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FROM THE EDITOR

The Team Says Thank You!

The Team would like to thank all students and staff of the International School of Monaco for the outstanding solidarity shown to the victims of the Paris attacks. We, like everyone else, were deeply saddened by the attacks and participated in the minute of silence on the following Monday. The night of the 13th November, in which 130 innocent people were killed, will remain branded in our minds forever.

Your solidarity and unification have inspired us to devote the December Issue to a Terrorism Special Edition, in which we not only focus on Paris, but also on attacks carried out in Lebanon and Mali. While ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, the Taliban and other terrorist organizations continue to shake the world with fear, we shall stand united in our efforts in counter-terrorism and resume to cherish our liberal lifestyles.

We believe that most terrorists have one common aim: to destroy the Western lifestyle. Therefore, it is imperative that we celebrate Christmas, a Western tradition, full of love and joie-de-vivre. It is in this spirit that we wish all students and staff a very Merry Christmas.

May the 6980* victims of terrorism so far in 2015 rest in peace.

Raphaela Waschnig

*Stand: 14th December 2015
THE AFTERMATH OF THE PARIS ATTACKS

On November 13th 2015, the capital city of France was hit simultaneously in numerous places by terrorist extremists. The total body count is now, almost a month later, estimated to be of 130. The consequences of the attacks, however, are still visible today: a touristic and economic halt, European and international unity, and a growing hatred for Muslim people, fueled by certain right wing parties.

For the first time in history the Parisian street “Rue Saint Honoré”, known for her lavish stores and celebrity appearances, made 0% profit. The economic halt imposed by the attacks created a fear of another economic downturn for France, as sales were lower than recorded in 2008, after the recession. Moreover, the French also fear being debunked and replaced from their number one position as “most visited place in the world” and preferred tourist destination. A 2014 statistic states that France welcomes 84.7 million people each year, for touristic purposes. After the November attacks, this number is predicted to decrease exponentially and Paris has already seen an important hit in tourism. In fact, many are now changing holiday destination for the Christmas break and many Europeans are no longer visiting Paris on weekends. The true impact the attacks have on tourism, however, will only be discovered in 2016’s list of most visited countries.

Although the Paris attacks were absolutely devastating, in hindsight, the attacks moved people together and created a sense of unity between France and the international community. Only a short few hours after Paris was hit, hundreds of people, still unaware of the importance of the attacks, had already turned to social media and the hashtag #PrayForParis, along with a vast flow of pictures, were crowding Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The hashtag reached over 6734056 posts on Instagram alone, and is still trending today. The international unity created as a consequence of these attacks comforted France in a time of sorrow and confusion.

On a more negative note, the attacks not only brought people together in support of “liberté, égalité, et fraternité,” but unfortunately also united people against the Muslim community. The need
to blame someone or a group of people for such a horrid event, was exploited by far-right parties such as Marine LePen’s “Front Nationale”. The Front Nationale secured 30.8 per cent of French votes in the first regional vote, coming first in six regions out of 13 in mainland France, including the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region. These unprecedented results mirror the increasingly xenophobic tendencies of the French people.

In further political developments, U.S presidential candidate Trump has recently called for a “ban” on Muslims entering the United States. How far will this religious hatred and stereotype that “all Muslim people are terrorists” go on for? How far will the acts of a few individuals, change the face of an entire ethnic group? And when are we actually going to do something about it?

The consequences and aftermath of the Paris attacks are still unwinding, and as time will pass, one can only hope that certain consequences will continue and others disappear.

Carlotta Caltagirone
TOURISM AND FRANCE’S ECONOMY: TWO CASUALTIES OF THE PARIS ATTACKS

Since the terror attacks in Paris, thousands of tourists have cancelled their trips to the capital of France. Conventions have been called off, concerts have been postponed and various events related to the climate summit have been scaled back. It has been estimated that it will take tourism to Paris 13 months to recover. France was considered the number one tourist destination worldwide, so how is it coping?

Every year, France is visited by approximately 84 million tourists. Tourism accounts for around 9% of France’s GDP and 10% of total employment. In 2014, Paris alone accounted for 47 million tourists, over half of the total. The nature of the terrorist attacks – on innocent civilians enjoying themselves, as millions of tourists do in Paris – is bad for travel agents, airlines, hoteliers and other companies that provide services related to tourism. Any long-term effects of the attacks will have considerable impacts of France’s shaky economy. The 9/11 attacks had an economic impact of $3.3 trillion and the costs of the Paris terrorist attacks could reach tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars.

