



# CBRNE

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# NEWSLETTER TERRORISM

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**PART C**



## Counterterrorism Bookshelf: 16 Books on Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism-Related Subjects

Reviewed by Joshua Sinai

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/465/html>

This column consists of capsule reviews of recent books from various publishers.

**Aon and Risk Advisory, 2015 Terrorism & Political Violence Risk Map – A Guide (London, UK: The Risk Advisory Group, 2015), 38 pp. + map, no price [Paperback], <http://www.aon.com/terrorismmap/>.**

This is an annually published map on the risk of terrorism and political violence around the world, which is further analyzed in the accompanying booklet. The guide's findings and assessments are based on what it terms empirical 'Terrorism Tracker' data assembled by The Risk Advisory Group and Aon. The Risk Advisory Group is a global risk consultancy, based in London, and Aon is a global risk management, insurance brokerage and reinsurance brokerage firm. In the map, what are termed 'peril' icons are assigned to the world's countries, covering a spectrum of political violence risks from low to high that are aggregated on a cumulative basis in the form of terrorism, sabotage, strikes and/or riots, malicious damage, insurrection, revolution and rebellion, mutiny and/or coup d'etat, and war and/or civil war. The booklet presents an introductory commentary, macro analysis and findings, regional overviews, and the methodology underpinning the overall analysis.

**Edward J. Appel, Cybervetting: Internet Searches for Vetting, Investigations, and Open-Source Intelligence [Second edition] (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2015), 322 pp., US \$ 67.96 [Hardcover], ISBN: 9781482238853.**

This book presents practical and useful guidelines and practices for investigators and intelligence analysts to search the Internet as part of their investigations of individuals under suspicion but also for general or specific searches from open sources. The book's first section, "Behavior and Technology," discusses the Internet's usefulness for investigations and how the Internet is used and 'abused' by criminals and other destructive actors; the second section, "Legal and Policy Context," discusses laws and professional standards governing cyber investigations, including litigation cases; the third section, "Framework for Internet Searching," discusses legal procedures and training tools; and the fourth section, "Internet Search Methodology," discusses manual and automated search techniques, Internet intelligence reporting, types of illicit websites (ranging from child pornography to contraband digital assets), and Internet intelligence issues such as privacy and the adjudication of investigatory cases.

**Lee Jarvis, Stuart Macdonald, and Thomas M. Chen (Eds.), Terrorism Online: Politics, Law and Technology (New York, NY: Routledge, 2015), 210 pp., US \$ 155.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 9780415732888.**

This edited volume is the product of a conference on multidisciplinary approaches to analyzing terrorism online and the measures to counter it, which was held in Birmingham, UK, in April 2013. Following an introductory overview, the chapters discuss issues such as how terrorism online has become a new strategic environment; the activities of lone actor terrorists on the Internet; the prevalence of hacktivism, with the extremist Turkish hacktivist group, RedHack, examined as a case study; an application of a malware cost model (MCM) to assess the cost-benefit utility of cyberterrorism; applying criminal law and "punishment-based" deterrence to counter cyberterrorism; an examination of the effectiveness of government intelligence and security services in monitoring the activities of cyberterrorists; the effectiveness of transatlantic collaboration by European and American governments in countering cyberterrorism; and an examination of international laws and regulations that govern the use of force by states in retaliating against cyberterrorist attacks.

**Jamie Bartlett, The Dark Net (London, UK: Windmill Books, 2015), 320 pp., US \$ 27.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-0434023172.**



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

This volume provides an extensively researched examination of the encrypted world of the 'deep web', which the author describes as "a catch-all term for the myriad shocking, disturbing and controversial corners of the net – the realm of imagined criminals and predators of all shapes and sizes." (p. 3) A shortfall in this well written and informative book is the absence of an index to aid in identifying the cyber hacktivist individuals and groups discussed in the account. The author is a journalist and tech blogger for The Telegraph and Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos, UK.

**Parmy Olson, We Are Anonymous: Inside the Hacker World of LulSec, Anonymous and the Global Cyber Insurgency (London, England: William Heinemann, 2013), 528 pp., US \$ 16.00 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-0316213523.**

This book offers a comprehensive and gripping account of the appeal, activities and targeting of the global network of cyber hacktivists in the form of LulzSec and Anonymous, a loosely-affiliated network of political extremists who engage in cyber breaching of their perceived government and corporate adversaries. The author is a San Francisco-based writer with Forbes magazine.

**Mark Galeotti, Russian Security and Paramilitary Forces Since 1991 (New York, NY: Osprey Publishing, 2013), 58 pp., US \$ 18.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1780961057.**

Islamist terrorism represents a major domestic threat to the Russian Federation (which is likely to increase in response to Russia's intervention in the Syrian civil war against the Islamic State), yet little is generally known about Russia's domestic security services that are tasked to counter such threats. This slim and authoritative volume provides valuable details about these forces and their operations, ranging from the MVD, the Interior Troops (VV), the Federal Security Service (FSB), and other services, such as Military Police (VP), the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), and the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MChS). Also discussed are these security services' tactics and weaponry. The text is accompanied by numerous illustrations and photos. The author, a professor at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University, is a noted expert on the Russian military and national security.

**Mark Galeotti, Russia's Wars in Chechnya, 1994-2009 (New York, NY: Osprey Publishing, 2014), 96 pp., US \$ 20.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1782002772.**

This book presents an authoritative account of the origins and history of Russia's counterinsurgency campaigns in Chechnya against the region's Islamist militants. Beginning with a chronology of the insurgency in the modern era, the book then discusses the nature of the warring sides, how the earlier 'edition' of the war ended in 2009, and likely future trends. One of the author's conclusions is especially pertinent to understanding the current period, as he writes: "the rest of the North Caucasus is experiencing rising local national and jihadist insurgency, which could yet blow back into Chechnya." (p. 91) In this light, it will be interesting to see if Russia's current intervention in Syria against the Islamic State will blow-back into Chechnya and the North Caucasus. The text is accompanied by numerous illustrations and photos.

**Mark Galeotti, Spetsnaz: Russia's Special Forces (New York, NY: 2015), 64 pp., US \$ 18.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1472807229.**

With Russia's Spetsnaz Special Forces reportedly deployed in Syria and the Ukraine, this slim yet authoritative volume is of special interest as it discusses these forces' Bolshevik legacy and their role during the Cold War, including in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989. Also discussed is their role in the first and second Chechen Wars (1994–96 and 1999–2002). The examination of their role in the contemporary era is especially pertinent, with accounts of their activities in Georgia (2008) and in the Crimea and eastern Ukraine in 2014. The final chapter discusses their weapons, equipment, and tactics. The book is accompanied by numerous illustrations and photos.

**Elena Pokalova, Chechnya's Terrorist Network: The Evolution of Terrorism in Russia's North Caucasus (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger/ABC-Clio, LLC, 2015), 259 pp., US \$ 52.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-4408-3154-6.**

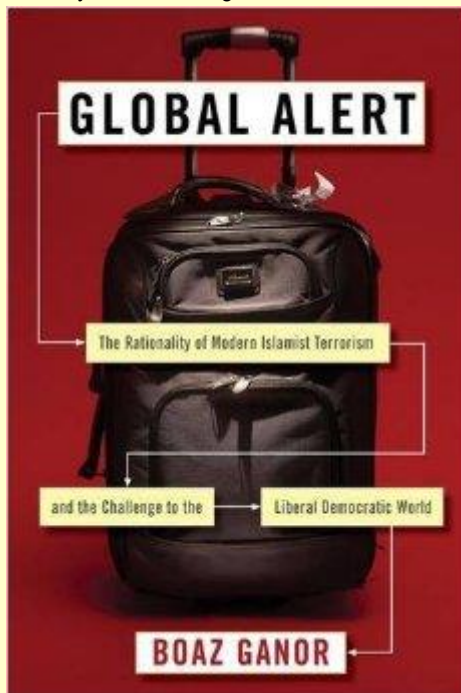
This book provides a comprehensive and detailed account of the origins, root causes, religio-nationalist ideology, evolution and current state of Islamist terrorism in Russia's North Caucasus region and Russia's counterterrorism response measures. The book's



chapters discuss issues such as the historical relationship between Russia and the North Caucasus; the terrorist outbreak against Russia, which began in November 1991; the religio-ideological underpinnings of Chechen terrorism, such as its incorporation of global jihadism and its use of suicide martyrdom operations, including by female 'Black Widows'; Russia's counterterrorism response measures by its military and security services; and the formation of the Caucasus Emirate in 2007 and the nature of its subsequent use of terrorism. The concluding chapter assesses the effectiveness of Russia's counterterrorism campaign, which the author criticizes for "overreliance on the hard-line approach to terrorism [which] risk further alienating the populations that might subsequently radicalize and join the ranks of terrorists." (p. 182) The author is an assistant professor of international security studies at the College of International Security Affairs of the National Defense University, in Washington, DC. [This volume is part of Praeger Security International's guides to terrorists, insurgents, and armed groups, of which James J.F. Forest, PT's Co-Editor, is the Series Editor]

**Boaz Ganor, *Global Alert: The Rationality of Modern Islamist Terrorism and the Challenge to the Liberal Democratic World* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2015), 240 pp., US \$ 35.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 9780231172127.**

This book seeks to bridge the gap between what the author terms the sophistication of the 'plague' of Islamist-jihadist terrorism in exploiting the Western world's liberal democratic values and the West's difficulty in "attaining effective and balanced counter-terrorism policies" in response. (pp. ix-x) To



accomplish this objective, the author begins with an overview of terrorism in general as multidimensional warfare, and then proceeds to discuss the challenges and dilemmas faced by liberal democracies in coping with Islamist terrorism, including whether liberal democracy is the "solution to terrorism – or part of the problem" (e.g., by overly appeasing such extremists in their midst); a cost-benefit-based conceptual model developed by the author on formulating proportionality in countering terrorism; the involvement by states, such as Iran, in sponsoring or engaging in terrorism; the nature of Islamist terrorist groups, such as Hamas (which is also discussed in a separate chapter) and Hizballah, as hybrid terrorist organizations from Lebanon that also engage in social welfare and political activities (including contesting elections). Boaz Ganor also analyses the rationales underlying these groups' strategies, tactics, targeting choices, and overall warfare (e.g., conventional to WMD warfare).

There is much to commend in this book, especially the discussion in Chapter 8, "The Practical Aspects of an

Islamist Terrorist Organization's Rationale," of the decision by such groups to engage in terrorism or guerrilla warfare, how they shape their warfare to appeal to internal, targeted, and international audiences, and the top-down and bottom-up triggers that are factored in their attack decisions. Also highly useful is the examination in Chapter 9, "Understanding the Rationale Behind Different Types of Terrorist Attacks," of the distinction between personal initiative and organized terrorist attacks; the various steps involved in planning, training for, and conducting an attack; the distinction between 'conventional' and suicide attacks; and the rationale behind potential weapons of mass destruction attacks.

Some parts of the book, however, are problematic. The chapter on "The Proportionality Dilemma in Countering Terrorism" doesn't really fit as a chapter 3, since it seems separate and out of place from the previous two chapters (as well as from the subsequent chapters) and could better have been placed in an appendix. It is written in a different style than the other chapters as it is a highly theoretical, is intended as a decision support tool, and the model it presents as a mathematical formula of proportionality = military necessity (advantage) over expected



collateral damage would be too difficult for most readers to comprehend and, in any case, serves to distract the reader from the author's primary thesis.

In Chapter 6, "Is Liberal Democracy the Solution to Terrorism – Or Is It Part of the Problem?," Dr. Ganor's discussion of recent American counter-terrorism policy is overly general as it relies on certain public doctrinal statements, but does not discuss the tremendous upgrades in American counterterrorism by the Bush and Obama administrations in transforming the FBI into an effective and proactive domestic counterterrorism agency, as well as its proactive use of the intelligence and military services overseas to target Islamist terrorists.

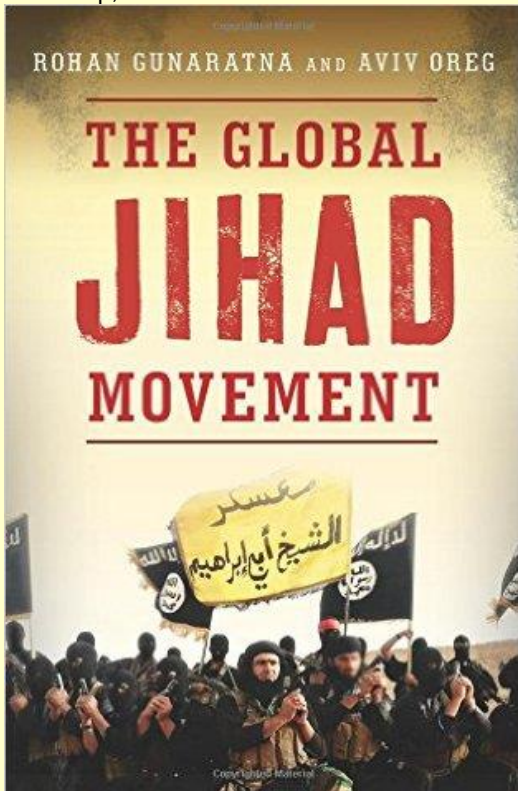
Finally, with Israel included by Dr. Ganor as an example of liberal democracy, his analysis would have benefited from a discussion of how the Israeli government has attempted to counter Jewish far-right religio-nationalist terrorism and whether such Jewish extremists and terrorists are also taking advantage of the state's 'liberal' character – just like their Islamist counterparts in the West.

Dr. Ganor concludes, rightfully, that effective counterterrorism campaigns by liberal democracies must be comprehensive and integrated in their political, legal, military, and law enforcement measures, while adhering to the "legal legitimacy of liberal democracy." (pp. 176-177)

Prof. Ganor is the Executive Director of the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) and a Dean at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel.

**Rohan Gunaratna and Aviv Oreg, *The Global Jihad Movement* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), 460 pp., US \$ 75.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1442245419.**

This handbook presents a comprehensive, detailed, and authoritative overview of the global Jihadi movement and its disparate affiliates, with a focus on their infrastructure, operational capabilities, and terrorist activities. The book is divided into six chapters, beginning with a short introduction that discusses the general structure and characteristics of Jihadi terrorist organizations, the nature of their leadership, command cadre and network structures, how their largely hierarchical organizational



structures have been affected by the killings of many of their commanders, and, as part of the discussion of al Qaida's history and evolution, its trajectory into external Jihad prior to 9/11. Following the introductory outline, the other chapters discuss the evolution of al Qaida's Salafi Jihadi ideology since 9/11 (including the earlier ideological debate over the future of Jihadism between the late Abdullah Azzam and Ayman al-Zawahiri (al Qaida's current leader), its organizational structure, its affiliated groups around the world (such as Jemmah Islamiyah and al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula) and their geographical areas of operation (in conflict zones such as Chechnya, Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Syria), and new trends such as the emergence of lone wolves and homegrown violent extremists in Western countries and how they operate, especially via the Internet's extremist sites' radicalization, command and control, funding and logistical mechanisms. The book concludes with a discussion of the effectiveness of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) against the global Jihad with the authors finding that "jihadi terror is changing, yet never diminishing or even reducing," and that "we now

face new characteristics of a multi-organizational style as many elements – affiliated organizations and inspired individuals – are currently carrying the torch of jihad by conducting terrorist activities with international characteristics." (p. 417) The authors also conclude that on the home front, "the campaign against Islamic radicalization and extremism seems to be a great failure....as it seems to have only limited impact as the numbers of Western jihadi volunteers that have been traveling to Syria illustrates." (p. 417) Rohan Gunaratna is

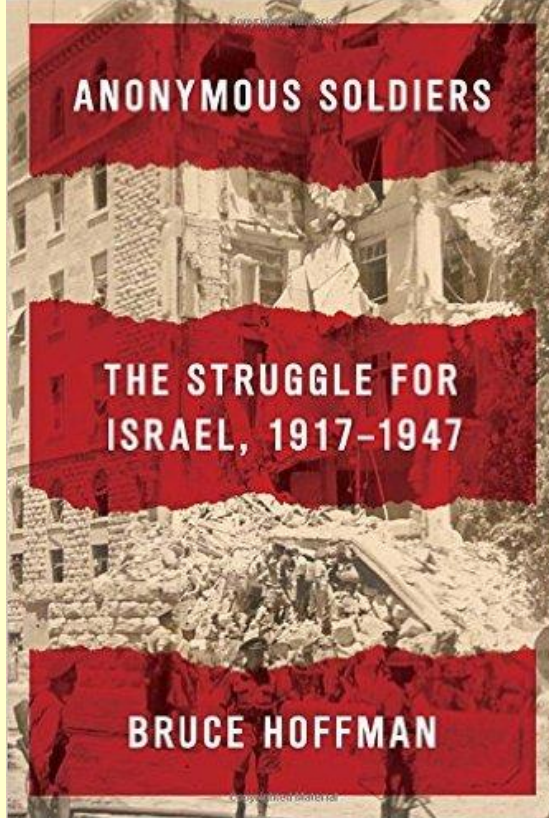


**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

professor of security studies and head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Aviv Oreg, an Israeli researcher, is the former head of the al Qaida and Global Jihad desk in the Analysis and Research Division of the IDF Intelligence Branch.

**Bruce Hoffman, Anonymous Soldiers: The Struggle for Israel, 1917 – 1947 (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 640 pp., US \$ 35.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-0307594716.**

This book centers around the author's thesis of whether the resort to terrorism works in achieving a group's political objectives (such as in overthrowing a colonial ruler) through a detailed examination of



the use of terrorism by the right-wing Jewish underground against the British Mandatory authorities (although Palestinian Arabs were also attacked) during the formative period of Israeli pre-statehood in Palestine from 1917 to 1947. The Irgun ("Ha-Irgun Ha-Tzvai Ha-Leumi b-Eretz Yisrael," also known by its acronym Etzel) and Lehi (the acronym of Lohamei Herut Israel, "Fighters for the Freedom of Israel," also known as the Stern Gang) are the primary right-wing Jewish terrorist groups whose leaders, ideologies, and armed operations are examined to test the author's thesis. Here, a criticism of the author's overall approach is in place since it was—in the view of this reviewer—actually the left-of-center Jewish paramilitary underground, led by the Haganah ("The Defense") and the Palmach (acronym for "Plugot Mahatz", "Strike Forces"), its elite special forces, under the political leadership of David Ben Gurion and the Mapai party, in collaboration with Chaim Weizmann (in his role as the top diplomat and statesman), that ultimately succeeded in bringing about Israeli statehood in May 1948, and not the Irgun or its leader Menachem Begin, as argued by the

author. This is not intended to diminish the roles played by the Irgun and Lehi in militarily opposing British mandatory rule, but to point out that it was the more responsible and pragmatic left-of-center Zionist mainstream (including its role in the pre-state nation-building program – which was of little interest to the right-wing underground) that led the Yishuv (Palestine's Jewish Community) to proclaim Israeli statehood in May 1948. Thus, it was the pragmatism of the mainstream Zionist governing parties and not the Irgun or Lehi's primary focus on terrorism that ultimately brought about Israeli independence and statehood. In fact, the Irgun continued to act so irresponsibly in the aftermath of statehood that the newly established Mapai-led government was forced to sink the Altalena, the Irgun's ship that had attempted to illicitly smuggle arms into Israel in June 1948. Despite these criticisms, Dr. Hoffman's book is tremendously well researched, using declassified primary sources from British archives, and is well written.

**Leigh Neville, Special Forces in the War on Terror (New York, NY: Osprey Publishing, 2015), 352 pp., US \$ 32.95 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-4728-0790-8.**

This book offers a detailed account of the history and evolution of U.S.-led Special Forces in counter-terrorism campaigns against Islamist terrorism since 9/11. Beginning with an introductory overview of the world of terrorism prior to 9/11, the book's chapters cover topics such as the role of Special Forces in Afghanistan in overthrowing the Taliban regime in the aftermath of 9/11 (as well as their counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan through 2014 – including their mission to capture or kill Usama bin Laden in late May 2010), their operations in Iraq from 2003 to 2012, as well as their activities in new theaters of operations in Somalia,



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

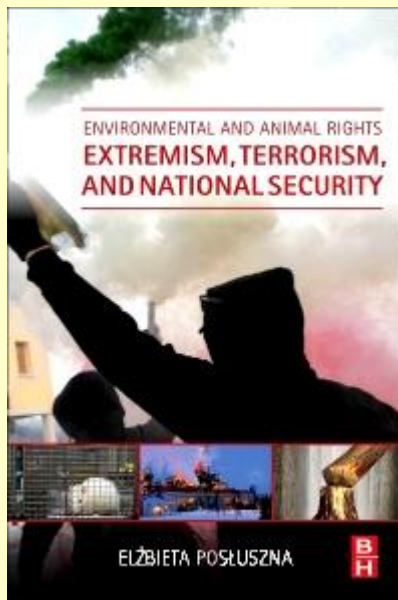
Libya, Yemen, Mali, and Syria. The author concludes that “Special Operations Forces will continue to be the tip of the spear in this global war against terrorism,” but that it is ultimately up to local government forces to lead such military campaigns with their own united governments supported by their own people. (p. 317) The book is illustrated with numerous photographs and maps that visualize the text. The author is an Australian military journalist and writer.

**Alexander Stilwell, *Special Forces in Action: Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Africa, Balkans* [Updated edition] (London, UK: Amber Books, 2015), 224 pp., US \$ 34.95 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-78274-254-8.**

This volume provides an account of some of the major operations by Special Forces since 1990 in conflict zones in Iraq, Somalia, the Balkans, South America, Sierra Leone, and Afghanistan. The introductory chapter presents a valuable overview of the history of Special Forces, beginning with a discussion of T.E. Lawrence’s role in bringing irregular operations into the sphere of military strategy and operations against the Ottoman Empire in the First World War, as well as the use of Special Forces in the Second World War, in Vietnam, and against terrorists and drug lords in cases such as Entebbe (July 1976), Mogadishu (October 1977), and Panama (1989). The use of Special Forces in counter-terrorism is also covered, with an interesting discussion of their desired operational capabilities described by the author as personnel survivability, counter WMD, mobility in denied areas and remote reconnaissance, sensory enhancements, and use of versatile weapons with “broader range of effects.” (p. 196) The text is illustrated by numerous photographs and also features sidebars that contain additional information and explanation. The author is a veteran British author on military subjects.

**Elzbieta Posluszna, *Environmental and Animal Rights Extremism, Terrorism and National Security* (Boston, MA: Elsevier/Butterworth-Heinemann, 2015), 278 pp., US \$ 50.96 [Paperback], ISBN: 9780128014783.**

In this book the author provides an interesting theoretical and detailed examination of the nature and activities of environmental and animal rights extremist and terrorist groups in Europe and the United States. The book is divided into five parts. The first part presents a theoretical perspective on



extremism, its origins and characteristics, and the conditions under which it turns to terrorism. The second part is an overview of animal rights extremism, with an analysis of its ideological foundations in justifying the use of violence, its history, and the movement’s leading groups, such as the Animal Liberation Front and Band of Mercy. The third part focuses on environmental extremism, its origins, root causes, and what the author terms “anarchist social ecology.” The groups discussed range from Greenpeace’s non-violent extremists to the violent Earth Liberation Front. Part four discusses these extremist groups’ strategy and organization which are primarily leaderless resistance in nature and extensively active on the Internet, where they wage a “netwar” type of warfare. Also discussed are prominent lone wolves, such as the Dutchman Volkert van der Graaf (an animal rights extremist) and the American Theodore Kaczynski (known as the “Unabomber”). The final part discusses new trends in these types of violent extremists, such as the impacts of globalization, the Internet, cyberterrorism, and hacktivist-type swarming attacks in cyberspace against their

adversary targets. The author concludes that “So far, only in the case of animal rights extremism can one talk about multiple, and hence, as it seems, not accidental, violation of the declared ‘no hurting humans’ principle.” (p. 224) The author is a professor on the Faculty of National Security and Logistics of the Polish Air Force Academy.

**Benjamin E. Schwartz, *Right of Boom: The Aftermath of Nuclear Terrorism* (New York, NY: The Overlook Press, 2015), 224 pp., US \$ 27.95 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1468309942.**



This volume provides a discussion of the likelihood of a terrorist group such as al Qaida to launch a nuclear weapon attack, the measures required to counter problematic nuclear states (such as North Korea or Iran) or fragile nuclear states (such as Pakistan) that might make it feasible for terrorist groups to acquire such weapons, and the unprecedented measures that the United States would need to implement in the aftermath of a potential nuclear attack. The author is a career U.S. government official in the Department of State and Department of Defense.

*Dr. Joshua Sinai is the Book Reviews Editor of 'Perspectives on Terrorism'.*

## Globalisation and Terrorism in the Middle East

By Brenda J. Lutz and James M. Lutz

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/459/html>

The processes involved in globalisation can disrupt the social, economic, and political systems of countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Such disruptions could resort in increased levels of political unrest, including outbreaks of terrorism. An analysis of terrorism levels and indices of economic, social, and political globalization and levels of terrorism between 1970 and 2010 indicated that levels of globalization were in fact associated with later outbreaks of terrorism. Social globalisation levels appeared to have the greatest impact in the first half of the study period.

► Read the full paper at source's URL.

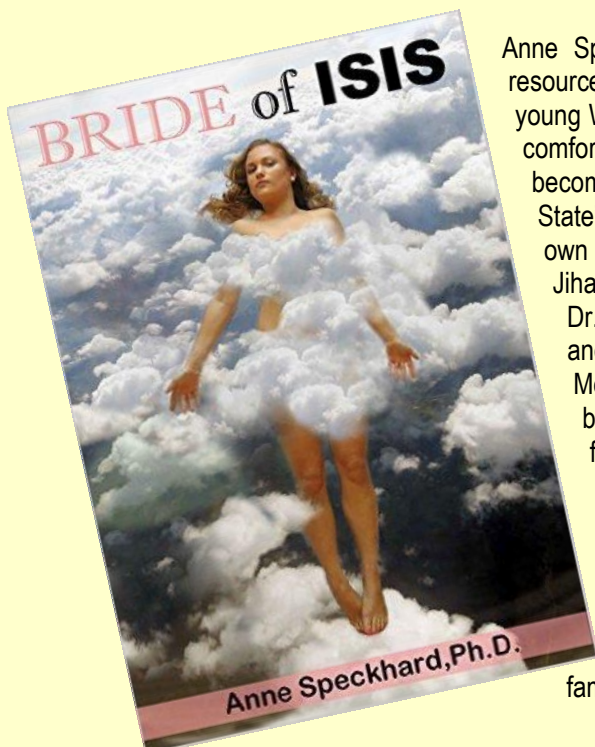
*Dr. Brenda J. Lutz is a Research Associate at the Decision Sciences and Research Institute at Indiana University.*

*Dr. James M. Lutz is a Professor of Political Science at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. They have collaborated in researching various aspects of terrorism.*

## Anne Speckhard – Bride of ISIS: One Young Woman's Path into Homegrown Terrorism.

Reviewed by Anita Perešin

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/464/html>



Anne Speckhard's new book "Bride of ISIS" is a timely and precious resource for those who want to understand how ISIS attracts and motivates young Western women over the Internet and lures them into abandoning a comfortable life in a developed country to travel thousands of miles to become the wives of its fighters in the dangerous territories of the Islamic State's proclaimed Caliphate, or to become homegrown terrorists in their own countries, ready to sacrifice their lives in the name of the "Great Jihad".

Dr. Speckhard, who is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Security Studies at Georgetown University in the Schools of Medicine and Foreign Service, narrates through a fictionalized story based on an actual terrorist (Shannon Conley), and offers a fascinating insight into the personal transformation and psychological trajectory of an American teenager morphed into a would-be suicide bomber. Inspired by a composite of real cases, the author uses the character of Sophie Lindsay, a seemingly "normal" girl and once a successful student from a well-established Christian family, but in reality traumatized and left without support from family and friends after a violent experience in her past.





The case study shows the power of the propaganda spread on the Internet by savvy ISIS recruiters, delivered to vulnerable persons, and shows how an idealized online love affair with an ISIS fighter via Skype, can be the trigger of dramatic changes in her life.

The author describes how ISIS manages to convince young Muslims from the West to fulfill what they believe is their religious duty, by “joining a cosmic battle” for the utopian state that ISIS claims to be building in Syria and Iraq. Anne Speckhard explains how the Islamic State, with its proclaimed Caliphate, is able to inspire “End Times mentality,” while creating at the same time fighters for the war theater of Syria and Iraq and grooming some of them to become self-organized homegrown attackers in the West. “The followers of ISIS believe this is all leading to the final cosmic battle and that Allah is calling them to the Great Jihad,” she writes, showing us how dangerous people who believe in apocalyptic visions can become when eager to sacrifice themselves for their ideas of an imaginary utopian future.

In parallel with Sophie’s life story with an ISIS fighter she had never met in person but who seduces her over the Internet into traveling all the way from home, the book presents the challenges that security experts from the Denver Fusion Center face, while working together to proactively identify and stop potential terrorists and other threats before they materialize. Adopting characters with expertise in jihadist extremism and working experience in the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Dr Speckhard explains through them, the fundamental features of ISIS structure, leadership, goals and propaganda.

The description of the events that lead to Sophie’s terrorist attack and her father’s commitment to justice and national security, are a contribution to the identification of one of the most effective paths to contain the threat: the collaboration with law enforcement of the families of the potential victims of indoctrination. In Sophie’s case, as in the actual case of Shannon Conley, her father makes the agonizing call to the FBI to stop his daughter from joining the terrorists—resulting in her arrest and ultimate conviction in the case of Conley.

The author’s strategy to explain this complex psychological process of the transformations of “normal” Western women into ISIS members through the use of a fictionalized case, but with a rigorous consistency with the reality of such situations in our societies (endnoted throughout the book to alert the reader to events that are based on actual cases), is a brilliant solution as it makes the issue comprehensible, revealing the prevalently emotional drivers of the situations described. At the same time the book offers—through the discussion of the Homeland Security and FBI characters—an in-depth analysis of ISIS strategies and modus operandi and contributes to a better understanding and to the identification of the most appropriate instruments and methods to counter radicalization.

“Bride of ISIS” is a book that reads like a thriller but is at the same time highly educational and informative, keeping the reader spell-bound about the fate of one young girl led astray and seduced into terrorism by ISIS.

*Dr. Anita Perešin is a Senior Adviser in the Office of the National Security Council of the Republic of Croatia and an Adjunct Professor of counter-terrorism at the University of Zagreb.*

## Why Didn't India Go Ahead With a Retaliatory Strike After 26/11

Source: <http://www.scoopwhoop.com/news/why-didnt-india-go-ahead-with-a-retaliatory-strike-after-2611/>

When we talk about war, fighting and cross-border terrorism -- two neighbours, India and Pakistan are the best examples. These two countries have fought everywhere be it in the sea or on the land. You can also see them fighting at the world's highest battlefield - the Siachen glacier.

The terrible thing is when innocent lives are lost. The Mumbai attacks in 2008 were a dastardly act that forced a closure of all the ties between India and Pakistan. But India didn't retaliate instantly -- there was no revenge attack.

But former Pakistani foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri in his recently released book 'Neither A Hawk Nor A Dove' says that India had planned for the retaliation and here's what happened according to him.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

On December 2, 2008, India's military, political and intelligence leadership went into a huddle in then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's office in South Block.

They deliberated options that had all the potential to trigger a possible fifth India-Pakistan war as the incident had provoked national outrage. There was immense public pressure on Manmohan Singh to retaliate.

**But India chose the diplomatic route, not war**

All the options discussed by the heads of the military and intelligence agencies revolved around punishing the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit - which had masterminded the attack.

The options included special secret missions, covert operations or attacks, strikes by the air force on terrorist training camps.

Kasuri mentions in his book that the options for retaliation that India debated were known to the United States as well. On October 9, the Bush administration had sent senators John McCain, Lindsey Graham and US special representative for Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke to Islamabad sometime after the attacks to judge the public mood there.

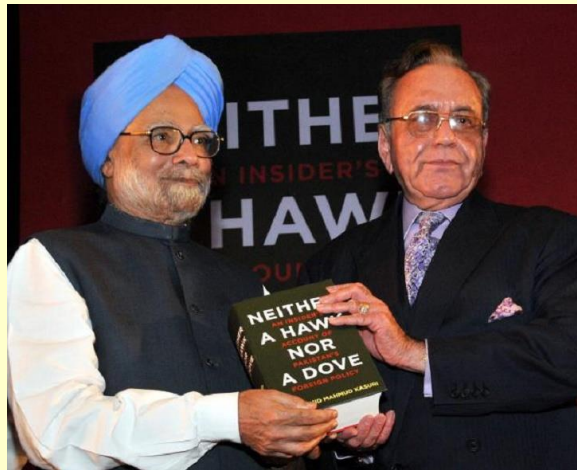
*Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with former Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri during the release of Kasuri's book | Source: [The Hindu](#)*

"Senator McCain wanted to know from me," Kasuri writes, and adds, "in view of my experience, both as former foreign minister and as a politician, what the reaction of the Pakistani army and the public at large would be, if there was a limited air raid on Muridke",

Kasuri does not mention the exact date of the meeting, but it could be around the December 5, 2008, when McCain's two-day visit to Islamabad had begun.

**Why the 'Cold Start' option was discarded**

The 26/11 Mumbai attacks were totally different from March 1993 Mumbai serial blasts and the July 2006 suburban train bombings. The 26/11 was the first attack carried out by Pakistani nationals who hit civilian targets and foreign



nationals with calculated brutality.

Just some 48 hours after the attack, the first meeting of India's security establishment was held in the PMO on November 28.

Then prime minister Manmohan Singh asked the intelligence brass for their options to tackle Pakistan.

The military option reportedly was still on the table at that point.

Lt General Naidu had said he would rather wait for the army chief to return from South Africa.

The navy also did not have a swift retaliatory option either. Then Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta said his forces were not ready yet and did not have a 'Cold Start' doctrine.

Then Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi



the headquarters of the Jamat-ud-Dawah (JUD), the charity front of the LeT and its leader Hafiz Saeed.

Major proposed the option that IAF could carry out air strikes on terrorist camps inside PoK. But for the attacks to be successful,



he would need the exact coordinates of the terrorist training camps. The intelligence agencies did not have such precise information.

#### What was the final option?

The final option was for a limited war confined to airstrikes in PoK only. The Indian military would mobilise itself along the international border to ensure Pakistan did not attempt to take the battle beyond PoK. But it also didn't work because of the following reasons.

Frenzied calls from across the nation had alerted Pakistan and they put its air force on

high alert and prepared for anti-aircraft defences. The government was clear that a strike across the international border would escalate matters and would be internationally unacceptable.

Another factor that complicated Indian military response was the presence of the US military on three airbases in Pakistan and in their airspace.

The only option which is still under discussion is punitive strikes. But let's forget the past and give peace a chance. People want peace not war.

## Amid Anti-ISIS Airstrikes, Will Russia And US Team To Fight Islamic State Terror In Syria?

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/amid-anti-isis-airstrikes-will-russia-us-team-fight-islamic-state-terror-syria-2155097>

Diplomatic talks in Vienna Friday appeared to make some progress in developing an understanding between the former Cold War



rivals with respect to the Syrian Civil War. Above, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (left) and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speak to the media about the situation in Syria at the United Nations headquarters in New York Sept. 30, 2015. Reuters/Andrew Kelly

After carrying out airstrikes on so-called terrorist targets in Syria daily during the past month, Russia now wants to work with the U.S. in fighting terrorism in the war-torn Middle Eastern country, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on national television Saturday. The statement came after the Russian foreign minister and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry conducted talks in Vienna Friday centered on launching a political process that would bring together for peace talks the

authoritarian regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad and opposition forces.

"We are ready for such a profound coordination," Lavrov said during an interview on the news program "Vesti v Subbotu," according to Russia's official news site Sputnik International. "We are ready to include the patriotic opposition, including the so-called Free Syrian Army, to provide it with aerial support, although we were declined information on where, according to U.S. data, terrorists are located, and where is the patriotic opposition."

While Russia has been conducting bombing raids in Syria since the end of September, it has been militarily involved in the country since it began moving both humanitarian aid and weapons there almost seven weeks ago. In addition to aiming at Islamic State group targets, Russia's military has targeted Syrian rebel forces that oppose Assad's government. However, the Vienna talks bringing together representatives of Russia and the U.S., as well as Saudi Arabia and Turkey, appear to have made some progress in developing an understanding between the former Cold War rivals with respect to the Syrian Civil War. The most important jobs for Moscow now is to begin dialogue with opposition groups in Syria and continue talks with the U.S., Lavrov said during the TV interview.



"When a person refuses to talk on serious issues, a question arises, whether this person understands what is going on, whether a person has ideas on how to settle a problem," Lavrov said on the show carried by the TV channel Rossiya-1. "When our U.S. colleagues come out with such initiatives, we always react and never avoid a conversation."

Kerry, who has remained in close contact with Lavrov throughout the fighting in Syria, alluded to the fact that there must be change there after his meeting with Lavrov. However, the

secretary of state was realistic about the differences of opinion in Moscow and Washington over how to bring peace and resolve the war.

"The hard work of shaping that transition [in Syria] requires an international approach and a consistent approach," Kerry said following the meeting in the Austrian capital, according to the Wall Street Journal. "There remain differences among us about exactly what the final approach looks like."

## 9 ISIS Weapons That Will Shock You

Source: <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Media/Slideshow/2014/10/16/9-ISIS-Weapons-Will-Shock-You?page=9>



### Soviet-era T-72 Tanks

ISIS captured many tanks from the Iraqi army, including the relatively modern Soviet T-72, of which it may have as many as 10.

### Type 59 Artillery

Also known by the slightly less succinct name "130 mm towed field gun M-46 M1954," the Type 59 came out of the Soviet Union in the 1950's. Medium reported in August that ISIS was using the artillery against Iraqi troops.





### FIM-92 Stinger MANPADs

ISIS fighters acquired a host of American Stinger missiles from ravaged Iraqi basis, according to Fox News. The Stinger is lightweight and easy to use, and can be operated from the shoulder of a single soldier, making it no small threat.

### ZU-23-2 "Sergey" Anti-Aircraft Cannon

Medium reported in August that ISIS was using these Soviet anti-aircraft mounted guns with "brutal effectiveness against Iraq's dwindling helicopter gunship force."



### Iraqi Chemical Weapons

Reports in July said that ISIS had seized an old Iraqi chemical weapons facility just north of Baghdad. More recent reports claim that chemical weapons are being used by ISIS against Kurdish troops.



### Chinese HJ-8

Multiple reports have said that ISIS is using the HJ-8 anti-tank missile, a Chinese weapon first built in the early 1980s. While somewhat unwieldy, the weapon ostensibly has a hit probability rate of 90 percent.



### 9K32 Strela-2/SA-7 Grail

[The Washington Post](#) reported that multiple ISIS propaganda videos have surfaced showing fighters using the SA-7 Strela, a shoulder-mounted surface-to-air missile.

### American/Iraqi Humvees

Along with tanks and weapons, ISIS fighters have also picked up a host of Humvees from raided Iraqi bases. This ability of Humvees to easily negotiate treacherous desert conditions has led to their widespread use in the region. The vehicles are also capable of playing host to multiple weapon emplacements.



## M198 Howitzer



Business Insider reported in July that ISIS had seized 55 American M198 Howitzers from a fleeing Iraqi army. The weapon is capable of firing 155mm shells with a kill radius of 50 meters.

## DHS Testing Border Biometric Program in Hunt to Identify Terrorists

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/dhs-testing-border-biometric-program-in-hunt-to-identify-terrorists/9a62e99a88e033b8d40766faf208847f.html>

Oct 19 – The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Intelligence and Analysis has launched a pilot program called **Identity Intelligence Biometrics (I2B)** which is intended to apply an automated face and fingerprint biometric identification system to help identify known and suspected **terrorists** and "**Special Interest Aliens**" (SIAs) apprehended illegally crossing the borders into the US.

SIAs are individuals who pose special attention because they come from countries known to sponsor or harbor terrorists, or are nations where there's significant jihadist presence.

Data exclusively obtained from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shows hundreds of illegal aliens from countries known to support and sponsor terrorism are apprehended by US Border Patrol agents each year on the southern border. Of the nearly 7,000 SIAs who were apprehended between southern

border ports of entry from 1999 through 2012, for instance, nearly 3,000 were identified as citizens of Muslim nations where Al Qaeda and other jihadist terrorist organizations are active, or are state supporters of terrorism.

Several years ago, the distinctive fingerprints of an apprehended SIA were "red-flagged" as those of an Al Qaeda bomb-maker whose prints had been found on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Afghanistan and entered into the Defense Department's Biometrics Enabled Watch List (BEWL), which contains the fingerprints of "high-threat persons of interest" and is linked to other national terrorist watchlists. The system's integration into CBP's Automated Biometric Fingerprint Identification System (IDENT) was undergoing testing at the time.



“They’d definitely tied the man to terrorism,” explained the former military intelligence officer whose company helped develop the biometric intelligence Program.

According to the DHS report on the I2B pilot program, it will use “non-US person biometric records held by US government agencies [to] assist DHS with determining whether” existing face and fingerprint biometrics “can augment existing biometric screenings for Syrian refugee applicants and also identify a threat-nexus for a subset of non-US persons who attempt illegal entry.”

**The I2B pilot will use personally identifiable information (PII) collected from refugee applicant interviews and a subset of data from subjects apprehended at or near the US border.**

“Currently, DHS and the Intelligence Community (IC) lack an integrated, interagency biometric system capability to support biometric and identity intelligence analytical tasks using unclassified and classified biometric data sources,” the DHS report stated, noting, “This presents a systemic challenge to DHS efforts to identify, screen and vet individuals who have been apprehended or who are applying for benefits. The purpose of DHS’s participation in this pilot is to develop new biometric matching capabilities for immediate counterterrorism mission needs.”

DHS participants include the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) and US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which are contributing data, biometric expertise and mission user scenarios.

**For the pilot program, on behalf of USCIS and CBP, OBIM will provide a one-time, manual transfer of two categories of I2B Pilot records:**

- Un-adjudicated Syrian refugee applicants enrolled by USCIS for comparison to classified IC biometric holdings to assist in screening efforts for known or suspected terrorists, known as “Refugee Records,” and
- Individuals CBP encountered in Fiscal Year 2013 determined were in the United States illegally and not from Mexico, “but whose nationality were otherwise unidentifiable for comparison to classified IC biometric holdings to assist in identification of known or suspected terrorists.”

**The I2B pilot is expected to “evaluate identification of basic biometric capabilities and requirements for the pilot; standardize biometric records to permit ingestion and matching within IC Information Technology Enterprise (IC ITE); test ingestion and integration of biometric records in IC ITE and the applications to be used on the data within IC ITE; and, conduct mission user testing and documentation of results.”**

The report said, “Although the primary intent of this pilot is to determine functional and technical requirements for a multi-modal biometrics capability (e.g., the images can be standardized and ingested successfully; the algorithms are effective), other benefits include identification of previously unidentifiable individuals related to known or suspected terrorists attempting to gain refugee status; provision of actionable intelligence on individuals attempting to illegally enter the United States without valid identification; and informing DHS on the effectiveness of IC-owned biometric technology.”

**Any terrorism information identified as a result of the I2B pilot initiative “will be retained and disseminated as appropriate and applicable” to counterterrorism agencies.**

“Confirmed matches constituting Terrorism Information will be retained, used and disseminated by the IC or DHS, including updating the source systems as appropriate,” the report said. “For example, if a subject encountered at the border provides an alias, but a biometric match indicates a different name, then CBP would update the biographic record and provide the alias for existing records.

Section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 defines “terrorism information” as: All information, whether collected, produced or distributed by intelligence, law enforcement, military, homeland security or other activities related to the existence, organization, capabilities, plans, intentions, vulnerabilities, means of finance or material support or activities of foreign or international terrorist groups or individuals, or of domestic groups or individuals involved in transnational terrorism; threats posed by such groups or individuals to the United States, United States persons or United States interests, or to those of





other nations; communications of or by such groups or individuals; or groups or individuals reasonably believed to be assisting or associated with such groups or individuals.

INTERPOL officials say its biometric databases are proving increasingly important for identifying prospective foreign fighters, but that it needs more assistance from governments and other organizations to tackle the problem. During an early 2007 visit to San Antonio, Texas, then FBI Director Mueller said “we have had indications that leaders of ... terrorist groups may be contemplating ... having persons come across assuming identities of others, and trying to get across the border. It is intelligence that indicates there have been discussions on that.”

Mueller previously told a House Committee on Appropriations subcommittee that a Hezbollah-organized smuggling ring had been busted that infiltrated an unspecified number of Hezbollah members into the United States from Mexico.

“This was an occasion in which Hezbollah operatives were assisting others with some association with Hezbollah in coming to the United States,” he said.

That summer, then-Director of National Intelligence, Mike McConnell, a former director of the National Security Agency stated during a border security meeting in south Texas that an unspecified number of people with known links

to terrorist groups had been caught crossing the Southwest border.

Noting that “the Mexican border is a path,” McConnell said “there are numerous situations where people are alive today because we caught them.”

McConnell declined to elaborate on any of the captured terrorists to which he referred, saying only that “the vast majority you don’t hear about.”

The following month, Texas Homeland Security Director Steve McCraw, a former FBI assistant director for intelligence, told the North Texas Crime Commission that terrorists with ties to Hezbollah, Hamas and Al Qaeda had been arrested crossing the Texas border.

After grilling by Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs member Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz) during a February 2010 hearing, then DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano admitted that terrorists could “potentially” enter the United States from Mexico. “The ability of people from countries of special interest to immigrate into Central America, and [then] be ferried up to the border and over into the United States ... is ... a concern,” Napolitano testified. When pressed by McCain whether she meant people from “countries of special interest ... could come up through our southern border,” Napolitano admitted, “potentially, yes.”

## Online tool maps terrorist networks, behavior over time

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151029-online-tool-maps-terrorist-networks-behavior-over-time>

Oct 29 – To allow a better understanding of how terrorist organizations network and function over time, the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) has launched the [Big Allied and Dangerous \(BAAD\) online platform](#). START says that the new tool features updated, vetted, and sourced narratives and relationship information and social network data on fifty of the most notorious terrorist organizations in the world since 1998, with additional network information on more than 100 organizations.

Funded through the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate’s (S&T) Office of University Programs, the underlying BAAD database was created and is maintained by the [Project on Violent Conflict](#) at the University at Albany’s Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

The data allow analysts, scholars, and the public to investigate trends in organizational attributes and how these correlate with issues such as lethality, target selection, and use of CBRN weapons. The social network data also characterizes relationships between violent non-state organizations as well as relationships between countries and violent non-state organizations.



## CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015

For instance, a quick search for al-Shabaab reveals a detailed full profile: quick facts — year founded (2006), number of fatalities (1,663), ideology (religious) — and an interactive social network diagram demonstrating its alliances with al-Qaeda and affiliated movements, Boko Haram, and Allied Democratic

### Big, Allied and Dangerous (BAAD)

Keywords:

Ideology:  Select choices

Year:  Most Recent

Lethality:  All

Size:  All

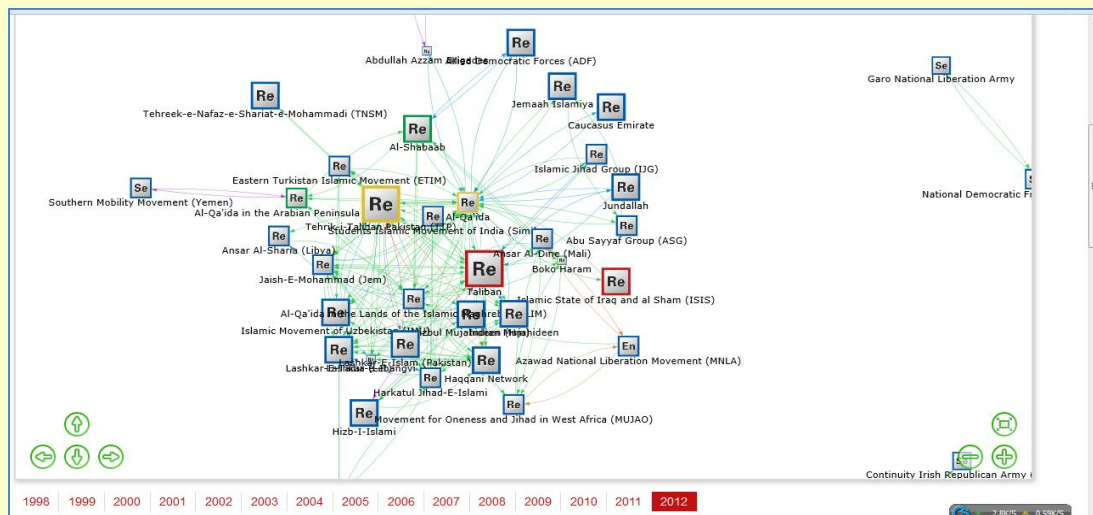
1 2 3 4 5 6 next last >

Group Name	Country	Number of Allies	Number of Rivals
Abdullah Azzam Brigades	Lebanon	8	1
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)	Philippines	443	3
Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade	Palestinian Territories	341	6
Al-Fatah	Palestinian Territories	38	2
Al-Gama'at Al-Islamiyya (IG)	Egypt	7	1
Al-Nusrah Front	Syria	309	0
Al-Qa'ida	Pakistan	3842	36
Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)	Yemen	1558	4
Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQLIM)	Algeria	677	8
Al-Shabaab	Somalia	1663	7

Forces (ADF).

Led by Albany professors Victor Asal and Karl Rethemeyer, the research team plans to expand the database and online platform to include more than 600 terrorist organizations.

“The dataset arose from our desire to move the quantitative analysis on terrorist behavior from the



country-level to the organizational-level cross-nationally so that we could better explain and predict why some organizations are so much more dangerous than others,” said Asal, Chair of the Department of Public Administration and Policy and Associate Professor of Political Science.

“The Big Allied and Dangerous dataset is unique in that it provides a yearly snapshot of both organizational and network data,” said Rethemeyer, interim dean of Rockefeller College. “We believe that this dataset will help policymakers identify key factors to monitor and provide researchers with new opportunities to understand how the behavior of terrorist organizations changes over time.”

START notes that by making this data freely available online, it aims to create a resource for all those interested in understanding terrorism.

“By continuing to generate and update these organizational-level profiles and data, the BAAD team and START can ultimately create a touchstone for organizational-level data, serving as a clearinghouse in the same way that START’s Global Terrorism Database does for incident-level data,” said William Braniff, START executive director. “As most people think of terrorism through the lens of the organizations that commit these acts, BAAD provides an important public good – a starting point on which further analysis can be based.”

BAAD is drawn entirely from publicly available, open-source materials. These include electronic news archives, existing data sets, secondary source materials such as books



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

and journals, and legal documents. All information contained in the dataset reflects what is reported in those sources.

Entities included in BAAD are defined as those organizations that have:

- Committed at least one terrorist attack as defined by [START's Global Terrorism Database](#) (GTD) criteria between 1998 and 2012, and/or
- Used, attempted to use, or pursued a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapon at least once between 1998 and 2012, as recorded by START's Profiles of Incidents involving CBRN by Non-state Actors (POICN) dataset as having, and/or
- Committed at least twenty-five battle deaths in an insurgency between 1998 and 2012 in the [Uppsala Conflict Data Program \(UCDP\) Battle Deaths dataset](#).

Asal notes that BAAD is already being used to better understand broad questions about terrorism.

"Our work is helping to identify key factors that enable and motivate dangerous behavior by terrorist organizations like use of chemical weapons," Asal said, referring to work the team is conducting with Joseph Young at American University. "We are also examining whether counter-terrorism efforts by governments around the globe are actually working. BAAD is the first dataset that makes it possible to ask questions about both of these issues using cross-national data."

► The BAAD online platform can be accessed on START's [Web site](#).

## American Deaths in Terrorist Attacks

Source: [http://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START\\_AmericanTerrorismDeaths\\_FactSheet\\_Oct2015.pdf](http://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_AmericanTerrorismDeaths_FactSheet_Oct2015.pdf)

In response to President Obama's statement Oct. 1 about the comparison between Americans killed by gun violence and Americans killed by terrorist violence in light of the recent mass shooting in Oregon, START has compiled the following information from its Global Terrorism Database.

According to the GTD, 80 Americans were killed in terrorist attacks from 2004 to 2013, including perpetrators and excluding deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq, the majority of which are combat-related. Of those 80 Americans killed, 36 were killed in attacks that occurred in the United States.

Year	Total Attacks in the United States	Total Fatalities in the United States	U.S. Fatalities in the United States	U.S. Fatalities, Worldwide
1995	62	171	171	189
1996	36	3	2	36
1997	40	2	1	14
1998	30	4	3	135
1999	53	20	20	25
2000	33	0	0	36
2001	40	3003	2908	2910
2002	33	4	0	29
2003	32	0	0	17
2004	9	0	0	5
2005	23	0	0	3
2006	6	1	1	4
2007	9	0	0	1
2008	19	2	2	14
2009	11	18	18	19
2010	17	4	4	6
2011	9	0	0	3
2012	13	7	6	12
2013	16	7	5	13
2014	19	18	17	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>3264</b>	<b>3158</b>	<b>3503</b>

More broadly, 3,066 Americans have been killed in terrorist attacks from 9/11/2001 through 12/31/2014, including perpetrators and excluding deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq.

o 2,961 of these deaths occurred on American soil.

o 2,902 of these deaths occurred during the attacks on September 11, 2001.



The following table presents statistics on the total number of terrorist attacks that took place in the United States, the total number of fatalities due to terrorist attacks in the United States (including perpetrators), the total number of U.S. fatalities due to terrorist attacks in the United States (including perpetrators), and the total number of U.S. fatalities due to terrorist attacks worldwide (including perpetrators, and excluding deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq), from 1995 to 2014.

## Swedish extremism hotline prepares to open

Source <http://www.thelocal.se/20151029/swedish-extremism-hotline-prepares-to-open>

### A Swedish helpline for families worried that a loved one may be on the path to radicalization will open on November 16th, said the Red Cross.

The Swedish Red Cross confirmed on Wednesday that it would set up a national hotline for extremism, [which The Local wrote about](#) earlier this year.

The announcement comes barely a week after two people were killed in a racially-motivated [attack on a school in Trollhättan](#) that shocked the nation.

“We are launching this hotline at the request of the National Coordinator Against Extremism. We want to help the families, the friends of people tempted by radical extremism,” Swedish Red Cross president Anna Carlstedt told the AFP news agency.

The aim of the hotline is not to identify potential extremists, whether they are sympathizers of radical Islam, the extreme left or the hard-right, but to offer support to “all those who suspect a loved one is being radicalized,” Carlstedt added.

Several other countries, including [France](#) and Britain, have set up similar free phone numbers to address concerns about radicalization.

Sweden is still reeling from the attack in the [western town of Trollhättan](#) last Thursday, in which a [teaching assistant](#) and a pupil were killed by a sword-wielding attacker with apparent far-right, anti-immigrant sympathies.

And Swedish security police Säpo reported earlier this month that 125 Swedes are currently believed to be fighting for terror groups such as the Islamic State (also known as Isis or IS) in Syria and Iraq.



## 2015 START Symposium Counterterrorism Panel

- **Tracking Attitudes within American Subcultures**  
*Presented by Sophia Moskalenko*
- **Dynamics of Terrorism and Counterterrorism Campaigns**  
*Presented by Joseph Young*
- **Beneath the Tip of the Iceberg: Terrorist Plots**  
*Presented by Martha Crenshaw*

Source: [https://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/STARTSymposium2015\\_CounterterrorismPanel.pdf](https://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/STARTSymposium2015_CounterterrorismPanel.pdf)



## One Year of the Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

By Zack Gold

Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/one-year-of-the-islamic-state-in-the-sinai-peninsula/>

Sinai militancy changed over 2015, following the decision of the peninsula's main violent

rebranding, ABM was already a violent and proficient organization, and its members had

received training and assistance from figures linked to al-Qaeda, the Islamic State, and other violent anti-state groups in Syria, as well as from Gaza-based militants, including Hamas. ABM's ability to command media attention in the most populous Arab country made it a major asset for the Islamic State.

