Paris Attacks Were 'Cowardly Act of War by ISIS Barbarians' Says France President Francois Hollande

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President Francois Hollande today condemned the Paris attacks as a 'cowardly act of war carried out by ISIS barbarians'.

Addressing the nation just hours after 127 people were killed, he said they had been organised and planned from abroad.

Three days of national mourning will take place, President Hollande confirmed.

In a televised address to the nation, Mr Hollande said the attacks were "committed by a terrorist army, the Islamic State group, a jihadist army, against France, against the values that we defend everywhere in the world, against what we are: a free country that means something to the whole planet".

He added that France "will be merciless toward the barbarians of Islamic State group", and "will act by all means anywhere, inside or outside the country".

Mr Hollande said the French army and security forces were mobilised "at the highest possible level" and insisted France would "triumph over barbarity".

"What we are defending is our country, but more than that, it is our values," he said.

In a night of carnage in the French capital:

:: Police stormed the Bataclan concert hall where hostages were being held, but attackers wearing suicide belts blew themselves up, leaving 80 people feared dead. A witness said one of the gunmen shouted "Allahu Akbar" and said "This is for Syria" - a possible reference to France's participation in air strikes against Islamic State

:: Two suicide attacks and a bombing took place at the Stade de France stadium, where Mr Hollande was among thousands of football fans watching the national side play a friendly against Germany

:: Gunmen targeted bars and restaurants in the 10th and 11th arrondissements of central Paris

:: As many as 18 people died when the terrace of La Belle Equipe was sprayed with gunfire, while around 14 people were killed at Le Carillon bar-cafe. There were also shootings at the nearby Cambodian restaurant Le Petit Cambodge and the La Casa Nostra pizzeria