The closing of the French borders has had an impact on commerce for companies operating in more than one country in Europe, particularly as many countries have tightened borders. Long delays have been caused. Also, as an immediate reaction to the Paris attacks, the Eiffel Tower and various other tourist attractions were closed. Both the UK and the US warned travellers of going to Paris. U2, the Foo Fighters and Prince cancelled their concerts. A range of tour operators, including Thomas Cook, Jetair and Sunjet have offered to postpone or cancel trips to Paris for Belgian customers with full refund. The famous Galeries Lafayette shopping center also had a bomb scare the Friday of the attacks. Even though all these sites have reopened, the tourist numbers have not recovered. The Foreign Office has reported that the threat of more terrorism within France and its capital city is still extremely high. France is still under its national state of emergency.

The terrorism attacks hit the economy of France at a delicate time. In the third quarter, the Eurozone had only grown by 1.2%. François Hollande, the President of France, has recently been criticized for not taking sufficient action to revive France’s economy. The unemployment rate currently stands at more than 10%. The French government has estimated that so far, the country has suffered an estimated £1.4 billion worth of losses due to the November attacks. Emergency aid has been provided to struggling business owners. If the economy does not recover, Hollande has already announced that he will not campaign for reelection in 2017.

However, France is not the only country whose economy will be affected. London and Brussels have also reported that their shopper turnout is lower than before, despite it being the festive season. The six-day lockdown in Brussels cost Belgium as much as €50 million, due to the sudden closure of metros, schools and shops. In Rome, cinema takings have dropped by 50% in the past weeks and Berlin has also seen a large decrease in the number of Christmas
shoppers due to fears of possible terror attacks.

According to research completed by the World Trade & Tourism Council (WTTC), tourism to Paris is expected to recover from the November terrorist attacks within 13 months. 32 countries that had experienced crises between 2001 and 2014 were examined in the WTTC study, that concluded that 13 months was the average amount of time it took for visitor numbers to recover subsequent to terrorist attacks. However, there were also various anomalies to the study. For instance, after the Madrid train bombings in 2004, it took weeks for tourism numbers to recover, whilst the July 7th attacks in London had “no notable impact on tourist arrivals to the UK”.

The French authorities hope that tourists will believe Paris to be safe again, even though suspects, such as Salah Abdeslam, are still at large. “It’s too early to know the full impact of the attacks,” states Véronique Potelet, speaking on behalf of Paris’s Tourism Bureau. “We hope that the Saint-Denis raid reassures people that every measure has been taken to secure Paris.”

Constance Paefgen
ANONYMOUS’ WAR ON THE ISLAMIC STATE

Soon after the recent 13th November terror attacks in Paris, the “hacktivist” group known as Anonymous, officially “declared war” on the so-called “Islamic State”. Soon after the release of their “declaration of war” in the form of a YouTube video, many people cheered this news and hailed them as our saviours and the “fighters of our generation”. But to fully understand who this group is and what they are fighting for, we must first examine how they function.

Unlike most organisations, Anonymous does not actually follow a conventional structure. There is no hierarchy and no leader and, as such, is not an official organisation; it is formed from loosely connected groups of hackers. As a result, there is no focused goal. This lack of connections is intentional and due to the fact that hacking and stealing data is considered to be illegal in almost every country. So the question that arises from this is: “who decides who will get hacked?”

Due to there being no leader and no way to vote on who the next target will be, there is often lots of arguing leading internal dissent. Many have equated the mentality of the group to that of a lynch-mob. Also due to this, not every hacker that associates themselves with Anonymous (or “anons” as they call themselves) necessarily has the same values as the perceived majority. Another notable organisation that functions like this is al-Qaeda, where many small subgroups take the name of the larger overarching image in order to gain a larger global presence.

Anonymous has been linked to several different Designated Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks where the servers of the victim are repeatedly sent requests until all of its available output channels are filled and no one can access the website. One notable example is the City Hall of Ferguson after the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014. This usually occurs through the use of “bots”, the computers of the unsuspecting public that have been infected with malware that allows the hacker to have thousands of different machines all contact the website at the same time.

But Anonymous have not always been such a hard-core hacker group; the idea of the collective image of Anonymous started in 2004 on the website “4chan.org”, where posters were able to post images and comments under the username tag of “anonymous”. Over time the users created the joke that every post from an anonymous user was from a single person. With the development of this concept of Anonymous as a singular entity, pranks and raids were organised on social platforms such as the Finnish social networking site “Habbo Hotel” where users were unable to access features due to the large number of Anonymous-related users logging in all at once. Users responded to questions about the difficulty connecting to certain digital services of the site by stating that it was “closed due to fail and AIDS”, not the response that we would expect from the image of Anonymous today.

