

CBRNE NEWSLETTER **TERRORISM**

E-Journal for CBRNE & CT First Responders



August 2016



Theresa May tells Islamist extremists: 'The game is up'

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11488942/Theresa-May-tells-Islamist-extremists-The-game-is-up.html>

March 23 – Theresa May will today tell radical Islamists that the "game is up" and that they were no longer tolerated in Britain as she sets out Tory plans for a crackdown on extremism.

The Home Secretary is expected to say that a future Conservative government target Sharia law, change the rules on granting citizenship to ensure people embrace British values and introduce "banning orders" for extremist groups. Radicals will also be barred from working unsupervised with children amid fears that young people are being brainwashed, while staff at job centres will be required to identify vulnerable claimants who may become targets for radicalisation.

In a speech in London she will invite all moderate Muslims to join her in exposing the "hatred, bigotry and ignorance" of extremists who seek to undermine the values of democracy, equality and free speech.

The new counter-extremism policy is aimed at tackling radical preachers and individuals who try to brainwash young Muslims and encourage them to embrace extremist views.

She will say that a "small but significant" number of people in Britain are trying to undermine the nation's values and create a "clash of civilisations".

She will cite the Trojan Horse plot to take over state schools in Birmingham, corruption in Tower Hamlets in East London and the use of Sharia law being used to discriminate against women.

She will also condemn hate preachers, the practice of gender segregation at some universities and the thousands of "honour" crimes committed every year.

Mrs May will say: "Extremism is not something that can just be ignored. It cannot be wished away. It must be tackled head on. Because where extremism takes root the consequences are clear. Women's rights are eroded. There is discrimination on the basis of race and sexuality. "There is no longer equal access to the labour market, to the law, or to wider society.

Communities become segregated and cut off from one another. Intolerance, hatred and bigotry become normalised. Trust is replaced by fear, reciprocity by envy, and solidarity by division.

"Where they seek to divide us, our values are what unite us. Where they seek to dictate, lecture and limit opportunity, our values offer young people hope and the chance to succeed. The extremists have no vision for Britain that can sustain the dreams and ambitions of its people. Theirs is a negative, depressing and in fact absurd view of the world - and it is one we know that in the end we can expose and defeat."

She will appeal to "every single person in Britain" to join her in a new "partnership" to celebrate British values and defeat ignorance.

She will say: "But to those people who do not want to join this new partnership, to those who choose consciously to reject our values and the basic principles of our society, the message is equally clear. The game is up.

"We will no longer tolerate your behaviour. We will expose your hateful beliefs for what they are. Where you seek to spread hate, we will disrupt you. Where you break the law, we will prosecute you. Where you seek to divide us, we will stand united. And together, we will defeat you."

The Home Secretary will say that a future Conservative government will commission an independent review into the operation of Sharia courts in Britain, while councils will be ordered to "take steps to ensure the safeguarding of children in hitherto unregulated places", such as tuition centres.

British values will form "an integral part of applying for a visa" which even visitors will have to comply with.

The Home Secretary will also introduce "banning orders" for extremist groups, which would make it a criminal offence to be a member of or raise funds for a group that spreads or promotes hatred. The maximum sentence could be up to 10 years in prison.



EDITOR'S COMMENT: Theresa May is **now** the Prime Minister of Great Britain in the Brexit era – let us see how she will materialize her views and counter-terrorism actions.

Not all attacks are terrorism, Brandis warns after Munich shooting

Source: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/07/24/not-all-attacks-are-terrorism-brandis-warns-after-munich-shooting>

July 24 - Nine people were shot dead in Munich on Saturday by German-Iranian teenager Ali David Sonboly - the third act of violence against civilians in Western Europe, and the second in southern Germany, in eight days.

Munich police say Ali David Sonboly acted alone and had no links to the self-proclaimed Islamic State group, but added that he did have mental health issues.

Speaking in the aftermath of the attack, Australia's Attorney-General George Brandis (photo) warned Australians against using the word "terrorism" too loosely as the government tries to identify possible "lone-wolf" attackers.



Senator Brandis said one

phenomena that had emerged recently is the development of lone actors who self radicalise, most commonly online, and very frequently these are young men with mental health issues.

He warned it is very important to be careful in our use of language.

Caution urged on use of language

"Not every mass casualty attack is an act of terrorism. Not every premeditated act of violence is an act of terrorism," he told ABC's Insider's program.

Senator Brandis said terrorism is an act of violence committed for a political, religious or ideological cause.

Recent attacks on civilians in the U.S. and Europe have exposed a gap in the intelligence

community's efforts to track suspected extremists, counterterrorism officials say.

"If we're going to understand this problem we have to analyse it correctly. We must be very careful in our use of language so that we don't spray the word terrorism around too loosely."

He rejected suggestions that views speculating on the role of religion in the Munich shooting should be censored.

Incoming senator Pauline Hanson posted a message on Facebook hours after the attack in Munich, singling out religion as a motivating factor.

"We're waking up again to what appears to be another terrorism attack in Munich, German," the message read. "Let's see which 'peace loving' religion is behind this latest attack."

Senator Brandis said Pauline Hanson's views



are shared by a large section of Australian society - and to silence those views would be dangerous.

"What we have to do is we have to engage her, we have to explain why the views that she expresses



about, for example, the Muslim community are unhelpful and frankly wrong," he said.

Government launches review into lone wolf attacks

His comments come after Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull this week asked Australia's counter-terrorism coordinator to examine how to prevent lone-wolf attacks, or those generated by lone individuals.

Mr Brandis said the federal government no longer has plans to abolish or reduce the strength of section 18C in the Racial Discrimination Act.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott scrapped plans to reform the Racial Discrimination Act in September 2014, after criticism from community groups.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: You cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs! Political courtesy/civility is part of the problem!

We love to talk of terror – but after the Munich shooting, this hypocritical catch-all term has finally caught us out

How come a Muslim can be a terrorist in Europe but a mere 'attacker' in south-west Asia?

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/munich-shooting-nice-attack-terrorism-robert-fisk-catch-all-finally-caught-out-a7153176.html>



A memorial to those shot by the Munich gunman, who was said to be obsessed with mass shootings
Getty Images

The frightful and bloody hours of Friday night and Saturday morning in Munich and Kabul – despite the 3,000 miles that separate the two cities – provided a highly instructive lesson in the semantics of horror and hypocrisy. I despair of that generic old hate-word, "terror". It long ago became the punctuation mark and signature tune of every facile politician, policeman, journalist and think tank crank in the world.

Terror, terror, terror, terror, terror. Or terrorist, terrorist, terrorist, terrorist, terrorist.



But from time to time, we trip up on this killer cliché, just as we did at the weekend. Here's how it went. When first we heard that three armed men had gone on a "shooting spree" in Munich, the German cops and the lads and lassies of the BBC, CNN and Fox News fingered the "terror" lever. The Munich constabulary, we were informed, feared this was a "terrorist act". The local police, the BBC told us, were engaged in an "anti-terror manhunt".

And we knew what that meant: the three men were believed to be Muslims and therefore "terrorists", and thus suspected of being members of (or at least inspired by) Isis.

Then it turned out that the three men were in fact only one man – a man who was obsessed with mass killing. He was born in Germany (albeit partly Iranian in origin). And all of a sudden, in every British media and on CNN, the "anti-terror manhunt" became a hunt for a lone "shooter".

One UK newspaper used the word "shooter" 14 times in a few paragraphs. Somehow, "shooter" doesn't sound as dangerous as "terrorist", though the effect of his actions was most assuredly the same. **"Shooter" is a code word. It meant: this particular mass killer is not a Muslim.**

Now to Kabul, where Isis – yes, the real horrific Sunni Muslim Isis of fearful legend – sent suicide bombers into thousands of Shia Muslims who were protesting on Saturday morning at what appears to have been a pretty routine bit of official discrimination.

The Afghan government had declined to route a new power line through the minority Hazara (Shia) district of the country – a smaller electric cable connection had failed to satisfy the crowds – and had warned the Shia men and women to cancel their protest. The crowds, many of them middle-class young men and women from the capital, ignored this ominous warning and turned up near the presidential palace to pitch tents upon which they had written in Dari "justice and light" and "death to discrimination".

But death came to them instead, in the form of two Isis men – one of them apparently pushing an ice-cream cart – whose explosives literally blew apart 80 of the Shia Muslims and wounded another 260.

In a city in which elements of the Afghan government are sometimes called the Taliban government, and in which an Afghan version of the Sunni Muslim Islamic State is popularly supposed to reside like a bacillus within those

same factions, it wasn't long before the activists who organised the demonstration began to suspect that the authorities themselves were behind the massacre. Of course, we in the West did not hear this version of events. Reports from Kabul concentrated instead on those who denied or claimed the atrocity. The horrid Islamist Taliban denied it. The horrid Islamist Isis said they did it. And thus all reports centred on the Isis claim of responsibility.

But wait. **Not a single report, not one newscast, referred to the Kabul slaughter as an act of "terror".** The Afghan government did. But we did not. We referred to the "suicide bombers" and the "attackers" in much the same way that we referred to the "shooter" in Munich. Now this is very odd. **How come a Muslim can be a terrorist in Europe but a mere "attacker" in south-west Asia?** Because in Kabul the killers were not attacking Westerners? Or because they were attacking their fellow Muslims, albeit of the Shia Muslim variety?

I suspect both answers are correct. I can find no other reason for this weird semantic game. For just as the terrorist identity faded away in Munich the moment Ali Sonboly turned out to have more interest in the Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik than the Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi of Mosul, so the real Isis murderers in Kabul completely avoided the stigma of being called terrorists in any shape or form.

This nonsensical nomenclature is going to be further warped – be sure of this – as more and more of the European victims of the attacks in EU nations turn out to be Muslims themselves. The large number of Muslims killed by Isis in Nice was noticed, but scarcely headlined. The four young Turks shot down by Ali Sonboly were subsumed into the story as an almost routine part of what is now, alas, the routine of mass killing in Europe as well as in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

The identity of Muslims in Europe is therefore fudged if they are victims but of vital political importance if they are killers. But in Kabul, where both victims and murderers were Muslim, their mutual crisis of religious identity is of no interest in the West; the bloodbath is described in anaemic terms. The two attackers "attacked" and the "attacked" were left with 80 dead – more like a football match than a war of terror.



It all comes down to the same thing in the end. If Muslims attack us, they are terrorists. If non-Muslims attack us, they are shooters. If Muslims attack other Muslims, they are attackers.

Scissor out this paragraph and keep it beside you when the killers next let loose – and you'll be able to work out who the bad guys are before the cops tell you.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: We have to stop fighting terrorism with "candles and flowers"!



BBC Scrubs 'Ali' from Munich Killer's Name

By Raheem Kassam

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/blog/2016/07/bbc-scrubs-ali-from-munich-killer-name>

July 23 – **The BBC has unilaterally chosen not to report the Munich attacker's full name, in what appears to be an attempt to scrub any Muslim or Islamic heritage link to its coverage of the incident.**



Most sources at this point suggest that Ali David Sonboly – the Munich attacker who targeted children and killed nine yesterday – is not connected to radical Islam.

But the BBC has gone to extraordinary lengths to try to keep any reference to his heritage out of its coverage, opting to name him only as "David Sonboly."

Other news organisations including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Independent*, *Daily Mail*, and *Sky News* named the attacker as "Ali David Sonboly" or "David Ali Sonboly." CNN even referred to him

simply as "Ali Sonboly."

But the BBC had different ideas, opting to refer to him in their online news coverage, national and international broadcast coverage, and on social media (above) as "David Sonboly."

At 3pm UK time on Saturday, the BBC made reference to the killer as "Ali Sonboly." Within one hour however, the BBC had changed its references to the now dead culprit to "David Sonboly." At 6:31pm, the news bulletin on the BBC News Channel referred to him as "David Sonboly" though at 6:32pm their correspondent in Germany referred to him as "David Ali Sonboly."

The BBC's online coverage says, at the time of publication [emphasis added]:

The 18-year-old gunman who killed nine people in Munich was obsessed with mass shootings but had no known links to the Islamic State group, German police say. Written material on such attacks was found in his room. Munich's police chief spoke of links to the massacre by Norway's Anders Behring Breivik.

The gunman, who had dual German-Iranian nationality, later killed himself. **His name has not been officially released but he is being named locally as David Sonboly.** He had a 9mm Glock pistol and 300 bullets in his rucksack.

Breitbart London has reached out to the BBC for comment, and has asked who took the decision to scrub the name "Ali" from the attacker's name across all its platforms. We have not yet received a response.

Update 1520 EST: The BBC has now changed its article following my expose of their attempted cover up. Read more [here](#).

Raheem Kassam is a Shillman-Ginsburg fellow at the Middle East Forum and editor-in-chief of Breitbart London.



British police report over 6,000 hate crimes in month since Brexit vote

Source: <http://m.dw.com/en/british-police-report-over-6000-hate-crimes-in-month-since-brexit-vote/a-19421653>

Britain's National Police Chiefs Council has reported more than 6,000 hate crime incidents across the United Kingdom since the EU referendum in late June. Most of the cases have involved violence.

The most commonly reported crimes were harassment, assault and other violence such as verbal abuse or spitting. The second and third most prevalent incidents were public order offences, followed by criminal damage.

Since the EU referendum result was declared on June 24, Muslims and Eastern Europeans have said they have been particularly targeted.

"Clearly any hate crime is unacceptable and these numbers are still far too high," said Mark Hamilton, the NPCC's assistant chief constable, in a statement issued Friday.

Hamilton noted the figure for the second half of the month-long period (July 1 to 14) had slightly decreased from the number of incidents reported in the first fortnight (June 16 to 30). But overall it represented a 20 percent increase over the equivalent period in 2015.

"Following increases in hate crime seen after the EU referendum, police forces have been taking a robust approach to these crimes and we are pleased to see the numbers of incidents have begun to fall," he said.

The campaign to leave the European Union, or Brexit, which gained a majority of 51.9 percent in the June 23 referendum, has denied that its focus on immigration helped increase xenophobia and racism.

A week before the vote, opposition lawmaker Jo Cox was shot and stabbed to death in northern England. She had worked for the international aid agency Oxfam and campaigned on issues related to the Syrian civil war. A man is standing trial for her murder under terrorism protocols.

In early July, the NPCC said there were 289 alleged offences across England, Wales and Northern Ireland on the single day of June 25 - equivalent to 12 offences every hour.

Brexit 'unleashed something in people'

Earlier this week, London police deputy commissioner Craig Mackey said the Brexit vote seemed to have "unleashed something in people," with the result being that people felt able to do "things that, let's be really clear, are illegal." He was commenting on the arrests of 400 people in London for suspected hate crimes since the Brexit vote.

Mackey said the reported offenses were mainly verbal abuse, harassment and criminal damage. However, he said serious assaults had also been reported. "We will take action where they do it and when those incidents occur," Mackey said.

The NPCC's Hamilton said police forces were committed to helping people feel safe and secure as they go with their lives. "Police officers will continue to be out around the country engaging with communities and picking up and dealing with tensions and problems," he said.

61 Dead In Kabul Explosion, ISIS Claims Responsibility

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2016/07/61-dead-in-kabul-explosion-isis-claims.html>

July 23 – **Suicide bombers hit a large demonstration by members of Afghanistan's Hazara minority in Kabul on Saturday, killing at least 61 people and wounding 207**, officials said. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, Amaq news agency said.

Graphic television footage from the site of the blasts showed many dead bodies lying on the bloodied road, close to where thousands of Hazara had been demonstrating over the route of a planned multimillion dollar power line.

Mohammad Ismail Kawousi, a spokesman for the ministry of public health, said at least 61 dead and 207 wounded had been taken to nearby hospitals but the numbers may change. It was not immediately clear how many bombs were involved in the attack.



Emergency vehicles were at the site and wounded were being carried away.

Much of the city centre had been sealed off with stacks of shipping containers and other obstacles as the



march began earlier on Saturday, and security was tight with helicopters patrolling overhead.

The blasts came some three weeks after a suicide bomber killed dozens of people in an attack on newly graduated police cadets that was claimed by the Taliban.

"Opportunist terrorists went among the protestors and set off explosions that killed and wounded a number of our countrymen including security and defence

personnel," President Ashraf Ghani said in a statement. Saturday's demonstrators had been demanding the 500 kV transmission line from Turkmenistan to Kabul be rerouted through two provinces with large Hazara populations, an option the government says would cost millions and delay the badly needed project by years.

The Persian-speaking Hazara, a mainly Shia group estimated to make up about 9 percent of the population, are Afghanistan's third-largest minority but they have long suffered discrimination. Thousands were killed under Taliban rule.

The protest by a group whose leaders include members of the national unity government had put pressure on President Ashraf Ghani, who has faced growing opposition from both inside and outside the government.



It also risked exacerbating ethnic tensions with other groups and provinces the government says would have to wait up to three years for power if the route were changed.

The transmission line, intended to provide secure electricity to 10 provinces is part of the so-called TUTAP project backed by the Asia Development Bank, linking energy-rich states of Central Asia with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Hazaras say they want the line to come through Bamyán and Wardak provinces, west of Kabul, where many Hazaras live, to ensure their power supply.

The government says the project already guarantees ample power to the two provinces and denies it disadvantages Hazara people.

Under current plans, due to be implemented by 2018, the line will pass from a converter station in the northern town of Pul-e Khumri to Kabul through the mountainous Salang pass.

An earlier plan foresaw a longer route from Pul-e Khumri through Bamyán and Wardak, but this option was dropped.

► **UPDATED DEATH TOLL:** 80 killed; 231 wounded.



Is **Cosa Nostra** now selling deadly assault weapons to Islamist terrorist groups?

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/23/cosa-nostra-assault-weapons-islamist-terror-group>



AK-47 Kalashnikov assault rifles seized by Albanian police. Photograph: Arben Celi/Reuters

July 24 – A huge gun-running operation masterminded by the Sicilian mafia is being investigated by senior police officers for potential links to “terrorist activity across Europe and beyond”.

Anti-mafia prosecutors in Catania are investigating the possibility that Cosa Nostra is supplying assault weapons to organised crime syndicates from north Africa and firearms into the hands of extremists in western Europe.

Decommissioned guns legally procured from the same Slovak dealer, Afg Security, which supplied the “mass casualty” weapons used by Islamists in the *Charlie Hebdo* and Paris attacks of January 2015, as well as the failed terrorist attack on a TGV in France last August, appear to have ended up in the hands of the mafia.

Cosa Nostra members paid £33,000 for 160 deactivated weapons that experts could make lethal in moments. Last month

a Catanian couple were arrested over the haul. They belong to the **“Ceusi” mafia clan**, a family tied to Catania’s dominant Santopaula clan.

The Catanian mafia in turn works closely with the [Calabrian 'Ndrangheta](#), an international criminal network whose mastery of the cocaine market **means it has a turnover of £44bn, greater than McDonald’s and Deutsche Bank combined.** Italy’s second most wanted mafia boss, Ernesto Fazzalari of the 'Ndrangheta, was arrested after two decades on the run.

Anti-mafia prosecutors in Catania have told the *Observer* that a number of assault rifles due to

be flown from Catania to Malta in June last year appear to have been



destined for a prominent Egyptian people-smuggler in Alexandria. Intercepted telephone calls are understood to have documented conversations between members of Cosa Nostra over the transfer of money from Egypt to Sicily, ostensibly for the firearms.

The investigators' principal concern is that the weapons may fall into the hands of extremists. "The Egyptian citizen was previously arrested in Italy for belonging to an organisation dedicated to human trafficking in the Med. We've been investigating possible connections with terrorist organisations," a carabinieri source said.

Organised criminals are increasingly open to trading with extremists, complicating the battle against terrorism

Renewed smuggling activity around Alexandria has, according to Europol briefings, intensified anxiety that Islamist militants based in the Sinai could also attempt to reach Europe via the Mediterranean.

Investigators believe that some of the 160 AK-47s obtained by the mafia in Catania may have

hands of potential terrorists," said a senior specialist with Europol.

Ballistics experts are aware that petty criminals and drug dealers usually require small pistols they can conceal, while terrorists want assault weapons to inflict maximum damage.

British counter-terrorism officials have been perturbed by recent signs of an ever closer relationship between organised criminals and Islamists. At least one London terrorist cell is known to have sourced a firearm, silencer and ammunition through a London criminal contact. Tarik Hassane, 22, was convicted last April of conspiring to kill on the streets of the capital.

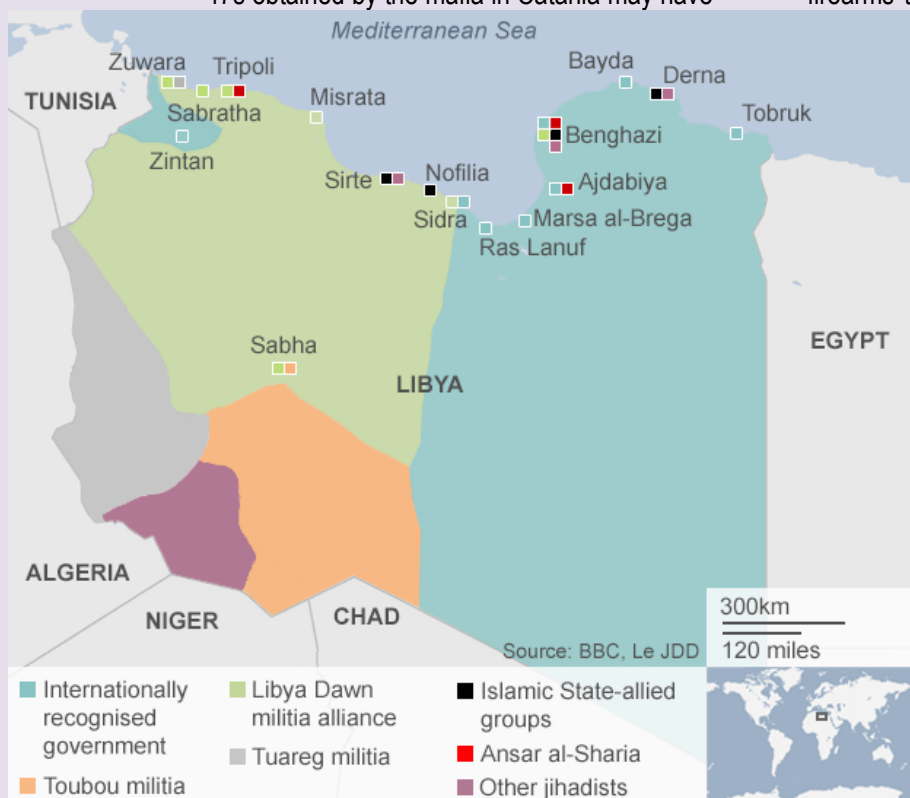
The weapons found in Catania were sold legally by Afg Security but illegally reactivated in Sicily by removing a metal pin hammered into the barrel.

Two months after the guns were found in the Sicilian port – a year ago – a British gang attempted to import the biggest haul of "mass casualty" weapons found on the UK mainland, firearms that were also bought from the same

Slovak dealer, Afg. The cache of 22 Kalashnikov-style assault rifles and nine machine guns was found by police in a motorboat off Kent. But Europe's senior officers also believe that organised criminals are increasingly open to trading with extremists, a development that further complicates the battle against terrorism.

Robert Crespinko, head of Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), which was set up to dismantle the proliferation of criminal networks orchestrating people-smuggling, said that it was possible that British criminals might be working with extremists in north Africa and Egypt. Asked if Europol was examining ties between criminal groups in the UK and Europe and Islamists in Libya, Crespinko responded: "That is a fair assumption. It will remain a very busy area of law enforcement."

In Libya, it is estimated that between 400,000 and 1 million migrants are waiting to cross to Europe, the first stop often being Sicily. Acquiring intelligence inside the war-racked country is difficult, but



ended up with Europe's web of black market intermediaries who supply firearms to the criminal underworld.

"We have not found all the weapons yet. The investigation is ongoing but the danger is that they have been distributed by criminal intermediaries and have found their way into the



at least five jihadi groups – including al-Qaida Libyan affiliate Ansar al-Sharia and Islamic State, which recently lost control of the port of Sirte – occupy territory there.

Although Tim Morris, executive director of police services at Interpol, said they had not collated any direct evidence of Isis being involved in

sending migrants to southern Europe, they could not discount it. "We know Isis has a very commercial eye. They need to raise revenue, so I would certainly say it's a distinct possibility."

Anti-mafia prosecutor Rocco Liguori added: "It is very possible, because they traffic arms from Italy to this area controlled by Isis."

ISIS Taunts 'Who's Next?' for Next Terror Attack

Source: <http://heavy.com/news/2016/07/isis-islamic-state-next-terror-attack-amaq-news-threat-united-states-france-belgium-brazil-languages/>



July 22 – Following months of violence perpetrated by Islamic State supporters in the West, new propaganda purportedly released by ISIS asks, "Who's next?" Photos of Orlando, Paris, Nice, Brussels, and Würzburg are shown in many languages. Most noticeably, the multi-language propaganda was released simultaneously, showing ISIS' advancement in dissemination of such material. Within the past two months, ISIS adherents have carried out multiple, deadly attacks in western countries like the United States and France, but also Bangladesh, Iraq, and Syria.

Unlike ISIS, Al-Qaeda Says It Cares about 'Social Justice' in America

By Raymond Ibrahim

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6128/alqaeda-branding-social-justice>

July 23 – After the Orlando massacre, when an armed Muslim murdered 49 people in a gay nightclub, al-Qaeda published a guide urging more such "lone wolf" attacks – with the added caveat that jihadists should exclusively target mainstream white Americans.

According to the jihadi group's online publication "Inspire guide: Orlando operation," killing homosexuals is "the most binding duty."



However, would-be jihadis are advised to "avoid targeting places and crowds where minorities are generally found in America," and instead to target "areas where the Anglo-Saxon community is generally concentrated."

In response, several pundits warned that al-Qaeda is shifting gears, somehow trying to portray itself as a "social justice warrior."

In fact, al-Qaeda has long presented itself to the West in this manner.

These latest instructions are hardly new.

Further, they help explain the real differences between al-Qaeda and ISIS, and which stage of jihad they see themselves in.

Although [The Al Qaeda Reader](#) documents al-Qaeda's dual approach -- preach unrelenting jihad to Muslims, whine about grievances to Westerners -- a nearly decade-old communique from al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri is sufficient to understand the strategy behind these latest instructions.

In that letter, Zawahiri spoke to the many "under-privileged" of the world:

That's why I want blacks in America, people of color, American Indians, Hispanics, and all the weak and oppressed in North and South America, in Africa and Asia, and all over the world, to know that when we wage jihad in Allah's path, we aren't waging jihad to lift oppression from Muslims only; we are waging jihad to lift oppression from *all* mankind, because Allah has ordered us never to accept oppression, whatever it may be ... This is why I want every oppressed one on the face of the earth to know that our victory over America and the Crusading West -- with Allah's permission -- is a victory for them, because they shall be freed from the most powerful tyrannical force in the history of mankind.

American blacks, however, were Zawahiri's primary targets. Zawahiri praised and quoted from the convert to Islam, Malcolm X: "Anytime you beg another man to set you free, you will never be free. Freedom is something you have to do for yourself. The price of freedom is death."

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri (left) is



fond of quoting Malcolm X

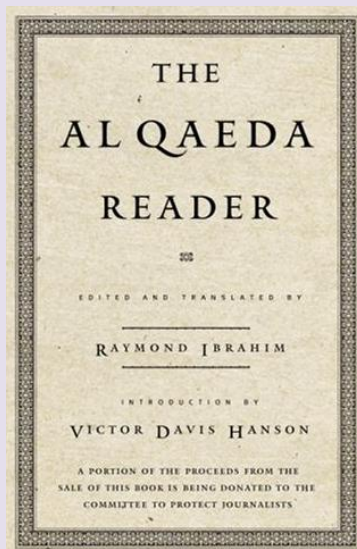
The al-Qaeda leader also appealed to another potentially sympathetic population -- environmentalists: "[The U.S.] went out and ruined for the entire world, the atmosphere and climate with the gases emitted by its factories." Years earlier, Osama bin Laden himself complained about the U.S. not signing the Kyoto protocols: "You [the U.S.] have destroyed nature with your industrial waste and gases more than any other nation in history."

What does this ostensibly disparate group of people -- "third-worlders," environmentalists, and disaffected American blacks -- have in common? They all harbor anti-Western sentiments that can be appealed to for purposes of exonerating al-Qaeda's jihad.

Now, al-Qaeda is again reaffirming that killing homosexuals is "the most binding duty," but it's still best to continue targeting non-minorities in America -- "Anglo-Saxons" -- because they are so easy to demonize.

Zawahiri used the same strategy in Egypt in 2014. During a particularly brutal period of Christian persecution -- dozens of churches were burned -- he counseled Egypt's Muslims to stop attacking Coptic Christians. The al-Qaeda leader, who on numerous occasions had exhibited his antipathy for Christians, made clear that his directive was purely for PR purposes; he was concerned about jihad's image in the West.

While agreeing to the most draconian of Sharia's tenets, al-Qaeda also knows that many of these -- for example, the destruction of churches and subjugation of "infidel" Christians -



- need to be curtailed or hidden from the Western world. Otherwise, al-Qaeda's efforts of portraying jihadis as "freedom fighters" resisting an oppressive West risk being undermined.

On the other hand, ISIS represents the unapologetic jihad, indifferent to Western opinion.

By widely broadcasting its savage triumphalism in the name of Islam, ISIS forfeits the "social warrior" card and instead plays the "strength"

card. In this manner ISIS has inspired hundreds of millions of Muslims, according to some [disturbing polls](#).

Al-Qaeda was born at a time when deceiving the West about the aims of the jihad was deemed necessary; ISIS was born at a time when deceiving an already passive West is no longer deemed important.

Time will tell which strategy works better.

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Unemployment in French Muslim communities driving youth to radicalism - ex-intelligence chief

Source: <https://www.rt.com/shows/sophieco/352633-nice-tragedy-terrorist-attack/>

July 22 – The tragedy in Nice is the latest horrifying terrorist attack to hit France, with hundreds of people falling victim to extremists. Authorities are waging a frantic battle against the plague of radicalism, at the same facing criticism from citizens, who are upset by the limitation of their liberties. Yet self-radicalized 'soldiers of the caliphate' are ready to kill and be killed in the name of Islamic State. **Why does France face a disproportionate share of terrorist violence? Will French citizens now have to accept this kind of threat as a part of their daily lives? And with a strong backlash against the Muslim community now inevitable - could a civil war be ripening in France? We ask former intelligence chief at France's External Security Agency, Alain Juillet, on Sophie&Co today.**

Sophie Shevardnadze: Alain Juillet, former intelligence chief at France's External Security Agency, welcome to the show, it's great to have you with us. Now, Mr. Juillet, was the Nice attacker a lone wolf or a terrorist acting under the command of Islamic State?

Alain Juillet: Up to now, the last attack - we have no official information about whether it is linked with Daesh, with ISIS, but all information around this attack shows that the same system was used as in other countries, therefore, we are sure that it is really a terrorist attack coming from Syria, managed by Syria.

SS: The man was completely unknown to the intelligence services of France, so have the terrorists now found the way to completely evade the law enforcement's radar?

AJ: It's true that this man was unknown, absolutely unknown up to now, but if you check the history of this guy, it appears that during the last months he moved very quickly to be convinced to become an Islamic terrorist. So, the problem is the speed with which he moves from being a usual Muslim to a terrorist, and that will be part of the survey and the study we have to make now in order to understand all the links and all the ways to achieve such an evolution.

SS: Now, we learned about a text message that Bouhlel sent to someone thanking them for providing weapons. Is it even possible to be a true lone wolf, won't you always need accomplices if you're planning a deadly attack like that?

AJ: You know, from the weapons he asked for in a message that has been discovered by the French police, it is clear that he was trying to make a big attack, in which the first part was with the lorry, with the truck and the second part was firing against people around the truck, and by chance, he has started the attack with just a small weapon and therefore, he has been unable to fight at the second stage, and that's a chance that saved some lives.

SS: Now, days before the attack Bouhlel sent a large sum of money - over \$100,000 - to his family in Tunisia. His brother told Britain's Mail Online that he couldn't understand where he got this money from. Is this evidence that some powerful structure is behind him after all?

AJ: I have read, as you said, we have learned about this story of \$100,000 in Tunisia. First point is to be sure that it is true and up to now, it is not proved. This information is not proved.



Now, if it is proved in the future, it will be very interesting, because it will explain part of the story. As you know, certainly, in Lebanon, Syria, in Iraq, when someone blows himself, the family receives money - that's the part of the deal. The guy or the girl becomes a Shahid and the family receives money to compensate the loss of the human, of the brother or the sister or the husband. Therefore, if it is true that the family received \$100,000 in Tunisia, it will show that it is really a terrorist attack managed and organized by the terrorist group in Syria and Iraq - that is to say, by ISIS or a group close to ISIS.

SS: *You know, Bouhlel's uncle told the media that Bouhlel was recruited by ISIS two weeks prior to the attack. Could that explain the money? I mean, however the French authorities are still not confirming the ISIS link.*

AJ: The French have been fighting terrorism for a long time, therefore we know very well how to fight against them with our techniques. The problem is - each time it's the same - the problem is a matter of information, the research of information. It's clear that it's easier for us to control a network, because when you have a terrorist network, later on something emerges, you discover something, and so it's possible to go to the heart of the terrorist network. Now, when you have an individual, despite the fact that this individual is online and in contact with other people in other countries, it's very difficult to find him and to understand what he is doing. And moreover, when you have a case like this one, in which radicalization has been made very quickly - as you know, on one hand, and on the other hand, the attack is planned and organized by one individual: therefore it's very difficult for the intelligence services to check this kind of attack. That's the problem. In the fight against terrorism you can do a lot, and we do a lot, our services are acting very efficiently, but it's impossible to avoid everything. From time to time something bad goes through your network. That's the problem we face today.

SS: *You know, people who knew Bouhlel say that he drank alcohol, he smoke, he dated women and never went to a mosque - what do you make of that? Why is a non-observant Muslim committing an act of religious terrorism?*

AJ: **There's a fatwa published by ISIS saying that when you are doing an attack against non croyant, as they say, and that is to say against Christians, Jewish or others, in order to succeed in your attack you are allowed to do everything to hide the fact that you are the muslim terrorist.**

That is to say, you can drink, you cannot have a beard, you are not obliged to pray five times a day - so you are out of the system during the attack in order for it not to be recognized that you are a terrorist. This fatwa exists and in this case it is clear that we are in this situation. Now, the second point is that this guy has recently moved to become a terrorist and before he was not there at all. So, he was drinking, looking for girls and so on. So, now, it will be interesting to know what he has done during the last months or during the last two months, because all testimonies are speaking about the guy that people have known six months ago or one year ago. The problem is that he radicalized in less than three months. Therefore, it would be of interest to check how he was one or two weeks ago. Maybe he was drinking, maybe not, maybe he was doing what is forbidden, maybe not - we do not know. Up to now, but the inquiry by the police will study all these points and I'm sure that in the next few weeks we will know the situation exactly about the past and the present of this terrorist and that will help us to find good ways to fight against the same kind of terrorism in the future.

