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Belgium Foils Suspected Jihadist Drone Plot Targeting Prime Minister

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BRUSSELS, October 10 (RKI News) – Belgian authorities have arrested three suspects accused of plotting a jihadist-inspired terrorist attack targeting Prime Minister Bart De Wever and other politicians, officials confirmed Friday.

According to the federal prosecutor's office, police discovered a suspected improvised explosive device, steel balls, and a 3D printer during searches in Deurne, Antwerp, near the prime minister's private residence. Investigators believe the suspects were planning to use a drone to carry an explosive payload.

Prosecutors said this was the first known case in Belgium involving an attempted drone-based attack, though similar threats have been recorded in neighboring countries. The suspects, aged 18, 23, and 24, were charged with attempted terrorist murder and participation in the activities of a terrorist group. One suspect has since been released due to insufficient evidence, while two remain in custody for further

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questioning.

Deputy Prime Minister Maxime Prevot described the plot as "extremely shocking," warning that Belgium faces a persistent terrorist threat. Defense Minister Theo Francken added that the case highlights growing security risks associated with drone technology. Prime Minister De Wever appeared calm following the arrests, later posting a lighthearted message on Instagram with his cat Maximus, joking, "Can you catch a drone?"

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