

# 死有餘辜

*si3 you3 yu2 gu1*

Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the possible ringleader of the terrorist attacks in Paris, had been identified as among those killed in a police raid on an apartment in the city.

In the raid, the police fired thousands of shots. There had also been an explosion that sent body parts flying. Understandably, it took the authorities some time to figure out who were killed. Not surprisingly, Abaaoud had to be identified using skin samples.

It is difficult to have sympathy for people who took 130 innocent lives and injured hundreds of others. One cannot help but feel that those who died in the raid were “死有餘辜” (*si3 you3 yu2 gu1*).

“死” (*si3*) is “to die,” “death,” “有” (*you3*) is “to have,” “餘” (*yu2*) means “surplus,” “remaining,” and “辜” (*gu1*) is “crime,” “guilt,” “guilty.” Literally, “死有餘辜” (*si3 you3 yu2 gu1*) is “death has remaining guilt.” It means even the death of the

## Idiom by Lon Yan

culprit is not enough to atone for his crime. There is “outstanding guilt even if the perpetrator dies.”

The idiom is used as an expression of strong indignation toward people who commit heinous acts that have created great suffering. It has the sense that “even death would be too good for him.”

A similar idiom is “罪該萬死” (*zui4 gai1 wan4 si3*) - “to be guilty of a crime for which one deserves to die ten thousand deaths,” “to be guilty of a crime for which even death cannot atone.”

Most people would feel that both idioms apply to the terrorists.

**Terms containing the character “罪” (*zui4*) include:**

罪證 (*zui4 zheng4*) - evidence of a crime

罪惡 (*zui4 e4*) - a crime, an evil deed

犯罪 (*fan4 zui4*) - to commit a crime

罪犯 (*zui4 fan4*) - a criminal