

# April 2021 Terror Attacks

*In April 2021 one terror attack was registered in Europe*

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Rambouillet, France:** at approximately 2:20 PM an unarmed 49-year-old female administration employee was stabbed to death with a 32cm long knife, by an individual yelling “Allahu akbar” at the entrance of a police station. The attacker was immediately shot and killed by another officer and later identified as 36-year-old Tunisian citizen Jamel Gorchene. He had illegally reached France in 2009, he had no criminal convictions, and was unknown to security services. Gorchene had lived illegally in France for ten years until he obtained residency papers in 2020 and valid for only one year.

Before the attack, the terrorist had watched jihadist videos glorifying jihad and martyrdom. His Facebook account showed his great concern for Islamophobia and issues involving Muslim communities. A few days after the beheading of French professor Samuel Paty, Gorchene had posted his own profile picture with the motto “Respect Mohammed”.<sup>1 2 3 4</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
Rambouillet (France)	Urban	2020, 04	23	Police personnel	1	M	knife	Tunisian	36	no	Islamist	1\1	1	0	no

## Comments

Once again, France is the target of Islamists, just like in March, when a 60-year-old individual tried to attack a Jewish school and a kosher store in Marseille. It is also important to recall how this past Easter French counter-terrorism [prevented an attack](#) to be perpetrated with explosives against a church in Beziers.

Regarding the attack in Rambouillet, it is evident how Gorchene wanted to attack a police site; however, he probably did not realize that the woman was not a police officer but a simple administrative employee or, perhaps, he simply did not care and just wanted to kill as many people as possible. A consideration that will remain hypothetical since the attacker was immediately shot and killed by a nearby officer.

It is interesting to notice how Gorchene was not known to French counter-terrorism, and he did not have any criminal records. According to his Facebook profile content, he had begun to show signs of radicalization from the fall season of 2020, sharing material that exposed violent jihadist content.

In the meantime, local sources indicated that Gorchene had begun to practice a strict practice of Islam and, at the same time, he had shown signs of depression. In February 2021 he even consulted a psychiatrist, but without requiring any type of treatment.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.francetvinfo.fr/faits-divers/terrorisme/fonctionnaire-de-police-tuee-a-rambouillet/fonctionnaire-de-police-tuee-a-rambouillet-ce-que-l-on-sait-de-l-assailant\\_4384485.html](https://www.francetvinfo.fr/faits-divers/terrorisme/fonctionnaire-de-police-tuee-a-rambouillet/fonctionnaire-de-police-tuee-a-rambouillet-ce-que-l-on-sait-de-l-assailant_4384485.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.lepoint.fr/societe/comment-jamel-gorchene-radicalise-a-obtenu-sa-regularisation-30-04-2021-2424385\\_23.php](https://www.lepoint.fr/societe/comment-jamel-gorchene-radicalise-a-obtenu-sa-regularisation-30-04-2021-2424385_23.php)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/monde/la-tunisie-en-proie-au-demon-du-terrorisme-20210426>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.elcomercio.es/internacional/union-europea/francia-investiga-radicalizacion-20210425181019-ntrc.html>

Gorchene's case is a classic example of a self-radicalized individual who embraced a violent ideology in a very short time, most likely through the web and decided to take action as soon as he felt ready to hit, and with a clear target in mind. It's hard to detect what triggered Gorchene to take action; part of the problem is very likely the new publication of cartoons depicting the Muslim prophet by Charlie Hebdo, as shown in his profile photo where he embraced the "respect Mohammed" campaign immediately after Samuel Paty's beheading, but there is probably more.