SS: *France has become the target of terrorist attacks three times in the last 2 years. This string of attacks is leaving many people wondering - why France?*

AJ: Because we were the first country fighting against them in Syria, and therefore, we have been the first to react very strongly, and therefore we are the first, and moreover, as you know, in France we have voted for the law, two years ago, saying that it is not allowed to wear a niqab, you know, in public places. For all these reasons they consider France as really the worst enemy, and therefore, we are attack step after step. The problem now that we face is an evolution between what was before - a specific murders or specific terrorist attacks against a category: Jewish, journalists, or others - and now, with the the Bataclan story in November and now with the Nice story, the Nice attack, it's clear that they have turned to mass murdering and they look for the killing of a lot people, whatever will be the origins or religion or the age of the people, and they want to kill a lot of people and moreover, the want to scare our population and to push potential tourists to avoid from coming to France, in order to push them into difficulty. That's clearly is the policy.

SS: *The state of emergency in France has been in place since the November terrorist attacks in Paris and it has been prolonged for 3 months in the wake of the attack in Nice. French*



security services were on high alert during the Euro-2016 football championship. Unprecedented numbers of armed forces are patrolling the streets, yet the massive celebrations in Nice were not secure enough. Why not?

AJ: Well, for a terrorist the problem is to find a place where it is possible to do the attack. During the Euro football tournament it was very difficult for them to make an attack in the crowded places because everything was controlled and the security system implemented in France was, obviously, very efficient. They have used Nice because it was a crowded meeting but it was not covered by police organization as were others, because no one was thinking about the possibility of an attack. All the time you can have an attack, but we were not thinking it was a first priority target.

SS: Prime Minister Manuel Valls was booed when he arrived at the mourning ceremony in Nice. Why are the locals angry at him? Do you think Manuel Valls should be held responsible for letting this attack happen?

AJ: After this awful killing, the Prime Minister has moved to Nice in order to say to all the Nice people "We are with you, we support you, we share your sadness". Now, some people in the crowd were very upset about this killing and so they have reacted against the Prime Minister, but you don't have to see it as an opposition against the Prime Minister, you have to see it as a strong reaction of the people who are upset by all these terrorist attacks and are asking for improvement of the security methods in France. It's usual, you know, some people want to see us being more tough against terrorism and others remind us that we are in democracy in which we have values, we have laws and we have to respect our laws and our values. Therefore, the difficulty for the government is always to keep the balance between the two options. In my opinion, up to now, they are doing it very well because it's not easy and as you know during the last months we have evaded other attacks because they were discovered before.

SS: Now the perpetrators of attacks in France, they're not only under the influence of radical ideology, but they all share a hatred for France: a country where they live or where they were born, where they even grew up. **Why the second or third generation of migrants hate the country which in essence is their own?**

AJ: Don't make a mistake. France is a country in which we have always known migrants: coming from the north, coming from south, coming from the east, coming from the west - all the time we have received migrants. Each time we have a period in which it is necessary to integrate them, and we have some difficulties. Each time we have found a solution in the end. All these migrants have been assimilated to be French people. Now, the problem is, it's true that the second generation of people from the south, that is to say from North Africa and Africa, in the second generation some of them are very sad and very upset by the fact that it is difficult for them to find a job, to work in our country, because, as you know, **we have a lot of unemployment and therefore, for this kind of population, it's very difficult to find an employment.** So, they react in two ways: some of them are waiting and consider that the French government is not doing for them what is required and necessary, and a little part of the others, the little part of them, the others are looking to fight this government, this regime, this country in which they are not recognized. That's the way they start to become terrorists. But by chance, the number of potential terrorists is really very-very reduced. The problem is that one guy can do a lot.

SS: The risk of attacks against Muslim communities is high now in France. The head of France's internal intelligence service warned a parliamentary committee that France is on a brink of a civil war between the extreme right and the muslim world. Do you believe it could come to that, do you believe it's that bad?

AJ: No, no. It's impossible to say that. In France we have a lot of Muslims. Islam is a second religion in France and the large majority of Muslims are quite happy to be in France and they don't want to change something. Really, a very little part... the problem is that this little part now is linked with, I would say, due to the difficulties, they are linked with people who are doing robberies, selling drugs and so on - which are violent people. Therefore, this makes violent people, coming from the crime side, and violent people going or being on the terrorist side, create this problem in France today. But, it's just a matter of time. I'm sure that in one, two or three years it will be finished. It's not the first time we suffer from terrorism in France, and not the last, also, and so it's just a matter of time in order to solve this problem and to reduce the risk to quite nothing.

SS: Is this attack going to spark a police crackdown on the Muslim community? And is that what ISIS really wants?



AJ: No. They tried. The strategy of ISIS is very clear. They want to create an opposition between the Muslim people and other people in France. But they made a big mistake: the mistake is, as I said, that the big majority of Muslims are involved in the French system and don't want to change at all. They don't want to come back to their migrant country, they don't want to be involved in such stories, and up to now, they are very quiet, they don't move, and the police knows it very well. So, the police is clever. The French police and the French Army will never jump into this, I would say, this trap. They will still make a difference between the real Muslim and some terrorists, who are a kind of sect and nothing more.

SS: *Approximately 70% of the French prison population is Muslim, and that's while only about 7% of the general population of France is Muslim. With the prisons mainly Muslim, is there a danger that they will become a fertile ground for ISIS recruitment?*

AJ: As you have said, Muslims represent between 7% and 10%, because we don't know exactly the level, because don't forget that you have all sorts of French people practicing Muslim religion, therefore, it's not possible to say that there's only 7%. Maybe it's 10% practicing the Muslim religion in France and all the others being, for a smaller part, the Jews, and for the main part, the Christians. Now, and a big part also is people who are not adept to any religion, don't forget it in France, because it's more than 40% of the population. Therefore, it's just a part. Everybody makes a difference between this extremist Muslims and the others. Everybody is making a difference, because we know very well... In France, we have people coming from countries practicing Maliki rite, it's a Moroccan style of Islam. When you are Maliki, for instance, you are against any terrorist act, it's against your religion. I give you that as an example. That is to say, a lot of people are against that. The problem overall is not to mix the extremists with the others, and on this part, I think France has a good experience and knows very well how to make it done.

SS: *You know, when the attacks happened in Brussels, it became clear that there isn't enough security in airports, railway stations, the subway - and we've seen European countries imposing border controls and curtailing one of Europe's most prized liberties: the freedom of movement. How do you strike a balance between the EU's democratic values and security? I mean, what kind of civil liberties will Europe have to give up?*

AJ: You have the answer in France, in the laws: the Parliament has voted some months ago about search of information, what we call the "Information law", which is not as a Patriot Act in the U.S. - that is to say, it's respecting our values, but, at the same time, it makes more difficult to act against the Republique, against our country. I think this reaction has been the same in a lot of other countries in Europe - if you look at Germany, Spain, Italy, England - all these countries, after the Bataclan attack and the Brussels attacks, all the countries have decided to be more tough, to improve the control of their country, but always keeping in mind the values that are our values, because if we forget our values - we lose, and ISIS will win, and this is not acceptable.

SS: *Thank you very much for this interview. We were talking to Alain Juillet, former intelligence chief at the French external security agency, talking about the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attack in French Nice, and how is the country preparing to thwart future dangers. That's it for this edition of Sophie&Co, I will see you next time.*

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Yet another state official who wanted to become a politician but he became intelligence chief! The main question is: do they have the qualifications to work? Do they go to school and later to universities etc? Do they really want to work or just rely on benefits provided by the state? Why non-Muslim French do not become terrorists as well? And the most important one: why integration failed – now we are in the third generation of immigrants? If unemployment was the only reason, then in Greece soon all unemployed will be radicalized and attack their own country. I do not think so!!!

Gulf States Bolster Security Initiatives to Confront Islamic State Threat

Source: <http://www.jamestown.org/single/>



July 22 – **Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made clear in an audio recording two years ago that the group intended to include the Gulf States among its targets, in particular Saudi Arabia.**



Despite al-Baghdadi's claims, however, up until October 2015 incidents involving IS in the Kingdom, which has a complicated history with extremist networks and more than a decade of experience battling domestic terrorist movements, remained relatively few-and-far between. Likewise, Saudi Arabia's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) neighbors – Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – have experienced fewer incidents than might have been expected, given their strong partnership with Saudi Arabia and position as U.S. allies.

While the GCC States each have their own distinct domestic policies that have helped alleviate the terror threat, there have also been unprecedented efforts to counter the

threat of IS on a regional level, efforts that might have been considered unlikely several years ago.

Saudi Arabia

Of all the Gulf States over the last three decades, Saudi Arabia has battled most prominently and most frequently, with radical Islamists. The early 2000s saw the Kingdom, its institutions, security personnel, and foreigners, targeted by a local branch of al-Qaeda. A fledgling counter-terrorism initiative that featured an extensive rehabilitation program was launched. Although the attempted assassination of Muhammad bin Nayif, now the crown prince, during Ramadan in 2009 by a supposedly reformed member of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) cast some doubts on its effectiveness.

The presence of IS in Saudi Arabia dates back to November 2014. The attack on a Hussainiyah, a Shia prayer hall in the village of ad-Dawlah, in the Eastern Province sparked a fear among the local Saudi Shia population that they would be the target of a new wave of terrorist attacks. That fear was justified days later when al-Baghdadi announced the establishment of IS "provinces" in Saudi Arabia – *Wilayat Najd*, *Wilayat Hijaz*, and *Wilayat Bahrain* ([Terrorism Monitor](#), March 6, 2015).

By focusing the majority of its energies in the Eastern Province, the group has taken

advantage of an unfortunate nexus, exacerbating already difficult social relations while simultaneously scoring points with supporters. By targeting the Shia, a maligned sectarian minority in Saudi Arabia, the group hopes to play on sectarian divisions already present in Saudi society.

In May 2014, the interior ministry announced the discovery of a 62-member, well-armed cell with links to AQAP, IS, and other unnamed groups ([Arab News](#), 6 May 2014). Suggestions have been made that the group is building on dormant AQAP and Salafist donor networks within the Kingdom to construct a more secure presence, similar to its establishment in Iraq and Syria. Given the amount of time such efforts would involve, this may account for its apparent operational limitations to date.

Certain violent incidents have been used to suggest the group's influence may be growing. However, whether a burst of enthusiasm from local supporters will develop into viable planning and execution of an attack is unclear ([Arab News](#), 24 June).

The key targets in incidents so far are security personnel and members of the Shia community, most often around prayer times.



There has been little evidence so far of the highly armed and well-coordinated attacks carried out by al-Qaeda between 2002 and 2004. The extent of the group's command-and-control capabilities either within the Kingdom, or communicating from a neighboring country with a proven presence such as Yemen, remains unclear, but is likely poor at the moment.

Bahrain

Despite its well-documented domestic security troubles, Bahrain has yet to experience an IS attack. An incident targeting the Shia community in Bahrain, however, could produce an enormous victory for the group. The social tension and likely unrest could see a repeat of the violence in 2011 and 2012, and would further undermine the ruling Al Khalifah family. The fact IS has classified Saudi Arabia's Eastern province as within its *Wilayat Bahrain* operational area indicates the extent to which the group views the two Shia communities as one. Although linked through a shared religious sect, regional history, and aspects of culture, such an assumption demonstrates a lack of understanding of the subtle differences that define each of those local communities. It could account in small part for the lack of interest in Bahrain to date.

The pervasive nature of the security forces may also help explain why IS has not yet carried out an attack on the country that is home to a sectarian majority that it regular targets elsewhere. The government, with its Gulf allies and Jordan, has been able to efficiently isolate IS most attractive target, undermining the group's potential to further damage social cohesion.

The Shia neighborhoods and villages that ring Manama, and which have seen the most consistent civil unrest since 2011, are effectively cut-off from the rest of the country ([Revolution Bahrain](#), 17 July). Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) block entrances, restrict exit and entry for local residents, and prevent movement entirely during periods of heightened tension ([Revolution Bahrain](#), 17 July). While to keep local Shia residents in, this may also be keeping more threatening entities out.

IS also has more limited room for maneuver socially within Bahrain. With a total population of 1.3 million people, the country's Sunni minority has largely been co-opted – whether willingly or not – by the state. The state's extensively

developed intelligence agencies, which are largely focused on uncovering suspected Iranian subterfuge, provide some default defense against IS infiltration. None of these things fully mitigates the risk of an attack, but they do help explain why there have as yet been no reported incidents.

Kuwait

The most notable recent attack in Kuwait, and the most notable in the region outside of Saudi Arabia, was the bombing in June 2015 on the Imam Jafar al-Sadiq mosque ([al-Watan](#), 26 June, 2015). The attack, claimed by IS later the same day, came as a shock to Kuwaiti society ([Reuters Arabic](#), June 26, 2015).

Kuwait's political system is considered the most open in the region. Its supposed liberalism, however, belies a well-organized network of conservative charities and Salafist clerics working, often unofficially, to finance causes to which some of its allies are averse ([State Department](#), 2015). The government has made considerable efforts to tackle this fund-raising, however it will undoubtedly continue.

Despite the risks associated with domestic fundraising and cash transfers to armed radical groups, Kuwait has so far avoided the problems experienced by Saudi Arabia. Kuwait's intelligence services also reportedly continue to uncover IS plans for attacks in the country: one was discovered immediately in the wake of the Imam Jafar Sadiq mosque attack, and others were announced as recently as two weeks ago ([BBC Arabic](#), 30 June 2015; [BBC Arabic](#), July 4). Beyond continued intelligence sharing with its neighbors, there seems little to reduce the risk to Kuwait in the months and years ahead.

United Arab Emirates

The most prominent Gulf country by reputation, largely due to the ubiquity of its second city Dubai, the UAE has not yet experienced an IS attack. The best known incident to date was carried out by an Emirati national of Yemeni-origin, Alaa Badr al-Hashimi, who stabbed a Hungarian-American school teacher to death in a bathroom of the Boutik Mall on Reem Island in Abu Dhabi. An hour later, a small homemade IED exploded at the front door of an American-Egyptian doctor ([The National](#), June 29, 2015).

During her trial, al-Hashimi explained that she carried out the



attacks after her husband was taken in for question by the security services for suspected links to unspecified terrorist groups. Although the UAE is considered at high risk of an IS attack, the country has built up an increasingly overt security infrastructure ([The National](#), July 13). Built on human intelligence and extensive data mining, it is likely to continue to prove an effective bulwark against attacks.

Qatar

Qatar, like Kuwait, juggles a relationship with conservative Islamists and economic wealth, a combination that could leave it open to attack. However, despite maintaining a regime-led adherence to what some consider to be the traditionally quietest form of Wahhabism, Qatar has experienced none of the turmoil seen in Saudi Arabia and has seen only a single terrorist attack in the last decade and a half.

Oman

Oman's quietly effective security services and military have long used a creative border management policy to limit the potential for the movement of extremists from Yemen into Oman. By local Yemeni tribesman training, equipment, and financial backing, Oman has effectively enabled the tribesmen to police their own border as efficiently as Oman would like, making the country possibly the least likely of the Gulf States to experience an IS attack.

Omani society, although maintaining a strong affiliation with local identities, perceives itself as homogenous in a manner that is arguably distinct within the region ([Terrorism Monitor](#), May 27). An IS attack in Oman would bring little benefit to the group. The key conflict risk Oman faces is how to navigate whatever vacuum develops in the event of the death of its ruler Sultan Qaboos. At present, however, it seems

unlikely IS would be in a position to take advantage of that.

Regional Security

The threat from IS has refocused GCC officials on regional security as never before. GCC ministers' meetings, so often dominated by rows over the possible location for a central bank for a joint currency that is unlikely to ever be established, have become fundamental to intelligence sharing efforts. These meetings led to the establishment of a region-wide equivalent of Interpol, GCC-POL, in November 2015 ([Gulf News](#), April 27).

The cooperation agreements now in place would have been considered almost impossible a few years ago, as the GCC neighbors jealously guard their domestic security. Yet in certain areas security remains a challenge. The GCC's visa waiver system for Gulf nationals, for example, may have contributed in part to the June 2015 bombing in Kuwait. The perpetrator, a Saudi national, transited from Riyadh through Bahrain to Kuwait without arousing any suspicion, even though records showed the journey was the first he had ever made by plane ([al-Jazeera English](#), June 28, 2015).

The Gulf, in particular Saudi Arabia, faces security threats from multiple groups, and the presence of both IS and AQAP in Yemen will undermine Gulf security for years to come ([Jamestown](#), August 7, 2015). As IS comes under pressure in Iraq and Syria, it has threatened to resort to guerrilla-style tactics, and if it does so the GCC states could present a greater target.

Although attacks in the Gulf so far indicate IS has a less sophisticated regional network than its rival al-Qaeda, these are early days for a group that has had its plans for a region-wide state under sharia halted in part by an alliance that includes the GCC states.

Islamic State's Iraq 'Caliphate' on the Brink of Defeat

By Wladimir van Wilgenburg

Source: <http://www.jamestown.org/single/>

July 22 – Islamic State's self-styled caliphate in Iraq has been standing on its last legs since June 26 when the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Shia Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) secured Fallujah. Even more significantly, the ISF forces seized the Qayyarah Airfield West base on July 9, linking up with ISF forces coming from Tikrit. Qayyarah will be the launch pad for Iraqi forces to seize Mosul – the de-facto capital for IS in Iraq.

Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the chief spokesman for IS, appeared to concede the group's future territorial defeat in Iraq in a statement in May, when he confirmed Mosul, Sirte in Libya,



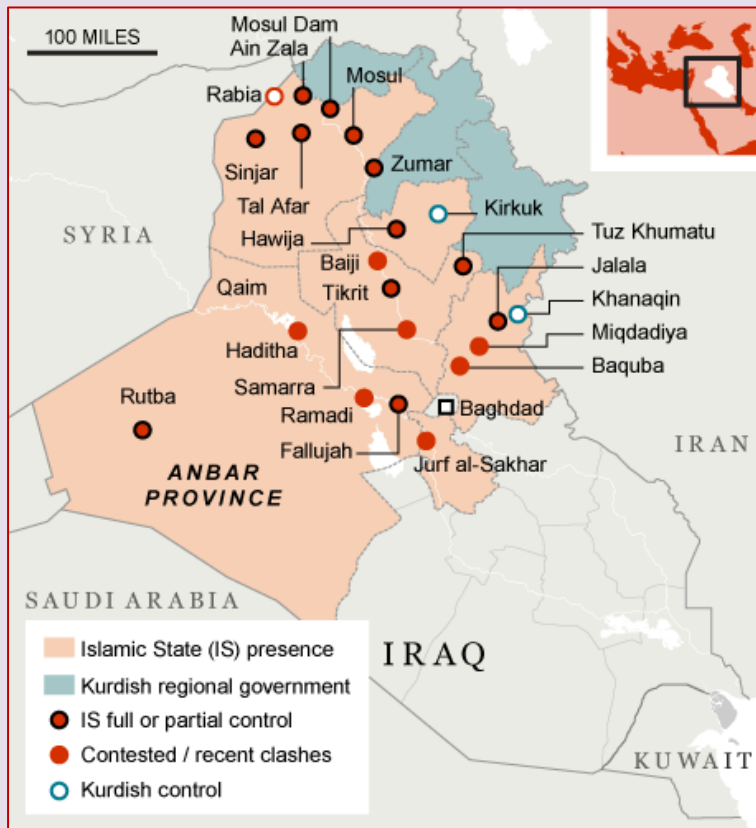
and even Raqqa in Syria could fall and force IS forces to go underground. [1] That, however, will take time.

Fall of Mosul

IS seized the city of Mosul in June 2014, after the Iraqi army disintegrated and fled, and quickly took over most of the provinces Sunni Arab

commander, Shaykh Umar as-Shishani, who was killed in the Mosul campaign in the town of Shirqat ([Amag](#), July 13). An additional 560 US troops, due to be based in the airbase of Qayyarah, will also be welcomed, but it's possible more will be needed.

These recent battlefield successes, however, do not mean the Mosul operation will be over soon. The city needs to be surrounded from all sides, and the IS supply lines between Iraq and Syria need to be cut. A great deal of manpower will be needed – it will be necessary for more than just US-trained Iraqi troops to play a role. Kurdish forces, fighters from Sunni Arab Tribes, the Iraqi Arm, and Iranian-backed Shia paramilitary groups will all need to be included.



cities under the slogan “remaining and expanding.” However, the major losses faced by IS in both Syria and Iraq over the last six months show the group is now neither expanding nor remaining. Instead, IS is trying to divert attention away from its losses by carrying out large-scale attacks both in the region and in the West ([Niqash](#), July 12).

The first operations to liberate parts of the Nineveh Governorate and its capital started on March 24 ([NRT](#), March 2015). The goal was to capture Qayyarah airfield, but the unwillingness of local Iraqis to join the fight meant it took at least four months to finish the first phase of the Nineveh operation.

Morale has since improved. The coalition-trained 15th and 16th brigades in Qayyarah have been joined by the 9th armored division and Counter Terrorists Units (CT), which succeeded in taking Shirqat from IS on July 12 ([Twitter](#), June 18). IS also suffered a major setback with the loss of its most famous military

while the Iraqi security units push into western Anbar to control the Syrian border gate of al-Qaim and then move towards al-Ba’aj ([Rudaw](#), July 13). [2]

Shia-led PMU forces will most likely clear out the rest of Kirkuk province, possibly in coordination with the Kurds. Although, such an operation could come after Mosul city is secure. They will also play a role recapturing the mixed Shia-Sunni Turkmen town of Tal Afar, where many joined IS after the group took Mosul. That could be a joint ISF-Peshmerga operation, or it could be a PMU operation joined by ISF forces. Either way, taking Tal Afar is important since the town is thought to be home to a number of IS leaders and their families ([Defense.gov](#), March 16).

According to the coalition commander Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland, the idea is to envelop Mosul from the north and the south, and then collapse IS control over the area, as has been done in



cities such as Hit, Rutbah, Fallujah, and Ramadi ([Defense.gov](#), July 11). Clearing Mosul is expected to be a major headache. As Major General Gary J. Volesky commented, it took about six months to clear Ramadi, while IS have occupied Mosul, which is three times larger, for two years, giving them time to prepare ([ARAnews](#), May 18). Kurdish Colonel Masoud Salih, an instructor at Zakho Military Academy, suggests the Mosul operation could be one of the toughest battles in Iraq since 2003 ([Rudaw](#), February 17). He suggests a three-stage approach: a pre-planning stage involving the training of Sunni Arabs and ISF forces, the cutting of supply lines, and an operation to take Mosul from three directions – east, south, and west of the city. Each front in the attack on Mosul would require 10,000 soldiers, and the battle could take up to ten months. Sunni Arabs are already fleeing towards Syria in anticipation of the Mosul operation.

Unless large groups of IS fighters desert and give up the fight, it is unlikely that any operation will be complete this year. The battle in the Syrian town of Manbij and the slow progress in fighting near Makhmour show that most likely IS will try to fight back. The advantage for IS is that fewer fighters are needed to defend a town than are needed to attack. This was evident when IS failed to take the town of Kobani in September 2014 with what they assumed was overwhelming force, a strategic error that cost the group over 4,000 fighters ([Daily Beast](#), November 15, 2015).

Possible Tensions in the Aftermath

Due to the different groups that will contribute to the Mosul operation, once the city has been re-captured there could be more tensions between the various groups. As a consequence, top Kurdish officials, such as security chief Masrour Barzani, have called for an agreement to be in place before the liberation of Mosul ([Twitter](#), November 28).

The Peshmerga forces will play an assisting role and clear out large parts of the Nineveh plains in the east and north of Mosul. They will be backed by Arabic tribes, Christian militias and with support from the Turkish army based in Bashiqa camp from Telskuf and Bashiqa.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Peshmerga forces will also play a role in clearing out the south of Sinjar, and they may even play a role in the capture of Tal Afar. Then the Iraqi army, federal police, and Sunni Arab tribal forces – possibly supported by Kurdish units as part of the ISF or Peshmerga forces trained for urban warfare – will take the city.

Mosul's Sunnis oppose the use of Shia paramilitary forces in operations to take Tal Afar and areas surrounding Mosul, but the PMU will doubtless play a role. Sajad Jiyad, a Baghdad-based Iraqi analyst, told Jamestown: "I'm sure they [the PMU] will be involved in the clear and hold operations required before the battle of Mosul begins. I cannot see a role for the PMU inside the city itself [but] there will likely be some terrain to retake elsewhere in northern Iraq after the city is secured and that will mean PMU involvement as well." [2]

Political Settlement Essential

The battle for Mosul will most likely take another seven to ten months and will not end this year. Once the IS 'caliphate' has been defeated on the ground, however, serious difficulties will likely remain. IS is unlikely to fully disappear, and the group, which has greatly expanded its recruitment base, will go underground and continue to carry out attacks.

Furthermore, once IS is defeated, Iraq will need to handle the return of displaced civilians, as well as competition between the Kurdish, Iranian-backed PMU forces, Iraqi forces, and Turkish-backed Arab tribes. Sectarian tensions evident in the past are still prevalent, and indeed have strengthened with the empowerment of Iranian-backed PMU forces.

It's likely that PMU forces will even play a security role in Sunni areas in the future, and this will be a source of tension. Thus, a need exists for a more robust Sunni force to hold Mosul and a need for a political agreement on the future of the Sunni territories, which will most likely want greater decentralization from Baghdad.

A pre-Mosul liberation settlement appears essential if Mosul is to be effectively liberated, but political tensions in Baghdad will make this a difficult agreement to achieve.

NOTES

[1] Abu Muhammad al-Adnani as-Shami, "And Those Who Lived [In Faith] Would Live Upon Evidence," audio statement published on May 21, 2016, URL



<https://pietervanostaeyen.com/2016/05/22/abu-muhammad-al-adnani-as-shami-and-those-who-lived-in-faith-would-live-upon-evidence/>

[2] Author interview with Sajad Jiyad, an analyst at the al-Bayan Centre for Planning and Studies in Baghdad (July 14, 2016).

Syrian refugee, 21, hacks PREGNANT woman to death with machete and injures two others before hero BMW driver runs him over in yet another attack in Germany

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3705823/Machete-wielding-attacker-kills-woman-injures-two-new-German-outrage.html>

July 24 – A Syrian refugee wielding a machete has killed a pregnant woman and injured a man and another woman in Germany before being arrested by police after he was run over by a man driving a BMW.



The attack happened in the south western city of Reutlingen near a doner kebab stand in a bus station at Listplatz Square in what has been described as a 'crime of passion'. German media have been reporting that the motive for the attack in the city south of Stuttgart was unclear but the attacker and the 45-year-old Polish victim both worked at the same snack bar.

Pictures from the scene appear to show the knifeman lying on the ground with blood on his face after being apprehended.

Armed police officers can be seen pinning him down to the ground before binding his hands behind his back.

Meanwhile, footage filmed by passers-by also showed the bearded attacker in the moments following the rampage running around in the street while people scream 'oh my god'.

He also banged on the windows of a Citroen car in which a 51-year-old woman suffered cuts to her arms and a 41-year-old man went into shock.

The attacker also injured a 23-year-old man by slashing his face.

It is believed a man passing the incident in a BMW car ran over the man, knocking him to the ground, before he was detained by police.



German media reported that the killing took place outside a restaurant where the woman worked as a cleaner. The driver, who was named as Alper K, 21, is thought to be the son of the restaurant owner.

Paramedics attempted to save the woman's life after she sustained head injuries but she died and her corpse was covered with a white sheet.

One eyewitness told German newspaper



Bild: 'The perpetrator was completely out of his mind. He ran with his machete even behind a patrol car.' Police spokesman Bjoern Reusch said in a statement that witnesses said the 21-year-old man, who was known to police, was having an argument with the woman, who is believed to have been working at the kebab stand, before attacking her about 4:30 pm.

They also added that the incident 'did not bear the hallmarks of a terrorist attack.'

'According to the information available, the perpetrator acted alone, the people of Reutlingen and its surroundings are very probably not in danger,' the statement added.



In the moments after the machete attack, the man could be seen running around close to the scene before he was knocked over by a car

The asylum-seeking Syrian man had been involved in previous incidents causing injuries to other people, police said.

The spokesman had no immediate information on when the man arrived in Germany, or when the previous incidents took place.

He was injured in the collision with the BMW and is currently in hospital, where he has not yet been questioned but is under guard by police.

The attack comes as Germany is on edge, following a rampage at a Munich mall on Friday night in which nine people were killed, and an axe attack on a train a week ago that left five wounded.

Some Germans are also fearful of any signs of a rise in crime or lawlessness after the country registered some one million asylum-seekers last year.



Munich gunman planned attack for a year

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/24/europe/germany-munich-shooting/>



July 24 – The gunman who killed nine people in a rampage in Munich on Friday was obsessed with mass shootings and appeared to have planned the attack for a year, officials said.

"He appears to have planned this act since last summer," Robert Heimberger, president of the Bavarian state criminal police office, said at a press conference Sunday.



"He completely occupied himself with this act of rampage."

Police have not named the attacker. They said he was an 18-year-old with dual German and Iranian nationality who was born and raised in Munich. Neighbors told CNN Saturday that a teen named Ali Sonboly lived in an apartment searched by police, the same name reported by German media outlets.



On Sunday, a 16-year-old Afghan believed to have been a friend of the attacker was arrested on "suspicion of being an accessory," Munich police said.

Police said Saturday the [attacker was a mentally troubled individual](#) who extensively researched rampage killings, and had no apparent links to terror groups and no political motive.

On Sunday, investigators revealed he left behind a long written statement on his computer, which was still being analyzed. They said they found photographs on his camera showing he visited the German town of Winnenden, the site of a [deadly 2009 school shooting](#).



Earlier, officials said they found in the gunman's belongings numerous documents on mass killings, including a book entitled "Rampage in My Mind -- Why Students Kill."

Officials believe there likely was significance in the timing of the attack, which came five years to the day since Anders Behring Breivik killed 77 people in Norway in 2011, many of them attendees at a youth camp.

Gunman had received psychiatric treatment

The gunman had also been under psychiatric care in a hospital for two months in 2015, officials said Sunday.

Police secure an underground transit station after a deadly shooting in Munich, Germany, on Friday, July 22. At least eight people were killed at a nearby shopping mall in what police officials said "looks like a terror attack." Police are still looking for the gunmen.

People lured to attack site

The deadly attack began in a McDonald's outside Munich's Olympia mall on Friday evening, bringing Germany's third-largest city to a standstill before the gunman was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The rampage also left 35 people injured, 10 of them seriously, officials said.

The shooter used a fake Facebook account to lure people to the McDonald's by offering free food, police said Sunday. Earlier, they said he may have hacked another person's account, but they clarified on Sunday that it was an entirely fake account set up in another person's name.

Police are investigating whether the attacker's friend who was arrested was aware of the Facebook post or if he had prior knowledge of the attack and failed to notify police. The 16-year-old was interviewed based on his relationship with the suspect and gave conflicting statements, Munich police said.

Heimberger said the attacker appeared to have illegally purchased the pistol used -- a 9 mm Glock 17 -- through the "dark web," a shadowy part of the Internet that is not discoverable by standard search engines and is used for anonymous, illicit transactions.

Police believed it was an older weapon that had been reassembled, and were still working to establish where the attacker had obtained the 300 rounds of ammunition found in his rucksack.

Victims mostly teenagers



Most of the victims in Munich in their teens: Three victims were 14 years old, two were 15, one was 17 and one was 19. A 20-year-old and a 45-year-old were also killed.

The victims were all German nationals from the Munich area, officials said. Turkey's Foreign Ministry said three of the victims were also Turkish nationals.

Another of the victims was also a Greek citizen, Greece's Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The residents of Aratos, a village of 700 near the northeastern Greek city of Komotini, expected 17-year-old Hussein Daitzik and his family, migrants



living in Germany, to visit next week as part of their annual vacation in their ancestral home. Instead, they will attend Hussein's funeral next week.

Daitzik was one of nine people killed by an Iranian-German gunman who went on a rampage Friday in Munich before killing himself. Daitzik died trying to take his sister Gulfer — they and a brother, Sunai, were triplets — out of the line of fire, says village mayor Amet Amet. She was not wounded.

The family belongs to Greece's Muslim minority.

Amet tells The Associated Press on Sunday that Daizik "had many friends here in the village. He was a very good boy, quiet."

The many faces of terrorism



Japan knife attack: At least 19 dead

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/25/world/japan-knife-attack-deaths/index.html>



kilometers (25 miles) west of the capital.

July 26 - At least 19 people were killed and 26 injured in a stabbing spree at a facility for disabled people west of Tokyo, making it one of Japan's deadliest mass killings since World War II. Nine men and 10 women, ranging in age from 18 to 70, were killed in the attack.

Officer Satomi Kurihara of the Sagami-hara Fire Department confirmed the death toll at the Tsukui Yamayuri-en facility in Sagami-hara, a residential area approximately 40



Satoshi Uematsu, a 26-year-old who worked at the facility until February, broke in through a window about 2 a.m. Tuesday (1 p.m. ET Monday), Kanagawa Prefecture officials said at a news conference. Police said they received a call from an employee of the facility reporting the attack, according to state broadcaster NHK.

About 3 a.m., Uematsu turned himself in at the Sagami-hara police station, carrying a bloodstained knife and cloth, officials said.



Former employee

He had been working there since 2012, Motoko Rich, the New York Times' Tokyo bureau chief, told CNN. It is unclear what he did there, nor if he resigned or was fired from his job at the home.

He had trained to be a teacher and former colleagues said he was personable and good with children. Neighbors were shocked to hear of his involvement in the incident.

While the motivation for the attack remains unknown, Rich reported that the suspect had taken a letter to the Japanese legislature outlining a society in which euthanasia of the disabled was accepted. CNN has not been able to independently verify the existence of this letter.

Satoshi Uematsu, suspected of Japan's worst postwar mass killing, is seen inside a police car.



Tokyo, on Wednesday.

Photograph: Kyodo/Reuters
Satoshi Uematsu, who is accused of carrying out Japan's worst mass killing in its postwar history, grinned in front of TV cameras and told police he felt no remorse, a day after he allegedly knifed 19 people to death at a care home for disabled people. Uematsu, 26, who once worked at the home, had his face concealed by a blue jacket as he was transferred to prosecutors from a police station in Sagami-hara, 30 miles (50km) south-west of



Of the 26 injured, 13 are "severely" hurt, according to a local fire official. Ten suffered moderate injuries and the remaining three minor injuries. They are being treated in a number of local hospitals.

In a brief press conference, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga confirmed that there was no terror link with ISIS.

He added that the government would analyze information from the city government and the police department, and that the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare would ensure this kind of incident does not happen again.

Serene location

The 7.5-acre site in the bucolic mountain town is home to 149 residents, ranging in age from teenagers to those in their 70s, according to the Kanagawa prefectural website. It can house a total of 160 people. Just under a third of those living at the facility are elderly.

A total of 222 people work at the facility, but only nine -- one of whom was a security guard -- were on the premises when the incident occurred.

The incident sent shock waves through Japan, where mass killings are rare. Because gun ownership is highly restricted, mass stabbings and poisonings are more common, CNN's Paula Hancocks said.

