

Brussels district linked to Islamist attacks

Molenbeek, a poor and diverse neighbourhood of Brussels with a reputation as a haven for jihadists, has been linked with a string of Islamist attacks across Europe and elsewhere since at least 2001



■ **Sep 9, 2001:** Anti-Taliban commander **Ahmad Shah Massoud** killed in Afghanistan just two days before 9/11 terror attacks.

Al Qaeda assassins known to have stayed in Molenbeek



■ **Mar 11, 2004:** Series of coordinated bomb attacks on four commuter trains in Madrid, Spain, kill 192 people. **Jailed mastermind,**

Moroccan-born Hassan El Haski, lived for a while in Molenbeek

■ **May 24, 2014: Mehdi Nemmouche**, French national of Algerian origin, opens fire at Jewish Museum in Brussels, killing four. **Nemmouche, who spent one year in Syria, lived in Molenbeek at time of attack**



■ **Jan 8-9, 2015:** French-born **Amady Coulibaly** kills policewoman and four hostages at kosher supermarket in Paris in wake of

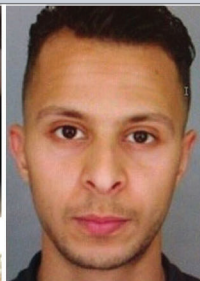
attack on Charlie Hebdo magazine. **Coulibaly acquired weapons from local arms trader in Molenbeek**

■ **Jan 14:** Alleged plot to attack Belgian police foiled by raids – two men killed in Verviers. **Men had connections to Molenbeek**



■ **Aug 23: Ayoub El Kahzzani**, of Moroccan origin, opens fire in Paris-bound train from Amsterdam before being overpowered by passengers. **El Kahzzani stayed in Molenbeek with sister before boarding train in Brussels**

■ **Nov 13:** Multiple attacks in Paris kill 129 people and injure over 300. **Abdelhamid Abaaoud (below left) – suspected mastermind currently fighting alongside Islamic State in Syria – and Salah Abdeslam (right), key suspect on run, both lived in Molenbeek**



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