Over the past year, Wilayat Sinai developed into a paramilitary force, with the organization's operations larger, more frequent, and more complex. To be sure, given ABM's advances since 2011, this development might have taken place without IS affiliation. The exception, so far, to ABM/Wilayat Sinai's operational trend was the July 1, 2015 siege of Sheikh Zuwaid, the third largest city in North Sinai. That attack, clearly an attempt by hundreds of militants to take control of a city, mirrored the way in which the Islamic State stormed through northwestern Iraq.



jihadi group to pledge allegiance to the Islamic State organization. The developments have created challenges for Egypt – and for Israel, though a less immediate target – but they also provide an opening to weaken the group's entrenchment in North Sinai.

### From Local Militancy to Islamic State Province

One year ago, on October 24, 2014, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (“Supporters of Jerusalem,” ABM), a militant jihadi consortium that formed in Sinai following the 2011 uprising, perpetrated a massive, multi-pronged operation against an Egyptian military checkpoint in the peninsula. A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was used to destroy the outpost, followed by a small-arms raid. Over thirty soldiers were killed in the attack.

That attack was followed two weeks later by ABM's November 10 public affiliation with the Islamic State group based in Syria and Iraq. ABM changed its name to Wilayat Sinai, the “Sinai Province” of the Islamic State. Prior to its

### Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis vs. Wilayat Sinai

The Sheikh Zuwaid operation, uncharacteristic though it was, signaled three ways in which militancy in Sinai has changed. First, Wilayat Sinai poses a much larger threat to the local population. The group has killed dozens as alleged spies and has publicly threatened opposing tribal leaders. Wilayat Sinai's larger attacks have put civilians directly in harm's way, while the group has interdicted the smuggling of cigarettes and marijuana for being “Islamic vices.” Finally, Wilayat Sinai has attacked and harassed the international troops of the Multinational Force and Observers – a prime target of transnational jihadis, but also the largest employer of Sinai's Bedouin.

The changed approach toward the local population largely results from the second major difference from ABM: an influx of foreign fighters into Sinai, as well as Egyptians returning from the Syrian conflict.

One diplomat referred to this as a “game-changer” in ABM's relations with Sinai tribes. If



accurate, the rise in foreign militants creates an opportunity that the Egyptian government can exploit. ABM always had international support, but the group maintained a local agenda despite its foreign links. The perceived external interests of these new outsiders, be they foreigners or mainland Egyptians, could perhaps bring the local population to the government's side under the right circumstances.

The final change in ABM since its IS affiliation is that Wilayat Sinai controls territory. The area is relatively small, and northeast Sinai has long lacked the full authority of the Egyptian state. However, in practice the group is in control and is strengthening its authority over the border area. Like its parent organization, Wilayat Sinai's propaganda reflects its intention to govern.

### **Opportunities for a Successful Egyptian Response**

These developments in Sinai represent a failure to date for Egypt. Since October 2014 Egyptian security policies have placed increased hardship on Sinai's residents; nonetheless, the local population is less safe today than a year ago. Despite unprecedented levels of Egyptian troops and weaponry in Sinai, and the reported killing of approximately one thousand "terrorists" this year, military operations have resulted in no enduring impact on Wilayat Sinai strongholds or operations. Finally, despite a clampdown on Sinai's entryways from Gaza, the mainland, and the sea, advanced weaponry and fighters are still able to reach the peninsula.

These setbacks, however, are reversible. The changes in the nature and structure of ABM/Wilayat Sinai have provided an opening for Egypt. For the first time, the local population needs the Egyptian state to protect it from militancy. To exploit this opportunity, Egypt should do more than continue with its military campaigns. Sustained, effective military operations are necessary, but Egypt can also counter the Islamic State narrative in both word and action. This counter-narrative can emphasize that Wilayat Sinai is acting against the interests of locals. To prove that it is a better alternative, Egypt should treat its citizens with respect, deliver services, and address longstanding political and developmental grievances. Most important, Egyptian security

forces must provide security for the Sinai population.

There appear to be positive developments coming out of Cairo recently. In one of its first acts after it was sworn-in last month, the new Egyptian government published a statement on its "Comprehensive Plan to Combat Terrorism in Sinai." The strategy calls for humanitarian assistance and medical attention to the Sinai population and a "precise" compensation plan for residents harmed or displaced in the course of security operations. The government calls on security forces to protect the population by acting on accurate intelligence, revising operations that put civilians in harm's way, and refraining from firing on "potential threats" without identifying those being targeted.

In addition to this government plan, the military itself has signaled a change in operations. "Phase Two" of its latest operation, "The Martyr's Right," calls for extending total Egyptian control over North Sinai's cities. Achieving this objective will require Egyptian military and police not just to clear militants in successive airstrikes, but also to hold the territory with ground troops based among the local population. Whether the Egyptian government and military carry out these measures may be the difference between success and failure.

### **Impact on Israel**

Israel has given Egypt significant leeway in efforts to counter the mutual threat both face from Sinai militancy. Egypt's military deployments in the peninsula, which exceed the quota stipulated in the peace treaty, are in full coordination between the parties. Israel also watches its western border closely, and provides Egypt with intelligence. At the same time, questions remain if Egypt can destroy or even contain Wilayat Sinai. The IDF is preparing for the likelihood that the group will strike across the border: targeting Israeli civilian towns or military positions the same way it has attacked Egyptian security posts. The prospect of improved Egyptian military operations and governance in North Sinai would thus greatly benefit Israel. However, Israel and Egypt will face continued security risks for the foreseeable future if the Egyptian policies that attempt to bring immediate stability exacerbate local tensions.



*Zack Gold specializes in security in the Sinai Peninsula and relations among Egypt, Israel, Gaza, and the United States. His work has been published regularly by the Atlantic Council, The Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Christian Science Monitor, ForeignAffairs.com, ForeignPolicy.com, the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague, and NationalInterest.org.*

## Tourism Tidbits: Bioterrorism and Tourism

By Peter Tarlow

Source: <http://www.hospitalitynet.org/news/4072423.html>

When we think of tourism security we tend to think about either criminal acts that often plague the tourism industry such as: pick-pocketing, room invasions, or con artists, or about overt acts of terrorism such as a bomb. Rarely do we consider the hidden forms of terrorism that can impact the tourism industry. These forms of terrorism are often not detected until it is too late and while bombs are public killers actions such as bioterrorism are often silent killers.

The dictionary definition of bioterrorism: "a terrorist acts involving the use of harmful agents and products of biological origin, as disease-producing microorganisms or toxins" only presents a superficial understanding of the subject. Just as tourism is a complex system of interrelated industries that form a composite industry, so too does bioterrorism reflect a wide variety of potential hazards in relationship to the tourism industry.

The following dangers, ideas, and suggestions do not present a complete list. Rather they are meant to force awareness of a clandestine tourism hazard that may cause a great deal of harm while attacking from below the radar. For the purposes of ease of reading we shall use both the term "bioterrorism" and tourism bio-dangers". The term "tourism biodangers" describes both intentional acts of biological attacks and unintentional biological attacks.

**Bio-dangers are complicated and multifaceted.** Bio-dangers can be produced inadvertently and/or on purpose, they can be a product of person-to-person interactions, from lack of cleanliness, such as something as simple as dirty plates or poorly washed sheets, and by planned chemical attacks ranging from anything such as air vents or a faulty the refrigeration system. This wide range of diversity means that people in the tourism industry and especially those working in safety

and security must constantly be on guard for the unexpected.

**Tourism bio-dangers are not static.** A key challenge of tourism bioterrorism or a bio-danger is its changeable nature. What may not be considered a threat in any specific time period may become a threat almost overnight. A second problem in tourism bio-terrorism and dangers is that tourism is highly sensitive to negative publicity. Thus, a bioterrorism act may not actually succeed but the publicity can produce enough negative fall out that the damage is successful even though the attack was a failure. For example, much of the cruise industry suffered a few years ago, from bio-damage due to unexpected outbreaks of the Nordau virus. Although the virus was contained in a relatively short period of time, the damage from the negative publicity was for some time on-going.

**Bio dangers are closely related to biohazards.** These include not only biological problems due to lack of good sanitation, problems produced on purpose as acts of terrorism, inadvertent spreading of illnesses, but also hazards that exist naturally in the environment. For example, we cannot call a shark attack or an infestation of jellyfish an act of terrorism, but combined with publicity these problems can impact a tourism locale's bottom line.

**Tourism biodangers may manifest themselves in multiple ways.** For example, a guest may also be a disease carrier. Few tourism sites check their guests, yet a guest may leave a biological hazard in the form of blood, germs, or infectious diseases. These biological hazards are not only not checked (and are often never reported) but the in the case of a hotel or restaurant, the time frame is highly limited as the ability to track the guest once s/he has departed may be close to impossible.



**Some of the tourism bio-dangers carriers may be: guests, tourism employees, delivery people, or even insects.** Because tourism serves a diverse and constantly changing population tourism security specialists must not only pay attention to what potential dangers exist within their premises but also the dangers from outside. Thus, an influenza epidemic may be an annoyance to a family but an economic disaster to a tourism place of business. Furthermore, in the modern interconnected world of tourism, a disease or biological danger from one part of the world can easily impact a tourism business in other parts of the world. This interconnectivity is especially true of airports that are major hubs and in which people are consistently transferring from one flight to another.

**Every part of the tourism system is both susceptible and a potential cause of bio-damage.** Due to the fact that tourism is all about the intermingling of people, tourism security officials must constantly train personnel on both new and "classic" diseases, on symptoms to report and one things that may seem to be innocuous but do not seem right.

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## Monitoring Changes in Breath Rate Can Prevent Terror

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2015/10/monitoring-changes-in-breath-rate-can-prevent-terror/>

Oct 31 – Will crime be abolished in 20 years? Is there a way we can know in advance about the next murder or crime? In recent years great resources were directed to huge projects in the US dealing with just these issues. Dr. Nimrod Kozlovski, a partner in the JVP venture capital fund, explained technologies to predict crime during the Video Analytics conference, organized by i-HLS at the Israeli air force center in Herzliya.

After the US realized that perhaps the solution for crime and terror lies in predicting technologies, countless resources were directed towards research of this field. The massive American project called **Precrime** completely changed the way we understand the world of crime, seeing as how in the past 2,000 years, punishment for criminals was

Just as in the world of terrorism, when it comes to biological dangers, tourism officials must train staffs and even guests to say something if they suspect something is not right.

**Cleanliness is close to Godliness.** The old expression that cleanliness is a form of Godliness is perhaps the best protection against bio-chemical and biological tourism damage. Encourage employees to wash hands on a regular basis, to use disposable tissues when sneezing and then to dispose these tissues in their proper container.

**Make sure that your tourism product does not become a threat to the environment.**

Environmental threats are not merely tourists trampling native plants or causing damage to sea life. These threats also exist in the urban environment, For example, make sure that trash and garbage is packaged in a way that unwanted animals such as rats are not attracted to your refuse areas. Just as the outside environment impacts the local tourism environment so does the local tourism environment impact its host environment, be that environment rural or urban.

given after the crime was committed. Today, however, may people fail to believe the efficiency of law enforcement due to many failures to enforce tax offenses, internet crimes, etc.

This situation enabled in recent years several fascinating breakthroughs in the field of crime prevention using prediction. So, for example, credit card offenses were prevented, using a search engine that checks the client's history of transactions up to a certain point and analyzes whether the purchase right there and then is normal. The system checks, among other things, which computer and mail address the client was using before, whether it fits their monthly expenses and so on. If it recognizes anything out of the ordinary it alerts the bank, and





the credit card owner will receive a phone call to ensure that it was indeed their transaction. This way, by gathering information, creating profiles and crime patterns and basically predicting the nature of the deal, the system manages to prevent the crime before it takes place.

Another fascinating system meant to prevent crime is called **FAST** (Future Attribute Screening Technology). The system builds an integrative picture based on continuous video footage and sensors documenting human behavior from afar. It can detect physiological and behavioral indicators in humans that usually suggest a suspicious behavior and can alert a possible malicious intention to commit a crime or an act of terror. These parameters include dry lips, sweat, rapid breathing patterns, change in voice tempo or eye movement and more. The indicators, examined using external sensors, are compared to

normal behavioral patterns of the average, calm person and point out suspicious individuals, to whom security services can be directed in just moments.

Today some of these inspections are being done by security personnel at the Ben-Gurion Airport, but the goal is to have a computer program do it automatically. The system's accuracy reaches about 85%, relying on a statistical level, so you can't say that it is perfect but it's definitely a start from which the only way to go is up.

The systems owe their success to a number of different factors which were also developed in recent years, such as sensors broadcasting all the data to the process point in real time from a distance. But don't think that is where the line is drawn, as more ideas for more innovative technologies in crime and terror prediction, such as using MRI images, are already taking form.

## **e-tools, e-routes: terror finds new ways of financing; Hizbul Mujahideen raised over Rs 800 million through e-channels**

Source: <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-e-tools-and-e-routes-terror-finds-new-ways-of-financing-2138204>

**Hawala trading, private donations, use of charity organisations and fund transfer through banks are no more in vogue when it comes to terror financing.**

An inter-governmental body assigned to combat money laundering and terrorist financing has warned countries of new fundraising modus operandi by terrorist groups through social media, new payment products and services and also through exploitation of natural resources.

In its latest report, 'Emerging Terrorist Financing Risks', the 36-member Financial Action Task Force (FATF) says crowd-funding through e-wallets, virtual currency bitcoin, prepaid cards for playing on internet etc., online payment systems such as PayPal, CashU and social media networks are fast becoming potential fundraising tool of terror financing.

These largescale and well-organised hi-tech fundraising methods help terrorist organisations widen their outreach to several thousands of sponsors and raise significant amounts in short notice. The modus operandi is peer-to-peer horizontal communication in the form of chat groups and forums on social

networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and sometimes take to mobile applications such as WhatsApp and Viber or more secure networks like Surespot and VoIP, says the report.

Listing several cases, and indicating that the donors from crowd-funding and social networks had no idea of end use of the collected funds, the FATF report states that probe is on in many cases of false crowd funding campaigns, where in ultra groups resort to such methods as a ploy to obtain money. The US Secret Service had observed that terrorists are looking for and finding virtual currencies that offer: anonymity for both users and transactions, the ability to move illicit proceeds from one country to another quickly, low volatility, which results in lower exchange risk, widespread adoption in the criminal underground, and reliability.

As late on August 28 this year, Ali Shukri Amin was charged for providing instructions to new terror recruits on how to use bitcoin, a virtual currency, to mask the provision of funds to terror outfit ISIS, as well as facilitation to



ISIS supporters seeking to travel to Syria and Iraq.

"Amin had tweeted a link to an article he had written entitled 'Bitcoin wa' Sadaqat al-Jihad' (Bitcoin and the charity of jihad). The article discussed how to use bitcoins and how jihadists could utilise this currency to fund their efforts. Amin suggested using Dark Wallet, a new bitcoin wallet, which keeps the user of bitcoins anonymous," FATF report stated.

Some terror financing cases involving low-value transactions via online payment systems such as PayPal have also been linked to a number of terror suspects. Besides, CashU, a prepaid online

and mobile payment method is also under the scanner of law enforcement agencies terrorist financing.

In a case of explicit calls for funds on social networks with German Law Enforcement Agencies, in a Facebook group on recipes for women, one of the users placed a call for funds in 2013. A terror module in Syria was mentioned (name withheld) who urgently needed "equipment, food and pharmaceuticals". There was time to collect funds until 'Thursday', in order to 'dispatch' the requested material by 'Friday'. The user also provided the details of an account held with a German bank where the funds were to be sent. It is unknown if the author of the Facebook call for funds is also the person responsible for this

**IN**  
Bitcoin  
e-wallets  
PayPal  
CashU

**OUT**  
Hawala trading  
Private donations  
Charity groups  
Transfer via banks

initiative. The owner of the account is a convert, who is suspected of coordinating this advertising campaign.

In another case of PayPal accounts used for fundraising, a charity set up in 2010, whose chairman specialised in e-marketing, offered on its website several options to make donations by credit card, PayPal, cash transfers, checks. Over a year and a half, bank accounts of this charity received numerous donations by checks and wire transfers below EUR 500. Of the EUR 2 million collected, EUR 6,00,000 came from a few PayPal transactions from another country. Personal PayPal accounts were also used to collect funds, then to be withdrawn by cash, or transferred to other accounts.

### Terror trail

Indian authorities investigated a large criminal conspiracy involving nine, including a US citizen and a Canadian citizen who operated in collusion with Lashkar-E-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-UI Jihadi Islami (HUJI). On multiple occasions and over a number of years, the defendants received legitimate cash (e.g. Euro, US dollars) as well as counterfeit Indian/Pakistan currency from sympathisers of the terror group. One one occasion the defendant received \$25,000 to establish an immigration office in Mumbai, which was in fact a cover for his travel and maintenance while carrying out the reconnaissance of potential targets for attacks by LeT.

## Somalia threatened by illegal fishermen after west chases away pirates

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/31/somalia-fishing-flotillas-pirates-comeback>

Five years ago, the isolated outpost of Eyl was Somalia's most notorious pirate lair. Perched above the crashing waves of the Indian Ocean, the ramshackle town played host to wheeling and dealing pirate kingpins who would roar through the rutted streets in tinted 4x4s as captured ships languished in the shallow waters.

Eyl had become a byword for everything that was wrong with Somalia: a place of anarchy where a civil war and two decades of fighting had destroyed even the most basic institutions of a functioning state, a place where the gun

and ransom dollars ruled. The lawless and deadly mayhem was captured in the 2012 film **A Hijacking** in which a Danish freight vessel was captured by pirates and its captain murdered.

Pirate-hunting western warships belatedly dispatched to the region as part of Nato, US and European Union forces to pacify the pirates and end the hijacking and hostage-taking of western ships and their



crews, seem to have won the battle.

Five years later, Eyl is a very different place. The pirates have gone, leaving the outpost to its fate. As with pretty much everywhere else in Somalia, there is an air of neglect with its historic buildings in disrepair. A tiny fort on the beach serves as a reminder that Eyl was once famous for something else – Sayyid Mohammed Abdullah Hassan, the revered 19th-century jihadi and national poet, better known to British forces fighting him in the early



20th century as the Mad Mullah.

Unfortunately for the local population, as the pirates have departed, other aggressors have returned. While the world has shifted its attention elsewhere, marauding flotillas from countries such as Yemen, Iran and South Korea – in flagrant breach of international maritime law – have begun to plunder Somalia's rich fishing grounds, plunging the local fishermen who hold up the town's economy into financial ruin.

Overfishing, which devastated the livelihoods of coastal communities a decade ago, is regarded as the principal reason for the initial outbreak of piracy. The waters off Somalia's 1,880-mile coastline are among the richest fishing grounds in the world, teeming with shark, tuna, sardines, snapper and lobster. The illegal fishermen, their rusty tubs flying flags of convenience and protected by armed Somali brigands from further up the coast, chase off local fishermen who come too close – ramming their boats, shooting at them or sabotaging their gear. It's a deadly fight that has raged largely unseen and unreported.

Among fishermen on Eyl's sweeping beach, the mood towards the foreign fishing fleets is

bitter. Musa Mahamoud, a lithe and fit-looking 55-year-old, points to the latest provocation – his fishing nets, slashed at sea.

Many Somalis want Nato and EU frigates to do more to tackle the illegal fishermen in the absence of any Somali capability to do so. While the Gulf-funded Puntland Maritime Police Force, based in Bosaso, has notched up some successes against unlicensed boats in the Red Sea, an Eyl detachment is still awaiting speedboats.

"Nato came because of the piracy, but the cause of piracy is the illegal fishing," says Wa'is, the Eyl official. "If Nato can chase away the pirates, then why not the illegal fishermen?"

It is a view echoed by Abdullahi Jama Saleh, Puntland's counter-piracy minister, who accuses the west of having "a mandate to catch the little thief, but not the big one".

For Mahamoud, it is just a small step back to the life he used to lead, sourcing resources and weapons for the pirates. Both the Nato and EU mandates expire at the end of 2016, and western officials say member states are applying pressure to redeploy the warships to the Mediterranean and elsewhere. "If Nato goes, we will attack them," says Mahamoud, eyes blazing as he rails against the western warships seen to be protecting the illegal fishermen. "We will kill and be killed."

Somalia's modern-day piracy began when impoverished fishermen extorted money from unlicensed foreign fishing vessels. It evolved into a multimillion dollar criminal enterprise that at its height saw a \$9.5m ransom paid for the release of the South Korean tanker, Samho Dream. In early 2011, pirates were holding more than 700 captives.

"When things got out of hand, anyone would go anywhere," says Asha Abdikarim, who runs a small hotel on Eyl's shore. "A foreign vessel was a foreign vessel." She, for one, is thankful that the pirates left. "There were very heavily armed, there was lots of shooting,



lots of qat [a mild narcotic]," she recalls. "We had no peace."

Now, says Faisal Wa'is, a frustrated Eyl official, nothing has changed. "We are back to square one," he says. "The illegal fishermen are back, and ... I am afraid that piracy may come back." "Illegal fishing is gouging from the nascent Somali economy a source of revenue that could help build much-needed infrastructure, provide healthcare and education to those who go without, and restore arid lands to grazing pastures," says Degan Ali, executive director of Adeso, a Somalia-focused NGO.

While the international donors have attempted to develop Somalia's fisheries industry, which has the potential to be a huge coastal employer, navigating the myriad vested interests has sunk even the most localised of projects. A UN-funded ice plant in Eyl, enabling fishermen to freeze their catch for export, has lain idle for more than a year since construction was completed amid wrangling over who should control it.

The pirates still attract broad sympathy in Somalia. Those caught were tried in foreign lands and later repatriated to Somalia to serve terms ranging from two to 24 years. But most

of those incarcerated in Puntland's prisons in Bosaso and Garowe are the foot soldiers. The pirate kingpins are still at large, easily able to elude the weak authorities that are believed to have benefited from the trade.

In March, pirates seized two Iranian dhows off central Somalia – one later escaped – and a UN report last month named notorious pirate Mohamed Osman Mohamed "Gafanje" as the mastermind behind the attack.

"The thing people forget is that the pirates haven't gone away, they are still holding 50 hostages, most of those victims from illegal fishing boats," says John Steed from Ocean Beyond Piracy. "They could easily go back to taking vessels again."

Whether the threat is enough to convince the west to continue bearing the cost of a substantial naval presence in the Indian Ocean is far from clear. A hasty departure could make the situation worse. Saleh, the counter-piracy minister, says Somalis know that the penalties would be severe if caught. "They will be more lethal this time," he says. "They know there is no mercy for them. Before they were after money, now it's a matter of survival. It's do or die."

## Chilling video that could prove ISIS DID shoot down Russian jet, killing 224 people

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/616132/ISIS-Russian-plane-crash-shoot-down-terror-explosion-video>

Nov 02 – Islamic State have released a chilling video, which may be proof that the terror group did shoot down the Russian plane causing it to crash and kill all 224 people on board.

The [barbaric terrorists last night claimed to have downed the Airbus A-321 jet](#) in revenge

could have carried out the deadly act remains a mystery.

However dramatic footage has now emerged online, which purports to show the final moments of the doomed airliner as it falls through the air, before it appears to explode and engulf into a ball of smoke and flames.

Egypt's North Sinai is home to a two-year-old Islamist insurgency and militants who support Islamic State have killed hundreds of Egyptian soldiers and police in recent months.

But officials in Cairo and Moscow were quick to quash any possible link to terrorism in the tragedy, which was one of the deadliest plane



for Russian air strikes in Syria - but how they

crashes in the past decade.



And the co-pilot allegedly complained to his family that the aircraft's condition "left much to be desired" shortly before the doomed flight took off. The aircraft, which was flying from the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh destined for the Russian city of St Petersburg, was said to have split in half mid-air scattering debris and bodies over a wide area in remote Sinai, Egypt.

Burnt corpses were found 3.1 miles away from the crashed aircraft, and this morning search and rescue teams recovered the body of a three-year-old girl some five miles from the crash scene.

**So far, only 163 bodies of 214 Russian passengers and three Ukrainians, have been recovered,** which has resulted in search and rescue teams expanding their search perimeter to nine miles.

It comes as officials said the jet, operated by Russian airline Kogalymavia, did not lodge an SOS call before its quick descent.

Professor Michael Clarke, Director General of the Royal United Services Institute, said the jet may have been destroyed by a bomb on the aircraft.

He said: "This aircraft was 200km north of its take-off zone, that means it was flying at around 31,000 feet. Terrorists, as far as we know, don't have equipment to take down an aircraft at that height.

"Early reports said it split into two and that suggests a catastrophic failure, not a

mechanical failure, but perhaps an explosion on board.

"So I would be much more inclined to think, if we have to guess at this stage, it is much more likely to have been a bomb on board than a missile fired from the ground.

"And there's no sign of a distress call, so the idea that the aircraft was undergoing an



mechanical problem, or an engine problem, or a fire, or something like that, you would expect that there would be some sort of distress call beforehand."

Last month Moscow launched a bombing campaign against the twisted terror group, which controls vast swathes of Syria and has forced thousands of people to flee the country.

Vladimir Putin's bid to wipe out ISIS has been so successful that almost a million Syrians are elected to return to their homeland.

## Prepare For A Possible Shabaab - Isis Alliance

Source <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/prepare-possible-shabaab-isis-alliance>

Axis of evil? Militants of Somalia's al Shabaab ride vehicles and display weapons and flags on October 21, 2010, during a show of force in Somalia's capital Mogadishu.

Kenya launched Operation Linda Nchi on October 16, 2011, to fight al Shabaab. Four years later, who exactly is al Shabaab? Do we know all we need to know about the enemy? What is al Shabaab's ideological blueprint? What informs its intelligence and surveillance operations? What is its military, strategic, operational and tactical strategy? What is al Shabaab's long-term strategy?

The ease with which al Shabaab has hit Kenya in the past, the slow and inadequate counter-intelligence and security responses and the paucity of research and scholarship on al Shabaab in universities suggests that the militia is not well understood.

Dr Stig Hansen's book, Al Shabaab in Somalia, shows how local dynamics and international jihadists' ideology fomented "one of Somalia's most efficient political organisations over the last 20 years". Critical to al Shabaab's origin, strategy, and exponential growth, it suggests, were the return of Somali



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

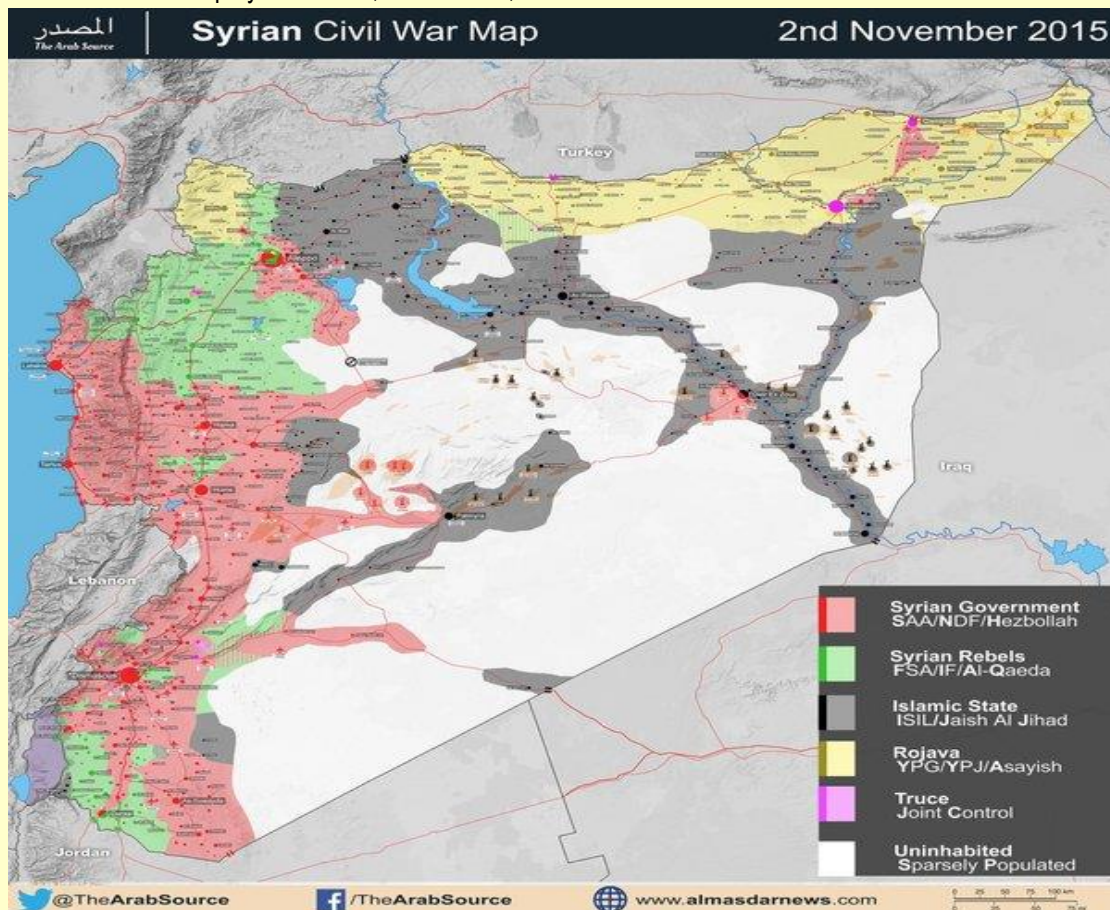
mujahedeen fighters from the 1979-89 war in Afghanistan, the presence in Somalia of al Qaeda and other foreign fighters from the global jihad movement, strategic communication, instrumental use of religious texts and the use of the internet and other social media platforms. Somalia's allegiance to al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden in particular gave it international acclaim and ability to recruit and radicalise Somali diaspora youth, the book says.

The national security challenge for Kenya is the blowback from well-trained jihadists crossing from Somalia into Kenya with ease, given the porous border. Once in Kenya and hidden among their kindred, they become the "sleeping cells" that, once activated, cause attacks in the homeland.

Al Shabaab has deployed attrition, intimidation,

How will this pan out? While al Qaeda's vanguard movement offers al Shabaab the mystic of martyrdom, ISIS controls huge territories where it is executing barbaric violence coupled with much-needed social services and instantaneous victory towards an Islamic caliphate. Sadly, brutality, shock, and awe are ISIS's selling points. Indeed, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's salute of "victory through fear and terrorism" countervails Bin Laden's crucifix between the weak horse and the strong horse.

So while al Qaeda "is framed squarely in the long term", ISIS provides here on earth, "a Muslim society with all the trappings" to attract all and sundry to its battlefields as it builds the caliphate inch by inch. On May 22, CNN aired a six-minute propaganda recruitment video by ISIS.



and provocation in its war against Kenya. At the ideological standpoint, al Shabaab currently pledges its loyalty to al Qaeda as seen in Gaidi Mtaani issue one. However, given al Shabaab's penchant for political and strategic relevance as the key drivers of its resource mobilisation and recruitment strategy, it will likely change tact and pledge new allegiance to ISIS.

The video featured five unmasked men of Somali ethnicity in full praise of Somali jihadis and the insurgent Al Shabaab fighters as the "truthful mujahedeen". The ISIS video implored upon al Shabaab to pledge allegiance to ISIS. If and when this happens, al Shabaab's shift in ideological allegiance from al Qaeda to ISIS would be a critical



game-changer in Kenya's war on terror.

Al Shabaab's intelligence and surveillance operations appear to draw from many sources. Its execution of violence and intimidation, though, incomparable to ISIS, somehow resembles Abu Bakr Naji's book, *The Management of Savagery*, which seeks to remake Muslim regions past and present fall into the state of "savagery".

This is not about exploiting the chaos, but rather recasting the savagery into the Islamic Caliphate founded on the Sharia law. Al Shabaab draws from Naji's strategy of "paying the price", which implies that for any military or political action perpetrated by democratic regimes or what they refer to as infidels and apostate regimes, a hefty price must be borne by the offending party. To boost its recruitment and radicalisation strategy, al Shabaab, in Gaidi Mtaani issue four, restates "paying the price" to read "it is simple; as you have done unto others, expect them to return the favour in the same measure".

The lesson for Kenya is simple. The terrorists will strike knowing very well the country's response feeds into their long-term strategy. This is the lingering challenge in forming a counter-terrorism strategy.

How do you balance the tactical and operational aspects of counter-terrorism with the strategic and geopolitical imperatives? Kenya is fighting an asymmetrical war and to win it, it requires a non-conventional war strategy. There has to be a mix of hardware (guns) and software (butter). Kenya's national security hinges on the stability of Somalia more than anything else. Kenya cannot just pull out of Somalia. We are tied at the hip.

As a strategy to fight al Shabaab, it is worth noting that it currently uses the personal stories of young returnees from the diaspora to appeal to, recruit, and radicalise disenchanted youth.

This idea of peer-to-peer recruitment is the story in Gaidi Mtaani issue six. What should worry our national security establishment is the copycat recruitment strategy al Shabaab is attempting on the men and women of our disciplined forces. In Gaidi Mtaani issue six, *Risala Kwa Askari Muislamu wa Kenya*, al Shabaab taunts and appeals to Kenya's security men and women of the Muslim faith to either abandon their service to Kenya and join al Shabaab, or remain in the forces and become the enemy within.

Recall that on November 5, 2009, Nidal Hasan, a US army major and psychiatrist, fatally shot 13 people and injured more than 30 others at the 1st Cavalry Division of US Army at Fort Hood, Texas. Kenya's security organs need to develop an anti-radicalisation and monitoring strategy for its own men and women to prevent such heinous infiltration.

The use of strategic communication in al Shabaab's propaganda has gone a notch higher. It is important to emphasise al Shabaab's strategic communication expertise and how it recasts, reframes, and repositions itself to remain current and relevant in the global jihadist movement. That is precisely the purpose of Gaidi Mtaani issue seven, which reframes "Operation Linda Nchi" into "Operation Vuruga Kenya!". This suggests to its followers that more attacks of the Westgate magnitude are planned for Kenya.

This should not come as a surprise. Empirical evidence suggests al Shabaab attacks are staggered and serial in nature, meaning they execute a major attack followed by a long period of inactivity. To prevent complacency, our counter-terrorism strategy should be constantly recalibrated. We should also improve surveillance and security operations, especially at key installations and business complexes.

The way forward, I strongly believe, is to form a national security strategy. This will operationalise the existing national security policy to secure the northern region and the coastal areas. This region is critical to the attainment of Vision 2030. It hosts the country's newly discovered hydro-carbons and is the critical gateway of the Lapsset project. In my view, al Shabaab's strategic plan for northern Kenya and the coastal region is to create anarchy. When that happens, al Shabaab will troop in and provide governance and other public services. It will then blackmail the Kenyan government for having failed our Muslim brothers and sisters who inhabit these areas. This is the psychological building block of al Shabaab's desired caliphate.

Al Shabaab is against our freedom and democracy. It dislikes our secular form of governance, religious tolerance, our dalliance with the West, and the open and enterprising society that is Kenya.

Let me end by saying kudos to our national security organs. I know for sure you have foiled and



prevented so many al Shabaab attacks against Kenya. For sure we will never know get to know about your success stories, but when you

miss one and it kills many, you must bear with our displeasure.

*Dr Kemoli Sagala works at the Kenya School of Government.*

## Muslim activists alarmed by the FBI's new game-like counterterrorism program for kids

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/11/02/muslims-and-arab-groups-concerned-about-fbi-counter-extremism-program-aimed-at-schools/>



Nov 02 – **The FBI has designed an unusual game-style Web site about extremism meant to be used by teachers and students to help the agency spot and prevent radicalization of youth**, say Muslim and Arab advocacy groups who were briefed by the FBI on the program and fear it will foment discrimination against Muslims.

The law enforcement agency characterized the program, which appears to be the first aimed at the nation's schools, as one that will keep youth from falling prey to online recruiting by terrorists. But some members of the Muslim and Arab advocacy groups invited to preview the effort complained that despite being described as combatting "violent extremism," it frames the topic heavily through the lens of Islam and will lead to profiling of Muslim youth.

The Web site, called **"Don't Be A Puppet,"** was scheduled to go live Monday but was put temporarily on hold in the past few days.

After initially declining to comment altogether, the agency Sunday night issued a statement.

"The FBI is developing a Web site designed to provide awareness about the dangers of violent extremist predators on the Internet, with input from students, educators and community leaders," the statement read.

The community groups said last month the FBI called several people to a meeting. Also at the meeting, the FBI described its plan for "Shared Responsibility Committees," which the Muslim and Arab participants said are proposed groups of community leaders and FBI representatives who could discuss cases of specific youths.

Participants said they were also very concerned about that concept, which they perceive as institutionalizing an informant system, and complained to the Department of Justice. That program was put on hold last week, according to participants.

"It seems like they're asking teachers to be extensions of law enforcement and to police thought, and students as well.





That was very concerning to us all,” Hoda Hawa, director of policy and advocacy for the Muslim Public Affairs Council, called MPAC, said of the site.

The federal government and local law enforcement have struggled to find ways to reach young Americans who may be attracted to violent Islamic extremism before they break the law. In addition to the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department has recently set up pilot programs in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Boston.

Since the United States designated the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, as a terrorist organization in 2014, the FBI has made scores of arrests, many of them of young people who were radicalized on-line after consuming dangerous propaganda.

Last month, FBI Director James B. Comey said ISIS does crowd-sourcing for terrorism using a two-prong siren song: “Come to the Caliphate,” or “if you can’t come, kill somebody where you are.”

“That buzz all day long in your pocket, come or kill, come or kill, come or kill, has a tremendous impact on the troubled mind.”

Comey said there were more than 900 homegrown violent extremist cases, the vast majority of them related to the Islamic State.

The FBI has separate programs on mass shootings and economic espionage, among other things.

The community groups noted that experts disagree on what might be clear signs of radicalization among young people – in cases involving Muslims or non-Muslims.

Seamus Hughes, deputy director of George Washington University’s program on extremism, said work in schools could be complicated.

“Schools can be an important space in spotting and combating radicalization, as teachers are often best positioned to see concerning signs. Of course this needs to be done right, with proper training, respect of civil liberties and without stigmatizing,” Hughes said. “Doing otherwise would make the effort counterproductive.”

Details about the Web site were vague. However, some participants described what the FBI showed them at the October meeting. It included exercises like a quiz posing questions what would be of interest to the FBI: One option asked about a youth posting on Facebook that she intended to attend a political

protest. What about a young person posting about feeling emotional about something, was a second. The third, participants described, cited a youth with a stereotypically Muslim-sounding name who “posted that he’s going overseas on a mission [and] does anyone want to chat?” Hawa said.

“All our hands went up, like: What’s with this?” she said of the meeting.

Abed Ayoub, legal and policy director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and a participant at the meeting, said advocates asked how schools would come to learn of the site. The FBI said it would reach out to schools to see if they were interested and was aiming for it to be used in civics, social studies and government classes, he said.

They had already showed the site to some “teachers and students in Northern Virginia to get feedback,” Ayoub said. “They said they had received commitments from school districts,” he said, and expected some 400,000 youths to use the site when it rolls out.

It wasn’t clear which Northern Virginia schools, if any, might have been involved in trying out the site and the FBI did not respond to a request to clarify that point.

“The one that should be involved is the Department of Education. The FBI is overreaching its mission,” Ayoub said.

Law enforcement agencies have for a decade been debating and creating similar programs called counter-radicalization or countering violent extremism, or CVE. Some involved improving communication and partnerships between Muslim organizations and law enforcement.

Some Muslim leaders are skeptical of efforts they see as disproportionately focused on Muslims and wrongly leaning on Muslims to connect law enforcement to people who may simply be criticizing U.S. foreign policy or have mental health issues, among other scenarios.

“The most controversial part of CVE is that there is no consensus as to what is a pre-terrorist indicator,” said Faiza Patel, co-director of the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University’s law school.

Efforts a decade ago were “crude,” Patel said, and focused on things like whether someone was becoming more religious, growing a beard or changing their pattern in mosque attendance.



"It's evolved a bit, but if you say signs of radicalization are alienation and disaffection – that can apply to many, many people. You can project onto CVE whatever you think causes terrorism," said Patel, who had not seen the FBI Web site. "I have teenagers, they are alienated and disaffected a good amount of the time."

Patel said this was the first she'd heard of such a program meant for use in schools.

Ayoub said the concept of the Shared Responsibility Committees took up more of the hours-long meeting and was more disturbing to him. Some Muslims have since Sept. 11, 2001, expressed concern about government

informants in mosques, and the committees seemed like an effort to institutionalize an informant system. When the FBI opens a case into someone, Ayoub said, it would bring the name to the committee, which would review it, meet with the youth and perhaps someone in mental health or a mentor, and then report back to the FBI.

"What if the issue is one of mental health? We don't believe the FBI has a role in this type of work. The FBI should be about protecting the community," Ayoub said.

The Justice Department did not respond to request for comment.

## Swiss Gov't: Authorities Facing 70 'Jihadi Terrorism' Cases

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/swiss-govt-authorities-facing-70-jihadi-terrorism-cases-34909066>

Nov 02 – **The Swiss government says the terrorism threat has increased this year, and police and intelligence services are now handling about 70 cases involving "jihadi-motivated terrorism."**

The Federal Council, the country's seven-member executive, says it's considering stronger measures against extremism such as stopping suspected jihadis from leaving the country. The federal department of justice and police is to look into the effectiveness and consequences of such measures.

A new report on terrorism-tracking compiled by the Swiss federal police and intelligence service shown to the council last week and made public Monday points to the Europe-wide phenomenon of jihad-motivated trips to Syria, with women and children increasingly joining men to travel.

The council said the federal prosecutor has opened criminal proceedings into about 20 of the 70-odd cases and will begin handing out indictments this fall. Switzerland has documented far fewer cases than larger European countries like Britain or France.

Federal police spokesman Alex Rechsteiner said the 70 cases include would-be jihadis who traveled to conflict zones like Syria and Iraq, as well as others behind suspicious Internet activities or logistics planning at home. **The report said the intelligence service had tallied 40 departures.**



## Singapore – How much of a threat is ISIS to the region?

Source <http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/how-much-threat-isis-region>

With the emergence and growing influence of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the threat of transnational terrorism erupting in the region has grown significantly over the past year.

While ISIS and its affiliates threaten to destabilise the entire region, Singapore faces an outsized risk for a number of reasons, say experts.

They range from Singapore's reputation as one of the most secure countries in the world today, to its status as a global hub for finance and

shipping, and its close relationships with the Western world.

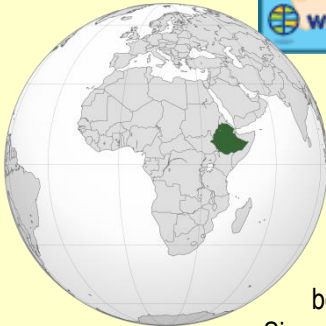
The sum of these features puts Singapore in terrorists' sights, as any successful attack would be likely to shake global confidence in how secure people think they are.

"Although Indonesia and Malaysia oppose ISIS, Singapore is identified by the South-east Asian terrorists as the region's closest ally of the United States," says Professor Rohan Gunaratna, who heads the International



Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR).

"Although Singapore's relations with the West and its hub status are its strengths, they also make Singapore a prized terrorist target." Previously, the main terrorism risk in the region had been from militant group Jemaah Islamiah (JI). But it was dealt a major blow



by strong security action in the decade following the Sept 11 attacks by Al-Qaeda, and following the discovery a month later of a plot by JI to bomb embassies in Singapore.

"Prior to ISIS' rise in June 2014, there was a sense that the physical threat was declining because of very effective security force action within South-east Asia," says Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna, head of policy studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

But ISIS has been a game-changer, serving as a rallying force for militant groups in South-east Asia, says Dr Kumar. Experts estimate that close to 30 groups from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have taken oaths of allegiance to ISIS over the past year.

"One of the reasons for this development is that despite all the actions by the coalition

against ISIS in the Iraq and Syria region, they are still there, and appear to be very resilient," he says. "They (ISIS) seem to be consolidating, so this gives the impression that they are here to stay."

The support groups in South-east Asia help translate and disseminate ISIS propaganda within the region - and are also a source of fighters for the conflict in Syria and Iraq. To date, more than 700 fighters from Indonesia and 200 from Malaysia have made their way to participate in the violence in the region, a critical mass that prompted ISIS to form a dedicated South-east Asian military unit, Katibah Nusantara.

There is a real risk that these fighters could begin a fresh cycle of violence reminiscent of the JI threat after fighters returned from Afghanistan in the 1980s, says ICPVTR research analyst Jasminder Singh, who notes that a key Katibah leader is former JI member Bahrum Syah.

"While the Malay-speaking jihadists who fought in Afghanistan in the 1980s formed the backbone of the Jemaah Islamiah in the 1990s and the first decade of 2000, IS seems to have more grandiose plans for its Malay Archipelago fighters," he says.

A just-released paper co-authored by Mr Singh traces the expansion of Katibah into three geographical groupings and the assistance it has provided to Indonesian terrorist groups, including its alleged funding of several foiled bomb plots in Indonesia.

**The August issue of ISIS' online magazine Dabiq has also called for the targeting of embassies in countries that are part of the global coalition against the group - a coalition that includes Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.**

## Can Ethiopia Survive Its Own War on Terror?

By Christina Goldbaum

Source: <http://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/can-ethiopia-survive-its-own-war-on-terror/65012>



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

Nov 03 – On April 2, as I waited in a doctor's office near Nairobi, the anchor of Kenya's morning news broadcast began reporting what would prove to be a horrific attack on Garissa University by the Somali terrorist group al-Shabab. As the early news trickled in, some people around me looked at the television screen, and others just checked their phones. Most, however, just stared impatiently at the doctor's door.

In Kenya, another terror attack wasn't shocking news. Indeed, the number of attacks in Kenya has more than doubled since 2013, and the assault on Garissa, which killed 148, was just

the-means debate, with critics saying it relies on security and intelligence gathering that is too heavy-handed.

**In its defense, the country of 94 million has been focused on the jihadi threat much longer than the rest of the region.**

Antagonism began in the 1990s, when al-Shabab's precursor, al-Ittihad al-Islami, or AIAI, launched a number of border region attacks. In 2006, Ethiopia invaded Somalia to oust Islamists who had seized control of large swaths of the country; rights groups accused Ethiopian forces of killing civilians and other atrocities. Ethiopia withdrew its troops in 2009,



the latest in a growing list of al-Shabab outside Somalia. In 2010, a suicide bombing in Uganda killed 74 people; last year, militants carried out the first suicide bombing in Djibouti's history; and in April, Tanzanian authorities arrested 10 people carrying explosives, bomb detonators and an al-Shabab flag. Meanwhile, in **Ethiopia, a country with a longer history of military involvement in Somalia and a much longer border with the country than Kenya, the number of al-Shabab attacks in recent years is ... well, zero.** The last attempted attack in the country happened two years ago and ended when two would-be suicide bombers blew themselves up in their safe house in the capital of Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia's success at evading attacks might not seem so remarkable, except that even the most developed countries, including the United States, have generally floundered in their counterterrorism efforts. Yet the blueprint Ethiopia is following to thwart al-Shabab attacks — and ultimately to help stall the Islamic State's inroads into Africa — has its own set of civil rights issues. Indeed, the country sparked its own form of an ends-justify-

but last year it joined AMISOM, the African Union's peacekeeping force in Somalia.

In the years since, Ethiopia has set up a buffer zone along its 1,010-mile border with Somalia. On the Somali side, it has trained local militias; on the Ethiopian side, it has created a militarized zone off-limits to American military or humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, the country's grassroots "five-to-one" security program provides a safety net: **For every five households, one person is designated to report on new faces and any other changes in the status quo.**

**And despite having one of the world's lowest rates of mobile phone and Internet penetration, Ethiopia has some of the world's most high-tech surveillance capabilities.** The government has a monopoly on the telecommunications sector, and in 2012 it invested roughly \$1 million in hacking software, allowing it to record Skype calls, listen in on phone conversations, and access emails, files and passwords.

Were it monitoring only legitimate terrorist threats, its intelligence



system could be a model. But like the U.S., Kenya and so many others, Ethiopia hasn't escaped the great irony of counterterrorism: undermining human rights as it tries to protect them. According to recent Human Rights Watch reports, the government has monitored journalists, opposition party members and anyone else perceived to be a threat to its grip on power. Recordings of phone calls have been used during abusive interrogations of people whom, under Ethiopia's vaguely worded 2009 anti-terrorism law, the government labels terrorists, a 2014 HRW report says. "Ethiopia is a police state," says Bronwyn Bruton, deputy director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center, terming it "almost North Korea-esque."

So far, Ethiopia's authoritarian regime has been given a relatively free pass by the international community. **The U.S., which is Ethiopia's largest provider of foreign aid, considers it a strategic partner in counterterrorism efforts.** In July, President Barack Obama visited Addis Ababa to address the African Union. Some worry the West's acquiescence sets a dangerous precedent. "The rest of the sub-Saharan countries see this and see that they can pass this kind of

legislation," says Felix Horne, a researcher at Human Rights Watch. The government seems unfazed by criticism. Din Mufti Sid, ambassador to Kenya, laughed off the label "police state." "If protecting [your people] gives you a bad name," he tells OZY, "who the hell cares?"

**Critics suggest the country's repressive measures could breed homegrown terrorism.**

"My big concern with Ethiopia is the way they are behaving ... is actually going to push people into the arms of extremists," Bruton says. For the past several years, thousands of Muslims have marched in protests over government treatment of the Islamic community. Many protests have been violently disrupted.

But with al-Shabab calling for fresh attacks inside the country, even its strict security may not be enough going forward. "If there's one thing we've learned about al-Shabab it's that it's highly adaptive and creative," says Matt Bryden, chairman of Sahan Research, a Nairobi-based think tank. "The measures Ethiopia has in place today may well not be sufficient tomorrow."

## Why 100 US cities are eager to welcome Muslim migrants despite ISIS terrorism risks

Source: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/why.100.us.cities.are.eager.to.welcome.muslim.migrants.despite.terrorism.risks/69504.htm>

Nov 03 – Some have questioned why the United States has agreed to accept so many Syrian migrants into the country, with critics warning that terror group ISIS may try to use



the migrant problem as a way of injecting lone wolf attackers into the country. However, some

have now highlighted a recent Economist magazine article claiming that the reasons for the acceptance may be for economic reasons.

According to the magazine, **100 U.S. cities are competing with one another to accept migrants to take advantage of economic incentives that could come with the influx of refugees.**

Reuters – Syrian refugees arrive aboard the passenger ferry Blue Star Patmos from the island of Lesbos at the port of Piraeus, near Athens, Greece, on Oct. 29, 2015.

Mayors in some cities are relying on an influx of new immigrants to fill a void left by



residents who have left their cities in droves. The Economist feature states that most of the residents who have left are native-born middle class whites who have moved to the suburbs.

**One city highlighted is Baltimore, which it is**



**claimed, needs a population boost in its inner-city areas.** The city's mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, told the Economist that Baltimore desperately needs new residents to keep its economy going, noting that the city has lost a third of its population since 1950.

Rawlings-Blake is one of 18 U.S. mayors asking the Obama administration to give them more Syrian refugees.

These 18 were among 100 mayors who have formed a group named ["Cities United for Immigration Action."](#)

Baltimore, Maryland's largest city, previously received refugees from United Nations camps in developing countries.

**According to the Economist, Baltimore has been used for more than a decade as an entry point for refugees into the United States.** Federal agencies led by the State Department have reportedly sent 700-800

refugees to the city each year in recent years, with refugees coming from troubled places as Nepal, Iraq and Eritrea.

However, the magazine also notes that after just a few years, two-thirds of these refugees left Baltimore and moved on to other cities.

**Aside from Baltimore, other major U.S. cities that are in need of more people to man their industries include Detroit (which has lost almost half of its population) in Michigan, Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania and Syracuse in New York.**

These cities are now competing in attracting new residents, offering them jobs and assistance in overcoming language barriers and paper work needed for their

employment. Some cities offer newcomers grants to enable them to quickly set up their own businesses, according to the Economist.

**Syracuse is also one of the cities openly courting migrants to settle in the city. As a result, Syracuse has received so many Muslim refugees over the past decade that it recently resorted to converting one of its largest Catholic churches into a mosque; a project that was approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and funded by American taxpayers, according to Robert Spencer in his blog, Jihad Watch.**

In their letter to Obama, the mayors stated that they are aware of the security risks of importing Syrian refugees as pointed out by FBI Director James Comey, but they also say they believe the economic benefits outweigh the potential security threats.

## Ansar al-Islam's next targets

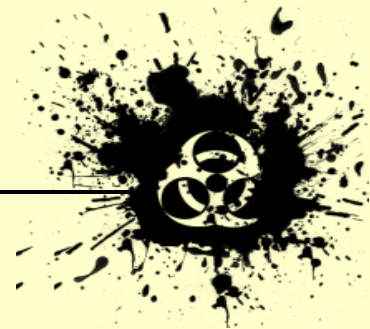
Source <http://bangladeshchronicle.net/2015/11/the-following-text-has-been-extracted-from-the-image-of-a-leaflet-posted-on-the-twitter-page-of-ansar-al-islam-4-on-behalf-of-al-qaeda-in-the-indian-subcontinent-aqis-the-same-twi/>

### Who's Next?

**Presently, our next targets are as follows:**

(1) Those who insult or vilify Allah, the most High, our prophet Muhammad or the religion Islam. We are not targeting every atheist bloggers. We don't have problem with other religions or beliefs but we will not tolerate anyone insulting prophet Muhammad.

We are targeting those who are insulting our Prophet in the name of Atheism, Free Speech or Free Thinking.



(2) Those who protect, help and support the above mentioned insulters financially, ideologically or through organizations.

(3) Those who don't allow others to follow the rulings of the Islamic Shariah:

-He/she might be a teacher of a University, College or School.

-He/she might be a leader of a certain area or locality or a political party.

-He/she might be a Judge, Advocate, Engineer or Doctor etc.

(4) Those who intentionally misrepresent Islam in their writings or talks in order to take the Muslim community away from Islam which is one of the major agendas of the Crusaders and Indian Mushrikin.

-He/she might be a well known writer.

-He/she might be a poet or free thinker or so called intellectuals.

-He/she might be an editor of a newspaper or magazine.

-He/she might be a actor, journalist, producer, director or actor etc.

(5) Those who oppose the Islamic Shariah by their talks or writings or show insolence towards it or insult it.

(6) Those who are engaged in spreading nudity, obscenity and shamefulfulness in the Muslim society.

Note that, there is a huge difference in the Islamic Shariah between doing something haram (prohibited) personally and trying to spread it in the society.

(7) Those who are making vicious moves to remove the remnants of the Islamic Shariah from the socio-economic system of the country.

(8) Those who are actively trying to extinguish the light of Allah Almighty from this land.

In short, the Mujahideen will target, by the permission of Allah, every apostates and enemies of Islam who are trying to insult Allah Almighty, our prophet Muhammad or the religion of Islam by any means.

Innocent Muslims are never our targets. We seek refuge to Allah Almighty from these sins.

Innocent Hindus-Buddhists-Christians who don't have enmity with Islam, are not our targets either

May Allah, the Lord of the worlds, punish his enemies in the hands of the Mujahideen and heal the breasts of the believers.

May Allah make the Islamic Shariah victorious in this land. Certainly victory comes from Allah alone and He is our only helper and guardian. We worship none but Him and supplicate to Him alone.

All praise belongs to Allah, exalted and glorified is He and peace and blessing to our beloved prophet Muhammad.

Mufti Abdullah Ashraf.

