

● UNITED STATES

Hostages killed in US drone strike

AN AMERICAN and an Italian held hostage by al-Qaeda in Pakistan, as well as two Americans working with the terror group, were inadvertently killed by US drone strikes earlier this year, the White House said.

President Barack Obama said he took “full responsibility” for the missions and offered his “grief and condolences” to the families of the hostages – American Warren Weinstein, who had been held since 2011, and Italian Giovanni Lo Porto, who had been held since 2012.

Obama said there was no evidence the men were present at what the US had determined was an al-Qaeda compound.

● INDIA

Funeral held for protest farmer

THE funeral of an Indian farmer who hanged himself yesterday at a farmers' protest in Delhi over land rights has taken place.

Rally organisers, who initially thought Gajendra Singh was trying to disrupt the protest, rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

A wave of suicides has left at least 40 farmers dead in recent weeks.

According to a note recovered by police, Mr Singh killed himself after his father – left with nothing after rainstorms destroyed their crops – forced him from the family home.

● UNITED STATES

Michael Brown's parents sue city

THE parents of Michael Brown have filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the city of Ferguson over the fatal shooting of their son by a white police officer last summer.

Mr Brown's death put a national spotlight on the often contentious relationship between young black men and police. Lawyers for Mr Brown's parents, Lesley McSpadden and Michael Brown Sr, filed the lawsuit today.

Mr Brown was 18 and unarmed when he was shot by officer Darren Wilson.

The shooting spawned a national protest movement.

Local and federal authorities ruled that the shooting was justified.

Valls: We have foiled five terror plots since attack

● FRANCE

BY ANDREW FRASER

FIVE extremist attacks have been thwarted in France since the country stepped up security after a January assault by Islamic extremist gunmen on the Paris offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket in the city left 17 victims dead, the French prime minister has said.

Manuel Valls said that the five included one planned attack uncovered on Sunday when the would-be gunman apparently shot himself in the leg by accident and called for an ambulance.

“The threat has never been so significant,” Mr Valls said, as he pressed for passage of a measure that would give the government increased surveillance powers and more leeway for prosecutors.

Authorities say Sid Ahmed Ghlam, the 24-year-old Algerian arrested in Paris on Sunday, was targeting one or more churches.

The computer science student had been flagged as a security risk this year and in 2014, but had managed to secure an arsenal of weapons.

Police found four Kalashnikov rifles, several handguns and bulletproof vests in his car and at his flat, as well as jihadist literature mentioning al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group and documents detailing plans to attack a church.



A plot was foiled to attack the Saint-Cyr and Sainte-Julitte church in Villejuif

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Ghlam was known to security services as having used social networks to express a wish to travel to Syria to fight with Islamist militants.

He is also linked to the death of 33-year-old mother and fitness instructor Aurélie Châtelain, whose bullet-riddled body was discovered on Sunday morning inside her burning car in the southern Paris suburb of Ville-

juif – the same location as the targeted church. Prosecutors said traces of her blood were found on one of Mr Ghlam's jackets.

“The threat was there, the plan was to act, there was a death – Aurélie Châtelain. We have to look reality in the face,” Mr Valls said. French investigators are searching for possible accomplices in the planned church attack.

Analysis of his communications equipment indicated Ghlam

“was in touch with another person who could be in Syria on how to carry out an attack, with the latter clearly asking him to target a church,” said Molins.

Several of Ghlam's friends and family have since been detained.

However, his sister told news agency Agence France Presse that her brother was not an extremist: “My brother did not change. He was not radicalised. I am shocked by all that, we do not believe it.”



The Calbuco volcano erupts near Puerto Varas, Chile

● CHILE

Evacuation as volcano erupts

CHILE'S Calbuco volcano has erupted for the first time in 42 years, spewing out a huge ash cloud.

Authorities ordered the evacuation of the 1,500 people in the nearby town of Ensenada.

The National Mining and Geology Service issued a high alert, barring access to the area around the volcano, which lies 620 miles south of Chile's capital Santiago.

“For us it was a surprise,” said Alejandro Verges, regional emergency director of the Los Lagos region.

Calbuco last erupted in 1972 and is considered one of the top three most potentially dangerous among Chile's 90 active volcanoes.

● GERMANY

Bank fined record £2.5bn

DEUTSCHE Bank has been fined \$2.5 billion (£1.66bn) for attempting to manipulate interest rates.

The bank was fined \$2.1bn (£1.39bn) by US regulators, and £227 million by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The record penalty comes because the bank tried to mislead regulators.

In a statement the bank said it “deeply regrets” the matter and had “disciplined or dismissed individuals” involved.

However, US regulators want a further seven senior individuals fired.