

HERO OF PARIS SIEGE



Muslim saved 15 Jewish hostages

Tony Allen-Mills PARIS
Louise Callaghan
and Robin Henry

A YOUNG Muslim shop assistant who helped to save the lives of Jewish hostages during a siege in Paris was hailed a hero yesterday.

Accounts from those who had been trapped inside the Hyper Cacher supermarket near the Porte de Vincennes in Paris credited Lassana Bathily with saving at least 15 Jewish customers – including two children – after he herded them into a basement cold store to hide from the gunman.

French police were meanwhile continuing their search for Hayat Boumeddiene, 26, the widow of Amedy Coulibaly, the Islamist terrorist who attacked the shop and killed four people after earlier shooting dead a policewoman.

Reports last night said she had taken refuge with Isis militants in Syria, after having left France almost a week before the attacks.

protect the event, where DC Cameron will join Fran Hollande, the French president, and many world leaders including Angela Merkel, German chancellor. More than 700,000 people took part in rallies across France yesterday in memory of the victims.

Details emerged of dramatic events that unfolded after Coulibaly stormed the store. He later died in a shoot-out with police.

Bathily, 24, who went to school in Paris, told a French television station how he led the group of shoppers into the cold store. "I told them to crouch down, not to make a sound because if they heard us it could come and take us," Bathily said. He then turned the lights and fridges.

After about 10 minutes petrified shoppers heard a noise outside. It was a female cashier who said Coulibaly spotted them fleeing down stairs and warned of "carriers" if they did not return.

"She said they were asking