Spokesman, Ansar Al Islam.

(Al-Qaidah in the Indian Sub-Continent)

17th Maharram, 1437 Hijri/31st October, 2015 AD.



## Activists Planning Protests at Rio Olympics Are Worried They Could Be Charged With Terrorism

Source: <https://news.vice.com/article/activists-planning-protests-at-rio-olympics-are-worried-they-could-be-charged-with-terrorism>



Nov 03 – **Activists in Brazil say a proposed law defining terrorism will criminalize protest movements, including those looking to use media attention on the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro to highlight social injustices and push for reforms.**

The bill, authored by President Dilma Rousseff's office, was amended on its way through the lower house of Congress to add specific exemptions for social movements, but



these were removed when it sailed through the Senate last week. It now heads back for a final reading by Brazil's deputies, and would require final approval by the president.

Supporters of the bill argue Brazil needs legislation to define and fight terrorism, though experts charge that the move stems from pressure from the US-led anti-terrorism body — the Financial Action Task Force, or FATF — amid fears of sanctions that could exacerbate the country's recession. The bill was signed by Rousseff's top economic team — including finance minister Joaquim Levy, who government sources told VICE News is the legislation's main proponent.

**More than 80 social and political movements have signed an open letter repudiating what they label a "retrograde step" in citizens' rights to protest.** The letter argues that the bill would make routine the "state of exception" that they say Brazil first imposed by default during the World Cup last year — by giving the authorities the power to

arrest and charge people as "terrorists" should the tiniest amount of damage result from heated protests.

"Under this law, anything that happens during a protest, if a pane of glass gets broken even accidentally, will be considered terrorism," Ana Paula Ribeiro of the Homeless Workers' Movement, or MTST, told VICE News.

"We will not stop our protests until politicians step back from this unnecessary law," Ribeiro continued. She also vowed that the group — one of Brazil's biggest social movements —

would not "abandon the streets" even if the bill is approved, as expected.

**Critics have focused their opposition to the bill on the vagueness of its definitions of what constitutes a terrorist attack that could carry with it jail terms of up to 30 years.** The motives listed include "political extremism", and the "artefacts" used in them

could be defined as anything from explosives to nuclear weapons. The targets itemized include communication networks serving public services, infrastructure, military installations, banking institutions, the oil industry, and stadiums.

**One particularly controversial clause also defines "vandalizing... or destroying... public transport or any public or private property" as acts of terrorism.**

Violence and vandalism are periodic features of protests in Brazil. Both were present in the huge protests in 2013 and 2014 against the government, the state of public services and the multi-billion-dollar price tag of the World Cup.

Dozens of activists were arrested during the tournament, including Camila Jourdan, a university lecturer. She was among 23 people detained preventively in Rio de Janeiro ahead of the July 2014 final. She was held in prison for 13 days





accused of carrying and storing explosives and of criminal association and has been banned from participating in protests while the case against her continues.

"The new terrorism law is an attempt to transform political and social movements into criminal movements," Jourdan told VICE News by phone from Rio. "Judges can already use existing legislation to lock up protesters preventively. The new law is even more vague and aims to stop social movements doing much more than walking up and down Copacabana Beach."

Some of the activists' concerns have been echoed in the legislature. Senators Humberto Costa, Vanessa Grazziotin and Randolfe Rodrigues tried and failed to re-introduce amendments aimed at exempting activists from the definitions.

"By including 'political extremism' as one of the elements defining terrorism, the bill opens a precedent to criminalize activists," Senator Rodrigues told the Senate during the debate.

The amendments were rejected by the majority, with the argument that it should be up to judges to decide whether an attack constitutes terrorism or not.

But some legal experts have criticized this approach: "It is problematic to simplify things this way," says Francisco Brito Cruz, a lawyer and human rights philosopher. "Each analysis will have a political angle and each judge will interpret it a different way".

Meanwhile, the proposed law has also been slammed by many who are convinced that it stems from Brazilian acquiescence to recommendations by the U.S.-led global Financial Action Task Force, rather than any genuine internal need to address a terrorist threat.

The FATF was set up as a G7 initiative in 1989 to fight money laundering worldwide. It was beefed up in the wake of the September 11 attacks and given the power to impose economic sanctions and tarnish financial reputations, triggering downgrading from credit rating agencies.

The FATF issues directives on the legislation that it considers should be introduced in member countries, which now number 36 including Brazil. In 2010 it drew up a report saying that Brazil should "create a stand-alone offense to criminalize terrorist financing... as a matter of priority."

Several government officials told VICE News the FATF recommendations were not the catalyst for the legislation.

"Perhaps the president ordered the bill be fast-tracked because of the FATF threats, but that is not the case with Congress," said Senator Aloysio Nunes, the bill's main sponsor in the upper house.

However, an internal Senate report, obtained by VICE News, highlights that ignoring the Task Force's recommendations could be costly at a time when Brazil is struggling to emerge from recession. "Not approving this bill may lead to international sanctions on Brazil, as alerted by the FATF, which could blacklist Brazil as a 'non-compliant country'," the report says.

On October 16, President Dilma Rousseff signed a law criminalizing the financing of terrorism in accordance with FATF's instructions and ahead of a special meeting with the body on October 20. It still, however, lacked the law defining what terrorism is.

According to Ibrahim Warde, author of *The Price of Fear: The Truth Behind The Financial War on Terror*, the FATF has been using a of policy of naming and shaming countries to coerce policymakers into approving laws. "Most countries are not politically strong enough to oppose the recommendations. There has been a lot of vulnerability since the 2008 economic crisis," Warde told VICE News.

Critics say the FATF has been pushing countries not only into defining terrorism financing, but terrorism itself -- a term over which there is scant international consensus. They say that such legislation has now restricted protesters' rights — directly or indirectly — in more than 15 countries, including Spain, Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia.

"We are particularly concerned about the lack of human rights safeguards within FATF and the fact that the recommendations do not take into account the proportionality of the measures that they propose to governments," Iva Dobichina, of Open Society's Human Rights Initiative, told VICE News.

"In countries that are traditionally not welcoming to civil society, this type of recommendation is yet another excuse to push back against it," she added. "We need to ensure ... these laws do not violate people's ability to organize."



**Now, with less than a year until hundreds of thousands of people descend on Rio for the 2016 Olympics, Brazilian social movements insist they should be allowed to use the world spotlight to draw attention to their causes without the fear of a terrorism charge hanging over their heads.**

"Rio's Olympic Games have already been used to justify waging war on the poorest in society,"

Jourdan said, referring to the forced removal of families from shanty towns to make way for installations for the Games that are costing around \$10 billion to stage.

"I'm absolutely convinced that, had this law been in place last year, I would have been on trial as a terrorist and so would many others."

## **Finnish security services: Increase in number of asylum seekers raised terrorism threat**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151104-finnish-security-services-increase-in-number-of-asylum-seekers-raised-terrorism-threat>

Nov 04 – **The Finnish Security Intelligence Service (FSIS) on Tuesday said that the rise in the number of asylum seekers had increased the threat of terrorism in Finland.**

**Finland uses a national terrorism warning system, and the FSIS yesterday raised the warning level from "very low" to "low."**

FSIS also said it was tracking about 300 individuals for possible connections to Islamist militant groups. The security agency noted that several of those being monitored were among 25,000 asylum applicants who have arrived in Finland since the beginning of the year.

The FSIS also said that Islamist groups with presence in Finland have been trying to recruit Finnish youths for some time now.

Channel NewsAsia reports that FSIS director Antti Pelttari told national broadcaster YLE that "The sudden change in the refugee situation means a significant threat to Finland's security."

**So far this year about 700,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in the EU zone.** The majority of them come from Syria, with most of

the others coming from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Eritrea.

Pelttari said fifteen Fins who recently left Finland to join ISIS had been killed in Syria and Iraq, while twenty had returned to Finland.

**FSIS also said that the sharp increase in the number of refugees arriving in Finland had fostered an anti-immigrant atmosphere in which the threat of violent hate crime had also increased.**

The past few months saw many anti-immigrant demonstrations throughout Finland since late summer, and on Saturday a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a building housing a center for underage asylum seekers.

"Finnish extremist organizations have been activated to oppose immigration, and this is the most visible and concrete security threat," Interior Minister Petteri Orpo told YLE.

**Channel NewsAsia notes that Finland expects 30,000-35,000 asylum seekers to arrive this year, compared with 3,600 in 2014.**

## **Russian-made cargo plane crash in S. Sudan kills dozens. Second Mid East air disaster**

Source: <http://www.debka.com/article/24992/Russian-made-cargo-plane-crash-in-S-Sudan-kills-dozens-Second-Mid-East-air-disaster>

Nov 04 – No cause has yet been established for the Russian-made Antonov Ant-12's crash-landing on the east bank of the Nile River 800 m short of Juba international airport in South Sudan Wednesday, Nov. 4. Its five-man crew

were Russians. According to first reports some 40 people were killed both on board and on the ground, although there appear to be two survivors.



But none of the 224 passengers and crew



aboard the Metrojet Flight 9268 Airbus 321 survived the airliner's crash in central Sinai Saturday, Oct. 31, en route from their holiday in Sharm El Sheikh to St. Petersburg.

Russian sources following the forensic examination of the bodies and partial remains of the victims flown to St. Petersburg report that they show evidence of an explosion in the plane before it plummeted to the ground. Further testing is required to establish the cause of the explosion.

faulty fuel. Russian fuel experts found nothing wrong with the fuel.

An Egyptian physician who inspected the scene of the disaster found that one out of every five bodies he saw had been incinerated to death from a fire that may have started in the passenger's cabin and spread to the rest of the plane. Egyptian experts reported that "the large number of separate body fragments" could indicate that a strong explosion occurred onboard before the aircraft hit the

ground. They were scattered across a radius of 8-10 square kilometers from the wreckage.

Russian and Egyptian sources tracking the examination of the two black boxes found evidence that the calamity occurred too rapidly for the pilots or crew to send an SOS or even say a few words.

As the probe of the air catastrophe began Tuesday and Wednesday, Moscow and Cairo were increasingly at odds on their findings. The Russians asserted that the plane must have



A US infrared satellite detected a heat flash at the same time and same vicinity over Sinai where the Russian plane went down. A US defense official added that the same satellite would have been able to track the tell-tale heat trail of a missile from the ground. "The speculation that this plane was brought down by a missile is off the table," the official said. Another official said, "the plane disintegrated at a very high altitude."

The general consensus ahead of the Egyptian and Russian probes is that a sudden, catastrophic explosion caused the crash - whether from a bomb inside, "external impact" - as the Metrjet company claims - or from

broken up into two parts as a result of a strong explosion, whereas Egyptian officials remained intent on playing down the claim of responsibility for the crash published Saturday by the Sinai wing of the Islamic State. They criticize the Russians as rushing to conclusions ahead of the probe.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fatteh El-Sisi arrived in London Wednesday for talks with British Prime Minister David Cameron. In interviews prior to his arrival, the Egyptian president said that he will demand that David Cameron "complete his mission in Libya to prevent the country being dominated by



Islamists.”

By “mission,” El-Sisi was referring to the UK’s role in the coalition which toppled Muammar Qaddafi in 2011.

debkafle’s counterterrorism sources report that Egypt faces an acute problem from Libya’s transformation in the last two years into the

main supply source of smuggled arms and fighters for the Islamist terrorists operating in Egypt and Sinai.

While neither the Egyptians or the Russians are willing to admit this, it is highly likely that the missile or explosives which brought down the Russian airliner Saturday came from Libya.

## MANPADS Threats to Civilian Aviation

Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/manpads-shouldnt-threaten-civilian-aviation/>

Nov 05 – What crashed the Russian Airbus A321 in the Sinai Peninsula is yet to be determined. At the time of this writing the British Telegraph reported an ISIS “bomb plot

materialized. Especially so, since ISIS has captured sophisticated MANPADS in Iraq and Syria.

Apparently, U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper took this into consideration, saying on Monday he “wouldn’t rule out” the possibility that ISIS has the ability to shoot down an airliner.



Left: Two insurgents in Iraq with SA-7b and SA-14 MANPADS. Courtesy of U.S. Department of Homeland Security

was uncovered by British spies,” and ISIS’s claim it downed the Russian plane flying at 30,000 feet with a MANPAD (Man Portable Air Defense System), was dismissed outright by counterterrorism and aviation experts. Strangely there seems to be a consensus that “Terrorist groups cannot have such capacities by definition.”

However, **in October 2011, after rebels killed Moammar Gaddafi in Libya, some 20,000 MAENADS went missing. Months later only 5,000 were reportedly destroyed. Where the remaining 15,000 missiles went is unclear.** This however, did not stop then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton from issuing a statement assuring Americans that most of Libya’s weapons, including MANPADS, had been secured. But NATO’s then-military committee chairman, Admiral Giampaolo di Paola, was not so sure. His fear that the missing MAENADS could be scattered “from Kenya to Kunduz [Afghanistan],” subsequently

American carriers do not fly to Sharm el-Sheikh, but the alarming spread of MANPADS is not limited to the Sinai. Yet, U.S. aviation security experts have been arguing that the threat to America’s civil aviation fleet posed by MANPADS is minimal. Moreover, the cost of equipping all passenger aircraft with MANPAD countermeasure devices—estimated in 2010 at \$43 billion thus considered prohibitive and unjustified. So after spending \$276 million over eight years, the U.S. government abandoned the development of such systems.

But wait. An advanced, well-tested and lightweight MANPAD countermeasure system is available today. It is the Multi-Spectral Infrared Countermeasures (MUSIC) family defensive aids for aircraft and helicopters, manufactured by Elbit Systems, an international defense electronics company based in Haifa, Israel. The system has been selling well to private executive planes and other VIP aircrafts. But only Israeli commercial planes have been equipped with the system.

European commercial airline executives are choosing, for now,



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

to curtail their flights, thus hurting (for now) Egypt's economy. And because there were no MANPADs attacks on U.S. carriers at home or abroad, commercial airline executives remain complacent.

When, not if, such missiles were carried by some 'refugees' to Europe and fired at any

civilian airplane, or found their way to Hezbollah operatives, ISIS sympathizers or drug cartels in Mexico and then smuggled into the U.S. and fired at any of more than 7,000 aircraft comprising the U.S. civilian fleet, the struggling European, U.S. and the global economy would be devastated in a flash.

## Going to Stab Someone? Make Sure You Dress Smart!

Source: <http://www.clarionproject.org/news/gaza-clothing-store-features-fashionable-stabbing-attire#>



Photo posted on Facebook by photojournalist Mohammed Asad.

In an apparent quest for Palestinian stabbers to be fashionable at all times, a clothing store in Gaza is advising murderers about the trendiest looks to be sporting while killing Jews.



Mannequins displayed outside of the store clutch knives while dressed in camouflage, balaclavas and scarves printed with Palestinian flags. Note that the name of the store is Hitler.

Screenshot of a Facebook page that has since been removed

Since the latest round of attacks by Palestinians against Israelis, which began at the end of October, 11 Israelis have been killed – mostly through stabbings -- in close to 80 incidents. In addition, more than 850 stone-throwing attacks have been

documented as well as over 370 incidents involving the throwing of Molotov cocktails.

Palestinian media incitement is well-documented, including the fiery rhetoric and actions of the Palestinian Authority and its chairman, Mahmoud Abbas.



Most recently, according to orders from Abbas, all terrorists whose bodies are returned by Israel will receive military funerals with all the accompanying fanfare. He has also sanctioned the waving Hamas flags at the funerals.

**Abbas also ordered that families of the terrorists will be paid generous sums of money.**

## What it means if ISIS did bomb the Russian airliner

By Daniel Byman

Source: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2015/11/05-egypt-plane-possible-isis-bomb-byman>



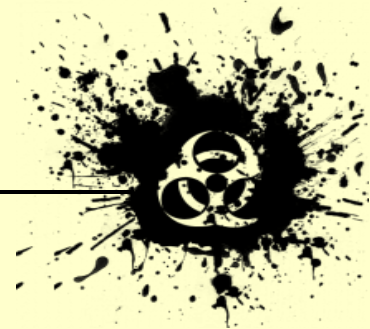
*Editors' Note: It's not yet clear what happened to the Russian airplane that crashed over Sinai on Saturday. If it turns out that ISIS or an affiliate were involved in the incident, it would mark a major shift by the Islamic state and should force us to rethink the threat the group poses, Dan Byman argues. This post was originally published on [Slate](#).*

CNN and other media are reporting that U.S. and European intelligence suspect that ISIS or one of its affiliates used a bomb to bring down a Russian airplane over Sinai on Saturday, killing all 224 aboard. The reporting on this is early and it would be wise to withhold judgment until more information comes in, but this could be a very big deal. If confirmed, this attack would mark a major shift by the Islamic State and should force us to rethink the threat that the group poses to the world.

The caricature of ISIS is that its members are all wild-eyed fanatics bent on conquering the world, butchering, raping, and enslaving as they go. Unfortunately the caricature bears a strong resemblance to reality. But there is an important exception: While the Islamic State's brutality is staggering, its operations have largely been limited in scope. The group seems new because Americans only really began to

consider it a serious threat in 2014, after the beheading of journalist James Foley and the group's sudden and massive incursion into Iraq. But it really began a decade before then in an earlier incarnation as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq, which emerged after the U.S. invasion in 2003. So while the group's name has repeatedly changed and it is now led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, we have a long track record by which to judge it.

Zarqawi and his followers likewise raped, beheaded, and killed Shi'a and Sunnis suspected of supporting the American-backed Iraqi government. They too declared an Islamic government in Iraq and otherwise acted in ways painfully familiar to those who have watched the rise of ISIS the past two years. But the scope of the group's operations for more than a decade has suggested it



has been primarily focused on its local enemies: the Shi'a government of Iraq, the Alawite government of Syria, and to a lesser degree neighbors that opposed it like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Lebanon. In this fight, it primarily has used a mix of conventional and guerrilla war, with terrorist attacks designed to demoralize enemy security forces, sow unrest among its people, and foster sectarian tension. Somewhat surprisingly, despite predictions to the contrary and years of being devastated by U.S. forces in Iraq, the Islamic State's predecessor organizations focused on killing American soldiers in Iraq but did not prioritize international terrorism as a way of expanding the battlefield. Islamic State, meanwhile, has butchered Americans whom it captured in Syria. And it has also called for attacks in the West, but this has been done by so-called "lone wolves," most of whom have little operational connection to the group's core in Syria and Iraq.

Still, Baghdadi's group has had affiliates in places as diverse as Afghanistan, Libya, Nigeria, and, notably, the Sinai that have pledged loyalty to the Islamic State and have had that pledge recognized. Yet these affiliates have so far largely followed their own agendas, embracing some of the Islamic State's brutality—like when Libyan followers beheaded Christians, and the Yemeni branch attacked Shi'a mosques—but not really expanding their horizons beyond their home turf. You would not want to be an American who stumbled across their path, but they were not going to bring the war to America either. They seemed more like a local problem, with Baghdadi's boasts that they were part of a unified caliphate sounding like grandiose rhetoric with little operational meaning.

So if ISIS or its Sinai affiliate did bomb the Russian airplane, it means the organization may be changing in several important ways. First, using terrorism to attack civil aviation would be a major strategic shift. Whether it was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijackings in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Qaddafi regime's bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie in 1988, or the 9/11 attacks, terrorist groups have long targeted airplanes. In 2009 and 2010, al-Qaida's branch in Yemen unsuccessfully tried to target U.S. passenger and cargo planes. The Islamic State now might be embracing this ugly practice. Civil aviation, fortunately, is already a well-guarded target.

Knowing that yet another band of bloodthirsty thugs might attack it is not likely to worsen the misery of flying beyond its present levels, though it may mean you might want to cancel your spring break trip to eastern Libya.

Even more importantly, a new civil-airliner attack would mean the battlefield is expanding. It would mean that rather than striking Russian bases and personnel in Syria, the Islamic State is hitting them wherever they might be found—in this case leaving an Egyptian tourist resort. Here the Islamic State's affiliates become important, for they greatly expand the range of where ISIS could conceivably launch an attack. The attack on a Russian plane may seem intuitive given Putin's recent intervention in Syria, but this too would be a shift. In the past the organization focused on local enemies and on Muslims it considered deviant, not Western or other foreign powers. Russia is particularly loathed among jihadists and now many ordinary Sunni Muslims, so there's a chance the Islamic State is making an exception. The Muslim world has been outraged that Moscow has been slaughtering Sunni Muslims by essentially serving as Bashar al-Assad's air force. (Although, ironically, the Russians have focused their firepower on the moderate Syrian opposition, not ISIS.) And Russia's longstanding brutality in Chechnya and past intervention in Afghanistan make it a time-honored foe. So striking Russia improves the Islamic State's credibility as the avenging angel of Sunnism.

But the United States is high on the most-hated list, too. America devastated al-Qaida in Iraq's ranks in the last decade, and now the United States is bombing ISIS positions in Syria. So if Russia is being targeted internationally, it makes sense to assume Americans will soon be in the crosshairs, too. In fact, this suggests the more aggressive the United States is in Iraq and Syria against ISIS, the more likely the organization is to respond with international terrorism.

The Islamic State has attracted more than 100 Americans and several thousand Europeans to fight in its ranks, so it is well-poised to attack the West should it so choose. I've argued before that this threat is real but often exaggerated. Part of my logic was that Western security services are on alert and that many of the volunteers don't want to do terrorism at home, but an



important factor in my thinking was the local and regional focus of the Islamic State itself. For years now this has largely held true despite frequent doomsaying. But terrorist groups are dynamic, and if the Islamic State is now prioritizing foreign enemies, this is an important shift.

Reports of a bomb are still tentative, and even if they are true it's still too soon to say that the group now is becoming more global in its targeting; one airplane attack may not make a pattern. But we might look back on the downing of Metrojet Flight 9268 as the moment the threat of ISIS transformed itself from a regional menace to a global danger.

*Daniel Byman is the director of research and a senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings. His research focuses on counterterrorism and Middle East security. He is also a professor at Georgetown University's Security Studies Program. He served as a staff member on the 9/11 Commission and worked for the U.S. government. His most recent book is "Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs to Know" (Oxford University Press, 2015).*

## How Hard Is It to Prevent Terrorism in the Air?

Source: <http://news.discovery.com/human/how-hard-is-it-to-prevent-terrorism-in-the-air-151104.htm>



A Metrojet Airbus A321 with tail number EI-ETJ lifts off from an airstrip at Moscow's Domodedovo International Airport on Oct. 20, 2015 - Marina Lystseva/TASS/Corbis

U.S. and British intelligence officials say they believe a bomb was likely responsible for bringing down a Russian charter plane over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula that killed 224 passengers and crew on Saturday.

Investigators continue inspecting wreckage on the ground, as well as security at the Sharm el-Sheikh Airport where the plane took off, but many experts wonder how terrorists could have smuggled an explosive device on board in the first place.

Peter Lehr, lecturer in terrorism studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, said the plane could have been brought down by an uncontained engine failure or "an insider threat,

something like smuggling bomb on board. That's the most likely thing," he said.

Lehr said he believes the British government's decision to suspend all flights from the Egyptian airport to the United Kingdom indicates British officials have some kind of reliable information about the cause of the crash.

"You don't do that lightly because it costs many people lots of money," Lehr said. "There must be some smoking gun somewhere."

An estimated 20,000 British tourists remain at the resort city. The Russian chartered Metrojet Airbus A321 was carrying vacationers from the Red Sea





resort back to St. Petersburg when it crashed 20 minutes after takeoff from Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday morning.

Lehr said that airport workers could have been bribed to smuggle luggage carrying a bomb, or that it could have been the result of a suicide bomber who wasn't checked properly at the gate. A group related to ISIS took credit for the bombing on social media, according to both CNN and NBC News.

But R. John Hansman, director of the International Air Safety Center at MIT, doesn't rule out a catastrophic engine failure as a cause of the crash.

**"It's not easy to create a big-enough hole in an airplane to bring it down," Hansman told Discovery News. "In order to take the airplane down it would have to big enough to create a pressure wave or packed with enough shrapnel to create enough damage. Just putting holes in the fuselage is not enough to cause catastrophic failure."**

Hansman said that each country enforces different safety standards for incoming flights.

Planes coming directly to the United States, for example, have stricter rules for baggage and cargo inspection than on flights between other parts of the globe, he said.

Some nations allow cargo to be loaded on airplanes without direct inspections if the cargo companies that packed the material are pre-screened.

Investigators are looking at whether debris from the fuselage indicates a bomb blast from inside the craft, or shrapnel from the engine that penetrated from outside, according to Hansman. They can also determine the kind of a blast that occurred from examining the nature of wounds on the passengers bodies.

For his part, Lehr believes a possible terrorist bombing could be in retaliation for Russia's decision to begin air strikes in Syria last month, a military operation that Russia says targets ISIS.

"I think there's a very strong connection," said Lehr, who studies Islamic terrorism and its connection to aviation and maritime safety.

## How safe is your resort from the rising threat of Islamic terrorism?

Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/how-safe-your-resort-rising-6786049>

Huge swathes of the Middle East, Asia and Africa are now deemed too dangerous because of the growing terror threat from Islamic extremism.

Here's our breakdown of the world's risky holiday hotspots:

### EGYPT

Until recently 90,000 Brits travelled there every year. Ten years ago 88 people, 11 from the UK, were massacred at Sharm el-Sheikh. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office warns of a high threat from crime, terror and murder but does not warn against travel to Sharm.



### TUNISIA

Thirty Brits were slaughtered in Sousse in June . The Foreign Office advises against all but essential travel there, saying: "Further terrorist attacks are highly likely."

### MOROCCO

Free of terrorists for years, but now the popularity of Marrakesh and Casablanca with Westerners brings warnings of a "high threat of terrorism" there.

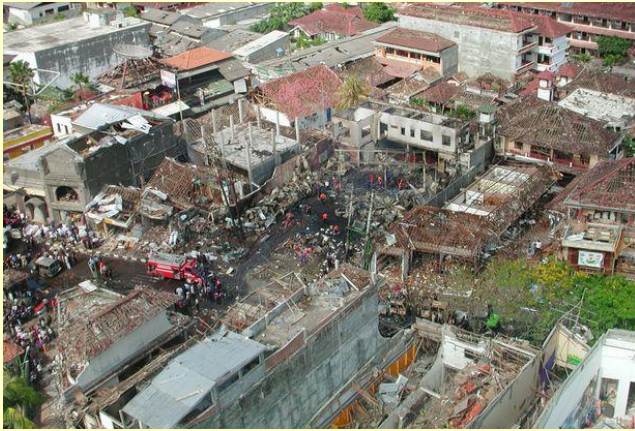
### TURKEY

Swathes of southern Turkey bordering Syria are dangerous to Westerners but the rest of the country is a popular destination for more than 2.5 million of us every year.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

In October Islamic State murdered more than 100 people in Ankara but so far there have been no attacks on holiday resorts. Still relatively safe, providing you research the area you are travelling to and avoid anywhere that borders with Syria.

**INDONESIA**

In 2002 a bomb ripped through Bali, killing 202 people, including 27 Britons. The Foreign Office warns: "There is a high threat from terrorism. Groups continue to plan and carry out attacks. These groups have the capacity and intent to carry out attacks at any time and anywhere."

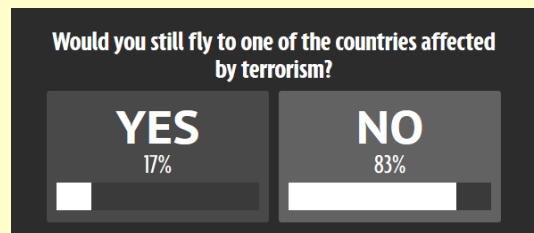
It also warns: "There is a risk of kidnapping at sea in and around the waters of Indonesia. This risk is higher in the Sulu and Celebes Seas."

**MALAYSIA**

There is a general threat from terrorism, with the Foreign Office warning: "Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by foreign travellers."

But the FCO does stress that most British victims in this country are the target for petty crime and around half a million British visitors go there annually and have a trouble-free trip. The FCO warns against all but essential travel to some areas.

► **EDITOR'S COMMENT:** I clicked on "NO" in the poll at the end of this article – these are the results:

**Spain Wants a Wall to Keep ISIS Out**

Source <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/11/07/spain-wants-a-wall-to-keep-isis-out.html>



Nov 07 – Terrorists following the lines laid out for them by the so-called Islamic State are setting their sights on Spain. And while there may be many reasons, one is obvious: Spain, at the urging of Washington, is being turned into a strategic base in the war to contain and eventually cut out the metastasized jihad that

has spread across the Mediterranean basin.

With little fanfare, a base near the town of Morón has been turned into a critical logistics and communication center for operations throughout the region. And, thus, a country that was once a transit point for terrorists is becoming their target.

This week three Islamist were arrested in Madrid allegedly planning an attack there, and a statement by Ignacio Cosidó, Director General of Police, put the plot in perspective: "The majority of the operations in recent months were about networks devoted to the identification, recruiting and indoctrination of people to be sent to conflict zones, but these three

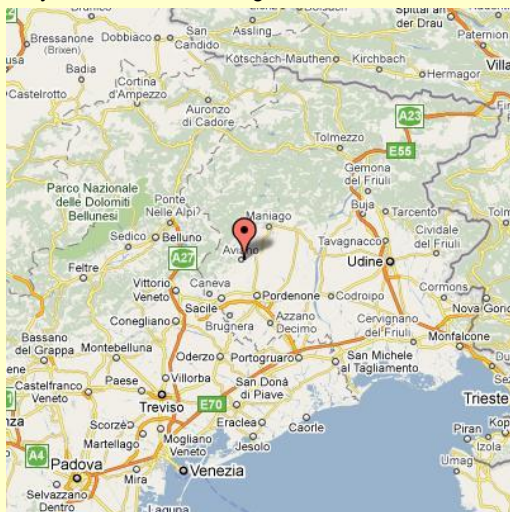


had demonstrated clear intention to attack.”

**What you need to know about all this is that Europe and Africa, Spain and Morocco, virtually touch each other at the Strait of Gibraltar, although its never entirely clear if they are kissing or biting.** And, most likely, relations wouldn't be as good as they are, were it not for the role of the Washington as go-between. A U.S. intelligence briefing document sums up ties south of the Strait: “Morocco and the United States have a long history of closed relations. The U.S. military trains with the Moroccan military on a regular basis.” While Spain, of course, is a member of NATO.

The recurring problem is that so much is so close together. The Spanish cities of Ceuta and Melilla are embedded in the North African coast, with Morocco all around them and Algeria only 70 kilometers from the latter. For those who can make it over or through the fence, Spain has become the natural entry point to Europe from Africa, and that in addition to the fact that Andalusia, in continental Spain, was a historical enclave of Islam. (Yes, the Muslims and Jews were expelled in 1492, but people in this part of the world have long memories.)

Only a few months ago the Soldiers of the



Algerian Caliphate (an ISIS franchise) promised to attack the country and threatened to not stop until they had “reached al-Andalus.” The new generations of Spaniards tend to regard these daily threats with bored indifference. They were educated to the idea of integrating what once were called “the moors”; they were witnesses to the policy of “visas for all” pushed by the administration of former Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. Yet this tolerance is being turned to anger in

the Islamist ghettos and barrios, which appear every week in the newspapers.

Some of this buildup is a result of lessons learned (too late) from the Benghazi disaster.

One of the latest was the marginalized barrio of El Saladillo, in Algeciras near Gibraltar, where Ayoub el-Khazzani made his home. You might remember him from last August. He was the man who allegedly tried to slaughter travelers on the high-speed train between Brussels and Paris before some brave [Americans got in his way](#).

Four days after the frustrated terrorist attempt on the Thalys train, a joint operation of the Spanish and Moroccan police took apart an Islamist cell in Madrid and various Moroccan cities. Fourteen people were arrested who allegedly recruited new terrorists for the Islamic State. In September, an 18-year-old Moroccan woman was picked up in Gandía, Valencia, when she was preparing to travel to Syria to join ISIS. Her posts on social media tended to end, none too subtly, “Terrorism is a duty.”

Ceuta and Melilla, on the southern side of the Med, are the two European cities that have sent the greatest number of affiliates to ISIS, according to a recent report by AICS, a major private intelligence and security firm in Spain. The experts believe that these cities are not terrorist targets, but logistical and strategic bases for their operations in Europe.

Moroccan intelligence warned Spain this summer of the alarming number of “returnees” (jihadists coming back from the battlefields of Syrian or Iraq), trying to cross the border and enter Europe. It's estimated some 3,000 such jihadists are living in northern Morocco.

Presumably, the United States would rather see these folks stopped in Old Spain than in New York. So Washington has chosen the **military base Morón de la Frontera** (map – left) near Seville (in Andalusia) as a nerve center in the fight against jihadists, a commitment reinforced when Secretary of State John Kerry visited Spain in October.

After the September 2012 attack on the temporary U.S. diplomatic mission and nearby CIA base in Benghazi, Libya, which killed four Americans including Ambassador Chris Stevens, a “Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force for Crisis Response” was established at Morón de la Frontera, and it has wound up with a leading role as Europe looks on with something



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

like horror toward the threats developing in Africa.

Morón had served as an important temporary staging area during the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions early in the last decade. But in mid-June, Spain and the United States signed a modification of their bilateral accord that allowed the conversion of Morón to a permanent U.S. military base able to support 2,200 Marines, 500 civilians, and 36 aircraft. The work on infrastructure is well under way. And meanwhile the United States and Spain are carrying out joint military exercises. The

If they are looking for threatened diplomatic missions, they won't have to go far. One early morning in September the Madrid police evacuated dozens of people from the pubs and outdoor cafés of Diego de León street when it was thought a car bomb had been placed about 50 meters from the U.S. embassy.

Fortunately, the Spanish police are well trained for this kind of thing after years fighting the Basque terrorist organization ETA. Although the bomb dogs determined this was a false alarm, the Ministry of Interior knows that U.S. interests are a priority target for the Islamists.



Spanish city of Zaragoza hosted in October the biggest NATO exercise in a decade, Trident Juncture 2015, clearly intended as a message to the Russians in Syria as well as the jihadists arrayed across North Africa and the Middle East.

Some of this buildup is a result of lessons learned (too late) from the Benghazi disaster, an oft-told tale recently highlighted by Hillary Clinton's marathon testimony before Congress. In 2012, Washington sought desperately for a force that could deploy in time to rescue the besieged diplomats and operatives in Libya, but there was none to be had. The base at Morón reportedly will serve to help protect American embassies in the region and evacuate personnel quickly in case of a crisis, while it also has the ability to intervene in small-scale conflicts and in humanitarian disasters.

But it's southward toward the Mediterranean where most of the attention is focused at Morón. Brig. Gen. Norman L. Cooling told the Spanish daily *ABC* that in addition to Morón's own strategic location, negotiations are underway to use the amphibious assault ship Juan Carlos I, the pride of the Spanish navy, as support when deploying U.S. Marines in harm's way. Initial tests have shown the ship can handle MV-22 Osprey aircraft, six of which will be based at Morón.

The official text of the agreement between Madrid and Washington centers on operational questions and the amount of money to be expended (about \$29 million in new infrastructure), but the Spanish government is not hiding its desire to build what amounts to a strategic defense able to slow Islamism where it is building



momentum in northern and western Africa. Most especially, they are worried about the expansion of the Islamic State in Libya, and the relative ease with which it has carried out attacks on important tourist centers, like the recent beach massacre in Tunisia.

**The AICS consultancy reports it has discovered jihadist training camps only eight kilometers from the Spanish enclave**

**of Ceuta, in the area around the Moroccan town of Fnideq, a place through which many Moroccan Islamists have passed on their way to the Syrian war zone.**

Once again, all signs point to this being a long struggle against ISIS and its ilk, which is why Morón will be home to thousands of U.S. Marines, most likely, for many years to come.

## Blade of jihad: Extremists embrace the knife as tool of terror

Source <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/11/06/blade-jihad-extremists-embrace-knife-as-tool-terror/>



Wielding a knife from his pulpit in a sermon streamed on the Internet last month, Palestinian Sheikh Muhammad Salakh called for followers to take up butcher knives and attack Israelis.

The knife has replaced suicide bombings, car attacks and random shootings as the new tool of choice for waging jihad on Israel, with leaders blatantly calling for Palestinians young and old to take up the kitchen implement and kill.

While cars careening into crowds was the trend in terror last year-- with hit songs in Gaza and the West Bank praising "martyrs" behind the wheel-- this year Hamas and Palestinian Authority leaders, clerics and newspaper editors are openly encouraging stabbings that have so far killed a dozen and wounded 167 since Oct. 1. Through sermons, social media, online blogs, editorial cartoons and TV and radio

reports, the message seems to be that anyone can pick up a knife and advance the cause.

"Restrain the victim while others attack him with axes and butcher knives," influential Sheikh Muhammad Salakh recently preached as he brandished a knife in a sermon that was widely viewed within the territories. "Do not fear what will be said about you. Oh men of the West Bank, next time, attack in a group of three, four, or five. Attack them in groups. Cut them into body parts."

*"Oh men of the West Bank, next time, attack in a group of three, four, or five. Attack them in groups. Cut them into body parts."*

- Sheikh Muhammad Salakh, Palestinian cleric

The attackers are hailed as brave heroes, with a youth soccer tournament named for Muhannad Halabi, who murdered two

Israelis, wounding the wife and two-year-old son of one in a stabbing in Jerusalem in early October. Some terrorists, killed by Israeli security forces and police either during or in the immediate aftermath of their attacks, are revered as shahids (martyrs) and have had streets and squares named in their honor.

The bloody toll to date includes a dozen dead and

at least 19 seriously wounded in 59 separate stabbing attacks, mainly in Jerusalem. Some 72 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces, including 45 who Israel said were involved in attacks and another 27 Palestinians killed in clashes between stone-throwers and security forces.

The latest attack came on Friday afternoon, when a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli outside a supermarket in Sha'ar Binyamin "injuring him severely," according to local authorities.

Particularly chilling is the fact that the call to regular citizens to use readily available weapons appears to be creating a new wave of terrorists.

"Generally speaking, the terrorists have not been operatives of any established terrorist organization,"



the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted in a statement Thursday. "The current wave of terrorism has not been directed by any organization, but rather is directly inspired by the intensive incitement accompanying it."

Suspected weapons are removed from Arabs entering Jerusalem's Old City, but once inside the ancient walls, anyone can walk into a hardware store and buy a hammer, or a kitchenware shop and purchase butcher knives. They could even visit a private house and take a carving knife from a kitchen drawer. Israeli security forces have found it almost impossible to restrict the proliferating use of knives, but recent increases in security patrols in Jerusalem have seen a decrease in attacks in the capital, only for more attacks to be perpetrated in other Israeli towns and cities, including in the disputed West Bank, especially Hebron.

**The troubling trend was underscored last week, when a baby born in Gaza was given the name "Knife of Jerusalem" by his proud parents in honor of the wave of fatal stabbings carried out by Palestinians on Israeli Jews.**

"Allah has given me a new baby and I've named him 'Knife of Jerusalem,' after the Intifada of the Knives," the baby's father proudly declared in a television interview translated by Middle East Media Research Institute. "We gave him the name... in solidarity with our people in the West Bank," the baby's mother added. A friend explained that he was watching a video called "Lovers of Stabbing" with the expectant father, and suggested the macabre name, an idea the father was delighted to adopt.

The recent wave of terror was sparked when violence broke out at the Temple Mount in the Old

City of Jerusalem, site of the Golden Dome and the Al Aqsa mosque, the third holiest place on earth for Muslims. It overlooks the Western Wall, the holiest place on earth for Jews. Arab media insisted that Israel was planning to take over the Al Aqsa compound and that all means should be employed to defend the site - and Islam itself.

On Oct. 19, ISIS began releasing a series of online video messages, the first of which was titled, "Project Behead the Jews." The videos praised Palestinians for the wave of terror and reportedly feature footage of the Temple Mount, punctuated by calls for Muslims to "liberate Al Aqsa" and "wage jihad against the Jews."

From the start, Israel stressed it has no designs on Al Aqsa – a compound overseen by the Islamic "waqf" trust as part of a long-standing status quo agreement - insisting that the violence followed attacks on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall, stoned by Muslims using the compound as safe haven. Israeli security forces reportedly discovered pipe bombs inside the mosque when they intervened to stop the violence.

"This incitement comes from the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic Movement in Israel, Hamas, and – to our chagrin – also with the active participation of the Palestinian Authority," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last month.

Now five weeks into the violence sparked by the Temple Mount crisis, Hamas continues to call for blood. While knifings constitute the lion's share of attacks, the other techniques for spreading terror are not forgotten. On Wednesday, a terrorist identified as Ibrahim al-Acri, 38, was killed by Israeli security forces in

Jerusalem after slamming his car into 15 pedestrians, killing one and injuring 14 more. An official Hamas statement praised al-Acri as a "heroic martyr".

Some regional observers suggest the wave of attacks is a spontaneous reaction from Palestinians frustrated by lack of jobs, difficult housing conditions, travel restrictions, and the controlling hand of Israel, but also highlight disillusionment with the corruption of the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority controlled by Mahmoud Abbas. But experts who spoke to FoxNews.com said it would be naive to believe the wave of stabbings is organic.

"It's too simplistic to say it just rose from the people," a senior Israel Defense Forces officer told FoxNews.com. "Hamas is inciting what they now call the 'Al Aqsa Intifada' encouraging Palestinians in the territories to carry out terror acts... but the Palestinian Authority is not stopping it."

Yesterday, U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., the committee's ranking member, along with 367 other House members sent a bipartisan letter to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, urging him to quell the incitement against Israelis.

"Now is the time for the Palestinian Authority to take concrete steps to avoid further violence," read the letter. "This starts with a sustained effort to publicly and officially repudiate these attacks, ending the unacceptable incitement to violence emanating from Palestinian Authority officials and institutions, continuing



important security cooperation with Israel and agreeing to unconditionally renew direct talks with the Israelis.”

“Mahmoud Abbas is trying to delegitimize Israel, but he does not want an intifada to happen. He thinks he can control the flames [of the uprising]. He’s

playing a dangerous game,” the senior IDF officer warned. “An intifada is a bigger risk to his regime than it is to Israel.”

## Al Qaeda Terror Boss Discovered On Migrant Boat, Authorities ‘Tried To Hide News’

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/london/2015/11/09/al-qaeda-terror-boss-discovered-on-migrant-boat-authorities-tried-to-hide-news/>

Nov 09 – **A convicted terrorist has been caught trying to smuggle himself into Europe by posing as an asylum seeker, in a**



**stark event proving correct those who warned of terrorists taking advantage of the European Union’s lax border controls.**

**Ben Nasr Mehdi**, a Tunisian who was first

Authorities discovered him among 200 migrants who were rescued at sea and taken to the island of Lampedusa. Although he gave a false name, migration officers identified him through finger print records, the *Independent* reports.

**German channel n-tv claims the Italian government initially tried to hide the story to avoid “panic” and “scare tactics”.** The news did not emerge until several days after Mehdi was then interrogated for several days before being deported back to Tunisia, where he was handed over to local police.

The revelation will likely add to fears that Islamist terrorists are using the migrant crisis as a means to enter Europe.

In April, UKIP leader Nigel Farage told the European Parliament that terrorists would try to exploit the crisis. He told MEPs: “When ISIS



arrested in Italy in 2007 and sentenced to seven years imprisonment for plotting terror attacks with an Islamic State-linked group, was caught trying to re-enter the country last month.

say they want to flood our continent with half a million Islamic extremists they mean it, and there is nothing in [the Common



European Asylum Policy] that will stop them. "I fear we face a direct threat to our civilisation if we allow large numbers of people from that war torn region into Europe."

The following month, Italian authorities arrested Abdel Majid Touil, a Moroccan accused of being involved in a terror attack on the Bardo museum in Tunisia. He had smuggled himself into Italy on a migrant boat in February.

**Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano has until now insisted there is no evidence that Islamist terrorists are smuggling themselves into the country among the thousands of migrants,** but his ministry has admitted that Ben Nasr Mehdi is exceptionally dangerous.

**When police arrested him in 2007, they found explosive detonators, poisons and**

**guerrilla warfare manuals.** Prosecutors said he had been part of a group that was setting up militant cells that had recruited potential suicide bombers.

Authorities intercepted phone calls in which he indicated he had supplied instructions and contacts to terrorists in Damascus, thus marking him out as a senior operative.

**European leaders are becoming increasingly worried about the potential terror threat from the migrant crisis. Last month, German Interior Minister Thomas de Mazière said his country had become a "focus of international terrorism" thanks to migration. NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has also expressed similar fears.**

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** No matter what they do – hide, misinform or ignore, the truth is only one: jihadists are now in Europe and most probably not for opening a legitimate business and have a quiet peaceful life...

## Is It Iran's Middle East Now?

By Jonathan Spyer

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5622/iran-middle-east>

The Middle East is currently in the midst of widespread instability, civil strife and the collapse or contraction of state authority. Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Turkey, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Tunisia and Egypt have all experienced major instability over the last half decade. The first four of these areas have effectively ceased to exist as unitary states, and are now partitioned *de facto* between warring entities, organised according to ethnic, sectarian or tribal loyalty. The Palestinian territories too are divided into areas controlled by the Islamist Hamas movement in Gaza and the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank.

In this fractious landscape, powerful regional states are seeking to gain advantage, extend their own power, and diminish that of their rivals.

The collapse of states has in turn brought with it the decline of the national identities that supposedly underlay them, and the growth of sectarian identification as a political factor. The result is the emergence of Sunni-Shia conflict as a major overt presence in the Middle East. In Yemen, in Iraq, in Lebanon, and in a more complex way in Syria, Sunni-Shia rivalries form

a central dynamic, which are also important in terms of the geo-strategic rivalries among major states competing in the Middle East.

Perhaps the single best organised and most aggressive alliance active currently in the Middle East is the bloc of states and movements gathered around the Islamic Republic of Iran. Motivated by clear strategic goals and by powerful ideological motivations, and with long experience of subversion particularly relevant to the current period of instability in the Middle East, Iran and its allies are powerful players in the regional contest.

Prior to the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme, signed on 14 July 2015, it had appeared that Iran might be approaching a point of overstretch. Tehran was committed to assist a large portfolio of clients engaged in conflict across the region, at a time when Tehran was itself subject to biting economic sanctions. The continued civil war in Syria and the opening of conflicts in Iraq and Yemen – in which the Iranians were heavily committed – seemed to introduce this possibility.





However, the conclusion of the nuclear agreement – and with it the prospect of release of impounded funds as part of sanctions relief – has immediate implications for the related subject of Iranian regional ambitions and outreach. The precise sum likely to become rapidly available to Iran following the signing of the agreement and sanctions relief remains unclear and disputed. Estimates range from \$150 billion (the sum frequently quoted by opponents of the nuclear deal) to \$56 billion (the likely sum according to US Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew).

But even if one assumes the lower estimate, and combines this with additional sums likely to become available to Iran because of renewed economic ties with the outside world as an element of sanctions relief, it may be concluded that the risk of overstretch, and a consequent inability on the part of Iran to sustain its regional commitments, has



effectively disappeared as a result of the signing of the JCPOA.

As a result, Iran is well placed in the current period to continue its practice of supporting proxy political-military organisations in a variety of regional locations, in pursuit of Iranian strategic goals.

#### **Iranian Ambitions in the Arab world**

Iran is currently actively supporting proxies in major conflicts in the following areas: Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories. In addition, there is evidence that Iranian agencies are active among Shia populations – as yet without major effect – in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Tehran also has a strategic relationship with (Sunni majority) Sudan.

#### *Iranian aims*

Iran's strategic goal is to emerge as the dominant power in the Middle East and, eventually, the entire Islamic world. It seeks to roll back US influence in the region and to work towards Israel's destruction.

At a conference on "Iran, Nationalism, History, and Culture" in Tehran in March 2015, Ali Younesi, a senior adviser on intelligence matters to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, outlined a clear vision for Iranian regional hegemony. Younesi described Iran's role as "protecting the interests of all the people in the region – because they are all Iran's people ... We must try to once again spread the banner of Islamic-Iranian unity and peace in the region. Iran must bear this responsibility, as it did in the past." He noted Iran's past as an empire, and spoke of a "greater Iran" which stretched from the borders of China to the Persian Gulf.

Younesi's statements are not, of course, a failsafe guide to policy. But the adviser's much noted speech is a fair summary up of the wide ambitions of Iran.

*Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis (right) with Iranian Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani.*

In practice, Iranian resources appear to be directed to realising this vision in two specific areas: firstly, the establishment of a contiguous line of pro-Iranian entities between the Iraq-Iran border and the Mediterranean Sea, and secondly, extending Iranian influence to the Arabic-speaking side of the Persian Gulf, and subverting the interests of Saudi Arabia in this area.

The former goal has a number of motivating forces behind it. Firstly, there is an obvious strategic interest in reaching access to the Mediterranean, which has been a feature of Iranian and Persian state policy from antiquity. Secondly, reaching Lebanon gives Tehran an entry point into the Israel-Arab conflict. The Iranians have invested heavily for over 30 years in their client Hezbollah in Lebanon. As non-Arabs and non-Sunni Muslims, the Iranians suffer from a 'legitimacy gap' in the mainly Sunni Muslim Arab Middle East. They seek to close this gap



through commitment to the destruction of Israel, and in practical terms through the sponsorship of organisations engaged in war against the Jewish state. Access to Israel's borders is essential for this.

In addition, Iran has an interest in a weak or subordinated Iraq. The Iranian regime fought a bloody war against Iraq in the 1980s, which forms a core formative experience for the regime. To avoid any possible recurrence, Iran has an interest in ensuring a non-hostile Iraq through sponsorship of friendly political players in that country.

With regard to the Gulf, Tehran sees Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council as rivals for power. Tehran lacks the conventional ground and air forces for projection of power beyond its borders. It seeks to overcome this disadvantage through the development of its ballistic missile programme, and through its efforts in asymmetric conflict.

While the Iranians may hope eventually to isolate Saudi Arabia and cause the Gulf States to abandon their links with the US and to instead come under Iranian protection, this moment is far away in terms of the current balance of power because of Iran's limited military capacities. At present, therefore, the Iranians aim to frustrate any Gulf or US ability to carry out operations in the Gulf or into Iranian territory through the building of a deterrent capacity.

The Iranian practice of harassing international shipping in the Straits of Hormuz and the



investment in small boats, coastal defence and UAVs reflects this goal. Because of their limited conventional capabilities, the effective use of proxy warfare has high importance to the Iranians.

So to sum up, Iran's strategic goal is ultimately to build regional hegemony. In the short term its core goals include maintaining domination of the space between the Iran-Iraq border and the Mediterranean as well as deterring the US and intimidating the Gulf States.

These goals place Iran at loggerheads with those status quo states in the region, most importantly Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-Iranian rivalry, combined with the collapse of a number of regional states and the growing importance of sectarian identity as a marker of political loyalty, are producing a cross-border sectarian struggle, with Iranian clients lined up against clients of Saudi Arabia, Turkey or Qatar.

This sectarian element is important, because it represents a built-in limit to Iranian potential. As a Shia power, Iran finds it difficult to gain legitimacy among Sunni Arabs or to successfully develop proxies outside of Shia Arab populations, as becomes apparent when taking a closer look at Iran's main commitments in the region.

#### The pattern of Iranian success and failure

When assessing how things stand for Iran in the main countries in which it is engaged, an emergent pattern presents itself.

##### Syria

In Syria, Iran has been determined, since the outbreak of the uprising against the Assad dictatorship in March 2011, to preserve the dictator's rule. Iran and Syria have formal relations of military alliance dating back to 1982. Iranian financial assistance, mobilisation of regional proxies, help in military organisation and now direct provision of military personnel to Assad have been vital in preventing his downfall.

[Members of the Iranian-backed Shia militia known as Liwa al-Sayyida Ruqayya in Damascus late last year.](#)

Has the intervention into Syria been a success for Iran and its methods of outreach? Partially. Assad still controls Damascus. But he rules over only about 20 per cent of the entire territory of Syria. There are no prospects of the reconquest of the greater part of the areas lost any



time soon. So Iran's efforts may have kept the dictator in his seat, but the result has not been a return to repressive stability, but rather the effective collapse and de facto partition of Syria, with Assad reduced to the status of a single warlord among others, rather than the ruler of a country.

It is noteworthy that despite Iranian assistance, the direction of the Syrian Civil War appeared to be turning decisively against Assad in the course of 2015. The intervention by Russia, beginning this past September derived to a degree from Russian perception that the current levels of support were not working and that if Assad was to be saved, a more direct involvement by Moscow was necessary. According to some reports, the Russian intervention was the direct result of a visit by Iranian Quds Force commander General Qasem Soleimani to Moscow in July 2015 in which he impressed on Russian officials the increasingly desperate predicament faced by Assad. If this was indeed the case, it is testimony to the limited efficacy of Iranian methods in the Syrian context.

#### *Iraq*

Iraq has a Shia Arab majority, and a traditionally pro-Iranian party (Dawa) is currently in power. Iranian assistance to the government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in the form of the organising of the Shia militias in the Popular Mobilisation (Hashed al-Shaabi) played a vital role in stopping the Islamic State (IS) advance eastwards in the summer of 2014. The most powerful of the militias are political as well as military organisations. While these militias are officially administered by the Popular Mobilisation Committee, in reality the most powerful of them are directly linked to Iran. The Badr organisation, headed by Hadi al Ameri, and the Kataeb Hezbollah, led by Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, are the strongest of these groups. Both Ameri and al-Muhandis are veteran pro-Iranian Shia Islamist activists, with long and verifiable links to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (the latter fought on the Iranian side in the Iran-Iraq war). Both are personally linked to the Quds Force and Qasem Soleimani.

The Shia militias, as both political and military organisations, are the key instrument for Iran in Iraq. Through them, the Iranians are able to directly impact the policymaking process in the country. Yet it is also the case that Iraq

remains effectively divided into three component parts; the government controlled area in the south, the Islamic State territory in the centre, and the Kurdish north. Neither the Shia militias nor the Iraqi armed forces appear anywhere close to re-uniting the country, and it is difficult to see how they could do so, given their openly sectarian, Shia orientation.

So in the Iraqi context, Iranian influence is deep, but the result of it is the fragmentation of Iraq, and the Iranian domination of one part of it, rather than the emergence of a strong Iran-aligned unitary Iraqi state.

#### *Lebanon*

In Lebanon, the success of Iranian methods of outreach and subversion are most clearly showcased. Hezbollah is the prototype of an Iranian created and supported political-military group. Established by the Revolutionary Guards in the early 1980s, Hezbollah has, since 1990, been the only non-governmental organisation permitted to maintain an armed wing in Lebanon (with the exception of Palestinian groups permitted to carry arms within refugee camps). In 2006, Hezbollah launched a war on Israel without seeking the consent of the official government of the country. In 2008, it crushed an attempt to impose the authority of the central government over some of its activities.

Hezbollah has played a vital role in the Syrian civil war as an ally of Iran. Its personnel are taking an active part in the fighting. Iran and Hezbollah have also sought to take advantage of the chaos in Syria to establish an additional front for operations against Israel just east of the Quneitra Crossing (facing the Golan Heights). So far this has not been successful. Israeli pre-emptive action to prevent this has included the killing of a number of senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and Hezbollah personnel on 19 January 2015.

No challenge to Hezbollah's military power is on the horizon, though the entry of approximately one million Syrian Sunni refugees since 2011 has undermined the notion of an emergent Shia demographic majority that underlay and deepened the organisation's strength. There is evidence of efforts to organise among the Sunnis by both Jabat al-Nusra and IS.

There are no physical restrictions on Hezbollah's freedom of action.