In June 2001, [eight children were killed](#) when a former janitor entered an Ikeda elementary school in Osaka and began stabbing students at random.

In June 2008, a man ran over a group of people with his truck and then stabbed 18, [killing](#) seven, in Tokyo's famous Akihabara gaming district.

The biggest loss of life in Japan's recent history was in 1982, when 24 people died after a Japan Air Lines pilot [crashed a flight](#) into Tokyo Bay.

The last time Sagami-hara made global headlines was in 2012 when Naoko Kikuchi, a member of the [Japanese doomsday cult](#) responsible for the 1995 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway, was arrested there. The attack killed 13 people and injured more than 5,500 people.

The cult, Aum Shinrikyo, was responsible for [another sarin gas attack](#) the previous year that killed seven people and sickened some 200 more.

France church attack: Priest killed in hostage taking near Rouen

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36892785>

June 26 – A priest has been killed in an attack by two armed men at his church near Rouen in northern France, police and French media have said.



The armed men entered the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray during mass, taking the priest, two nuns and several churchgoers hostage, reports said.





French TV said shots had been heard after police arrived at the scene. Both hostage-takers are now dead.

The area has been cordoned off and police have told people to stay away.

At least one person is receiving medical treatment for injuries.

There was no immediate indication of the identity or motive of the hostage-takers, but France has been on high alert since the

Bastille Day attack in Nice earlier this month, when an attacker ploughed a lorry into celebrating crowds, killing more than 80 people.

The BBC's Lucy Williamson in Paris says the French government has been under huge pressure to prevent further attacks.

President Francois Hollande and Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve are on their way to Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray to be briefed by police.

IS claims killing of French priest

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-36892785>



July 26 - A priest has been killed in an attack by two armed men on his church in a suburb of Rouen in northern France.

The attackers entered the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray during Mass, taking the priest, Fr Jacques Hamel, 84, and four other people hostage.

Police later surrounded the church and French TV said shots were fired. Both hostage-takers are now dead.

The Amaq news agency, linked to so-called Islamic State, said "two IS soldiers" had carried out the attack.

President Francois Hollande said the men had claimed to be from IS.

Speaking in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, he said the attackers had committed a "cowardly assassination" and France would fight IS "by all means".

Pope Francis decried the "pain and horror of this absurd violence".

French interior ministry spokesman, Pierre-Henri Brandet, said one of the hostages had been critically wounded.



He said the hostage-takers had been "neutralised" after coming out of the church. French prosecutors say one person has since been detained over the attack.

Police sources said it appeared the attackers had slit the priest's throat with a knife.

The area was cordoned off while the church was searched for explosives, and police told people to stay away.

Mr Brandet said the investigation into the incident would be led by anti-terrorism prosecutors.

One of the men was known to the French intelligence services, French TV channel M6 has reported.

Protecting Your Group in Turbulent Times

By Peter Tarlow

Source: <http://groupstoday.com/blog/640-protecting-your-group-in-turbulent-times>



The past few weeks have been anything but peaceful around the world. In the United States, the tragic killing of two African-American men provoked street manifestations around the nation. It is still too early to draw legal conclusions, but the old adage—a perception may not be correct but its consequences are true—once again proved itself.

These tragic demonstrations not only hurt local economies and reputations, but also ended in the murder of five Dallas police officers. In France, the world saw the ugly face of terrorism as a terrorist turned a truck into a weapon. The week ended with street demonstrations and a failed coup d'état in Turkey with hundreds of injuries.

Street demonstrations put both local citizens and visitors into anything from highly uncomfortable situations to outright dangerous situations. Those in the group tour business are beginning to ask questions:

- How do we protect our group if we find ourselves in the midst of a manifestation or uprising?
- What should group leaders do or not do?
- Should group leaders cancel or cut short trips due to potential street demonstrations, manifestations or uprisings?

First, a word of caution: This topic is highly complex and worthy of several full books; this article is not meant to be a full analysis of the topic, but rather to raise important questions. Therefore, it is strongly advised that before making any specific decision, the group organizer and/or leader speak with a tourism security specialist, qualified police office or other travel security expert. No one can guarantee total safety and security, however, and not even experts can predict the future with total certainty.

Given these caveats, here are a number of suggestions to aid the group professional in his or her decision-making.

Know your group's demographics.

Although no two groups are the same, the level of potential risk rises as the group's homogeneity decreases. Make sure you know whether group's members speak the local

language, what the age range is, and if some of the group's members have special physical needs. The data will help the group leader to determine the



level of risk when venturing onto the street.

Obtain the most up-to-date information possible.

Although it was impossible to predict a terrorist attack such as that which occurred in Nice, France, other manifestations are predictable. In the case of the anti-police demonstrations, at least 24 hours' advanced notice was given. The absolute best protection is to avoid planned demonstrations. All demonstrations have the potential to be violent, no matter how much the demonstration's leadership proclaims it will be peaceful.

Never travel without a clear buddy system.

Make sure that before leaving a hotel, everyone has the hotel's address written down, along with the group leader's cellphone number. Remind people that street manifestations not only may turn violent, but are also magnets for street criminals such as pickpockets. Thus, create a balance between what a group member can

afford to lose and what the member needs for personal safety.

Wear identifying colors, but do not all dress the same.

If you are going to be close to a manifestation, be able to find your people—but do not make them targets. You do not want everyone dressed in a specific T-shirt, promotional shirt or blouse, but the group leader may decide to have the group's members use a specific color or type of hat.

Have an emergency plan in place.

Group leaders should know where the closest medical station is located and have a credit card with enough money for a hospital visit should the need arise. Most foreign hospitals do not accept United States medical insurance, and want payment guaranteed with a credit card.

If in doubt, do not go.

That does not mean cancel the trip—but it does mean avoiding locations where street manifestations or violence may occur.

Dr. Peter Tarlow is President of Tourism & More, Inc.

Terror convicts' release puts Switzerland in a bind

Source: http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/catch-22_terror-convicts--imminent-release-puts-switzerland-in-a-bind/42296468

July 25 – **The first of three men convicted this year of plotting a terror attack in Switzerland has just been ordered released from prison.**

What happens next is a matter of intense debate within Swiss intelligence and political circles, with no clear solutions visible.

dilemma over what to do with the three men soon after the verdicts were delivered in March.

"On the one hand, convicted terrorists cannot be allowed to stay in Switzerland. On the other, we can't put Switzerland's humanitarian tradition at risk." Now we have to

think about these questions and must have answers as soon as these individuals are released from prison," he told Swiss public radio, SRF, earlier this year.

The case resulted in Switzerland's first convictions on charges of involvement with Islamic State (IS) activities. **Four men from Iraq** were put on trial for plotting an attack. Three were found guilty; the fourth was set free after being

accused of travelling to Syria to



Michael Lauber, the federal prosecutor in the case, acknowledged that authorities faced a



deliver radio equipment to IS contacts.

The longest prison term handed out among the three men is four years and eight months. But based on time served and the court's determination that he is unlikely to engage in further criminal activity, the first of them was ordered released last week after having served just two-thirds of his sentence. However, according to Swiss public television SRF, the Federal Office of Police has placed him in deportation proceedings to keep him behind bars for longer though actual deportation is unlikely. **The other IS plotters are set to be released next year.**

Alain Mermoud, an intelligence advisor for Swiss Armed Forces, sees three possible outcomes: the three men could be deported to Iraq; more evidence could be found to keep them behind bars; or authorities could release them into Switzerland under surveillance.

"Who wants to take terrorists back? Nobody. So the probability is low that they will be deported," he said. Switzerland does not have an extradition treaty with Iraq, he added, nor is it a "safe country" to which people can be sent back without threat of their lives being in danger.

In addition, Mermoud said, there is a lack of legal basis for adding more time to the men's sentences. Which is why "the highest probability is that they will be set free", he said.

"They have paid their debt to society, that's the idea we have in our law," said Mermoud. "But we need to keep an eye on them."

But how?

Switzerland permits the intelligence service to keep an eye on individuals through electronic means if there is reason to believe that they could pose a threat to national security.

Although convicts are considered legally rehabilitated after they serve their sentences, "that doesn't mean they can't still pose a security threat," said Isabelle Graber, who heads communications for the Federal Intelligence Service (FIS).

"The FIS can carry out surveillance on people who pose a threat to Switzerland during or after their sentences, depending on individual cases," she told swissinfo.ch.

Self-policing

Whereas other European countries have used electronic bracelets to keep track of high-risk

individuals, Switzerland does not allow for it. Mermoud argues this is why a new intelligence law is badly needed: because it would give FIS extended surveillance capabilities.

Last year, [parliament approved that law](#) to give intelligence services more ways to monitor private communications. Swiss voters will have the final say this coming September.

In the meantime, the Swiss intelligence adviser thinks that the authorities will have to "think outside the box", maybe even turning to self-policing to engage neighbours and communities.

"The government could pay informants to keep an eye on them – the stereotype is the old lady behind the curtain, but it may be the best possibility we have," he said, emphasising that this merely an idea, and not Swiss government policy.

His personal preference, he said, would be that "they leave the country on their own and have some incentive to do so." He did not elaborate on what those incentives could be.

Terror sentencing – a European dilemma

The question of how to deal with convicted terrorists has become a burning issue across Europe, where the average prison sentence for acts of terrorism among EU member states was six years in 2014, according to Europol – down from 10 in 2013.

"Despite aggressive intelligence work and strong anti-terror laws, European terrorists often serve less than ten years for offences that would carry terms of 20 years to life in the United States," journalist Sebastian Rotella reported [in an article for ProPublica](#) on what he called "Europe's revolving-door prisons".

Lauber had argued for a prison sentence of 7.5 years for the ringleader of the IS terrorists convicted in Switzerland. In the end, the four years and eight months that he received landed below the European average.

Longer prison sentences send a strong message from governments that terrorism will not be tolerated, according to Christina Schori Liang, an advisor at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy's emerging security challenges programme. She also cites extensive research, however, showing that time in prison may have unintended consequences.

The recent terror attacks in Brussels and Paris have



“absolutely” influenced debates over the length of prison sentences, but “the biggest debate is over what is happening in prison” about terror recruitment, she said.

Both masterminds of the Paris terror attacks were likely radicalised in prison, she said, and a recent issue of the Islamic State’s online magazine mentioned that prison time furthers the organisation’s cause by allowing it to spread its message.

Growing pains

All of that puts authorities into even more of a bind when it comes to dealing with terror convicts.

Switzerland has its own special challenges. Merging the country’s international affairs and strategic intelligence services back in 2010 has

resulted in a clash of legal frameworks, said Schori Liang.

“At the same time, Swiss authorities are monitoring social media activity of about 400 possible terrorists who might pose a security threat,” she said. “The number is always increasing and eventually it will be difficult to keep up the pace.”

Mermoud agrees that Switzerland’s existing structures – especially the fact that each canton’s authorities work autonomously – “can be a bit of an obstacle” when it comes to communicating and fighting terror threats.

On the question of dealing with released terror convicts, however, Mermoud said he is “confident that the Swiss will find a Swiss compromise – nothing extreme, with some surveillance; something in the middle.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: There are certain countries that are living in a parallel universe – e.g.



Switzerland, Norway, and Luxenburg. Big beautiful bubbles burst out ugly!



A novel excuse for Islamic terrorism in Munich

By Malcolm Unwell

Source: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2016/07/a_novel_excuse_for_islamic_terrorism_in_munich_h_.html

July 25 – **The German media is just as leftist and ridiculous as ours, and this has been further evidenced by the response to the latest shooting in Munich.** Predictably, the shooting by the 18-year-old “Iranian-German” of nine Germans outside a McDonald’s has led to calls for stricter gun control. And we’ve also seen the usual explanation of “mental illness.” I heard someone quip that mental illness is apparently widespread in Islam.

But in addition to that, in a novel approach to exonerating Muslims of any culpability, the terrorist attack has been blamed on first-person shooting videogames. While this is new and



creative spin by the MSM, it also seems a bit retro. Wasn't it back in the '90s when we were blaming videogames for society's ills? (Not that I'm a big fan of videogames – I just see Islamic terrorists as somewhat more imminent of a threat.)

From [Die Welt](#): “The shooter was a pronounced first-person shooter player” (my translation). On the comment boards, where one finds more frankness about these matters than in the articles themselves, the analysis is much more interesting.

Here's a comment by “XX”:

The attacker here was the son of an Iranian immigrant.

The axeman came here two years ago from Pakistan.

Was mich interessiert (What interests me): If both of these men weren't here, would we have had this attack? [...]

And he goes on to point out that all of the claptrap about how the terrorist got the gun, first-person shooter games, mental illness, etc., is merely a distraction from the real issue: immigration.

I concur with XX.

Syrian asylum-seeker who blew himself up in Ansbach, Germany, was about to be deported

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160725-syrian-asylumseeker-who-blew-himself-up-in-ansbach-germany-was-about-to-be-deported>

July 25 – A 27-year old Syrian refugee whose asylum application had been denied, and who was about to be deported to Bulgaria, blew himself up Sunday evening outside a wine bar in the Bavarian town of Ansbach.

Twelve people were injured in the explosion, three of them seriously.

Tobias Plate, a spokesman for Germany's interior ministry said on Monday, “I can't say at this moment why the deportation didn't take place,” said.

The *Independent* reports that the suspect arrived in Germany two years ago seeking asylum. He was allowed to stay in the country temporarily after his application was rejected. The police said that he had attempted suicide previously and had received psychiatric care.

The *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung* reports Monday that the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), Germany's equivalent of the FBI, has investigated 410 cases of possible terrorist connections among asylum seekers since the beginning of 2015.

Next war with Hezbollah could cause “thousands of civilian deaths” in Israel

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160725-report-next-war-with-hezbollah-could-cause-thousands-of-civilian-deaths-in-israel>

July 25 – Israeli officials believe that a future war with Hezbollah, with its advanced Iranian-supplied rocket arsenal, could lead to “thousands of civilian deaths,” a [white paper](#) published by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies revealed.



An Iranian weapons shipment to Gaza terrorists intercepted by IDF forces in March 2014.

The paper, authored by Jonathan Schanzer, Tony Badran, and David Daoud, explores the history of Hezbollah's conflict with Israel, the possibility of a future conflict, the consequences of a potential war, and policy recommendations to prevent such a war.



After the last war between Hezbollah and Israel ended in 2006, “gradually and intensively, Hezbollah was able to rebuild itself into a more lethal and dangerous force, far surpassing its previous capabilities,” Brig. Gen. (ret.) Yakov Shahrabani, the former head of intelligence for the Israeli Air Force, wrote in the paper’s foreword. **Hezbollah is now believed by Israel to possess about 150,000 rockets, which exceeds the combined arsenals of all non-U.S. NATO countries and is ten times larger than its arsenal before the 2006 war.**

Hezbollah forces are currently bogged down in Syria and can ill-afford to open a new front with Israel, and a mutual understanding between the two sides apparently exists, by which Hezbollah will not attack Israel (outside of the Golan) as long as Israel doesn’t target Hezbollah in Lebanon. However, the researchers wrote, “Every skirmish, however small, runs the risk of sparking a larger conflict that neither side intends. Senior Israeli military figures refer to this as the ‘slippery slope’ scenario in which relatively minor tactical strikes can lead to reprisals, which in turn may escalate into a larger conflagration.”

Because of Hezbollah’s advanced capabilities, its threats to strike Israeli civilian centers can’t be discounted. For example Hezbollah leaders have threatened to make a push into the Galilee “and beyond.” Hezbollah likely doesn’t have the capability to hold any territory, so “most likely, its aim will be to seize, even if for a few hours, a small town or a kibbutz on the border, to score a psychological and propaganda victory.”

Given Hezbollah’s arsenal and its threats to strike at Haifa, Tel Aviv, and other sites inside Israel, the Israeli government and military “is preparing for large numbers of rockets, not

to mention heavy casualties and damage, and is talking in terms of thousands of civilian deaths.” Because of Hezbollah’s threat, especially to Israel’s north, Israel is preparing to evacuate whole communities in the event of a future conflict.

On the other side, Hezbollah’s tactic of embedding its military infrastructure, including a sophisticated maze of tunnels to hide military assets, in civilian areas means that Lebanese civilians are also likely to suffer. The report quotes Maj. Gen. Yair Golan, the IDF’s deputy chief of staff, who predicted in April that Hezbollah’s purposeful endangerment of civilian lives would have devastating consequences. “There is no other way to take out this threat without ... creating large damage to the Lebanese infrastructure, to Lebanese houses and other civilian facilities,” he said.

Because of the threats to Israeli civilians, the report concluded, in any future war with Hezbollah, “the IDF will immediately deploy overwhelming force in a combined arms operation” in order “to bring the war to a quick, decisive end.” There are many actions the United States could take in order to delay the war and weaken Hezbollah so that it can end quickly, the researchers wrote. They recommended, among other things, that the United States should use diplomatic channels to make clear to Iran that it must stop arming Hezbollah; continue targeting Hezbollah with international sanctions; and be aware of Israel’s military needs before and during a war, including providing “increased funds for additional interceptors for missile defense systems like Iron Dome and David’s Sling, as well as tunnel detection and destruction technology.”

Man injured in shooting at Malmö shopping mall

Source: <http://www.thelocal.se/20160726/man-injured-in-shooting-at-rosengrd-shopping-mall>



July 26 – Police cordoned off an area around a shopping centre in the Rosengård area of Malmö after a man was shot on Tuesday afternoon. Regional newspaper Sydsvenskan reported that a man was taken to hospital by ambulance after being shot inside the shopping centre just after 4pm. The extent of his injuries was not immediately known.



"It's messy in there, but one man has been shot – probably in the leg. He has been taken to hospital," Lotta Svensson, a police officer on the scene, told the paper.

Police cordoned off the area and initially allowed nobody to enter

or exit the shopping centre, which houses shops, restaurants and a major supermarket. They later began letting people out after 5pm.

Svensson said officers were investigating the incident and speaking to witnesses. Dog handlers were searching the site for weapons and the potential shooter, however no arrests had been made by 6pm.

Malmö, including its Rosengård district, regularly hits the headlines over gun crime, much of it believed to be gang-related. Last summer police stepped up their presence in the area following a spate of grenade attacks.



'Mere Islam' and the Munich Massacre

By Raymond Ibrahim

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6141/mere-islam-and-munich-massacre>

July 25 – A German-born 18-year-old of Iranian descent named Ali Sonboly went on a shooting spree last Friday. He reportedly targeted young children and murdered nine.



This incident is a reminder that the ongoing terrorization of the West is not limited to the Islamic State (ISIS), "extreme" Wahhabi or Salafi interpretations of Islam, or terrorists posing as refugees entering the West.

Ali Sonboly was none of those. He was born and raised in Germany and, based on his name and

Iranian heritage, was most likely of Shia background.

But he was a Muslim. According to [one witness](#) he screamed Islam's ancient war cry "Allahu Akbar" during his rampage and, less significantly, he launched his attack on [the one day of the week that many calculated Islamic attacks on non-Muslims occur: Friday](#).^[1]



And that is the grand lesson of the Munich massacre. *Mere Islam*—to borrow from C.S. Lewis' [famous book](#) about the many commonalities shared by most Christian denominations—is responsible for the ongoing terrorization of the West.

If you doubt this, simply turn to a [recent study](#). It found that Muslims of all sects, races, and sociopolitical circumstances—not just "ISIS"—are responsible for persecuting Christians in 41 of the 50 worst nations to be Christian in: Shia Iran is the ninth worst nation, "Wahhabi" Saudi Arabia is 14th, while "moderate" countries like Malaysia and Indonesia are ranked 30 and 43 respectively.

The common denominator in all these nations is Islam—without qualifier.

Even ISIS' abhorrent treatment of Christians and other non-Muslims is only an extreme reflection of what *Muslims in general* are doing to non-Muslims all around the world. See "[Muslim Persecution of Christians](#)," reports which I've been compiling every month for five years this month, and witness the nonstop discrimination, persecution, and carnage committed against Christians by "everyday" Muslims—from the highest authorities to the basest mobs. Each monthly report (there are currently 58) contains dozens of atrocities, any of which if committed by Christians against Muslims would receive 24/7 blanket coverage. While the media concoct any number of lies to dispel the Islamic nature of the Munich attack—the [usual strategies](#), especially talk of "[grievances](#)," are already being employed—the fact remains: for all the differences and tensions between Europe's native and Muslim populations, the Christians being persecuted by Muslims are often identical to their persecutors in race, ethnicity, national identity, culture, and language. There is no political dispute, no land dispute. Nor do these disempowered and ostracized Christian minorities have any political power—meaning there are no Muslim "[grievances](#)" either.

So why are they hated and hounded? Because they are Christians—that is, non-Muslim *infidels*—and that's the real reason Western people are being terrorized by Muslims, most recently (or at least as of this writing) in Munich.

Ugly or not, this truth, that *mere Islam*—not "ISIS," "Salafism," "Wahhabism," or "Shiism"—promotes hate for and violence against non-Muslims will never be remedied until those in positions of leadership first acknowledge it. And, with the notable exception of Donald Trump, they are very far from doing so.

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[1] Lamenting how Muslims are often riled against "infidels" during weekly Friday mosque sermons in Egypt, a Coptic Christian once said, "Let me tell you ... we [Christians] know that every Friday is a day of death; that the day after Friday, on Saturday, we'll be carried to the morgue!"

Who can stop a jihadi? Try his mom.

Source: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/The-best-defense-against-jihad-Moms-8393454.php>



► Read more at source's URL.

July 20 – When 19-year-old Akhor Saidakhmetov started hanging out with two older men and talking about waging jihad in Syria, his mother took away his passport. Later, when he begged to get it back—admitting that he wanted to join the Islamic State—she hung up the phone. Mothers like her may be the first, last, and best approach to stopping militant recruiters, but law enforcement often leaves them out of their counterterrorism efforts in the U.S. and Europe.



Fearing Terrorism, Europeans Look for Safer Vacation Destinations

Henrique Almeida and Maria Tadeo, Bloomberg

Source: <https://skift.com/2016/07/26/fearing-terrorism-europeans-look-for-safer-vacation-destinations/>

Fears about terrorism are understandable, but savvy travelers might want to avoid the crowds in Spain, Portugal and Italy and head to France and Turkey. That's where the deals are.

— Brian Sumers

July 26 – Almodena Martin is scrambling to keep up with tourists flooding to the Canary Islands



hotels where she works. Reservations are up as much as 20 percent this year as terror attacks and security worries elsewhere draw visitors to the safety of countries like Spain.

"There's been a lot of last-minute bookings, we've had to hire new staff and redo our planning board for the summer to cope with new demand," said the assistant general manager at Seaside Hotels, which has two five-star properties on the islands. "We also have many clients who have stayed with us twice this year because it's a safe destination."

After multiple attacks in France and a failed coup in Turkey, [both Spain and its Iberian neighbor Portugal are forecasting a record number of visitors this year as tourists seek sun in destinations perceived as safer](#). For Portugal, it's also helping fuel a push to keep the destination on travelers' year-round itineraries.

"Portugal always shows up as a safe destination," the nation's Economy Minister Manuel Caldeira Cabral said in an interview. The country is working to find different segments, like sporting and corporate events, to fill hotels in the winter. "Next year, we are going to see less concentration in the peak season and a more even spread of tourists not only across the time frame of the year, but also across the country."

Tourism is big business for both economies — generating about 10 percent of gross domestic product in both Spain and Portugal. In Spain, arrivals were up 7.4 percent through May this year, while visitor spending jumped 7.8 percent. Overnight stays by non-residents in Portugal advanced 13 percent in the same period.

Regional Unrest

Turkey and France have seen the opposite. France, the world's most visited country, suffered an 8.7 percent drop in foreign visitors in the fourth quarter of last year — when terrorists killed 130 people in and around Paris.

[Turkey "is seen as conflict area,"](#) said Professor Josep Francesc Valls, a lecturer at ESADE Business School in Spain. As people increasingly shun it, they turn to Iberia because the visitor profile of many of those who go to Turkey — European families seeking sunny weather — is similar to that in Spain, according to Valls.

Portuguese Investment

That's not to say that Portugal is taking anything for granted — it has bolstered security measures at airports and popular tourist destinations, following the "terrible events" in France and Turkey, Cabral said. It's also increased the number of doctors in the Algarve region in the summer.

The government is providing credit lines for innovative hotel projects and to help existing hotel owners renovate their properties. It's also building a free wifi network in historic centers across the country as it simplifies legislation on short-term rentals in a bid to increase the quality and sustainability of the tourism sector in Portugal, said Cabral. His government is also playing a role in



helping Lisbon attract big conferences such as November's "The Web Summit," one of the world's biggest gatherings of start-ups.

"When tourism is going quite well we have to work to guarantee that this is not a peak or a fashion but a trend," said Cabral. "And we want to maintain that trend."

At the Conrad Algarve Hotel in Quinta do Logo, rooms cost about 500 euros (\$550) a night in high season but that hasn't kept people from selecting it this summer, according to its director.

"Overall, our bookings for the summer are well above expectations," said Joachim Hartl. "One of the big factors of this destination is safety and security. This has helped increase tourism overall to Portugal." That will "surely" benefit Portugal in the off-peak season, he added.

Italy, Too

The impact isn't limited to just Spain and Portugal, according to Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. In Costa Smeralda, an upscale stretch of seaside resorts in Sardinia, the company's growth was 33 percent in the first six months from the year earlier.

"There was a significant increase in bookings from both Italian and foreign travelers because indeed, they feel more secure in Italy now," said Robert Koren, a company vice president, in a statement.

Spanish Trend

While Spain is no stranger to violence, its last major terrorist attack was 12 years ago. [The country enjoyed a bumper year for tourism last year](#), with a record 68 million visitors arriving to the nation as it became one of the main beneficiaries of the political unrest across the Mediterranean. And it looks on track to hit a new milestone this year, according to Madrid-based agency Exceltur, which sees Spain hitting a fresh high of 74 million tourists.

One of them is Hungarian Laszlo Ludas. The 43-year-old IT manager was on his sixth trip to Spain, stopping in Madrid to take in the Hieronymous Bosch exhibit at the Prado.

"I just love Spain — the culture, the language," he said last week, sipping coffee as he waited in line. "It's true safety can't be guaranteed anywhere, but I don't worry about security here."

The Psychological Effects of Witnessing Terrorism

By Scott N. Romaniuk & Emeka T. Njoku

Source: <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/the-psychological-effects-of-witnessing-terrorism/>

July 25 – Three major terrorist attacks in France in 18 months and the psychological effects of these



ongoing assaults against French society are mounting. While the most impacting effects of terrorist attacks are the immediate victims who lay lifeless as a result of bomb blasts, gunfire, or, as we just witnessed during France's beloved Bastille day celebrations in Nice, a truck as it was driven into crowds of people along the Promenade des Anglais. **The other victims are those who sustain injuries but also those who go home at the end of the night, taking away visions of violence and lethality, lasting memories that can have a destructive impact on people, communities, and societies for years and decades after such an event.**

relations or dynamics in a given territory or community, no matter the size or location. Though we are all aware of the existence of terrorism as a tactic to achieve specific and

Domestic and international terrorism is an ongoing phenomenon involving physical and psychological acts to change or establish power



often times varied political and military ends, its long-term public health ramifications are especially important, yet understudied by specialists in the fields of terrorism and security studies.

Speaking of the recent attack in Nice, Severine, mother of 13-year old Marina, told reporters that, “I looked at my children – I saw the fear in their eyes.” Both have sought psychological assistance like many others at the children’s hospital in Nice. Another center that provides psychological support for the victims has been full since the day of the attack. Psychologist Isabelle Buchet explained that some of those they are seeing are the parents of children killed in the attack. “They can’t speak. They’re still in shock,” said Psychologist Isabelle Buchet, “[i]n an emergency like this, when it’s only been two days, it’s really just a way of letting them know they’re not alone and the door is open.”

Much of the existing literature on terrorism focuses on the direct or primary victim (with the attackers receiving significant coverage) but the impact on secondary victims who often suffer from cognitive, behavioral, and emotional outcomes, outstretches that of the both. Witnessing terrorism or terrorist acts can lead people of all ages, particularly children, (though the effects can take different forms depending on the age of the witness) and backgrounds to develop a spectrum of harmful effects. Looking at terrorism overall we can say that we all “cope” with it in one manner or another. In one way, we manage ourselves in the midst of constant threats and the fear that those threats may bring. In another way, we are forced to manage the implications of violent acts that emerge from the initial threats.

Helplessness and fear are the most dominant impacts on witnesses of terrorism. This feeling can be pervasive and extend from one individual to another, permeating entire communities. Given that terrorism is a random occurrence (at least to the victims or to those targeted) fear can easily be strengthened by a number of aiding factors such as population size, density, diversity, and history. A sense of belonging or being part of a community may strengthen an individual’s resolve, aid in the healing process, or diminish the effects of witnessing or being a part of a terrorist act, but it cannot necessarily shelter an individual and prevent her from being affected. In a study published in The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder’s

(PTSD) *PTSD Research Quarterly*, Heidi Resnick, Sandro Galea, Dean Kilpatrick, David Vlahov, wrote that, after the World Trade Center was destroyed, PTSD cases among the population of Manhattan 5-8 weeks after the attacks was about 7.5% with depression having been recorded at 9.7%.

Taking the past three terrorist cases of France over the course of a year-and-a-half, this string of violence is cultivating a deep and broad sense of vulnerability and grief that will require years of professional attention to help the victims carry on with their lives as well it ought to garner much study by scholars beyond the medical community, particularly those working the social sciences. Compounding both, but particularly the latter, stems from recurrent acts that leave societies with inadequate time for processing the events, effects, and the human loss attached to the Nice disaster. Such feelings come despite knowledge of victim identity or personal connection with someone who was killed in a terrorist event. It is difficult to claim that we are all devoid of personal connection from each other when we live in the same city or in the same country, under the same flag, even more so when the terrorists is a fellow citizen and a father of three as was the attacker named Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel.

Children, while typically more resilient than adults and adaptive to change, can also be highly impressionable and witnessing terrorism can lead them to feel a sense of constant insecurity, anxiety, as well as experience a sense of worthlessness and a sense of powerlessness. They may, like adults, feel a profound sense of anger as well as shame and sadness. Both children and adults might begin to question why they were spared and why others had to die. Thus, a tremendous sense of guilt can become attached to being alive in light of such tragic events. They can be very confusing thoughts and feelings and challenging for one to sort through alone.

Personal attitude shifts are a substantial consequence of terrorist violence and have become the cornerstone of the current migrant “crisis” affecting much of Europe and European Union (EU) states. In the weeks and months following 9/11, anti-Islamic rhetoric and sentiment became commonplace across the United States (US) and was in many cases difficult to temper or contain.



Xenophobic sentiments fester and can be easily popularized or sensationalized by the governments and political figures of target states. This can be seen as a secondary form of victimization of those who witnessed terrorist events. An equally perplexing condition emerges when victims share the same ethnicity as the attackers. Xenophobia might even take on a life of its own in societies with large populations and population densities by fostering a stronger and more powerful form of distrust and fear of one another.

The American Psychological Association (APA) explains that, “[t]he fear generated by terrorism can be exacerbated by a population’s diversity if there is distrust between groups, categories and classification of citizens. It is important to recognize that diversity in a population can be an opportunity for unity and strength. There are members of our diverse society who have experienced past terrorist incidents. The knowledge and experience they have gained from surviving and coping with these incidents can make them a valuable resource on how to cope and how to offer assistance to others.

People who witness terrorist attacks and thus go through an exceptionally traumatic process might also have experienced violence or trauma in the past. Survivors of trauma can therefore be more susceptible to the effects of witnessing terrorism, whether this takes place on the street or on the television. It is difficult, if not almost impossible, to disassociate yourself from others and the events that are taking place in one’s own country because of the political, social, and cultural connections that already exists.

Shaking the memories of terrorism can be a daunting and horrifying challenge. Expectations of “getting over” such a traumatic may not always be realistic. Thoughts of a violent incident like terrorism shares many commonalities with other forms of violence like domestic violence. Recurrence can last for a long time and might never completely disappear. Memories sparked by false warnings or constant media coverage of other events of merely of the topic of terrorism itself can prolong recovery times. People can also develop a deep sense of anxiety and fear of everything around them, preventing them from living normal and healthy lives. Imbedding roadblocks into people’s lives can result in the disruption of routinized behavior or the patterns that make

people comfortable and provide a positive sense of security.

In the post-9/11 world and with the rise of and growing power of extremist organizations like the Islamic State and many others, it is difficult to imagine going through our daily lives without witnessing terrorism in some form or another. The media plays no small role in proliferating the images that can have tremendously negative effects on thousands, if not millions of people, around the globe. The recovery rates of people and societies witnessing terrorism events, even major ones like 9/11, vary dramatically. It can be misleading to hold that the so-called “recovery” of a society means that each and every individual within that society has healed from an event or series of violent events.

Professor Andrew Silke, psychologist and Director of Terrorism Studies at the University of East London, United Kingdom (UK), noted that, in the wake of catastrophic attacks such as 9/11, American society overall displayed a quick recovery. “In the days immediately after the attacks, stress reactions and anxiety were very common, but these symptoms did not persist; they quickly returned to pre-9/11 levels for most. Psychologists found that the American public tended to be remarkably resilient in dealing with terrorism and this has also been the finding in regions which experience terrorist attacks on a frequent and widespread basis.”

Despite the psychological and emotional damage caused by ongoing terrorism there are numerous examples to show that strength can be drawn through violence.

However, we tend to overlook the lasting effects on individuals in favour of superficial recovery on a larger scale. Professor Steven D. Stellman published his findings in the *Journal of Traumatic Stress* about the high prevalence of comorbid PTSD and depression in approximately 30,000 people who were on the scene after the 9/11 attacks in New York (this number is composed of rescue workers, residents, and bystanders). As noted by Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, “[p]articipants were enrollees in the World Trade Center Health Registry who had participated in three waves of data collection between 2003 and 2012. One-fifth of those studied, or 5,896 enrollees, screened positive for either PTSD or depression 10 years after 9/11, and just over half



of those, or 2,985, screened positive for both conditions. In other words, persons with either condition were more likely to have both than either outcome alone ... Comorbid PTSD and depression was associated with high 9/11 exposures, low social integration, and health-related unemployment. Comorbid individuals experienced poorer life satisfaction and overall health, and reported greater unmet mental health care needs compared to those with a single condition."

While a very small fraction of the population of Northern Ireland showed signs of psychiatric stress or became what psychiatric casualties due to terrorism and political violence, Palestinian terrorism had a tremendous effect on Israeli society, changing many social and political currents of the country. According to Professor Dov Waxman of Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, "[n]ineteen months into the second Intifada, 16.4 percent of Israeli adults said they were the victims of a terrorist attack, 22.1 percent had friends or relatives who were victims, and a further 15.3 percent knew someone who survived a terrorist attack without injury. In total, a staggering **44.4 percent of the Israeli population was exposed to a terrorist attack**. With terrorist attacks affecting so many people, it is not surprising that they resulted in widespread psychological problems. More than a third of Israelis who participated in a major psychological study reported at least one traumatic stress-related symptom (TSR), with an average of four symptoms reported per person."

