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Russia Jails Alleged IS Members for Plot Against French Embassy in Moscow

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Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency

A Russian court has sentenced five alleged Islamic State members this week over a plot to attack the French Embassy in Moscow, state media have reported.

The fighters were detained in Russia's North Caucasus republic of Ingushetia two years ago on suspicion of plotting a New Year's Day attack on the embassy in 2017.

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A military court in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don sentenced the defendants to terms ranging from 12 to 20 years in maximum-security prison on Thursday, the state-run TASS news agency reported.

In addition to the plot against the French embassy, the convicted fighters were also accused of

planning to attack metro stations in Moscow on New Year's Eve 2017.

One of the defendants, Magomed Amatkhanov, reportedly admitted to having been a member of an "illegal group" in Syria but denied the terrorism charges. Four others also declared their innocence.

Islamic State is a terrorist organization banned in Russia.

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