But at the same time, the notion of emergent open Hezbollah rule replacing the Lebanese state, and implementing the Iranian system of government in the country is far-fetched. Hezbollah has neither the need nor the possibility of imposing such rule. Iran has implanted a powerful military machine along the border with Israel, giving itself a direct entry to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ability to intervene to help other allies in need (Hezbollah has also involved in supporting pro-Iranian groups in Iraq, Yemen and the Palestinian territories in recent years.) But even in Lebanon, the site of Iran's greatest success, if Iran was hoping to produce a similar Shia Islamic regime to its own, this appears neither imminent nor likely.

#### Yemen

In Yemen, the Iranian ally/client is the Ansar Allah organisation, more commonly known as the Houthis, after the name of the tribe that controls the organisation. The Houthis seized control of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, in September 2014. The government of President Abd-al Rabbo Mansour Hadi was forced into exile in Saudi Arabia. The Houthis and their allies then began a march to the south, intending to seize the Gulf of Aden and unite



the country under their control. Saudi and Emirati assistance to Yemeni government forces seeking to prevent this outcome began on 26 March. Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain also joined the coalition against the Houthis. The Houthis, having failed to take Aden City, have now agreed to adhere to a seven point plan brokered by the UN at talks in Muscat, Oman. The plan includes a ceasefire and the return of the government to Sana'a. It is not yet clear if the planned ceasefire will be implemented. But again, we see the pattern of Iranian support

resulting in division and renewed conflict, rather than outright victory for the Iranians.

#### Palestinians

Iran maintains a strategic alliance of long standing with one Palestinian organisation – Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Islamic Jihad was founded in the Gaza Strip in 1981 by activists directly influenced by the Islamic Revolution in Iran. PIJ has remained a supporter of Iran and beneficiary of Iranian aid and support ever since. Islamic Jihad, however, is a small organisation, with no serious ambitions for competing for the political leadership of the Palestinians. In the course of the 1990s, Iran sought to establish a strategic relationship with Hamas, largest and most powerful of Palestinian Islamist groups. This burgeoning relationship was disrupted, however, by the post-Arab Spring rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and then by the outbreak of civil war in Syria. Hamas, a Muslim Brotherhood linked group, sought to distance itself from the Iran-aligned Syrian regime, which was engaged in crushing a largely Sunni Arab revolt. The movement transferred its headquarters from Damascus. At the same time, Hamas sought to draw closer to what looked then to be an emergent Muslim Brotherhood regional bloc, centred on Egypt and Qatar.

#### [Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad militants in training](#)

In the event, no such bloc emerged. But it led to estrangement between Hamas and Iran. As of today, a split pertains in Hamas regarding future relations with Iran, with

some elements supporting a return to alignment with the Iranians and others favouring alignment with Qatar and an attempt to repair relations with Saudi Arabia.

During the period of the Second Intifada, the Iranians also maintained contacts with and support for armed elements within the rival Fatah movement. It is likely that these channels of communication and support still exist.



### Conclusion

In all areas of Iranian regional "outreach," a common pattern exists. Iranian regional policy is characterised by the establishment and/or sponsorship of proxy political-military organisations. In every case noted, (with the partial exception of Lebanon) the result of the Iranian involvement is not Iranian strategic victory and the constitution of the state in question as an ally of Iran. Rather, Iranian outreach prevents the defeat and eclipse of the local Iranian ally, while ensuring division and continued conflict in the area in question.

**This Iranian *modus operandi* – and its centrality in Iranian regional strategy – as well as the far reaching nature of Iranian goals as outlined above, mean the notion that a post JCPOA Iran can form a partner for stability in the region is deeply flawed, and will quickly be contradicted by the facts.**

The export of chaos has the merit, perhaps, of keeping disorder far from Iran's own borders by ensuring that rivals to Tehran are kept busy engaged in proxy conflicts elsewhere. However, it is difficult to see how it can result in regional hegemony and leadership.

This Iranian penchant for fomenting chaos also places them on a different trajectory than the Russians.

This is important, because the Russian intervention in the Syrian civil war from September 2015 on has been characterised in some quarters as the birth of a new strategic

alliance between Tehran and Moscow. Ibrahim Amin, editor of the pro-Hezbollah *al-Akhbar* newspaper, happily called this supposed new bloc the "4 + 1" alliance (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Russia and Hezbollah).

But Russia has no interest in strategic support for Islamist proxies in the Middle East. Rather, it seeks powerful state allies, without particular concern as to their internal electoral arrangements or ideological proclivities. The Iranian model of creation and support of proxy Shia Islamist forces contrasts with Russia's desire for powerful, centralised forces with which it can do business. This means that Russia and Iran have different and even opposed regional orientations, even if there is currently an overlap with regard to the Assad regime in Syria.

As a result of the JCPOA, Iran is likely to increase its support for its portfolio of proxy organisations across the region. The net effect of this will be to increase regional disorder and foment continued conflict. However, because of the built in limitations of Iranian methods and because of the sectarian nature of the conflicts in question (which means Iran finds it very difficult or impossible to pursue really lasting alliances with non-Shia Arab clients), it is unlikely that this will result in the attainment by Iran of its strategic goal of regional leadership/hegemony. Iran is a spoiler par excellence. But despite its ambitions and pretensions, it does not look like the founder of a new Middle Eastern order.

*Jonathan Spyer is director of the Rubin Center for Research in International Affairs and a fellow at the Middle East Forum.*

## Terrorist How-To Manual Shows US Homeland in ISIS Crosshairs

Source: <http://www.algemeiner.com/2015/11/10/terrorist-how-to-manual-shows-us-homeland-is-in-isis-crosshairs/#>

Nov 10 – **A 64-page terrorist operations manual recently released by an Islamic State supporter on Twitter underscores concerns that the US homeland remains firmly in the group's crosshairs.** FBI Director James Comey told US intelligence officials last month that the Bureau has approximately 900 ongoing

Islamic State-related inquiries, most of which involve homegrown suspects.

**The manual, "Safety and Security Guidelines for Lone Wolf Mujahideen,"** provides detailed instructions on successfully carrying out terror attacks.

"I think the manual format gives them sort of a how-to process and therefore it's another

indication of the danger we face in dealing with these self-motivated jihadists," said former FBI Associate Deputy Director Oliver "Buck" Revell. "I think it shows a great deal of critical analysis at the heart of the movement and that they are certainly knowledgeable, and they are not ignorant of



our methodologies and even our technical capabilities, and we would be wise not to underestimate their capabilities.”

A former high-ranking EU intelligence source tells the Investigative Project on Terrorism that three former members of Saddam Hussein’s intelligence service who currently are in Raqqa, Syria, wrote the English-language manual, which was derived from earlier Arabic lectures.

### Manual Tells Jihadists to Conceal Their True Identities

It notably instructs lone jihadists and members of terrorist cells to conceal their Muslim identities in the West.

You should make sure to not look particularly attached to religion. A man who works on a secret operation should meddle in the general population. If you can avoid having a beard, wearing qamis (Islamic clothes), using miswak (a sort of toothbrush recommended in the hadiths), and have a booklet of dhikr (Islamic devotional booklet) with you, it’s better. Also, you shouldn’t be going to often to places like mosques, Islamic institutes or Islamic libraries. You should also wear western-style cloths to appear neutral and not draw attention to yourself.

The manual also directs jihadists to have plausible cover stories such as posing as engineers, doctors, or tourists, and instructs them not to rush their attacks.

“The advantage of the lone wolf here is that he is already established in the West, his entire life is a cover story – and a very strong one at that. So use that to your advantage. Be patient, don’t rush anything, put your trust in Allah,” it says.

Mubin Shaikh, a former jihadist who became a confidential informant and infiltrated Canada’s Toronto 18 jihad cell, and advises Western counterterrorism leaders, told the Investigative Project on Terrorism that these are classical tactics of covert operations.

“They want to give the impression that they are everywhere and that anyone could be a spy,” Shaikh said.

The manual repeatedly cites the prophet Muhammad or his companions for religious justification for its recommendations.

### Jihad Manual Shows Possible al-Qaeda Pedigree

The guide, an abridgment of earlier Arabic instructions to jihadi cells translated into English, instructs jihadists how to conceal their plots from Western intelligence and security services. It repeats instructions found in other jihadi manuals published by al-Qaeda or by the Islamic State in recent years, including [“How to Survive in The West”](#) and [“Military Studies in the Jihad Against the Tyrants.”](#) the latter of which British police recovered from an al-Qaeda member’s home in Manchester in May 2000. **Al-Qaeda member Ali Mohamed, who infiltrated the US Army and CIA in the 1980s, wrote the guide found in Manchester using information he gathered from US government sources.**

Shaikh describes the recent Islamic State guide as a new edition of Mohamed’s guide.

“Surprise is half of victory, and to surprise the enemy in both the time and location where you will hit maximizes your chance of success,” the manual says.

### Instructions for Operational Security

It notes that the 9/11 attacks highlighted this principle because Americans became complacent that terrorists would not hit the US homeland. Hence, they focused on fortifying their embassies abroad, hiring guards, and increasing security and defending their naval vessels across the Muslim world.

“The US never thought we would hit them at home,” it says.

It includes case studies of successful operations such as the 9/11 attacks, and failures from the jihadist perspective such as the capture of Abu Zubayda in Pakistan. It makes recommendations based on plots foiled by the FBI or other agencies.

It instructs jihadists to avoid drawing attention to themselves and advises that each jihadi cell “be entirely independent of each other.” This way no one can connect jihadist operations with each other.

It also suggests that cell leaders inform their subordinates about planned terror operations on a need-to-know basis to lessen chances of compromising plots if a cell member gets captured.

The manual repeats instructions found in other jihadist literature instructing jihadists to encrypt their online communications while on the Internet to escape detection.

While providing instructions for conventional surveillance operations, the manual suggests that jihadists also use Google Earth

as a surveillance tool before an attack because



other conventional methods risk their capture.

“That’s tradecraft we employ with our own — both our intelligence services and military and investigative services,” Revell said. “They employ [this] sort of tradecraft to identify, penetrate, and neutralize operations. The fact that they do learn even from failures I think is an even more menacing circumstance than we’ve had in the past. These are not ignorant peasants off the field; these are people who have both education and technical skills that are commensurate with our capabilities.”

Jihadists operating in the West are warned to avoid purchasing weapons from dealers, lest they turn out to be informants for the FBI or other agencies engaging in sting operations. The manual relates a case in which jihadists operating in the US bought weapons from someone they did not know was an

undercover FBI agent to make a point.

“So what was the result? When they wanted to launch the attack they got arrested,” the manual says.

It specifically names Shaikh as the type of person to look out for, noting that he convinced the Toronto 18 that he was one of them. At the same time, he actively worked with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to provide it with intelligence.

Shaikh suspects the author named him due to his efforts online and elsewhere to counter the Islamic State narrative and deter Muslims from joining.

“They could have named others, as well, such as Morten Storm [the Danish-born spy who infiltrated al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula for the CIA]... but they don’t reference it,” Shaikh said. “I’m thinking that [they named me] because they know of me and that I interface with their guys online.”

The guide advises jihadists to purchase ingredients for explosives in small quantities from different stores. With other weapons, jihadists are advised to test the weapons before carrying out their operation because the FBI gives would-be jihadists inert weapons, and to test the dealer to ensure he or she is not a spy.

“With the presence today of social media, Google and so on, collecting intel on a target has become significantly easier than 10 years ago. There is today a part you can do online from your home, and some other specific info you can complete with an inspection on the target’s location site,” the manual states.

All of this shows that the Islamic State knows a lot about us and our capabilities, and we would be foolish not to take them seriously — because they have the ability to collect and analyze intelligence and hit their targets, Revell said.

## The ‘lone wolf’ terrorist – main features

By Dana Benvenisti

Source: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/The-lone-wolf-terrorist-main-features-432608>

**Terrorism continues to change, and new ways of causing fear and violence are constantly appearing.**

**The body of the terrorist killed at the scene of vehicular terror attack near Tapuah Junction on November 8, 2015. (photo credit: Courtesy)**



Recent ly Israel has found itself again at the forefront of the struggle against “lone wolf” attacks, an old-new form of terrorism. The Foreign Ministry is one of the main governmental players in Israel dealing with the phenomenon, its worldwide impact and the establishment of international cooperation mechanisms to confront it effectively.

Combating terrorism raises various challenges to many governments in many states.



Terrorism continues to change, and new ways of causing fear and violence are constantly appearing.

**A “lone wolf” terrorist is defined as one who acts outside of any command structure and without material assistance from any group.** This threat is decentralized and therefore much harder to detect than threats orchestrated by “traditional” terrorist organizations.

Lone-wolf terrorists largely operate outside the kind of command-and-control structures intelligence organizations have learned to penetrate and dismantle.

Lone wolves are also difficult to identify due to the nature of the environment in which they operate. Often they are loners with limited social interactions, and spend an excessive amount of time on the Internet. For this reason many of them are not identified until after they carry out a violent act.

The Internet is the main arena today in which the process of terrorist radicalization is occurring, with calls for violent acts, specific targets and instructions on how to use weapons all to be found online.

But the Internet can also be used as a positive tool in the fight against this phenomenon, both in spreading counter narratives as well as enabling law enforcement bodies’ access to open-source Internet postings and sites, chat rooms etc. Thus, where probable cause exists, they can seek legal authority to conduct surveillance in accordance with court-approved measures.

**An effective countering requires a multi-layered approach, starting with countering**

*Dana Benvenisti is director of the department of regional security and counter-terrorism at the Foreign Ministry’s strategic affairs division.*

## Terrorists to lose citizenship as Abbott-era laws go ahead

Source <http://m.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/terrorists-to-lose-citizenship-as-abbottera-laws-go-ahead-20151110-gkvh9v.html>

**Laws to strip dual national terrorists of their Australian citizenship are set to pass Parliament as soon as this week** after the Turnbull government agreed to make changes recommended by a cross-party committee of MPs.

The Coalition’s joint-party meeting on Tuesday backed the new laws, which will strip the citizenship of terrorists who are either already

**violence extremism within the community, as well as the cooperation and collaboration of numerous law enforcement agencies and international sharing of intelligence, best practices and insights.**

Those international ties are being managed in Israel by a few offices, among others by the counter-terrorism department of the Foreign Ministry’s strategic affairs division.

The phenomenon is high (probably the highest) on the agenda of security forces in the developed world, as attacks have occurred (in the past three years alone) in France, Canada, Australia, Denmark, Belgium, US and UK.

We in Israel suffer from lone-wolf attacks on almost a daily basis and are considered, internationally, to be leading the way in many aspects of the fight against the phenomenon.

This is also the reason that we, the ministry’s regional security and counter- terrorism department, have decided to dedicate the annual conference we conduct on security issues to “Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism: The Challenge of Terrorists Acting Alone or in Small Cells.”

In a three-day conference (November 9 to November 11), some 120 delegates from 42 countries and 10 international organizations will discuss many aspects of the phenomenon and ways to effectively tackle it. We are certain that the outcome of the conference, both by the sharing of best practices and by the interaction during the conference, will enable us to better counter the next attack.

overseas or are in Australia and have been convicted of certain terrorism crimes.

Controversially, some aspects of the laws will be retrospective to ensure they cover a handful of existing prisoners who were convicted and jailed for serious terrorism offences over the past decade.

The high-powered Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence





and Security, which includes senior Labor figures, recommended 26 changes to the original legislation proposed by the former Abbott government. Cabinet signed off on those changes, as well as two additional amendments, on Monday night.

**Under the laws, a dual national automatically renounces their Australian citizenship if they engage in terrorist conduct – an extension of an existing law that does the same for someone who fights with a foreign military against Australia.**

Dual nationals can also lose their citizenship if they are convicted of a terrorism offence. This part of the law will operate retrospectively, going back 10 years from when the bill becomes law.

This is understood to affect only a handful of prisoners including the notorious terrorists Abdul Nacer Benbrika and Mohamed Ali Elomar, who are now in prison.

The laws were conceived while Tony Abbott was prime minister but also have the support of Malcolm Turnbull.

The committee's changes have tightened the legislation significantly to exclude people who are still in Australia but have not been convicted of any terrorism offence.

The committee, which is chaired by Victorian Liberal Dan Tehan, also knocked out several relatively minor offences that could have led to

a loss of citizenship, including "damaging or destroying Commonwealth property" and "unlawful drilling".

The government has added two amendments of its own. One change means that a terrorist who has not been convicted has to have had "intent" when they carried out terrorism acts. The other means that a person can lose their citizenship for a range of offences included in the government's "foreign fighters" legislation, which was passed last year.

The parliamentary committee heard extensive evidence from experts raising questions about who would decide that a person was a terrorist and how.

These decisions will be made by intelligence agencies, police and bureaucrats.

While Labor will need to see the final wording of the laws, the fact the government has accepted the bipartisan committee's recommendations means the opposition is likely to support the bill.

**Separately, the government is expected to introduce to Parliament its fifth set of counter-terrorism laws, which will lower the age at which bail-like conditions called control orders can be applied from 16 to 14. It will also introduce a new offence of "advocacy of genocide".**

## **Tourism Faces Terrorism: Terrorism Attacks on the Russian Airliner and Paris and What They Will Mean to You!**

By Dr. Peter Tarlow

Source: <http://www.tourismandmore.com>

This month has not been easy for specialists in tourism security. We first witnessed the terrorist bombing of the Russian aircraft causing not only death and destruction to innocent civilians but also a major blow to Egypt's tourism industry. Friday afternoon, Texas time, the first reports of November 13th terrible attacks in Paris began to come through the newswires.

It is still too early to provide a full security picture of the events. The French police are correctly holding back information and being during their investigation not to provide the "enemy" with needed details. Although these attacks may not have been a direct assault against the tourism industry, we do know that the venues attacked all were

places of public gatherings and formed the backbone of tourism. As such, it is essential that everyone in tourism be well aware of the consequences of these attacks and learn from them. It is not possible to determine at this moment (November 14) if these attacks have now run their course or if other attacks will follow in the days ahead.

In reading this article please note that it does not attempt to ascertain the causes or responsibility for these attacks but rather examines only the consequences of these attacks on the tourism industry as a whole and presents ideas for tourism's continued viability in an age of terrorism.



The Russian airline attack and the Paris attacks will force the travel industry to deal with a major travel paradigm shift. France closed its borders and the idea of an open Europe may now be coming to an end. This shift in travelers' mindsets that occurred after September 11, 2001 may soon return and the western nations which for the last 7 years have viewed terrorism as a criminal act rather than as an act of war. National leaders may now have to reassess their *Modus Vivendi*. The Paris terrorist attacks, and the possibility of new attacks, have given the travel and tourism a new major wake-up call and will force the industry once again to place tourism security at the top of its priority list.

Unfortunately, many in the travel and tourism industry had hoped that in the years since September 11, 2001 tourism security could once again be placed on the back burner. Put in its simplest of terms; travelers will once again demand good tourism security and not only at airports, but at public venues, restaurants, hotels and stadiums. In the old travel industry paradigm, security was in too many locations the industry's step child or "dark secrete." Industry leaders rarely spoke about threats to tourists in public fearing that such openness would scare away visitors. The common belief has been that security was a "necessary evil" that one had to have, but that security added nothing to the business' bottom line. For this reason, tourism and travel security were rarely publicized, never mentioned in marketing campaigns, under-funded, and its practitioners were often under-paid. The old paradigm led to poor security at airports, hotels, restaurants and attractions. Security professionals who spoke of acts of terrorism, bio-chemical attacks, and crime were seen as alarmist and tourism marketers often asked security professionals to rephrase their warnings in ways that would be acceptable for public consumption.

If the public perception changed after September 11, the attacks against the Russian airliner and the city of Paris will mean that tourism officials who ignore security are placing their entire industry in peril. **The bottom line will be simply where there is no security tourism will perish, but in those locales where tourism security is professionalized and well thought**

**through, the tourism industry will continue to flourish.**

The Post Paris paradigm for the travel and tourism industry is based on the fact that tourism security is now a major part of a location's marketing strategy.

**Below are some suggestions and ideas to help you prepare for this new and dangerous world:**

**1. Get over denial, it can happen in your community.**

Recognize that no part of the world today is immune from a terrorist attack. Too many parts of the travel and tourism market simply do not believe that an attack can happen to them. It can! Furthermore, as the media often devotes a great amount of coverage to an attack against a tourism area, the fear factor spreads from one locale to entire regions, nations, and even continents.

**2. Recognize that there is a fundamental political shift in the world.**

Old assumptions will no longer hold. The tourism industry will need to recognize that the Islamic State and other terrorist groups are at war with it. From a business perspective t old assumptions about the world are very dangerous. Those parts of the travel and tourism industry that emphasize security will have a good chance of surviving. The venues that provide give good security mixed with good customer service will flourish. Those parts of the travel and tourism industry that hold on to the old way of thinking will fade away.

**3. Develop coordinated efforts between security professionals and tourism professionals.**

Tourism professionals need to see security professionals and tourism police as allies. That means that tourism professionals must work to insure well-trained TOPPs (Tourism Oriented Policing and Protection units) officers. These TOPPs units should exist in any city that has a major tourism industry or sports stadium.

**4. Develop a tourism task force.** People who should be on this task force are local officials, tourism officials, and transportation officials. The key to this task force is the quality of your facilitator.

**5. Do not create a false sense of security.**

Gas masks will do nothing in case of a biological or chemical attack, while sealed rooms may be very useful. Much of what done at airports is a form



“Security Theater” that, as seen in the recent downing of a Russian airliner over Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, does not address real problems. Do not panic people, but deal with safety and security issues in the most professional manner possible. People begin to panic not when you take precautions in a professional manner, but when you fail to take precautions.

**6. Invite specialists to help train not only security personnel but also tourism officials.** All too often tourism officials do not attend security training and merely leave security issues in the hands of unpaid and underfunded security specialists. People lecturing must be both specialists in security and in travel and tourism. Remember terrorism against tourism is not a passing emergency, but now a permanent way of life with an ‘state’ (The Islamic State) seeking to undermine the totality of tourism. Travel and tourism industry professionals who are in denial and refuse to accept this new political reality are risking their business’ health are making a costly error.

**7. Develop security coalitions with all components of your community.** Make sure that your police department is trained and understand tourism, make sure that you hotel and attraction workers know how to handle a security emergency. This is also a time for regionalization. For example, if your state tourism conference has never had an expert speak on tourism security, ask why not? Both rural and urban areas should be thinking about the security of their guests.

**8. Know what is unsafe in your community and work with local governments to improve these security concerns.** How safe is your local airport? Are cab drivers’ backgrounds investigated? Who has access to a guest’s room? Who is working

behind the scenes at airports? Are these people vetted (have their personal backgrounds checked)?

**9. Send representatives to tourism security conferences.** The oldest and most famous one is held each year in Las Vegas. Every major CVB should have a representative at a tourism security conference along with at least one member of its law enforcement agency. This year’s conference is from April 10-13 and information can be obtained at [www.touristsafety.org](http://www.touristsafety.org)

**10. Make sure that all police personnel and security personnel are aware of how important tourism security is to their community’s reputation and economic health.** Most police have never been trained in good tourism security. It is essential to have a person work with your local police who can “translate” between tourism and security issues.

**11. Security and safety may have different meanings to scholars, but in the world of travel they are one and the same.** In the world of terrorism against tourism any lack of either safety or security may result in the destruction of a tourism industry.

**12. Remember that the best crisis management is good risk management!** It is a lot cheaper to stop an attack than it is to recover from an attack. In both the case of the Russian airliner and the Paris attacks, it appears that tourism officials were taken by surprise. The cost of these surprise attacks cannot only be measured in economic costs but also in the cost of lives destroyed, and reputations ruined. The tourism industry’s number one priority must be to do everything possible and to work with security agencies so as to assure the safety and security of its guests but also to insure the viability of the tourism industry.



*Dr. Peter E. Tarlow is a world-renowned speaker and expert specializing in the impact of crime and terrorism on the tourism industry, event and tourism risk management, and economic development. Since 1990, Tarlow has been teaching courses on tourism, crime & terrorism to police forces and security and tourism professionals throughout the world. Tarlow earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Texas A&M University. He also holds degrees in history, in Spanish and Hebrew literatures, and in psychotherapy. Tarlow is a founder and president of Tourism & More Inc. (T&M). He is a past president of the Texas Chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA). Tarlow is a member of the International Editorial Boards of “Turizam” published in Zagreb, Croatia, “Anatolia: International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Research,” published in Turkey, and “Estudios y Perspectivas en Turismo,” published in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and American Journal of Tourism Research.*





**13 Nov 2015**  
**Bataclan Theater Massacre**  
**Paris, France**



## CBS will postpone episodes of 'Supergirl' and 'NCIS: Los Angeles' because their plots had similarities to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris

Source: <http://www.newsy.com/videos/cbs-pulls-supergirl-ncis-la-due-to-similarities-to-paris-attacks/>

Nov 15 – CBS is changing its Monday lineup in response to the terror attacks in Paris Friday. A CBS insider told TVLine Monday's episodes of NCIS: Los Angeles and Supergirl were slated to have plot lines that were similar to the violence that left more than 120 people dead.



The original episode of Supergirl was going to depict the heroine trying to save her city from multiple bombings.

NCIS: LA planned to have a show focused on rescuing a teenager who joined a group of terrorists. Both will be replaced with different episodes.

These two shows continue a trend of networks pulling TV shows that are eerily similar to real world violence.

In August, USA Network postponed the season finale of its hacker-

drama Mr. Robot because the show contained a scene that was similar to the shooting of two journalists on live TV in Roanoke, Virginia.

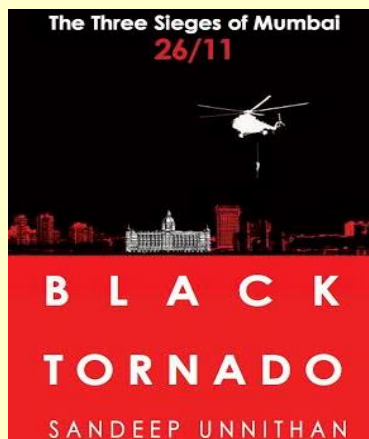
The shock from the Paris attacks was felt all over the entertainment industry. NBC sitcom Undateable canceled a live episode on Friday, the day of the attacks. And Saturday Night Live nixed an opening monologue in favor of a message of support for Paris.

"Paris is the city of light. And here in New York City, we know that light will never go out. Our love and support is with everyone there tonight. We stand with you," Cecily Strong said.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This is why the first meeting after 9/11 was that of US President with Hollywood's film makers. Perhaps they should have a permanent seat in all security advisory groups worldwide. They are much better than most of the analysts, planners and experts! This is one of my favorite groups along with cartoonists that I really admire!

## Similarities between Paris attacks and Mumbai 26/11

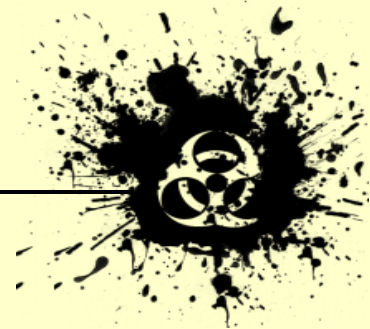
By Sandeep Unnithan



Source: <http://www.dailyo.in/politics/prayforparis-terror-strike-paris-attacks-mumbai-26-11-attack/story/1/7360.html>

Nov 14 – In the concluding lines of my book **'Black Tornado: the three sieges of Mumbai'** I wrote how, at a time when terrorist groups like ISIS had demonstrated their ability to capture and hold territory and attract global recruits, swarm attacks like those in Mumbai could prove to be their weapon of choice to inflict global terror.'

I could not have imagined how horribly prophetic those words would prove to be. This morning as I woke to news of the terrible tragedy in Paris. At least 153 people are believed killed in a series of bomb and



gun attacks late on the night of Friday November 13, in what are now being referred to as the Paris attacks.



Haversack of one of the Mumbai attackers recovered from the Taj. Bullets and anti-personnel grenades meant to cause maximum civilian casualties, AK-47 magazines taped together to enable rapid reloads.

Two bombs were detonated in the Stade de France soccer stadium during the game being witnessed by, among others, French President Francois Hollande. At least eight terrorists are believed to be involved in this multi-stage terrorist attack. The first attacks were carried out in two restaurants on Rue Bichat—the La Petit Cambodge and the Le Carillon. Finally, at least three terrorists took over 100 people hostage in a concert hall, Bataclan, where a rock concert was in progress. Here they randomly executed their hostages, which newspaper reports say, they reloaded their assault rifles at least three times. At least seven of the eight attackers detonated suicide vests. No terrorist outfit has claimed responsibility for the attacks yet but the needle of suspicion points towards ISIS.

These attacks are the deadliest terrorist attacks on European soil since the Madrid train bombings that killed 191 people in 2004. Far more lethal than the January 7, 2015 Paris shooting at the offices of French magazine Charlie Hebdo which killed 12 people. In their sheer complexity and brutality, the Paris attacks are near-identical to the savage attacks on Mumbai on the night of November 26, 2008 carried out by gunmen from the Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Toiba which killed 166 persons. Look at the similarities.

The ten Mumbai '26/11' attackers landed by sea in a hijacked fishing trawler. They split into five 'buddy pairs' and swarmed through a tight three square km box in the heart of India's financial capital. Mumbai was the world's first

'hybrid terrorist attack' because it combined all the elements of modern terrorism—stealthy cross-border infiltration by suicide attackers who used random active-shooter attacks on civilians, car bombs and hostage taking.

They struck at crowded railway stations, restaurants and a hospital before holding security forces off in multiple prolonged sieges in two prominent five star hotels and a Jewish centre. The terrorists used simple improvisations to enable mass killing—each AK-47 they carried had two magazines bound together with duct tape to enable rapid reloads; the terrorists carried hundreds of spare bullets in their haversacks with which they reloaded the magazines, they flung anti-personnel grenades meant to maim and kill. Each pair of terrorists had a 5-kg Improvised Explosive Device.

'I finished two-and-a-half magazines. Don't know how many I killed. I just kept firing. Zakki (LeT military chief Lakhvi) had told us to keep killing till we were alive,' the sole surviving gunman Ajmal Kasab told the Mumbai police.

The 26/11 military masterminds including Zakiur Rahman Lakhvi continuously directed the attacks from a command and control room set up in the port city of Karachi.

The blueprint for the Mumbai 26/11 attack came from two sources—the March 1975 seaborne landing on Tel Aviv beach and the capture of the Savoy Hotel by Palestinian terrorists and the 'Landmarks' plot foiled by the FBI in June 1993.



Eight Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists planned to storm several hotels and landmarks like the UN building in Manhattan, the Lincoln Tunnel, the Holland Tunnels and the George Washington Bridge. The logic was simple. Swarm attacks carried out by multiple mobile gunmen complicated the response of security forces who would be forced to scatter their forces.

Al Qaeda chose the suicide bomber over the gunman as it embarked on a series of 'terrorist acts of the deed' like the 9/11 attacks. Nineteenth century Russian anarchist Mikhail Bakunin described the terrorist act of the deed, "the most popular, the most potent, and the most irresistible form of propaganda."

Strikes could also inflict economic blows on host nations to portray them as being unsafe—France for instance attracted 83.7 million tourists last year to emerge the world's number

one tourist destination. They also serve as huge recruitment tools for terrorist organisations particularly the ISIS which has attracted close to 20,000 foreign fighters in the past few years.

The successful deployment of swarm attacks in Mumbai and Paris mean terrorist groups have abandoned the classic hostage situation like the two-day siege in Munich, 1972 or the three-day siege of the Moscow theatre in 2002. Long sieges give states the time to deploy the full might of their resources and even impose media blackouts that could starve terrorists of their oxygen of media publicity.

The new terrorist blueprint has arrived. Tried in Mumbai, perfected in Paris. The swarm attack executed by foot soldiers is the new act of the deed. Kill as many civilians and then kill yourself.

*Sandeep Unnithan is Deputy Editor, India Today.*

## Jihadist Network Target of International Police Operation

By Kylie Bull, Managing Editor

Source:

Nov 12 – Suspected leaders and several members of **Rawti Shax, a terrorist organization of Kurdish-Sunni origin**, were arrested today during an action that took place simultaneously in Italy, the United Kingdom, Norway, Finland, Germany and Switzerland with cooperation of police and judicial authorities of the countries involved and coordinated by Eurojust – the European Union's judicial cooperation unit. The arrested persons are charged with international terrorism.

**The network was allegedly plotting to free its leader, Mullah Krekar, who is in detention in Norway.** Krekar came to Norway as a refugee in 1991 and was jailed in 2012 for making death threats against officials and others. He was arrested again in February 2015 after praising the *Charlie Hebdo* attack during a television interview. Under Norwegian law, Krekar cannot be deported as he could face the death penalty in his native Iraq.

In addition, the cell - which had developed on the dark web - is reported to have been involved in recruiting foreign fighters.

Today's international police operation was launched by the Italian ROS Carabinieri under the direction of the Public Prosecution Office in

Rome. The investigations and continuous cooperation have been ongoing for years in Italy as well as in other European countries, particularly Switzerland and Germany, progressively revealing the structure and operations of this terrorist organization.

**Rawti Shax or Didi Nwe (the "new course" or "towards the mountain") represents an evolution of Ansar Al Islam, which is listed by the United Nations as a terrorist organization affiliated with Al Qaeda.** Its primary objective is to violently overthrow the current Iraqi Kurdish government and replace it with a caliphate governed by Sharia law.

According to the Italian investigation, unlike Ansar Al Islam, Rawti Shax **arose and is rooted in Europe, with cells communicating and operating via the Internet with a structure especially active in Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Finland, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Iraq, Iran and Syria.**

EUROJUST said that as the group evolved, it became active in providing logistical and financial support to recruiting foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to be sent to Syria and Iraq, also



with the intent of training them for the future conflict in Kurdistan.

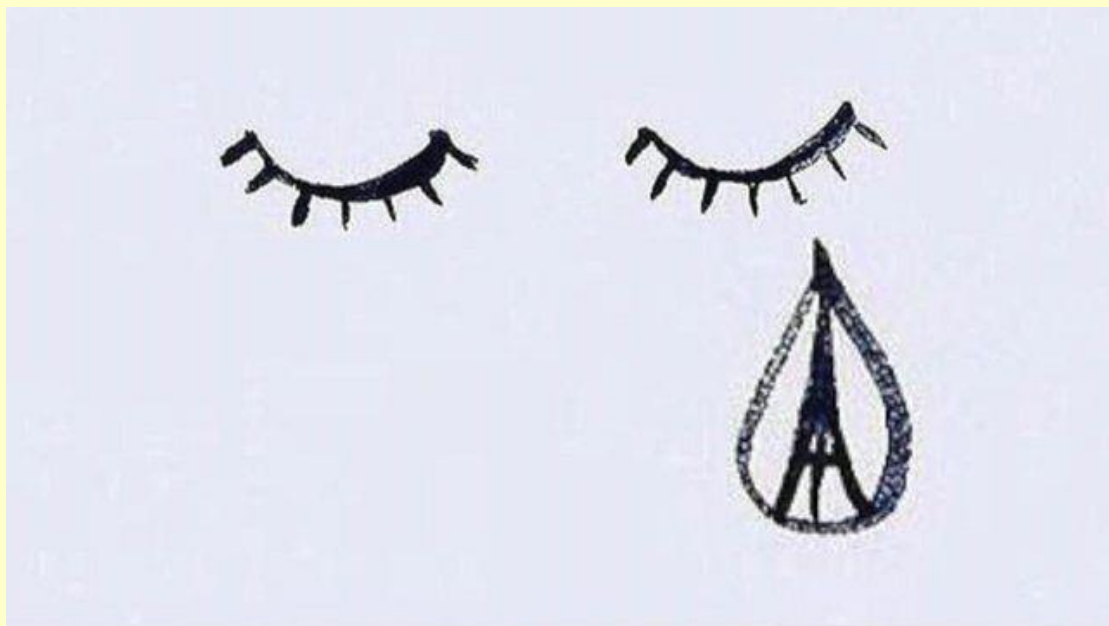
A coordination center was held at Eurojust under the leadership of the Italian Desk to manage international cooperation among the authorities involved in this joint operation.

**Thirteen were arrested in Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom.** In addition, the Italian, German, Finnish, Norwegian, Swiss and UK authorities conducted searches of 26 premises and seized several items, including electronic devices and documents. Some suspects could not be located, as they are believed to have traveled to the Middle East (Syria and Iraq) to join jihadist organizations (namely ISIS and al-Nusra) as FTFs.

Teresa-Angela Camelio, Eurojust Assistant to the National Member for Italy, said, "The level of cooperation provided by all the authorities involved in this case has been truly exceptional. Everybody's contribution has been essential to the success of the operation. The commitment and professionalism of judicial and police forces, facilitated through the Police Working Group on Terrorism (PWGT), ensured a solid investigative foundation. The efficient and continuous collaboration between the magistrates dealing with this case, at national level and through their Eurojust Desks and liaison magistrates, with the invaluable assistance of the Eurojust Case Analysis Unit, secured this positive outcome."

## Paris updated toll: 129 dead, 352 injured – 99 in critical condition

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151114-updated-toll-129-dead-352-injured-99-in-critical-condition>



Nov 14 – President Francois Hollande declared three days of national mourning, beginning Monday. France will observe a moment of silence on Monday at noon. Hollande said the Friday's terrorist attack constitute "acts of war" against France. At least one of the attackers was a French citizen: He was born on 21 November 1985 in the suburb of Courcouronnes, about twenty miles south of Paris. He had been known to police since 2004 and was flagged as an extremist in 2010. One gunman was found with a Syrian passport in his pocket, born in 1980. He had not previously been known to French police. This terrorist arrived in Greece with a group of sixty-nine Syrian refugees, and was allowed into France on 3 October. It is not known whether the terrorist is Syria, since Syrian identity documents are being bought and sold on the black market.

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**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

- Manuel Valls, France's prime minister, said: "Oui, nous sommes en guerre... Et nous gagnerons cette guerre" ("Yes, we are at war... and we will this war").
- François Molins, France's state prosecutor, said that "three coordinated teams" of terrorists were behind the attacks in Paris last evening.
- French authorities say that the initial investigation by French law enforcement authorities has determined that there were seven attackers, equipped with AK-47s and wearing suicide explosive vests.
- The most update toll of the attack: 129 dead and 352 injured – about 99 of which in critical condition.
- At least one of the attackers was a French citizen: He was born on 21 November 1985 in the suburb of Courcouronnes, about twenty miles south of Paris. He had been known to police since 2004 and was flagged as an extremist in 2010.
- One gunman was found with a Syrian passport in his pocket, born in 1980. He had not previously been known to French police. This terrorist arrived in Greece with a group of sixty-nine Syrian refugees, and was allowed into France on 3 October. It is not known whether the terrorist is Syria, since Syrian identity documents are being bought and sold on the black market.
- One of the cars used in the Paris attacks was registered to a French citizen, who was stopped at the French-Belgian border when he tried to cross into Belgium with two other people. The three were living in Belgium and were not known to French authorities as associated with extremism.
- The Belgian authorities say that "several" Belgian citizens were arrested last night – most of them from the Molenbeek neighborhood in Brussels. The three Belgians who were arrested as they tried to cross from France into Belgium are all from Molenbeek.

**The timeline of the attacks:**

- o 21:20 — The first explosion was at D gate at the Stade de France. Two bodies found near the gate: one with an explosive belt with batteries, the second victim a passerby. The terrorist who blew himself up had a ticket for the friendly France-Germany game, but security personnel at the gate became suspicious of him and did not allow him to enter the stadium. He moved away from the gate and blew himself up.
- o 21:30 – An explosion near H gate at the Stade de France, another gunman's body was found with a suicide vest.
- o 21:32 — Diners at a bar were attacked by gunmen who arrived in a Seat car — 15 people were killed and 10 were injured.
- o 21:36 — In the 11th arrondissement, there was another shootout in front of a bar, leaving five are dead and eight injured. Some 100 bullets were found. The attacker arrived in a black Seat.
- o 21:40 – Gunmen enter the Bataclan concert hall during a performance and begin shooting at the audience.
- o 21:53 – Another suicide bomber explodes his explosive vest near the Stade de France
- o 00:20 – French security forces storm the Bataclan concert hall

**Why the Paris Massacre Will Have Limited Impact**

By Daniel Pipes

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5628/paris-massacre-impact>

Nov 14 – The murder of some 127 innocents in Paris by a jihadi gang on Friday has again shocked the French and led to another round of solidarity, soul searching, and anger. In the end, however, Islamist violence against Westerners boils down to two questions: **How much will this latest atrocity turn public opinion? And how much will it further spur the Establishment to deny reality?**

As these questions suggest, the people and the professionals are moving in opposite directions, the former to the right, the latter to the left. In the end, this clash much reduces the impact of such events on policy.



**Public opinion moves against Islamists specifically and Islam more generally when the number of deaths are large enough.**

America's three thousand dead on 9/11 stands out as by far the largest mortality but many other countries have had their equivalent – the Bali bombings for Australia, the railroad bombing for Spain, the Beslan school massacre for Russia, the transportation bombings for Britain.

**Sheer numbers are not the only consideration. Other factors can multiply the impact of an assault, making it almost the political equivalent of mass carnage:** (1) the renown of those attacked, such as Theo van Gogh in the Netherlands and the *Charlie Hebdo* office in France. (2) The professional status of the victim, such as soldiers or police. (3) High-profile circumstances, such as the Boston Marathon bombing.

In addition to the over 27,000 attacks globally connected to Islam since 9/11, or more than 5 per day (as counted by TheReligionOfPeace.com), a huge increase in illegal immigration from the Middle East recently exacerbated feelings of vulnerability and fear. It's a one-way street, with not a single soul ever heard to announce, "I used to worry about Islamism but I don't any more."



These cases make more Westerners worried about Islam and related topics from the building of minarets to female infibulation. Overall, a relentless march rightwards is underway. [Surveys of European attitudes](#) show **60 to 70 percent of voters expressing these concerns**. Populist individuals like Geert Wilders of the Netherlands and parties like the Sweden Democrats are surging in the polls.

But when it comes to the Establishment – politicians, the police, the press, and the professors – the unrelenting violence has a contrary effect. Those charged with interpreting the attacks live in a bubble of public denial (what they say privately is another matter) in which they feel compelled to pretend that Islam has no role in the violence, out of concern that to recognize it would cause even more problems.

These 4-P professionals bald-facedly feign belief in a mysterious "violent extremist" virus that seems to afflict only Muslims, prompting them to engage in random acts of barbaric violence. Of the many preposterous statements by politicians, my all-time favorite is what Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont, said about the *Charlie Hebdo* jihadis: "They're about as Muslim as I am."

This defiance of common sense has survived each atrocity and I predict that it will also outlast the Paris massacre. Only a truly massive loss of life, perhaps in the hundreds of thousands, will force the professionals to back off their deeply ingrained pattern of denying an Islamic component in the spate of attacks.

That pattern has the very consequential effect of shutting out the fears of ordinary voters, whose views thereby have negligible impact on policy. Worries about Shari'a, rape gangs, exotic diseases, and bloodbaths are dismissed with charges of "racism" and "Islamophobia," as though name-calling addresses these real issues.

**More surprising yet, the professionals respond to the public's move to the right by themselves moving to the left, encouraging more immigration from the Middle East, instituting more "hate speech" codes to suppress criticism of Islam, and providing more patronage to Islamists.**

This pattern affects not just Establishment figures of the Left but more strikingly also of the Right (such as Angela Merkel of Germany); only Eastern European leaders such as Hungary's Viktor Orbán permit themselves to speak honestly about the real problems.

Eventually, to be sure, voters' views will make themselves heard, but decades later and more weakly than democratically should have been the case.



Placing the murderous rampage in Paris into this context: it will likely move public sentiments substantially in one direction and

Establishment policies in quite the opposite way, therefore ultimately having only a limited impact.

*Daniel Pipes is president of the Middle East Forum.*

## The Seven Deadliest Attacks in Europe in Decades

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/11/the-seven-deadliest-attacks-in-europe.html>

The attacks which left at least 129 dead in Paris on Friday are the deadliest in Europe since the Madrid



train bombings in March 2004.

**January 7-9, 2015, France:** Two men armed with Kalashnikov rifles storm the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a weekly known for satirical caricatures of Islam and other religions. They kill 12 people including eight cartoonists and journalists as well as two police officers, before fleeing. A policewoman is killed just outside Paris the following day in a shooting. Investigators later link to the Charlie Hebdo attack. A gunman takes hostages at a Jewish supermarket, four of whom are killed. The Charlie Hebdo attackers and the hostage-taker are killed in separate shootouts with police.

**July 22, 2011, Norway:** A right-wing extremist, Anders Behring Breivik, kills eight people in a bomb attack outside a government building in the capital Oslo and later murders another 69 people -- most of them teenagers -- when he opens fire at a Labour Youth camp on the island of Utoya. In August 2012, he was handed a 21-year prison sentence, which can be extended if he is still considered a danger to society.

**July 7, 2005, Britain:** Four coordinated suicide attacks at rush hour on three underground lines and a bus leaves 56 dead and 700 wounded. The attacks were claimed by Al-Qaeda.

**March 11, 2004, Spain:** A dozen shrapnel-filled bombs explode on four commuter trains heading for Madrid's Atocha station, leaving 191 dead and about 2,000 injured. The coordinated attacks were claimed by militants who said they had acted on Al-Qaeda's behalf in retaliation for Spain's involvement in the US-led invasion of Iraq. The seven chief suspects committed suicide on April 3, 2004, by blowing themselves up in an apartment near Madrid, also killing a policeman.

**August 15, 1998, Britain:** A car-bomb explodes in Omagh, a small town in Northern Ireland, killing 29 people and wounding 220. The attack is claimed by the dissident wing of the Irish Republican Army. The Omagh bombing was seen as a major test of the fragile peace established by the Good Friday



agreements inked just four months earlier.

**June 19, 1987, Spain:** A car-bomb attack by the Basque separatist organisation ETA in the car park of a shopping centre in Barcelona leaves 21 dead and 45 wounded.

**August 2, 1980, Italy:** A bomb explodes in the waiting room of the Bologna railway station,

leaving 85 dead and 200 wounded. It was the deadliest attack in the country's history. Two members of an extreme right-wing terrorist group were condemned to life in prison over the attack, but those who planned it were never identified.

## Competitive terrorism between IS, LeT is the real threat for India arising out of Paris attacks

By Saikat Datta

Source: <http://www.firstpost.com/world/competitive-terrorism-between-is-let-is-the-real-danger-for-india-flowing-out-of-the-horrific-paris-attacks-2506978.html>

A new kind of war demands new tactics and a new response. The American military and intelligence juggernaut discovered this maxim the hard way after 9/11 when airliners hijacked by the Al Qaeda crashed into the World Trade Towers, killing thousands.

Surprised by the 9/11 attack, the Americans went into a huddle to discover to their horror that all their doctrines were meant to fight a conventional war, against a state that could hold territory. The Al Qaeda was neither a state, nor did it value holding territory. They were non-state actors, who preyed on ideology and used asymmetric warfare as its preferred

actively supported by the Pakistani military-industrial complex to hit India in its asymmetric, undeclared war.

The IS, believed to have emerged out of the Syrian civil war, built its reputation on carefully developed strategy of armed assault tactics and targeted assassinations. A detailed study of their *al-naba*, its “annual reports” by the U.S based think tank, Understanding War, gave the world the first deep insights into its evolution into a dreaded terrorist outfit. The analysis noted that the IS specialised in “attacks utilizing small and medium arms” and “suicide operations” that was deployed near Baghdad in Iraq. The analysis concluded that the ISIS had “a strong unified, coherent leadership structure that commands from the top down”.

Clearly, this new entity was well organised and determined to take on its “enemies”. As more information trickled out, the global intelligence community was fascinated at the ability of ISIS to adapt quickly to new communication platforms to extend their reach and influence.

For India, the rising ISIS threat is worrying on two fronts in the aftermath of the Paris attacks. For the first time in decades,

young Indians have shown a dispensation to align themselves with a “global *jihadi* ideology” as a senior Indian intelligence official explained it to me a few months ago. For years, terrorism in India had been dominated by Pakistan-sponsored outfits like



tool of destruction.

The attack on Paris on Friday night by the Islamic State (ISIS) is the manifestation of a new war, whose doctrines were written in the AF-Pak region. The people who worked on the doctrine were bred in *madrassas* in Pakistan, emerging from decades of radicalisation and



the Lashkar-e-Toiba, which was focussed on attacking India.

The lure of outfits beyond Pakistan had never been a great attraction and between 2005 and 2011, only one person from Hyderabad had been found to have travelled west to join the Al Qaeda. The man returned disillusioned and finally committed suicide.

However, as the ISIS began to spread its global tentacles, effectively using Social Media platforms like Twitter, it began to find resonance in India. At one point, one of its most influential twitter operators was found to be a young Bangalore-based Indian executive who was arrested after being exposed by the London-based Channel 4.

A detailed study of the Twitter strategy of the ISIS by the U.S.-based Brookings Institution between September and December 2014, studying 46,000 twitter accounts, found increasing support for the ISIS across the globe. The study also found that nearly 133,422 tweets per day were being sent out by ISIS supporters, peaking during acts of beheadings or other executions. Most of this online activity was controlled by a dedicated group of 500 to 2000 users targeting supporters across the Middle East and Europe. In India, intelligence agencies kept a wary eye on this emerging new threat. In regular meetings held by the National Security Advisor with the IB and R&AW chiefs, the ISIS would be frequently discussed and the strategy was to keep tabs on youngsters travelling to Syria via Turkey to join the terrorist outfit. However, India's strategy was to try and avoid any legal prosecution of these youngsters, instead attempting to convince them that their chosen path was wrong.

According to a senior Indian intelligence official who spent considerable time in Europe tracking the rise of the ISIS, the failure of the elaborate French surveillance regime to anticipate the attack was the biggest worry. "After the attack on the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, French intelligence had increased its surveillance – both physical and online – to anticipate such attacks. But the fact that they managed to get

through shows how well planned this attack was," the official told me.

What was worrying the French was the suspicion that most of the attackers were probably French residents, originating from North Africa, who had also joined the ISIS in Syria and returned to France earlier this year. According to the official, these French-speaking ethnic groups exploited simmering communal tensions to find new recruits and deploy them for these attacks.

"These attacks are based on the tactics first deployed by the LeT, when it carried out the 26/11 attack on Mumbai. That was the blueprint, this was a manifestation of the same tactics," a senior counter terrorism official confirmed. For the Indian intelligence community, the Paris Attack by the ISIS, in many ways, heightens their concerns about the LeT.

For the LeT, which chose to target vulnerable public spaces on 26/11 – train stations, restaurants and hotels – it was a new way to spread its terror to cow down the Indian state and force it to react. The tactics deployed by the LeT has now been adopted by the ISIS because it is cheap, easy to deploy and attracts massive publicity. This creates a new worry for Indian security officials.

"We know that the LeT is ready with several plans to attack India. They continue to get support from the Pakistani military leadership – travel documents, money, material and training. But the success of every attack by a competing outfit like the ISIS increases pressure on them to carry out an attack on India. So it is a twin threat – ISIS and the LeT - that we have to deal with," the counter terrorism official said.

Their worries have some basis in the past. According to the interrogation report of David Coleman Headley, an American of Pakistani origin, who worked with the LeT to plan 26/11, a key reason for the assault on Mumbai was the outfit's worry that they would lose their cadres to the Taliban if they did not carry out a "spectacular" attack. Now, with a "spectacular attack" in Paris, the LeT is likely to renew its efforts to repeat a 26/11-style attack.

*Saikat Datta is a former editor and investigative reporter, author of 'India's Special Forces', a Visiting Fellow with ORF and researching on issues of counter-terrorism, intelligence and cybersecurity.*



## Albania Minister Receives Emailed Terror Threat

Source: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/islamic-state-threatens-albania-11-14-2015>

An email sent to the private address of Interior Minister Saimir Tahiri says Albania will be the next country after France to be attacked for its role in the war on terror.

Fatjona Mejdini BIRN Tirana

Albanian Interior Minister Saimir Tahiri on Saturday said he had received a threatening message via his personal email about a terrorist attack in Albania.



The short message writes that Albania will be the next country to be attacked by Islamic State in revenge for Albania's involvement in the war on terror.

**"Now is your turn. The holy war has started against all those who are involved in the war against the Islamic State. You are going to shake and kneel in front of Allah. Allahu Akhbar,"** the email reportedly said.

The name of the group who sent the email is **"Brigadat e Kuqe"** or The Red Brigade.

The name was identified for the first time on the eve of the Albania-Serbia football match, when group then sent threatening emails about the Serbian football team, calling them an enemy organisation.

Police sources told BIRN that they were investigating the message sent to Tahiri.

Following Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris, Albanian police said they had tightened security measures and urged citizens to report anything suspicious that they might see.

## France Terror Attacks 2015: Months after Charlie Hebdo Massacre, What Drew Islamic Extremism to Paris Again?

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/france-terror-attacks-2015-months-after-charlie-hebdo-massacre-what-drew-islamic-2184740>

Nov 14 – As the world grieved Saturday for the hundreds murdered and wounded in an orchestrated wave of terror attacks on the Bataclan concert hall and other places in Paris Friday evening, the French again wondered why they are such frequent targets of terrorism. The extremist Islamic State group took responsibility for the attacks, making Friday's massacre the third terror attack in the city in 2015, following the assault on the magazine Charlie Hebdo's offices and a kosher market in January and a foiled attack on a train in August.

In the wake of such horror, questions swirled concerning what had made the European nation with strict gun control and a reputation for democratic values a repeat target for violent extremism. Without putting blame on the victims of terrorism, recent shifts in France's political atmosphere as well as its presence in conflicts abroad offer clues as to what makes it such an attractive target.



France has long prided itself on its democratic and, above all, secular, values. The rallying cry of the French Revolution, “Liberté, Egalité Fraternité” (liberty, equality, fraternity) adorns public buildings and documents, symbolizing the country’s fight for freedom from the rule of church and monarchy. An increasingly militant secularism, coupled with French intervention in Syria and a large population of poorly integrated Muslims who feel disenfranchised, has made France the most attractive target for Islamic extremism in Europe, security experts said.

“It is clearly tied to French action in Syria,” said Axel Dveyre, manager of a strategy consulting firm and former French military officer. “France is without a doubt the country [in Europe] that intervenes the most at this time,” he said, speaking on French participation in airstrikes in Syria that have targeted ISIS.

While French intervention in Syria almost certainly has played a role in making Paris a target, in looking to the root causes of homegrown terror, scholars and security experts have pointed to a large, often disenfranchised Muslim community. At 5 million to 6 million, France has the largest Muslim population in Europe. Many people from Muslim communities are poorly integrated in French society, living in slums on the outskirts of Paris and other cities.



“There are a certain number of regions and also neighborhoods in France that aren’t very well policed that easily lend themselves to terrorist activity,” said Jacques Frémeaux, a specialist in modern colonial history at the Sorbonne University in Paris. One of the perpetrators of Friday’s attacks was a young French Muslim who grew up in the outskirts of Paris.

Part of the integration problems of Muslim communities’ stems from a discordance between freedom of expression of religion, including

wearing headscarves, and secular laws that have grown more numerous and more specific. A spate of laws in 2004, 2010 and 2011 made it illegal to wear any “ostentatious” sign of religion in a public space, whether at a school, a post office or any federal building. Such signs include Christian crucifix jewelry, Jewish yarmulkes and Muslim hijabs or other headscarves.

The spirit of French secularism is embodied in the term “laïcité,” which has no real English equivalent but means a fervent dedication to secularism. Critics of recent laws and developments have pointed out that laïcité is often manipulated by politicians from its spirit of equality and inclusion into a politics of exclusion. “We speak so often about ‘laïcité’ in France, but no one knows exactly what it’s all about,” said Frémeaux, adding, “Laïcité is used by the far right against Islamism and against Islam in general.”

French police patrol outside the closed Galeries Lafayette department store in Paris on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, the day after a series of deadly attacks in the city. Reuters/Yves Herman

France risks more attacks and a growth of Islamic extremism if the government does not make a concerted effort to integrate Muslim communities, said Christian Harbulot, a French intelligence and defense expert. “We haven’t successfully unified the French population, and we risk what I call an ‘opening of the floodgates,’” he said.