Further research and attempts to manage the effects of terrorism can assume a state-level approach and one that focuses on the individual and community. Despite states showing resilience to terrorism, there are moments when each person fears for their own safety and the people around them, whether they are family members, friends, co-workers, or

acquaintances. Although overt threats to security like terrorism can become a frequent occurrence, less common or even rare incidences can have a stronger impact on a population. The effects of the 9/11 attacks and Palestinian terrorist attacks still afflict thousands of people who were there and witnessed the violence themselves or felt their effects in other form. The assertion that societies adapt and recover from terrorism can be greatly misleading.

While societies in which people witness terrorism, as Silke puts it, "sometimes on an hourly basis ... do not collapse under the psychological strain," individuals within that society might carry their experiences with them for many years, perhaps decades. Caught between terrorism, the threat of terrorism, and frequent warnings about terrorism and the looming dangers in society, people of all societies are caught between very stressful (thought potentially opposing) forces. Society as a whole cannot be expected to have recovered if a considerable percentage of people who comprise that society continue to carry their trauma with them. Each case may bring different outcomes and the effects of one case may not mirror those of another.

The psychological effects of witnessing terrorism require renewed and even more intensive study, particularly in light of the events that have taken place in France, though affect the lives of many non-French citizens who post-event take their trauma with them back to their own countries of dwelling. Without continuously observing the aftereffects concerning those who witness terrorism and political violence we cannot adhere so adamantly to the claim that, "over time most people recover well and are soon able to function normally again (at least within a matter of months)," as Waxman writing about the Israeli experience during the Second Intifada (sometimes referred to as the "al-Aqsa Intifada") contends.

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New tool keeps track of violent groups without having to geolocate the tweets

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160727-new-tool-keeps-track-of-violent-groups-without-having-to-geolocate-the-tweets>

July 27 – New sentiment analysis algorithms developed by researchers at the University of Salamanca (USAL) are able to monitor the social network Twitter in search of violent groups. The system analyses both the messages these individuals share and how their relationships develop. Sinc [reports](#) that Spanish law enforcement authorities have already expressed interest in the tool.



European detail map of Flickr and Twitter locations. / Eric Fischer

“This system could have been very useful — for example — as a support system to control the violent football fans that caused serious incidents during Euro 2016 in France,” points to Sinc Juan Manuel Corchado, professor of Computer Science and leader of the [Bisite](#) artificial intelligence team at USAL.

According to Corchado, the police and other law enforcement agencies could use the tool to detect critical points, threats, and areas with concentrations of potentially dangerous people. “It’s based both on the semantic analysis of messages and historical data and their evolution.”

To develop the tool, the team used hybrid neural-symbolic artificial intelligence systems and methods that solve problems using a

combination of different algorithms, “with good results,” he highlights.

Analysis in different languages

The advantage of the new application, says Corchado, is that it can analyze emotions in different languages —at the moment, Spanish, English, French, German, Russian, and Arabic — and it continuously extracts communications information and sees changes in individuals’ sentiments and physical location, analyzing group interrelationships at the same time.

“It can establish where a dangerous user is located with reasonable precision, based on what they share on Twitter and how and with whom they are connecting at any time, without the



need of geolocating tweets,” he adds. Depending on the traffic generated among people, it is possible to identify the members of a group, its leaders and followers. It is also possible to see how relationships evolve and whether new members join a group. In addition, says the researcher, having identified the leaders, the tool can try to influence them to change their sentiments.

Corchado assures that the tool is at a very advanced stage. “We’ve developed a prototype for experimenting with new algorithms and functions, and we’ve almost perfected the system to follow individuals and their social contacts, which is able to monitor the interaction between different people or groups and the evolution of their relationships. All that, in a very dynamic, user-friendly format,” he stresses.

Preventing bullying and racism

Other uses of the system could be preventing phenomena such as bullying and racism. It can also be used to analyze what is being said about companies, brands and people on social media. The USAL researchers are already working with national law enforcement authorities, who will soon begin validation of the tool. “I can’t tell you any more at the present time,” says the professor.

Sinc notes that the tool will be put to market through partner companies of the Bisite group, which is very active in transferring technology to the corporate world. The team has close links with companies such as Telefónica, IBM, Iberdrola, Indra, and CSA, among others. With CSA, the team is working in a project called [PIAR](#), which has enabled the development of highly sophisticated sentiment analysis algorithms that can be used in security applications.

Dutch police on lookout for three aging Baader-Meinhof gang members suspected in recent heists

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160727-dutch-police-on-lookout-for-three-aging-baadermeinhof-gang-members-suspected-in-recent-heists>

July 27 – Dutch police detectives are on the lookout for three aging German far-left militants who have disappeared decades ago but who have emerged as the main suspects in a series of recent heists.

Ernst-Volker Staub, 61, Burkhard Garweg, 47, and 57-year-old Daniela Klette are former members of the violent Red Army Faction (RAF) — also known as the

Baader-Meinhof gang — a German militant group which terrorized Germany (then: West Germany) the 1970s and 1980s with a campaign of bombings, arson, kidnappings, and killings.

DutchNews reports that the Dutch and German police suspect the three aging militants are behind a series of attacks on armed money-transporting vehicles and at least six supermarket robberies.

“Police have reason to believe that the three are living in the Netherlands,” a statement from the

Dutch police said. “Crimes were committed on the Dutch-German border, they have not yet been detained in Germany and a mobile phone belonging to one of the fugitives was switched off in the Netherlands.”



In four of the six supermarket holdups, between €46,000 and €100,000 were stolen. In the holdups on 7 May and 6 June, the perpetrators just took the security guards' firearms, but no cash.

On 7 June, while two robbers disarmed two security guards stationed outside the supermarket and escaped with their firearms, two other robbers attacked a money-transporting van with an AK-47 assault rifles. The attackers in that attack, after firing a few rounds at the armored van, fled without taking any cash, police said.

DutchNews notes that the Dutch police believes the three militants may be living on a small secluded farm or anonymously in a city, "constantly changing from home to home and pretending to be tourists ... The fugitives are armed and dangerous and should by no means be approached when spotted," the police said. The three militants are among a larger group of fugitives who have been on the run for three

decades for membership of the Marxist RAF. As was the case with the Brigade Rosse (Red Brigade) in Italy and the Japanese Red Army, the RAF emerged as a militant, radicalized fringe of the 1960s student protest movement.

The RAF officially disbanded in 1998.

The founders of the RAF both killed themselves in jail: Ulrike Meinhof on 9 May 1976, and Andreas Baader on 18 October 1977.

Staub, Garweg, and Klette, who were members of what was called the RAF's "third generation," who continued to operate in Germany in the 1980s and early 1990s. Their last terrorist act in Germany is believed to have been the 1993 explosives attack on the construction site of a new prison in Hesse state in central Germany. Members of the group entered the construction site at night, abducted a security guards, then placed explosive throughout the site, causing about €600,000 of property damage.

Killer of French priest was in jail for trying to join ISIS, but was paroled in March

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160727-killer-of-french-priest-was-in-jail-for-trying-to-join-isis-but-was-paroled-in-march>

July 27 – Adel Kermiche, the mentally disturbed 19-year old ISIS follower who slit the throat of a Catholic priest during mass in the small town of Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray — near Rouen in Normandy in north-west France — was sent to prison in May 2015 for trying to go to Syria to join ISIS, but was released on parole on March 2016 over the objections of the prosecution.

Kermiche's family told the police that he had become increasingly radicalized, and friends said he talked openly about attacking a church.

Fellow students in the high school he attended described Kermiche as "easily influenced" and a "buffoon" who never took to learning. One teenager [told Le Monde](#): "I wasn't surprised. He talked about it all the time. He talked about Islam, the things like this he was going to do. He talked about the Qur'an and Mecca and he told me 'I'm going to attack a church'. He said this two months ago on leaving the mosque. On my mother's life I didn't believe him."

Kermiche and another teenager who took part in the were shot dead by police.

The *Wall Street Journal* [reports](#) that the German police stopped Kermiche in March 2015 as he tried to make his way to Syria to join ISIS. A French court gave him a conditional parole as he awaited trial. Ignoring the parole's conditions, in May 2015 he made it to Turkey in a second attempt to join ISIS, but was stopped by the Turkish police and sent back to France. He tried to enter Syria again, this time via Turkey.

He spent ten month in jail, and over the objections of the prosecution, was released in March 2016. He was ordered to wear an electronic bracelet, and was allowed to leave home only on weekdays between 8.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m.

Parts of his legal file, [published](#) in *Le Monde*, show that he had exhibited signs of "psychological troubles" since the age of six, and that he was regularly hospitalized for these problems.

During a parole hearing in March this year, Kermiche told the judge he "regretted his attempts to leave for Syria."



"I want to get back my life, to see my friends, to get married," he said.

The public prosecutor objected. "Even if he is asking for a second chance, there's a very strong chance he will do the same thing if he is released," the prosecutor said.

The Tribune de Genève [reports](#) that after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack in January 2015, he became secretive, started attending a mosque, and angrily lectured his non-practicing relatives and friends.

Kermiche's parents immigrated to France from Algeria, and his mother is a professor at a local college. The family desperately tried to keep pull him back from his growing radicalization, but to no avail.

"He said that [Muslims] couldn't exercise their religion peacefully in France," his mother said. "He spoke with words that didn't belong to him. He was under a spell, like a cult."

The *NouvelObs* [reports](#) that a local Mosque tried to help the family, and asked him to stay away from prayers.

A local man who knew the teenager [told](#) *Le Parisien*: "Adel, he didn't have much in his head, he wasn't very smart and he'd never succeeded at anything." Another local resident told the newspaper: "Everyone knows that this kid was a ticking time bomb. He was too strange."

A neighbor of the family [told](#) *Le Figaro* that Kermiche showed visible signs of mental disturbance. "He was crazy, he was talking to himself."

Stop the nonsense about terrorists with psychological problems!

Source: <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/wuerzburg-und-ansbach-attentaeter-hatten-kontakt-nach-saudi-arabien-a-1106207.html>

Würzburg und Ansbach: Attentäter hatten Kontakt nach Saudi-Arabien

Von Andreas Ulrich



REUTERS

Ermittler nach dem Anschlag von Ansbach

Die Attentäter von Ansbach und Würzburg holten sich nach SPIEGEL-Informationen Rat bei mutmaßlichen IS-Mitgliedern in Saudi-Arabien. Chatprotokolle legen nahe, dass sich der Angreifer beim Musikfest versehentlich tötete.

Aug 08 – Der Spiegel: Ansbach and Wurzburg terrorists were in direct contact with ISIS!



British security services warn attack on UK is 'very likely' as churches on terror alert after Normandy priest murder

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/26/british-security-services-warn-attack-in-uk-is-very-likely/>

July 27 – A terrorist attack in the UK is "highly likely" following attacks in other parts of Europe, a five-judge tribunal has heard, as churches in Britain are told to tighten security after the murder of an 85-year-old priest in Normandy. The heightened state of security comes as images threatening attacks in London and other major world capitals were reportedly posted on Telegram, a messaging app used by



jihadis.

Despite there being no specific intelligence relating to attacks against the Christian community in the UK, the National Police Chiefs' Council is urging the community to be alert but not alarmed, report concerns and review their security as a precaution.

Neil Basu, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said: "There is no specific intelligence relating to attacks against the Christian community in the UK.

"However, as we have seen, Daesh and other terrorist groups have targeted Christian as well as Jewish and other faith groups in the West and beyond.

"Following recent events in France, we are reiterating our protective security advice to Christian places of worship and have circulated specific advice today. We are also taking this opportunity to remind them to review their security arrangements as a precaution.

"While the threat from terrorism remains unchanged at severe, we urge the public to be vigilant."

The church that was targeted in Normandy had been on a "hit list" found on a 24-year-old Algerian jihadi who had planned attacks last year in a Parisian suburb.

Sid Ahmed Ghlam, a computer sciences student, was arrested by French police who are investigating whether he was directed to carry out attacks on churches by Isil.

One of the killers, named as Adel Kermiche, was known to have been radicalised and was on a watch list as a potential threat to national security.

Father Jacques Hamel was murdered in the church of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, Normandy
Credit: AFP/Getty



The warning that a terror attack may happen in the UK came from Britain's intelligence agencies as they defended themselves against accusations of engaging

in the mass collection of communications data and UK citizens' personal information without proper legal safeguards being in place.

The charity Privacy International has taken the issue before the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) in London in a hearing expected to last four days.

Thomas de la Mare QC, for the charity, told the tribunal there was no form of "red flag system" in place to protect the privacy of UK citizens from the "aggressive use" of data collection powers given to the security services under section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.

The accusations are being fought by the Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, MI6, MI5 and Government Communication Headquarters (GCHQ).

'The terrorists will not win', says PM after Normandy attack Play!
00:52



James Eadie QC, for the security services, is arguing that section 94 powers have at all times been used lawfully as an "essential tool" to meet the "increasing" terrorist threat.

His written argument before the tribunal says: "The threat level currently stands at SEVERE (sic), which means that an attack in the UK is highly likely."

He states the principal threat comes from militant Islamist extremists, as was more than apparent from the recent tragic terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Paris and Brussels. He says Northern

Ireland-related terrorism also remains a severe threat.

Privacy International says current secret government surveillance practices go beyond what was revealed in the case of whistle-blower Edward Snowden.

The charity says the security services hold large amounts of data about a wide range of people, most of which is unlikely to be of any intelligence interest.

Bulk personal data includes information extracted from passports, travel records, financial data, telephone calls and emails.

Recent terrorist attacks on Europeans

January 7, 2015 | Charlie Hebdo, Paris

Saïd and Chérif Kouachi shoot dead 12 people at the offices of satirical magazine. Islamist terrorist group Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen claimed responsibility for the attack.



January 8, 2015 | Jewish supermarket, Paris

Amedy Coulibaly killed a policewoman before entering a Jewish supermarket in Paris where he shot dead four others. Both Coulibaly and the Kouachi brothers were later shot dead by police. Coulibaly had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and was a close friend of Charlie Hebdo gunmen Saïd Kouachi and Chérif Kouachi, whom he had met in jail in 2005

June 26, 2015 | Sousse, Tunisia

Armed gunman Seifeddine Rezgui Yacoubi went on a shooting rampage at the tourist resort of Port El Kantaoui, killing 38 people – 30 of whom were British. Yacoubi, who had pledged allegiance to Islamic State, was killed by security forces during an exchange of fire.

June 26, 2015 | Chemical factory, near Grenoble

One man was beheaded and several others were injured. Yassine Salhi – who had links to Islamic State – was arrested and later committed suicide in prison.

August 21, 2015 | Amsterdam to Paris train

Three off-duty American marines overpowered an armed gunman on a high-speed train from Amsterdam to Paris. The suspect – Moroccan man Ayoub El Khazzani – was later arrested in Arras, northern France. No group officially claimed responsibility, but El Khazzani was thought to have been radicalised via online extremism.



November 13, 2015 | Restaurants, Bataclan and Stade de France, Paris

Scores were killed as men armed with Kalashnikovs and grenades carried out a series of attacks at restaurants, a concert hall and outside the Stade de France in Paris. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack

January 7, 2016 | Istanbul suicide bombing

This was the first major attack to hit Istanbul in its popular Sultanahmet district, close to the Hagia Sophia. The attacker was Nabil Fadli, a Syrian member of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

March 19, 2016 | Istanbul blast on popular street

5 dead, 36 injured. A suicide bomber hit İstiklal Avenue, one of the city's most popular shopping streets filled with cafes, restaurants and foreign consulates. Officials said Isil was to blame.

March 22, 2016 | Brussels attacks

Belgian capital is hit by attacks on Zaventem airport and the city's metro system, near a station close to European Union buildings. The perpetrators belonged to a terrorist cell which had been involved in the November 2015 Paris attacks, with links to Islamic State.

June 7, 2016 | Car bomb in Istanbul

11 dead, dozens injured. A rush-hour car bomb ripped through central Istanbul, killing 11 people and wounding dozens more in one of the worst terror attacks on the city for nearly a decade. Kurdish militant group TAK claimed responsibility

June 13, 2016 | Residential home, near Paris

Police officer Jean-Baptiste Salvaing and his wife, police secretary Jessica Schneider, were stabbed to death inside their home near Paris by a man who said he had pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

June 28, 2016 | Suicide bombing at Istanbul airport

41 dead, 239 injured. Three attackers detonated explosives after opening fire at Ataturk Airport. The attackers, who arrived by taxi, were reportedly trying to pass through the x-ray machines when stopped by security officials, which started a gun fight. The suicide bombs caused chaos and carnage, killing an estimated 41 people and injuring at least 239. Islamic State blamed.

July 14, 2016 | Promenade des Anglais, Nice

Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel killed 84 and injured scores more when he drove a lorry into a crowd of Bastille Day revellers in Nice. Thought to have links with Islamic State.

July 22 | Munich

Teenage gunman Ali Sonboly murders nine people and injures dozens more after luring children to a McDonald's restaurant in the city via Facebook. It appears the Iranian-German 18-year-old had been planning the attack for over a year and had literature about school attacks in America.

July 24 | Ansbach

A suicide bomber blew himself up after being turned away from a music festival in southern Germany. He was a Syrian man who had been denied asylum. The 27-year-old killed himself and injured 12 others when he detonated an explosive device after he was denied entry to the event in Ansbach, Bavaria, attended by around 2,500 people.

July 26 | Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray

Police shoot dead two men who took a priest and several others hostage at knifepoint at a church near Rouen, in north-western France. The men shouted "Daesh" and cut the priest's throat before being "neutralised," police said.

Media in denial over Islamist terror

By Tarek Fatah (Toronto Sun)

Source: <http://www.torontosun.com/2016/07/26/media-in-denial-over-islamist-terror>

A sign reading "why" is fixed where a shooting took place in front of a fast food restaurant leaving nine people dead the day before on Saturday, July 23, 2016 in Munich, Germany. (AP Photo/Sebastian Widmann)



July 26 – While the rest of the world reels from the shock of recent Islamist terror attacks in Germany and France, our ruling elite and media seem to be in a state of denial, if not fear, of being labelled “Islamophobic”.

The talking heads that feed our 24/7 news appetite on networks like CNN and the BBC best illustrate this condition.

The clearest example of such unnecessary caution was displayed following the July 22 Munich terror attack in which the gunman, David Ali Sonboly, committed suicide.

Among the first eyewitnesses who saw Sonboly in close quarters before he began his rampage, was a Muslim woman who spoke to CNN:

“My son saw a man in the toilet loading a gun. It was a pistol I hear ‘Allah O Akbar’ ‘Allah O Akbar’. This I know because I am Muslim. I hear this and I only cry.”

Despite a clear statement identifying the shooter as a Muslim, CNN’s hosts and commentators refused to give any credence to the woman’s account. There was even speculation the terrorist was a right-wing German extremist.

Tom Fuentes, former FBI Assistant Director effectively questioned the woman’s account by saying “Whether it’s Islamic terrorism or whether it’s right-wing terrorism designed to cause a backlash against Islamic people in Germany, and that’s a possibility as well...”

Michael Weiss, the respected author of *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, shrugged off the ‘Allah O Akbar’ clue, saying:

“The alleged shooter describes himself as being a German... I’ll be honest with you, I am tending a little bit more away from ISIS at this point,” he said.

Watching this exchange, I felt I was in some parallel universe, where truth, common sense and courage had committed collective harakiri.

My wife, amused at my exasperation reminded me of Matthew 15:14 in the Bible: “So ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch.”

As if the German right-wing theory being pushed by the talking heads were not enough, CNN’s “terrorism analyst” Paul Cruickshank comment made me shut off the TV set.

He predicted, “We don’t actually even know it’s terrorism in the sense of an attack with a political motive at this point” and later added “this may not end up being a terrorist attack at all.”

An hour later when I reluctantly came back to hear the latest from Munich, CNN’s justice correspondent Evan Perez set the seal by making the following pronouncement:

“It’s the fifth anniversary of the attack in Norway in which a right-wing attacker blew up a bomb at the parliament and then went after a youth conference...”

In the meantime the Muslim woman’s clip, who heard the “Allah O Akbar” giveaway chant, seemed to disappear from subsequent broadcasts.

Soon, Norway, Breivik and the German right-wing extremists were being touted as the villains. The inability to utter the words “Muslim” or “Islamic” was also reflected in the subsequent attacks this week.

On July 25, when an ISIS Syrian-born suicide bomber blew himself up outside a music festival in Bavaria, the BBC headline (subsequently changed) read: “Syrian migrant dies in German blast”.

The politically blind are indeed leading us. Fortunately the rest of us can see through this cowardice.

Blackout: Major French media outlets stop publishing names, photos of Islamic terrorists

By Douglas Ernst (The Washington Times)

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jul/27/major-french-media-outlets-stop-publishing-names-p/>

July 27 – **Major French media outlets will try a new strategy to curb terrorism in Europe: a news blackout of names and photos of attackers.** A slew of Islamic terror attacks in France since January 2015 have prompted news organizations to refrain from publishing information that might offer “posthumous glorification” to deceased terrorists.



"The sites and newspapers that produce this information cannot excuse themselves from self-examination on several fronts. Since ISIS terrorism first appeared, Le Monde has changed its practices several times," the newspaper [said](#) in an editorial published Wednesday.

The piece, titled "Resisting the strategy of hate," comes just one day after Islamists stormed into a Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray mass and slit the throat of an 85-year-old priest, Father Jacques Hamel.

The French television station BFM-TV and the Catholic newspaper La Croix are both following Le Monde's example, the Guardian [reported](#) Wednesday.

We made the decision last night to no longer show pictures of the terrorists until further notice," BFM-TV editorial director Hervé Bérout told Agence France-Presse. "We have been thinking about this for some time. Our decision was speeded up by Nice, by the repeated tragedies."



No One is Safe in France

By Stephen Bryen and Rachel Ehrenfeld

Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/no-one-is-safe-in-france/>

July 26 – When priests have to fear their throats will be slit while celebrating morning Mass, no one is safe in France.

But did 85 years old Rev. Jacques Hamel had to die?

The murder of Father Hamel in a Catholic church at the center of St.-Étienne-du-Rouvray in Rouen, Normandy, could have been prevented. The French security forces knew this church was targeted by ISIS when they captured some ISIS hit-lists months ago. Also, the attackers were known for their affiliation with ISIS.

The latest Islamic terrorists' attack in France demonstrates without any doubt the complete incompetence of the French authorities at all levels. It illustrates either the total disdain for its own citizens or its inability to understand and act on the threat that is destabilizing the French society. This time, a Catholic church was the target. Previously there were attacks on synagogues, Jewish Kosher stores, a newspaper, concert halls, night clubs, sporting events and national celebrations including the mass killing in Nice during Bastille Day fireworks. These, in addition to many other smaller, unreported or underreported attacks throughout the country.

But the French authorities have done worse than nothing. Why the incompetence?

When public or private institutions are threatened, the first step is to try and eliminate or neutralize the source of the threat. If this fails, strong security is put in place to protect the threatened sites.

Regarding perimeter security, this church was left entirely unprotected. There were no guards. The two terrorists (there could be more, this is

what we know about now) entered the church through an unlocked back door. Why was the door unlocked? Why didn't the church have any protection? Responsibility for this falls on the shoulders of the French authorities and, perhaps, on the church if the warnings were passed to them, which is not known at present. Clearly, the congregants in the Church, and those who were taken hostage, including nuns, had no inkling they were on a hit list

Next, at least one of the terrorists was known to the police, and should have been on their terrorist watch list. He was arrested and sent to prison for an attempt to join ISIS in Syria. His computer contained the list of churches targeted for attacks, including this one. He was released from prison last March under parole to live with his parents and was wearing an electronic tag. But, under the terms of his release, he was allowed to do anything he wanted during the morning hours. Thus, his electronic tag was not monitored from 830 until 1230 every day. The attack at the church, nearby his parents' home, in the center of Saint-Etienne du Rouvray took place at 9:45 am.

Why would the French judicial system parole a known terrorist? Why would they disregard extremely worrisome intelligence and not provide adequate protection to the church, and to their citizens?

The pattern of consistent security failures in France includes far more than what happened in Saint Etienne du Rouvray.

In Nice, despite forewarnings of terrorism, the French police removed police vans that barricaded Promenade des



Anglais during a military parade earlier in the day. Moreover, the police did not question the presence of a 19-ton truck parked for hours in a non-parking place. It did not question the presence of the driver, Mohamed Lahouaiej, who was known to the police, or his claim that he was delivering ice-cream in a non-refrigerator truck. With no barricades and no police presence on the Promenade, nothing stopped the terrorist from driving the heavy, weapon loaded truck into the crowds, mowing down as many people as he could.

Sandra Bertin, a local police officer in Nice, complained that the plainclothes police who were there were only **permitted to carry light weapons, namely small pistols**. "The truck dodged the municipal police barrier. The team couldn't stop it. **You can't burst the tires of a 19-tonner with a revolver**," she said. When she submitted her report of what she witnessed on the CCTV she was monitoring during the attack, she was asked to "modify" it. She refused. Several days later, the antiterrorist branch in the Ministry ordered her "to erase the film" to prevent it "being seen by the public." But she and her superiors refused to destroy the tapes."

Instead of resigning from his post in shame for failing to protect the people in Nice, the French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve is now suing Sandra Bertin for defamation,

for her "unworthy accusations." And as of today, the French police has failed to link Mohamed Lahouaiej's accomplices to ISIS.

The lack of security in France is nothing new to the Jews in France. Until recently they have borne the brunt of France's poor security environment. Synagogues and Jewish schools and community centers have been attacked; Jews have been beaten up and in some cases murdered on buses and in the metro or walking on the street; Kosher restaurants and supermarkets have been shot up, killing many people –the list is a long one. It is the major reason why many French Jews, have left the country to the Jewish State of Israel. But most of the French are staying, unprotected.

ISIS and its Jihadi affiliates are waging war on Europe. And most Europeans are bewildered. Their adherence to political correctness leads to failure to act upon intelligence that could curtail jihadist attacks. They fail to protect their borders and are refusing to understand the source of their collective problem. Whether it is Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden or the United Kingdom, the coddling of potential Islamic terrorists, the lack of connecting intelligence to action, and the weakness of law enforcement including the court system, are all but guarantee that many more decent people will suffer and die, and videos of their attacks will be used to recruit more ISIS "soldieries" for jihad.

EU intelligence services hold weekly anti-terror meetings in Netherlands

Source: <http://www.nltimes.nl/2016/07/27/report-eu-intelligence-services-hold-weekly-anti-terror-meetings-netherlands/>

July 17 – **Over the past months information officers from 30 European intelligence services came together in the Netherlands on a weekly basis to share information about terrorists**, the Volkskrant reports based on conversations with people around the Dutch cabinet.

According to the newspaper, these weekly meetings was the initiative of Dutch intelligence service AIVD, who was the chairman of the Counter Terrorism Group (CTG) until July 1st. The

location of these meetings is being kept secret.

European intelligence services always shared information, but never in a structured or multilateral way. Secret services tend to be selective in what information they share, fearing to reveal their sources. And the "third country rule" also states that countries can not share information from a friendly country, according to the Volkskrant.

But the so-called Paris Attacks in November last year changed everything. After those attacks, European services realized the



vital importance of sharing information on terrorist groups and extremist individuals and worked on improving this information flow.

The European intelligence services set up a platform to exchange information on all European people who joined jihadist organizations. This information is always available. Participating countries include all EU member states, Norway and Switzerland. The services are also now holding weekly physical meetings, which makes it much easier to cross-reference information, the Volkskrant's sources say.

On July 1st Slovakia took over as chairman of the CTG. The country decided not to organize the weekly intelligence meetings, which means they are still happening in the Netherlands.

On June 10th Minister Ronald Plasterk of Home Affairs stated that he is pleased with the progress made on improving cooperation, during a meeting with EU ministers of Justice and Interior. "The last few months, under the leadership of the AIVD, the CTG took major steps to further intensify their cooperation. Information about European foreign fighters is now available for all collaborative services."

24 Cases of Migrant Sexual Assault At Music Festival

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/london/2016/07/27/24-cases-migrant-sexual-assault-bremen-festival/>

July 27 - "Breminale" is a multi-day festival in the city of Bremen designed to celebrate the different



cultures in the city. Police have revealed that some have used the festival as an excuse to harass and sexually assault at least 24 young German girls. The perpetrators are all said to be asylum seekers and authorities say they currently have 5 suspects, all Afghan nationals aged 17-18. The migrants are said to have committed the crimes in broad daylight, reports German broadcaster ARD.

The main incident occurred at a concert of punk band "Alltag" at around 3:05pm. The sexual harassment was so brazen and obvious to the crowd and the band

that the band even stopped playing music in order to tell the migrants to stop groping and attacking the young girls at the concert.

Two of the victims of the attack came forward to German media to give their side of the ordeal. The pair of teens aged 17 and 18 claimed they were groped with one saying: "I was pinched right on the chest." The other girl claimed that the sex attackers were widespread among the crowd: "I would say definitely more than half of the women who were at this show and stood toward the far front, were touched by these types. I would say definitely 30 women."

Harald Lühns, head of the Bremen Police

Commissariat for sexual offences, said that the phenomena, known in the Arab world as "[taharrush](#)," is totally new to them. "We have not had groups of women deliberately surrounded in Bremen. There has never been sexual touching on this scale. This is a new problem for the police to deal with," Mr. Lühns said.



Expert on Islamism, Ahmad Mansour, blamed the attacks on cultural differences between the Islamic world and western Europe noting that: "These are not isolated cases. These are people who come from certain cultural backgrounds who have enjoyed certain educational methods, with patriarchal structures which certain religious understandings bring favour to, and that has to be mentioned."

Mr. Mansour himself is an ex-Islamist who warned earlier this year that **young Muslim migrants' cultural differences could be much more pronounced than the German government could have expected at the start of the migrant crisis.** Both migrants and German-born Muslims are more prone to radicalisation according to Mr. Mansour who refers to the teens as "Generation Allah".

The festival attack is the latest mass sex attack that has occurred at a European music or folk festival in Europe. Earlier this month in Sweden a similar [mass sex attack](#) occurred and 40 young women reported being assaulted. Only days ago another music festival was targeted, not for sex attacks but by a Syrian migrant who attempted to target festival goers in a suicide attack, but was turned away and ended up killing himself in the detonation, injuring 12 others.

German police arrest Algerian suspect who yelled 'I'll blow you up'

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-attacks-germany-bremen-idUSKCN1072IQ>

July 28 – **German police on Wednesday arrested a 19-year-old Algerian refugee who had fled a psychiatric facility earlier in the day yelling, "I'll blow you up,"** ending the latest in a string of incidents that have set the country's nerves on edge.

German federal police arrested the asylum-seeker at the **Bremen main train station** after an hours-long



manhunt that prompted the evacuation of a Bremen shopping center, according to police in the neighboring state of Lower Saxony.

They said an investigation was continuing.

Police said that when the man was in custody this past weekend for several thefts, he had sympathized with Islamic State and a gunman who killed nine people at a shopping center in Munich last Friday. But they said there was no further evidence of any ties.

Germany remains on edge after a spate of attacks that have claimed 15 lives since July 18, including those of four attackers. German officials have linked two of the incidents to Islamic State.

U.S. President Barack Obama spoke by phone with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday to offer his condolences over the recent attacks in southern Germany, according to U.S. and German officials.

Obama offered Germany the U.S. government's full support as investigations into the attacks proceed, the White House said in a statement.



Authorities had evacuated a shopping center in Bremen, about 40 km (25 miles) from the medical facility,



after people identified a man who had been acting suspiciously as the missing patient.

A spokesman in Diepholz, where the man had been held by police over the weekend, said authorities took the incident seriously given the current situation in Germany, but emphasized that there was no evidence of an imminent attack.

"We only have these statements. We have no evidence of any concrete plans or even any ties to Islamic State," he said.

The man was moved into psychiatric care after he tried to hurt himself multiple times and authorities determined he had consumed drugs and posed a possible danger to himself and others. He escaped from the facility early on Wednesday.

Police in Bremen said they were continuing to scour the shopping center for the man, who may have been carrying a backpack, and any

objects he might have left behind.

There were no reports that he was carrying a weapon, they said.

Earlier, a suitcase exploded near a reception center for migrants in southern Germany, but authorities said the blast may have been caused by an aerosol can, and there was no sign of any explosives involved.



The European Corporate Security Association - ECSA

Source: <http://www.ecsa-eu.org/index.php>

ECSA was founded in 2005, after brainstorming with the Heads of Security of major Corporations, of the EU and International Institutions and with Justice & Home Affairs Experts from Eurojust, Europol and the EU Institutions.

ECSA's Objectives are:

- To provide its members with a trusted forum for:
 - Sharing common Issues & Experiences
 - Information & Education
 - Networking with co-members and third parties
- To liaise and to promote synergy with relevant Academic, Research, Scientific, Public & Private Organizations and Associations
- To stimulate Public-Private Cooperation
- To set up and maintain a communication channel for information exchange and emergency warnings

In order to promote free and frank discussion and to control the distribution of information ECSA operates under specific Meeting & Information Handling Rules.

ECSA Members are Managers in charge of Security at major Corporations, EU and International Organisations & Institutions. Membership is by invitation only and full adhesion to the ECSA Spirit is a mandatory requirement.

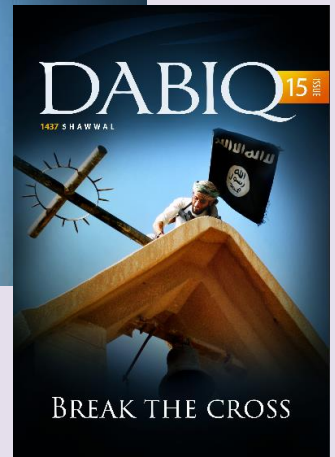
The Board of ECSA is composed of Representatives of the Academic, the Public and the Corporate Sector.

The Public part of this Website provides information on the Association, on Membership and on our Activities



Breaking the Cross

Source: <https://www.clarionproject.org/news/breaking-cross-latest-isis-magazine-aimed-christians>



The fifteenth issue of the Islamic State's Dabiq magazine is called **Breaking the Cross** and is targeted at discrediting Christianity and Western secularism.

Unlike previous issues which were primarily directed at Muslim-majority societies, this issue is full of propaganda aimed at converting non-Muslims to the Islamic State's puritanical and bloodthirsty interpretation of Islam.

The foreword includes direct attacks on the ideologies of Christianity, feminism, secular liberalism and atheism, naming them individually and offering rebuttals. It also references the recent attacks in France and Germany and threatens further violent attacks. The magazine puts forward a dual approach. On the one hand ISIS calls on the population of Europe to "abandon their infidelity and accept Islam, the religion of sincerity and submission to the Lord of the heavens and the earth."

On the other they threaten continual warfare against those who do not, saying "we call you to reflect on these questions as the bloodthirsty knights of the Caliphate continue to wage their war of just terror against you."

Sections include "Why we hate you and fight you" along with a conversion story "Why I came to Islam" from a former Christian woman from Finland. The piece focuses on the supposed inconsistencies in Christianity as opposed to the alleged purity and simplicity of Islam.

The main feature "Breaking the Cross" is an extended rebuttal of Christian and Jewish theology which sets forth the arguments to believe in Islam. The bulk of the theological arguments are fairly standard lines of attack about the alleged absurdity of the Trinity and the alleged corruption of scripture by Jews and Christians such as many imams might argue.

