedish and spoke no English. He was being helped by social services and had previous convictions for drug offenses and minor crimes.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, Marseille, France:** a 60-year-old individual armed with a 20cm long ceramic knife tried to enter the "Yavne" Jewish school, he was repelled by the school security who immediately called the police. In the meantime, the attacker headed towards a kosher grocery store where he was overpowered and arrested as law enforcers reached the scene. The individual was unknown to French counter-terrorism but had previous convictions for minor crimes.<sup>4 5 6 7</sup>

## Summary Table

Location	Site	Year, month	Day	Target	Attacker(s)	Sex	Weapon(s)	Nationality	Age	Mental ill.	Motivation	Dec. attackers	Dec. vict.	Inj. vict.	Previous Conviction
Vetlanda (Sweden)	urban	2021, 03	3	civilian	1	M	knife	Afghan	22	no	n/a (islamist?)	0	0	7	yes
Marseille (France)	urban	2021, 03	5	civilian	1	M	knife	n/a (French?)	60	no	antisemitic	0	0	0	yes

## Comments

The first two months of 2021 were free from terror attacks on European soil; however, in March the trend changed as two terror attacks were reported in Sweden and France. Both perpetrators had previous criminal records.

While the Vetlanda case dynamics suggest that the individual attacked randomly any potential target he could find on the street, the Marseille attacker had premeditated the attack with specific targets: the Jewish school and the Kosher store, reaching the site of the attack by car.

It is currently not possible to make any consideration on how the two individuals were radicalized, and on the specific motives of the attacks, as no information has been released by both French, and Swedish authorities.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.expressen.se/nyheter/den-gripne-mannen-22-aring-domd-for-cannabis/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/sweden-shootings-europe-crime-48f4e8d4f6825553d8e4cdaac1161140>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dn.se/verige/polisen-soker-igenom-misstankta-mannens-lagenhet/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/marseille-un-homme-arme-dun-couteau-arrete-apres-avoir-tente-dentrer-dans-une-ecole-juive-05-03-2021-DNWX3JI3NJB6RA7UNCMZFPVC3U.php>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.lefigaro.fr/faits-divers/marseille-un-homme-interpelle-pres-d-une-ecole-juive-avec-un-couteau-a-la-main-20210305>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1405952/Marseille-news-France-police-knife-attack-Yavne-video-latest-vn>