In 2008 Anonymous launched operations against the Church of Scientology that involved DDoS attacks and sending black faxes designed to waste the Church’s ink, this was in retaliation for a cease and desist request sent to the gossip blog “Gawker” for an article that criticised the workings of the Church. This was followed soon after by DDoS attacks on the servers for the “Recording Industry of America”, “Motion Picture Association of America” and the “copyright alliance” anti-piracy group as well as many other large music and motion picture producers around the world. These attacks were caused by Anonymous members deciding that it was wrong that these copyright holders were “silencing the people’s rights to spread information” by attempting to restrict the number of people pirating their content.
As time has progressed, the victims of Anonymous’ attacks have become more politically focused with targets associated to the WikiLeaks scandal, the Arab Spring, the Westboro Baptist Church, Sony, the New York Stock Exchange and the KKK. However, there is constant tension within the group as many “Anons” wish to focus more on low-level disruptive “trolling” pranks while the majority felt that it was their duty to harass people who they viewed as wrong. As the group grew more political, more of its followers started to attend physical protests and as such it became necessary for the protesters to hide their identity in fear of retribution. The “Guy Fawkes” mask from the comic book “V for Vendetta” became the mascot for the group.

From here we arrive at the recent “declaration of war” upon IS. Anonymous’ attacks involve the disruption of IS’ communication networks and their social media front. Anonymous claims to have shut down 20,000 twitter accounts associated with the group; however, the list of accounts that they released includes those of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, the New York Times and BBC as well as several academics and journalists that supposedly do not have any affiliations with IS. This has led many to believe that Anonymous may be massively over-exaggerating their power and therefore may not actually have the influence that they claim to have.

Upon closer inspection, it does appear that instead of equating Anonymous to “our knights in shining armour” it would be more accurate to link them to the very same oppressive systems that they stand against. What is considered to be “good” or “bad” is not based on debate or a democratic system, but is instead decided by those hackers that have access to the most controlled “bot” computers and so can lead the DDoS attack.

The cold and efficient organisation that we think of is, in reality, just an unorganized group of people illegally controlling your computer. Despite their slogan of “we are legion”, they are not a unified force. Despite their past attempts at making the internet a safer place for the public, there have been many morally questionable “operations” conducted. So the real question that we must ask ourselves is, “do we really want to trust these people with our safety”?

Samuel Taylor

(Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)
DEATH OF THE INNOCENT - BOMBINGS IN BEIRUT

The first bombing occurred outside a Shia Mosque and the second inside a bakery 20 metres away. Both bombers blew themselves up and the body of a third would-be bomber was found nearby with his legs torn off, still wearing the explosive vest. It is said that he was killed by the second blast before he could detonate his own vest.

Hezbollah MP Bilal Farhat said, “They targeted civilians, worshippers, women and the elderly. It only targeted those innocent people. This is a Satanic terrorist act, carried out by apostates.” Indeed, numerous families were horrifically affected and many children have become orphaned; including a three year-old Lebanese boy, Haider Mustafa, whose mother was hugging him as she died.

Another victim, Adel Termos, possibly

BURJ AL-BARAJNEH: Two suicide bombings killed between 37 and 43 people on the 12th November, leaving blood on the streets, lives wrecked and buildings destroyed. ISIL has claimed responsibility for the attacks but there has been no confirmation so far.

Thomas Hawk, flickr
saved many lives. Reports say that he tackled the second suicide bomber after spotting him approaching crowds. Termos is now a hero on social media. Two days later, Internal Security Forces arrested 13 suspects who were mostly Syrians. They were found in a Palestinian refugee camp in Burj al-Barajneh and a flat in Achrafieh, an eastern district in Beirut. The flat was reportedly the location where the explosive belts had been prepared.

A day of national mourning was declared for the 13th November by Acting President and Prime Minister Tammam Salam, who described the bombings as ‘unjustifiable’. Beirut has also received international attention. The United States, Qatar, Pakistan, Italy, France and many more have condemned the attacks. Amnesty International also issued a censure stating that the attacks showed “appalling disregard for human life”.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon pleaded Lebanon to “not allow this despicable act to destroy the relative calm that has prevailed in the country over the past year”. However, with ISIL claiming responsibility for the attack, the calm has already been shattered.

