Three police officers injured in attack by 'radicalised' man in north west France

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A radicalised French ex-prisoner on a watch list of potential terrorist threats stabbed a policewoman inside her station in western France on Friday before being killed in a shoot-out with police, a government minister said. He took the officer's gun before fleeing.

He was captured around three hours after the attack, after shooting two of the officers trying to arrest him. They were shot in the arm and hand and their condition is not reported to be life-threatening. The victim was seriously wounded but expected to survive, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

The assailant had been released from prison in March following an eight-year sentence for violent crime and was on a security services register for individuals who might pose a terrorism risk. A police source told AFP that he was "radicalised and suffering from a very serious psychiatric illness."

"He was flagged in 2016 for a strict practice of Islam, for radicalisation," Darmanin told reporters after visiting the police station in Chapelle-sur-Erdre, near Nantes, where the attack occurred. At this stage the motive for the attack is not known and the anti-terror police are not involved.

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