The French government and President Francois Hollande in particular need to fight against Islamic extremism in all its forms, according to Harbulot. “The enemy is radical Islam, not just a group calling itself Daesh,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for ISIS. “It’s a sociological enemy that creates itself within French society.”

Looking to the future, one Muslim community leader, Fateh Kimouche, said he feared how the attack may be used by politicians to incite hatred against Muslims instead of productive initiatives concerning integration. “The Muslim community is in mourning like all French people, but they also feel the anguish of fear of retaliation,” Kimouche told IBT Saturday.

“The wave of aggression [against Muslims] following the attacks of January 2015 tell us that we are not wrong to fear,” he said.



## French Security Left Blind During November 13 Paris Terror Attacks

By Dr. Paul Craig Roberts

Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/french-security-left-blind-during-november-13-paris-terror-attacks /5489213>

Nov 16 – *I have received a report from European security that there was a massive cyber attack on French systems 48 hours prior to and during the Paris attacks. Amongst other things, the attack took down the French mobile data network and blinded police surveillance. The attack was not a straightforward DDOS attack but a sophisticated attack that targeted a weakness in infrastructure hardware.*

Such an attack is beyond the capability of most organizations and requires capability that is unlikely to be in ISIL's arsenal. An attack on this scale is difficult to pull off without authorities getting wind of it. The coordination required suggests state involvement. It is common for people with no experience in government to believe that false flag attacks are not possible, because they think the entire government would have to be involved and not everyone would go along with it. Someone would talk. However, if the report I have received is correct, hardly anyone has to be involved, and security forces are simply disabled.

Remember the reports that during 9/11, a simulation of the actual events that were occurring was being conducted, thus confusing responsible parties about the reality.

I am unable to reveal any further information.

If security experts find the information credible, they should direct their inquiries to the French authorities.

*Dr. Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy and associate editor of the Wall Street Journal. He was columnist for Business Week, Scripps Howard News Service, and Creators Syndicate. He has had many university appointments. His internet columns have attracted a worldwide following. Roberts' latest books are The Failure of Laissez Faire Capitalism and Economic Dissolution of the West and How America Was Lost.*



## What France Can Learn from Israel in Confronting Islamist Terror

By Gregg Roman

Source: <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/what-france-can-learn-from-israel-in-confronting-islamist-terror/>

Nov 16 – As my French friends, colleagues, and acquaintances agonize over what is to be done in the aftermath of the Paris attacks, the best advice I can think of is to look at Israel.

This tragedy was not "France's 9/11." Al-Qaeda effectively depleted its stateside human assets in that attack and never regained the ability to strike the American heartland. This is France's Al-Aqsa Intifada – unfortunately, more of the same is absolutely going to follow. **Whatever one's political predisposition to Israeli counterterrorism policies may be, its success fighting Islamist terror over the past two decades is the only real-world model for**

**overcoming the specific challenges France now faces.**

**Here are some of the main takeaways.**

**First, it's time to sacrifice some freedoms of convenience.** Most Israelis don't know what it's like to walk into a mid-size concert venue of the kind targeted in France without passing through a metal detector and their government intends to keep it that way. They may gripe about it, but they would feel less free if their government wasn't inconveniencing them on a daily basis.

**Second, go ahead and profile.** All of the jihadists bent on terrorizing





**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

France have some obvious commonalities. The reason Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport is considered the gold standard of airline security is that Israeli screeners are *encouraged* to single out passengers for extra scrutiny on the basis of religion, age, gender, and so forth, while waving the vast majority through terminals more quickly. Not even the most seasoned terrorist is likely to take the risk of running this gauntlet if he knows *for certain* he's going to find himself in a room full of inquisitive Israelis.

**Third, recognize that deterrence isn't fair.** Since it's impossible to dissuade suicide bombers with the threat of certain death or bodily harm, you have to threaten things they care about. Israel's policy of demolishing the family homes of Palestinian terrorists may not be altogether "just," but it's necessary to counter the overwhelmingly positive social approval and financial benefits these families receive for contributing "martyrs" to the cause.

If being related to a terrorist isn't already a deeply unpleasant experience in France, make it so. Understand that it's neither possible nor desirable to ensure that terrorists are the only ones paying a price for their terrorism. Make whatever efforts to avoid harming innocents are consistent with your values, but don't let the backlash from armchair counter-terrorists and Francophobes abroad dictate policy.

**Fourth, target the brains behind terrorist infrastructure.** Go after the people responsible for recruiting, financing, training, motivating and directing Jihadis, not just the foot soldiers. Prosecute them if you can, but if they're overseas don't be afraid to dispense swifter justice. Though controversial when Israel first adopted targeted killing as a counterterrorism tool, most governments (including most notably the Obama administration) now recognize its effectiveness. The number of fatalities from suicide bombings in Israel dropped from hundreds in 2002 to zero in 2010.

**Fifth, fight the incitement.** Americans can still afford to pretend that Islamist hate speech and

indoctrination has little to do with terrorist violence, but France can't. The French government took a step in the right direction when it deported 40 Islamists accused of incitement in June of this year. It needs to go further. Instead of avoiding the *banlieues*, rings of Muslim majority neighborhoods around French cities that are impoverished, crime-ridden, and blighted, gendarmeries and intelligence services should sweep into these suburbs and place community centers, mosques, and high rises under surveillance. Checkpoints should be setup at the entrances to Islamist havens and searches conducted on those commuting in and out of these areas.

**Sixth, France must prioritize national security interests over sectarian grievances.** It's understandable that French Muslims are frustrated by their socio-economic marginalization, and there is surely room for improvement in how the authorities treat this estranged minority. But the rights and wrongs of this issue don't diminish France's right to defend itself or alter fundamental realities about what it takes to do that.

**Finally, at the risk of belaboring the obvious, France must control and monitor its borders** if it wishes to avoid a repeat of Friday's terror attacks. The ability of at least one of the attackers to claim refugee status in Greece and move onto France was an intelligence failure of the highest degree. As Sweden, Germany, Austria, and other countries reconsider Schengen, an agreement that allows uninhibited movement around Europe, so too should France. The French Interior ministry instituted border controls immediately after the attack. This change should be permanent.

**As President François Hollande declared after the attacks, France is reeling from an "act of war," not a crime wave. Israel has demonstrated that it is possible to win such wars, but this isn't for the faint-hearted.**

*Gregg Roman is Director of the Middle East Forum, a research center headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Quite reasonable proposals – there is no doubt about it! I would be really grateful if Roman could extrapolate Israel's geography to that of Greece. What would be his advice on controlling and monitoring the borders of a country with a coastline of 13,676 kilometers (8,498 mi) – the largest in the Mediterranean Basin? There are Greek islands that are only 5.14km (3.19mi) away from Turkish coastline (i.e. the Island of Kos). What then? Shoot them? Sunk their boats?



## Islamistphobes Unite!

By Tarek Fatah

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5629/islamistphobes-isis>

Nov 14 – **Will the latest atrocity committed in Paris by the self-professed soldiers of Allah alter the West's limp response to their challenge?**

I doubt it very much. After all, far greater acts of jihadi horror have happened and our



governments, along with us, have carried on with a shrug. Hell, we in the West can't even agree on how to name our enemy, much to the amusement of the head-chopping hordes of Islamdom.

The same murdering barbarians are known as the Islamic State or ISIS, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or its Arabic acronym, Daesh. The latter is now used by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry along with British and French leaders in a childish attempt to separate Islam from the terror being conducted in my religion's name.

But this is following the Saudi Arabian agenda, itself the prime promoter of worldwide Islamist agenda through its network of Saudi funded mosques and imams.

I suggest we stick to calling a spade a spade. Our enemy is the Islamic State, ISIS. There are other Islamic States such as Pakistan and Iran, both unsavoury and state sponsors of terrorism in the name of Islam. So for me it's the Islamic State, ISIS. Political correctness and advice from Saudi Arabia be damned.

But back to the place ISIS attacked because it considered it the City of Sin, Paris. We now learn that at least one, possibly two, of the

Islamic terrorists was a "refugee" from Syria who passed through Greece in October.

Yet anyone suggesting Canada first ensure we don't end up with Islamists or jihadists among our ranks when we bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees before the end of the year is labelled

a racist and an "Islamophobe" when in fact ordinary people are just 'Islamistphobes' and rightfully so.

Let us not insult the intelligence of ordinary Canadians who have a justifiable and rational fear of any Muslim refusing to renounce Sharia law and denounce the doctrine of armed jihad.

Of course we should let in those who are fleeing the horrors of ISIS, but certainly not the soldiers of ISIS.

Once a claimant touches Canadian soil, they're our

problem. Period. If a claimant is found to be a security risk, what happens to him? It's not as though we'll succeed in deporting someone to Syria. Even if the government tries to detain the individual, it will no doubt lead to a lengthy legal fight.

What sort of pressure will our security agencies be under to quickly clear claimants when there's a massive queue forming for clearance? Of course, this pressure no doubt exists even if we try to screen abroad but I'd argue it will be more intense as we have people piling up here. The new government has set an extremely ambitious timeline for bringing Syrian refugees in. There are serious questions that need to be answered immediately given their own timeline. Sorry, now is the very time to discuss these issues.

And this doesn't even begin to discuss the wisdom of pulling Canada out of the military mission combatting this metastasizing tumour in Iraq and Syria.

ISIS is ultimately gaining adherents not because our "crusader" forces are attacking them but because ISIS is an ascendant organization that is viewed as winning.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

The West's half-baked, tentative combatting of ISIS has only made us look that much weaker in the eyes of the jihadists.

As Osama bin Laden said long ago, most people will naturally gravitate to the strong horse.

*Tarek Fatah, a founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress and columnist at the Toronto Sun, is a Robert J. and Abby B. Levine Fellow at the Middle East Forum.*



## Paris attacks: Islamic State militants change tactics

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34824375>

**Friday's Paris assaults mark a new and frightening watermark in the steady expansion of attacks attributed to or claimed by the so-called Islamic State.**

For most of last year and much of this, IS's focus has been on taking and holding territory in the Middle East. For its leaders in Raqqa and Mosul, that is still the priority.

But the militants are well aware of their transnational appeal to violent jihadists in Europe and elsewhere.

**As they reel under the daily onslaught of US-led coalition airstrikes, haemorrhaging one leader after another, they are increasingly looking to direct or inspire attacks further afield.**



Across France and beyond, tributes are being paid to the victims of the attacks

### Careful planning

In June, IS claimed a gun attack at a **Tunisian** beach resort in Sousse that killed 38 tourists, 30 of them British.

In October **Turkey** blamed a suicide attack killing 102 people in Ankara on IS. Later that month, IS's Sinai affiliate claimed to have brought down a Russian airliner, killing all 224 people on board.

On 12 November, IS claimed the bomb attack on the Hezbollah stronghold in south **Beirut** that left 44 people dead. And then came Paris, with at least 120 dead and over 300 injured.

These are not isolated, lone wolf, spur-of-the-moment attacks. Although not necessarily

difficult to execute, these attacks still took planning, preparation, training, sourcing of weapons and explosives, reconnaissance of the target and the careful recruitment of so-called "martyrs" - fanatical young men prepared to carry them out in the full knowledge they will probably die doing so.

This is far more reminiscent of al-Qaeda's modus operandi in the early 2000s, going for big publicity, high-casualty attacks that make headlines around the world.

Western counter-terrorism officials had recently come round to the conclusion that while there were still people aspiring to such grand-



scale attacks, the prevailing threat was more likely to come from "self-starters", people like the murderers of British soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich near London in 2013.

### Closing the window

There is also another factor here. The 1000-mile (1,600km) Turkey-Syria border used to present little obstacle to the thousands of

would-be jihadists coming from Europe to swell the ranks of IS.

While the border is still porous in places, much of it on the Syrian side is now controlled by the YPG, a Kurdish militia opposed to IS.

**So the "window" through which new recruits can cross has narrowed considerably.** Iraq is

not a realistic transit route for European jihadists to reach Syria, Jordan's border is closed and in Lebanon there is a high risk of being caught by security forces.

**The net result is that IS's online recruiters have recently been encouraging their followers to stay in their own countries and plan attacks there, rather than attempt the risky journey to Syria.**



In the light of what has happened in Paris and elsewhere, they may now be revising that assessment.

In the short term at least, this will translate into a heightened chance of terrorist attacks here in Europe.

## Islamist Terrorism and European Amnesia

By Rachel Ehrenfeld

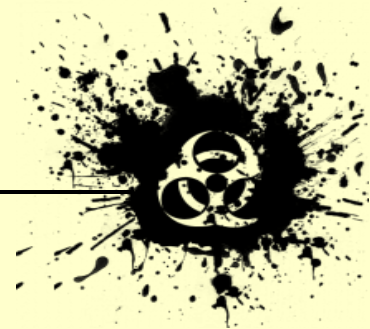
Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/islamist-terrorism-and-european-amnesia/>



Left: Jo Goldenberg's restaurant at the Marais district, Paris, attacked in 1982 by PLO mastermind Souhair Mohammed Hassan Khalil al-Abbassi, aka "Amjad Atta" that killed six people and wounding 22 others.

Nov 15 – Politicians and the media in Europe and the United States are talking about the latest terrorist attacks as if they are a new phenomenon. They are not. Israelis have been confronting similar terrorist attacks, including shooting at and blowing up innocent diners at Pizzerias and coffee shops in Jerusalem, restaurants in Tel-Aviv, stabbing passengers at bus and train stations, or running over them with a car. However, European and other governments, including the Obama administration, look upon Palestinians killing Israelis with a rather sympathetic eye. They, like Palestinian leaders justify the attacks as expressions of frustration

with Israeli real or fictional occupation. And as the latest wave of Palestinian killing of Israelis increased, the European Union



decided to support the Palestinians by declaring an economic warfare against Israel. Anything produced in territory “occupied by Israel” is now subject to special labeling and often banned altogether (per the demands of the BDS movement and the Palestinians).

The Europeans seem to be suffering from selected memory lapses when it comes to the Palestinians. This European amnesia deprived them of lessons that could have minimized and perhaps altogether prevented the ISIS attacks. After all, the PLO served as the precursor of other Islamist terror organization. Palestinian murderous attacks in Europe, blackmailing of most European carriers as an “insurance” against hijacking and blowing up planes and other acts of terrorism, are all forgotten. Yet, they have paved the way and in many instances went on to found and participate in other Islamist terror groups, including al Qaeda and ISIS.

Moreover, like ISIS and al Qaeda, and Hizballah and Iran, the Palestinians are holding similar jihadi ideology, using similar methods and yelling *allahu akbar* while murdering as many people as they can.

On Sunday, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent his condolences to President Hollande and the French people, saying: “In Israel, like in France, terrorism is terrorism,” He went on to call “for the nations of the world to condemn terrorism against us as much as they condemn terrorism anywhere else in the world...t is fitting that we remember, we are not guilty of terrorism directed against us, just as the French were not guilty of terrorism directed against them,” Netanyahu continued. “With terrorism, the terrorists are to blame – not the ‘occupiers,’ not the ‘settlements’, and nothing we do.”

**He could/should have added a few sentences from Ronn Torossian’s satirical**

**‘open-letter’ in Artuz7, to President Hollande:**

“First we wish to share with you what we usually hear from the world in the aftermath of these “incidents” or “unrest” (I know you called it terrorism, but that is what the world calls it when it happens in Israel). Perhaps these pointers will help you cope and avoid future “incidents” ...As your government told us recently...countries must “protect themselves from militants, but show restraint to not further fuel a highly sensitive situation in the region.”... “You must understand the pain and needs of the angry Muslims shooting and setting off explosives, and not respond inappropriately so that there is no escalation of the cycle of violence.

You must negotiate even while under attack; conditioning negotiations on an end to violence is a no-win situation. It will simply extend the bloodshed....To close your borders will only lead to further oppression and anger, so don’t do that.”

“Best of all would be to divide France into two parts, and Paris into two cities for two peoples. No Frenchman dares go into a Muslim neighborhood in Paris and neither do the police anyway, so the city is already divided de facto. What’s the difference if it is your ancestral homeland?

Torossian further advice Hollande: “If you strike at the perpetrators of the attack and their supporters, you will simply extend and enlarge the cycle of violence, so don’t do that....Begin by declaring a unilateral ceasefire! Give peace a chance! Do not allow yourself to be drawn into the abyss of violence. End that cycle of violence. Show restraint.”

If past French and European reaction to Palestinian/Islamist jihadist attacks is of any indication, they will continue to support their chosen jihadi group – the Palestinians.

## It’s no coincidence that terrorists keep targeting France

By Haroon Moghul Senior Correspondent, Religion Dispatches

Source: <http://qz.com/550521/its-no-coincidence-that-terrorists-keep-targeting-france/#>

Nov 15 – **Even before the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris, I knew what they would say.** They would claim that France is a “crusader nation”; that France’s Muslims are oppressed; that France participates in operations against ISIL

and has deep historical ties to the Muslim world.

In the days and weeks to come, I am sure analysts will invoke France’s marginalized Muslim population, many of whom hail



from countries that France long occupied. They might point to an aggressive secular culture, which singles out the practice of Islam. They could draw on the stigmatization of *hijab*, the ban on niqab, the elimination of halal food options in some public schools, the abandonment of the *banlieus*, the mocking tone of a condescending mainstream culture, and the exclusion of Muslims from political life. These issues are worth paying attention to. **To be abundantly clear, these neither explain nor justify the attacks. But they help explain why France is so repeatedly targeted.**



One of the most influential jihadist texts is a work called *The Management of Savagery*, which outlines the jihadist strategy for bringing about the political goals they desire. (Hint: It's in the title of the work.)

In the seventh issue of ISIL's magazine **Dabiq**, shared last night on Twitter by author and analyst Iyad El-Baghdadi, the Islamic State expands on these themes, [calling for a clash of civilizations](#). Jihadists are threatened by democracy, but they are empowered by narratives of sectarianism, mistrust and discrimination. Jihadists are not just becoming savvier at manipulating media, but at using attacks to advance their strategy of "exclusion." They find a major fault line, seek to undertake an attack that will widen this fissure, and reap

the whirlwind as people in divided societies run in opposite directions.

**We have seen this strategy used repeatedly as recently as the past few weeks.**

In **Beirut**, two ISIL suicide bombers targeted a Shia neighborhood in southern Beirut. Lebanon is already strained by sectarian rivalry. The attack angers Lebanese Shia— with good reason—but also puts Sunnis on the defensive. These Sunnis may very well condemn the attack, and sympathize with their Shia co-nationalists. But they might also be skeptical of how this attack could embolden the Shia extremist group Hezbollah, which after all has engaged in the same kind of violence as ISIL, albeit with different targets.

In **Turkey**, ISIL is suspected of attacking a Kurdish peace rally, seeking to worsen relations between the country's two principal

## THE EXTINCTION OF THE GRAYZONE

### THE ENDANGERED GRAYZONE

The grayzone is critically endangered, rather on the brink of extinction. Its endangerment began with the blessed operations of September 11<sup>th</sup>, as these operations manifested two camps before the world for mankind to choose between, a camp of Islam – without the body of Khilāfah to represent it at the time – and a camp of kufr – the crusader coalition. Or as Shaykh Usāmah Ibn Lādin (rahimahullāh) said, "The world today is divided into two camps. Bush spoke the truth when he said, 'Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists.' Meaning, either you are with the crusade or you are with Islam" [Interview – 4 Sha'bān 1422H].<sup>1</sup>

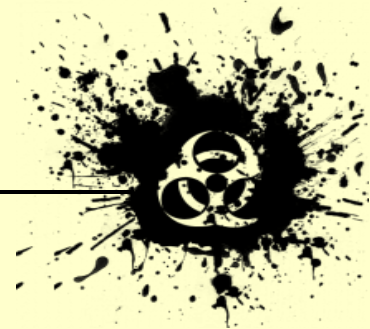
The operations quickly exposed the different deviant "Islamic" movements, the palace "scholars," and the deviant du'āt, not to mention the apostate tawāghīṭ<sup>2</sup>, as all of them rushed to serve the crusaders led by Bush in the war against Islam. And so, the grayzone began to wither...

1 It is strange how 'Azām al-Amrīkī in some of his letters criticized the Islamic State's justification for targeting the hostile Catholics of Iraq in 2010. He denied that its operation against the Catholics was based upon Bush's division of the world, when this is exactly how Shaykh Usāmah (rahimahullāh) viewed the world!

2 The tawāghīṭ had always been open apostates in the camp of kufr, but due to the support they received from the palace "scholars" and the deviant movements (the Sufis, the Surīyiyah, the Ikhwān, etc.), many of the ignorant did not understand the blatant apostasy of these rulers. Because of this confusion, the tawāghīṭ were only "gray" in the sight of the ignorant. Only in this sense did the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> drive the tawāghīṭ out of the grayzone.

ethnic groups, which were already suffering. In the **Sinai**, ISIL may well have taken down a Russian jet, further undermining an already unpopular Egyptian regime. This will reinforce a cycle of violence, permitting more radicalism.

**But it's about more than just symbolism.** In France, the logic is the same. **But why is France repeatedly singled out?** Here there is a repetition of the strategy of exclusion, even as more worrying possibilities must also be considered. This attack is what we mean we talk about terrorism: Violence, which apparently cannot be predicted, which strikes all across the heart of an open city, cutting people down on a Friday evening, whether in a theater or at a restaurant. Violence which strikes at the romantic, cultural center of the West: the City of Light itself. **But it's about more than just symbolism.**



France is home to what is likely [Western Europe's largest Muslim population](#), which has also long been among Europe's most alienated. ISIL wishes to amplify mistrust in order to reap the damaged fruit. The attacks on Paris not only endanger innocent civilians, but have the ability to leave in their wake a climate of suspicion that could push intolerance over the edge.

**The resulting mistrust is what ISIL seeks, hopes for, needs.** In a country where a disproportionate percentage of prison inmates are Muslim—and which has struggled to control radicalizing influences behind bars—may even increase recruitment, which will increase violence, which will increase recruitment.

A perpetual motion machine of evil.

**But there is another consideration that must be brought to bear.** France is a great country that has survived greater challenges in the past, which means France can and will triumph against this scourge. But France must also admit to a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) strategy that is failing and to intelligence services that have permitted yet another major intelligence failure in under a year. The Charlie Hebdo terror attacks and the assault on a Jewish supermarket came first, then a Moroccan gunman on a train who could have wreaked havoc had it not been for the entirely fortunate but unplanned presence of brave Americans and Britons.

And now a catastrophic intelligence failure, a highly coordinated, sophisticated and organized operation, part of which struck at a stadium at which the French president himself was present. ISIL would like for us to turn on

each other in suspicion and confusion. We will not allow them.

It is of course alarming that ISIL can inflict this kind of damage. But an operation this large would have required tremendous planning—and yet it was never uncovered. **This may be because the French have been more concerned with attacking social conservatism, and confusing religiosity for extremism, which is an all too common and unfortunate mistake.** There are likely other causes at work as well. It takes a lot of powder to fill a powder keg.

**The United States' far more nuanced counter-terrorism strategy has proven (arguably) more successful than that of many of our Western allies.** It is no

coincidence that part of this strategy is to bring American Muslims on board as partners, not as suspects. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation recently announced plans for a dedicated center to combating extremist propaganda. These are examples of a global response to what, as we've seen, has become a global challenge.

France should work alongside these partners and rework its counter-terrorism strategy, because yesterday's attack was not only vile and disgusting, but a worrying indication of how vulnerable France's capital is.

It does not have to be.

It would like us to believe this is a battle between Islam and the West, even as ISIL kills people who are Muslim, or Western, or Western *and* Muslim. ISIL would like for us to turn on each other in suspicion and confusion. We know what they want, who they really are, and what they hope to accomplish.

We will not allow them.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Interesting approach with the exception of reference to US CT policy (despite "arguably"). I think the US has a bigger carpet to hide its own problems compared to European allies.

## The 2008 Mumbai strikes have now become the global blueprint for terror

By Saikat Datta

Source: <http://qz.com/550587/the-2008-mumbai-strikes-have-now-become-the-global-blueprint-for-terror/>

Nov 15 – Nearly three weeks ago, a senior Indian intelligence official was lamenting about

the death of an initiative that could have vastly improved



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

India's counter-terrorism capabilities. Worried at the lack of cooperation between security agencies, two key intelligence chiefs, the Intelligence Bureau's Asif Ibrahim and the

terrorism after the attack by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorists on Mumbai on 26/11 has been put into cold storage by India's vast bureaucracy.



A policeman stands guard after shootings assailants at a railway station in Mumbai November 26, 2008. (Reuters/Stringer)

Research and Analysis Wing's Alok Joshi got together in the summer of 2014 to put together a bold plan to address inter-agency issues. Their plan was simple in concept, but both appreciated the difficulty it would have in implementing it.

"The plan was to bring together those professionals who deal with counter-terrorism under one roof and then work together as a team," the official told me. "The two chiefs had hoped that once they began to sit together, the flow of information would be much faster, and ensure that the counter measures were far more effective than what they are currently."

#### **A global network**

**But with most good ideas, the resistance to a new idea was so strong that even the two intelligence chiefs couldn't push it through. Both of them retired and the proposal was buried in the voluminous files of North and South Block.**

As the Paris attacks unfolded on Friday night, it was clear that terrorism today is a global alliance. Unfortunately, the response to global terrorism is far from being united. As India has shown, even getting two premier security agencies to cooperate is a challenge and political will to force radical change remains abysmally low. Every step that was thought of as a counter measure to India's fight against

To be fair, many of the measures suggested were flawed. The proposed National Counter Terrorism Centre could have proved fatal for India's federal principles while the NATGRID planned to connect the databases of core Indian security agencies did not have adequate safeguards. But these measures should have been debated, the differences reconciled and then implemented without delay.

**The 26/11 Mumbai attack by the LeT has now become the blueprint for terrorist attacks globally, as the latest Paris tragedy shows.** While a 9/11 is spectacular in planning and execution, it is also far more difficult to carry out in today's age of increased surveillance. But a Mumbai-style 26/11 attack is far easier to plan and execute with deadlier results. To procure and smuggle in small arms, motivate suicide attackers and then unleash them on vulnerable public spaces is the worst nightmare for security professionals that has now come true.

Countering such attacks will have to begin on a premise that they are impossible to stop. Such attacks will continue to occur and will become the hallmark of terrorism in the future. What security professionals can





do is to start planning counter-measures to mitigate such attacks—improve the resilience of public spaces, quicken response capabilities of counter-terrorism forces, work out worst-case scenarios, build up targeted intelligence that stays away from the lure of mass surveillance and work on mitigating the underlying causes that lead to terrorism.

#### Complicated task

None of this will be easy. **For over 20 years, India has been pushing for a United Nations Convention on terrorism with little success because globally many disagree on what “terrorism” is. When there is no agreement on how to define terrorism, how will global protocols on countering terrorism be written?** India has also had to face resistance from global powers like the US when it sought to highlight Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the early 1990s. After the Mumbai blasts in 1993, Indian intelligence established accurate links between procurements made by the Pakistani army to the munitions used in Mumbai. **When the evidence was shared with the US, they helped “lose” the evidence, effectively killing the case against Pakistan.** Such double standards have rarely helped the global cause against terrorism.

Terrorism is also gaining and learning from new doctrines. The United Nations Office on Organised Crime and Drugs commissioned a study on how terrorists use online communities to further their aims. It noted:

“The speed, global reach and relative anonymity with which terrorists can use the

Internet to promote their causes or facilitate terrorist acts, together with complexities related to the location, retention, seizure and production of Internet-related data, makes timely and effective international cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence agencies an increasingly critical factor in the successful investigation and prosecution of many terrorism cases.”

But the absence of a universal instrument in dealing with cyber issues prevents governments from cooperating on taking on terrorist networks that are proliferating online. Issues of jurisdiction, extradition and prosecution are key differences that continue to keep governments from arriving at common ways to take on international terrorism.

The Islamic State, as researchers have shown, is an established master at using social media networks for financing and recruiting that helps their terrorism to grow. As researchers discovered recently, many of these ISIS social media networks are most active in Europe, rather than the usual suspects from the Middle East.

**Clearly, the Paris attacks won't be the last. Countries like India have already been mentioned as a key target by international terror outfits like the Al Qaeda and the ISIS. Merely acknowledging the threat is not enough. It needs a united response domestically as well as internationally. Unless nations agree on how to tackle the scourge of terrorism together, they shall be doomed to play the role of its eternal victim forever.**

*Saikat Datta is a journalist and author of a book on India's Special Forces.*

## France Terror Attacks 2015: Gaps in Paris Intelligence Services Reveal Vulnerabilities, As Experts Look To US Safety Record since 9/11

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/france-terror-attacks-2015-gaps-paris-intelligence-services-reveal-vulnerabilities-2185334>

Nov 15 – In the 14 years since terrorists unleashed a coordinated assault on major landmarks in New York and Washington, killing nearly 3,000 people, the United States has somehow avoided another full-scale episode. Yet this year alone, France has suffered two major terrorist attacks in the heart of its capital.

**These contrasting experiences on both sides of the Atlantic speak to what experts describe as fundamentally different levels of risk confronting the longtime allies.** The United States enjoys geographic remove from Syria and the rest of the volatile Middle East, while France must contend with proximity, making it a magnet for those inspired by



the call to jihad. The United States is a multicultural society in which large numbers of minorities nurse grievances over discrimination -- not least, at the hands of law enforcement -- yet France is home to the largest Muslim population in Europe, with many mired in slum-like conditions and high unemployment. But beyond these factors, some experts conclude that France has left itself particularly vulnerable to terrorism while the United States has remained relatively safe because of substantial differences in how each has responded to the painful realization that organized jihadist elements are conspiring to kill their people. After the attacks on the offices of satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo in January and Friday's series of assaults that left over 130 people dead, the problem of terrorism in France appeared to be mounting.

**"In France there was never a real moment of realization about the problem,"** Christian Harbulot, a French intelligence and defense expert, told International Business Times Sunday. "They have for a long time handled it as a police problem instead of a strategic problem. I fear that we are still in this state of mind."



Harbulot and other defense experts cited a lack of coordination among French security agencies as an especially dangerous gap, as well as a difference in their scale and complexity compared to their American counterparts.

"We have a system of domestic and foreign security," explained Axel Dveyre, manager of a strategy consulting firm and a former French military officer. **"But we have just one foreign intelligence gathering service, the DGSE [The General**

**Directorate for External Security], when the U.S. has something like 17 agencies."**

But lest one conclude that the Americans have managed to defang the threat of terrorism, experts told IBT of a disturbing message delivered by way of the attacks in Paris on Friday: the apparent awakening of so-called sleeper cells -- covert terrorist cells embedded in Western countries awaiting the signal to carry out attacks. These cells could be lurking anywhere ISIS deems a strategic target, posing a new level of threat.

Whatever its intelligence capabilities or shortcomings, France must perpetually consider its geographical proximity to areas of conflict in which it has intervened, while the United States is separated from the conflicts in Iraq and Syria by thousands of miles of ocean. Moreover, France is integrated with the rest of continental Europe, making it easy for jihadists to reach its confines: Under the Schengen agreement, a pact between 26 European Union member states, people can travel freely without encountering passport controls when passing between 26 countries.

"The technical question of gaining entry to the country plays a major role," said Dveyre. "The system of entry to the United States is much more complex. By plane it's much harder to trick authorities and by land there are heavily patrolled borders with Mexico and Canada."

An ongoing refugee crisis in Europe has significantly altered France's ability to control its borders. Over 600,000 refugees have arrived in Europe, more than half of them fleeing an escalating civil war in Syria, and European authorities have been overwhelmed. **Those arriving are typically fingerprinted and photographed, but background checks and other security measures do not take place until the refugee applies for permanent asylum or residence in a specific EU nation.** Greek authorities reported that one of the perpetrators of Friday's attacks in Paris entered the EU as a refugee.

"There's a lot of room for people to be moving with little checks for what's happening," said Paul Gottinger, a U.S.-based independent journalist focusing on the U.S. War on Terror. "I'm not saying that the borders should be closed, but there's a lot of uncertainty," he said.

Between 5 million and 6 million Muslims live in France, comprising a community that has long complained of systematic discrimination in housing, education and career opportunities, fertilizing the appeal of jihad among especially alienated youth.



“If you look at France, it’s well-known that there’s these slums in the outskirts of Paris, unemployment for Muslims is very high,” said Gottinger. “People are going to be more attracted to [extremism] if they have less options.”

**The liberal elite in France has long championed a concept of society built on a foundation of laïcité, a term with no ideal translation that loosely speaks to a dedication to secularism in the spirit of creating equality for all citizens regardless of religion.** In France, appeals to secularism invoke not only a strict division of church and state but a complete separation between the religious and public spheres.

In recent times, this flavor of secularism celebrated as inclusionary has for French Muslims translated into a uniquely antagonistic form of exclusion: A spate of laws have barred prominent displays of religion in French schools, among them headscarves worn by observant Muslim girls. French Muslims have decried this as an attack on freedom of expression.

“Bans like these undermine the rights of women who choose to wear the veil and do little to protect anyone compelled to do so, just as laws in other countries forcing women to dress in a particular way undermine their rights,” said Izza Leghtas, a Western Europe researcher at Human Rights Watch in London.

As France now contemplates how to respond to the latest attacks -- perhaps through border tightening, and almost certainly with intensified efforts on surveillance -- some say the only meaningful solution may also be the most elusive: peace and economic prosperity in the Middle Eastern conflict zones in which France has injected itself.

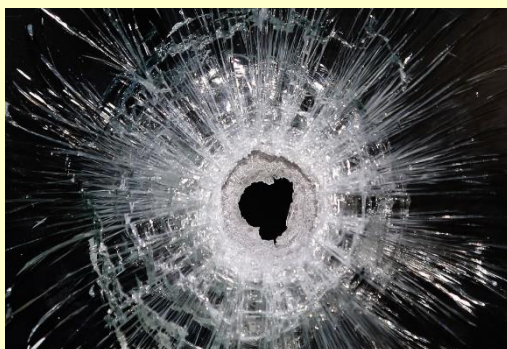
“Neither tightening the borders nor sharing intelligence across agencies is likely to prove sufficient in and of itself,” said Mujtaba Rahman, a leading political analyst for the Eurasia think tank, based out of London. “They’ve got to rely on an improving situation in Syria.”

**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** This article would have been more attractive without the last 3 paragraphs. It seems that some neighbors have already surrendered to current situation of failed multiculturalism...

## A three-step plan for facing down Islamist terrorism

By David Horovitz

Source:



Nov 15 – Holding mass solidarity marches, and vowing, stern-faced, to fight back against Islamic State just isn’t going to do it. Islamic extremist terror groups, and the states that sponsor them, are seeking to destroy open, democratic, egalitarian Western society and impose their bleak, bloody, perverted version of Islam.

Facing them down will obviously not be simple. But it will be impossible unless the reality of the threat is genuinely internalized and the fight back mounted in earnest.

If the West continues to delude itself about the scale of the challenge, those who delight in the divine gift of life will find themselves becoming increasingly constrained and terrified by those who assert an imperative to kill and be killed in the name of God.

The struggle to maintain fundamental Western freedoms involves a three-step process.



**First, name and acknowledge the enemy.**

The killers who struck in Paris — like those who brought down a Russian civilian airliner in the Sinai, and who carried out suicide bombings in Beirut last week, and who struck at Charlie Hebdo and the Hyper Cacher in Paris in January, and in London on July 7, 2005, and on September 11, 2001, in New York, and who blew up the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in 1994, and, yes, who killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings in the Second Intifada, and on and on and on through an endless list of outrages worldwide — are not vague “militants.” They are Islamic extremists, adherents of that toxic kill-and-be-killed Islamist ideology.

And their actions are not mere “violence” but terrorism — killing in order to terrorize, in order to weaken and cow their opposition, the better to impose that rapacious ideology. Islamic State is an exponent of particular depravity.

**Second, defend more effectively against Islamist terror.**

Global leaders keep *talking* a good fight, but they're not actually *fighting* a good fight. This means relentless, concerted action to make the killing of innocents more difficult for the Islamist terrorists. Better security at places where people gather in large numbers — Israel-style. (Suicide bombers should not be able to walk into concert halls.) The allocation of more resources to intelligence hierarchies, and constant cooperation between international agencies, to identify potential killers and to spot terror plans in the making. Effective surveillance. Preventive arrests. With most every recent murderous attack in Europe, it turns out afterward that this or that killer was on an intelligence “watch list.” Evidently not watched carefully enough.

At a deeper, strategic level, it means a far more resolute fight against the terror groups and their state sponsors in their home headquarter territory, and effective support for those people in our part of the world who seek to rise up against extremist oppressors and rulers. Take Syria, Iran and Egypt, for example.

Trying to keep the Middle East at arm's length, Europe now has the region's most extreme elements opening fire in its museums and magazine offices, at its restaurants and in its concert halls

At the start of the uprising against Bashar Assad in Syria, there was a secular, relatively moderate opposition. But the Western world did little to help it, and in time, it was marginalized by murderous Islamic extremist groups, and Syria became a battleground in which there was no “good” side for the West to assist. Panicked at the thought of getting dragged into another war, first Britain's Parliament and then America's president decided that they could even let Assad gas his people without consequence. Small wonder that millions of Syrians are now fleeing — trying to reach the West, with unknown numbers of Islamist killers among them.

Rather than facing down the world's chief sponsor of terrorism, Iran, the world powers this summer legitimized the ayatollahs' nuclear program, and paved the way for a massive influx of funds that Tehran is already using to stir up more unrest in the Middle East and more terrorism worldwide. In 2009, when the people of Iran sought to oust the mullahs, the West chose not to lift a finger to help them. Now, the regime is entrenched in power — to the terrible cost of the people of Iran and far beyond.

Right now, in Egypt, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi is publicly urging the advance of moderate Islam, warning that his religion is now perceived globally as a faith predominantly interested in killing. Sissi came to power violently, ousting a democratically elected president. But the Muslim Brotherhood would never have held another democratic election, and Sissi is trying to prevent his country's descent into Islamic extremism. Rather than seeking to create conditions in which it could help heal the Egyptian economy, and enable Egypt to feed and employ its 80 million people, much of the West — emphatically including the United States — seems content to stay away. The cost of helping Sissi toward a constructive transition for Egypt will be dwarfed by the cost of grappling with an Egypt in the firm grip of Islamic extremism.

Extremists are brainwashing too many of the children of Islam, wooing them to a death cult. Those who value life need to get to them first. The West's desire to avoid being dragged into new wars in our part of the world is understandable. Israel — despicably battered and demonized internationally as it battles Hamas, Islamic Jihad,



Hezbollah and other purveyors of Islamic extremist terror — deeply shares the desire to avert further conflicts. But Islamic extremist leaders are not going to be talked into compromise. They must be faced down.

And only if they are faced down is there a hope that new generations will grow up in a functional climate, with some prospect of decent education, opportunity and a life worth living, making them less vulnerable to the Islamist recruiters.

Trying to keep the Middle East at arm's length, Europe now has the region's most extreme elements opening fire in its museums and magazine offices, at its restaurants and in its concert halls.

### Third, prevent the recruitment of new waves of Islamist terrorists.

Islamist killers are not born Islamist killers. They are (mis)educated. Indoctrinated. Filled with hatred and false prophecy. They are skewed by parents and teachers, politicians and spiritual leaders, books and websites, conventional media and social media.

The long process of reversing the rising tide of hatred requires international cooperation toward grassroots change. Fund moderate educational hierarchies and websites and media outlets, and close those that peddle extremism. Help moderate spiritual leaders gain greater resonance and prominence ([– replicate this small example a few thousand times](#) — ) and prosecute those who preach murder.

A friend once told me when I was a young parent that I ought to brainwash my children, because otherwise other people would. Well,

extremists are brainwashing too many of the children of Islam, wooing them to a death cult. Those who value life need to get to them first.

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Guns and explosives are not hard to come by, even in well-policed Western countries. The toxic Islamist ideology that encourages followers to kill and be killed in the name of Allah spews from innumerable websites and social media outlets with ever-increasing sophistication. There is self-evidently no shortage of hate-filled adherents, some of them returning to the West from the battlefields of the Middle East, ready to act on the perverted Islamist ideology. And therefore, amid all the now familiar vows from Western leaders to strike back effectively against Islamist terrorism, the dismal truth is that the West is going to be hit again and again and again with acts of unspeakable evil such as befell Paris on Friday unless it adopts a far more serious, strategic approach to tackling Islamist terror.

On Charonne Street in Paris, moments after Islamist gunmen had opened fire on Friday night, eyewitness Sebastian Jagreau told the Associated Press he saw a woman slumped at a table. "I thought she had a bump, but then we realized it was a bullet in her head, and not a bump. She was stretched on the table with her beer next to her," he said. "Then I see a guy crying because his wife was dead."

A street scene from what used to be known as "The City of Light." If we want to avoid a world plunged ever-deeper into the darkness of Islamist terrorism, now would be a good time to begin the strategic counterattack.

*David Horowitz is the founding editor of The Times of Israel. He previously edited The Jerusalem Post (2004-2011) and The Jerusalem Report (1998-2004). He is the author of "Still Life with Bombers" (2004) and "A Little Too Close to God" (2000), and co-author of "Shalom Friend: The Life and Legacy of Yitzhak Rabin" (1996).*

## Paris attacks highlight Islamic State's chilling mastery of terrorism

By David Blair

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/paris-attacks-show-is-have-mastered-all-aspects-of-terrorism-20151114-gkz99n.html>

Nov 16 – Paris is left stunned after a series of deadly attacks on the capital, as an emergency defence council meeting is called.

Among the many terrible facts about the bloodshed in Paris, one stands out: No terrorist group has ever previously inflicted the



combination of attacks claimed by the Islamic State.



The carnage in Paris must be placed alongside other recent events for its real significance to become clear. True enough, IS's claims of responsibility should always be treated with caution, but if they are accurate, then consider what its operatives have inflicted in the space of just 13 days.

There is simply no precedent in the modern history of terrorism for the rapid succession of havoc that Islamic State appears to have wrought.

Since October 31, IS has destroyed a Russian passenger plane over Egypt, wrecked a street in Beirut using two suicide bombers, and brought terror to Paris by carrying out near simultaneous assaults on at least six separate targets across the capital.

Assuming its claims are true, IS has carried out three complex and ambitious acts of mass murder in three different countries – spread across two continents – in less than a fortnight. Along the way, its terrorists have killed at least 393 people from nations as disparate as Lebanon, Ukraine, France and Russia.

There is simply no precedent in the modern history of terrorism for the rapid



succession of havoc that IS appears to have wrought.

The group's recent attacks are unique in several respects. The fact that they happened quickly and in far flung countries is important, but not, in itself, decisive. Al-Qaeda never actually struck three targets in three countries in 13 days, but Osama bin Laden's followers might have been capable of doing as much in their heyday before 2001 – provided, that is, we are talking about the kind of bomb attacks that the network had made its speciality.

What makes IS's onslaught unique is how different the three operations were



– and how each demanded a particular range of skills.

Most terrorist groups come to specialise in one method of bloodshed. Under bin Laden's



leadership, al-Qaeda developed a near obsession with destroying civil airliners – a compulsion that reached its apogee on September 11 – or planting large bombs in unsuspecting capitals. For the first two decades of its existence, Hamas concentrated almost exclusively on suicide bombings in Israel.

The events of the past fortnight appear to demonstrate that IS has mastered all of these black arts and more.



The destruction of the Russian airliner showed that its operatives can subvert airport security and infiltrate explosives on board a passenger plane.

The deaths of 41 people in Beirut last Thursday once again displayed IS's ability to inflict a tragically familiar brand of terrorist attack, namely a double suicide bombing in a Middle Eastern capital.

And then came Paris. On Friday night, IS's terrorists used automatic weapons and bombs to carry out an assault which appeared to owe as much to the "urban guerrillas" of '70s Europe as to the Islamist brand of nihilism.

Four decades ago, young Germans and Italians joined the Red Brigades or Baader-Meinhof gang and fought gun battles in city streets. They took hostages and murdered passers-by, causing Italians to use the term "Years of Lead" for that era of their history, for the empty bullet casings scattered in the streets after every incident.

IS terrorists followed a similar modus operandi in Paris, except that they focused solely on killing innocent bystanders – not police officers or government officials – and their murderous exertions were ended only by their own deaths. But the conclusion is unmistakable: when it comes to destroying a plane, taking hostages, dispatching suicide bombers to Beirut, or running amok in a European capital, IS's operatives can do all of the above in quick succession. They have shown their mastery of the full spectrum of terrorism in a way that no group – not even al-Qaeda – has ever done before.

How has this happened? The answer probably lies in the unique opportunities provided by Syria's civil war. This catastrophe gave IS the chance to seize a lawless and ungoverned

territory not in remote Central Asia – where al-Qaeda found a haven in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan in the '90s – but near the borders of Europe. IS's domain is barely a two-hour drive from Turkish cities such as Gaziantep, which are served by cheap flights to London and Paris. This helps to explain how IS has managed to attract thousands of European Muslims to what it claims is the only genuine "Islamic State" in the world.

Here, the recruits can train and arm themselves and test their strength on the many battlefronts where IS fighters are engaged against their enemies. They can be fully indoctrinated and then sent back to Europe, carrying passports that allow them complete freedom of movement across a continent that was, until recently, largely without border controls.

In the process, IS's goals and tactics have clearly changed. Once, its central purpose was to build a new country where the most puritan and extreme interpretation of Islam, complete with slavery and beheadings, would hold sway. The terrorists would kidnap and murder any Westerners within reach of their domain – hence the murders of hostages – but they did not appear to share al-Qaeda's consuming obsession with striking Western capitals. The infusion of thousands of enthusiasts carrying Western passports seems to have changed that. With such an influx of volunteers, the temptation to go on the offensive and attack what IS calls the "crusader states" appears to have been too great to resist.

Syria's civil war handed IS the chance to master every aspect of terrorism on a metaphorical silver platter. The events of the past fortnight show that it has grasped the opportunity with bloodstained hands.

*David Blair is chief foreign correspondent of The Telegraph, London.*

## How Islamic law can take on ISIS

By Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151116-how-islamic-law-can-take-on-isis>

Nov 16 – **The media coverage of the terrorist atrocities of Friday, 13 November in Paris would seem to promote an almost mythical image of the Islamic State (ISIS).** What humanity needs, however, is to demystify ISIS as a criminal organization. And that need is

particularly important in my community – the Muslim community.

The vast majority of Muslims almost certainly (we do not have exact figures) feel moral revulsion and outrage about the violence



perpetrated by ISIS. Indeed, Egypt's top Sunni cleric, to name just one example, was quick to denounce the perpetrators of Friday's "hideous and hateful" attacks.

However, the truth of the matter is that ISIS leaders and supporters can and do draw on a wealth of scriptural and historical sources to justify their actions.

Traditional interpretations of Sharia, or Islamic law, approved aggressive jihad to propagate Islam. They permitted the killing of captive enemy men. They allowed jihadis to enslave enemy women and children, as ISIS did with the Yazidi women in Syria.

**I am a Muslim scholar of Sharia.** It is my contention that ISIS' claim of Islamic legitimacy can be countered only by a viable alternative interpretation of Islamic law.

### Consensus leading to deadlock

The key to understanding the role of Islam in politics is that there is no one authoritative entity that can establish or change Sharia doctrine for Muslims on any subject.

There is no equivalent of the Vatican and papal infallibility. How Sharia is interpreted by the many different communities of Muslims (from Sunni and Shia to Sufi and Salafi) is, at base, the product of an intergenerational consensus of the scholars and leaders of each community. Islamic belief and practice is fundamentally individual and voluntary in its nature. A Muslim cannot be accountable for the views and actions of others.

One positive consequence of this absence of any one religious authority is the fact that it is possible to contest and reinterpret Sharia principles.

On the negative side, however, any Muslim can make any claim about Sharia if he or she can persuade a critical mass of Muslims to accept it.

One example of this is how Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini used the doctrine of "[wilayat al-faqih](#)" (or guardianship of the jurist) to claim the authority to launch the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979.

This was controversial because in doing so, he went against the consensus that authority for such a decision resided in the person of the 12th and last "living" Shia Imam, who disappeared (but did not die) in 874 and, it is believed, will reappear at the end of time as [al-Mahdi](#).

A more recent example is the creation of ISIS by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and his self-appointment as Caliph or successor of the Prophet Muhammed, divinely charged with resurrecting a state that ended 1,400 years ago.

### Things changed in the tenth century

For the first 300 years of its existence, Islamic thought can be characterized as dynamic and creative, with differing interpretations of the scriptures being discussed and debated among communities and generations. Ijtihad, or independent juridical reasoning, was explicitly endorsed by the Prophet Muhammed.

Some modern Muslims, like the [Sisters in Islam](#) organization in Malaysia, are exercising ijtihad today to promote the human rights of women from an Islamic perspective. To those, then, who accept the Sisters' interpretation, women are accorded equal rights according to Sharia. But the Sisters and others like them are in a minority.

By the tenth century, a highly sophisticated body of Sharia principles, methodologies and schools of thought had taken shape and put down roots among Muslim communities across the ancient world, from West Africa to Southeast Asia. This phenomenon came to be known as "closing the Gate of Ijtihad," to indicate that there is no theological space for new creative juridical thinking.

There was, of course, no "Gate of Ijtihad" to be closed, and nobody had the authority to close the gate even if one had existed. The metaphor, however, highlighted the contrast between the cultivation of diversity in the first three centuries of Sharia and the stalemated and rigidity of the study of Islamic law since then.

The "silver lining" of ISIS is that it is forcing Muslims to confront the consequences of archaic interpretations of aggressive jihad.

### Moving from Mecca to Medina

The Prophet Muhammad was born and raised in Mecca, a town in western Arabia, where he proclaimed Islam in A.D. 610. In A.D. 622 he had to move with a small group of his early followers to Medina, another town in Western Arabia, in order to escape persecution and threats to his life.

This migration not only affected *where* the revelations were made to the prophet — a fact that is





noted in the Quran. It also marked a shift in the *content* of the Quran.

ISIS' harsh and regressive interpretation of Sharia draws on the Quran of Medina, which repeatedly instructed Muslims to support each other and to separate themselves from non-Muslims.

For example, in verse [3:28](#) (and 4:144, 8:72-73, 9:23, 71 and 60:1M), Muslims are prohibited from taking unbelievers (pagan or polytheist) as friends and supporters. Instead, they are instructed to look to other Muslims for friendship and support.

The whole of Chapter 9 — which is among the last revelations — categorically sanctions and authorizes aggressive jihad against all non-Muslims, including People of the Book or Christians and Jews (verse [9:29](#)).

Yes, the term jihad is used in the Quran to mean nonviolent efforts to propagate Islam (see verses [29:8](#), 31:15 and 47:31). But that does not change the fact that the same term was also used to mean aggressive war to propagate Islam.

This latter interpretation was, in fact, sanctioned by the actions and explicit instructions of the prophet himself, and by his most senior followers, who subsequently became his first four successors and the rulers or Caliphs of Medina.

#### Legitimate or illegitimate?

A related difficulty in this whole discussion is that according to Sharia, jihad can only be launched by a legitimate state authority.

**ISIS claims to have Islamic legitimacy, but what is the basis of that secretive claim? Who nominated them, and why and how should the Caliph of ISIS have authority over the global Muslim community?**

Since this authority is based on an entirely open and free process of individual choice, ISIS' claim may succeed to the extent it is supported by a critical mass of Muslims.

The danger is that passive acquiescence can be used by ISIS leaders as evidence of positive support.

After all, [only a handful of Muslim majority states](#) — and then only under Western leadership — have shown willingness to resist the military expansion of ISIS.

Meanwhile, the masses of Muslims and their community leaders are not — tellingly — turning to Sharia to justify their opposition to ISIS claims. Many Muslims have condemned

ISIS for moral or political reasons, but this, likely, is discredited among ISIS supporters as “Western” reasoning.

#### An alternative view

What then is needed is an alternative view of Sharia, one that argues that the scriptural sources that ISIS relies on must be seen in their wider historical context.

These principles, in other words, may have been relevant and applicable 1,400 years ago, when war — wherever it was being waged in the world — was much harsher than it is now. Exclusive Muslim solidarity (*wala'*) then was essential for the survival of the community and success of their mission.

But today, the opposite is true.

Modern international law as stated in [Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations of 1945](#) (a universally binding treaty) affirms equal sovereignty of all states regardless of religious belief, and prohibits the acquisition of territory through aggressive war.

While these principles have been violated by the major powers — recent examples include the U.S./U.K. invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the Russian invasion of the Ukraine in 2014 — it is impossible for any state, including those with a Muslim majority, to accept being forced into a self-proclaimed Islamic state, as ISIS claims to have an Islamic mandate to do.

But for an alternative view of Sharia to emerge and take root through modern consensus, Muslims must first acknowledge and confront the problem of having acquiesced to a traditional interpretation of Sharia and ignored alternatives that would condemn ISIS as un-Islamic.

One place to start is with the writing of the Sudanese religious thinker Ustadh Mahmoud Mohamed Taha, who proposed repudiating the specific principles of Sharia authorizing aggressive jihad, slavery and subordination of women and non-Muslims by relying on the earlier revelations from Mecca. For example, verse [16:125](#) says: “Propagate the path of your Lord in wisdom and peaceable advice, and argue with them in a kind manner” (see also verses 17:70,49:13 and 88:21-22).

As Taha explained in his book [The Second Message of Islam](#), the Sharia principles based on the Medina revelations came about in response to the historical



conditions of seventh-century Arabia.

Taha argued that today it is the earlier message of Islam based on the Mecca revelations that is applicable because humanity is ready to live up to those standards.

Despite — or perhaps because of — the desperate need for alternatives to traditional Sharia interpretations, Taha was executed for apostasy in Sudan in 1985, and his books in Arabic continue to be banned in most Arab countries.

And ISIS continues to recruit.

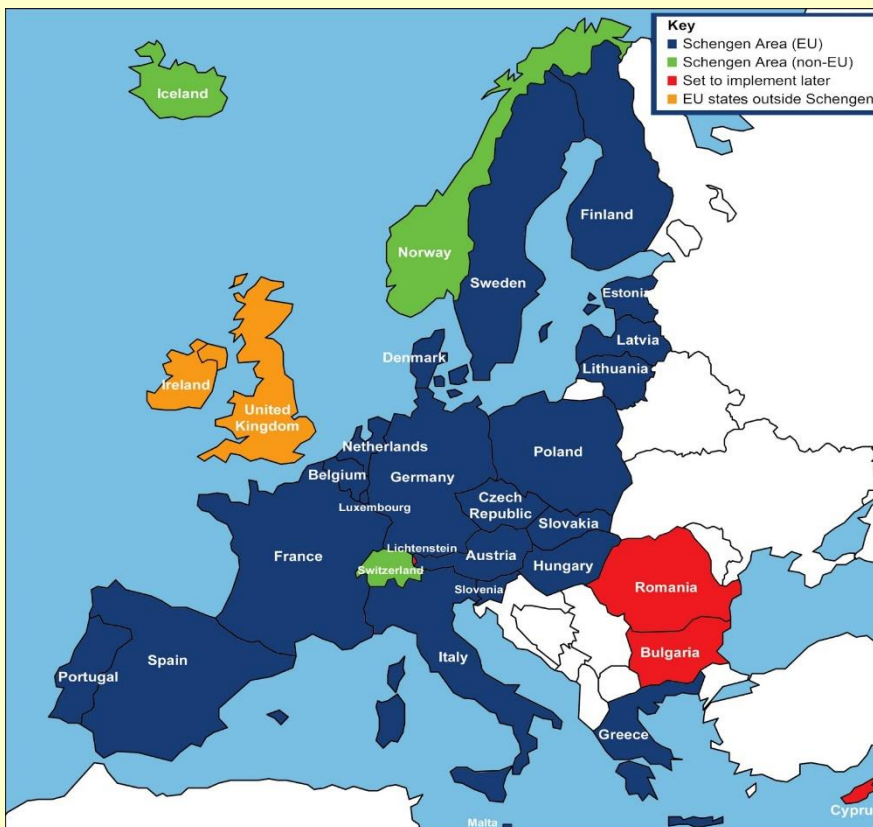
The self-proclaimed Islamic State can survive only by fighting a permanent war. It is my contention that it will either implode or collapse in a total civil war because it has no viable political system for peaceful administration or transfer of power.