Residents feel they must prepare for upcoming violence. One civilian said, ‘This is just to remind Hezbollah that there are other groups who can take revenge… It might be again the beginning of a circle of violence for Beirut.” The attack arrived in parallel to Hezbollah’s increased involvement in the Syrian War, which is now in its fifth year. Yet an increasing number of people are beginning to agree with Hezbollah’s decision. Resident Mohammed Alabaman stated, “Personally, I was against Hezbollah’s decision but right now, I am convinced they were right. They were taking proactive action; they are not waiting for ISIL to come.”
A week after the Paris atrocity, an African jihadi group carried out an attack on a luxury hotel in Bamako, the capital of Mali. 22 people were killed and over 170 people were taken hostage in the mass shooting. Al-Mourabitoun has meanwhile claimed responsibility for the attacks and has stated that it worked together with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

On Friday 20th November, a group of heavily armed gunmen stormed the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako. They detonated grenades, opened fire at security guards and took 170 hostages, which included diplomats, a well-known Guinean singer and an Air France crew. A military official stated that, as the attack began, the terrorists repeatedly shouted “Allahu Akbar”. Hostages were demanded to recite the shahada, an Islamic creed, in order to be released from the hotel. Malian forces, assisted by counterparts from the US and France, were required to fight their way through the hotel floor by floor in order to free the remaining surviving hostages.

As a result of the Bamako attacks, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, the President of Mali, declared three days of national mourning and a ten-day state of emergency. Ban Ki-moon stated that the attacks were “horrific” and that he, as the United Nation’s Secretary General, provided “full support to the Malian authorities in their fight against terrorist and extremist groups”. The UN Security Council also condemned the attacks.

In addition to this, various countries, such as the UK and France, have issued travel warnings for Mali. Numerous world leaders have also spoken out. For example, Barack Obama has condemned the attacks, describing them as “appalling” and “barbaric” injustices against “innocent people” and the French Foreign Minister has stated that France will take “all steps necessary” in order to fight the attackers in Bamako.

Source: Wall Street Journal
TERROR ATTACKS AFFECT FOOTBALL MATCHES AROUND EUROPE

Lorenzo Marzocco

After the attacks in Paris in November, European football has been in a state of heightened alert as similar attacks at stadiums are feared.

One of the main attacks in Paris was close to the Saint Denis stadium. It could be heard from the France versus Germany friendly football match taking place that evening. Since then the international football committee has been in a state of high alert, knowing that a bomb in a stadium could kill thousands more innocent people.

As a result, many football matches have been cancelled, such as Germany vs Holland and Spain vs Belgium, where security forces did not feel it was safe to go ahead with the matches. The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, was set to attend the Germany match but returned back to Germany as soon as the threat was announced. She is well known for being a big football supporter.

However, in a show of strength and as a signal to the world, England proceeded with their match against France, despite the increased security threat. This sent a strong message to the terrorists - that they will not change our democratic way of life or affect our ability to enjoy ourselves in the usual fashion.

In a further show of solidarity, the Wembley Arch was painted in the colors of the tricolore (France) and the English fans stood side by side with their French brothers and sisters to sing “La Marseillaise”.

Although this was a friendly match, which England won two nil, it was much more symbolic than a simple sports contest. The two teams may have played against each other that night, but against terrorism and the evil of ISIS they stand united.
Zwei Todesopfer aus Deutschland


Fabian Stech
(pictured below)


Natalia Muravieva

В результате ужасающего события страшной ночи, которая сотрясла и повергла в шок абсолютно весь мир, террористической атаки в концертном зале «Батаклан» 13 ноября в 11 округе Парижа, пропала уроженка Российской Федерации.

По последним официальным данным в результате терактов погибли 130 человек, 352 раненых и 99 из них находятся в критическом состоянии. Трагедия задела абсолютно всех и каждого. В числе пострадавших были и жители других европейских стран, как например Великобритания, Испания, Португалия и США. Но также и в России горечь и сострадание распространились повсюду. Несмотря на то, что при кризисном центре Министерства Иностранных Дел Франции сообщили:

«В наших списках граждан Российской Федерации нет», существует возможность, что в зале находилась пропавшая без вести уроженка России Наталья Муравьёва.

Предположительно Российская граждanka находилась в концертном зале во время теракта и тем не менее она не числится ни в списках погибших, ни в одной из больниц.

В данный момент Российские дипломаты во Франции занимаются её поисками. В то время, как всем остальным остаётся лишь надеяться.

VÍCTIMAS?
OPFER?
жертвамы?

Los atentados de París de noviembre de 2015: Tres víctimas españolas

Varios ataques terrotistas fueron cometidos el 13 de noviembre de 2015 en París y su suburbio de Saint-Denis. La mayoría de los terroristas eran atacantes suicidas y 129 personas murieron y 415 resultaron heridas. Hubo tres víctimas españolas.

Manuel Pérez Paredes
(pictured on the right)

Una de las víctimas españolas fue Manuel Pérez Paredes, un hombre con doble nacionalidad, francesa y española. Tenía 40 años y era padre de dos niñas de 7 y 10 años. Nació en Francia pero sus padres son naturales de la pedanía granadina de El Jau. Falleció junto a su mujer y un amigo en una de las explosiones. Los familiares se encuentran “totalmente abatidos”.

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