

by NANCY ING and ALEXANDER SMITH



► Expert: Brussels Bombers Wanted to Make 'Dirty Bomb' 3:26 [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [v](#)

The brothers behind [this week's Brussels bombings](#) also spied on a top nuclear researcher and hoped to build a so-called "dirty bomb," an expert involved in a probe into ISIS threats told NBC News on Thursday.

[Khalid and Ibrahim El Bakraoui](#) were responsible for planting a hidden camera outside the Belgian researcher's house, according to Claude Moniquet, a French former intelligence official who was hired to investigate potential plots targeting Europe's nuclear sector.



Khalid (left) and Ibrahim El Bakraoui (right). [Interpol / via AFP - Getty Images](#)

This camera produced more than 10 hours of film showing the comings and goings of senior researcher at a Belgian nuclear center and his family — footage that was seized during a Belgian raid in November, [officials announced last month](#).

Moniquet, who is CEO of the European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center private consultancy, revealed to NBC News on Thursday that the El Bakraoui brothers were behind that failed plot.

"The terrorist cell ... naively believed they could use him to penetrate a lab to obtain nuclear material to make a dirty bomb," he said.

**"WE CAN IMAGINE THAT THE TERRORISTS MIGHT WANT TO KIDNAP SOMEONE OR KIDNAP HIS**