The leap from mainstream Islamic monotheism to the violent slaughter of anyone who disagrees with ISIS is not explained clearly.

The shift in emphasis to appeal to a European and Western audience comes at the same time as a shift in instructions to fighters not to attempt to travel to Islamic-State-held lands in Iraq and Syria, but simply to carry out terrorist attacks in their home countries.

- ▶ Read the latest issue of the [Islamic State's propaganda magazine Dabiq: Breaking the Cross](#).
- ▶ Read all the issues of the [Islamic State's propaganda magazine Dabiq](#), hosted on Clarion Project.

A blogger's opinion

Even if you think we're not in a war with radical Islamic extremists, THEY are in a war with us! The irony in all this is that the Pope just refuted claims that ISIS is in a religious war with Christianity. He thinks this has nothing to do with Islam and



is just some crazy guys killing people. He might want to wake up because ISIS just threatened him:

They write: "An act of senseless violence? One would think that the average Westerner, by now, would have abandoned the tired claim that the actions of the mujahidin – who have repeatedly stated their goals, intentions, and motivations – don't make sense.

"The only thing senseless would be for there to be no violent, fierce retaliation in the first place!"

Church leaders including Pope Francis, figures within the Greek Orthodox church and Coptic Christians are among those singled out for attack in the latest edition of Dabiq, which runs to 45,000 words.

Al Qaeda chief urges kidnappings of Westerners for prisoner swaps

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-alqaeda-idUSKCN1040U1>

July 24 – **Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri has appeared in an audio interview calling on fighters to take Western hostages and exchange them for jailed jihadists**, the monitoring service SITE Intelligence Group said on Sunday.



In recording posted online, Al-Zawahiri called on the global militant network to kidnap Westerners "until they liberate the last Muslim male prisoner and last Muslim female prisoner in the prisons of the Crusaders, apostates, and enemies of Islam," according to SITE. Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the recording. Zawahiri is believed to be seeking refuge in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border

area that is the Taliban's base.

Burlan security Colosseum in Rome and recorded escaláন্দalo night

Source: <http://archyworldys.com/burlan-security-colosseum-in-rome-and-recorded-escalandalo-night/>

Aug 01 – Two youths have mocked surveillance systems the Colosseum in Rome and have managed to access and climb inside its walls until it reaches its highest point, about events that have recorded and



later posted on the Internet. The video was broadcast by Italian media after it appeared posted on the Youtube channel of the group "Visual Enemies," which is part of the alleged perpetrator of the action, the "youtuber" German Flavius Vasily. "Ladies and gentlemen, we proudly present our new video from the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. Watch and spreads the word" invites "Visual Enemies" which has documents on escalations of buildings in Berlin or Cologne. In the recording of Rome, the author shows the path made from a subway station to the heights of itself Flavian Amphitheatre, emblem of the Italian capital.

The video has a careful visual aesthetics and offers stunning night views from the top of the Coliseum, both inside and surrounding area. It is unknown at the



time when these events occurred and many are already those who lament the lack of security in the building, young people agreed with apparent ease. The question of level of surveillance of Italian heritage and focused public debate last week, after an American tourist spent the night from 25 to 26 July alone on the roof of the Duomo in Milan, northern Italy. Found the next morning by security guards, the young man argued that they had closed the entrances facing the ceiling with him inside and had decided to stay alone in silence on the temple to not raise any alarms.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: My simple operational maths:

Problems identified X Common logic = Lessons learned
Problems identified X Ignorance factor* = Problems identified = Bloodshed

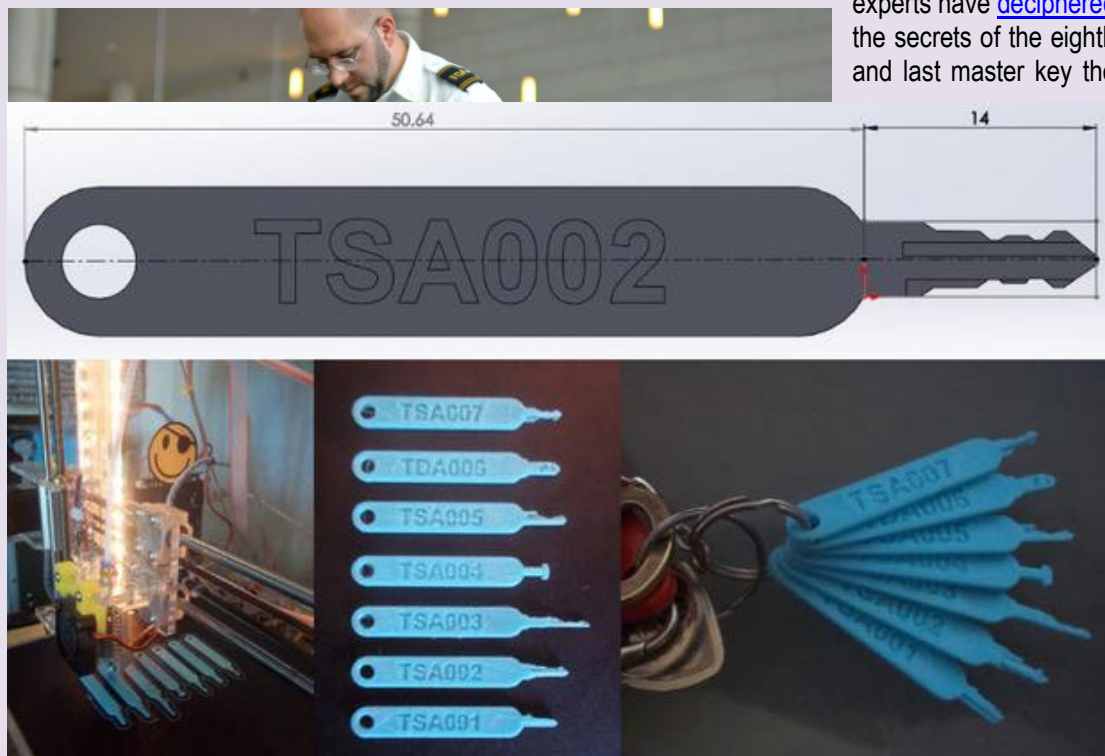
* It will never happen to us "factor"

Anyone can now print out all TSA master keys

Source: <https://www.engadget.com/2016/07/28/tsa-master-key-3d-models/>

Shortly after *The Washington Post* inadvertently [published](#) a photo of seven TSA master keys, a group of security experts were able to copy their designs and release their 3D models online. Now, these same

experts have [deciphered](#) the secrets of the eighth and last master key the



agency uses even without a photo to guide them. The first seven keys are manufactured by a company called Travel Sentry, while this one is by a separate manufacturer named Safe Skies. Since the hackers didn't have a photo of the last key, they bought as many Safe Skies locks as possible, took them apart and examined their innards. **Anyone with access to a 3D printer can now reproduce all eight keys.** The hackers, who go by the pseudonyms Johnny Xmas, DarkSim905 and Nite Owl presented their work at the 11th Hackers On Planet Earth (HOPE) Conference in New York. According to 3D Printing Industry, the trio explained that it's not their intention to scare people -- they merely want to highlight the dangers of giving a third party access to master keys, whether digital or physical.



"This was done by legally procuring actual locks, comparing the inner workings and finding the common denominator," Xmas said at the conference. "It's a great metaphor for how weak encryption mechanisms are broken -- gather enough data, find the pattern, then just 'math' out a universal key (or set of keys). What we're doing here is literally cracking physical encryption, and I fear that metaphor isn't going to be properly delivered to the public."

German Leaders Demand Counter Terror Policies, Trump Style Muslim Migration Block

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/london/2016/07/28/germany-must-address-islamist-terror-halt-turkish-eu-membership-says-bavaria-governor/>

July 28 – **Horst Seehofer, the leader of Germany's largest state, set himself on a collision course with pro-open borders German Chancellor Angela Merkel when he said Germans are "riled up" and "full of fear"**

at a press conference yesterday after his state suffered four Islamist-inspired terror attacks in less than a week.

Mr. Seehofer, the leader of Merkel's sister party the Bavarian Christian-Democrats, said Germany must "do whatever is necessary to protect our citizens".

Continuing: "What we have here is an entirely new dimension of terrorism, the Islamist-minded terrorism, and we have to have intense discussions on this challenge in Bavaria and in Germany as well as prevent and repress it.

"That is the big challenge we face, and therefore any attempts to contextualise the problem are inappropriate.

"Every attack, every act of terrorism is one too many. Islamic terrorism has arrived in Germany and the people are rightly expecting us to stand up to this courageously," he said.

Other German politicians are even more impatient and aggrieved.

The Vice President of the right-wing, eurosceptic Alternative for Germany (AfD) party demanded today a temporary end to the granting of asylum to Muslims in Germany, in a clear echo of the policies of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

According to *Die Welt*, Alexander Gauland said: "We can no longer afford, for safety reasons, to let more uncontrolled Muslim immigration into Germany."

He argued that "the right of asylum for Muslims should be suspended immediately until all

applicants residing in Germany are registered, monitored and their applications are processed". At the beginning of this week of terror, Bavarian Governor Mr. Seehofer also called for an "immediate" halt to Turkey's EU membership negotiations.



He said talks should stop "now that Turkey breaks down the rule of law" – following the failed military coup in Turkey and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's subsequent authoritarian crackdown.

He said: "Turkey is no any longer a democratic state" and insisted that "unrestricted visa freedom would mean importing Turkish national problems to Germany", *Die Welt* reported last Friday.

Mr. Seehofer's party is the sister party of the Christian Democratic Union of Angela Merkel, who has long advocated Turkish membership of the EU and encouraged Germany's open door policy to 1.5 million unvetted migrants from the Middle East last year.



The Myth of Lone-Wolf Terrorism

By Daveed Gartenstein-Ross and Nathaniel Barr

Source: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/western-europe/2016-07-26/myth-lone-wolf-terrorism>

This month, Europe has again been rocked by a series of shocking terrorist attacks perpetrated by lone individuals and claimed in the name of the Islamic State (ISIS). On July 14, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, a Tunisian national residing in France, killed over 80 and wounded hundreds when he ploughed a 19-ton cargo truck through crowds celebrating Bastille Day in the southern French city of Nice. Mere days after the Nice massacre, a 17-year-old Afghan migrant seeking asylum in Germany attacked passengers on a train in Würzburg with an axe and a knife, wounding four before police killed him. Two other attacks claimed in ISIS' name have been carried out since then: A suicide bombing on July 24 injured 15 in the German city of Ansbach, and on July 26, two attackers claiming allegiance to ISIS stormed a church in a suburb of the French city of Rouen, slit an 84-year-old priest's throat, and took hostages.

These incidents are part of a broader trend of increasing violence carried out by lone individuals. Analysts, journalists, and scholars have been quick to [label each perpetrator](#) of recent attacks as [a lone wolf](#): individuals who lacked substantial connections to ISIS or other jihadist groups and who carried out their operations without the assistance of others. The designation has generally been applied within 24 hours of these attacks, before significant intelligence about an incident's planning and execution has emerged—and long before authorities have concluded their investigation. Indeed, less than a day after the Nice attack, [observers rushed](#)

The changing nature of operational planning underscores the need for a new paradigm for understanding the relationship between single attackers and networks. It no longer makes sense to apply pre-digital-age thinking to jihadist attacks perpetrated in the age of Twitter, Instagram, and end-to-end encryption.

Instead, it is useful to think of four categories of attacks, with descending connections to a network. The **first category** consists of operations in which the attacker was trained and dispatched by an organization. Reda Hame, who traveled to Syria and [received weapons training from Abaaoud](#) before being sent back to Europe, perfectly fits this mold. The **second category** is attackers in touch via social media with virtual planners such as Hussain, who help set targets, determine the timing of the attack, and provide technical assistance. The **third category** is operatives who are in contact with a militant group via online communications but do not receive specific instructions about carrying out an attack. Finally, the **fourth category** comprises the true lone wolves, individuals who strike without ever communicating with jihadist networks, either online or in person.

It is clear that extremely few of the jihadists labeled lone wolves truly fit that definition. As long as attacks are falsely categorized though, the world can't even begin to fight back. We need a better model for understanding terrorism in the digital age.

Daveed Gartenstein-Ross is a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the chief executive officer of Valens Global.

Nathaniel Barr is the research manager at Valens Global.

Amid European Terror Spree, British Churches are 'Alert, But Not Alarmed'

Source: <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/kevin-mccandless/amid-european-terror-spree-british-churches-are-alert-not-alarmed>

July 29 – Following the murder of a French priest this week in the latest terror attack on European soil, churches in Britain have proclaimed they are “alert, but not alarmed.”





Police in Britain said that churches and the public must remain vigilant.

"There is no specific intelligence relating to attacks against the Christian community," said Neil Basu, deputy assistant commissioner for the London Metropolitan Police. "However, as we have seen, [Islamic State of Iraq and Syria] and other terrorist groups have targeted Christian as well as Jewish and other faith groups in the West and beyond."

The National Police Chiefs' Council urged churches to review their security

precautions and reminded them of the need to be vigilant.

In a separate letter to church leaders, Basu urged them to forge close links with their local police, if they haven't done so already.

Currently, the official threat level from international terrorism, as measured by the intelligence services, is at severe.

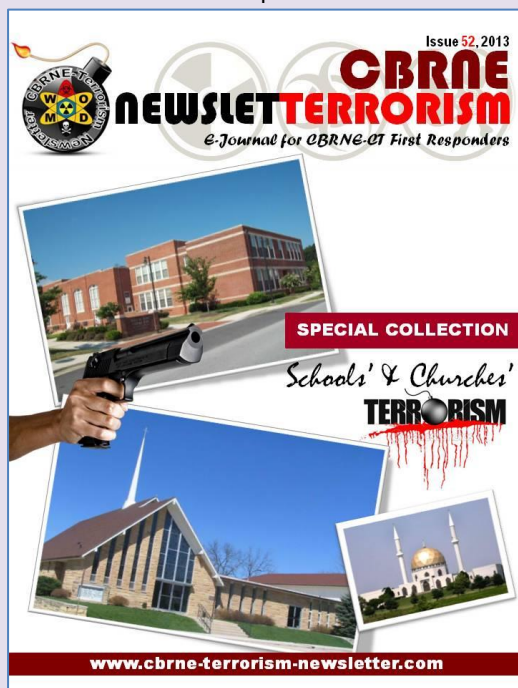
On message boards frequented by extremists, London and Washington D.C. have reportedly been named as the next targets for terror attacks.

On Tuesday, two men linked to ISIS entered a Catholic church in Normandy during morning Mass and cut the throat of Fr. Jacques Hamel.

Later that day, the Church of England said in a statement it was following police advice to "be alert not alarmed"

Newsletter's Special Collection on "Schools and Churches Terrorism" (Dec 2013 – can be downloaded from:

<https://www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com/archives.php>



While churches are buildings that need to be open to all, they are continuing to take security measures to protect the safety of worshipers and visitors.

"All public ministry involves being vulnerable to others, so security measures are good sense in uncertain times," said the church statement.

A spokesman for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Alexander DesForges said there is a need for vigilance wherever the public gathered. But churches are places of sanctuary, whose doors must remain open.

He added that as the Archbishop of Rouen, Dominique Lebrun, had said publicly, the only weapons the church holds "are those of prayer and solidarity."

"Our greatest security lies in building upon the friendships which we already have between our faith communities and working together for unity and peace," DesForges said.

In the last census in 2011, roughly 59 percent of British residents identified themselves as Christian. There were 5.7 million Catholics in the United Kingdom, of a total population of 63.2 million.

By coincidence, on Tuesday, the British government announced a new £2.4 million (\$3.2 million) funding program to provide security measures and equipment for vulnerable places of worship.

Representatives from religious communities have raised concerns about hate attacks such as arson and the new funds will go towards security cameras, perimeter fencing and similar equipment.



Newly appointed Home Secretary Amber Rudd said at the program launch that hatred would have no place in the Britain of the 21st century.

"We are the sum of all our parts, a proud, diverse society," she said. "Hatred does not get a seat at the table, and we will do everything we can to stamp it out."

Terrorism Scares Away the Tourists Europe Was Counting On

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2016/07/terrorism-scares-away-tourists-europe.html>



July 29 – The shocks have come one after another: Islamic State killings of civilians in Brussels and Nice.

A deadly outburst of terrorism in Germany. A fresh terror-linked atrocity in a small French town. Warnings abound that more may be on the way.

The surge of attacks in Europe has raised questions over whether a potentially durable new threat to stability is settling in. The political challenges for Europe's leaders are stark, and the impact on the region's economy may be just as profound.

"We are experiencing a structural change, a phenomenon of war on our doorstep that didn't exist before," said Georges Panayotis, the president of the MKG Group, a tourism consulting company based in Paris. "If it's not resolved, the problem will continue."

The effects of that shift on businesses, large and small, have been deep.

At the Mont-Saint-Michel, a spectacular medieval abbey that is one of France's top tourist destinations, business at the Sodemour Group, a chain of local hotels and restaurants, slumped by up to 70 percent for months after the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris. It has never fully recovered.

American and Japanese visitors in particular canceled reservations, even though the site, perched on an isolated rock off the northwest coast of Normandy, is far from Paris. Gilles Gohier, the chief executive, said he had to tell nearly a third of his 230 employees to go home for four months, and temporarily shut half of his five hotels and four restaurants. Since then, he has eliminated 17 positions and is hiring new employees only on temporary contracts.

Business had just started to revive when the Bastille Day massacre in Nice happened.

Cancellations jumped by 20 percent and were expected to rise further after this week's killing of a priest in Rouen, located in lower Normandy, an attack carried out by militants claiming allegiance to the Islamic State. "What happened in Rouen shows that it could happen here, or anywhere," Mr. Gohier said. "This makes it impossible to plan for business in the future," he added.

All of that has hit the European economy in one of its most vital sectors, tourism, just as a tenuous recovery was starting to take hold.

This year, growth in the 19 countries that use the euro returned to levels not seen since the 2008 financial crisis. On Friday, the European Union reported that the momentum slowed in the second quarter, as the economy advanced just 0.3 percent from April to June, down from 0.6 percent in the previous quarter. France slid back into stagnation with zero growth in the three months to June from the previous quarter.

Uncertainty has multiplied in recent months as terrorist assaults have become more frequent and widespread. Investors have not pulled away. But visitors are rethinking Europe as a central travel destination, and the tourism industry, which accounts for 10 percent of economic activity in the European Union, has begun to feel the sting.

European governments, meanwhile, are spending hundreds of billions of euros on enhanced domestic security and operations against the Islamic State, even as Brussels pressures countries to cut deficits.



France, the European Union's third-largest economy after Britain and Germany, was already struggling to emerge from a long period of stagnation and high unemployment. **France is the most visited country in Europe, attracting more than 84 million tourists last year, and economists had forecast a long-awaited uptick in growth for 2016.** After the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks, the momentum slowed, and a slump in foreign tourism had only recently started to reverse.

But further Islamic State-inspired attacks were carried out in Europe, the impact was magnified. **In France, growth in nightly hotel room bookings after**

the Paris attacks fell to single digits from 20 percent. After the Brussels bombings, bookings went negative, and after Nice, bookings fell by double digits, said Mark Okerstrom, the chief financial officer of Expedia, a global travel website.

"We haven't seen a bounceback," he said. "What we don't know for certain is whether there's an overall dampening impact to global travel, or to Europe specifically."

At Paris Plage, a makeshift beach erected along the Seine, a dozen armed police officers guarded an entry checkpoint on a recent day. Army troops marched past families playing in the sand and half-empty activity points along the river. The patrols, which cost taxpayers about 1 million euros, or \$1.1 million, a day, will add to an already mounting bill after France pledged to spend €816 million this year to reinforce security.

The ripple effect has been tangible.

Rental apartments in Paris and Nice sat empty after people canceled plans to visit France, said Adrian Leeds, the head of the Adrian Leeds Group, a French real estate agency with properties in both cities. And clients who had been thinking of moving to France have suspended their property searches.

"It's really affected things," she said. "But people will come back when things have settled down." The terrorism threat adds another layer of complexity in a region already grappling with a large influx of migrants and the repercussions of Britain's vote last month to leave the European Union.

Finance ministers from the world's 20 largest economies, meeting last week in China, cited geopolitical conflicts and terrorism as growing threats to the global economy. "The world has already known terrorist attacks," said the French finance minister, Michel Sapin.

"But today, the frequency of the attacks is creating a new situation of uncertainty," with economic consequences, he added.

In Belgium, where Islamic State attackers bombed the Brussels airport and subway in March, killing 32 people, the economy has already suffered a nearly €1 billion loss in business and tax revenue, the government said this week. The biggest hits were to hotels, restaurants and tourism.

Concerts, carnivals and sporting events were canceled, sapping revenue from the entertainment industry.

Germany's government acknowledged last week that the country had become a target of the Islamic State after a spate of assaults against civilians on a train, at a shopping mall and at a concert. Travel companies are fielding questions over whether Europe's largest economy is still safe, and economists said that consumption spending, a motor of growth, could decline if consumers started going out less.

All that may turn travelers away from Europe's largest economies and toward calmer places like Spain, Greece or Scandinavia.

That may not stop terrorism concerns from hitting the industries that make travel possible. Air France-KLM and Lufthansa, two of Europe's largest air carriers, recently slashed their profit forecasts for the year, citing repeated terrorist attacks in Europe as deterring tourists and business executives from traveling.

The attacks have also taken a toll on the luxury industry, which relies heavily on foreign tourists, especially from Asia, for European sales. Leading brands like Hermès, Louis Vuitton



and Prada have reported slumping sales as high-spending tourists stay away.

On a recent morning, a handful of visitors flitted through Louis Vuitton's mammoth flagship store on the Champs-Élysées, a contrast to previous years, when the summer tourist season would see the shop buzzing with customers. This week, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton reported flat sales in the first half of the year, citing a falloff in European tourism after the attacks.

"We do not see any improvement in tourist traffic in France, and we will not see one while we are in a state of emergency, which prevents customers from coming," said Axel Dumas, chief executive of Hermès, the maker of €10,000 Birkin bags.

For Mr. Gohier, whose hotels and restaurants face the Mont-Saint-Michel, that can only be bad news for a smaller business like his.

"When you lose business, it has an economic impact," he said. "The terrorists want to create maximum damage."

Putting the wave of Islamist violence in Europe in historical context, perspective

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160729-putting-the-wave-of-islamist-violence-in-europe-in-historical-context-perspective>

July 29 – From the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris to the March 2016 attack on Brussels airport to the Bastille Day attack in Nice to the killing of a priest in north-west France, to the spate of violence in Germany, the viciousness of Islamist terrorism in Europe has shocked people in Europe and around the world.

Two scholars — one left-leaning, the other a conservative historian — say that when the recent wave of Islamist terrorism in Europe is put in a global and historical context, the figures and headlines suggest a different perspective on the global spread of terrorism and its victims.

[David Miller](#), professor of sociology at the [University of Bath](#), notes that figures from the [Global Terrorism Database](#) (GTD) show that since 2012 there has been a significant increase the number of people killed in terrorist attacks around the world. In Western Europe, however, the number has decreased since the early 1990s.

Miller [told](#) the *Guardian* that "The figures would tend to suggest that there is much less of a threat from terrorism overall now than there was then.

"I think we pay more attention to it because it's happening here [Western Europe] and not there. People point to the fact that there are many more people dying outside the West and we just don't think about them as they're not 'worthy victims'.

"Especially they're not worthy victims if they are killed by our allies as opposed to by our enemies and that is a perennial problem."

The largest number of people killed in terrorist-related attacks in Western Europe in the 1980s and 1990s was from localized, focused attacks by groups like the Irish Republican Army (IRA) or one-off incidents with high death tolls, like the Lockerbie bombing in 1988.

Miller says that today, Western Europe is typically experiencing a higher number of attacks with lower death tolls.

Other than atrocities like those in Paris in November 2015, in which 136 people lost their lives, and in Nice on 14 July, in which eighty-five people were killed, the acts of Islamist-inspired violence across Europe have usually resulted in fewer deaths than the mass killings seen during the 1980s.

Miller notes that the IRA, the Basque ETA, and other terrorist organizations in the past had a single aim — in the case of these two organizations, targeting the United Kingdom or Spain — but that ISIS is inspiring a wave of homegrown jihadists across Europe and the world to engage in violence. The origins and potential targets of terrorism are thus greater than that seen in the 1980s and 1990s.

Miller also says that there is another question: What counts as terrorism? There are more than 200 definitions of terrorism and there is often a disagreement over whether a specific act of deadly violence should be considered as an act of terrorism.



“It’s a question of political strategy and of course you can come up with an agreement on how to define it in academic debate. The problem is it’s used as a means for denouncing violence which you don’t approve of,” said Miller.

Max Boot, [writing](#) in the *Wall Street Journal*, comes to the discussion from the other political direction, but he reaches the same conclusions Miller does.

“It is certainly understandable if fear and panic now grip the Continent,” Boot writes. “But it’s important to remember that this is hardly the first wave of terrorism that Europe has seen — and so far not the worst.” Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of [Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present Day](#) (2013), notes that the current, jihadist campaign of terrorism in Europe is the third terrorist wave on the continent, and it is not the deadliest.

The first wave was launched by anarchists who struck across Europe and the Americas from the 1880s to the 1920s. Among the deadliest attacks of the first wave:

- A horse-drawn wagon filled with explosives killed thirty-eight on Wall Street in New York in 1920
- An anarchist threw two bombs into a crowded opera house in Barcelona in 1893, killing twenty-two people
- Between 1892 and 1894, Paris saw eleven bombings, which killed nine people

Boot notes that the anarchists’ specialty was the assassination of heads of state. Among those killed by anarchists:

- 1881 — Tsar Alexander II of Russia
- 1894 — French president François Sadi Carnot
- 1897 — Spanish prime minister Antonio Cánovas del Castillo
- 1898 — Empress Elisabeth of Austria
- 1900 — King Umberto I of Italy
- 1901 — President William McKinley.

The second wave of terrorist attacks in Europe was carried out by leftist and nationalist terrorists from the 1960s to the 1980s. This wave included groups such as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Red Army Faction in West Germany (also called the Baader-Meinhof gang), the Red Brigades in Italy, and the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Boot notes that, “between the early 1970s and early 1990s, there were four years when at least 400 people were killed in terrorist attacks in Western Europe and five years when fatalities exceeded 250.”

Among the high-profile attacks of the second wave are the Pan Am aircraft over Lockerbie in 1988 (270 dead); attacks on airports in Rome and Vienna in 1985 (19 dead); the Bologna railroad station bombing in 1980 (85 dead); and the attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics (1s dead, not counting the terrorists).

Boot writes:

Horrible as the recent atrocities have been, they are not as bad as those of the second terrorist wave. Attacks this year in Western Europe have killed 130 people (not counting the attackers) and last year killed 147. Islamic State has claimed many more victims in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries — including the U.S. (49 dead in Orlando, 14 in San Bernardino).

Boot is optimistic. “History does not suggest when this current wave of terrorism will end. It does suggest that it will end someday, and that it can be ameliorated, if not entirely stopped.”

The first wave of terrorism petered out because the anarchist ideology lost its appeal. The terrorists of the 1960s also eventually lost their ideological motivation. The PLO and IRA were able to reach political arrangements which addressed some of the things they were fighting for, while the communist-inspired militant groups lost their attraction when communism was discredited.

Boot concludes:

As the failure of Communism discredited Marxist extremism, so the eventual failure of Islamism — whether in Taliban-era Afghanistan or present-day Iran or Islamic State — will discredit Islamist extremism.

That day can be hastened by vigorous Western action to destroy Islamic State and subvert Iran’s regime. Meanwhile, more can be done to improve intelligence and security; Israel offers a good model.

But there is no foolproof way to stop the low-tech attacks we are seeing. Like it or not, we will have to tough it out while the ideological extremism of the Islamic world burns itself out.



Calais security reinforced after intelligence warnings of Isis attack on ferries

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/calais-security-reinforced-after-intelligence-warnings-isis-attack-ferries-1573376>

July 30 – Reports from France suggest that heavily armed troops and police have been sent to ports, including Calais, to defend against an Islamic State (Isis) attack on a UK-bound ferry. Security services both sides of the channel are on high alert to counter any Isis (Daesh) planned atrocity on a crowded vessel between Great Britain and France.

As the extremists lose ground in their self-declared caliphate that bridges Syria and Iraq, cells of terrorists allied to the group



are increasing attacks in the West. In the last week, 86-year-old French priest Father Jacques Hamel, 86, was murdered in a Normandy Church, whilst Germany was rocked after an IS suicide bomber attacked a music festival in Ansbach, injuring 12 people and killing himself.

Passengers between the ports either side of the Channel are being heavily vetted by security staff. This weekend travellers heading to France from Dover are facing heightened security checks by French officials in the wake of the terror attacks with large queues expected.

Newsletter's Special Collection on "Cruisers' terrorism – An emerging Threat?" (Feb 2016 – can be downloaded from:

<https://www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com/new-issue.php>

A senior UK security source said to the Mirror: "The presence of the police and soldiers near Calais is very alarming – there's nothing routine about it. Apparently, they are at a high state of alert because

there is a fear of jihadists getting on to a ferry headed for Britain and executing people on the ship.

"It is also possible that Isis may have been told security has in the past been reasonably lax so they believe they can get terrorists into Britain via a ferry."

British Special Forces commandos, including the Royal Navy's equivalent of the Special Air Service (SAS), the Special Boat Service (SBS) – are trained in resolving violent crisis situations on vessels in at sea,

A counter-terror source said: "What we've learned from the attacks across Europe is that prevention is paramount. Once an attack is underway, the terrorists have already got what they wanted."



Britain's Seals

The Special Boat Service (SBS) is the Royal Navy's equivalent to the famous US Navy Seals special forces unit. While their role is similar to that of the SAS, SBS members receive additional training in marine-based operations, such as recovering hijacked ships or rescuing hostages kept on vessels.

The SBS's Maritime Counter Terrorism (MCT) teams is also responsible for combating offshore terrorist events.

The Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR) and the Special Forces Support Group (SFSG) form the other two branches of the United Kingdom Special Forces. French security services have come under fire recently after it emerged

Special Boat Service kit



that attacker that slit the throat of Hamel, Adel Kermiche, had tried to get to Syria twice in 2015 and was wearing an electronic tag that was switched off for four hours every morning. President Francois Hollande has said France is planning to form a National Guard to prevent future atrocities and flood transport hubs and crowded areas with armed security.



New Algorithms to Track Violent Groups on Twitter

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2016/07/new-algorithms-to-keep-track-of-violent-groups-on-twitter/>

July 28 – **New sentiment analysis algorithms are able to monitor the social network Twitter in search of violent groups. The system analyses both the messages they share and how their relationships develop.**

Other uses of the system could be preventing phenomena such as bullying and racism. It can also be used to analyse what's being said about companies, brands and people on social media. According to Sinc, the tool was developed by researchers at the University of Salamanca, Spain (USAL). Spanish law enforcement authorities have already expressed interest in the tool. "This system could have been very useful –for example– as a support system to control the violent football fans that caused serious incidents during Euro 2016 in France," said Juan Manuel Corchado, professor of Computer Science and leader of the Bisite artificial intelligence team at USAL.

The police and other law enforcement agencies could use the tool to detect critical points, threats and areas with concentrations of potentially dangerous people. "It's based both on the semantic analysis of messages and historical data and their evolution."

The team used hybrid neural-symbolic artificial intelligence systems and methods that solve problems using a combination of different algorithms.

The new application can analyse emotions in different languages –at the moment,

Spanish, English, French, German, Russian and Arabic. Also, it can extract communications information and see changes in individuals' sentiments and physical location, analysing group interrelationships at the same time.

"It can establish where a dangerous user is located with reasonable precision, based on what they share on Twitter and how and with whom they are connecting at any time, without the need of geolocating tweets," he adds.

Depending on the traffic generated between people, it is possible to identify the members of a group, its leaders and followers. It is also possible to see how relationships evolve and whether new members join a group. In addition, says the researcher, having identified the leaders, the tool can try to influence them to change their sentiments.

Spain's law enforcement authorities will soon begin validation of the tool.

The tool will be put to market through partner companies of the Bisite group, which is very active in transferring technology to the corporate world.

The team is working with CSA company in a project called PIAR, which has enabled the development of highly sophisticated sentiment analysis algorithms that can be used in security applications.

Attack in Nice, France, 'Incredibly Harmful to the Islamist Cause'

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6160/daniel-pipes-attack-in-nice>

July 15 - Middle East Forum President Daniel Pipes was interviewed by the English language service of France 24 TV on July 15 to discuss the terror attack in Nice, France, that left 84 dead. The transcript below has been slightly edited for clarity.



Transcript

France 24: For more insight, we can cross now live to Philadelphia and speak to Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum. Thank you very much for being with us here on France Vingt-Quatre this evening. The French president, François Hollande, says this attack [in Nice] has an "undeniable terrorist nature". But is it too early to call this a terrorist attack?

Daniel Pipes: I prefer to stay away from the word "terrorist." There's such debate over what is terrorist and what is not terrorist, and I think it's a somewhat artificial debate. Who cares if it's terrorist or not? What is important is ... the motivation. Was this some crazy guy who was angry at the world? Some criminal out for gain? Or is this a jihadi, getting back at the France that he despises? That's the important thing, and everything one has learned suggests this



is a young Muslim of Tunisian origins, who despises France, and wanted to hit it at its most vulnerable and in a most symbolic way—the Bastille Day celebration.

F24: But if it's the work of terrorists or not, why has France once again been the target?

DP: I think France is the target because there is a rage that's not unique to France – we see it in Belgium, we see it in the United States, we see it in many other countries – but in France there's a rage, a rage that is being manifested in these attacks, a sense that Islam needs and Muslims need to be protected, and the way to do it is to attack the French.

Attack them in the Stade de France, attack them in the kosher supermarket, attack them at *Charlie Hebdo*, attack them in the cafes, attack them on Bastille Day.

If you look at opinion surveys, if you look at analyses of Muslim opinion, especially among the young, you see great resentment, a great sense of alienation, a great anger at being a Muslim in France.

F24: Speaking following Thursday's bloodshed in Nice, French president François Hollande says that he's going to strengthen France's role in the international fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and in Syria— but that fight has been going on for quite some time now, what more can be done?



DP: I expect that ISIS/ISIL/Daesh/Islamic State will collapse before long in Syria and Iraq. It's not going to collapse everywhere, not in Libya, and Nigeria, and Somalia. It's not going to collapse as an idea, it's not going to collapse as a caliphate.

Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, the killer in Nice

I don't think there's much relation between the state that now exists in Syria-Iraq and what's taking place in France. Get rid of ISIS and these problems will still be there. What's so remarkable, what ISIS tapped into, is that you can simply inspire – you don't have to plan, you don't have to get into logistics and money and arms – you can simply say, "Go kill Frenchmen," and then there will be some people who follow you.

By the way, the call to French Muslims to attack non-Muslim Frenchmen went out over a year ago, and you

can see the response. It's not a huge one, but it is definitely a powerful one, and there's every reason to think it will continue.

