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All the soccer action: See Inside

Spain says cell behind Catalan attacks dismantled, police seek van driver

POICE were yesterday searching for the driver of a van that ploughed into a crowd in Barcelona, killing 13 people, but the government said the suspected Islamist militant cell behind the attack had been dismantled.

Police have arrested four people in connection with the attack in Barcelona on Thursday and another in the Catalan seaside town of Cambrils, where a woman was killed when a car rammed passersby early on Friday.

Police shot dead five attackers in Cambrils and said they were wearing fake explosive belts and had an axe and knives in the vehicle.

None of the five are believed to be the driver who sped into Las Ramblas, leaving a trail of dead and injured among the crowds of tourists and local residents strolling in the Barcelona boulevard.

Catalan police said they were still looking for a man identified by the mayor's office in the town of Ripoll, where several of the suspected attackers lived, as 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub.

Spanish media reported that Abouyaaqoub was the driver of the van in Barcelona but the police could not confirm it.

The Spanish government said it now considered the cell behind the attacks

out of action, though police in Catalonia would not confirm this.

"The cell has been fully dismantled in Barcelona, after examining the people who died, the people who were arrested and carrying out identity checks," interior minister Juan Ignacio Zoido told a news conference. He said Spain was maintaining its security alert level at four, one notch below the maximum level that would indicate another attack was imminent, but would reinforce security in crowded areas and tourist hotspots.

In the past 13 months, militants have used vehicles as weapons to kill nearly 130 people in France, Germany, Britain,

Sweden and Spain. The driver in the Barcelona attack abandoned the van and fled on foot on Thursday after ploughing into the crowd. Fifty people were still in hospital on Saturday following that attack, with 12 in a critical condition.

Many were foreign tourists. The Mediterranean region of Catalonia is thronged in the summer months with visitors drawn to its beaches and the port city of Barcelona's museums and tree-lined boulevards.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks in Cambrils and Barcelona, a statement by the jihadist group said yesterday.

Latest on the terror attacks:
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