But whenever it collapses and for whatever cause, the world can only expect a new ISIS to emerge every time one disappears until we Muslims are able to discuss openly the deadlock in reforming Sharia.

*Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, Emory University.*

## France demands effective suspension of the Schengen open borders agreement

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151116-france-demands-effective-suspension-of-the-schengen-open-borders-agreement>



among member states without showing a passport or visa. Most EU members have signed the agreement — but not the United Kingdom — and some non-EU states. Such as Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway, are members as well. France will not call for a formal abrogation of the agreement, but would rather demand that all members of the Schengen Zone begin border identity checks, a move which amount to an effective suspension of the 30-year old agreement. France will raise its demand this Friday, at an emergency meeting of EU interior ministers in Brussels.

“The French are going to push hard for everyone else to institute border controls, particularly Belgium, but across the wider euro area. To

all intents and purposes it will be a temporary suspension of Schengen,” a source told the *Telegraph*.

Later this afternoon, French president Francois Hollande will announce that he will extend strict emergency powers for a further three months. French diplomats

Nov 16 – **France will this week call for an effective suspension of the Schengen Agreement on open borders across Europe.**

The agreement was in 1985 in the town of Schengen in Luxembourg. It removes border checks within Europe, meaning that anyone, regardless of nationality, can move freely



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

describe the speech, which will be delivered in Versailles, as a “highly significant” moment for Europe as it comes to terms with the security implications of the Paris atrocities.

In Friday’s emergency meeting, the French will insist on a drastic and radical internal tightening of the Schengen Agreement. The agreement has already come under increasing pressure as a result of the refugee crisis. Border security measures introduced by Germany, Austria, Sweden, Hungary, and Slovenia – even if temporarily — have raised questions about the viability and durability of Schengen.

The *Telegraph* reports that the French proposals, to be presented Friday, also include more checking of identities, both for travelers entering the EU from outside Europe but also – importantly – of travelers moving within Europe.

France has not said whether the measures it will insist on are meant to be temporary or permanent, but all sides agree that they will be put in place for a considerable period of time.

France will also demand the immediate implementation of the controversial Passenger Name Records (PNR) system for planes,

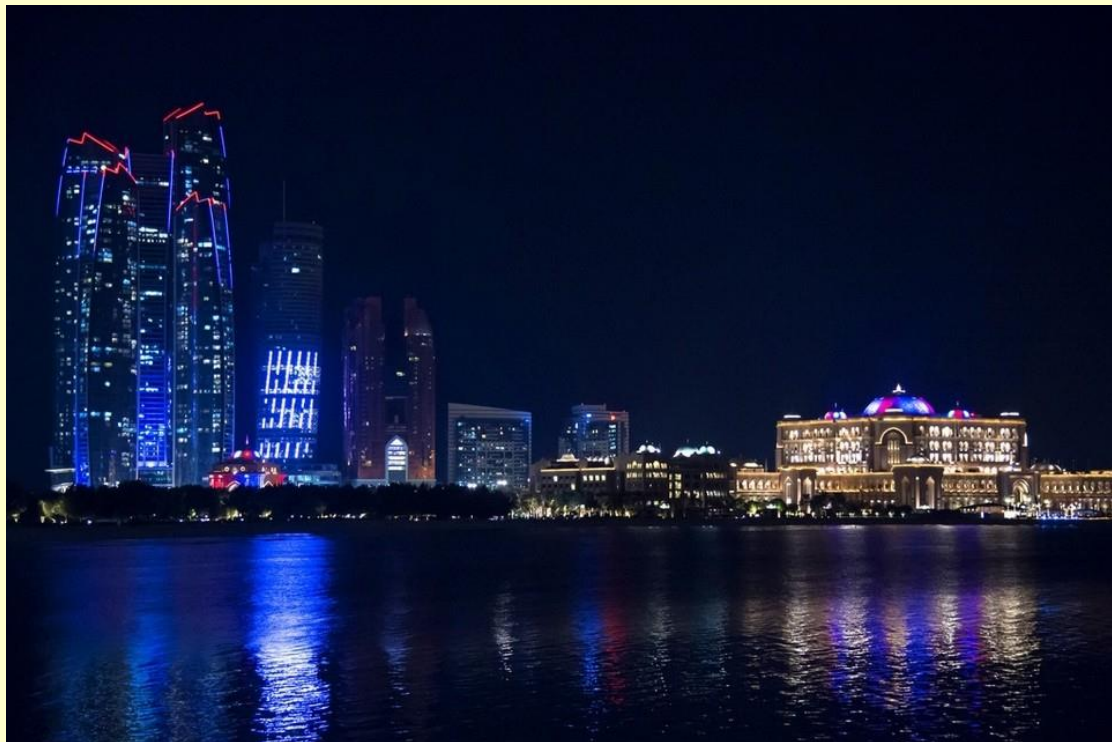
trains, and ships. Privacy advocates in different European countries have been successful so far in blocking the measures, which, they contend, involve the bulk collection of personal information in violation of the Lisbon Treaty.

France insists that the PNR will be used not only for external entries, but also for intra-EU travel, a move which would require new European legislation.

French officials told the *Telegraph* that France also wants greater use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) which cross references border identity checks with a vast database of known criminals, stolen vehicles and passports, and other security data.

Bernard Cazeneuve, the French interior minister, in remarks on Sunday, said that “systematic and coordinated checks on borders inside the European Union” were now essential for the fight against terrorism.

“Because terrorists cross Europe’s external borders and internal borders, we want the proposals that are made and the measures taken by France as those put in place by other European countries ... to be enacted quickly,” he added.



Etihad Towers and Emirates Palace lit in the colours of the French flag in tribute for the victims of the November 13 Paris attacks. Mohamed Alsuwaidi / Crown Prince Court - Abu Dhabi



## Paris Bombing (13 November 2015) and Western “Terrorism” Policy

By Jon Kofas

Source: <http://cesran.org/paris-bombing-13-november-2015-and-western-terrorism-policy.html>



Nov 14 – The bombing that took place in Paris with many casualties was a human tragedy and a political disaster for Western anti-terrorism policy. A day before ISIS suicide bombers in Paris, the bombing in Beirut, Lebanon demonstrated the ease with which jihadists fighting against the Assad regime are able to operate. In both cases the jihadist group ISIS operating in Syria and Iraq claimed responsibility and celebrated its success in retaliation for those trying to strike at ISIS targets. It is also likely that an ISIS affiliate in Egypt bombed a Russian passenger plane killing 224 people on 31 October 2015.

Three bombings within a remarkably short span of time demonstrate the reach of an organization that was once backed by US allies in the Middle East, and possibly by the US indirectly in the war that the US started to bring down the Assad regime, all in the name of freedom and democracy, just as the US has been delivering freedom and democracy in Libya. The quest to destabilize and ultimately overthrow Assad has failed in the last couple of years and made matters worse for everyone, above all the people of Syria. The US and its European and regional allies have managed to create a new force that has some appeal at least with the radicalized Sunni Muslims not just in Syria and Iraq but across the Middle East and beyond. Now that US secretary of State John Kerry has been in talks with Russia

about how to stabilize Syria, perhaps agree on limited spheres of influence as imperialists, so that the greater threat of ISIS is contained.

Based on the results alone, one could conclude that the US policy of destabilization that helped to create the conditions for ISIS to operate is a miserable failure with horrible consequences. Of course, if one advocates a policy of redrawing the map of Syria and Iraq, as many Westerners and Zionists do, then the policy has been a resounding success. After all, both countries are already badly divided along sectarian and ethnic lines, and what could be a better way of limiting the influence of Iran in Iran and Syria and Russia in Syria other than redrawing the map just as Western imperialists almost did a century ago?

One would think that the lessons learned from the US policy of supporting jihadists in the 1980s in Afghanistan against the pro-USSR regime had become a lesson for policy change that would actually yield the desired results. On the contrary, as a status quo power immersed in Cold War ideology, the US does not change policy just because it backfires with dire consequences for itself and its allies. The military solution option is the only one on the table for the US for a combination of reasons. This means that cycle of jihadist attacks will continue as will the response with conventional militarist solutions



that would in fact produce more unconventional warfare. Looking beyond the military solution to the root causes – social, economic and political injustice – is out of the question during the era when neoliberal thinking prevails across the Western World.

**The obsession of projecting strength through raw military power in the world as a way of retaining Pax Americana alive.**

No matter the failures of the military solution, and unintended benefits to US rivals Russia, China and Iran that do not want the US to have exclusive role in determining the balance of power in the Middle East, policymakers in Washington, backed by the corporate world and media do not deviate from the failed military solution option until there is no choice as was the case with Iran and the nuclear deal. The empirical evidence suggests that while military solutions as a means of maintaining Pax Americana began to show weaknesses as far back as the 1960s during the Vietnam War. Yet, the US will not abandon a policy that has failed to deliver. Pax Americana was dead and buried during Vietnam, and President Johnson implied as much when he announced on TV that he would not seek reelection, knowing the failure of Vietnam was a resounding failure for Pax Americana he was supposed to guard and expand. However, the lessons of Vietnam included everything but political solutions to crises. Instead, a commitment to go deeper into debt as a nation – currently \$17 trillion or about equal to GDP – so that Pax Americana's glory could live on if not in the real world, at least in the minds of delusional politicians while defense contractors made huge profits.

**Ideological commitment to militarism and imperialism, despite the evolution of new multi-polar world in which China plays a determining role.**

The diehard ideologues to right-wing solutions have been around from the early days of the Truman administration advocating unilateral action in a world where the US defined its national security interests not just within its sovereign territory, not just in the Western Hemisphere as part of the long-standing Pan-Americanism perspective that dates back to the Monroe Doctrine, but across the world as the reckless and dysfunctional world's policeman. Unable to exist as a society that is content with playing a role commensurate to its actual

economic, political and economic power in the world, the ideologues advocating unilateralism, militarism and imperialism (intervention via over military action or covert operations) have proved detrimental to the security of the nation and to the destabilization of all places where there is intervention.

The US invaded and occupied Iraq under Saddam Hussein on a series of blatant lies, created chaos and divisions with an otherwise unified country, and above all it is responsible for millions of refugees that are a huge problem for neighboring nations. Similarly, the US goal to bring down Syria's Assad and make that country a US satellite instead of one where Russia and Iran enjoy influence has entailed the creation of millions of refugees for which the right-wing American ideologues want harsh punishment instead of amnesty by EU nations. Blinded by the notion of an invincible America pursuing its destiny to exert preeminent influence if not dominate the world, these ideologues making money as consultants, politicians, media analysts and above all defense contractors thrive on destabilization and what they call crisis management; ironically for crises they create but then propose to "manage".

**Tangible interests of profits by defense contractors who hire former politicians and high level defense and intelligence officers to work and lobby for them.**

President Eisenhower's warning to the American people about the military industrial complex that was actually forged during the Wilson administration to manage World War I may have come too late. To this day, no one takes seriously the Eisenhower warning, partly because he was then advised by the IMF that the dollar as a reserve currency was becoming weak and would ultimately become even weaker owing to balance of payments deficits. Although the US could hardly afford both guns and butter, Johnson pursued such a reckless policy by escalating the Vietnam War to the delight of defense companies.

Because there is instability, jihadist terrorism, regional conflicts, and neglect of diplomacy as the first rather than the last option to resolve conflict, the profits of defense contractors rise as their stock market price indicates, and indeed the profits of every company from food and soft drink



suppliers to defense to makers of drones. One cannot possibly ignore the power of the defense contractors and all industries feeding off the defense and intelligence budgets that simply drive up the public debt and weaken the civilian economy.

These people thrive on events that drive governments raise defense spending just at the time they should be cutting it and considering political solutions that may actually work against the reality of unending military solution failures that only generate more “unconventional warfare” or terrorism. As cynical as it may sound, all those making a living from the defense and intelligence domain delight in events such as that of Paris on 13 November 2015. These people know that peace and stability means cuts in their business, so they have no interest in political solutions to conflict.

#### **The media is always there to pump up militarism as the sole solution.**

The Western media had no problem with ISIS striking down the Russian plane and Beirut where Hezbollah was the target. In fact, the western media was criticizing Russian president Putin for striking at ISIS targets, prompting the US to indirectly assist ISIS by sending air cover to protect certain pro-West assets in Syria along the Turkish border. The media, reflecting US official position, sent the message to the world that the problem at hand was really Putin and Assad, rather than the barbaric ISIS that Russian planes were targeting; that is until the Paris bombing that had some arguing drive the idea into peoples' heads that it is possible to wipe out unconventional type of war, or terrorism by simply striking hard at the enemy.

While the media does not create terrorism, it celebrates militarism by selecting news analysts and by reporting on stories of military solutions to conflict. It may be argued that the media must reflect the status quo and mirror what governments are pursuing. Editorial decisions are made on what stories to cover, how to cover them, and what spin to put on them, not just on FOX NEWS that has been called out by a number of organizations for extreme right wing coverage, but the *New York Times* that many regard as liberal newspaper, yet it hardly differs in goals from FOX.

#### **Will Terrorism Subside or proliferate?**

Contrary to what many politicians including the French President announced about closing the border and adopting other such “security measures” to preempt any strikes on French soil, and contrary to what British PM announced about striking down and ending jihadist activities, terrorism will continue and proliferate. This is because the underlying causes of terrorism are not addressed, and they include Western militarism and economic imperialism, complemented by racism and religious prejudice.

In 2015, we have much greater and wider forms of terrorism than we did when the US announced its war on terror after 9/11. The public relations exercises intended for mass consumption project the idea that government has the solution at hand and it is in position of protecting its citizens. However, jihadists already reside within the nations they wish to strike and history has demonstrated that unconventional war has never been won by conventional military means. One could argue that the Russian Tsars in the 19<sup>th</sup> century lacked the sophisticated science and technology available to the West in 2015.

Fair enough, but how do then explain the Paris bombings taking place when France is well known for its sophisticated intelligence and technology available? This does not mean that measures cannot be taken for greater security of citizens, but it does mean that there will never be a full proof method of combating unconventional warfare (terrorism) because of its nature unless the underlying causes are addressed. The political solution remains the only option to eradicate terrorism which is simply a publicity stunt that never brings about systemic change toward greater social justice because it lacks grassroots support and alienates people that would otherwise sympathize with the cause of social justice.

In the aftermath of the Paris bombings, the response I expect from the Western countries is one similar to the US in 9/11, although Russia will take advantage of the situation and once again propose a multilateral approach for a conventional strike against ISIS. One would think that if ISIS was able to bring down the Russia plane over Egypt, hit at the heart of Hezbollah in Beirut and hit Paris within a few days, there must be a wide network of support behind it with significant links.



There are still questions about which governments, corporations and varieties of businessmen still maintain indirect ties to this group that needs such cooperation to manage its considerable economic and strategic affairs. Similarly, there are questions about the US policy toward Syria that on the one hand, claims to be fighting to undermine ISIS, but on the other hand, it wants to bring Assad down and undermines Russia efforts to fight ISIS. Clearly, a coordinated policy between US-NATO with Russia, China and Iran could go a very long way to contain ISIS. However, this is not how US ideologues see the matter

resolved; this is not what the defense contractors want, and this is not what the populist Republicans and rightwing media advocate. It makes sense that they keep citizens living in a state of perpetual fear as a means of imposing sociopolitical conformity amid a period when the socioeconomic gap has been widening on the US despite a modest economic recovery. Unless systemic problems of the Muslims – social justice issues – and the relationship of Muslim nations with the West are addressed, terrorism is a reality that will become more prominent in the next decade.

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## 15th Century fresco of Mohammed targeted in Italy

Source: <http://elderofziyon.blogspot.gr/2006/04/15th-century-fresco-of-mohammed.html#.VICUs78XeXc>

**April 6, 2006** – Terrorists planned to stage attacks on the Milan subway and in a Bologna church but were thwarted by Italian secret services, Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said.

One of the targets was the San Petronio church, which had been threatened before by Muslims. [This article](#) (I believe from the Times of London) is from June, 2001:



Muslim leaders in Italy are demanding the removal or destruction of a priceless 15th century fresco in Bologna that they say offends Islam by showing the Prophet Muhammad being cast into the flames of Hell.

The row over *The Last Judgment* by Giovanni da Modena, in Bologna Cathedral, could threaten the already strained relations between the Roman Catholic Church and members of Italy's Muslim community.

The recently established Union of Italian Muslims has written to the Pope and Cardinal Giacomo Biffi, the

outspoken conservative Archbishop of Bologna, complaining that the fresco shows clearly Muhammad, the founder of Islam, among those condemned to burn in eternal flames.

The protesters said that **Giovanni da Modena had shown Muhammad being "thrown into hell, completely naked, with a snake wrapped around his body and a demon next to him about to torture him"**. They said that Muslims had never depicted Jesus or the Virgin Mary on the walls of a mosque.

In the letter they called for the "barbarous" fresco to be removed from the wall of the Bolognini chapel, inside the 14th-century cathedral of San Petronio.

### In 2002, Al-Qaeda tried to blow up the church

An Islamist terror group linked to al-Qaida is suspected of plotting to blow up Bologna's most important church to erase the offence of a 15th-century Gothic fresco showing Mohammed being tormented by devils in hell.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

A key alleged figure known as "Amsa the Libyan", who was arrested in Britain three weeks ago for possessing false papers, is suspected of having passed orders from al-Qaida leaders in Afghanistan and Iran to terrorist cells in Europe.



The Milan daily Corriere della Sera reported that in a telephone call intercepted by police in February, one of the suspect's alleged associates discussed plans for an attack on the Church of San Petronio, which has a large fresco by Giovanni da

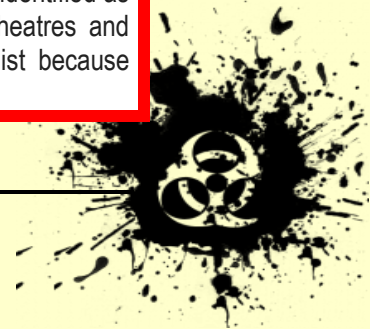


Modena showing the founder of the Islamic religion in hell.

The painter was inspired by Dante, who consigned Mohammed to the ninth circle of hell - reserved for religious schismatics - in his Divine Comedy. The fresco, held in a side-chapel, is seen by many Muslims as a symbol of Christian intransigence.

Amsa was monitored as he allegedly passed instructions to al-Qaida cells in Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain. In one intercepted telephone call he apparently discussed an attack on the US embassy in Amsterdam.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** In November 19, 2015 US intelligence services warned Italy that St Peter's Basilica in Rome, as well as Milan's Duomo and La Scala opera house, have been identified as "potential targets" for terrorist attacks, along with churches, synagogues, restaurants, theatres and hotels. Perhaps Italian authorities should also include San Petronio church into their list because terrorists rarely forget their targets...





## Militants may have spent as little as \$7,500 on Paris attacks

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/21/us-france-shooting-costs-idUSKCN0T92LX20151121#0gs3xbfaztluKlx6.97>

Nov 20 – **The militants who killed 130 people in Paris, triggering waves of air strikes on Syria and security alerts around the world, may have spent as little as around 7,000 euros (\$7,500) to stage their attacks.**

World leaders scrambled to crack down on terrorist financing after the Nov. 13 assaults, which have been claimed by Islamic State in retaliation for strikes on Iraq and Syria.

Within days, France and Belgium announced 1 billion euros worth of additional security measures.

In contrast, the attacks themselves, requiring little more than Kalashnikovs and ammunition, homemade suicide belts, rental cars and apartments, suggest that the eight attackers spent relatively little to kill indiscriminately and sow fear and confusion.

The **Sept. 11 attacks on Washington and New York cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000**, according to the independent 9/11 Commission, a sum that covered pilot training for the hijackers, flights and living expenses over an extended period of training and preparation.

A Reuters calculation has estimated the Paris attacks - which killed mainly young people enjoying a Friday evening out at bars, restaurants, the Stade de France sports stadium and the Bataclan concert venue - could have cost less than around 2 percent of that.

Reuters was unable to reliably calculate certain costs including the sum for any accomplices who may have come from outside France and Belgium. These costs were not included in the total.

The most sophisticated part of the attack, making the suicide vests, would have only required some cheap materials. Security sources said this job would have fallen to an experienced bomb-maker who was likely not to have been one of the actual attackers.

All seven dead assailants in Paris were wearing and used suicide belts, with identical TATP detonation compound, a battery and a blow-up button, French police said.

**TATP** - or "Mother of Satan" as it is known in security circles - can be made from basic household products and was used in the

attacks on London in July 2005 and by "shoe-bomber" Richard Reid who tried to blow up an airliner in December 2001, for example.

The chemical ingredients are available at pharmacies for as little as 5-10 euros for each belt, and the bolts used in the belts of the three Stade de France attackers would have cost about 150 euros for 500 bolts each in a DIY store.

There were at least eight attackers and their two Paris **apartments** - one rented for one week and the other for three nights - could have come to around 680 euros, according to publicly available prices seen by Reuters which were matched against police information on the equipment used.

The Volkswagen Polo, Seat Leon and Renault Clio **cars** that investigators say were rented to bring the militants from Brussels to Paris would have cost around 595 euros from a major car rental agency, assuming they were rented for one week, including petrol and tolls.

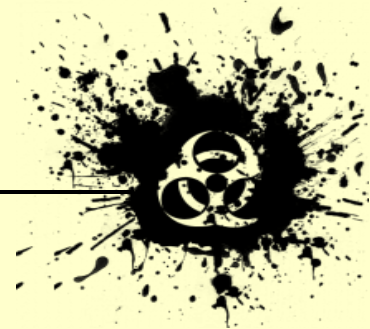
A **Kalashnikov** can be acquired in the European Union for between 300 and 700 euros, the European Police Office Europol says. The price for 7.62 calibre bullets - the calibre of most of the several hundred bullet shells found outside the restaurants last Friday night - is around 500 euros for 2,000 on the Internet.

With three Kalashnikovs used in the Bataclan attack and three found in one of the cars, plus probably one other, that cost would come to 5,400 euros.

**Other costs** of the operation remain murky. For example, one of the suicide bombers at the Stade de France may have travelled on a Syrian passport under the name Ahmad Al Mohammad along a well-worn path of refugees fleeing to Europe through Greek islands.

Estimates of the cost of such a trip from the Syria-Turkey border through Greece - also not included in the Reuters calculations - vary widely.

Pulling together information from bus companies, a ferry company, a travel agent, police and a source at a voluntary relief organisation operating on the island of Leros, the cost of travelling from Turkey to the



Macedonian border could start at 1,200 euros. That would be the cheapest option, using the kind of dinghies that have resulted in scores of refugee deaths and would not include the cost of forged documents.

For a sea crossing on a safer boat, with forged documents provided, the cost would rise to around 5,000 euros.

(\$1 = 0.9394 euros)

## The 10 Most Expensive Terrorist Attacks In History

Source: <http://www.theRichest.com/luxury/most-expensive/the-10-most-expensive-terrorist-attacks-in-history/>

10. The Taj Palace Hotel Attacks, Mumbai, India, November 26, 2008: over \$149 million
9. Dawson's Field Hijackings, Jordan, September 12, 1970: \$165 million
8. Docklands Bombing, London, February 9, 1996: \$336 million
7. Bandaranaike Airport Bombing, Sri Lanka, July 24, 2001: \$517 million
6. World Trade Center Bombings, February 26, 1993: \$810 million
5. London Bombings, July 7, 2005: over \$1.2 billion
4. Baltic Exchange Building Bombings, London, April 10, 1992: over \$2.2 billion
3. Manchester Bombings, June 15, 1996: \$966 million
2. Bishopsgate Bombing, London, April 24, 1993: over \$1.2 billion
1. World Trade Center Attacks, September 11, 2001: \$3 trillion

## Don't Hide From the Reality of How Terrorism Affects the Economy

By Elvis Picardo, CFA

Source: <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/030215/how-terrorism-affects-markets-and-economy.asp>

Nov 16 – No matter where a major terrorist attack occurs in the world, the feelings it elicits when one hears of it are universal - revulsion, shock, dread, and uncertainty. Uncertainty reigns supreme in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack, with regard to such things as who were the perpetrators, how did they go about planning a major attack undetected, and finally, was the terror act an isolated instance or the first of a series.

The horrific multiple attacks in Paris on November 13, 2015, by suspected Islamist radicals that claimed an estimated 132 lives - making them the worst terrorist attack in Europe in a decade - have raised some similar, uncomfortable questions. The coordinated attacks bear some resemblance to the terror attacks inflicted on Mumbai, India, in November 2008, making some counter-terrorism experts wonder if this pattern of deadly attacks unleashed on vulnerable public places is the new template for terrorist activity in future.

Markets detest uncertainty, which is why the knee-jerk reaction of markets to a terrorist attack is initially invariably downward. But markets have proved enormously resilient to such attacks in the past, and after the initial negative reaction, the focus turns to economic fundamentals as conviction grows that such attacks are usually the work of radicalized elements acting in isolation. In the dark days after the Paris tragedy, it is this resilience that may once again come to the fore.

My firsthand experience of terrorism occurred on March 12, 1993. At 1:30 pm on that Friday, a powerful car bomb exploded in the basement of the Bombay Stock Exchange, which was close to the bank where I was working as a currency trader. About 50 people were killed in the explosion and hundreds more were injured.

Feverish speculation about those responsible for the blast was cut short by news of another explosion 45 minutes later in a different part of the city. This was followed by unconfirmed reports of more explosions at regular intervals elsewhere in the teeming



metropolis. Panicky workers who were rushing home could only hope that they would not meet the fate that had befallen the unfortunate commuters on a transit bus. It was blown to smithereens when a jeep bomb exploded in the Century Bazaar area of the city, killing more than 100. By the time the carnage ended about 2 hours after the first blast, more than 250 people had been killed in 13 different locations across Mumbai. The terrorist used car bombs and scooters packed with RDX explosives to blast targets like hotels, the Air India building, and busy marketplaces.

But Mumbai recovered. After the blasts, the city reopened for business as usual on Monday. While the string of attacks highlighted the vulnerabilities of cities and countries to terrorism, it had little impact on financial markets and the economy in India or elsewhere. But it was an entirely different story 8½ years later on September 11, 2001 in New York City. The biggest terrorist attack on the world's most powerful nation generated shock waves that reverberated around the globe for years and cost economies hundreds of billions of dollars.

### Costs of Terrorism

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) researchers Barry Johnston and Oana Nedelescu in their 2005 paper "[The Impact of Terrorism on Financial Markets](#)," acts of terrorism inflict direct and indirect economic costs. The direct economic costs are shorter-term in nature and include the destruction of life and property, responses from emergency services providers, restoration of systems and infrastructure, and the provision of temporary living assistance. The indirect costs of terrorism can be significantly larger as they affect the economy in the medium term by undermining consumer and investor confidence.

Terrorism can also have a long-term cost by reducing productivity because of increased security measures, higher insurance premiums, and the increased costs of financial and other counterterrorism regulations. To appreciate just one aspect of these incalculable costs, consider the billions of hours expended by millions of passengers in airport security lines over the years. The lost time is the price paid for rigorous security checks developed after the 9/11 attacks.

### Economic Impact of 9/11

In their paper, Johnston and Nedelescu cite an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) study that estimated the direct costs resulting from the 9/11 attacks at only \$27.2 billion. However, other estimates of the economic impact of 9/11 place the total cost at orders of magnitude higher than the OECD estimate.

A decade after 9/11, the *New York Times* published a [survey of estimates of the true economic costs](#) of the attacks. The total cost of 9/11 was pegged at a staggering \$3.3 trillion, comprising the following:

<b>Toll and physical damage</b>	<b>\$55 billion</b>
<b>Economic impact <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$123 billion</b>
<b>Homeland Security and other costs</b>	<b>\$589 billion</b>
<b>War funding and related costs <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$1,649 billion</b>
<b>Future war and Veterans' care costs</b>	<b>\$867 billion</b>

<sup>1</sup> Including \$22 billion for business interruption and \$100 billion as the impact from reduced airline and other travel.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Iraq war \$803 billion + Afghanistan \$402 billion

As the *New York Times* notes, it was the U.S. response, including the War on Terror, which accounts for 95 percent of these costs. The economic toll from actual damage due to the attacks is estimated at \$178 billion.

### Market Impact of Four Major Terrorist Attacks

Using the stock market as one way to gauge the economy, consider the impact of four major terrorist attacks on the benchmark equity index of the nation where the attacks occurred. These four attacks had mass casualties and include:

- the 9/11 attacks in the United States
- the March 11, 2004 train bombing in Madrid, Spain



- the July 7, 2005 subway blasts in London
- the November 26, 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India

This sample does not include so-called lone wolf attacks like the Boston Marathon bombings of April 2013, the events of October 2014 in Canada, or the Paris shootings in January 2015.

**Table: Impact of Four Major Terrorist Attacks on Reference Indices over Time**

Location	Date	Reference Index	Percentage Index Change at.....		
			Low on Attack Day	Subsequent low	Year End
New York/Washington	September 11, 2001	S&P 500	-5.0%	-13.5%	5.1%
Madrid, Spain	March 11, 2004	IBEX 35	-3.1%	-7.6%	9.5%
London, U.K.	July 7, 2005	FTSE 100	-4.0%	N/A	7.4%
Mumbai, India	November 26, 2008	Sensex	-0.4%	-2.6%	10.9%

\*Index change refers to change from closing level of benchmark equity index on day preceding attack

\*\* S&P 500 change refers to change on first trading day after 9/11 attacks (September 17, 2001)

U.S. exchanges were closed for four trading days after 9/11 and reopened on September 17, 2001. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 7.1 percent on that day, with a record one-day drop of 617.78 points. The S&P 500 fared a little better, falling 5 percent at its low on September 17, 2001. The market despondency persisted for about a week. At its lowest point, the S&P 500 had tumbled 13.5 percent from its closing level on September 10, 2001—the day before the attacks. But by the end of 2001, the S&P had recovered and was actually up 5.1 percent from its September 10 close. (While the S&P 500 and Dow Jones subsequently fell through most of 2002, the recession brought on by the tech bubble burst may have been the major contributing factor.)

A similar trading pattern can be seen for the three other economies affected by terror attacks in the above table. Both the IBEX 35 (the benchmark stock index for Spain's primary stock exchange) and the FTSE 100 (the London Stock Exchange index of 100 companies with the highest market capitalization), posted fairly significant declines on the day of the terrorist attacks in their nations. In contrast, India's Sensex index hardly registered a blip. While the IBEX and Sensex fell for about a week after the attacks, the FTSE did not. All three indices ended the year substantially higher from the closing levels on the day before the attacks. The conclusion that can be drawn from these trading patterns is that investors treat terror attacks as one-off events, and as a result, their negative effect tends to only be temporary.

### How Would Another Major Terrorist Attack in the United States Affect the Economy?

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll in September 2014 revealed that the percentage of Americans fearful of a terrorist attack was at its highest level since 9/11. Security experts consider a major, coordinated terrorist attack in the United States to be a very low-probability event. However, if it were to occur, it would affect the U.S. economy, financial markets, commodities and currencies, and the global economy in different ways.

**U.S. economy:** Depending on the scale of the attack and damage inflicted, an economic contraction could occur if fear and uncertainty cause tens of thousands of workers to stay home. If the attacks were along the lines of a worst-case scenario, consumer spending would be severely affected. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of the U.S. economy. Sectors that would be the worst hit include airlines, restaurants, entertainment, cruise lines, automobiles, appliances, and big box retailers. Meanwhile utilities, pharmaceuticals, and consumer staples would do well. Defense stocks would outperform (depending on U.S. response to the attacks), while security firms would be star performers as security costs skyrocket. The Federal Reserve would ease monetary policy to supply liquidity to the markets and avert a financial crisis.

**Financial markets:** Stock markets would decline initially as the knee-jerk reaction to an unexpected event is to sell stock holdings and rush to safe havens. Banks and insurers would be especially hard hit—the former on concern of a looming economic slowdown and



the latter on uncertainty about insurance claims. Treasuries would likely rise, since they are perceived as the ultimate safe haven and paradoxically, a terrorist attack on the United States may enhance their safe-haven appeal.

**Commodities and currencies:** Gold could attract capital if it continues to be regarded as a safe haven. The U.S. dollar would rise if Treasuries retain their appeal, as would other safe-haven currencies like the Swiss franc. Commodity prices would slump on worries about the impact of a U.S. recession on the global economy. This, in turn, would drag down the currencies of commodity-exporting nations like Canada and Australia.

**Global economy:** A major attack on the United States would be a global shock and could send stock markets tumbling around the world. The hardest hit economies would be emerging markets with huge debt loads and large current account deficits. The global economy could fall into a recession if the U.S. economy, its linchpin, struggles for a prolonged period.

### The Bottom Line

Since 9/11, terrorism has re-emerged as a potent threat. The economic impact of a major act of terrorism is likely to be significant. However, based on the reaction of equity indices to past terror attacks, after an initial drop, the innate resilience of consumers and investors will stabilize markets.

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## Euro 2016 safety concerns heightened by Paris terror attacks

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/euro-2016/11995643/Euro-2016-safety-concerns-heightened-by-Paris-terror-attacks.html>

Nov 14 – The Paris terror attacks which have left an estimated 140 people dead have heightened security concerns over next summer's European Championships, according to France's leading football official.

Suicide bombings outside Stade de France during the friendly international between France and Germany left three people dead and sparked widespread panic in the stadium.

Fans ended the evening on the pitch as authorities refused to allow them to leave the ground as their safety could not be guaranteed.

The bombings were part of an evening of terror in the French capital, which also saw dozens of people killed in blasts at a concert hall in the 11th arrondissement of the city.

France's friendly international against England at Wembley on Tuesday is still in the balance - although reports in France suggest the game will go ahead as planned - while sporting events across Paris this weekend are also likely to be postponed.

But greater concerns still surround Euro 2016, which is due to take place in 10 cities across France between June 10 and July 10 next summer.

**Bordeaux, Lens, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nice, Saint-Etienne and Toulouse and two stadiums in Paris - including the Stade de France, which is due to host the final - are all due to host games.**

Security concerns surrounding the tournament had already been heightened by the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January, and now French Football Federation president Noel Le Grand has admitted the latest wave of attacks will only increase those fears.

"For the Euros, there was already a big worry," he told the French daily sports newspaper L'Equipe. "Today it's obviously even stronger."

Uefa issued a brief statement on Saturday morning regarding the attacks.

It read: "Uefa is deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

events which occurred in Paris last night and wishes to express its support and solidarity to France and to those affected by these horrible acts."

In January, after terrorists killed 17 people at the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, the Euro 2016 organising committee president Jacques Lambert said the tournament was now at "tangible risk".

He said: "What the events in January have changed is that a theoretical risk has become a tangible risk, palpable, since it was carried through.

"It doesn't probably change much for the security professionals regarding preparations

of the event. But you see that for everyone, public opinion, media, teams, it adds a special intensity."

Players have already expressed concerns over the viability of the tournament in the wake of Friday's attacks.

Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci said: "It makes us [people] think and we'll see what happens in future. A thought also goes to the risks around the Euro 2016 now. Those in charge must take the necessary measures.

"In the end, the innocent are the ones who pay the price for all this, because of people who just want to hurt others."

**Blueprint for Islamic caliphate by 2020**

By Pamela Geller

Source: <http://counterjihadreport.com/tag/fouad-hussein/>



<http://thesyriantimes.com/2014/06/26/islamic-caliphate-birth-after-long-pregnancy/>

March 15 – **Back in 2005, Jordanian journalist Fouad Hussein published al-Qaida's manifesto. In his book, he outlined al-Qaida's seven-point plan over a 20-year period: "An Islamic Caliphate in Seven Easy Steps."** Ten years later, we can see how al-Qaida and other Islamic jihad groups have followed this plan to the letter – with remarkable success, thanks to the weakness, fecklessness and willful ignorance of Western leaders.

Journalist Yassin Musharbash wrote about Hussein and his book in the German publication Der Spiegel on Aug. 12, 2005, in an article entitled, "The Future of Terrorism: What al-Qaida Really Wants." Musharbash wrote, "[W]hat this small, slim man has to report is nothing less than the world's most dangerous terrorist network's plan of action: al-Qaida's strategy for the next two decades. It is both frightening and absurd, a lunatic plan conceived by fanatics who live in their own world."



Der Spiegel appears to be laughing at the plan in this article. But read it now – 10 years on. Who's laughing now? From Sept. 11 to "the awakening," the focus on Syria, the overthrow of secular Arab regimes, the declaration of the Caliphate – it's all there. The article declares it "unworkable" at the time – as well as "both frightening and absurd, a lunatic plan."

Musharbash wrote: "And not to mention the terrorist agenda is simply unworkable: The idea that al-Qaida could set up a caliphate in the entire Islamic world is absurd. The 20-year plan is based mainly on religious ideas. It hardly has anything to do with reality."

Has anyone contacted Yassin Musharbash, read that passage to him, and asked him what he thinks of the Islamic State's declaration of the caliphate, and of the tens of thousands of Muslims from all over the world who take that declaration seriously enough to travel to Iraq and Syria to live and wage jihad in the caliphate?

It's the delusionists who can't reconcile reality. Virtually everything has happened as opponents of jihad have predicted for years. My decade-long warnings at my website, Atlas Shrugs ([PamelaGeller.com](http://PamelaGeller.com)), and in my books and articles were met with scorn, derision and defamation. But I was right. The Islamic jihadists have achieved what they set out to do. The Islamic State is an al-Qaida spinoff.

Hussein's book was not the work of a fantasist. Musharbash noted that "he has not only spent time in prison with al-Zarqawi, but has also managed make contact with many of the network's leaders. Based on correspondence with these sources, he has now brought out a book detailing the organization's master plan."

Hussein himself explained: "I interviewed a whole range of al-Qaida members with different ideologies to get an idea of how the war between the terrorists and Washington would develop in the future." The first of the seven steps to the caliphate was "the awakening" – Musharbash explained that "this has already been carried out and was supposed to have lasted from 2000 to 2003, or more precisely from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 in New York and Washington to the fall of Baghdad in 2003. The aim of the attacks of 9/11 was to provoke the U.S. into declaring war on the Islamic world and thereby 'awakening' Muslims. 'The first phase was judged by the strategists and masterminds behind al-Qaida as very successful,' writes Hussein."

Sept. 11 was to wake up the world to Islam. Did it not do just that? Didn't the Ground Zero Mosque imam Faisal Abdul Rauf say as much in 2010 when the vicious fight over that mosque was underway? "9/11," [he declared](#), "was a watershed, was a major milestone, and a major catalytic force in, in catalyzing the attention toward the issue of Islam, its presence in the West, and it brought into much greater prominence our work and the importance of our work."

After that was to come "Opening Eyes," a phase that was to last until 2006, during which "al-Qaida wants an organization to develop into a movement." This was to be followed by "Arising and Standing Up" from 2007 to 2010, during which, according to Hussein, "There will be a focus on Syria."

During the fourth phase, from 2010 to 2013, "Hussein writes that al-Qaida will aim to bring about the collapse of the hated Arabic governments." Right on schedule, Mubarak was toppled in Egypt, Gadhafi in Libya and Ben Ali in Tunisia, with Assad facing an ongoing civil war in Syria. Then during the fifth phase, an "Islamic state, or caliphate," would actually be declared. Musharbash wrote: "The plan is that by this time, between 2013 and 2016, Western influence in the Islamic world will be so reduced and Israel weakened so much, that resistance will not be feared."

Here we are. All this has unfolded just as they said: the awakening of the ummah is illustrated by the Western Muslims flocking to wage jihad in the Middle East. And the focus on Syria is also exactly as predicted. It's amazing.

So what is to follow? Musharbash wrote: "Hussein believes that from 2016 onward there will be a period of 'total confrontation.' As soon as the caliphate has been declared the 'Islamic army' it will instigate the 'fight between the believers and the non-believers' which has so often been predicted by Osama bin Laden."

After that, the "final stage is described as 'definitive victory.' Hussein writes that in the terrorists' eyes, because the rest of the world will be so beaten down by the 'one-and-a-half billion Muslims,' the caliphate will undoubtedly succeed. This phase should be completed by 2020, although the war shouldn't last longer than two years."

Read [Musharbash's entire piece](#).

It's chilling. It also coincides with the Muslim Brotherhood's stated goal, according to a captured



internal document written in the early 1990s, of “eliminating and destroying the Western Civilization from within and sabotaging its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and Allah’s religion is made victorious over other religions.” According to a U.S. government memorandum, “shortly after Hamas was founded in 1987, as an outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood ... the International Muslim Brotherhood ordered the Muslim Brotherhood chapters throughout the world to create Palestine Committees, whose job it was to support Hamas with ‘media, money and men.’” To accomplish this, the Muslim Brotherhood in the U.S. created the U.S.

Palestine Committee, which the foremost Muslim group in the U.S., the Hamas-tied Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, later joined. Since then, CAIR has worked to undermine every counter-terror measure that has ever been proposed or implemented.

Al-Qaida and the Brotherhood sketched out a plan that was neither absurd nor crazy, and the jihadists have followed it precisely. They have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, with their influence now reaching into the White House. All this vividly illustrates that those of us who have been sounding the alarm about Islamic jihad all these years have been absolutely right. Ignore us at your own peril.

## This image of the shield police used to storm the Paris concert hall will leave you speechless

Source: <http://www.someecards.com/news/so-that-happened/paris-attacks-police-shield/>

Nov 16 – There's no shortage of horrifying stories from last Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris. But one image tweeted out this afternoon manages to bring home a visceral sense of the brutal reality. Shared by BBC news correspondent Christian Fraser, it shows a segment of the bulletproof shield used by Paris police to storm the Bataclan concert hall when it was being held by militants. The shield, identified as a "[Ramses](#)" (see below), is obviously a serious piece of hardware. And it was obviously totally necessary.

The attackers were heavily armed, carrying Kalashnikov rifles. They clearly put up a hell of a fight when police tried to take them down, spraying this heavily fortified shield with well-aimed shots that penetrated deep. Seeing it hammers home just how savage the assault was. Here's another image of the shield showing how it works, supplied by reddit user Jacquouille:



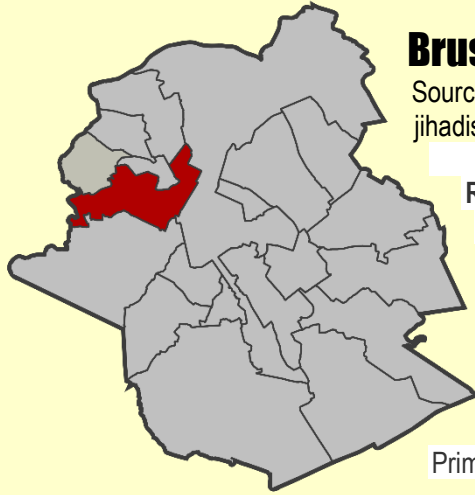
As you can see, segments can be added to make it wider, and wheels allow it to slowly move forward without being lifted.





## Brussels suburb of Molenbeek a 'hotbed' of jihadism

Source: <http://www.thelocal.fr/20151116/brussels-suburb-of-molenbeek-a-hotbed-of-jihadism-france-attacks-terrorism>



Raids on Sunday and Monday in the Brussels suburb of Molenbeek have shifted focus to a section of the Belgian capital where authorities “have lost control”, according to the country’s foreign minister Jan Jambon.

Belgium has a serious issue with Molenbeek.

The country's police are currently carrying out a major raid in the Brussels district as they hunt for Saleh Abdeslam, named earlier by French police as a key suspect in the Paris attacks.

Speaking about the area’s clear links with terrorism on Sunday Belgium’s Prime Minister Charles Michel called it a “gigantic problem”.

With unemployment in the area just two kilometres from the European quarter of Brussels at 30 percent, the district is, according to experts, a hotspot of Islamic radicalism in country with a strong tradition of such activity.

Before the Paris attacks on Friday, Molenbeek - home to around 100,000 people, not all of them poor by any means - has been linked to the foiled August attack on a French train with attacker Ayoub El Khazzani having reportedly lived in the area for 12 months.

Mehdi Nemmouche, a French national with an Algerian background who murdered three people in 2014 at the Jewish Museum in Brussels also stayed in the area as did one of the men behind the 2004 train bombings in Madrid.

“We have here in Brussels as big a concentration of radical Islamists as you have in London,” said Bilal Benyaich, from the Free University of Brussels told the UK’s Telegraph newspaper.

And earlier this year the Guardian newspaper quoted Gilles de Kerchove – the European Union’s counter-terrorism coordinator – as saying Belgium had produced around 300 foreign fighters for the war in Syria, more than any other EU country per head.

Many of those fighters are said to have come from families that have been in Belgium for generations. Isis has

capitalized on the poor prospects of the district’s youth, offering them purpose.

**Around 100 of those fighters had returned by early in 2015, Hans Bonte, the mayor of the Brussels suburb of Vilvoorde told De Standaard earlier in 2015.**

He said around half of those people were not even being watched by security services, a fact he put down to the country’s decentralized nature.

That decentralization is partly a result of much of Belgium's administrative infrastructure being divided across French and Flemish language lines, and commentators say central authority weakened as a result.



But interior minister Charles Michel pointed to the Belgian capital's incredibly complicated policing arrangements as a cause, noting Brussels had six police departments for just 1.2 million people compared to a figure of one in New York for 11 million people.

**Up to 450,000 Muslims live in Belgium, around 4 percent of the population** according to the Euro-Islam website. This number doubled between 2003 and 2007, according to estimates.

## Brazil guarantees Rio safety

November 17, 2015 Sport

RIO DE JANEIRO. — A top Brazilian security official promised on Sunday to "guarantee absolute peace" at the Rio Olympics, despite safety fears after a massacre claimed by Islamist militants in Paris. "Brazil has become a leading example for (security at) major events," Andrei Rodrigues, secretary for large events in Brazil's justice ministry, said in an interview with CBN radio.

Rodrigues said "no one can be indifferent" to Friday's bloodshed in Paris, where at least 129 people were killed and scores more wounded. One of the coordinated attacks involved three suicide bombers outside France's national stadium, where President Francois Hollande was among 80 000 people watching a France-Germany football game.

But Rodrigues said Brazil — with experience from hosting the 2014 football World Cup, a papal visit in 2013 and other mega events — has proved fully prepared for the huge challenge of hosting the Olympics in Rio next summer.

"This is our task, our mission, to guarantee... an atmosphere of absolute security, absolute peace," he said. Rodrigues reiterated plans to deploy 47 000 security personnel and 38 000 members of the military, double the total number of security staff at the 2012 London Olympics.

Brazilian police work alongside counterparts around the world to study their methods and Rio will feature an international coordination center for different police forces and "another specifically for police agencies combating terrorism," he said.

"These are actions that we already put into place so that we arrive at August 5 completely prepared," he said.

"I would say Brazil has made the effort, has the ability to prepare, to organize the security at the Games." Meanwhile, International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach insisted on Sunday that the Paris terror attacks, which left 129 people dead, "will absolutely" not affect the French capital's bid to host the 2024 Olympics.

Bach listed three reasons why Paris can remain optimistic over their campaign in an interview with French television programme Stade 2. "We are talking about an Olympic Games which is taking place in nine years time," said Bach.

"Lots of things can happen in the world between now and then and I hope that the politicians meeting at the G20 (in Antalya in Turkey) will approve measures which will allow us to beat terrorism and barbarism." The second reason, said the IOC chief, is that "it's not just Paris and France which are affected but the entire international community.

"Thirdly, it's not just sport but all events of a certain stature." Paris faces competition from Budapest, Hamburg, Los Angeles and Rome to host the 2024 Olympics with a decision to be made on September 13, 2017. — AFP.

Source: <http://www.herald.co.zw/brazil-guarantees-rio-safety/>

## Brazil is not prepared to avoid attack in the Rio 16, say specialists

By Peter Fonseca and Rodrigo Viga Gaier (Reuters; Rio de Janeiro)

Source (in Portuguese): <http://olimpiadas.uol.com.br/noticias/2015/11/19/brasil-nao-esta-preparado-para-evitar-ataque-na-rio-16-dizem-especialistas.htm>

Nov 19 — Brazil still has not the necessary knowledge and the preparation to prevent the Olympic Games of 2016 in the Rio of January from being a target of attacks like which they took place in Paris, and it will depend on the help of foreign countries to guarantee the protection of the event, they valued specialists at security.

The preoccupations with the possibility of an attack in the Plays of the Rio grew since militants of the Islamic State claimed the authorship of coordinated actions that left 129 dead men in Paris in last week and took the

area of the stadium as one of the targets where the French selection was disputing a friendly one with Germany.

The easiness of arms are got in the Rio, where several slums are dominated by strongly armed drug traffickers, the lack of a net of intelligence in the country able to intercept plans of attacks of militants and the despreparo of the stadiums for the eventuality of a bomb they are the principal problems faced by the authorities, I second specialists heard by the Reuters.



? Brazil more than it crawls in this area of prevention to the terrorism, in fact one trails ', said the teacher and specialist in security of the

## UOL olimpíadas 2016

NOTÍCIAS FOTOS VÍDEOS CALENDÁRIO RIO 2016 BRASILEIROS CLASSIFICADOS LONDRES

### Brasil não está preparado para evitar ataque na Rio-16, dizem especialistas

Pedro Fonseca e Rodrigo Víga Gaier  
Da Reuters, no Rio de Janeiro 19/11/2015 | 09h15

Foundation Getúlio Vargas (FGV) Fernando Brancoli. 'Brazil has no conditions to track in the international field or to know if money is arrived here to finance attacks. It will have to dispose of help from whom it can do. It is hopeless.'

The security was always one of the biggest preoccupations of the Olympic International Committee regarding the Plays of the Rio, but done not made a list straightly to the terrorism. The city was chosen in 2009 like thirst of the Plays in part because of having convinced the leader of the COI of the efficiency of the program of occupation of slums for the police officer, the called Unities of Calming Police officer (UPPs) that reduced the rates of criminality.

Representatives of foreign governments demonstrated preoccupation with the security during the Plays, as soon as not veem the authorities of the country when there is taking it seriously the threat of a terrorist attack.

Diplomats in Brasilia were surprised in Monday when, three days after the attacks the Paris, president Dilma Rousseff minimized the possibility of an attack in Brazil in interview during the G20, in Turkey, while saying that the country is 'very much far from the places where this process is if giving'.

Brazil is placing the head in the hole like an ostrich ', said an European diplomat connected with questions of security.

The public authorities and the organizers of the Plays always agitated the fact of Brazil of not having faced any case of violence in great events, inclusive in the Top of the World of last year, but the new threat represented by the Islamic State must lead to a revision of the projection of security.

'There is a natural and justifiable increase of the preoccupation and this subject entered in the priority ', he said a fountain near to the organization of the Olympic Games of the Rio. 'From the regrettable attacks, the (federal) government began to re-visit the plans of security with great strength.'

There is still the expectation so that the Congress approves of a bill that typifies the crime of terrorism and establishes feather of up to 24 years of prison in shut regime.

The project, however, is a target of controversy due to a device approved by the Chamber to maintain which social movements could not be fitted in the new law, but what was withdrawn of the proposal approved in the Senate.

#### International cooperation

The Olympic Games were already a target of attacks in the past.

In 1972, 11 members of the Israeli delegation and a German policeman they were killed by integrants of the Palestinian group Black September in the Olympic Games of Munich.

In the Plays of 1996 in Atlanta (USA), a person died and other one suffered a fatal heart attack due to the explosion of a bomb in the Olympic Park Centennial. More than 100 persons were injured.

The Brazilian government, which is working in collaboration with other countries in the area of security from the preparation for the World championship of 2014, must intensify this co-ordination. Brazilian and international authorities are going to join in the near week in Brasilia to discuss the enfrentamento to the terrorism.

Brazil is obliged after what it happened in Paris to increase the cooperation with international agencies. Alone it has not how to notice, and countries like the United States, Russia and Israel already have tradition to order agents to great events to guarantee the entirety of his athletes, and that is still going to increase more ', said the teacher Brancoli, of the FGV.

Second Brancoli, the great powers are not going to stop the security of the Plays to post only Brazil. 'Would she be one recklessness for two sides?', it valued.

The security operation of the Plays of 2016 will tell of a Centre Integrated Antiterrorism, that it will be going to work in Brasilia and



will have the professionals' participation of other countries specialized in the prevention and it fights to actions of terror.

In the total they will be employed around 85 thousand men in the protection of the Plays, more than the double of the 40 thousand appreciated ones in London 2012.

The total value of investment was still not presented. Up to the moment, the spread cost is 930 million reais, being 350 million reais of the Ministry of the Justice and 580 million reais for part of the Ministry of the Defense. There are still resources invested in equipments for the Top of 2014 that also will be used in the Plays.

One of the problems pointed by scholars in case of an attack in the Olympic Games is the lack of projection of the stadiums for the eventuality of a bomb.

In spite of recent works, the Olympic Stadium and the Maracanã have not been going out and leaks considered ideal for cases of attacks, besides lacking for any more cameras of security, metal detectors and even for anti-aircraft protection in the surroundings.

'The architecture of our stadiums in many cases does not help, because it has not a number of exits radialmente when they were

distributed to do to him a quick escape in case of a terrorist threat', said the teacher Moacyr Duarte, specialist in gerenciamento of risks and projection of emergences of the Federal University of the Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

Like example, Duarte quotes the staircases in spiral of both stadiums, which oblige the supporters to walk at least 150 meters without be managing to remove of the place of the threat. 'There was never a preoccupation with the tax of removal, the number of meters that you walk in the land to move away of the danger. This undoubtedly is a problem.'

The Minister of the Justice, José Eduardo Cardozo, whose ministry is put in charge of the security of the Plays through the Extraordinary General office of Security for Great Events, guaranteed in this week that the 'result of the public security' of the Top will happen again in the Olympic Games.

Officially, the general office does not confirm that the security operation for the Plays will be reinforced after the attacks in Paris, but a fountain of the organ said which 'agreements' in great events as an Olympic Games are normal.

After what it happened, is it obvious which agreements will be done, only that they are still in discussion?, it affirmed.

#### **EDITOR'S COMMENT: Having read both articles above it is obvious that somebody is lying!**

Are they or are they not prepared to do the job? Should we wait until 2016 to see how the Games will end up? Why the international security and athletic community silence in these important issues? Perhaps for the same reason that were behind initial assignment despite known problems in this great country... And I am not commending this time about their CBRNE preparedness – it is boring to repeat same comments again and again. Perhaps after Paris attacks somethings might change – but is there enough time to implement these changes? Inside information from fellow experts related to CBRN issues are both disappointing and alarming: they face a wall when attempting to highlight certain problems to high level officials. International cooperation is nice only if it is not to promote its own (expensive) defense systems to Brazilian government (personal experience from Athens 2004). All entities involved should realize that there is a new shift on international terrorism towards low technologies and means. Drones, missiles, robots and electronics are helpful provided there boots on the ground along with an alerted medical community able to manage the consequences – both conventional and asymmetric.

## **Paris terror: Intelligence agencies missed series of key clues before attacks**

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/paris-terror-intelligence-agencies-missed-series-of-key-clues-before-attacks-a6737036.html>

Europe's intelligence agencies missed a series of key clues before Friday night's attacks in Paris that allowed the eight terrorists who carried out the atrocities to pass under the radar of security services.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

Several of those named by police as suspects or suicide bombers were members of a known jihadist cell in the Molenbeek suburb of Brussels, and were directed by an Isis leader who managed to slip out of the country and into Syria in January after a shootout between militants and Belgian officials. Others were known to have fought for the terror group in Syria but had managed to return to France.