You might also note that so many of these attacks do not use guns; they use knives, bombs, cars, trucks, implements that cannot be easily regulated.

F24: Middle East states and Muslim clerics have united this Friday in condemning this attack. Leaders there seem keen to distance themselves from what could be another radical Islamist attack. Why is that, do you think?

DP: Well, if you're not at the fringe of the Islamist movement, engaging in violence against non-Muslims, or even Muslims in some cases, as in Medina a week or two ago, you find this appalling.

In other words, if you are trying to forward the Islamist agenda, you want to do so through the schools and the courtroom and the parliament, and take modest steps that don't hurt anybody. You want halal kitchens, polygamy accepted, and the like. This kind of barbaric assault, killing dozens of people, doesn't help at all. It arouses anger.

Indeed, I would say it's events like this, which capture the imagination of the entire West and create a kind of morbid fascination about it, are incredibly harmful to the Islamist cause. It's the last thing Islamists need. Every time there's a major atrocity like this, a cohort of Westerners go from saying "This has nothing to do with Islam, it's about poor people not fulfilling their potential," to saying "This is about Islamism, this is about a radical form of Islam that attacks everyone who disagrees with it."

Thus is it doing great disservice to the Islamist movement.

F24: Okay, Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum in Philadelphia, thank you very much for that insight. Thank you very much.



Is Britain really safe from Islamist terror?

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/31/is-britain-really-safe-from-islamist-terror/>

July 31 – All terrorism is atrocious, but the notion of two Islamist criminals going into a church and cutting the throat of an 85-year-old priest seems to set a new standard of wickedness.

Various authorities, such as the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, come out with fatuous bromides aimed at having us believe this is not a religious war.

As a lifelong atheist, even I struggle to accept that. One imagines that those Islamists who decided to enter a Christian church, take



Christian worshippers hostage and murder a Christian priest would struggle with it too. This wave of terrorism is not motivated by the evils of capitalism, that is for sure.

I have been trying to imagine, too, what would have happened had two Christians been so evil as to go into a suburban mosque in a French town and murder a harmless old imam. Shame and self-flagellation would have gripped Christian France, and quite right, too. One wonders whether the country's Muslim community would have responded with the passivity their Christian brethren have shown since the murder of Fr Jacques Hamel.

Last week it was reported that British Muslims felt outrage when a page of the Koran unintentionally appeared in an episode of the notoriously offensive and [racist television programme Fireman Sam](#). Outrage: yet nobody even got hurt. As the saying goes, there are two sides out there, and only one is playing cricket.

There is much to worry us all about in the recent wave of random violence in France and Germany. **The rate at which young Muslim men are being radicalised to the point where they will commit the most repellent crimes is**

deeply alarming. France has been appalling at integrating its Muslim population, and is now paying the price. Germany, on the other hand, has held out the hand of friendship to Muslim refugees in a way few other countries have, yet is being terrorised too. It is the stunning absence of reason in all this that makes it so impossible to cope with.

France and Germany are groping towards ways of dealing with the threat. **In France, the hapless government of François Hollande**

applies sticking plasters – proposing to form a national guard, for example, or cut off foreign money to certain mosques – while its opposition demands round-ups, shutting borders and a relaxation of human rights laws: both Nicolas Sarkozy's Republicans and Marine Le Pen's Front National are advocating measures inconsistent with France's continued membership of the European Union.

At least Mme Le Pen is honest enough to advocate full withdrawal; M Sarkozy's party pretends the changes can come whether Brussels likes it or not. The fact is that, given the toxic history between the French establishment and the Muslim minority, any hint of special measures against that community could cause civil unrest on an unmanageable scale. France's hands are tied, unless it wants something approaching an urban civil war to break out. And mainstream French politicians are in denial about Brussels's effect on France's security.

What lessons can, or should, Britain learn from this? We have a far smaller Muslim community than France, and the vast majority abides by British laws and lives side-by-side with our customs. Unfortunately, it only takes a small minority to wreak terror and havoc – and our security services tell us such a minority is active in Britain. Yet politicians brief that the security services lack the personnel to monitor every known suspect here, never mind the unknown.

A sensible society would take action long before young Muslims become radicalised. We have little idea how many British nationals are fighting for Isil in the Middle East, or trying



to join them; a year ago it was suggested that 1,600 had left this country to fight, and that 500 had returned. There must be more by now. The Terrorist Prevention and Investigation Measures, designed to monitor people such as returned jihadists, are hardly used at all: only one suspect in the United Kingdom is subject to one. They are remarkably similar to measures used against one of the murderers of Fr Hamel, who slaughtered the priest while out wearing his electronic tag for the morning, so are not necessarily effective even when implemented. Added to our porous borders, this suggests we are not taking the threat of the 500 or more returned jihadists as seriously as we might.

Also, the Police Firearms Officers Association has said that **if an attack were carried out in Britain of the sort that happened in France, it could take armed police 45 minutes to respond:** time to cut an abominable number of throats. Is our police force, which we recently learned is busily engaged in the life-and-death matter of pursuing “hate criminals” who wolf whistle women, really primed to protect the public against a terrorist threat and to detect and arrest potential

perpetrators? The police themselves do not seem think so.

It is far from clear that the Government is dealing effectively with schools where the radicalising of young men begins. There also seems to be a fear of intervening in those mosques where such things happen, and prosecuting the imams responsible; why? And, also last week, it was reported that a book described as “the Islamist Mein Kampf” was circulating in our prisons, extolling the virtues of violent jihad against unbelievers, railing against homosexuals and attacking the Jews for destroying society. Prison imams had replied that they were “too busy” to monitor religious literature before it was given to inmates.

There are too many signs that we are not taking the threat from jihad-minded Muslims sufficiently seriously. These people are often pariahs in their own communities; we must act with the support of Muslims who feel the same about these extremists as the rest of us. That we have not recently experienced an act of terror such as our French and German neighbours have endured may be more by luck than design. We cannot rely on that luck to last indefinitely.

Risk of Paris-, Nice-like terror attacks in U.K. remains a case of “when, not if”: Met commissioner

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160801-risk-of-paris-nicelike-terror-attacks-in-u-k-remains-a-case-of-when-not-if-met-commissioner>

Aug 01 – **Britain is well prepared to prevent terrorist attacks similar to those which took place in France and Germany in recent weeks, but such an attack in Britain remains a question of “when, not if,”** Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the commissioner of the Metropolitan police has said. The *Telegraph*



reports that Hogan-Howe said he was hoping to reassure the British public in the wake of recent terrorist attacks on the continent, but he admitted that the reality of the situation made it impossible to guarantee that there would be no terrorist attacks in Britain.

“I know that with each new outrage and especially those on our doorstep in Europe, there is a greater sense of fear that Britain will be the next victim in this wave of cruel and mindless mass murder,” he said.

“I feel and understand that fear and as the police officer in charge of preventing such an attack, [I] know that you want me to reassure you. I am afraid I cannot do that entirely.

“Our threat level has been at severe for two years – it remains there. It means an attack is highly likely. You could say it is a case of when, not if.”



Hogan-Howe said everyone had watched the recent terrorist attacks with “a terrifying and depressing sense of horror and dread.” However, despite people’s growing concerns, he said there were “lots of things working in our [the U.K.’s] favor.”

The relationship between MI5, MI6, and police was a “world beater,” he said, which had helped prevent terror incidents since the murder of Lee Rigby in 2013.

He also noted that the United Kingdom is an island and has strict gun controls as contributing factors, and referenced “the British way of life and culture.”

“Firstly, the vast majority of our officers are unarmed.” I truly believe this gives us a far healthier relationship with the people we police. Our neighborhood officers — the ones who know their streets, who know their environment and who know many of the names of the people in their communities — are our major weapon. They are our eyes and ears on the street.

“Secondly, it is our tolerance and acceptance.” Our approach to Muslims is no different because these attacks purport to be committed in the name of Islam. We don’t stigmatize the millions of British Muslims whose values and faith completely reject the terrorists’ litany of hate.”

Hogan-Howe highlighted specific steps which were implemented after last November terrorist attacks in Paris. The number of firearms officers has been increased by 600 to 2,800 and the number of specialists available immediately, 24/7, to tackle any terrorist threat, had risen three-fold, he said.

“I realize that some of what I am telling you today is not reassuring,” Hogan-Howe said. “I hope that some of it is more so. The threat we all face is very real, no one watching events in Europe can think otherwise. But it is important that we have a shared understanding of the work that goes on every day to stop attacks happening, and to prepare for the time when we are faced with this terrifying threat.”

The Met commissioner urged people to unite to reject the ideology espoused by terrorists. “We will not become like them, we will not hate, we will not be cowed and because of this, they will never win,” he said.

EDITOR’S COMMENT: Dear Met Commissioner: nothing of what you said in this article is reassuring!

Recent terrorist attacks 'new' to elite German forces despite years of training – commander

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/354068-gsg9-paris-attacks-terrorism/>

July 31 – Terror attacks across Europe have made years of training undertaken by

Combatting terrorism and lone-wolf attacks is becoming more and more demanding for the



Germany’s elite Special Forces outdated because their skills in dealing with hostage situations and organized crime are largely ineffective given the new challenges faced.

German Special Forces as they had been preparing for other types of threats before the Paris, Brussels and Nice assaults, Jerome Fuchs, the commander of GSG 9, told Bild magazine in an interview.

“Terrorists from the so-called Islamic State [IS, previously ISIS/ISIL] are acting very resolutely, so as a Special Forces unit we have to respond in a more decisive, straightforward and faster way,” said Fuchs, who has been leading the

elite counter-terrorism and hostage rescue group since 2014.

“And this is a new situation for us,” he said, when asked if GSG 9 is ready to prevent such attacks from



happening in Germany. *"In GSG 9, we've been dealing for many years with [rescuing] hostages taken by terrorists or dangerous criminals."*

He added his unit, which has long-standing relationships with the SAS, Delta Force, FBI Hostage Rescue Team and Israeli police counter-terrorist group Yamam, *"had time to prepare, collect intelligence and data on [potential] perpetrators."* Their training included drills in a compound built to simulate combat environment.

"But we don't have such capacities to [deal with] attacks similar to that in Nice, Paris or Brussels," Fuchs admitted.

"In such cases, we must arrive at the scene immediately, get our teams moving in as fast as possible and stop terrorists," he explained. "This is the mode of operation that our forces must adopt."

Germany had not been affected by a major terrorist attack until this month. Despite the national intelligence services receiving numerous tip-offs suggesting that IS militants could infiltrate the country as refugees, in the space of a week this month, a series of deadly attacks took place across the country.

Last Sunday, a 27-year-old Syrian man who had been denied asylum detonated an improvised explosive device in a Bavarian town of Ansbach, injuring at least 12 people. In a separate case, another Syrian asylum seeker killed one person and injured five others in a machete attack in Reutlingen.

The deadliest attack so far took place in Munich, where an 18-year-old gunman killed nine people and injuring 35 others. Police said he had no links to IS but was inspired by Norwegian far-right mass murderer Anders Breivik.

The GSG 9 was scrambled shortly after the shooting started, but the *"situation was at first unclear,"* Fuchs said. Although the gunman committed suicide without being neutralized, he claimed *"GSG 9 has accomplished its mission and supported the Munich police in a professional way."*

GSG 9 or Border Protection Group 9 was created shortly after 1972 Munich Olympics when the Palestinian terrorist organization Black September killed two Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village and nine more during an unsuccessful hostage rescue operation.

Remotely disabling non-cooperative vehicles

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160801-remotely-disabling-noncooperative-vehicles>

Aug 01 – As they strive to keep the public safe, one of the key challenges facing European security services is the ability to control and stop, at distance, non-cooperative vehicles posing a threat. However, this ability presents more than a technical challenge. To comply with EU legislation, as well as adhere to ethical concerns, the technology would also have to be safe for the user, the driver (and passengers), as well as members of the public and the material infrastructure of the surrounding environment.

Cordis reports that the [SAVELEC](#) (Safe control of non-cooperative vehicles through electromagnetic means) project developed a prototype device, after testing signals (magnetic pulses and microwave), which interfered with key car components, forcing it to slow down and stop. With the contribution of security forces as the ultimate end users, the researchers were able to simulate the technology's use in realistic scenarios.

SAVELEC first set up an end-user advisory panel comprising of law enforcement agencies and associated security organizations from different European countries, better to understand the likely operating environment for any technology developed. Scenarios were identified in terms of operational distance, target speed, distance to nearby persons, and any immediate environmental considerations. As the project's coordinator, Dr. Marta Martínez Vázquez points out, "This analysis included land and maritime missions, with the device implemented on a ground, seaborne or airborne platform."

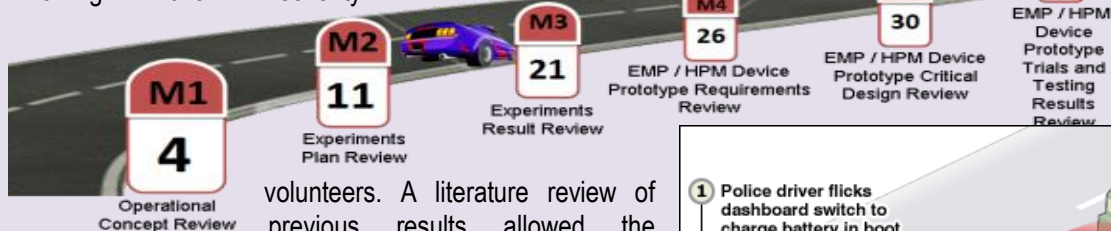
Developing the technology itself first required a review and cost analysis of what was currently available on the market, as well as establishing the car components best targeted for remote interference. In lab bench testing, SAVELEC evaluated signal frequency, waveform, and duration — principally of electromagnetic pulses (EMP) and high power microwaves (HPM)

SAVELEC



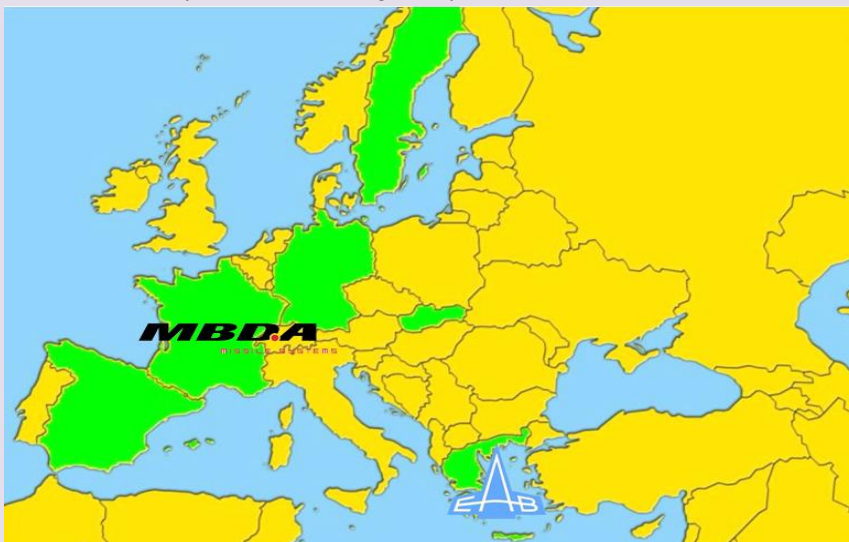
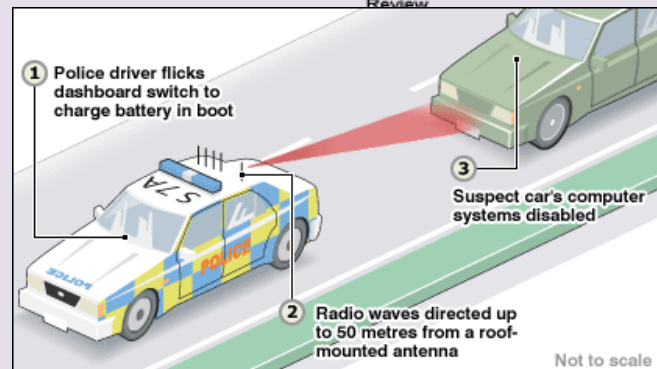
— to determine which could best disrupt the functioning of a vehicle's electronic components. Assessing the project's success, Dr. Martínez Vázquez asserts that, "An EMP/HPM car-stopping device prototype at a breadboard level was designed, fabricated and tested. Its performance was successfully demonstrated in an open field controlled track, in the presence of SAVELEC affiliated end-users." The capacity of the prototype also surpassed expectations. "It demonstrated the functionality of the whole device, with a car moving on an open air track," she comments. "Conservative expectations had been to only demonstrate a sub-system of the device, or the whole system, but with a stationary car."

The project also used the simulated environment to investigate the wider impact of the technology on humans and materials. For example, it looked at driver reactions to loss of vehicle control under six different scenarios including high speed, dense traffic and narrow roads, involving over seventy



volunteers. A literature review of previous results allowed the assessment of the likelihood of petrol tank explosions from electromagnetic exposure or damage to airbags. Additionally, it assessed three different electromagnetic exposure scenarios for the pedestrian/bystander, car driver, and device operator to ascertain safety limits.

Cordis notes that a core outcome of the project, with the help of the European security forces and an Independent Ethics Advisory Board, was a regulatory framework proposal within



which this technology could function. The framework included compatibility with European legislation which ensures the safety of all those exposed to electromagnetism. For the prototype device to progress beyond the successful proof-of-concept stage, there are two principal challenges which would have to be overcome. "Further investigation should concentrate on the miniaturization of the different components, and in extending its operational range (by

increasing the power that can be generated)," Dr. Martínez Vázquez says. She also recommends that different car models should be tested, as SAVELEC concentrated on only one. There should also be further investigation on human health and safety implications.

Whilst SAVELEC specifically tested the technology on cars, it could easily be adapted to other vehicles such as fast vessels, trucks or motorbikes. Cordis says that the project's results have also contributed to improvements in other fields, such as the study of human exposure to electromagnetic fields and the development of better driving simulators.



Australia ranked equal third on ISIS target list, US Homeland Security report says

By Simon Benson (National Political Editor, The Daily Telegraph)

Source: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/terror-australia-ranked-equal-third-on-isis-target-list-us-homeland-security-report-says/news-story/beed78c5f69972bf0a63ea6817d42343>

Aug 03 – **Australia is ranked equal third among Western nations as a target for Islamic State-inspired terror attacks as the group “crowdsources” global terrorism**, according to a US Homeland Security report.

Despite successful and large-scale attacks across Europe, the number of known terror plots targeting Australia and the UK was higher than all other Western countries apart from the US and France, according to the “high-level” assessment.

The US House Homeland Security Committee's July report identified more than 100 IS-inspired attacks or plots against Western countries since 2014.

The congressional oversight body claimed most plots and/or attacks had been directed at the **US or US interests** abroad, followed by **France**. The **UK and Australia** were next on the target list of either plots foiled or attacks carried out.

The report warned IS was now “crowdsourcing” terrorism, with a significant rise in successful attacks this year and a doubling of the number of casualties inflicted.

“ISIS has now been linked to 100-plus attack plots against Western countries, an unprecedented wave of terror,” the report said.

“Although law enforcement agencies have thwarted more plots overall than have been executed, this year has seen ISIS's highest success rate to date.”



US HOMELAND SECURITY REPORT:

- Australia is third on Islamic State's hit list of countries — equal with the UK and behind the US and France.
- The terror group is “crowd sourcing” global terrorism and doubled the number of casualties in the first half of this year.

- IS has been linked to more than 100 attack plots on Western nations this year — “an unprecedented wave of terror”.
- Attackers linked to the barbarous group have killed or wounded 875 in 2016 — more than the 750 killed across 2014 and 2015.
- IS-linked attacks have claimed more than 1600 casualties since 2014.

A previous report said: “Year-over-year growth rate in the number of ISIS plots has surpassed any previous period of al-Qaeda-linked terror targeting Western countries.”

It echoed former prime minister Tony Abbott's speech last year in which he warned against the collapse of European borders leading to a rise in terrorism attacks.

A senior intelligence source in Australia said agencies were increasingly concerned about the escalation of attacks in Europe and increasing use of sophisticated encryption, making it difficult to monitor communications.

The deteriorating global security environment was raised yesterday at a Canberra meeting between Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and former US defence secretary and CIA director Leon Panetta.

It is understood IS and border security dominated the 45-minute meeting, which also included discussion of US-Australian intelligence sharing arrangements.

The House Homeland Security committee report said: “In 2016, ISIS operatives managed to pull off 44 per cent of their attempted plots, compared to 31 per cent in 2015. The total number of casualties from the group's anti-Western attacks more than doubled in just the first half of this year.”



New Counterterrorism 'Heat Map' Shows ISIS Branches Spreading Worldwide

Source: <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/new-counterterrorism-heat-map-shows-isis-branches-spreading-worldwide-n621866>

As the U.S. launched more airstrikes Tuesday against ISIS targets in Libya — representing an expansion of the U.S. military operations beyond Iraq and Syria — NBC News has exclusively obtained a map showing the global expansion of the terror group.

The map is part of a classified briefing document received by the White House dated "August 2016" and prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center. It shows a stunning three-fold increase in the number of places around the globe where ISIS is operating.

U.S. State Department documents indicated that in 2014, when the U.S. military began its campaign to destroy the extremists, there were only seven nations in which the fledgling state was operating.



The current briefing map shows 18 countries where ISIS is fully operational. The map also displays a new category — "aspiring branches" — and lists six countries where they're taking root: Egypt, Indonesia, Mali, the Philippines, Somalia and Bangladesh.

NBC News terrorism analysis Malcolm Nance said the U.S. has been successful in attacking the "ISIS core" in Iraq and Syria, but that the "heat map" obtained by NBC News "could probably be a lot bigger if they were to show all the aspirational regions where ISIS wants to operate and has carried out terrorist attacks."

"It's fair to say that the whole battle space is expanding for ISIS," he added.

In an election year in which the fight against terror has taken center stage, even the U.S. government seems to acknowledge the battlefield is growing.



Washington transit cop accused of trying to help Islamic State

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/08/03/reports-washington-metro-cop-accused-aiding-terror-group/87995908/>

Aug 03 – **A Metro Transit Police officer in Washington, D.C., was arrested Wednesday on charges of trying to provide material support to the Islamic State, according to federal prosecutors.**

Nicholas Young, who was arrested at Metro Transit headquarters, is the first U.S. police officer to face a terror-related charge, according to the FBI.

Joshua Stueve, spokesman for the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, said Young, who worked for the MTPD for 13 years, posed no threat to the 40-year-old transit system, which serves Washington, Maryland and Northern Virginia. Court documents show Young directed his efforts at seeking to help the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, overseas.

In an FBI affidavit, **Young, 36, is specifically accused of buying nearly \$245 in gift cards last month for the Islamic State to use to buy mobile apps that would facilitate communication to and from the extremist group, which is primarily located Syria and northern Iraq. Young unwittingly turned them in to an undercover FBI source instead,** the document says.

In a brief appearance in federal court Wednesday afternoon, a shackled Young, dressed in a white T-shirt and his uniform trousers, listened to the charges lodged against him and requested the court appoint counsel to represent him.

The thin, bearded defendant with shoulder-length dark hair and a tattoo trailing down his right arm said nothing more before authorities ushered him out of the Alexandria courtroom to await a detention hearing later this week.

A woman, who later declined to be identified, watched from the second row of the courtroom gallery, occasionally wiping away tears. Trailed by reporters, she refused to say why she was in court or how she may be related to Young.

Paul Wiedefeld, the CEO and general manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, said in a statement that the FBI began investigating Young after Metro Transit Police alerted the agency of their "concerns" about him. "(I)t reinforces that, as citizens, we all

have a duty to report suspicious activity whenever and wherever it occurs," he said.

Wiedefeld called the allegations "profoundly disturbing" and said Metro Transit worked "hand in glove" with the FBI from the outset.

According to the affidavit filed in the case, **Young traveled to Libya and tried to go there a second time, but was turned away at the border.** He told FBI agents he had been with rebels trying to overthrow the regime of Moammar Gadhafi. According to the allegations in the case, a search of Young's luggage at the time of the trip turned up body armor, a Kevlar helmet and several other military-style items.

Young, of Fairfax, Va., was first interviewed by the FBI in September 2010 in connection with Zachary Chesser, an acquaintance who had been arrested and subsequently pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Over the next several years, according to court records, Young allegedly had numerous contact with undercover investigators and an FBI informant, discussing his alleged knowledge and "interest in terrorism-related activity." Many of the interactions were recorded, officials said.

"This case reflects the challenges that law enforcement is facing from the dangerous spread of violent radicalization that threatens our communities at home and abroad," said FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director in Charge Paul Abbate. "Today's arrest is the culmination of a relentless, multi-year investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Metro Transit Police Department to successfully disrupt Young's plans to support a terrorist organization."

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), along with Subcommittee Chairmen Ron DeSantis (R-FL), Mark Meadows (R-NC), and John Mica (R-FL) sent a letter Wednesday to Wiedefeld, asking for more information.

"The Committee has questions about the security of the Metro transit system," the committee members wrote. "It is unclear from the complaint and related media



coverage what safeguards, if any, were put in place by MTPD or the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to ensure Mr. Young was not a threat to the safety of transit system riders during the time he was under surveillance.

"More than 200 million riders use the WMATA transit system every year. Attacks on transit systems around the world make clear that Washington's Metro system is a target for individuals and organizations that wish to perpetrate terrorist attacks."

The court documents offer a glimpse of the **transit cop who allegedly told an undercover officer that he used to torture animals as a child. At another point, he told a law enforcement officers that he collected Nazi memorabilia and had a German eagle tattooed to his neck.**

He also said that he dressed up for a Halloween party in 2014 as "Jihadi John," the notorious Islamic State figure who is seen on videotape beheading victims. Young, according to the document, brought along an orange jumpsuit, like those worn by Islamic State hostages, that he had stuffed to portray a headless hostage and carried around during the party.

In 2011, Young allegedly met with an undercover investigator both alone and with another of Young's acquaintances, Amine El Khalifi, who later pleaded guilty to charges relating to his plan to conduct a suicide bombing at the U.S. Capitol Building in 2012.

On about 20 separate occasions in 2014, Young met with the FBI informant, who was posing as a U.S. military reservist of Middle Eastern descent and talking about his desire to travel overseas to join the Islamic State. During these conversations, Young allegedly advised the

informant how to evade law enforcement detection, particularly to "watch out for informants and not discuss his plans with others."

In 2014, according to the criminal complaint, the informant led Young to believe that he had left the United States and joined the Islamic State. At that point, FBI undercover personnel stepped in to begin posing as the informant in email communications with Young. In June 2015, according to court documents, Young emailed asking his purported acquaintance for advice from Islamic State commanders on how to send money to the terrorist group.

In the exchange, Young allegedly said, "(u)nfortunately, I have enough flags on my name that I can't even buy a plane ticket without little alerts ending up in someone's hands, so I imagine banking transactions are automatically monitored and will flag depending on what is going on."

As recently as last month, Young allegedly communicated with his purported acquaintance about buying the gift cards for mobile-messaging accounts that the Islamic State has used in recruiting others.

According to court records, Young sent 22 gift-card codes last week to an undercover FBI investigator with the message: "Respond to verify receipt ... may not answer depending on when as this device will be destroyed after all are sent to prevent the data being possibly seen on this end in the case of something unfortunate."

The codes were ultimately redeemed by the FBI for \$245, according to court documents, which pointed to the purchases as demonstrating material support for the Islamic State.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: So many agents involved; so many assets spend for just one person over a period of 6 years and finally terrorist to be was caught for \$245! A fine example marking how difficult it is to follow the people included in the black lists of security authorities. It seems that more drastic measures should be employed because surveillance outcomes are not usually successful. And it is much painful to read that the acting terrorist was in one of these lists, but...

Flaws in the 'Lone Wolf' Analysis

By A.J. Caschetta

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6164/flaws-in-lone-wolf-analysis>



Beginning in the late twentieth century, the West became enthralled by the term "lone wolf" and began using it to denote perpetrators of particularly heinous crimes who act without the assistance of other criminals. The term has become practically ubiquitous with journalists, analysts and politicians now



instinctively applying it not only to psychopaths like Aurora, Colorado movie theater shooter James Holmes and Newtown, Connecticut child-killer Adam Lanza, but also to jihadists, even when they attack in pairs, like roommates Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi, brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev or husband and wife Syed Rizwan Farooq and Tashfeen Malik. Rarely has a term so frequently used been so inconsistently applied.

Whatever originality or dubious benefit it might have brought to

the study of political violence, the lone wolf analysis has ceased to be useful. There little consensus over its meaning, and it is illogical and misleading when used to describe jihadists. In the age of Obama it has become a red herring detracting attention from the growing global jihad movement.

Rhetorical Analysis

The logic of the term "lone wolf" derives from observation of the common wolf (*Canis lupus*). Wolves are social animals, living in packs that act in concert to achieve common objectives like hunting and killing prey. From time to time, an adult male challenges the leader of the pack, and the loser is ejected, becoming a "lone wolf." A lone wolf is a less effective killer than an organized pack, but its atypical behavior makes it dangerous in other ways. It is also more difficult to track one wolf than it is to track a pack of wolves. Applied to criminals, the term insinuates a dangerous unpredictability.

In 2014, Ben Zimmer of the Wall Street Journal examined the history of the term. He found its origins in the Native American Kiowa tribe, from whence it became a figure in British literature (Rudyard Kipling, H.G. Wells) and American literature (Stephen Crane, Louis Joseph Vance) and was subsequently picked up by law enforcement agencies to denote "a criminal not associated with a gang."

Zimmer's etymological history jumps from popular literature to law enforcement, overlooking the mediating role of the press, but the lone wolf analysis is more the product of the media than of law enforcement. The dispassionate field of criminology is focused on collecting, analyzing and classifying data in order to create profiles, whereas press outlets compete with one another in order to sell stories. They create metaphors and analogies seeking to entertain and sensationalize. Paul Cruickshank and Tim Lister of CNN call the lone wolf "the unknowable face of terror."

An examination of the media's use of the term shows great inconsistency. A solitary criminal who commits theft is not called a "lone wolf thief." No one has ever been called a "lone wolf rapist." The "lone wolf" label is reserved for murderers, but even then the term is inconsistently applied. A solitary murderer of one individual is not called a "lone wolf murderer." A solitary murderer of a series of individuals is called a "serial killer."

Only when the crime is mass murder or terrorism does the entire media spectrum from left to right reflexively reach for the "lone wolf" label. Lately that reflex is strong, as it seems any terrorist not caught or killed with multiple comrades, in flagrante delicto, and not in the possession of either a valid ISIS passport or Al-Qaeda photo-ID, is considered a "lone wolf."

The term has been applied to too many different kinds of attackers to retain a stable meaning. Probably the only thing that the Columbine shooters and Timothy McVeigh have in common is being described as lone wolves (and none of them acted alone). Jeffrey D. Simon considers "active shooters" and "assassins" to be lone wolves, and he lists such activities as



hijacking and product tampering as examples of the kinds of attacks carried out by five specific types of lone wolf terrorists: "secular, religious, single-issue, criminal, and idiosyncratic."

Used to describe the truly unknown, unpredictable solitary attacker, the term "lone wolf" is not logically objectionable. While completely unnecessary, the terms "lone wolf" and "lone wolf attacker" are at least not illogical to describe psychotic killers like movie theater shooters James Holmes (Aurora, CO) and John Russell Houser (Lafayette, LA), both of whom carried out attacks unpredictable by law enforcement and without assistance. But since they also acted without any discernable political or religious motives, their crimes do not amount to terrorism, and they were not "lone wolf terrorists." Even Jared Lee Loughner,

the man who shot Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and others was driven by insanity and not politics.



Two indisputably "lone wolf" terrorists: Ted Kaczynski (left) and Anders Breivik

For all its overuse, the term "lone wolf terrorist" is only applicable when the crime is terrorism and the criminal works alone. Therefore, there have only been two

lone wolf terrorists: the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski, and Norway's most famous terrorist, Anders Breivik. Both of these killers acted alone and committed, as per the FBI's definition, "unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

It may be that Micah Xavier Johnson will turn out to be the third lone wolf terrorist, but at this writing it is still too soon to conclude that he acted alone. Every other known terrorist has had connections that make the "lone wolf" label incongruous. Analysts tempted to add Eric Rudolph should consider that he almost certainly had help hiding from the massive seven-year manhunt after he bombed the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. The Unabomber's younger brother turned him in after recognizing his delusional fantasies in the "Manifesto" published by The Washington Post and The New York Times. That's about as "lone" as a wolf can get.

Critics of the Term

There are some indications suggesting that the cliché is on the decline. In January 2015, Michel Moutot of the Agence France Presse challenged the lone wolf analysis as "an intellectual creation that appeared in the United States as part of the Bush administration's global war on terror" in 2001." Moutot believes the "fantastical figure" of the lone wolf was invented to facilitate Bush's portrayal of "an internal enemy, who is elusive and everywhere [which] justified draconian policies like the Patriot Act." But Moutot is wrong on several counts. First, his chronology is off. The term predates the Bush administration and became a cliché after Bush left office, starting in the Summer of 2009 when the Obama administration launched the "Lone Wolf Initiative." The term has flourished under Obama, partly because it offers a way to discuss Islamist terrorism without mentioning Islam (a priority). And ACLU hyperbole notwithstanding, the Patriot Act's "Lone Wolf Provision" (also known as the "Moussaoui Fix") was far from draconian.

Other critics, like Nabila Ramdani, believe it is too often used to equate Islam with terrorism. Ramdani argues that since "anyone can claim a link with ISIS or Al Qaeda" we should be skeptical of such claims. Instead of labeling Jihadist murderers like Yassine Salhi and Seifeddine Rezgui "lone wolves" she calls them "micro-terrorists" – sick men "whose affiliation with Islam seems based mostly on a twisted attempt to justify their barbarity."

Former FBI agent Ali Soufan (now of the Soufan Group) finds the term misleading for another reason. Since so many of the reputed "lone wolves" are "individuals with well-known patterns



of violent extremist or criminal behavior and connections" Soufan believes we should instead call them "known wolves." But not everyone designated a "lone wolf" is known to law enforcement. Some fall into a category Anne Speckhard calls "clean-skin terrorists" whose lack of criminal records make them hard to detect.

A surprising critique comes in the form of a Reuters study on the phenomenon, under the headline: "Wolf Dens, Not Lone Wolves, the Norm in U.S. Islamic State Plots." "The lone-wolf fallacy," as Paul Sperry calls it, is the failure to account for the killers' contacts in "family, local mosques and the larger Muslim community."

In the days following Omar Mateen's attack in Orlando, Florida, Sebastian Gorka appeared on Fox News offering audiences the boldest criticism yet: "'Lone Wolf Terrorist' is a phrase designed to make Americans stupid." The following week he elaborated in print, calling it a "weasel term...designed to dissuade the public from thinking there's a link between all of these attacks, a connective tissue that ties them to 9/11, Fort Hood, Chattanooga and the Boston bombings. But that link exists: It is global jihadism."

