

AQ Yemen: Anwar al-Awlaki Planned Charlie Hebdo Attack – Was Years in the Making

([Anwar al-Awlaki](#) masterminded the attack before his death in 2011. If true, that means the planning for the massacre started at least three years ago.

The AQAP leader did not claim responsibility for Friday's siege at a kosher grocery store in Paris, which left four hostages dead.

But "it was a blessing from Allah" that the two attacks took place about the same time, al-Ansi said.

Al-Ansi blamed not only Charlie Hebdo, but also France and the United States in his statement.

"It is France that has shared all of America's crimes," al-Ansi added. "It is France that has committed crimes in Mali and the Islamic Maghreb. It is France that supports the annihilation of Muslims in Central Africa in the name of race cleansing."