

Paris attack may be false flag operation: Analyst

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The attacks in Paris, France, could possibly be a "false flag" operation so that the US and its allies can intensify the bombing campaign against Syria, says a political commentator.

A witness told The Associated Press that the shooters shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is the Greatest) in Arabic as they massacred scores of diners and concert-goers in the French capital.

"Just because somebody goes and says Allahu Akbar doesn't mean they're Muslim, it may mean it's a false flag," Edward Corrigan told Press TV on Saturday.

The United States and France may blame the Syrian government for the attack and start bombing Syria indiscriminately, Corrigan said.

"You're going to see a lot of destruction of infrastructure; you're going to get a lot of civilians killed, you're going to see a massive overreaction like we saw with 9/11, which of course gave the Americans the impetus to invade and attack Iraq, kill over a million Iraqis," he added.

"Of course Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11 but that of course got lost in the smoke and haze."

Over 150 people were killed in multiple coordinated attacks on Friday in one of the deadliest assaults to hit the French capital since the World War II.

US President Barack Obama condemned the "outrageous" terrorist attacks in Paris, and promised the United States stands ready to provide whatever assistance is necessary to the French government and people.

Obama also called French President François Hollande Friday night. "The two leaders pledged to work together, and with nations around the world, to defeat the scourge of terrorism," the White House said in a statement.

The terror attacks came just hours after an interview aired in which Obama boasted about recent successes against the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group. "I don't think they're gaining strength," Obama told ABC News' "Good Morning America." "We have contained them."

Police in major US cities have stepped up security in the wake of the Paris attacks. Officials in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia said there was no intelligence indicating any threats, but were taking security precautions.