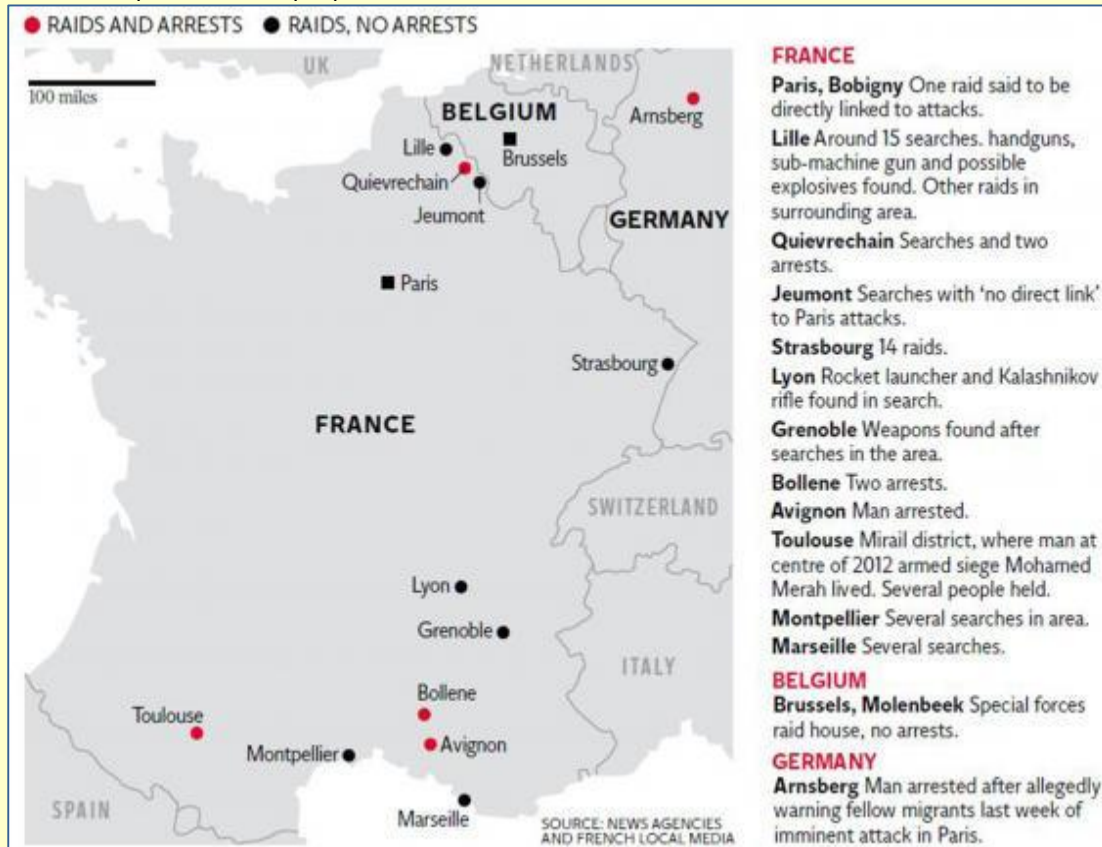


One was questioned three years ago about a plan to travel to Yemen and was the subject of an international arrest warrant.

It has also emerged that Turkish officials had twice offered information about Omar Ishmail Mostefai – the first of suicide bombers to be identified – to security figures in Paris, but that they asked for the details only after Friday night's deadly attacks.

Meanwhile, Iraqi intelligence officials said France specifically had been warned of a potential attack, according to the Associated Press, including details that French authorities have yet

to make public. They said that the Paris attacks appear to have been planned in Raqqa, Syria, where the attackers were trained specifically for the operation, and that a sleeper cell in France helped to execute the plan. In all, 24 people were involved.

**France's desperate search**

Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a 27-year-old Belgian of Moroccan origin, named by officials as the "presumed" mastermind of the attacks from Syria, is believed to have escaped Belgium after authorities there thwarted a terrorist cell in the eastern city of Verviers in January. Two suspects were killed in a gun battle but Koen Geens, the Belgian Justice Minister, admitted that authorities "did not succeed in nabbing the right person".

It is believed that he was talking about Abaaoud, who told Isis's magazine, Dabiq, in February that he had fled to Syria. Abaaoud is linked by officials to the Isis cell operating in Molenbeek, which is thought to include brothers Saleh and Ibrahim Abdeslam. Ibrahim



detonated his suicide vest on Paris's Boulevard Voltaire on Friday night. Saleh, understood to be a childhood friend of Abaaoud, was named as a key suspect – but only after he had been questioned and then freed by police near the Belgian border on Saturday.

The link between Abaaoud and Saleh constitutes a worrying development for Europe's security services: that precisely planned attacks involving several people and sophisticated logistics can be orchestrated from Isis's power base inside Syria.

Two of the seven people arrested in Brussels over the weekend have been charged with leading a terrorist attack but have not been named; five others were released without charge.



One of the raids was in Drancy, north of Paris, where the mother and teenaged sister of Sami Amimour, who blew himself up inside the Bataclan theatre, were taken for questioning. It emerged that in October 2012, after an aborted attempt to go to Yemen, Amimour was questioned and placed under judicial control for association with people involved in terrorism. He managed to slip out of France and join Isis in Syria in September 2013, and he became the subject of an international arrest warrant.

Drancy mayor Jean-Christophe Lagarde questioned how the police and security services had responded to the radicalisation of a young man who became a suicide bomber. Mr Lagarde, who is a leader of the centrist UDI party, said: "I know his mother well. She came to me because she was worried about the radicalisation of her son. She wanted to get her son back [from Syria]. The state didn't follow this up."

## EDITORIAL from Korea Joongang Daily on Nov. 17

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2015/11/17/0200000000AEN20151117001000320.html> Source:

### Not prepared enough

Nov 17 – The Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris were not aimed at government agencies or public institutions. They targeted a theater, where a rock band was performing before an audience of thousands; a soccer stadium packed with 80,000 spectators; and restaurants frequented by ordinary citizens.

The new form of terrorism takes aim at so-called soft targets, ordinary places patronized by the masses. The Stade de France located north of Paris luckily discovered a bomb vest during a screening process. Otherwise, it could have led to the massacre of thousands of people in the stadium and even French President Francois Hollande, who was there at the time.

Since the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington, terrorists are increasingly targeting ordinary citizens.

There is no guarantee that such terrorism will not occur in Korea. Yet security systems at our public facilities are indescribably weak. For instance, anyone can enter most stadiums without undergoing security checks. At a professional basketball game, only 28 security staff - most of them part-time workers - are on guard. In contrast, baseball fans have to go through tough security checks at major league games in other countries.

The security level of our subways and railway stations also are appalling - extremely vulnerable to fires or other accidents, not to mention terrorist attacks. Even gigantic Seoul Station is guarded by only 24 security personnel, including some who are outsourced. As seen in the tragic arson committed by a mentally disabled man in his 50s in the Daegu subway in 2003, which killed 192 passengers, a perpetrator can cause a huge



loss of lives. Even Japan couldn't prevent the infamous 1995 sarin gas attack by a fanatical religious group in the Tokyo subway system. If such lethal attacks take place in Korea, they could trigger unfathomable confusion and the deaths of innocent citizens.

Our national guidelines on counterterrorism requires the education, science and technology minister to establish a countermeasures headquarters for acts of radioactive terrorism, the health and welfare minister a headquarters for biological terrorism, and the environment minister for chemical terrorism. We wonder how many of us are aware of that.

Terror attacks on ordinary citizens can thrust the whole nation into chaos. These days, even terror



attacks by so-called lone wolves security systems, we cannot must overhaul and reinforce our  
 are on the rise. Unless the avert terror attacks by evil counterterrorism systems.  
 government devises effective individuals. The government

## 'Proactive pacifism' makes Japan a target for Islamic terrorists: experts

Source: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/11/16/national/proactive-pacifism-makes-japan-target-islamic-terrorists-experts/#.VksaUr8XeXd>



A man offers a prayer for victims of the Paris attacks in front of the French Embassy in Tokyo on Sunday as a police officer stands guard. | AFP-JIJI

The terrorist attacks Friday in Paris highlight the need for Japan to be on high alert as it prepares to host such high-profile events as next year's Group of Seven summit and the 2020 Summer Olympics.

While the risk of the Islamic State group staging coordinated attacks on Japanese soil is lower than in Europe, due to its distance from the Middle East and the lack of Japanese military involvement in the region, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "proactive pacifism" policy has made Japan more visible in the eyes of terrorists, experts say.

Two Japanese — Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa — were murdered by the extremist group in Syria in January after a hostage crisis that dragged on for weeks. In October, 66-year-old Japanese farmer Kunio Hoshi was killed by gunmen in Bangladesh. While authorities deny his slaying was linked to

Islamic extremists, Islamic State claimed responsibility for the act, just as it did in Paris. Hoshi's death came after Japan had tightened security at all embassies after learning of an Islamic State threat in September that named "Japanese diplomatic missions" as potential targets.

**"I consider the risk to Japan to be very low, but not negligible,"** said James Simpson, a Tokyo-based analyst and contributor to Jane's Defence Weekly. "Japan's existing strict immigration protocols make attacks on Japanese soil quite unlikely, but Japanese abroad are certainly vulnerable to attack — like the ISIS-claimed attack in Bangladesh."

ISIS is one of several names used to describe the Islamic State group.

Masanori Naito, a Middle Eastern affairs expert and professor at the



graduate school of global studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto, said the enactment in September of security laws that allow the Self-Defense Forces to come to an aid of an ally under armed attack could make Japan a direct target of Islamic State in the long term.

"It will take more time," Naito said. "But with the passing of the security legislation, and if a new U.S. administration elected by the presidential election decides to engage in military action in the Middle East, to which Japan may offer logistic support, the chances of terrorism against Japan will be greater.

**"The Islamic State group has already identified Japan as part of the 'Coalition of the Willing.' It's therefore up to the Japanese government's actions in the future to determine the degree of risk for Japan,"** he said.

Yutaka Takaoka, a senior research fellow at the Middle East Institution of Japan, said Japan could be a "reasonable target" for the Islamic State group because of its relatively strong speech and media freedoms, which mean any acts of terrorism can be widely disseminated and aid its goal of spreading terror.

Experts say Japan has a lot to do ahead of the upcoming international events.

On Monday, in the wake of the Paris attacks, which killed at least 129 and injured 350, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga vowed to boost anti-terrorism measures.

"A series of big international events are scheduled in Japan, starting with the G-7 meeting next year," Suga said. "We will have the 2019 Rugby World Cup, as well as the 2020 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo. We would like to take the terrorist attacks this time as a turning point through which to boost our security measures."

He pledged to boost Japan's intelligence-gathering capabilities and beef up security at ports, airports and other facilities.

Yoshio Omori, a security expert and president of Nihon Bunka University in Tokyo, said the security measures to date for the G-7 Summit are far from enough.

"I don't think there's a single person who considers that Japan is doing enough," Omori, a former official with the National Police Agency, said. "For one, Japan is critically vulnerable when it comes to gathering intelligence. It lacks the ability to single-handedly identify who the international terrorists are."

Omori said Japan relies on allies such as the United States for information on terrorists.

To strengthen security, he said the government could attempt to use advanced surveillance technologies such as facial recognition. But that will be of no use if the nation lacks a terrorist database to begin with.

Simpson said Japan is most vulnerable at public events.

"Despite having experience with terrorism through Aum Shinrikyo and leftist/rightist extremists, Japan's security presence on the ground is still lacking," Simpson said. "Should potential attackers get through immigration and manage to source weapons and explosives, Japan remains terribly vulnerable to attacks similar to the recent events in Paris."

He added that Japan could end up spending a fortune guarding against security threats at the upcoming events.

"Japan needs to look very carefully at France and the U.K., as well as other nations as it prepares to host several major international events," he said. "Its previous experiences with the 2010 APEC summit in Yokohama and the FIFA World Cup (in 2002) have shown a preference for increased security checkpoints and an overwhelming police presence. These come at exceptional cost to the country and the hosting prefectures and cities."

## **Paris attacks: Syringes and needles found in the hotel room Salah Abdeslam used**

Source: <http://brusselstimes.com/belgium/4488/paris-attacks-syringes-and-needles-found-in-the-hotel-room-salah-abdeslam-used>

Nov 17 – Salah Abdeslam, the most wanted man in Europe at the moment due to his presumed involvement in the attacks in Paris, had reserved two rooms in a Alfortville hotel in the calm commune of Val-de Marne in the Paris region.

He used the rooms to prepare the attacks in Paris, reports several French media on Tuesday.





**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

According to Le Point, who has the source of the information, two investigators have searched the two rooms where up to six people could have stayed. The hotel is not equipped with any video surveillance.



The police revealed that DNA traces of the persons staying at the rooms were found and confiscated the hard drive disk from the computer at the hotel reception, according to Le Point. Among the objects that were found, a batch of syringes and a set of short needles and intubation or plastic tubes could be found on a table in the room. It is not clear if the syringes were intended for explosives, however it is also possible that they were intended to be used to drug the terrorists, report several other French media.

Further technical analysis will be carried out by the police to determine exactly what these medical instruments were used for.



## Teen ISIS Fighter Says Leaders Drug Suicide Bombers

Source: <http://jimbakkershow.com/news/teen-isis-fighter-says-leaders-drug-suicide-bombers/>

October 24, 2014 – A 15-year-old ISIS member captured by Kurdish forces has answered one of the questions behind why members of Islamic terrorist groups carry out suicide bomb attacks.

Kareem Mufleh says that the leaders of ISIS pump drugs into their fighters and suicide bombers so that they will carry out their missions without questions.

Mufleh says that he had no choice to join ISIS.

“They captured my village and gave me a choice,” Mufleh said. “Either join ISIS or be beheaded.”

Mufleh says that the drug given to the suicide bombers was an anti-anxiety drug. They would give the drugs in such levels that the bombers would go insane and then are given a suicide belt and told where to go to carry out the attack.

Mufleh had levels of the anti-anxiety drug Zolam in his system.

The teen also described the brutality of the group. He was part of an attack on a wedding where ISIS slaughtered the bride because the wedding dress showed the bride’s arms and neck.

## Captagon: The tiny amphetamine pill fuelling the Syrian civil war and turning fighters into superhuman soldiers

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/captagon-the-tiny-amphetamine-pill-fueling-the-syrian-civil-war-and-turning-fighters-into-superhuman-a6740601.html>

As *The Post*’s Liz Sly recently noted, the war in Syria has become a tangled web of conflict dominated by “al-Qaeda veterans, hardened Iraqi insurgents, Arab jihadist ideologues and Western volunteers.”

On the surface, those competing actors are fuelled by an overlapping mixture of ideologies and political agendas.



## CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015

Just below it, experts suspect, they're powered by something else: Captagon.

A tiny, highly addictive pill produced in Syria and now widely available across the Middle East, its illegal sale funnels hundreds of millions of dollars back into the war-torn country's black-market economy each year, likely giving militias access to new arms, fighters and the ability to keep the conflict boiling, according to the *Guardian*.



"Syria is a tremendous problem in that it's a collapsed security sector, because of its porous borders, because of the presence of so many criminal elements and organized networks," the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) regional representative, Masood Karimipour, told Voice of America. "There's a great deal of trafficking being done of all sorts of illicit goods — guns, drugs, money, people.



But what is being manufactured there and who is doing the manufacturing, that's not something we have visibility into from a distance."

A powerful amphetamine tablet based on the original synthetic drug known as "fenethylamine," Captagon quickly produces a euphoric intensity in users, allowing Syria's fighters to stay up for days, killing with a numb, reckless abandon.

"You can't sleep or even close your eyes, forget about it," said a Lebanese user, one of three who appeared on camera without their names for a BBC Arabic documentary that

aired in September. "And whatever you take to stop it, nothing can stop it."

"I felt like I own the world high," another user said. "Like I have power nobody has. A really nice feeling."

"There was no fear anymore after I took Captagon," a third man added.

for drugs journeying from Europe to the Gulf States — and it has begun to blossom (AFP) Captagon has been around in the West since the 1960s, when it was given to people suffering from hyperactivity, narcolepsy and depression, according to a Reuters report published in 2014. By the 1980s, according to Reuters, the drug's addictive power led most countries to ban its use.



The United State classified fenethylamine ("commonly known by the trademark name Captagon") as a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act in 1981, according to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service

Still, the drug didn't exactly disappear. VOA notes that while Westerners have speculated that the drug is being used by Islamic State fighters, the biggest consumer has for years been Saudi Arabia. In 2010, a third of the world's supply — about seven tons — ended up in Saudi Arabia, according to Reuters. VOA estimated that as many as 40,000 to 50,000 Saudis go through drug treatment each year.

"My theory is that Captagon still retains the veneer of medical respectability," Justin Thomas, an assistant professor of psychology and psychotherapy at the UAE's Zayed University and author of "Psychological Well-Being in the Gulf States," told VOA in 2010. "It may not be viewed as a drug or narcotic because it is not associated with smoking or injecting."

Five years later, production of Captagon has taken root in Syria — long a heavily trafficked thoroughfare for drugs journeying



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

from Europe to the Gulf States — and it has begun to blossom.



"The breakdown of state infrastructure, weakening of borders and proliferation of armed groups during the nearly three-year battle for control of Syria, has transformed the country from a stopover into a major production site," Reuters reported.

"Production in Lebanon's Bekaa valley – a traditional centre for the drug – fell 90% last year from 2011, with the decline largely attributed to production inside Syria," the Guardian noted.

Cheap and easy to produce using legal materials, the drug can be purchased for less than \$20 a tablet and is popular among those Syrian fighters who don't follow strict interpretations of Islamic law, according to the Guardian.

Doctors report that the drug has dangerous side effects, including psychosis and brain damage, according to the BBC.

Ramzi Haddad, a Lebanese psychiatrist, told Reuters that the drug produces the typical effects of a stimulant.

"You're talkative, you don't sleep, you don't eat, you're energetic," he said.

But one secular ex-Syrian fighter who spoke to the BBC went further, saying the drug is tailor-made for the battlefield because of its ability to give soldiers superhuman energy and courage:

"So the brigade leader came and told us, 'this pill gives you energy, try it,' " he said. "So we took it the first time. We felt physically fit. And if there were 10 people in front of you, you could catch them and kill them. You're awake all the time. You don't have any problems, you don't even think about sleeping, you don't think to leave the checkpoint. It gives you great courage and power. If the leader told you to go break into a military barracks, I will break in with a brave heart and without

any feeling of fear at all — you're not even tired."



Another ex-fighter told the BBC that his 350-person brigade took the pill without knowing if it was a drug or medicine for energy.

"Some people became addicted to it and it will damage the addicts," he said. "This is the problem."



## Why Brussels is a terrorism hotspot

Source: <http://www.politico.eu/article/why-is-brussels-terrorism-hot-spot-molenbeek-paris-attacks/>

Brussels is in the spotlight after it emerged that two of the perpetrators of the Paris terrorism attacks lived in the city. Why does Brussels have a terrorism



problem?

Speaking at length at a POLITICO event on combating extremism three days before the Paris attacks, Belgium's Interior Minister Jan Jambon outlined why he thinks authorities have struggled to combat extremism.

### 1. "A small but complicated country"

Jambon, a Flemish nationalist who also serves as deputy prime minister, blamed Belgium's complex structure of government, which he said made exchanging information between police and intelligence services difficult. Brussels has six police departments, just covering the city, and 19 municipalities with 19 mayors. "The approach is too divided between different local authorities here in Brussels."

### 2. Terrorist recruits born in Belgium

The government can withdraw passports and identity cards from terrorist suspects or people intending to travel to Syria if they were born elsewhere and then settled in Belgium. However, many suspects are third or fourth generation migrants and the government cannot legally withdraw nationality in these cases.

### 3. Digital recruitment of terrorists

Most terrorist recruitment now takes place online, Jambon said. Communication via Playstation 4 is particularly difficult because authorities struggle to decrypt it.

### 4. Fragmentation of the Muslim community

Belgium's Muslim community is made up of disparate groups and there is not always consensus. This makes it difficult for the government to work effectively with community leaders, the minister said.

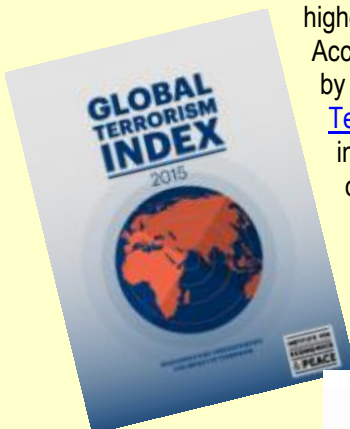
## Increasing toll: Terrorists killed 32,658 people in 2014 compared to 18,111 in 2013

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151117-increasing-toll-terrorists-killed-32-658-people-in-2014-compared-to-18-111-in-2013>

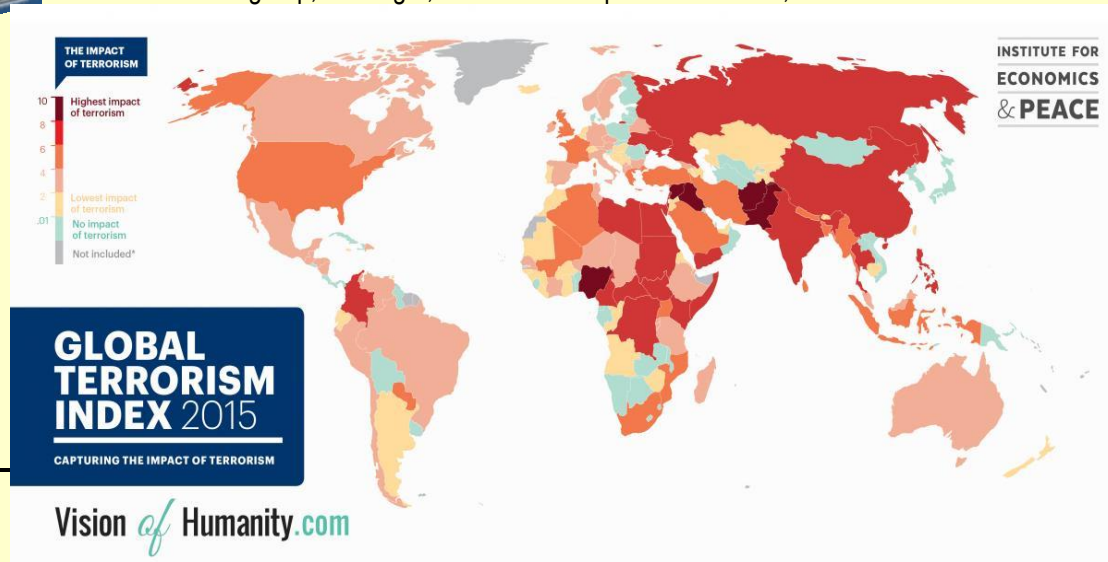
Nov 17 – The number of lives lost to terrorism increased by 80 percent in 2014, reaching 32,658 — the highest level ever recorded. This compares to 18,111 in 2013.

According to the third edition of the [Global Terrorism Index](#) (GTI), released Monday by the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#) (IEP) and based on data from the [Global Terrorism Database](#) of [START](#), this increase represents the largest yearly increase in deaths ever recorded. The report also highlights the dramatic rise in terrorism over time, with deaths increasing by nine-fold since the year 2000.

The report reveals that just two terrorist groups, ISIL and Boko Haram, are now jointly responsible for 51 percent of all global fatalities from claimed terrorist attacks. Boko Haram, which pledged its allegiance to ISIS as the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) in March 2015, has become the world's deadliest terrorist group, causing 6,644 deaths compared to ISIS's 6,073.



Terrorism is also highly concentrated: just five countries — Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria — accounted for 78 percent of all deaths in 2014.



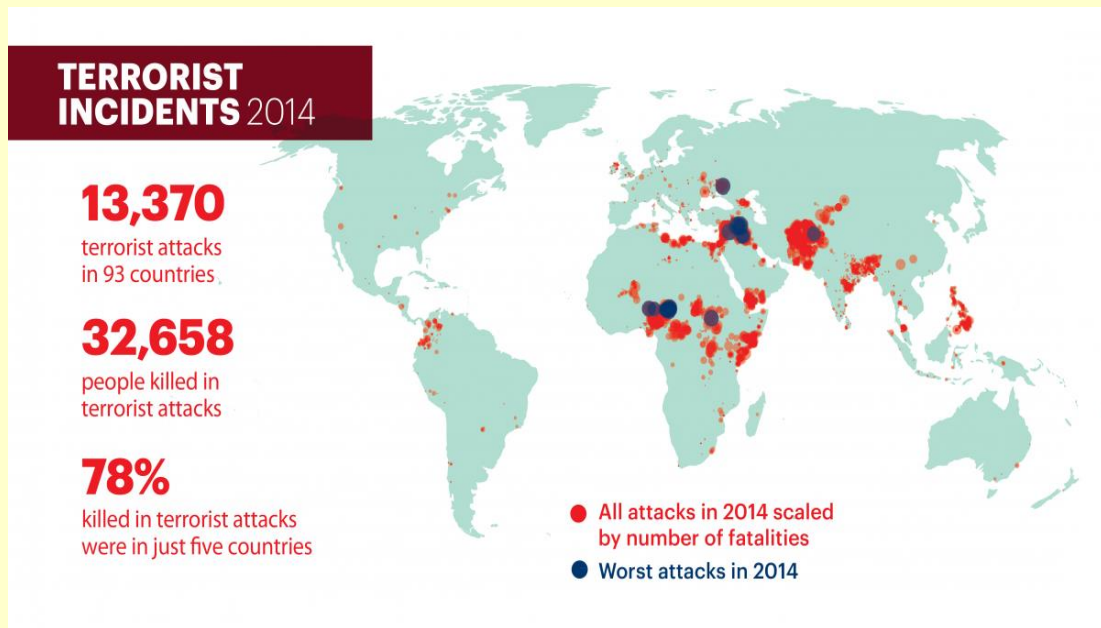
**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

Iraq continues to be the country most impacted by terrorism, with 3,370 attacks killing 9,929 people. This is the highest number of terrorism incidents and fatalities ever recorded by a single country. Nigeria recorded the largest increase in deaths from terrorism, rising by over 300 percent to 7,512 fatalities.

IEP [notes](#), however, that terrorism has spread significantly in the past year. The number of countries that suffered more than 500 deaths has more than doubled, increasing from five in 2013 to eleven in 2014. The new additions were Somalia, Ukraine, Yemen, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Cameroon.

The economic cost of terrorism reached its highest ever level in 2014 at \$52.9 billion, an increase of 61 percent from the previous year's total of \$32.9 billion, and a tenfold increase since 2000.

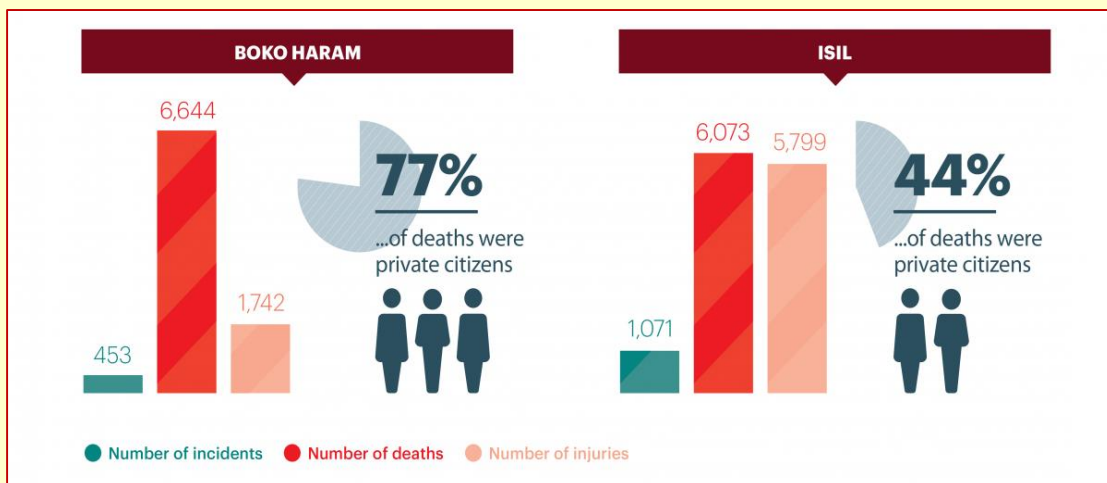
Steve Killelea, executive chairman of IEP, said, "The significant increase in terrorist activity has meant



that its ramifications are being felt more widely throughout the world. What is most striking from our analysis is how the drivers of terrorism differ between more and less developed countries. In the West, socio-economic factors such as youth unemployment and drug crime correlate with terrorism. In non-OECD countries, terrorism shows stronger associations with ongoing conflict, corruption and violence.

"Ten of the eleven countries most affected by terrorism also have the highest rates of refugees and internal displacement. This highlights the strong inter-connectedness between the current refugee crisis, terrorism and conflict."

The flow of foreign fighters into Iraq and Syria since 2011 is the largest influx in modern times. Current



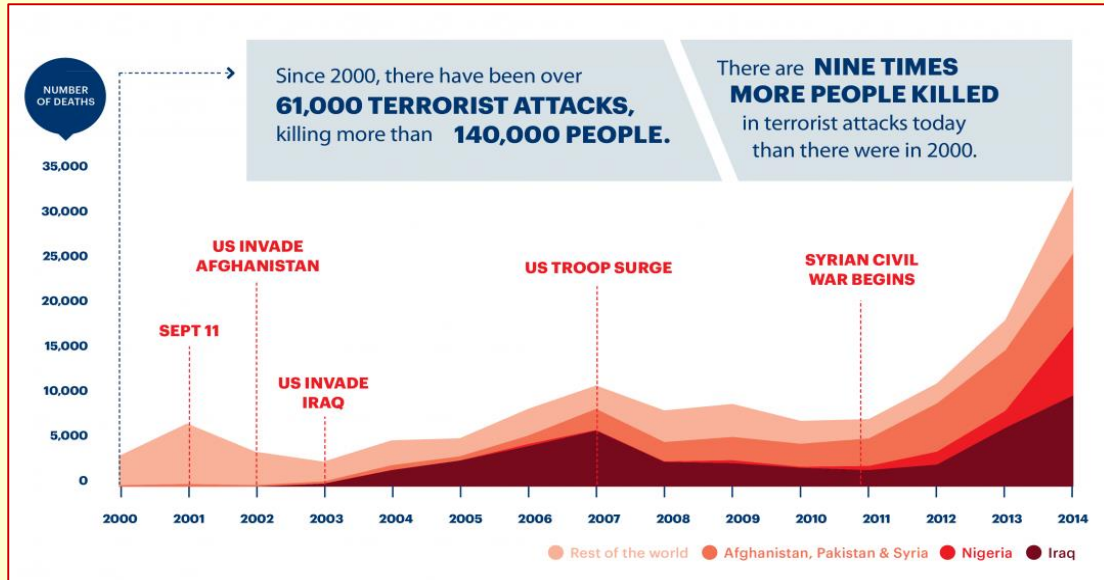
estimates now range from 25,000 to 30,000 fighters, from roughly 100 countries. Half of



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

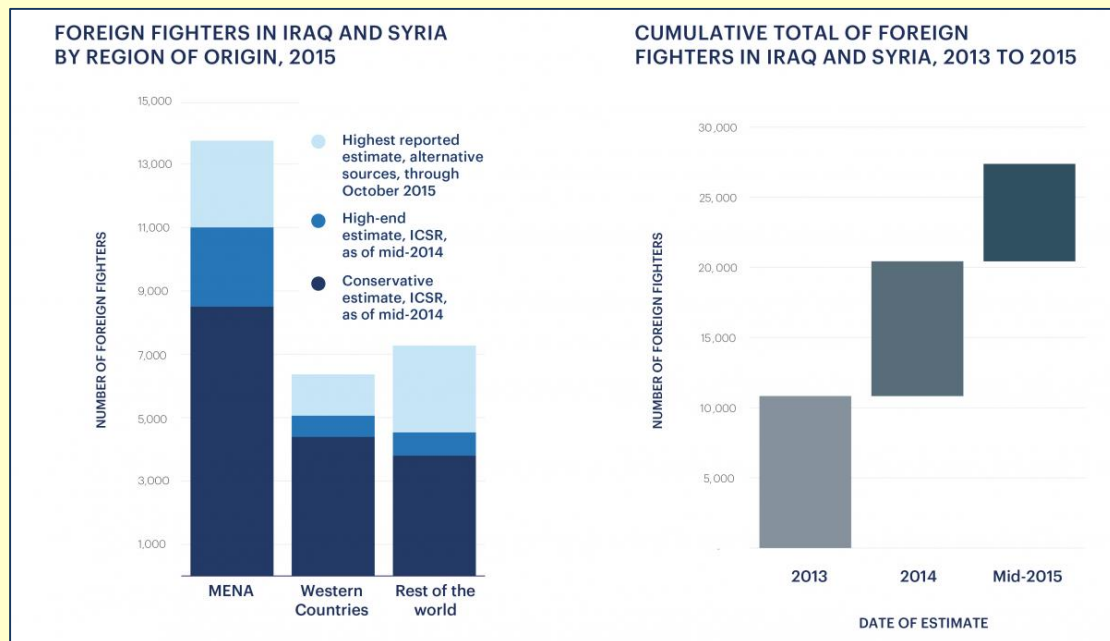
the foreign fighters travelling to Iraq and Syria are from neighboring MENA [Middle East and North Africa] countries, and a quarter from Europe and Turkey. The flow of foreign fighters does not appear to be diminishing, with over 7,000 arriving in the first six months of 2015.

Statistical analysis of the patterns of terrorist activity since 1989 found that there were two factors most closely associated with terrorism. These are the levels of political violence committed by the state, and the level of armed conflict within a country. The report finds that 92 percent of all terrorist attacks between 1989 and 2014 occurred in countries where political violence by the government was widespread, while 88 percent of all terrorist attacks between 1989 and 2014 occurred in countries that



were experiencing or involved in violent conflicts.

Killelea commented, “Since we can see a number of clearly identifiable socio-political factors that foster terrorism, it is important to implement policies that aim to address these associated causes. This includes reducing state-sponsored violence, diffusing group grievances, and improving respect for human rights and religious freedoms, while considering cultural nuances.”



Lone wolf attackers are the main perpetrators of terrorist activity in the West, causing 70 percent of all deaths over the past ten years. Islamic fundamentalism was not the main driver of terrorism in Western countries: 80 percent of lone wolf deaths were by political extremists, nationalists, and racial and religious supremacists.

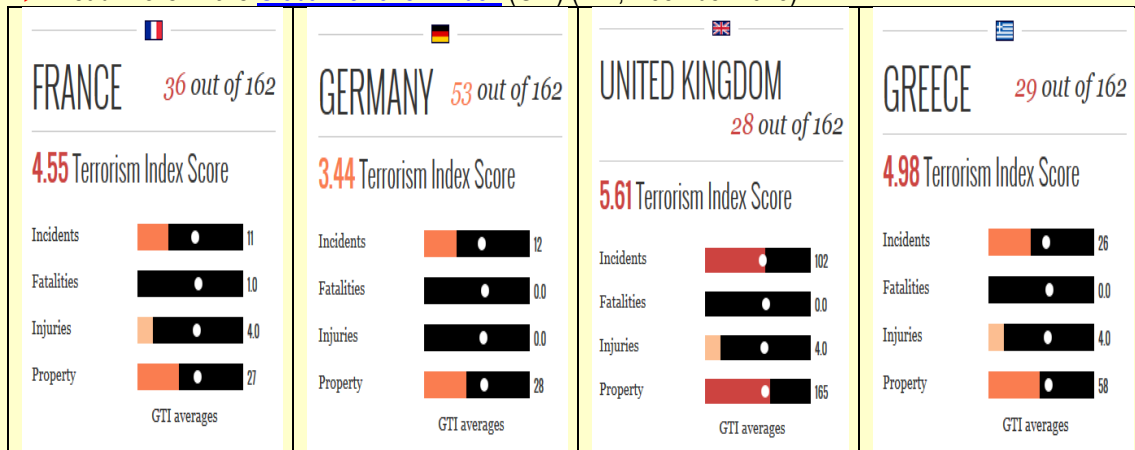


**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

Many countries experience no terrorist activity, but the number of countries to experience at least one or more deaths from terrorist activity has increased from 59 in 2013 to 67 in 2014. This includes OECD countries such as Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, and France.

IEP says that, importantly, over 60 percent of the countries in the report experienced no deaths from terrorism. Since 2000, less than 3 percent of terrorist deaths occurred in the West. Thirteen times as many people are killed globally by homicides than die in terrorist attacks.

► Read more in the [Global Terrorism Index \(GTI\)](#) (IEP, November 2015)



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** I visited the website mentioned above. It was a bit surprising to see that Greece is in position 29 (out of 162) while France was in #36, UK in #28 and Germany in #53. It seems that I living in high risk country and I knew nothing about it! On the other hand I can still visit Athens' downtown, go to a theater or a football stadium. Perhaps I will have to look better in case all these are products of my vivid imagination make me confident that despite our own huge problems we still are one of the safest places to be in the planet! I will check GTI once more – maybe the criteria need to be carefully reviewed

## Mass-casualty terrorist attacks on the rise, with 11 attacks in first half of 2015

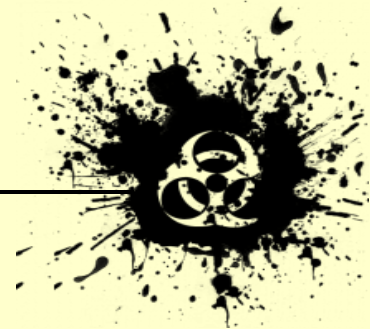
Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151117-masscasualty-terrorist-attacks-on-the-rise-with-11-attacks-in-first-half-of-2015>

Nov 17 – Mass casualty terrorist attacks, defined as attacks which kill more than 100 people (excluding perpetrators) in a particular country on a particular day, are on the rise. Between 1970 and 2014 there have been 176 such attacks. Between 2000 and 2014, there were mass casualty attacks in twenty-five countries, but most of them occurred in Iraq and Nigeria. Between January and June 2015 there were eleven attacks in which terrorists killed more than 100 people in a single country on a single day.

On Friday, 13 November 2015, ISIS terrorists carried out a series of coordinated attacks at several locations in Paris, including a concert hall where a concert was being held, several restaurants, and a soccer stadium. These attacks killed 132 people and wounded more than 350 others. To provide contextual information on coordinated, mass-fatality attacks, as well as terrorism in France and the attack patterns of ISIS, the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorist and Responses to Terrorism (START) has compiled a background report titled Mass-Fatality, Coordinated Attacks Worldwide, and Terrorism in France.

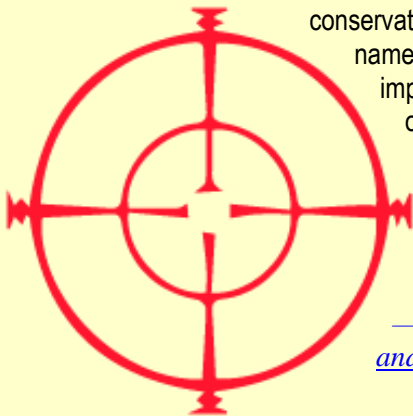
### The highlights:

- Between 1970 and 2014, there have been 176 occasions on which terrorist attacks killed more than 100 people (excluding perpetrators) in a particular country on a particular day.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

- Between 2000 and 2014, there were 83 days on which more than 100 people were killed by terrorist attacks in a single country. These attacks took place in twenty-five countries in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, but they were especially concentrated in Iraq and Nigeria.
- Preliminary data from 2015 suggest that the unusual frequency of mass casualty terrorist attacks in 2014 has continued. Between January and June 2015 there were eleven occasions in which terrorist attacks killed more than 100 people in a single country on a single day.
- ISIS, under its current incarnation, carried out more than 750 coordinated attacks in 2000-2014 — specifically in 2013 and 2014. However, this is a



conservative assessment because the Global Terrorism Database records the names of perpetrator organizations at the time of the attack. Thus, it is important to note that al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), ISIS's predecessor, carried out at least 400 coordinated attacks as well. Also, twenty-five coordinated attacks were attributed to the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), another identity previously assumed by ISIS, and several other coordinated attacks were carried out by provinces of the Islamic State, including the Sinai Province and the Tripoli Province.

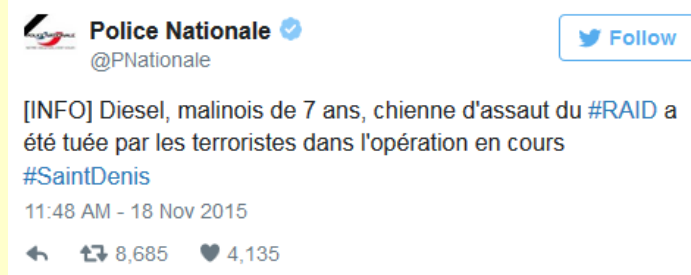
— Read more in [Mass-Fatality, Coordinated Attacks Worldwide, and Terrorism in France \(START, November 2015\)](#)

## Diesel named as police dog killed in Saint Denis raids hunting for Paris attackers

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/diesel-named-as-police-dog-killed-in-saint-denis-raids-hunting-for-paris-attackers-a6738826.html>



French officials have named a police dog which was killed during a major counter-terror operation in the northern Parisian suburb of Saint-Denis. Police targeting the suspected mastermind of the Paris shootings, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, raided a number of apartments in Saint-Denis in the early hours of Wednesday morning. At least five officers suffered minor injuries in the raid, some after a woman at the scene detonated a suicide vest full of explosives.



Around seven explosions and sustained gunfire were heard by





neighbors

and

officers



throughout the morning, during which two terror suspects were killed and around seven arrests made. Police officials told reporters that an assault and explosive search dog was killed during the operation.

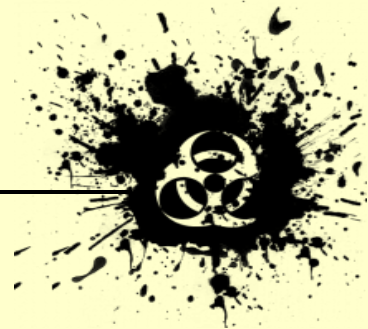


Diesel's last walk

The official profile for Police Nationale later tweeted that Diesel, a seven-year-old Belgian Malinois, "was killed by terrorists in the current operation in Saint-Denis".

## Turkish MİT Chief Crosses all Lines and Defends ISIS

Source: <http://www.syrianews.cc/turkish-mit-chief-crosses-all-lines-and-defends-isis/#imageclose-20325>



## Turkish intelligence chief: Putin's intervention in Syria is against Islam and international law, ISIS is a reality and we are optimistic about the future

Top News 18 October 2015



Hakan Fidan

**What do you want more a confession to NATO's hpocrisy in 'fighting terror' especially ISIS? They're literally sponsoring terror causing the mischief throughout the region and through their tools ISIS, alQaeda 'Nusra Front' aka Nusra Levant and the FSA.**

This cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted coming via the official Turkish Anadolu News Agency directly from the Turkish president Erdogan's closest ally Hakan Fidan, the head of the infamous 'intelligence' forces known for his leaked false-flag plot to attack a grave within Syrian territories to blame it on the Syrian Arab Army and retaliating by dragging NATO behind them.

***ISIS is a reality and we have to accept that we cannot eradicate a well-organized and popular establishment such as the Islamic State; therefore I urge my western colleagues to revise their mindset about Islamic political currents, put aside their cynical mentalité and thwart Vladimir Putin's plans to crush Syrian Islamist***

**revolutionaries,**? Anadolu News Agency quoted Hakan Fidan as saying on Sunday.

## Islamic State goes underground in Syrian stronghold

Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/09/16/syria-crisis-islamic-state-idINKBN0HB22M20140916>

**Islamic State has gone underground in its Syrian stronghold since President Barack Obama authorised U.S. air strikes on the group in Syria, disappearing from the streets, redeploying weapons and fighters, and cutting down its media exposure.**

In the city of Raqqa, 450 km (280 miles) northeast of Damascus, residents say Islamic State has been moving equipment every day



since Obama signalled on Sept. 11 that air attacks on its forces could be expanded from Iraq to Syria.



Islamic State activists who typically answer questions on the Internet have been off line since then. Its leaders have not given a direct response to Obama: his speech last week was not mentioned in a video released on Saturday showing the beheading of British hostage David Haines by an Islamic State militant.

As the United States tries to assemble a coalition to fight Islamic State, the jihadist group appears to be trying to leave as much uncertainty as possible about its strategy.

Facing U.S. air strikes in Iraq, Islamic State fighters abandoned



heavy weaponry that made them easy targets and tried to blend into civilian areas. In anticipation of similar raids in Syria, the group may already be doing the same.

Since seizing the Iraqi city of Mosul in June, the group has also extended its control over neighbouring Deir al-Zor province, which borders Iraq. Making good on its promise to



In Raqqa, the group has evacuated buildings it was using as offices, redeployed its heavy weaponry, and moved fighters' families out of the city.

"They are trying to keep on the move," said one Raqqa resident, communicating via the Internet and speaking on condition of anonymity because of safety fears. "They have sleeper cells everywhere," he added.

"They only meet in very limited gatherings."

The top U.S. general promised on Tuesday "a persistent and sustainable campaign" against Islamic State in Syria, and Washington is probably already watching its positions in Raqqa. Obama approved surveillance flights over Syria last month, and footage taken by activists earlier this month appeared to show an American-made drone over the city.

The militants are not dormant; the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks violence in the country's civil war, said they had shot down a Damascus government war plane near Raqqa using anti-aircraft guns.

However, another resident said: "Islamic State is now carrying out tactical defensive moves by relocating their assets to different places so that their heavy weaponry is not all concentrated in one place."

Raqqa and the surrounding province is Islamic State's main base in Syria. Last month, its fighters drove the final government forces from the area when it seized an air base.

redraw the Middle East, Islamic State has declared a new province including territory on both sides of the frontier.

#### **Fear drives up price of dollar**

In Raqqa, Islamic State had taken charge of many aspects of civilian life, managing everything from traffic to bakeries in an effort to establish a state run according to its own, radical interpretation of Islam.

Islamic State has been trying to give a sense of business as normal even as it has reduced its presence in the streets, said another resident of the city whose population numbered about 200,000 before the civil war. "They are giving the impression they don't care," the resident said.

"These days the fighters are not deployed heavily on the streets. Only those who have to are appearing. The streets are empty and the people are worried and scared."

Some activists did appear on the outskirts of Raqqa on Tuesday. They were pictured collecting wreckage of the downed Syrian war plane and loading it into the back of a truck flying the group's black flag.

Since Obama's speech, shops in Raqqa have been closing early and the value of the U.S. dollar has jumped in the local hard currency market, residents said. Dozens of people have left the city, though there



has been no sign of mass migration.

While preparing for an attack, Islamic State has also been trying to promote its cause among residents. Some already express support for the group whose rule has brought a modicum of stability, albeit in a hardline form.

A 14-point statement distributed in recent days reminded residents of Islamic State rules such as its ban on smoking and drinking, and requirement for women to cover up and stay at home. It also warned that anyone who dealt with President Bashar al-Assad's government would face death.

But the statement also tried to promote the group, telling residents they would see "the great difference" between Islamic State rule and that of the "oppressive secular government" - a reference to Assad. "Live joyfully and in plenty in an Islamic government," declared the statement, which was obtained by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Hassan Hassan, an analyst at the Delma Institute in Abu Dhabi, said the statement

amounted to a carrot and stick approach. "It was obviously a move to reassure people but warn them at the same time," he said.

However, governing Raqqa would come second to survival in the face of U.S. air strikes. "(Islamic State) has always had that back-up plan, even before the news of an imminent action by Americans," Hassan said. "It's important to realise these people don't need to be in bases."

In one of the few responses to Obama's announcement, an Islamic State supporter warned of attacks on the United States and its allies if they continued to carry out military action against the group, the SITE monitoring service said on Tuesday.

Hassan said the group had yet to issue a proper response. "They are reflecting on what to do next. It's probably their way of making it vague - so that people don't know what to expect."



## Britain unveils new hi-tech 'Robocop' anti-terror police at Wembley during England vs France

Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/paris-attacks-britain-unveils-new-6852816>

This is the deadly new anti-terror police uniform on Britain's streets after the horrific terror attacks in Paris .

Spotted at Wembley Stadium last night for the England Vs France football match, the officers are the rarely-seen side of British policing.

Wearing fireproof military-style fatigues and a combat helmet, the counter-terror officers were carrying a lightweight, semi-automatic SIG 516 rifle.

At their side was a handgun in a holster strapped to their leg, while across their chests appeared to be extra ammunition.

The [Counter Terrorist Specialist Firearms Officers](#) also have a Taser capable of firing 50,000 volts and Kevlar reinforced gloves to protect their hands.

A team of the officers, who are attached to the Metropolitan Police, were seen at last night's friendly between England and France at the national stadium in North West London.

The 130-strong team deal with firearms operations in the capital and across the country.

According to the Metropolitan Police: "They are multi skilled and can deliver all elements of armed policing, including operations to combat major crime, hostage taking and terrorism.



"Their level of training, exposure and experience in dealing with such a wide range of armed operations lead many to consider the SC&O19 CTSFOs to be one of the world's leading specialist armed police support units."

## NATO should invade ISIS-held territory

By Nicholas Grossman

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151118-nato-should-invade-isisheld-territory>

In response to the terrorist attacks in Paris and Beirut, NATO should invade ISIS-held territory with the goal of creating two semiautonomous, predominantly Sunni Arab regions under restored Syrian and Iraqi sovereignty.

This would be difficult and costly. But it is perhaps the only path to long-term solutions of both the Syrian refugee crisis and the threat of ISIS.

No options are good, but, as someone who researches terrorism and insurgency, I believe this is the least bad alternative, and will give all relevant regional and international actors something they want.

### Diplomacy won't stop ISIS

Recent talks in Vienna, which some have hailed as significant progress, may help end the Syrian civil war. But diplomacy will not eliminate ISIS.

Representatives of nineteen outside powers, including the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, agreed to table their disagreement over President Bashar Assad's role in Syria's future, and call for a ceasefire beginning in January.

Representatives of the Syrian government and some opposition groups — but not ISIS and al-Qaeda, or other terrorists identified by Jordan — would then set up a transitional government. The plan is to draft a new constitution and hold elections in 2017.

However, even if the future unfolds exactly as the optimistic diplomats hope — they are able to overcome the sticking point of Assad's future, the ceasefire holds, all non-ISIS rebel groups are pacified, elections are held, and all parties honor the results — the threat of ISIS will remain.

ISIS wants an Islamic State on their terms, not the opportunity to run candidates in a pluralistic Syrian election.

### Why eliminating ISIS' "state" is necessary

Recent ISIS-linked attacks in Ankara, on a Russian passenger jet over the Sinai, in Beirut, and in Paris demonstrate that the danger is not contained within Iraq and Syria. Additionally, the related refugee crisis has strained countries throughout the Middle East and Europe. These interconnected problems are not solving themselves.

ISIS is different from other terrorist groups because of its "state." It's not a real state, but they do control territory. That territory provides them with oil and other revenue sources, a place to train and plan attacks, and a location to which recruits can travel.

Controlling territory also drives recruitment.

Amplified by ISIS' sophisticated propaganda operation and social media presence, the self-styled Islamic State signals to jihadist sympathizers worldwide that they can join a winner. For the more apocalyptically minded, ISIS' "state" fits the prophesy of a final confrontation between a new caliphate and the nonbelievers. One of ISIS' biggest strengths is its brand, and its brand is strong because of its "state."

Denying ISIS any territorial control is necessary to defeat it. This would not eliminate groups in the Sinai, Libya, Nigeria, Afghanistan, and elsewhere that pledged loyalty to ISIS. But it would reduce their unifying sense of purpose and associated recruitment.

It is true that invading ISIS' central territory would not address the reasons that disaffected individuals around the world choose to travel and fight with ISIS, or remain home and attempt terrorist attacks in support. Even worse, it could motivate them, at least in the short term.

However, as long as ISIS controls up to 50 percent of Syria and 30 percent of Iraq, it will be able to inspire followers, draw recruits, terrorize local civilians, threaten outside countries, and prevent any diplomatic settlement to the Syrian civil war.



**What it will take**

The only way to deny ISIS control of any territory is an invasion and occupation by a coalition of outside powers.

The air campaign initiated by the U.S.-led coalition in August 2014 will not defeat ISIS, mostly because it lacks the ground forces to take and hold territory.

The Kurdish Peshmerga retook some territory with assistance from the air, including the northern Iraqi city of Sinjar. However, given Kurdish capabilities and interests, they would not be able to hold much territory outside of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iraqi military didn't stop ISIS' advance through Sunni Arab areas of Iraq, and is having trouble retaking cities closer to Baghdad, such as Ramadi. Iranian-backed Shia militias have helped defend Baghdad and southern Iraq, but are widely rejected by Iraqi Sunnis. No local force appears capable of taking and holding Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, which ISIS captured in June 2014.

And that's just Iraq.

ISIS also controls much of northeastern Syria. There are no local ground forces capable of clearing out ISIS fighters, let alone preventing them from reemerging.

The Syrian government of Bashar Assad, backed by Iran and Russia, has been locked in a fight with non-ISIS rebel groups. Having failed to defeat those rebels, they're not going to provide the ground forces to retake ISIS-held territory in Syria, even if the Vienna diplomacy succeeds.

Significantly, in October, the United States abandoned its effort to train moderate Syrians to fight ISIS. The United States spent eight years training the 250,000-strong Iraqi military that failed to hold off ISIS' advance. There's no reason to believe America can build a force of Syrians capable of capturing and holding northeastern Syria.

That leaves outside powers. Only a sustained ground commitment from an international coalition can clear ISIS fighters from Syria and Iraq, and guarantee security long enough to gain the trust of the population and build the institutions for long-term stability.

A useful precedent can be found in the 2006-2007 Sunni Awakening. The Awakening, along with the American troop surge and emphasis on counterinsurgency, brought more stability to Iraq than at any time since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Unfortunately, these gains did not last, because the Shia-dominated government in Baghdad did not reach political accommodation with the Sunnis of the Awakening movement. Many Iraqi Sunni Arabs, fearing persecution from a sectarian Iraqi government, accepted ISIS as the less bad alternative.

To prevent something similar from happening, NATO should aim to create semiautonomous regions controlled by Sunni tribal leaders under restored Syrian and Iraqi sovereignty, using Iraqi Kurdistan as a model.

**Some benefit for everyone**

To initiate this strategy, France should invoke Article 5 of the NATO charter, which declares an attack on one an attack on all. Additionally, they could seek an authorizing resolution from the UN Security Council. Both provide legal justification and would help ensure a multilateral effort.

NATO should then secure Turkish participation, along with troop commitments from member states. Next, representatives of the alliance should coordinate with other militaries participating in the region to avoid accidents and craft a cooperative strategy.

One option: Russia, Iran, and the Syrian government take the lead defeating non-ISIS rebels excluded from diplomatic talks, effectively continuing their current operations. Meanwhile, NATO, Kurdish, and Iraqi forces focus on ISIS.

Though difficult, this plan could succeed because, in addition to weakening ISIS, all parties get something they want.

