

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 questioning.

Deputy Prime Minister Maxime Prevoet 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?"