The 'Lone Wolf Islamists'

With some reluctance we might accept the terms "lone wolf attackers" (Lanza, Holmes) and "lone wolf terrorists" (Kaczynski, Breivik), but we should reject all forms of the term for jihadists. As former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a critic of the lone wolf analysis for years now, has observed (and tweeted) "the lone wolf has become a pack of wolves and the pack of wolves has a common ideology." Whether or not they attack with the assistance or direction from an entity on the US State Department's list of specially-designated terrorist organizations under Executive Order #13224, today's jihadists are part of a global community that came into existence in 1979 and began expanding exponentially with the advent of the Internet.

Days after the USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979 Abdullah Azzam (a future co-founder of Al-Qaeda) issued a fatwa declaring jihad Fard Ayn – that is, a "compulsory duty on every single Muslim." He called on all Muslims to defend both their brothers in Afghanistan as well as Islam itself. Azzam's subsequent treatise, *Join the Caravan* (c. 1987), elaborated on the earlier work and presented Muslims with a narrative of an embattled Islam, under worldwide attack and therefore requiring a worldwide response from all Muslims. These two works dominate the Jihadist mind.

Following the argument of Mohammad Abdus Salam Faraj's treatise *The Absent Obligation*, Azzam's *Join the Caravan* argues that the Ummah abandoned jihad and thus brought about its own problems. The urgency of the 1979 fatwa gives way to impatience with the neglectful: "What is the matter with the scholars ... propagators ... students ... imams ... mothers ... fathers?" The list culminates with "What is the matter with the Muslims?" and then turns into a metaphorical exhortation: "draw your sword, climb on the back of your horse, and wipe the blemish off your Ummah."

Over and over again, *Join the Caravan* stresses that "jihad is a collective act of worship." Every individual has a role to play. Some will fight in the lead and others will follow. Those who are too weak or ill to fight ("such as the cripple") can still support the fight by "working in other spheres." Or Azzam advises they "go out to swell the ranks for this will help terrorize the enemy."

Azzam's rhetoric endures largely unchanged today. The caravan metaphor recurs in the ISIS online magazine *Dabiq* which follows Azzam's rhetoric closely, frequently cites his words and uses his image. Issue #10 urges English-speaking readers to "Join the Caravan of Islamic State Knights in the Lands of the Crusaders" and shows images of 13 jihadists who struck in the US, Europe and Australia.

The global jihadist movement has a massive support system, both real and virtual. A jihadist may attack solo but he is always supported by a community that believes he is partaking honorably and piously in a 1400-year old tradition. The battle cry "Allahu Akbar" is a sign of that community; those who shout it during an attack are not "unaffiliated," and they are not "lone wolves."

In *Lone Wolf Terror and the Rise of Leaderless Resistance* (2012), George Michael uses the terms "lone wolf jihadist" and "lone wolf Islamist." These are oxymorons: the jihadist-Islamist ideology is a bond that, as Azzam put it, "unites the ummah."

Some came to this ideology as converts (the beltway snipers, Nolen, Couture-Roleau, Zehaf-Bibeau, Thompson) while others were previously unobservant Muslims taken with what Daniel Pipes calls "Sudden Jihad Syndrome" (Taheri-azar, the Tsarnaev brothers, Rezgui,



Abdulazeez). All decided to follow Osama bin Laden's 1998 call to wage "jihad against the Jews and crusaders."

Aside from a shared ideology, today's jihadists are united in their motivations, targets, and tactics. Following Azzam, they act out of a sense of loyalty forcing them to right perceived wrongs committed by non-Muslims against Muslims, whom they must defend and avenge (Kamal, Taheri-azar, Brown, Tsarnaev brothers, Kouachi brothers). They especially prize attacks on members of the military (Muhammed, Hasan, Couture-Rouleau, Abdulazeez), intelligence (Kansi), and law enforcement (Thompson), whom they believe are directly responsible for injuring Islam. But they also choose "soft" targets, such as civilians in "gun-free zones." And of course they target Jews (Nosair, Hadayet, Haq, Merah, Nemmouche, Coulibaly, El-Hussein).

The Cyber-pack



Though initially dubbed "lone wolves," Najibullah Zazi (left), Faisal Shahzad (center), and Mohammed Bouyeri (right) turned out to have extensive links to terrorist groups.

Often, those quickly dubbed "lone wolves" during or shortly after their attacks are proven to be affiliated with terrorist groups. "Lone wolf"

Najibullah Zazi, who attempted to detonate bombs in the New York City subway system, admitted to being an Al-Qaeda operative. "Lone wolf" Faisal Shahzad, who attempted to detonate a car bomb in Times Square, was found to be a part of Tehrik-e-Taliban. Theo Van Gogh's killer, "lone wolf" Mohammed Bouyeri, turned out to be a member of the Hofstad Group, the Dutch Al-Qaeda.



Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan (left) and Omar Farouk Abdulmutallab (center) were personally coached by Anwar al-Awlaki (right).

Even when law enforcement cannot prove membership or even physical contact between jihadists and terrorist organizations, there is often a great deal of evidence to show virtual contact. In

2003 Rita Katz and Josh Devon pointed out that "Yahoo! has become one of al Qaeda's most significant ideological bases of operation." Some of the earliest Al-Qaeda websites encouraged "Muslim Internet professionals to spread and disseminate news and information about the jihad through email lists, discussion groups and their own Web sites. The more web sites, the better it is for us. We must make the Internet our tool." A pioneer in this area was Anwar al-Awlaki, leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

Both the Fort Hood shooter, "lone wolf" Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, M.D., and failed underwear bomber "lone wolf" Omar Farouk Abdulmutallab were personally coached and guided by al-Awlaki with no evidence that they were ever in the same room with him. In Lone Wolf



Terrorism, Understanding the Growing Threat (2010), Jeffrey D. Simon calls Roshonara Choudhry "the purest of lone wolves" because she was "radicalized" by "downloading more than a hundred sermons by Anwar al-Awlaki."

Speaking four days after the June 12, 2016 Orlando jihad attack, CIA Director John Brennan told the Senate Intelligence Committee that the CIA has "not been able to uncover any direct link between...Mateen, and a foreign terrorist organization." Then he implicitly undercut the importance of direct links by conceding "that inspiration can lead someone to embark on this path of destruction."

With the newest generation of ISIS jihadists, the connection to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and the ISIS leadership may be exclusively an online one. FBI director James Comey told a Senate hearing on July 9, 2015 that ISIS is "not your grandfather's Al-Qaeda." Like Brennan, he implicitly acknowledged that direct ties to the organization are no longer necessary, as inspiration has become more important than "membership." As Comey put it, ISIS inspires attackers using social media like "a devil on their shoulder all day long saying, 'kill, kill, kill, kill.'" That devil does not require attendance at an ISIS boot camp in Raqqa.

ISIS is not alone in its use of online magazines, Facebook and Twitter accounts to recruit and train. Tamerlan Tsarnaev may or may not have been physically trained by Al-Qaeda in his trips to Chechnya and Dagestan, but to construct the bombs he used to attack the Boston Marathon, he followed the plan in an Inspire article titled "Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom."

Perhaps the best illustration of the cyber pack is Yassine Salhi whose July 2015 attack in France was widely described as the work of a "lone wolf." After killing and decapitating his victim, Salhi paused to take a "selfie" posing with the severed head which he then shared (via WhatsApp) with his community. Then he left two homemade ISIS flags at the scene.

Jihadists Take Up the Term

This obsession with referring to Jihadists as "lone wolves" began with journalists and law enforcement officials and then was taken up by academics and analysts. Then came scores of articles, book chapters and full-length books of lone wolf analysis. After achieving full cultural saturation, the term is now becoming accepted and even adopted by terrorists themselves, completing a self-perpetuating media loop. The final stage of this loop is now underway, as the propagandists at corporate headquarters are being nudged into using the alien term.

Al-Qaeda has only just begun using the term. In 2013 when AQAP (publisher of the English language online magazine Inspire) released an online guide for jihadist attackers in the West, the "step to step guide on how to become a successful lone mujahid" was titled Lone Mujahid Pocketbook – not Lone Wolf Pocketbook.

In September 2015, Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri issued an audio statement (in Arabic) on the Jihad forum Al Fida' urging competing groups in Syria and elsewhere to stop fighting each other and unite in battle against the common enemy. His call for individual Muslims in the West to attack was widely translated, including by the venerable Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), as a call for "lone wolf attacks," but Zawahiri did not use the term. MEMRI's editors confirmed for me that "Zawahiri doesn't use that literal term or any other colloquial equivalent. Rather he calls on individuals to engage in uncoordinated attacks of the type that have commonly come to be referred to in English as 'lone wolf.'"

In the Summer 2015 edition of Inspire magazine (Issue #14) the terms "lone jihad" and "lone mujahid" are found throughout various articles, but no lone wolves. The issue begins with an "Editor's letter" that announces:

We at Inspire, and in the cause of the events of 9/11 encourage the Muslims in the West to join the Lone Jihad caravan. The caravan that has and will always continue to trouble and bring nightmares to the west. In this issue, we have presented for the Lone Mujahid ways and methods to enable him to give victory to the religion and prophet.

Here Azzam's influence is obvious, though the caravan metaphor nullifies the adjective "lone." And though the term "lone wolf" was absent in AQAP's rhetoric, Western analysts inserted it anyway.



Even the respected Site Intelligence Group fell into the pattern. In its analysis of Inspire Issue #14, a Site



commentator inserted "lone wolves" for the original's "Lone Mujaheed." It did the same with Dabiq Issue #10.

ISIS has begun using the term "lone wolf" in propaganda materials.

It was probably inevitable that ISIS, with its emphasis on reaching English language speakers, would adopt the term that had achieved such

widespread acceptance in the American media. Though difficult to pin down precisely when this happened, it seems to have begun late in 2015.

A turning point came on November 23, 2015 when ISIS released a video in Russian that not only used the Russian terms "Lone Wolf" and "Lone Wolves" (again, as confirmed to me by MEMRI editors), but also featured an image of a wolf in the video.

In early 2016 ISIS released an updated English-language version of a 64-page booklet called Lone Mujahid, but the word "wolf" was added to form the new title: Lone Wolf Mujahid.

By May 2016 when Issue #15 of Inspire came out, Al-Qaeda had begun using the term. An article titled "The Lone Jihad, Between Strategy and Tactic" begins with an epigram of sorts: "And this individualism and independence is the main reason for it (Lone Jihād) to be termed as a Lone Wolf attack." The article by Sheikh Nasser Al-Anisi uses the term "Lone Wolf" once, "Lone Wolves" once, "Lone Mujahid" three times, and "Lone Jihad" 18 times.

The media loop had come full circle but only in terminology. Al-Anisi shows that he uses the term merely as a convenience. He undercuts its logic by advising the successful "Lone Jihad to return to his fellow Mujahid brothers and coordinate with them in order to unite the efforts," demonstrating that the "Lone Jihad" is not really lone at all.

A Better Metaphor

The phenomenon of the lone mujahid cries out for a better metaphor, based on a social structure that more closely resembles the character and rhetoric of the global jihad. Rather than the social world of wolves and pack life, the social world of bees and hive life suits the situation much better.

A lone wolf is an individual. Its strongest instinct is self-preservation, and it can survive alone. But a solitary bee is a member of a community that instinctively works to grow and defend that community. Each bee will sacrifice its life in defense of the hive and die for the colony without which it cannot survive. Azzam came close to this metaphor when he wrote that "it is necessary that the whole body of the Islamic Ummah rally together to protect this organ." Azzam's Islam rejects most expressions of individuality, favoring an all-encompassing collectivism and a hive mentality. As he put it "Jihad is a collective act of worship."

Even Al-Anisi's description of the lone mujahid returning to coordinate with his brothers "to unite the efforts" seems like a description of a worker bee returning to the hive to communicate to the colony and plan the next step.

Conclusion

After decades of overuse, the lone wolf analysis is probably not going away quickly. At best, the public will continue to be mildly titillated by its sensationalism and, at worst, continue to be led astray by it. Politicians and law enforcement officials have been guilty of both. When he was still Attorney General, Eric Holder said that fear of a lone wolf is "frankly what keeps



me up at night." Last year, Director of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson told ABC news that "we're very definitely in a new phase in the global terrorist threat, where the so-called lone wolf could strike at any moment."

Lately the lone wolf analysis has crept into political campaigns with Hillary Clinton promising to be the president who will stop lone wolves and Chuck Schumer bringing the lone wolves out in the latest battle of his ongoing war against gun ownership: "It's a new America, with ISIS preying on lone wolves who can easily get guns. That has to stop before there's another Orlando."

The idea that a terrorist group could successfully call on its sympathetic global constituency to carry out attacks as "lone wolves" shows how unstable the term's logic is. And yet its use continues.

Ultimately the "lone wolf" analysis provides a useful tool for anyone seeking to disconnect Islam from jihad attacks. In spite of Omar Mateen's mid-attack pledge of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, US Senator Bernie Sanders said that we may never know what inspired him to attack. Portraying the growing legion of attackers as "lone wolves" is a way of denying the existence of the global movement Azzam started. The Obama administration uses the term "lone wolf terrorist" to denote an unaffiliated and unconnected terrorist "wannabe" rather than a member of a movement. Much of the federal government seems puzzled by the threat, crippled by a fear of offending Muslims, and guided by a president who continues to insist that ISIS is not Islamic.

By refusing to look for jihadists, and then after their attacks looking for reasons other than jihad, we make it easier for them to hide.

Sebastian Gorka might be overstating the origin of the term "lone wolf" by declaring it designed to make Americans stupid, but he just might be correct about its effects.

Appendix: Jihadists Misidentified as "Lone Wolves"

The following list is by no means complete. The focus is on the West – mostly North America and Europe. Including Asia, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula would obviously make the list much longer.

There are some ambiguous entries, such as Volkert van der Graaf who murdered Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn. Van der Graaf had mixed motives and psychological problems in addition to his Islamist motivations (he said he acted "to protect Muslims").

There are also ambiguous omissions, such as Timothy McVeigh – the most famous "lone wolf" ever, even though he acted with at least one fellow wolf and maybe more. McVeigh's known partner, Terry Nichols, was named by the leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group as a participant in Ramzi Yousef's Al-Qaeda bomb-making seminars at Cebu City in the Philippines where Nichols spent a great deal of time.

And finally, only in the most extreme cases have I included thwarted attempts. Again, the list would be much longer if it included all of the jihadists caught by law enforcement before carrying out their planned attacks or those whose behavior led to FBI sting operations.

The very first member of Azzam's global jihad to whom the misnomer "lone wolf" was applied was probably El Sayyid Nosair who shot and killed Rabbi Meir Kahane on November 5, 1990. The FBI eventually realized that Nosair was no lone wolf at all, and he was later also convicted of participating in the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center attack which he helped orchestrate from prison. Then came a long procession of "lone wolves."

- **January 23, 1993:** Langley, Virginia, Mir Aimal Kansi shot 5 people, killing 2, outside the CIA Headquarters.
- **February 23, 1997:** New York City, Ali Hassan Abu Kamal, a Palestinian from Ramallah, shot 7 people on the 86th floor observation deck at the Empire State Building.
- **December 22, 2001:** Richard Reid attempted to blow up American Airlines flight #63 with a shoe bomb.
- **May 6, 2002:** Amsterdam, Netherlands, Volkert van der Graaf killed Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn.
- **July 4, 2002:** Los Angeles, California, Hesham Mohamed Hadayet shot 6, killing 2, at the El Al ticket counter at LAX airport.



- **October 2002:** Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., "Beltway Snipers" John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo shot 13 people over a 3 week period, killing 10.
- **November 2, 2004:** Amsterdam, Netherlands: Mohammed Bouyeri killed satirist Theo Van Gogh.
- **March 3, 2006:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Mohammed Reza Taheri-azar drove his SUV into a crowd of people on the campus of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, injuring 9.
- **July 28, 2006:** Seattle, Washington, Naveed Afzal Haq shot 6 women, killing one, at the Seattle Jewish Federation.
- **June 1, 2009:** Little Rock, Arkansas, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad shot 2 soldiers at a military recruiting center, killing 1 and injuring the other.
- **November 5, 2009:** Fort Hood, Texas, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, MD, killed 14.
- **December 25, 2009:** Detroit, Michigan airport (DTW), Omar Farouk Abdulmutallab, attempted to blow up Northwest Airlines Flight #253 with a bomb hidden in his underwear.
- **February 2010:** New York City, Najibullah Zazi attempted to detonate bombs in subway system.
- **May 2, 2010:** New York City, Faisal Shahzad attempted to detonate car bomb in Times Square.
- **March 11-19, 2012:** France, Mohammed Merah killed a soldier in Toulouse on March 11. He killed 2 more soldiers in Montauban on March 15. On March 19 he attacked the Ozar Hatorah Jewish Day School in Toulouse, killing a Rabbi and 3 children.
- **April 15, 2013:** Boston, Massachusetts, brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev detonated two bombs at the Boston Marathon, killing 3 and wounding 260.
- **May 22, 2013:** London, UK, Micheal Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale murdered and beheaded British Soldier Lee Rigby.
- **April to June 2014:** USA, Ali Muhammed Brown killed 4 people on a multi-state killing spree.
- **May 24, 2014:** Brussels, Belgium, Mehdi Nemmouche killed 3 and wounded 1 at the Jewish Museum.
- **September 24, 2014:** Moore, Oklahoma, Alton Nolen beheaded a woman in the Vaughan Foods plant.
- **October 20, 2014:** Ottawa, Canada, Martin Couture-Rouleau ran over two Canadian soldiers with his car, killing both men.
- **October 22, 2014:** Ottawa, Canada, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau killed an unarmed guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and then attempted to kill Parliamentarians.
- **October 23, 2014:** New York City, Zale F. Thompson attacked 4 NYPD officers in Manhattan with a hatchet.
- **December 15, 2014:** Sydney, Australia, Sheikh Man Haron Monis held hostages and killed 2 at a café.
- **January 7, 2015:** Paris, France, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi killed 12 at the headquarters of the French paper Charlie Hebdo.
- **January 8, 2015:** Paris, France, Amedy Coulibaly killed 4 in a Kosher Deli.
- **February 14-15, 2015:** Copenhagen, Denmark, Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein shot 4 killing 1 in an attack at the Krudttønden Cultural Centre, apparently targeting Lars Vilks who was speaking there on the evening of the 14th. Hours later El-Hussein attacked the Great Synagogue in Krystalgade, shooting 3 police and security officials, killing 1.
- **May 3, 2015:** Garland, Texas, Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi were killed during an attack at the AFDI's "First Annual Muhammad Art Exhibit and Contest," wounding one police officer.
- **June 27, 2015:** Tunisia, Seifeddine Rezgui killed 39 vacationers on a beach.
- **July 18, 2015:** Lyon, France, Yassine Salhi killed and beheaded Herve Cornara.
- **July 2015:** Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez attacked a military recruiting center and then a Navy Operational Support Center, killing 4 and injuring 2.
- **December 2, 2015:** San Bernardino, California, husband and wife Syed Rizwan Farooq and Tashfeen Malik killed 14 and injured 22 at a Christmas party at Farooq's workplace.
- **June 12, 2016:** Orlando, Florida, Omar Mateen shot over 100 people, killing 49, at a nightclub.

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The Frequency of Terrorist Attacks Worldwide

By James Carlini

Source: <http://intpolicydigest.org/2016/07/29/frequency-terrorist-attacks-worldwide/>

July 29 – As a follow-up to the article discussing the link between Nazi asymmetric warfare developed at the end of World War II and Islamic Jihad, I was referred to a Wikipedia link that summarizes all the terrorist attacks that have happened since the beginning of the year. The list is impressive as to the frequency and widespread geographic range of occurrences. The frequency of these attacks are much more prevalent than what we have been exposed to in the mainstream media. I was surprised there were hundreds of incidents since the first of the year, which I was unaware of in my initial research.

Terrorist incidents have occurred on an average of at least once a day, sometimes more, somewhere on almost all of the continents since January 1st of this year in dozens of countries including (this list is far from exhaustive): Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Turkey, United States and Yemen.

The list of incidents range from stabbings, landmines, car bombings, assassinations, and mass shootings to rocket and mortar attacks. Some attacks reflect more primitive tactics including machete attacks, crucifying, and stoning of victims.

A vast majority of the incidents are attributed to some sort of Islamic terrorism. The latest? A French priest whose throat was slit inside the church at its altar.

A list of designated terrorist groups and where they are active can be found here. This list is not all inclusive, but provides a broad insight as to what is happening around the world and what group is initiating the attack.

Most activities can be considered as Small Scale Conflicts (SSC). Terrorist groups are

conducting many Small-Scale Conflicts that are not the same as waging a full-scale war.

When it comes to developing a remedy or a response to global terrorism and SSCs, the first step is to identify that it is a problem. The next step is to determine how to best identify potential attacks on a city or region and then take the appropriate action. A new way of detecting explosives comes in the form of a cyborg locust. This is an emerging solution.

A current study is researching a special kind of “altered” locust which has a sensor built into its body that may replace, or at least, augment bomb-sniffing dogs as deterrents to guerilla attacks on buildings, facilities, and critical infrastructure.

The study is being done at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Research on locusts is being conducted to add a sensor and other material to their body that will alert those monitoring them for any signals of readings for explosives.

This new type of “bomb-sniffing” drone could be used in a variety of applications, once they perfect it. It will provide a new tool in the area of countermeasures.

The need for new and creative countermeasures goes hand-in-hand with the need to become more pro-active and effective against Asymmetrical Warfare and unconventional attacks by rogue nations and terrorist groups.

Traditional defenses are not as effective or efficient as deterrents to disasters. The skill sets needed to defend against physical and virtual (electronic) terrorist attacks include flexibility, adaptability, creativity, and the application of new technologies.

As terrorist organizations and their tactics evolve, our responses to those attacks and counterattacks need to be swift, decisive, and effective. The speed of a response is also critical as the focus of accelerating the rhythm of war is intensified. 20th century solutions are not going to provide a full resolution to 21st challenges.

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New counter-terrorism intelligence division will track and trap 'ghost' terrorists

Source: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/new-counterterrorism-intelligence-division-will-track-and-trap-ghost-terrorists/news-story/b1d307c468109702560513e789259f67>

Aug 02 – **A new national counter-terrorism intelligence group will be unleashed to identify potential terrorists among millions of passengers travelling in and out of Australia.**

In a significant escalation of border control measures, the new intelligence division within the Department of Immigration and Border Protection will use mass data to identify and track suspicious travel patterns of people who may not have made it on to national security watch lists.

The unit will dig deeper into passengers' travel history, using the huge volumes of data held by the department, to identify potential risk profiles and flag them before they reach the border. Officials said the new division would house **a team of up to 200 intelligence specialists**.

However it will not be taking over any functions of national security agencies such as ASIO.

It would instead provide an extra early warning system for potential terrorists trying to leave or enter the country.

Planning for the new frontline intelligence team began as concerns first started to be raised two years ago about the collapse of Europe's borders and the beginning of a new wave of terror attacks across the continent.

A senior intelligence source said border protection issues were becoming more complex and tracking the "cohort" of terrorists plotting attacks on a variety of Western targets around the world was more challenging.

A meeting of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, made up of US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, in March agreed to greater sharing of border security intelligence within the alliance in response to the collapse of Europe's borders.

Former ASIO boss David Irvine is believed to have been advising Immigration and Border Protection secretary Mike Pezzullo on the rollout of the intelligence and data mining unit.

Last year the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection issued seven million visas for inbound passengers and logged 38 million movements across Australia's air and sea borders.

The as yet unnamed division will be responsible for rolling out a new Visa Risk Assessment process announced by Immigration Minister Peter Dutton in May.

The VRA program will allow authorities to call on real-time threat identification and risk profiling of inbound and outbound passengers at Australian airports.

Security on the sea, in an age of anxiety

Source: <http://www.blockislandtimes.com/article/security-sea-age-anxiety/47026>

July 30 - "I feel we are prepared. There are things going on behind the scenes that you don't necessarily see."

Those are the words of Bill McCombe, Director of Security for Interstate Navigation, the company that owns and operates the Block Island Ferry. McCombe said the ferry and its facilities adhere to United States Coast Guard regulations and the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, which was enacted by Congress in 2004.





McCombe, a former New Shoreham Police Chief who sits on the Maritime Security Board, works double-duty as a security professional on Block Island. He serves with Peter Gemppe as the town's appointed, volunteer, co-director of Emergency Management, and has worked with Peter Gaynor, the Director of the state's Emergency Management Agency.

Given the horrific terrorist attack that occurred in Nice, France in July, when 84 people were killed and 303 injured, as well as other recent shootings and terrorist acts, the issues of security have become

prevalent in today's society.

"Every ferry company must have a United States Coast Guard security plan," said McCombe, noting that the plan includes the company's vessels and terminal facilities. "The plan has to be drafted and address all of the security requirements. What it requires are such things as hiring a company security officer, training exercises related to maritime security matters, drills, etc."

"People want some comfort, and to know that there is a structure in place concerning security," added McCombe. "That's why we do drills and conduct training exercises. We're trying to balance people's comfort with their freedom, with good, responsible security measures. Part of that includes working closely with the New Shoreham Police Department and the State Police."

McCombe noted that the Block Island Ferry has "a security plan in place that is approved by the United States Coast Guard," under the Department of Homeland Security. "Without a Coast Guard security plan you can't operate," he said. "The plan that we have is considered classified information. After it is drafted, it is submitted to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. It's a five-year approval. The plan has to be audited annually for its compliance."

McCombe said that the Coast Guard inspects the ferry company's boats and facilities once a year. "They do spot checks," he said. "Every year the Coast Guard reviews our security records. And we have a third-party audit of our security plan."

Coast Guard security protocol follows the three MARSEC (maritime security) levels. "One is normal for heightened awareness; two is elevated due to intelligence; and three is severe, meaning that there's been some type of incident that has happened, or is inevitable," he said.

"There are checks and balances to address the increase in levels," said McCombe. "In a nutshell, there are a host of security measures that are in place that people don't see. Other times, there are security measures that people do see."

McCombe said the things that people do see are the Sea Marshals that the Coast Guard provides on the ferry. "This is done on a random basis, just like with the airlines, so there isn't a set pattern of security" he said. "Sometimes the Sea Marshalls are uniformed. There is also a behavioral recognition team of plain clothed security personnel who look for behavior that is suspicious. And a Coast Guard escort is provided at times as well."

"We're looking for abnormal behavior or activity," said McCombe, adding that "it's impossible to guarantee one hundred percent safety without giving up one-hundred percent of our freedom. Hopefully these security measures that we implement will make it more difficult for an event to occur. But it takes more than just law enforcement and security measures to prevent an incident from happening."

McCombe noted that Interstate Navigation works with the Transportation Security Administration and requires that all of the company's vessels have a security officer who is known as the "mate" on each boat. Andy Fox, who is the security officer/mate on the traditional ferry, said, "We're always vigilant. We do sweeps of the boat to make sure it is



clear." Mike Houlihan serves as the mate on the hi-speed ferry Athena, and agrees with Fox. He said the company does a lot of training exercises and drills.

"The security officers work in conjunction with the captain, and coordinate training and drills with the crew members," said McCombe.

McCombe said that everyone has to be a participant for security measures to be operating at peak efficiency. "We rely on several things, including our passengers," he said. "Our motto is: 'If you see something, say something.' It's all of our responsibility to be vigilant and alert."

'One ISIS attack every 84 hours' spurs dread and anger in Europe

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/07/31/europe/isis-attacks-escalating-europe/>



July 31 – In the past week I have seen flowers and candles carpeting a street in Munich, the tranquility of a small Bavarian town shattered by a suicide bomb and a small church in suburban France sealed off after its octogenarian priest had his throat cut.

Before these horrific events, there was a knife-wielding teenager on a German train. And before that, much deadlier attacks in Nice, Brussels and last November, in Paris.

This year has seen an accelerating pattern of attacks linked to ISIS in Europe and beyond -- from Turkey to Bangladesh, the United States to Indonesia. According to the group IntelCenter, which tracks acts of terrorism, there has been a significant attack directed or inspired by ISIS every 84 hours since June 8 in cities outside the war zones in Iraq, Syria, Sinai in Egypt and Libya. CNN's own tracking of attacks supports that conclusion.

More than half of those attacks have been beyond big cities in places "not traditionally under threat of terrorist attacks," says IntelCenter. This rash of random, low-tech but deadly attacks has fueled public unease in Europe and eroded faith in governments to tackle the threat of terrorism or discern who might turn to violence.

Opinion: Why so many terror attacks?

It has also diminished trust in justice systems accused of leaving too many dangerous people at large. Despite twice trying to go to Syria, Adel Kermiche -- one of the 19-year-old attackers who killed the priest in France -- was released from custody and allowed out of his home for four hours a day. Despite repeated efforts to deport him, the Ansbach bomber -- Daleel Mohammad -- was still in Germany.

In my week-long journey across Northern Europe, that public unease was never far from the surface. Callers to German radio stations said they were apprehensive of visiting a mall. A shaken teacher who knew one of the attackers in France told CNN: "I never thought for a day in my life that a young person would commit a terrorist act here in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray."

In Ansbach, a picturesque town in Bavaria, stunned locals drifted past the scene of the suicide bombing at a café, where abandoned drinks and playing cards bore silent witness to the moment of terror the night before.

These attacks have also prompted fundamental social questions. Respect for openness, liberal democracy and due process are being eaten away by a toxic mixture of extremism and psychosis.

Related: When terror goes viral it's up to us to prevent chaos

Fear breeds civic distrust

Intelligence analysts Flashpoint Partners say there is "more coordination between potential lone actors or small unofficial cells with jihadi media -- a way to guarantee that their message is disseminated and to prove their allegiance to ISIS without necessarily joining its ranks."

The consistent public message from ISIS over the past year or so has been: "Don't come to Syria; kill the unbelievers at home."

These attacks, and the expectation of more, have fed not only the mood of growing anxiety. They have become part of a combustible political debate. I witnessed this in its rawest form at the site of the Munich killings. A young relative of one of the Turkish victims called out "Allahu Akhbar" in prayer, which was met by a torrent of abuse from some right-wingers



present, provoking the Turks to yell "Your sisters will be next." Police moved in swiftly to keep the two groups apart.

In a poll after the attack in Nice, more than two-thirds of the French people questioned said they did not trust the government to combat terrorism effectively, a sharp increase over the previous year. Prime Minister Manuel Valls was booed by some of the crowd when he attended a memorial service for the victims.

"The government will have to answer the question: how flagged individuals, including one under judiciary control for attempting to wage jihad in Syria, were let free to commit such attacks?" asked former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, widely thought to be eyeing another bid for the top job next year.

France has deployed 4,000 troops in Paris; another 6,000 beyond. Bavarian Premier Horst Seehofer has called for similar measures in Germany.

But it seems even 100,000 troops could not guard against these random attacks.

The answer, to Sarkozy and others on the right, is internment without trial for anyone suspected of jihadist sympathies. It would be a dramatic departure from the cherished tradition of due process, but according to recent polls conducted for Le Figaro, such a move has the support of at least three-quarters of French citizens.

The outbreak of terror attacks in Northern Europe has also translated into growing hostility toward migration. German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière pointed out that none of the recent attacks in Germany had been carried out by refugees who arrived last year. Nor was the attack in France. But that has not changed a perception among some that the tide of mass migration will end badly. The far-right Alternative fuer Deutschland party is polling at some 20% in Chancellor Angela Merkel's home state of Mecklenburg ahead of state elections in September.

Merkel has again insisted that "we can manage" the influx and integrate refugees into German society. A year ago her decision not to send would-be migrants back to their first point of entry into Europe led tens of thousands -- from Syria, Iraq and elsewhere -- to head for Germany. The slogan "Refugees Welcome" was on banners at city halls and football matches across Germany. It was a remarkable display of generosity toward those fleeing violence and persecution.

But the welcome has worn thin. Merkel is on the defensive. She -- like French President François Hollande -- must face the voters next year if she wants another term. Some within her own coalition now cry "We told you so" -- among them Bavarian Premier Seehofer.

Merkel has promised more decisive action to deport those whose requests fail and better detection of those becoming radicalized.

But the scale of the problem is enormous. According to German government statistics from March, about 400,000 asylum applications were still being processed. But half of those whose requests had been rejected -- nearly 170,000 people -- were still in Germany, among them Daleel Mohammad.

And sociologist Armin Nassehi, who examines migration issues at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, says many young male migrants are more vulnerable than most to manipulation or emotional instability.

"The central problem is that refugees have much more complicated life situations. They are people with traumatic experiences on the one hand and not knowing what will happen to them in the future on the other," he told CNN.

Hard choices ahead

The core of the issue is this: how much is Europe prepared to compromise its way of life -- the freedoms and rights taken for granted for generations -- to do battle with random terrorism? How many public places become fortresses? How many events are canceled (as the French interior minister has recommended) if adequate security cannot be guaranteed? How much must be spent on the militarization of policing? And how many powers of arrest and detention should a government possess without reference to the courts? The state of emergency in France declared last November is set to run another three months at least.

As she visited the site of a makeshift memorial outside city hall in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray on Wednesday, 23-year-old Meggy Simane paused for thought.



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – August 2016

"It's a problem for everyone," she said, "the gay community amongst us, the Jewish communities, all walks of life. We are all different with our own cultures but at the same time we are all the same."

A 19-year old who lived just a few streets away from Meggy thought very differently.

July 2016 terrorism: The numbers

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160802-july-2016-terrorism-the-numbers>

Aug 02 – The House Homeland Security Committee has just released its August Terror Threat Snapshot. The snapshot is a monthly committee assessment of the threat America, the West, and the world face from ISIS and other Islamist terrorists.

The document is produced by the Majority Staff of the committee. It is based on information culled from open source materials, including media reports, publicly available government statements, and nongovernmental assessments.

Key points

- ✓ Islamist terrorists have waged a deadly campaign of violence, particularly in Europe where ISIS-linked terrorists launched four separate attacks over a two-week period in July. ISIS supporters in France killed a priest in Normandy and dozens of people celebrating Bastille Day in Nice; in Germany, they conducted two separate attacks. These strikes in Europe followed what was the deadliest post-9/11 Islamist terror attack on American soil in June.
- ✓ ISIS and al Qaeda continue to operate in safe havens that can serve as launching pads for external operations. ISIS's unprecedented social media capabilities and propaganda are also accelerating its ability to inspire global audiences.
- ✓ Islamist terror operatives deployed posing as refugees and radicalized refugees have conducted attacks inside Europe. Refugees living in Germany recently executed two separate attacks on a passenger train and at a music festival.
- ✓ The Obama administration has continued to transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees overseas. Less than 80 detainees remain at the terror detention facility; around a third of them have reportedly been cleared for transfer.
- ✓ The Iranian regime continues to host senior al Qaeda members in Iran. Several al Qaeda members involved in financial and weapons transfers are actively operating inside Iran.

Home-grown Islamist extremism

FBI Director James Comey estimated in May 2016 that around 80 percent of the Bureau's more than 1,000 active homegrown terror investigations are linked to ISIS. Attacks directed or inspired by ISIS represent "the greatest threat to the physical safety of Americans today," he added in July 2016.

Since September 11, 2001, there have been at least 163 homegrown jihadist plots in the United States, including attempts to join terrorist groups overseas and execute attacks at home. More than 86 percent of these cases have occurred or been uncovered since 2009 (This figure is based on open-source data compiled by the Congressional Research Service and the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee).