- Vienna conference participants would increase the chances of a diplomatic solution to the Syrian civil war, since ISIS is the largest potential spoiler.
- The EU, Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan would all get relief from the flood of refugees, as civilians would no longer need to flee ISIS, and some could even return home to stabilize areas of Iraq and Syria.
- Russia would retain its military bases and influence in Syria.
- Iran would ensure the survival of the Syrian and Iraqi governments.
- The Kurds would maintain their autonomy, perhaps with slightly expanded territorial control.
- Iraqi Sunni Arabs would get some autonomy from the central government in Baghdad.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

- The Shia-dominated Iraqi government would regain sovereignty over all of Iraq.
  - Finally, the United States and France would ensure a multilateral, legally recognized campaign to eliminate ISIS, rather than the half measures both have pursued thus far.
- Diplomacy is essential to a long-term solution to the Syrian civil war. But someone needs to

take over ISIS' territory, and local forces cannot do it alone. President Obama should reconsider his refusal to contribute ground forces. If he won't, additional American advisers, special operations forces, air strikes, and intelligence could help troops from other NATO countries and local actors defeat ISIS and reach a lasting solution.

*Nicholas Grossman is Lecturer in International Relations, University of Iowa.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Ground operations? Again? And by whom within NATO? So far only Russians have done something solid. We all expect to see the boots of those who created the problem to march in Syria and Iraq but most probably we will not!

## **Boko Haram has destroyed 1,100 schools so far this year: UN**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151118-boko-haram-has-destroyed-1-100-schools-so-far-this-year-un>

Nov 18 – **So far this year, the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram has destroyed an estimated 1,100 schools in north-east Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, Toby Lanzer, the UN envoy to the Sahel region,** said Monday.

Boko Haram launched its campaign of terror in 2009, and central to its Islamist ideology is the rejection of Western schoolings. Many of the group's most vicious attacks have been on schools – from middle schools to colleges – in which they have killed hundreds of students and teachers.

Analyst estimate the Boko Haram has killed about 17,000 people since it began its insurgency.

*Al Jazeera* reports that Lanzer on Monday also offered updated figures for the number of people displaced by the conflict. He said that Maiduguri, a city in northeastern Nigeria, has seen its population rise to 2.6 million as 1.6 million people fleeing violence have moved into the city of one million residents.



Lanzer said that in total, 2.6 million have been forced from their homes by the fighting — 2.2 million of them displaced in Nigeria's three northeastern states, and the rest in neighboring Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.



**CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2015**

Lanzer also said that the refugees fleeing Boko Haram violence have so far not joined the hundreds of thousands of refugees flocking to Europe's shores, but that this could well change if the conditions



around Lake Chad – the area most affected by Boko Haram – do not improve.

“Is that something that could be on the cards? Absolutely,” Lanzer told journalists, stressing the continuing violence, combined with a rising population and harsh poverty could persuade a large number of young men in the region to try to migrate to Europe.

Lanzer also praised Nigeria's president Muhammadu Buhari, who came to power in May, and the way he has handled the Boko Haram crisis.

“There is a pretty realistic appreciation of the gravity of the situation,” he said of the Buhari administration's approach to the insurgency.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** *Je sui Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger ????????????*

### **Poll: 60 percent says the US is at war with Islamic terrorism**

Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/260915-poll-two-thirds-say-us-is-at-war-with-islamic-terrorism>

Nov 20 – The majority of Americans say the country is at war with radical Islamic terrorism, according to a new poll taken in the aftermath of last week's terrorist attacks in France.

A survey by the conservative-leaning [Rasmussen Reports](#) published Friday found that **60 percent of likely voters believe the country is at war**, compared with 24 percent who say the U.S. is not at war.





“President Obama, Hillary Clinton and other senior Democrats refuse to say America is at war with ‘radical Islamic terrorism’ for fear of insulting all Muslims, but voters beg to disagree,” the polling agency said.



Majorities from both major parties said the U.S. is engaged in a conflict with radical Islam: 56 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of Republicans, as well as 54 percent of independents.

Ninety-two percent of respondents also said they regard radical Islamic terrorism as a “serious” threat to national security, including 73 percent who said the threat is a “very serious” one, which is up from 50 percent in

[October of last year.](#)

American attitudes toward the Islamic faith as a whole also appear to have shifted.

Although a plurality of Americans, 46 percent, still said terrorist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) do not represent the true Muslim faith; that number is down from [58 percent in February](#). Thirty-five percent said ISIS does represent the Muslim faith.

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the Paris attack last week in which at least 130 people were killed and hundreds were injured. The Rasmussen poll surveyed 1,000 likely voters Nov. 17–18. The margin of error for the poll is 3 percentage points.

## Austrians Say Islam Does Not Belong in Their Nation: Poll

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/02/09/austrians-say-islam-does-not-belong-in-their-nation-poll/>

Feb 2015 – **A survey of social attitudes in Austria has revealed the vast majority of Austrians don’t believe Islam belongs in their country, with almost half going further and saying the religion should “definitely not” have a home there.**

In the survey, 69 percent of those polled said they did not believe Islam belonged in Austria, a strong rise on previous polls taken before the Charlie Hebdo attacks made earlier in the year, [reports TheLocal.at](#). Even

more than that – around three quarters – thought if a citizen left Austria to fight for extremist groups such as the Islamic State, they should have their citizenship withdrawn completely.

**Of the nearly seven in ten people who believed Islam didn’t belong in Austria, a sizeable minority went even further, with 42 percent of those polled saying there should “definitely” be no Islam in the country. A**



similar proportion of people felt Islam was a “threat” to Austria.

Although Austria was host to a large pro-Islam demonstration yesterday who marched against the German anti-Islamification group PEGIDA, it appears they represent a small, yet noisy minority. The poll found only seven percent agreed that “Islam is part of Austria”, and five percent said that those who fight for the Islamic state should keep their passports. The numbers are only slightly higher than the total proportion of Muslims who actually live in the country, which runs at 4.2 percent.

*Breitbart London* [reported last year](#) that Austria, and capital city Vienna in particular, had become a major European hub for Islamic terrorism, and an important stopping-off point for jihadists travelling from Western Europe to join the Islamic State. In an attempt to curb the rapid radicalisation of Austrian youth, the police raided a number of mosques and prayer rooms in November in a large operation involving 500 police officers and leading to 13 arrests.

Reports at the time said a “Vienna-based Serbian preacher” was the main target of the operation, with “terrorist propaganda” and money being recovered by police.



## Who Is Hasna Aitboulahcen? Paris Female (?) Suicide Bomber Detonates During Saint-Denis Raid

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/who-hasna-aitboulahcen-paris-female-suicide-bomber-detonates-during-saint-denis-raid-2189900>

Nov 18 – The female suicide bomber who blew herself up Wednesday during a police raid that targeted suspected terrorists in Saint-Denis, France, was named as Hasna Aitboulahcen, a French-Moroccan national. She detonated her explosive vest as French police and soldiers closed in on a hideout in the northern Paris suburb. Aitboulahcen was the first-ever female suicide bomber in France and Western Europe, the Guardian reported.

Minutes before her death, Aitboulahcen was seen making a telephone call, possibly to alert accomplices who were still in the area. Aitboulahcen, 26, was the cousin of Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the alleged mastermind behind Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris and the main target of Wednesday's operation, the Independent reported.

Aitboulahcen was described as having "long, blonde hair," by a witness, according to the MailOnline. She grew up in the Paris region and ran her own business, Beko Construction, until 2012. She was on the radar of intelligence services, the Guardian reported.

The hourslong raid Wednesday focused on two apartments on the same street in Saint-Denis,



with one leading to the other. More than 100 police and soldiers stormed the building and fired 5,000 munitions in a tense shootout. Two suspected terrorists were killed - including Aitboulahcen -- and seven more were arrested. Abaaoud, the suspected ringleader of last week's attacks, was among those killed, the Washington Post reported.

Police sources told CNN the raid was "right on time" because the suspected terrorists targeted in the raid were "about to move on some kind of operation." The suspects were planning to attack Paris' airport and the Les Quatre Temps shopping center in the capital city's La Défense neighborhood, police sources told French public broadcasting.

Pictures at the scene after the raid concluded showed French police dragging a bloodied and half-naked man out of a residential block in Saint-Denis. At least five police were lightly wounded in the dramatic shootout -- some after the female suicide bomber detonated. A 7-year-old police dog named Diesel was killed during the massive operation.

## The Hidden Costs of Terrorism

By Andrew Ross Sorkin

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/17/business/dealbook/the-fallout-from-attacks-is-measured-in-more-than-stock-markets.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/17/business/dealbook/the-fallout-from-attacks-is-measured-in-more-than-stock-markets.html?_r=1)

Nov 16 – It feels frivolous to ask that question after the horrific Paris attacks, but it is one of the central issues with which policy makers and investors are grappling.

The conventional wisdom is that an act of terrorism accounts for a mere blip in economic damage. Economists often point to research showing that after the Madrid train bombings in 2004 and the London subway bombings in 2005, gross domestic product in those countries barely budged and showed little direct correlation to the attacks.

Even in the United States after the Sept. 11 attacks, consumption remained relatively

stable, though investment fell. (There have been bigger impacts on places like Bali and Tunisia, whose economies depend heavily on foreign tourism.)

If the stock market can be considered a barometer of economic confidence, it is remarkable to see how quickly it typically rebounds after a terrorist event. In the case of New York, Madrid and London, the market briefly dropped but then recovered, often within weeks. In the case of Sept. 11, the S.&P. 500-stock index returned to where it had been before the attacks just 30 days later.



On Monday, market participants steered themselves for a steep decline, but the indexes in the United States were up more than 1 percent, and markets in Europe were close to flat.

But that reaction — and the reaction to previous attacks — may belie the true cost of terrorism and, more important, underestimate the potential cost of the Paris killings.

“The aftermath of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks may not in itself prompt extensive market-based volatility,” Citigroup wrote in a report, suggesting that financial markets “treat such developments as idiosyncratic and the unfortunate reality of a world where large-scale carnage has become an almost daily, if sickening, development.”

The report, however, said, “We think this time is different.”

That view is consistent with the opinions of some security experts, who in recent days have said that the attack in Paris represents just one in a continuum.

“We have upgraded the risk of terrorist attacks not only in the Middle East but also in the West, as well as the likelihood of increased international military intervention in IS strongholds in Syria, Iraq and Libya,” Citigroup said, referring to the Islamic State.

The attack in Paris could have far-reaching implications for the future of the eurozone and for companies doing business there. The events in Paris could add to the pressure to close borders in the eurozone. It is also reigniting a debate about privacy and surveillance that could have big implications for technology companies.

Over the weekend, Evercore ISI, the research arm of the investment bank Evercore, published a note to its clients suggesting that the events in Paris could threaten the political support inside Germany for its chancellor, Angela Merkel, who has been a big supporter of open borders, of the Syrian migration and of limiting electronic surveillance on civil liberty grounds.

“The connection between the terror threat and migration flows threatens to rupture the border-free Schengen zone,” the note said, describing the borderless, passport-free zone known as the Schengen area. “It challenges Merkel’s position at home and in the wider E.U., nudging higher the tail risk that Europe’s indispensable leader could fall from power.”

The economic implications of this are significant, to say the least. Evercore ISI even speculated it was possible that Ms. Merkel could ultimately be replaced by Wolfgang Schäuble, Germany’s finance minister, who has seemingly been inclined to let Greece leave the eurozone.

Policy makers and investors estimating the cost of terrorism often miss the larger picture: **While the stock market quickly rebounded after Sept. 11, the true economic damage may have been as high as \$3.3 trillion.**

An analysis of the cost of Sept. 11 conducted by The New York Times added up the physical damage (\$55 billion) and the economic damage (\$123 billion). It also included other costs: the cost of developing the Homeland Security Department (\$589 billion), war funding (\$1.6 trillion) and what was determined to be the continuing cost of those wars and taking care of veterans (\$867 billion).

Some economists might say much of that actually increases economic growth. That’s true. Sort of. The truth is it’s an unproductive form of spending. And the development of Homeland Security and the war creates a so-called economic friction in the system that slows down just about everything; it’s hard to measure, but it’s there.

“It is the indirect costs of the attack that are most difficult to measure,” Walter Enders and Eric Olson of the University of Alabama wrote in a study titled, [“Measuring the Economic Costs of Terrorism.”](#)

One place to look at the cost of terror is Israel. An academic study that examined the economic damage of the attacks in Israel between 1994 and 2003 showed that the country’s per-capita G.D.P. “would have been 8.6 percent higher than it was” had there been peace.

Conducted by Dotan Persitz, a scholar at Tel Aviv University, the study found that “Palestinian terror increased the shares of consumption and government expenditures” while it “decreased the shares of investment and trade balance in G.D.P.”

The study is hard to fully appreciate on its face, but even if the damage in Israel were only half what was reported, it would have been billions of dollars.

Let’s hope the attacks in Paris were a one-off. But the study is a reminder that the cost of terrorism could be greater than we think.



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## Why Islamic State targeted France instead of the U.S.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-islamic-state-targeted-france-20151115-story.html>

Nov 15 – The chilling takeaway from Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris is that Islamic State has expanded its theater of operations beyond the Middle East. But that doesn't mean the group is about to unleash a wave of attacks on the United States.

The Homeland Security Department said Friday it knows of "no specific or credible threats of an attack on the U.S. homeland."

Until Friday, Islamic State had focused on seizing territory in the Middle East. Granted, its members have also attacked targets in Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt – but those are all countries bordering Islamic State's homeland. And individual Islamic State sympathizers have attacked civilians in Europe, but never in an operation that large or complex. (The January attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo was carried out by followers of Al Qaeda, not Islamic State.)

### Why France? Analysts suggest two reasons.

**First,** Islamic State leaders have designated France as the European country they hate most. "If you can kill a disbelieving American or European, especially the spiteful and filthy French ... then kill him in any manner or way you can," the group's top spokesman, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, told supporters last year.

France has been an enthusiastic participant in the U.S.-led coalition that is bombarding

Islamic State positions in Syria and Iraq. And French officials were among the first to adopt the insulting Arabic name "Daesh" for the group.

**Second,** Islamic State has a practical reason to focus on France: With the largest Muslim population in Western Europe, it has become Europe's biggest potential source of Islamic State recruits. U.S. officials have said that only a few dozen Americans have made their way to Syria to join the group – compared with more than 500 French citizens.

When I interviewed French terrorism experts in Paris last summer, they told me Islamic State was deliberately trying to provoke anti-Muslim repression in France as part of a recruiting strategy.

"What they want is reprisals," Jean-Pierre Filiu, a Middle East expert at Paris' Institute of Political Sciences, told the radio network France Inter on Saturday. "They want us, in Paris and in France, to kill Muslims.... They want a civil war in France."

None of this means that the United States is immune from danger; far from it. The Paris attack confirms that Islamic State's threats of violence against the West should be taken seriously. But the most

acute danger lies in France and other European countries, not here.



## Why jihadism appeals to religiously illiterate loners

By Akil N. Awan

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151119-why-jihadism-appeals-to-religiously-illiterate-loners>

Nov 19 - After killing twelve people at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, brothers Chérif and Saïd Kouachi were heard proclaiming, “we have avenged the Prophet Muhammad.” Amateur footage also revealed the killers invoking God with the Arabic phrase “Allahu Akbar.” This otherwise innocuous everyday religious utterance is frequently usurped as a jihadist battle cry.

The sanctimonious declarations made by these killers about acting in defense of their religion are often heard from jihadists. Even though two of the victims in the Paris attack were Muslims, the two brothers made self-aggrandizing assertions about being moral arbiters of religious sensitivities and sanctities.

We continue to see jihadist terrorism as being about religion more than anything else but “religious avengers” of this kind are often actually religiously illiterate. This is particularly true of Western Muslims who have been lured to fight for Islamic State, or who have carried out attacks at home.

**Those drawn to jihadism are usually not particularly religious prior to their involvement with violence.** They are either raised in largely secular households or possess only a rudimentary grasp of their parental faith, which rarely extends to religious practice of any sort.

As we try to make sense of what has happened, we have to acknowledge that religious meaning is often tacked on to crimes to validate them. Religion might provide the motif or stamp of approval but it is not the original motive.

Mohammed Ahmed and Yusuf Sarwar are a recent telling example. These two young British men were jailed for travelling to Syria to join a Jihadist group in 2013, as part of their religious duty. They were found to have bought two books before leaving that showed just how much they knew about that religion before making their life-changing choice – *Islam for Dummies* and *The Koran for Dummies*.

Similarly, the Kouachi brothers, orphaned children of Algerian immigrants, were not raised as pious Muslims. Chérif led a decidedly

non-devout and hedonistic lifestyle, smoking marijuana, drinking alcohol, listening to gangster rap, and had numerous girlfriends. Indeed, during his trial in 2008 for helping transport jihadist fighters from France to Iraq, Chérif’s lawyer revealed his client described himself as an “occasional Muslim.”

### Fall-back identity

This is not to exonerate religion in any sense. But religion is also a product of social, economic, political, and other factors that offer solutions to something.

Chérif has been described as a “confused chameleon,” aptly summing up the troubled identity crises commonly experienced by many jihadists. They feel alienated by their ethnic or parental culture and the mainstream culture in which they live. They are unable or unwilling to fulfil either group’s expectations and can develop a cultural schizophrenia and a sense of a lack of belonging. Religion provides an emphatic rejoinder to the identity offered by Western society.

In France, *Charlie Hebdo*’s cartoons reflect a broader rise in anti-Muslim and anti-immigration sentiment. Many depicted ordinary French Muslims and other minority groups in a way that was, at best, tasteless and, at worst, revelatory of an underlying French racism that is implicitly tolerated.

This fear of Islam and immigrants is what leads to the desecration of gravestones of French Muslim World War II veterans, opposition to Muslim women’s dress, and the publication of fear-mongering bestsellers that imagine an Islamic takeover of France. Most significantly it is helping boost support for the far-right Front National. In this context, it is not difficult to see why a welcoming religious identity might be more appealing than a tainted national one.

But the new religious identity also offers something else — it allows religion to be interpreted anew, as a distinct fundamentalist brand of Islam. **They turn to Salafism or Wahhabism as a way to adopt a religion that is free from the cultural baggage**



**attached to their parental or ethnic identity.**

Take for instance the case of Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab, the Nigerian student who was recruited by al-Qaeda and tried to detonate explosive-laden underwear on a trans-Atlantic flight in 2009. In his final text messages to his devout Muslim father in Nigeria, he said he had found “real Islam” and was no longer his son.

These sorts of melodramatic crises of identity can prove useful for Jihadist recruiters. They can use the confusion to sell a new utopian identity around the *Ummah* or global community of believers — which does not recognize color, race, or nationality and is besieged from all sides by evil forces. This radical interpretation of a religious community becomes the sole locus of identity and belonging.

Those who buy into it should be thought of as the “born again” variety of believer. They have much in common with religious converts found in all faiths. It is no accident that Islamic converts are disproportionately represented among jihadists. Recent terrorist attacks carried out in Ottawa, Quebec, and New York were the work of recent converts to Islam, as was the hostage crisis in the kosher supermarket in Paris that played out alongside the siege that led to the death of the Kouachi brothers.

With little previous religious socialization, no effective spiritual counterweight in their immediate circle, and a desperate desire to prove their religious credentials, the born again

are far more likely to accept totalitarian visions of Islam and to do it with zeal.

**Zero to hero**

This particular form of religiosity also offers meaning and purpose in the lives of those who desperately lack it. **Life in the banlieues is, for many French Muslims, a mix of unemployment, crime, drugs, institutional racism, and endemic cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement.** It is in these scenarios that jihadism potentially offers a way out of the banal and inane drudgery of daily life.

In direct contrast to feelings of boredom, purposelessness, and insignificance, the jihadists offer redemption through the image of the chivalrous warrior, recast as some sort of avenging hero.

Following the *Charlie Hebdo* attack, Islamic State’s official radio station praised the “jihadi heroes who had avenged the Prophet,” validating the Kouachi brothers transformation from petty criminals and nobodies into heroes of Islam.

Recent jihadist social media agitprop has also included the phrases “Sometimes people with the worst pasts create the best futures,” and “Why be a loser when you can be a martyr?”

Religion is important to these murderers. But only because, for many, it serves as the most emphatic critique of the failed promise of the French Republic, enshrined in her motto “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity” for all.

*NOTE: This article was originally published on 12 January 2015, following the attacks on Charlie Hebdo.*

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**Body of Paris attacks' mastermind identified**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151119-body-of-paris-attacks-mastermind-identified>



Nov 19 – The French prosecution has just announced that forensic evidence confirms that Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the 27-year old Belgian who was the mastermind of Friday’s attacks in Paris, was killed in Wednesday’s police raid on an apartment building in St.-Dennis. Abaaoud’s 26-year old cousin killed herself by exploding a suicide vest, and the police now say that there may be a third body under the



rubble of the partially collapsed third floor of building.

### Here the last twenty-four hours' major developments in the case:

- The French prosecution has just announced that forensic evidence confirms that Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the 27-year old Belgian who was the mastermind of Friday's attacks in Paris, was killed in Wednesday's police raid on an apartment building in St.-Dennis. Abaaoud's 26-year old cousin killed herself by exploding a suicide vest, and the police now say that there may be a third body under the rubble of the partially collapsed third floor of building.
- Belgia's Prime Minister, Charles Michel, on Thursday announced a series of anti-terror measures, pledged €400m in extra funding to combat extremism. Michel pledged to use changes to the constitution to extend preventive detention times for suspects from 24 hours to 72 hours. He also affirmed that Belgium would move forward alone on a system of airline passenger information sharing that European Union nations have been incapable of agreeing in four years. "All democratic forces have to work together to strengthen our security," Michel told lawmakers.
- Belgian police raided six addresses in the Brussels region linked to Bilal Hadfi, one of three suicide bombers who blew themselves up outside the Stade de France. The Belgian prosecutor office [told Al Jazeera](#) that raids focused on people linked to Hadfi, a 20-year-old French national who was living in Belgium and who, as was the case with all the suicide bombers identified so far, had spent time in Syria. One arrest was also made in the Brussels suburb of Laeken in connection with the Paris attacks.
- **The French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, warned that ISIS jihadis might use chemical or biological weapons.** "Terrorism hit France not because of what it is doing in Iraq and Syria ... but for what it is", Valls told parliament during the debate, adding: "We know that there could also be a risk of chemical or biological weapons."
- French prosecutors have identified five of the seven attackers who died: four Frenchmen and a foreigner who was fingerprinted in Greece last month and later claimed asylum in Serbia. He was carrying a fake Syrian passport in the name of Ahmad Almohammad.
- Police are still searching for the eighth gunman, 26-year-old Salah Abdeslam, whose brother Brahim blew himself up in the attacks.
- Two suspected accomplices identified as Mohammed Amri, 27, and Hamza Attou, 21, who allegedly drove Salah Abdeslam back from Paris to the Brussels suburb of Molenbeek are being questioned by police in Belgium.
- French police have so far made 60 arrests and seized 75 weapons after 414 raids across the country.
- French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, speaking on France-Inter radio Thursday, said that ISIS "is a monster. But if all the countries in the world aren't capable of fighting against 30,000 people (ISIS members), it's incomprehensible."

## Three Reactions ISIS is Hoping We Will Have

By Ryan Mauro

Source: <http://www.clarionproject.org/analysis/three-reactions-isis-hoping-we-will-have>

Nov 19 – The Islamic State believes it can use its enemies' hands for its own agenda. Its propaganda material and its supporters' social media activity have made it apparent there are three key reactions ISIS is hoping U.S. policymakers, media broadcasters and citizens will have.

The **first reaction** ISIS is hoping for is the Western media facilitating its narrative of success, which is one of the biggest reasons for the terror organization's rapid expansion.

Battlefield achievements make the group more attractive to jihadists and are seen as proof of Allah's endorsement.

ISIS wants headlines like those about the Paris attacks; its bombing of the Russian airliner; the cancelled soccer game in Germany and the stabbing of a Jewish schoolteacher in France by ISIS supporters. It *doesn't* want headlines about how the U.S. killed "Jihadi John" in Syria and the leader of its affiliate in Libya;



how it lost Sinjar and Beiji in Iraq or how U.S.-backed rebels in Syria are finally having success in pushing back ISIS.

Many people in the region immediately tweeted the Paris attacks would not distract from these losses. Their smack-talk to ISIS was based on a valid and important point. They did want not the media to limit its coverage to ISIS' success, but to include broader context that provides more accurate coverage that doesn't play into ISIS' hands.

The **second response** sought by ISIS is a vicious anti-Muslim backlash in Europe and the U.S. that the group believes will win them supporters. Online supporters of ISIS are open about how they hope a clash will divide Muslims into two camps: The pro-ISIS jihadists versus the pro-Western "apostates." The group thinks there is currently a middle ground that can be radicalized and won to its side.

The **third response** is the deployment of U.S. troops for a major ground war in Iraq and Syria; one where U.S. troops seize and hold territory and meet ISIS in the battlefield instead of just carrying out raids and training and advising Iraqi, Syrian and Kurdish partners.

A focal point of ISIS' apocalyptic vision rooted in Islamic prophecy is that "Roman" armies—

American and European—will invade Iraq and Syria and engage in a bloody battle. ISIS hopes the apparent fulfillment of prophecy will activate millions of ISIS supporters who have not yet picked up a gun.

The opportunity to target U.S. troops has greater appeal in the bigger jihadist world and any documented capturing, injuring or killing of a U.S. serviceman has tremendous propaganda value. There are many risks that come with deploying U.S. combat troops for a major offensive. American President Barack Obama rejected the option after the Paris attacks and explained part of his reasoning:

"[It is] not because our military could not march into Mosul or Raqqa or Ramadi and temporarily clear out ISIL, but because we would see a repetition of what we've seen before, which is if you do not have local populations that are committing to inclusive governance and who are pushing back against ideological extremes, that they resurface, unless we're prepared to have a permanent occupation of these countries."

ISIS will tell you what they want and how they plan to get it. All you need to do is pay attention.

*Ryan Mauro is [ClarionProject.org](http://ClarionProject.org)'s national security analyst, a fellow with Clarion Project and an adjunct professor of homeland security. Mauro is frequently interviewed on top-tier television and radio.*

## Is the United States safe from a Paris-style Islamic State attack?

By Adam Goldman

Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/is-the-united-states-safe-from-a-paris-style-islamic-state-attack/2015/11/17/4e66f5b2-8c7f-11e5-baf4-bdf37355da0c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/is-the-united-states-safe-from-a-paris-style-islamic-state-attack/2015/11/17/4e66f5b2-8c7f-11e5-baf4-bdf37355da0c_story.html)

Nov 17 – As France reels from a set of Islamic State terrorist attacks in Paris last week that killed scores and wounded hundreds, Americans are wondering whether their own country is any safer.

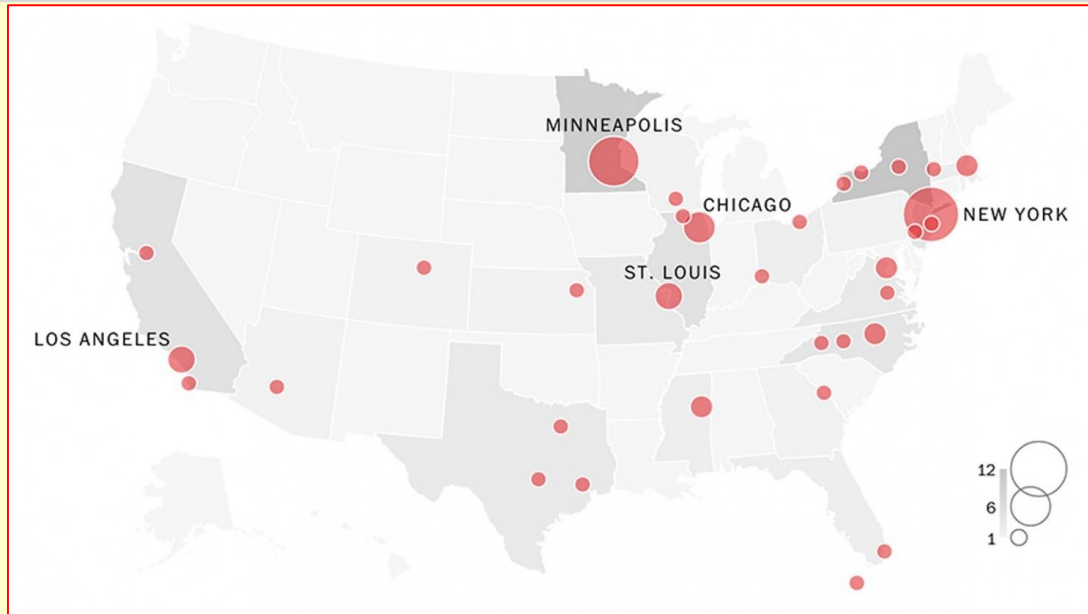
"That's an easy one," said a former senior FBI official who until recently was deeply involved in terrorism operations. "Safer here than there? Yes. We are separated by an ocean. Without a doubt, we are safer here than over there."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. government has spent more than \$1 trillion fighting the war on terrorism, making border crossings more secure, detecting plots and expanding the no-fly list from about a dozen people to roughly 47,000.

Tougher post-9/11 terrorism laws also ensure that the FBI and federal prosecutors can charge people with crimes that carry stiff sentences. In the past 18 months, the FBI has charged more than 60 people in connection with the Islamic State. Many could face years in prison if convicted, meaning the FBI won't have to devote resources to tracking their movements.







America's suspected ISIS supporters [View Graphic](#)  
*[Map: The Islamic State's suspected inroads into America]*

In Europe, porous borders mean that hundreds of foreign fighters have slipped back into the continent from Iraq and Syria, overwhelming intelligence agencies trying to keep tabs on them. That appears to have been the case in the Paris attacks, where at least four of the possible nine attackers were known to European authorities. Another suspected key player in the plot fought in Syria and later

expressed confidence that they have those U.S. individuals contained and that the remaining Americans in Syria won't be returning to this country unless they are in handcuffs.

That assessment is echoed in [a new report](#) by the New America Foundation titled "ISIS in the West: The New Faces of Extremism."

"Tracking the many foreign fighters from Western countries who have gone to Syria and have returned to the West poses a greater challenge, given their larger numbers, than tracking the handful of returning American fighters," the report says. But that doesn't mean the United States is not vulnerable. The FBI, which is charged with fighting terrorism in this country, has struggled at times to keep pace with a metastasizing threat.

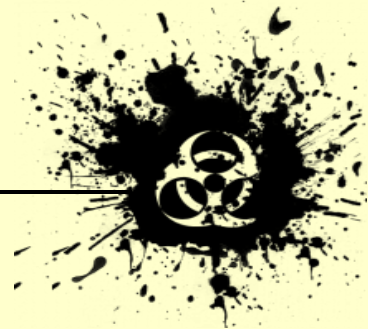
Because of limited resources, the FBI must constantly reevaluate which targets are a priority when it comes to closely following top-tier terrorism suspects. "It's daunting," said the former senior FBI official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the bureau.

Many law enforcement officials also argue that it would be easier to do their jobs if U.S. tech firms made it possible for phones and apps to be wiretapped. It is not yet known whether the plotters of the Paris terrorist attacks used encrypted channels of



returned to Europe, only to flee back to the Islamic State.

The number of Americans who have traveled to Iraq and Syria — or at least attempted to — is about 250, dramatically less than the estimated 4,500 who have left Europe. FBI officials aren't taking the threat lightly, but they have



communication, but experts say it is highly likely that they did.

Cyrus R. Vance Jr., the district attorney for Manhattan, who has been outspoken on how a lack of access to encrypted communications has hindered investigations, is expected to unveil a proposal on this topic Wednesday at a conference in New York. FBI Director James B. Comey also is to appear at the event. Last year, Comey called for legislation on encryption but later backed down when it became clear that Congress was hostile to the idea of aiding government surveillance.

Comey said recently that the FBI has about 900 cases involving homegrown violent extremists in every state. The vast majority of them, FBI officials say, are related to the Islamic State.

These, however, are a fraction of the approximately 10,000 terrorism cases the FBI has opened — many are overseas cases involving crimes against Americans, such as journalist James Foley, who was beheaded last year on video by Mohammed Emwazi, better known as “Jihadi John.” Authorities believe Emwazi was killed in a U.S. drone strike Thursday.

The FBI felt the Islamic State’s reach acutely earlier this year when it had to reassign hundreds of agents from its criminal division to deal with the Islamic State threat across the country.

“We had dozens of people,” Comey said recently at an event in Washington. “We had to find ways to incapacitate them, all popping up going to kill people.” When asked whether the bureau could sustain that pace without additional resources, he expressed doubt.

“If that were the new normal, that would be very stressful,” he said. “It’s a hard time for the bureau. Only on TV is it easy to follow people.”

The FBI is faced with guarding against two types of terrorist scenarios. In one, a plan is developed in the terrorist group’s stronghold in Raqqa, Syria, and foreign fighters, skilled in the use of weapons and explosives, return home and mount a large-scale attack. The FBI has been training with police departments across the country to respond to a terrorist attack similar to the one that took place in Mumbai in 2008, when a team of 10 militants killed 164 people.

Last month, dozens of FBI agents from the Washington field office, Fairfax County, Va., police officers and tactically trained fire

department personnel descended on a large shopping mall afterhours at 10 p.m. and played out such an attack until 4 a.m. the next day.

But FBI officials believe that scenario is less likely to happen in the United States.

They say a more probable attack would involve individuals inspired by Islamic State propaganda to act on their own — people Comey has described as “unmoored,” “unpredictable” and “wingnuts.”

That second scenario has already happened. Among the many Americans the FBI has charged, some are accused of plotting — without direction from the Islamic State — to kill U.S. military personnel and detonate bombs in New York City.

The FBI said two men in Boston — including Usaamah Abdullah Rahim, 26 — and a third man in Rhode Island had discussed beheading Pamela Geller, an outspoken critic of Islam. They planned to kill her July 4, the FBI said.

When Rahim decided to act early, the FBI was monitoring his phone.

One of the FBI’s armed mobile surveillance teams confronted the knife-wielding Rahim and killed him.

“Luckily, we were covering that phone,” Comey has said.

In another incident, two Phoenix men, one of whom was under FBI investigation, tried to attack a prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Garland, Tex., which had been organized by Geller. Both men — Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi — were killed. Although the FBI did not know of their exact plans, officials say the field office should have reacted more quickly when it learned Simpson might be interested in going to the contest.

An FBI counterterrorism official described Garland as a failure on the front end and a success story on the back end. Given the inflammatory nature of the event, the FBI persuaded local police to increase the number of officers from a handful to more than 40. When Simpson arrived, he was vastly outgunned. Police were ready.

Months after the event, Comey said the bureau still had questions about what happened and the Islamic State’s role in the attack. Simpson had hundreds of exchanges with an Islamic State operative overseas, with the two communicating using end-to-end encryption.

“We don’t know even today what was said between the two of



them,” Comey said. “We know they were in direct communication with him the day he left to go kill people in Garland, TX. This is an example of the problem that I call going dark.”

It’s not clear how the attacks in Paris will affect FBI operations in the United States and whether there will be an uptick in cases.

Comey said late last month that the pace had dropped a “little bit” since the summer, and so he moved FBI personnel back to their usual roles in the criminal division. He said that since July 1, the FBI had detected only six U.S.

travelers trying to reach the Islamic State’s self-declared caliphate. In the months before, the FBI was seeing far more than that.

Comey speculated that perhaps part of the Islamic State’s message urging Muslims to come to the caliphate was “becoming less effective.”

“Something interesting is going on that I don’t know enough about to tell you about with high confidence,” he said. “Something has happened that has flattened the curve.”

That was before Paris.

*Adam Goldman reports on terrorism and national security for The Washington Post.*

## The Belgian intelligence gap

By Maïa de La Baume and Giulia Paravicini

Source: <http://www.politico.eu/article/two-paris-attackers-were-questioned-freed-this-year-isil-terrorism-attacks/>

Nov 19 – In the months before Friday’s terrorist attacks in Paris, Belgian law enforcement had identified some of the men who carried them out as radical Islamists. They had questioned and monitored them.

But they never detained them. Nor did the Belgians inform French authorities of their concerns.

The failure of Belgium to spot a plot that investigators now believe was in large part organized in central Brussels, or to flag information about known radicals to France, raises pointed questions about the country’s law enforcement and intelligence services.

It is already forcing a discussion in Belgium, as well as at EU level, about the way information is gathered and shared on potential terrorist activity.

Less than 24 hours after eight terrorists, working in three separate teams, used guns and explosives to kill 129 people in the French capital, police in Brussels carried out raids in the suburb of Molenbeek. At least four of the terrorists lived in Brussels.

At least two of them were known to Belgian police. Early this year, two brothers who allegedly carried out Friday’s carnage in Paris were questioned by Belgian authorities after one tried to travel to Syria, a spokesman for the federal prosecutors’ office said.

“We knew they were radicalized, and that they could go to Syria,” said Eric Van Der Sypt, spokesman for the Belgian federal prosecutor’s office. “But they showed no sign of possible

threat. Even if we had signaled them to France, I doubt that we could have stopped them.”

European security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least one of the brothers had traveled repeatedly between their home in Brussels and Paris in the weeks before the attack.

The older brother, 31-year-old Ibrahim Abdeslam — who blew himself up outside the Comptoir Voltaire café in Paris — “tried to go to Syria but he only got to Turkey,” said Van Der Sypt. Law enforcement didn’t detain him because “we didn’t have proof that he took part in the activities of a terrorist group,” he added.

“He was interrogated on his return, and his brother too,” said Van Der Sypt, referring to 26-year-old Salah Abdeslam, who as of Wednesday night was still on the run. It’s not clear if he tried to get to Syria.

Ibrahim Abdeslam denied that he had tried to travel to Syria, the prosecutor’s spokesman added.

Salah was believed to be hiding in the Brussels area, another Belgian official said Tuesday.

### Missed signals

For Louis Caprioli, who ran French intelligence for 20 years and is now a consultant for security firm GEOS, the attacks in Paris expose the shortcomings in cooperation between national police and intelligence agencies across national borders in the EU that terrorists traverse freely. “Belgian



authorities could have signaled to the French that these attackers would threaten France's security," he said.

Over the past two years, Belgium has experienced a spate of successful and foiled terrorist attacks. Last year a French gunman of Algerian origin killed four people at a Jewish museum in Brussels; in January this year, Belgian police killed two men in raids on an Islamist group in the city of Verviers; and in August, a man opened fire on a train from Amsterdam to Paris, after boarding in Brussels. In all these cases, as well the Paris attacks, the suspects had links to Molenbeek, which Belgian police have raided several times since Saturday afternoon.

The older Abdeslam brother ran a café, Les Beguines, which had a rough reputation in the neighborhood and was closed down on November 4, nine days before the Paris attacks.

"There was a group of drug traffickers' active in the café," said Françoise Schepmans, the mayor of Molenbeek, who added that it was inevitable that "from such delinquency, it's only a small step towards radicalization."

Van Der Sypt, from the prosecutor's office, said cooperation between Belgium and France was "very good," but acknowledged that, with all the militants traveling to and from Syria, "Belgian police are already struggling to monitor these people 24/7."

As a share of its population of 10 million, more Belgians have joined extremist militant groups in Syria and Iraq than citizens of any other EU state. About five percent of Belgium's population is Muslim.

More than 130 Belgians who fought in Syria have come back, according to police and prosecutor sources. France and Belgium have task forces in each others' countries to facilitate the sharing of information about terrorist activity, said Peter De Wael, spokesman for the Belgian federal police.

### Belgian complications

Belgium's unusual administrative and law enforcement systems complicate cooperation on counterterrorism with other countries. The country's police is Balkanized along linguistic and regional lines. Its counterterrorism laws give authorities less latitude to investigate terrorism than in France.

"When I need to find the name of a car owner who is suspected of a crime, I need to send

them a letter of request," complained a senior Italian police official, speaking to POLITICO on condition of anonymity. "I only have these problems with the Belgians."

The reckoning is starting. A standing government oversight committee on intelligence on Monday announced it would investigate the missteps that led up to the Paris attacks.

"You can expect in the next few days a fundamental review of how our intelligence services are working. We're already working on it," a Belgian official said.

"We don't want to be shooting from the hip. There's some work on what it should be. There's a part of the budget being made available and people being made available. We're working on how different services work together but that's on an international level."

By EU standards, Belgium's civilian and military intelligence arms are small, even relative to its size. People familiar with these agencies also say they don't have enough people who speak Arabic.

The organization of the police force is also coming into focus. Brussels has six different departments that cover 19 separate municipalities, each with their own mayor, which Interior Minister Jan Jambon says is one reason that the capital has an Islamist terrorist problem.

Any push by the federal government to centralize police control in Brussels faces local political resistance, which continued after the Paris attacks. Rudi Vervoort, who runs the Brussels region, said merging police zones is a bad idea, arguing the police need to get close to the communities it serves.

### The law of the land

Belgian counterterrorism laws predate the rise of ISIL and the exodus of young Muslim men to Syria. The laws "were never designed to prosecute people going abroad to fight — they were only designed to combat terrorism domestically," said Kris Luyckx, a lawyer who defended one foreign fighter in a trial this year. Prompted by the shootout in Verviers this year, the government proposed 12 new counterterrorism measures. It is now illegal to travel abroad with the intention of joining a terrorist group, and easier for security forces to tap the phones or electronic communications of suspected



terrorists or recruiters. “Privacy must sometimes yield to security,” said Brecht Vermeulen, who chairs the Belgian Parliament’s interior affairs committee.

Belgium still has a long way to go before its rules are as tough as those in France. French legislation on surveillance has been toughened up since the Islamist attacks earlier this year on the satirical paper Charlie Hebdo and a Jewish grocery store in Paris, in which 17 people died, though the law has not yet been fully implemented. French authorities can keep terrorist suspects in custody for up to six days without charging them — in Belgium, it is 48 hours.

“We thought that it wasn’t necessary, we know how to handle 48-hour custodies,” said Van Der Sypt, who described France’s anti-terrorism laws as more “severe.”

After every terrorist strike since 9/11 in Europe, most recently the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January, European countries have pledged to improve cooperation on policing and intelligence. Despite that, counterterrorism remains mostly a national matter.

“When it comes to European anti-terrorist policy, coordination does not exist,” said one senior European official, who asked not to be identified by name. “When it comes to security, it is 95 percent the responsibility of the member states.”

### Police with borders

The one tool created to share information about wanted or missing persons — the Schengen Information System — “is not used in a systematic way by member states on our external borders,” said the senior Italian anti-terrorism official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Speaking at a POLITICO event in Brussels last week, Interior Minister Jambon said the

exchange of information within the EU “isn’t always so obvious” but had improved a lot since the Charlie Hebdo attacks. Before then, four member countries were contributing information to Europol, the EU agency that coordinates the response to organized crime and terrorism. “Today, almost every country is contributing to the exchange of information,” said Jambon.

According to an internal document issued by European Council counter-terrorism coordinator Gilles de Kerchove, an excerpt of which was seen by POLITICO, 14 EU states, five other entities and Interpol have registered 1,595 people as foreign terrorist fighters on the Europol information system.

In the wake of the Paris attacks, calls are growing for an EU-wide response to ISIL terrorism. EU interior ministers on Friday will discuss possible measures, including better tracking of weapons and access to records of airlines’ passenger name records.

The ministers’ task could be made easier after the European Parliament civil liberties committee voted overwhelmingly last month to harmonize some of the existing national rules to help the fight against terrorism. The full Parliament will vote on their report this month in Strasbourg.

Security officials who push for improved coordination cite the case of Mehdi Nemmouche, the alleged 29-year-old perpetrator of the 2014 Jewish Museum attack in Brussels. A month before the attack, he arrived at a German airport, where he was stopped by German security. The Germans tipped off French intelligence — “but nothing happened and a month later the guy showed up in Brussels with a gun,” said the Italian police official.

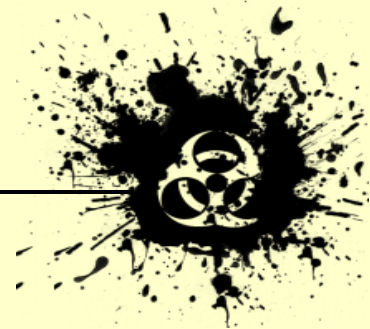
## Is There a Balkan Lesson to Help Stop ISIS?

By Petar Subotin

Source: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/blog/is-there-a-balkan-lesson-to-help-stop-isis--11-17-2015>

The 1990s wars in the Balkans show how human tolerance should be upheld as a key part of the struggle against deadly threats to our civilization.

Last Saturday I almost had the feeling that the world had stopped for a second. The state of shock after the Paris attacks was ubiquitous in the western hemisphere. Following reactions on social media, you could see the majority expressing their condolences and sadness.





*Tract "Indignez-vous!" by Stéphane Hessel, French diplomat, member of the French Resistance and concentration camp survivor.*

Having the urge to do something, people started using a new Facebook app that colored their profile pictures in the French flag's blue, white and red, and a new hashtag emerged - #prayforparis. People were praying for the victims, their families, and for the rest of humanity (it seemed).

It wasn't long before people started posting comments that we shouldn't call for prayers but for thinking, since prayers and religion brought us to the point of the massacre in Paris in the first place.

This online battle lasted for a few hours, then a new one emerged about whether religion has anything to do with terrorism. Photos also started appearing on social media from Muslims all over the world, holding written messages saying "Not in my name".

After the initial shock passed, somewhere around 30 hours after the attacks took place, new posts started flooding the social media space with questions like why people didn't change their profile pictures using the colors of the flags of countries that suffered terrorist attacks in previous days - Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, Iraq, etc.

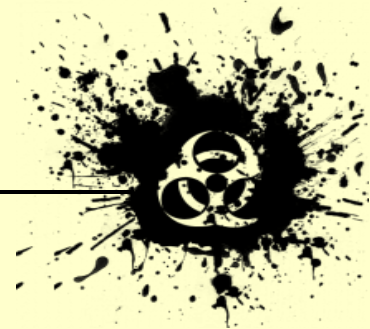
But no matter how any one of us reacted, our reaction came from a feeling of sadness, solidarity and, most of all, fear.

I come from the Balkans, and when I think about all the people who have asked me how come reconciliation in the region is so slow, and why people still hate each other, I have to say that maybe now I am able to respond to this in a way that everyone can understand.

During the 1990s in the Balkans you also had a small group of people who wanted war, and of course they prevailed over the majority who never wanted the atrocities to happen.

Why? They used big words like religion, patriotism, language, and ethnicity, they channeled it through media and created a perfect formula for destruction. Twenty-five years later, we are still like today's social media sphere after the Paris attacks - fighting with each other about who is right or wrong over the fact that people were killed, our economies destroyed, countries devastated, while at the same time, people who led us into the wars are still ruling our countries. The same guys.

Like ISIS, the only thing our governments were afraid of was unity. This is why their task was, and still is (to some point), to keep the people weak, and do everything they could in order to prevent us from reconciling with one another.



Take the Balkans as an example, and you will succeed if you manage not to make the same mistake. Murderers, terrorists and killers are just that. Nothing more, nothing less. They do not belong to any larger narrative. It is us who are responsible for trying to make them part of something much bigger.

The only way we can get out of this is by leaving aside religion, skin color, language and other characteristics that make just a small part of who we truly are. Our differences are our biggest asset, and only when led by human values can we eliminate one of the biggest threats to the civilization we know and love.

## Ankara overwhelms the Aegean islands with China's Uighur Turks who fought in Syria alongside jihadists

Source (in Greek): <http://www.pronews.gr>



An alarming phenomenon which has caused and mobilization of EYP (National Intelligence Service), as reported information recorded lately on the Aegean islands where hordes arrived refugees and

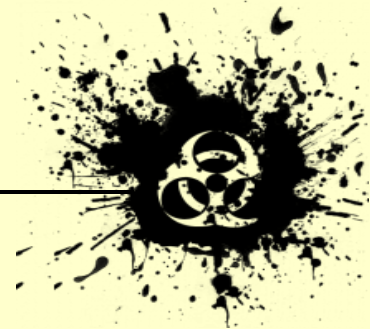


immigrants. Among them are many Turkish Uighurs of China, who had previously gone to Syria and battled with the jihadists of the Islamic State against the Assad regime.

Now that stranglehold has tightened too much because of Russian bombing and the Russian intervention, Turkey, launched in Syria for fighting on the side of the ISIS and colonization of the northern regions of the country, promotes now in the Greek islands. There are certainly records the arrival of many Uighur Turks in Leros, and details about their presence on other islands.

**Local Media in Leros have noted the presence of Uighur Turks in Sykamia and the important element is how the promotion in the Greek islands is not as with other refugees or illegal immigrants, but more carefully and methodically, with definitely vessels which will not drowned in the Aegean Sea.**

The fact that Skopje close their border with Greece for all refugees and immigrants than those who are citizens of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan causes even greater concern, as the Uighur Turks can



seem as Chinese citizens, but each other this can be.

It is a plan of Ankara, originally wanted the colonization of northern Syria by Uighur Turks areas of China, but since it seems to be twisted Erdogan seen how he put aim to send the Greek islands the Uighurs who are all fanatic Islamists and have battled with the jihadists' screen with their families.

This possibility poses a direct threat to the security of the country, like the boatloads of illegal immigrants arriving daily in the Greek islands. That's because:

The Uighur Turks of western Chinese province of Xinjiang, arriving via Turkey to Syria and now in Greece is everyone jihadists and conducting armed struggle desiring to secede from China and create their own jihadists Turkish state. They assembled the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP).

The Chinese government accuses the Turkish

This database is the stronghold of the Islamic Party of Turkestan, which is involved in supported Turkey Army of Conquest (Jai Al Fateh), allied power jihadists organizations trunk Al Qaeda - Al Nusra and Free Syrian Army (FSA).

While hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees flee their country and form refugee convoys to Europe, what happens to the villages that we leave behind abandoned?

According to the Lebanese satellite news network Al Mayadeen, many of these villages are populated by Uighur Turks in China. The Uighur Turks, according to reports, entering Syria coming from China together with women and children, to fight or to Al Qaeda (Front Al Nusra called as the organization in Syria) or the Islamic State.

After the occupation of the Syrian city Tzisir Al Sougkour in late April by the Army of Conquest (Jai Al Fateh), a supported by Turkey allied



government of being behind the movement of Uighur jihadists, incites and supports them. That is why the Chinese want to erase from the face of the map Erdogan. **Many Uighurs Turks have moved to Syria (via Turkey) where fighting as volunteers in the Islamic State and Al Qaeda. Approximately 3,500 Uighur Turks in China located in Syria created settlement - based near the city of Al Tzisir Sagkour in northwest Syria.**

power with trunk Al Qaeda and the "moderates" of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), the City which had a population of 50,000 people today looks more like a Chinese city. "Thousands of Turks of China have settled in the area. Specifically in the village Zanmpak (**Zanbaq**)".

Some Uighurs look on the face with Europeans, but most have Mongolian features, like all genuine Turks. The Uighurs





conduct jihadists - national liberation war against the Chinese government. Often they launch deadly attacks inside China.

**Admission Uighur jihadists and their families in Syria according to the Lebanese Al Mayadeen is part of a Turkish plan to alter the composition of the population of Syria.** As he writes in Al Mayadeen citing a well-informed analyst: *"This confirms that terrorists continue to pass the border, and that Turkey continues to allow terrorists to their families to spend undisturbed."*

And he says: *"It proves that the aim is changing the demographics of Syria, through colonial occupation."* **In other words, the Turks caused the fleeing Syrians to install them in the towns and villages in northwestern Syria, Uighur Turks China and thus colonize the country with the Turks before integrate Turkey.**

However, not only Turkey in cooperation with Al Qaeda (Al Nusra Front) that colonize the northwestern Syria with Turkish China. Before two years and the Islamic State has brought thousands of Uighurs and settled in the village Ampiant in the province of Pakala and in the areas around the oil fields of Deir Al Jury.

The Uighurs have undertaken to kill their Russian military advisers working with the Syrian Government.

**They therefore constitute a further risk to Greece. The Uighurs disembarking in Lesvos with their families not to be refugees. And in Syria, who went to fight, they took their families along. They operate**

**in the traditional nomadic way of moving the Turks. Father fights, the family followed and settled in conquered territory.**

**But why Uighurs pass in Greece? What many times as we have pointed out from pronews.gr. Understand the Turks some locations, such as islands and Thrace without having to throw a single ball. This**



**order serves to promote the Uighurs in Greece.**

It is worth noting how in Ankara were the last days major demonstrations against the Orthodox Russians in which Turkish nationalists held blue flags Uighur solidarity to Turkmen.

Also, as it became known Sunday, Turkish Grkizoi Wolves, 250 in number and armed, began to come to Syria to defend their Turkmen and by extension the Uighurs, the Russian "aggression." There is that and on top of a religious «war "that has not yet broken out in Greece.

## Crimea plunged into blackout after power line blasts

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/95b2e634-9110-11e5-bd82-c1fb87bef7af.html#axzz3sJ16NLPj>



A Crimean Tartar flag draped around a pile of broken power lines

Nov 22 – Crimea was plunged into a complete blackout early on Sunday morning after electricity transmission lines from Ukraine were blown up, in a stark reminder of the peninsula's economic reliance on Ukraine one-and-a-half years after its annexation by Russia.

The blast followed a blockade in Ukraine of the power lines close to Crimea by Ukrainian

nationalists and members of the Tatar ethnic group native to



Crimea calling for a full economic and energy blockade of the peninsula on the grounds that Russia is persecuting pro-Ukrainian residents. Clashes erupted late on Saturday at the site of the explosion between the protesters and elite police commandos who arrived to secure the transmission lines. After the incident, Ilyya Kiva, a senior Ukrainian police officer leading the squad, said the electricity transmission lines “were just blown up”, but he stopped short of blaming the protesters.



The Crimean government said power was cut about half an hour after midnight on Sunday. “All of Crimea has been switched off,” said Viktor Plakida, head of Krymenergo, the peninsula’s power company.

Crimea relies almost entirely on Ukrainian supplies for power and water. According to the Crimean energy ministry, the peninsula’s own power generation capacity covers less than 20 per cent of peak demand.

In December 2014 Ukraine briefly switched off power to Crimea. Some analysts warned at the time that Moscow might consider annexing more Ukrainian territory in order to secure a ‘land bridge’ between Russia and Crimea that would make it easier to supply the peninsula from the Russian mainland.

Russia launched plans for massive infrastructure investment a few months after its March 2014 annexation of Crimea which are aimed at reducing the territory’s dependency on mainland Ukraine. But some projects have been hobbled by western sanctions, which are even stricter with regard to Crimea than those targeting Russia in general. EU citizens, for example, are barred from investing in Crimea or supplying any goods or services connected to energy and infrastructure.

Ukraine’s energy minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn on Sunday said workers could fix one of four damaged lines within a day

provided they were given “unhindered and safe access.”

Russia’s emergencies ministry declared a state of emergency in Crimea. Its Crimean arm said power supply to hospitals and other vital sites had been restored with local emergency generators. Partial power supply was back in the regional capital of Simferopol and in Yalta, the largest town on Crimea’s southern coast.

But Russia’s energy ministry said on Sunday night that 1.6m of the peninsula’s 2m population remained without power. The Crimean regional government declared Monday a holiday under the state of emergency.

There was no immediate comment from the presidents of Russia or Ukraine about the incident, which threatened to stoke fresh tensions amid an uptick in fighting this month in breakaway eastern regions of Ukraine where a ceasefire between government forces and Russian-backed separatists had largely held since September.

Crimea’s prosecutor’s office asked the Federal Security Service to open a criminal case on charges of sabotage. An advisory group to the regional government said the blasts should be classified as a “terror act”.

The Crimea blackout also comes amid a deepening trade war between Kiev and Moscow which has seen a grounding of direct flights and threats by Russia to impose a full food embargo should Ukraine follow through with plans to implement a free-trade agreement with the EU in 2016.

Crimea’s housing minister Alexander Zhanov said heating was being switched off during daytime under state of emergency rules to save energy. Mr Zhdanov said boilers in public institutions such as schools would keep working at night to keep them warm. But the local government in Sevastopol ordered a suspension of classes in kindergartens and primary schools from Monday. The administration of the town of Yevpatoria said hot water would be switched off during daylight hours.

The government said two-thirds of the region’s trolleybuses had stopped running, and hot water supply during daylight hours was suspended in some parts of the peninsula.





