

Brussels Airport Terror Attack Convicts Sentenced After 9 Month Trial

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The Palace of Justice of Brussels has handed down lengthy sentences to the [men convicted](#) in connection to a 2016 terrorist attack that left 32 dead and up to 340 wounded at Brussels Airport (BRU).

Five of the ten indicted during the nine-month trial were found guilty of murder and attempted murder for the triple bombing across Brussels on [March 22, 2016](#). Ibrahim El Bakraoui, Najim Laachraoui, and Khalid El Bakraoui were all sentenced to life in prison. Mohammed Abrini and Osama Krayem, who did not detonate their explosive devices, were sentenced to 30 and 20 years, respectively. Two other men were convicted in relation to terrorist offices, while another two were acquitted on all charges. None of the perpetrators were stripped of their Belgian nationality.

Though convicted of murder alongside the other five, Salah Abdeslam was not given additional prison time due to his current imprisonment status over a 2015 terrorist attack that killed [130 people in Paris](#). Abdeslam was arrested in Brussels four days before the terrorist attack, though later investigations found him to be a co-conspirator of the attack on Brussels.

Speaking to magistrates in court on Monday, the 34-year-old Abdeslam begged the court for leniency, claiming to have not been aware of the plot.

In her closing remarks to the court on Friday, President of the Court Laurence Massart expressed her desire to see the

sentences spread a message of hope for the victims of the attack and society. Massart noted, "We live in a multicultural society based on values that apply to everyone. The sentences imposed by the court and the jury, which were unanimous, take into account the fear that was caused and the personalities of each of you."

Thirty-two were killed in the terrorist attack in March 2016, with the death toll officially increased to 35 following the later deaths of three people linked to post-traumatic stress disorder. The attacks targeted Brussels' primary international airport in Zaventem and Maelbeek Metro Station in the city center,