Authorities have arrested 102 individuals in the U.S. and charged 3 others in absentia in ISIS-linked cases since 2014 (this figure is based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee). These individuals had, among other acts: plotted attacks; attempted to join ISIS in Iraq and Syria (or facilitated others' travel); provided money, equipment, and weapons to ISIS; and falsified statements to federal authorities. Seven ISIS-linked terrorists have been killed while carrying out five separate attacks in California, Florida, Massachusetts, and Texas.

Nearly 90 percent of the ISIS supporters charged in the U.S. are male and approximately 35 percent of them are converts to Islam; their average age is 26 (these figures are provided by the George Washington University's Program on Extremism. See:

<https://cchs.gwu.edu/sites/cchs.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Snapshot-May.pdf>). Nearly one-third of the ISIS-linked individuals charged were involved in plotting attacks in the Homeland.

Recent developments

- July 28: Robert Blake Jackson, a 31-year-old U.S. citizen from Pensacola, Florida, was arrested for lying to the FBI about his pro-ISIS posts on Facebook.



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – August 2016

- July 21: Three U.S. citizens from southern Florida — 52-year-old Gregory Hubbard, 50-year-old Darren Jackson, and 31-year-old Dayne Christian — were arrested after declaring their support for ISIS and intent to travel overseas to join the group. Authorities arrested Hubbard at the Miami International Airport where he was preparing to fly to Europe.
- July 17: Elias Gebreweit Isaac, a 27-year-old from Santa Rosa, California, was arrested after pledging allegiance to ISIS and threatening police officers.
- July 8: Haris Qamar, a 25-year-old U.S. citizen born in Brooklyn, New York, was arrested after taking photographs in Washington, D.C. that he believed were intended to be used in an ISIS video encouraging attacks. Qamar had attempted to travel overseas to join ISIS in 2014.
- July 8: Yusuf Wehelie, a 25-year-old U.S. citizen from Virginia, was arrested by FBI counterterrorism agents after attempting to transport four guns from Maryland to Virginia. Wehelie had previously been under investigation for his contacts with an American al Qaeda recruit in Yemen.
- July 7: Munir Abdulkader, a 21-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested in May 2015 after he plotted to kill a U.S. military employee and attack a police station in Ohio. Abdulkader received direction from Syria-based ISIS operative Junaid Hussain and pledged his support for ISIS on Twitter.
- July 3: Mohamed Bailor Jalloh, a 26-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen and former U.S. Army National Guard member, was arrested for helping plot an attack in America on behalf of ISIS. A member of ISIS who is now dead had communicated with Jalloh and directed him to assist with the execution of a plot with another individual. Jalloh traveled to Nigeria in 2015 where investigators believe he met with ISIS members. Jalloh also indicated he was inspired by Anwar al Awlaki's online sermons and Nidal Hassan's attack at Fort Hood in 2009.
- July 1: Mahin Khan, an 18-year-old from Tucson, Arizona, was arrested for plotting to attack government buildings in Phoenix and Tucson. Khan's classmate said he posted "calls for [j]ihad" on Facebook. Khan was coordinating with an individual he believed to be an ISIS member.

ISIS terror attack plots against the West

There have been at least 103 ISIS-linked plots to attack Western targets since 2014, including 30 inside the U.S. (these figures are based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee).

Recent developments

- July 25: Two French nationals who pledged allegiance to ISIS attacked a church in Normandy, France, murdering an 85-year-old priest. The attackers had both attempted to travel to Syria to join ISIS and were reportedly known to French counterterrorism authorities. ISIS's media outlets released a video of the attackers' pledge.
- July 24: A 27-year-old Syrian man who pledged allegiance to ISIS and was living in a refugee shelter since 2014 conducted a suicide bombing outside a music festival in Ansbach, Germany, injuring 15 people. The attacker recorded his pledge on a cell phone recovered after the attack.
- July 18: A 17-year-old Afghan refugee wielding an axe and a knife attacked passengers on a train near Würzburg, Germany, injuring at least three people. ISIS claimed credit for the attack. Authorities found a hand-drawn ISIS flag and a letter about taking "revenge on the infidels" in his bedroom.
- July 14: A 31-year-old Tunisian national with a French residency permit drove a truck through a crowd taking in the Bastille Day celebration in the southern resort town of Nice, France, killing 84 people. The attacker had sought out radical Islamist propaganda online, including ISIS materials. ISIS's media outlet declared the attacker was a "soldier of the Islamic State" who had responded to the group's call for its followers to launch attacks in Europe.
- July 10: South African authorities arrested four individuals who had plotted to attack the U.S. Embassy and Jewish community targets in South Africa. Two of them, twin brothers, also attempted to fly to Syria to join ISIS.
- July 7: Munir Abdulkader, a 21-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested in May 2015 after he plotted to kill a U.S. military employee and attack a police station in Ohio. Abdulkader received direction from Syria-based ISIS operative Junaid Hussain — who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in August 2015 — and pledged his support for ISIS on Twitter.



- July 3: Mohamed Bailor Jalloh, a 26-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen and former U.S. Army National Guard member, was arrested for plotting an attack in America on behalf of ISIS. A member of ISIS who is now dead had communicated with Jalloh and directed him to assist with the execution of a plot with another individual. Jalloh traveled to Nigeria where investigators believe he met with ISIS members. Jalloh also indicated he was inspired by Anwar al Awlaki's online sermons.
- July 1: Mahin Khan, an 18-year-old from Tucson, Arizona, was arrested for plotting to attack government buildings in Phoenix and Tucson. Khan's classmate said he posted "calls for [j]ihad" on Facebook. Khan was coordinating with an individual he believed to be an ISIS member.
- July 1: ISIS-linked terrorists attacked a café in Bangladesh's capital that expatriates were known to visit. The attackers killed at least 22 people, including an American citizen and two individuals studying at U.S. universities.

Foreign fighters

More than 40,000 fighters — including at least 6,900 from Western countries — have traveled to Syria and Iraq from at least 120 countries since 2011. Around 250 of the Westerners traveled from the United States and 5,000 of them traveled from European Union countries. Around one-third of the European fighters are suspected to have returned home from Syria. As many as 20,000 Shia fighters — including from Lebanese Hezbollah and Iranian-directed Iraq-based militias — have also traveled to Syria to fight alongside the Assad regime.

The Pentagon estimated in April 2016 that up to 500 foreign fighters travel to Syria and Iraq every month. That number had spiked to as high as 2,000.

Europol recently assessed that there was an "increased risk" that foreign fighters may exploit migratory flows to enter Europe. Two recent attacks in Germany were conducted by refugees from Syria and Afghanistan. German authorities arrested several Syrian nationals plotting an attack in Dusseldorf in early June. At least one of the European ISIS operatives in the March 2016 Brussels attack reportedly reentered Europe by posing as a Syrian refugee in Greece. At least two of the ISIS attackers in Paris last November infiltrated Europe by posing as Syrian refugees.

The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has identified "...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program." The Obama administration plans to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the U.S. this year. Over 7,000 Syrian refugees have been resettled in the U.S. since 2011, including more than 5,200 this fiscal year. The vetting process for these refugees, which includes the collection of background information and interviews, is overseen by the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department, with assistance from U.S. government security agencies. It typically takes 18 to 24 months for refugees to be resettled in the United States after their applications are referred by the United Nations. American law enforcement and intelligence officials have repeatedly indicated that the U.S. lacks reliable and credible intelligence to properly vet and screen potential Syrian refugees.

Foreign jihadist networks & safe havens

ISIS

At least 34 Islamist extremist groups have pledged their allegiance to ISIS. ISIS, its affiliates, and supporting groups have operated in approximately two dozen countries or territories, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Palestinian territories (Gaza), Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (North Caucasus region), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen (Data compiled by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee using open source materials). The group has established eight official branches. ISIS may soon declare a new branch in the Philippines, where several jihadist groups have pledged allegiance to it.

ISIS — in command of 18,000–22,000 fighters — controls nearly two dozen cities and towns across Iraq and Syria, despite losing some of its territory since 2014 (these figures are derived from assessments of territorial control conducted by the Institute for the Study of War research organization). As of late June, it still dominated more than 25,000 square miles of territory across the two countries (this figure was calculated based on an estimate of ISIS's



territorial control provided by Special President Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL Brett McGurk before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 28, 2016. See http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/062816_McGurk_Testimony.pdf). ISIS also occupies around 60 miles of strategic terrain along Syria's northern border with Turkey. The group has anchored its territorial claims in Syria and Iraq with strongholds in Raqqa and Mosul, respectively.

ISIS's Libyan branch, "the most developed and the most dangerous" of its affiliates, has fielded as many as 8,000 fighters. Anti-ISIS forces have recently taken territory from ISIS in and around the coastal city of Sirte, where fighting remains intense. A non-governmental organization assessed in June 2016 that ISIS will likely establish a new safe haven in southwest Libya in response to the pressure it is facing in Sirte.

ISIS's affiliate in Egypt, which blew up a commercial passenger plane in 2015, has maintained its foothold in the Sinai Peninsula with up to 1,000 fighters. ISIS terrorists claimed responsibility for killing a Coptic Christian priest and targeting local policemen in the Sinai Peninsula over the last month. The Israeli Defense Forces assess that HAMAS has provided financial, training, communications, and medical support to ISIS in the Sinai.

ISIS' affiliate in Afghanistan recently conducted its first major suicide bombing attack in the capital of Kabul, targeting members of the Shi'a community. The group, largely comprised of former Pakistan Taliban fighters, has traditionally been operating in southern Nangarhar province along the Pakistan border. In Yemen, ISIS has exploited the ongoing civil war to expand its footprint, recently executing coordinated bombing attacks on pro-government security forces in southern Yemen.

Al Qaeda

Syria-based Jabhat al Nusra (JN) has been operating as al Qaeda's "largest affiliate." National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen recently expressed concerns over al Qaeda's safe haven in Syria "because we know [al Qaeda] is trying to strengthen its global networks by relocating some of its remaining leadership cadre from South Asia to Syria." The recently announced "split" of JN from al Qaeda is more likely a rebranding effort and is unlikely to change the fundamental nature of the jihadist group, according to one nongovernmental assessment.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which has up to 4,000 members, maintains a significant presence in Yemen, particularly in the south and in the east. AQAP is "using the unrest in Yemen to provide a haven from which to plan future attacks against our allies as well as the U.S. and its interests" according to U.S. Central Command.

Al Qaeda and its affiliate Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent have a presence inside Afghanistan. The Defense Department assessed in May 2016 that Al Qaeda has increased its cooperation with the Taliban and can act as an accelerant for the Taliban's operations.

Al Qaeda's affiliate in Somalia, al Shabaab, continues to present a serious threat to Western and regional interests in east Africa. U.S. Africa Command thwarted an al Shabaab attack plot against American military personnel in Somalia in June 2016.

Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has launched several major attacks in West Africa since late 2015, which appear to be part of a broader targeting, financing, and recruiting campaign. Al Qaeda-linked groups are also operating in Libya.

Guantanamo Bay detainees

The Director of National Intelligence's most recent assessment of recidivism among former Guantanamo Bay detainees concluded that over 30 percent of detainees released have returned or are suspected of having returned to jihadist activity. The Washington Post reported on June 8 that the Obama Administration has assessed that at least a dozen former Guantanamo detainees conducted attacks on American and allied forces in Afghanistan following their release.

The Defense Department announced on July 11 the transfer of Muhammadi Davlatov and Mansur Ahmad Saad al-Dayfi to the Serbian government. The Obama Administration has released 28 terrorists from Guantanamo Bay thus far in 2016. There are currently 76 remaining detainees at Guantanamo; 27 of them have reportedly been approved for transfer to foreign countries.



The Iranian terror threat

The U.S. Treasury Department in July sanctioned three senior al Qaeda members operating inside Iran as part of a terror facilitation network. The broader al Qaeda network inside Iran has been operating there under a formal agreement with the Iranian regime.

Iran's terrorist proxy Lebanese Hezbollah has stockpiled an estimated 100,000 rockets and missiles, including weapons capable of hitting targets across all of Israel.

German officials have reportedly warned that Iran has been attempting to illicitly purchase nuclear equipment from German suppliers over the last year. Iranian companies that had previously been sanctioned for their involvement in the regime's nuclear program have increasingly sought to procure materials in China.

Iranian authorities recently detained Reza Shahini, a 46-year-old dual U.S.-Iranian citizen from San Diego, California, for "crime against the state."

Magazine by the Mujahideen of Shaam ~ Al-Risalah (issue 3)

Aug2 by pietervanostaeyen

Source: <https://pietervanostaeyen.com/2016/08/02/magazine-by-the-mujahideen-of-shaam-al-risalah-issue-3/>

Third issue of this magazine published by Jihadi fighters in Syria

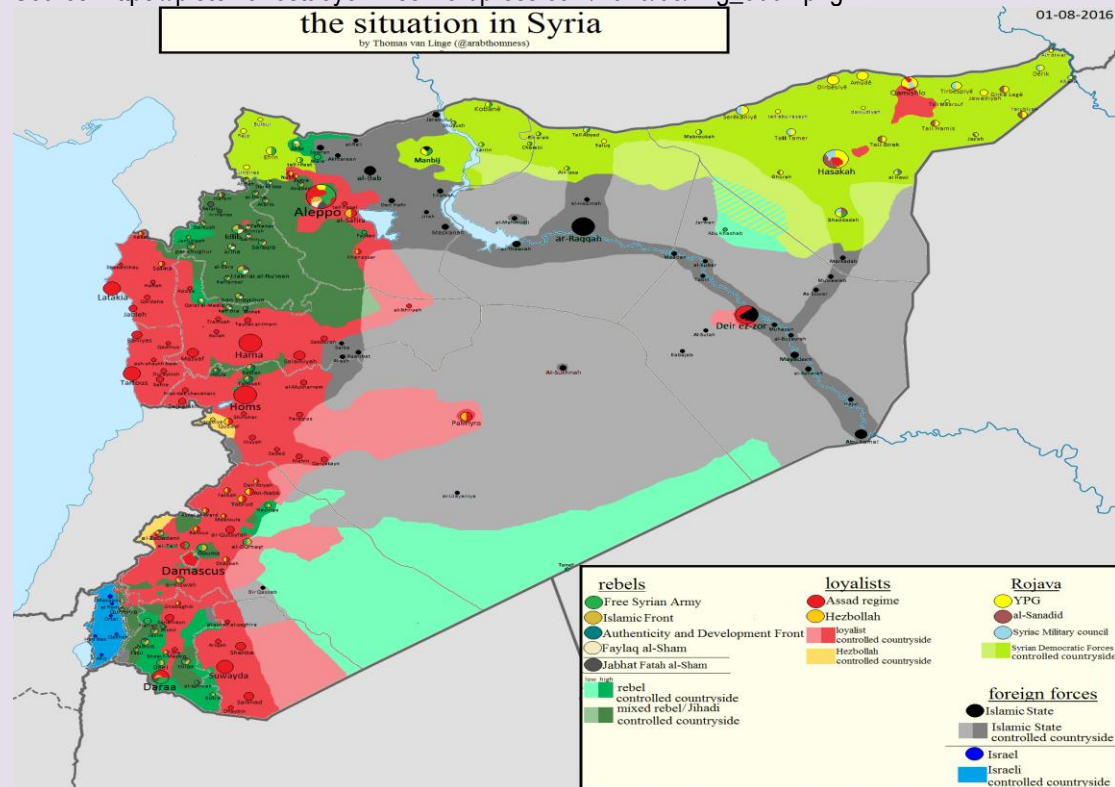


pdf: Al Risalah – Issue 3



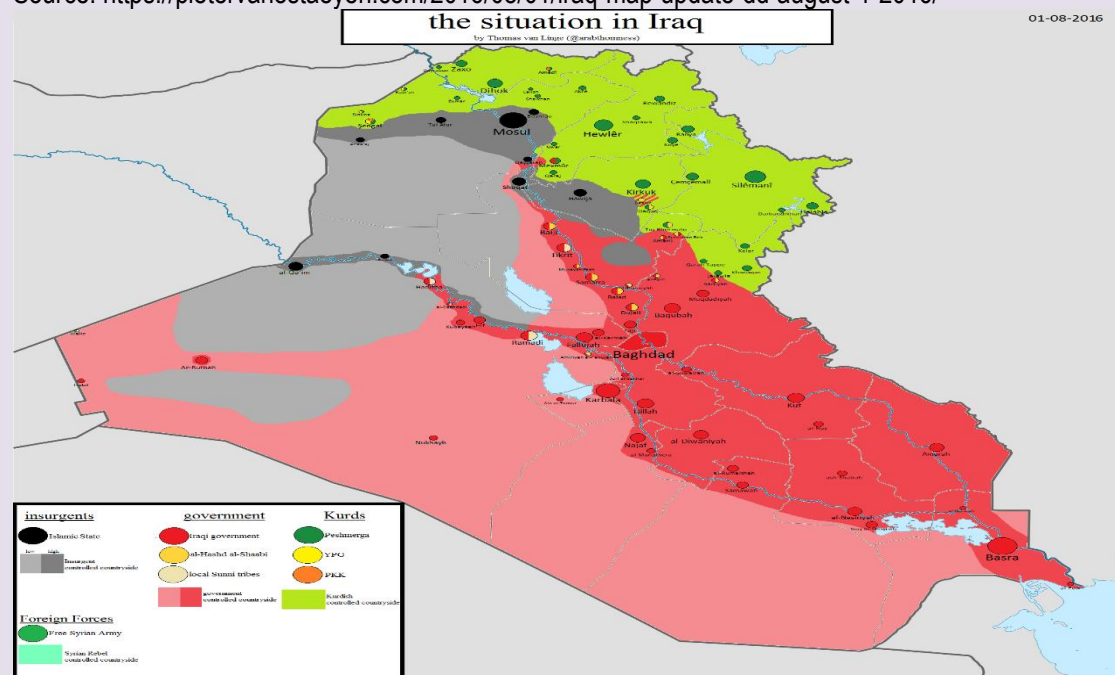
The situation in Syria (Aug 2016)

Source: https://pietervanostaeyen.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/img_3664.png



The situation in Iraq (Aug 2016)

Source: <https://pietervanostaeyen.com/2016/08/01/iraq-map-update-dd-august-1-2016/>



► You can view the details in higher magnification of both photos.



The new heavily armed face of counter terror policing is revealed

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/03/more-armed-police-to-patrol-the-streets-in-response-to-terror-at/>

Aug 03 – The latest face of anti-terror policing in London has been unveiled as a new batch of highly trained officers prepares to take to the streets.

With mounting concern over a UK terror attack, Met Commissioner

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has announced that the first of 600 additional armed officers are ready to start work in the capital.

Armed police prepare to deploy from Hyde Park, central London, as Scotland Yard announced that the first of 600 additional armed officers

Credit: Stefan Rousseau Among them are members of the Met's elite counter-terror firearms unit who are trained to deploy

around the clock at a moment's notice to tackle marauding terrorists head on.

Specialist firearms officer: the full kit

Body armour

Waistcoat armoured with kevlar/ceramic plates designed to stop a bullet

Ballistic helmet

Able to stop a 9mm round at close range

M26 Taser

Fires two probes on the ends of wires using high voltage electric current to incapacitate a suspect without using lethal force

Pistol

Glock 17 9mm, reliable and accurate handgun with a 17-round magazine

Submachine gun

Heckler and Koch MP5. The versions used by UK police are single fire/semi-automatic only.

Overalls

Flame-retardant Nomex overalls with fireproof knee and elbow pads



PA

Equipped with SIG 516 semi-automatic carbines and Glock 9mm sidearms, the counter-terror

specialists are capable of racing to

the scene of any potential incident on board specially adapted BMW F800 motorcycles.

Riding pillion the officers will be able to cut through the heavy London traffic on boards the all-terrain bikes which are capable of reaching top speeds of 120mph.

The SAS style officers are also trained to carry out water borne assaults from rigid inflatable hull vessels and even abseil into situations from hovering helicopters.

The announcement of their deployment follows a string of terrorist incidents in mainland Europe and warnings from the Met chief that an attack in Britain is a matter of "when, not if".

Police counter terrorism officers pose

They will help support newly recruited armed officers who will operate in visible roles across the capital to help reassure the public and deter any would be terrorists.

Members of the public across London will begin to see an increase in armed patrols, particularly in high profile tourist

areas, with an increased number of officers carrying semi-automatic weapons, Tasers and shotguns.





Announcing the measure, Sir Bernard said: “Anyone who's been following events in Europe over the past few weeks will understand why we want to show our determination to protect the public.

“We are deadly serious about the protection that we are offering the people of London and we will never be complacent.

“That's why I'm increasing the visibility and the number of armed officers on London's streets, and demonstrating some of the range of tactics we already have to protect the public from all manner of threats.

“I want the public to know that we have substantial resources and a range of tactics that we can call on to protect them.”

“The reality of having to deal with armed and deadly attackers is that you need firearms officers who will use force to stop those attackers in their aim. Our firearms officers are the ones who will run towards the danger. They are our heroes.

“Despite the fact they are carrying guns they are still police officers and I want the public to approach and talk to them, they are out on our streets to reassure and help the public.

“Equally important in how we protect our capital is the relationship that our mainly unarmed officers have built with communities over many years. Our communities are a vital source of information and if you have fears or concerns then we want to know.”

French police have begun armed patrols on beaches Credit: SIPA/REX/Shutterstock

But the plans come amid warnings from the Police Federation that plans to introduce 1,500 more armed officers nationally could take at least two years.

Steve White, chairman of the Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers said:

“Some forces are getting volunteers coming forward, but they are not always being selected because they don't meet the criteria. It is vitally important that standards are maintained. The best-case scenario is two years in terms of recruiting an extra 1,500 officers.



"If there is an attack it is unlikely to be an isolated incident. We've got to have the resources around the country because it might happen in multiple places at the same time."

Welcoming the introduction of Operation Hercules, Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, said: "The safety and security of all Londoners is my first priority, and our police and security services is working incredibly hard every day on our behalf.

"The threat level here in London has not changed, but it does remain at severe and especially in light of recent deadly attacks in Europe it is important we are prepared should the unthinkable happen."



Ceremony at Rio Olympic village honors Israeli victims of Munich attack

Source: <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/sport/121801-160804-ceremony-at-rio-olympic-village-honors-israeli-victims-of-munich-attack>



Aug 04 – Family members of the the 11 Israeli athletes killed by terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics were joined by officials at a ceremony at the Olympic village in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday, marking the culmination of a long struggle for official recognition of the tragedy.



Ilana Romano, widow of Israeli athlete Yossef Romano

The ceremony, which included a minute's silence, was led by International Olympic Committee

(IOC) President Thomas Bach, who inaugurated the Place of Mourning, which will now be a feature at every Olympics, with two stones from ancient Olympia encased in glass in a leafy part of the athletes' village.



A total of 11 Israeli Olympic team members were taken hostage during the Olympics in Munich and eventually killed, along with a German police officer, by the Palestinian group Black September. The games were suspended for a day and then carried on.



Leo Glesser of ISDS Ltd with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach inaugurates a memorial in honor of Israeli Olympic athletes killed by Palestinian gunmen at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Ankie Spitzer, whose husband Andre, a fencing coach, was killed in the massacre, told reporters that the ceremony marked a "closure" for her and other family members. "This is



incredibly important," she said. "We waited 44 years to have this remembrance and recognition for our loved ones who were so brutally killed in Munich,"

"That they would be really accepted as members of the Olympic family," she added. "It is what we wanted because they were members of the Olympic family."

Ever since the massacre, the IOC has faced repeated criticism from across the world that it has not done enough to honor the victims.

Last year the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that it would set up a special place for athletes to commemorate the memory of those who died. Alex Gilady, Israel's member of the International Olympic Committee commented on the decision at the time saying it was "a good and positive step by the members of the International Olympic Committee. The ability to see the issue not only through Israeli eyes, but through a wider view, represents a change and a big step forward."



A tree filled with ribbons stands as part of a memorial in honor of Israeli Olympic athletes killed

The most crisis-ridden Olympic Games in history opens in Rio Friday with organizers hoping to draw a line under a turbulent seven-year build-up to the greatest sporting show on Earth.

Football legend Pele is tipped to ignite the Olympic flame at Rio's iconic Maracana Stadium in Friday's opening ceremony, as the four-yearly celebration of sporting endeavor arrives in South America for the first time.

Olympic chiefs will hope the ceremony marks the start of a 17-day carnival of sport, a feast of drama framed by a Rio backdrop of breathtaking natural beauty.

When Rio successfully won the race for the Games in 2009, the 2016 Olympics looked set to be the crowning glory of a dynamic, newly-confident Brazil.

But a brutal recession, double-digit unemployment, fears about the mosquito-borne Zika virus, embarrassing infrastructure stumbles and a political crisis that led to the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff have all but extinguished the euphoria that greeted the vote victory.

More than one million tickets, or 20 percent of the total, including for coveted events such as the men's 100-meters final, remained unsold as of Wednesday.

Russell Square stabbings: Man arrested on suspicion of murder

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36972126>

Aug 04 - A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a woman was killed and five injured in a knife attack in Russell Square, central London.



Police were called on Wednesday to reports of a man injuring people, including a woman in her 60s who died.



A 19-year-old man was arrested at 22:39 after a Taser was discharged by an officer. **The Met said mental health was a "significant factor" in events.**

London Mayor Sadiq Khan called for the public to remain "calm and vigilant".

Scotland Yard said two other women and three men received various injuries in the attack, which happened near the Imperial Hotel.

Two from the group remain in hospital while the other three people have since been discharged, the force added.

After receiving treatment in hospital the arrested man, who was detained in Bedford Place, is now in police custody in a south London police station.

The Met's assistant commissioner for specialist operations, Mark Rowley, said the force's homicide command was leading the investigation into the attack, with support from the counter-terrorism unit.

Jodie Parry, who witnessed the events unfold from her hotel window, said she saw a black man running down the street.

"I could hear the policeman screaming 'stop, don't move, don't go any further, just stay where you are', and he turned round and continued running," she said.





Do these pictures sound familiar?



She added that the man was carrying a knife and had blood on his hands. Paul Ó Geibheannaigh, who lives near to the square, said he had seen the body of the woman "on the pavement" and the area was surrounded by a "heavy armed police presence".



"I haven't seen a police presence like that in this area since 7/7," he said, referring to the terror attacks on the London transport system in July 2005.

Darlene Horton (USA) – stabbed to death

Zuhair Awartani was trying to return to a hotel where he was staying when he saw a "dark-skinned man" in his "late 20s" being arrested.

He added: "We heard that there's been a stabbing going on. The streets were blocked and no-one was allowed through."

Speaking about a motive for the attack, Mr Rowley said: "Of course at this stage we should keep an open mind



regarding motive and consequently terrorism as a motivation remains... one line of inquiry for us to explore."

Mr Rowley added that Londoners would see an increased police presence on the streets, including armed officers, to "provide reassurance and safety".

The Met's commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe said the force's "swift response undoubtedly helped to prevent more people from getting injured".



He added: "We will protect our capital and those who live, work and visit our city."

Yovel Levkowki (18yo) – stabbed but survived

BBC News home affairs correspondent June Kelly said police would be looking at the man's background and his associates and whether he was known to them and health professionals.

Mr Khan has cut short his holiday and will hold a briefing at City Hall at 15:30 BST.

Image copyright Rehana Azam Image caption Emergency services were pictured at the scene in the aftermath of the attack

The mayor said his "heart goes out to the victims of the incident in Russell Square and their loved ones".

He said police were doing an "incredibly difficult job" and the safety of Londoners was his "number one priority".

The mayor added that police were "working extremely hard to investigate exactly what has happened and to keep the rest of us safe".

The Met said the attack was not linked with a separate stabbing in Wandsworth, south-west London, on Wednesday, in which one man was killed and two others injured.

The Canadian High Commission earlier said it was investigating reports a Canadian citizen had been injured in the attack, but has since said that no Canadians were involved.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The attack was carried on by a radical Somali terrorist with Norwegian passport but is being characterized by the police as an attack by a man with "mental health" issues. Wake up England, your own gov is hoodwinking you!

No Magic Solution

INSS; Strategic Assessment / Volume 19 / No. 2 / July 2016

Source: <http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/INSS.StrAss19.2.July16.05Hoffman.pdf>

No Magic Solution: The Effectiveness of Deporting Terrorists as a Counterterrorism Policy Measure

Adam Hoffman

Since the outbreak of the Palestinian attacks against Israelis in September 2015, a number of different proposals have been sounded on measures to help stop the latest wave of terrorism. One such proposal was the deportation of terrorists or their families to the Gaza Strip. The defense establishment considered this measure already in November 2015,¹ and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu subsequently asked Attorney General Avihai Mandelblit for a legal opinion about deporting the families of terrorists abetting terrorism to the Gaza Strip. According to Netanyahu, "The use of this tool will substantially reduce terrorist acts against Israel, its citizens, and its residents."² Although the Attorney General opposed the measure,

The deportation of terrorists is regarded as a measure that distances the terrorist threat; Damages the infrastructure of terrorist organizations; and deters others. Past cases,



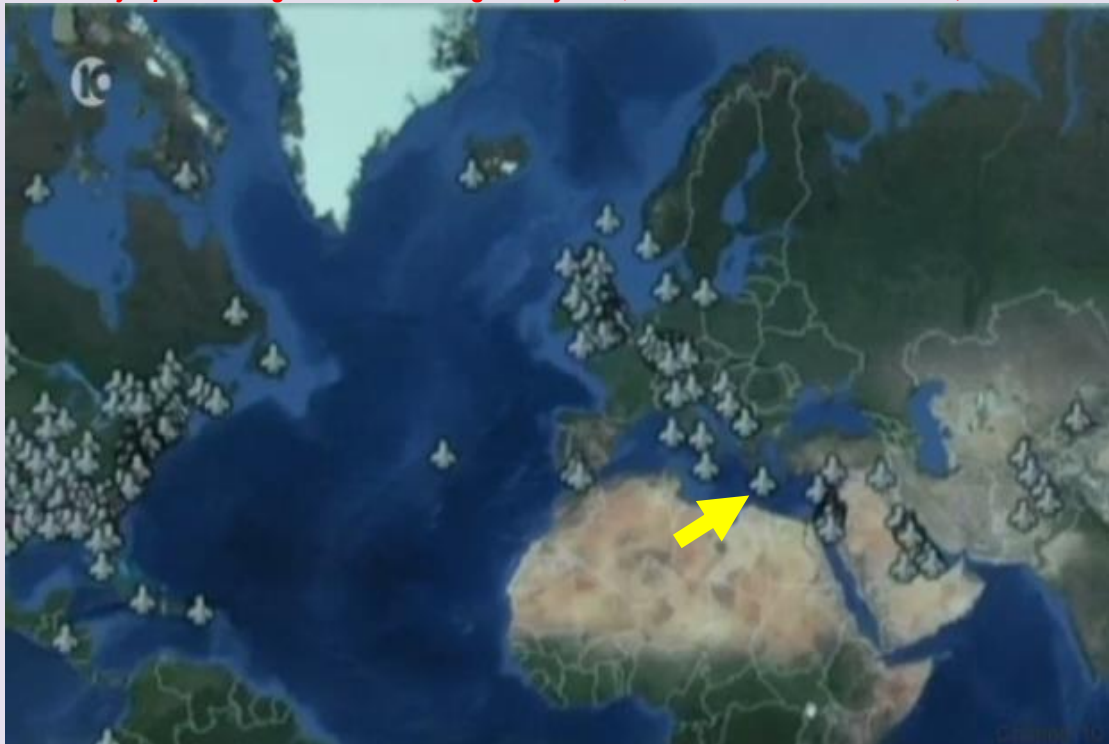
however, show that in the long term, deporting terrorists is liable to have negative consequences and encourage terrorism.

ISIS using Telegram app to plot attacks on US bases in Middle East – Israeli hackers

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/354589-isis-telegram-israeli-hack/>

Aug 04 – Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) has issued a call to target airbases used by the US in the Middle East, an Israeli cyber-intelligence company warned, after it allegedly hacked into the terror group's Telegram communication system.

According to Intsights, an Israeli intelligence startup based in Herzliya city, IS has listed "extremely specific targets" in the Telegram system, "with a call to attack them," Channel 10



reported.

While a number of **airfields** used by the US Air Force were listed, "priority targets" singled out bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, according to Intsights' co-founder and vice-president of intelligence, Alon Arvatz.

"The long list includes exact coordinates for each and every target, all of which are airports and airbases that are used or could be used by the United States Air Force all over the world," Arvatz told Tazpit Press Service (TPS) in an interview.

The complete list also reportedly included targets in Latin America, Europe, and Israel.

The information was gathered after analysts from Intsights infiltrated a chat allegedly used by IS to communicate internationally. Founded by three Israeli veterans of top Israel Defense Forces (IDF) intelligence and cyber-warfare units, Intsights describes itself as a "small company which provides intelligence and incident mitigation in real time by gathering and analyzing data from the darknet, an encrypted and secretive section of the Internet often used by criminal elements."

The intel group says that the Telegram application has been used by the top 500 IS operatives to share plans and locations for potential terror attacks.

"The Telegram app is completely encrypted, which means no fear of someone monitoring your correspondence and understanding what it means," Arvatz said. *"That's why IS moved from traditional social media to Telegram over the last year."*



Although the Insights team did not reveal how it managed to hack into the chat group, Arvatz did say that it is accessed by IS members who then introduce other members.

"I need to know someone who can vouch for me that I'm cleared for the group, and only then can I join," he said.

Arvatz went on to state that the Normandy church where a priest was killed by IS "soldiers" last week was also *"on a target list published several months ago, and someone recently decided to answer the call and attacked that very church."*

"This proves beyond doubt that there is a direct link between cyber activity and actual terror[ist] attacks," Arvatz said.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Photo included proves that no country is immune to terrorism! – e.g. Greece (Suda Bay Naval Base; Crete Island – arrow).



Terrorist Suspects in Europe Got **Welfare Benefits** While Plotting Attacks

Source: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/terrorist-suspects-in-europe-got-welfare-benefits-while-plotting-attacks-1470350251>

Aug 04 – Belgian financial investigators looking into recent terror plots have discovered a disturbing trend: Some of the suspects were

At least five of the alleged plotters in the Paris and Brussels terror attacks partly financed themselves with payments from Belgium's generous social-welfare system, authorities have concluded. In total they received more than €50,000, or about \$56,000 at today's rate.

The main surviving Paris suspect, Salah Abdeslam, collected unemployment benefits until three weeks before the November attacks—€19,000 in all, according to people familiar with the case. At the time, he was manager and part-owner of a bar, which Belgian officials say should have made him ineligible.

Many of the participants in a disrupted Belgian terror plot also had been on the dole, according to the judge who sentenced more than a dozen people in the so-called Verviers cell last month. Police thwarted the plot early last year, finding explosives, weapons and police uniforms after a shootout that killed two people.

The revelations raise a difficult conundrum for Europe.

On one hand, the modern welfare state is a primary tool for combating poverty as well as integrating immigrants. On the other,

officials are working hard to find and stop potential sources of

Financial Support

Some of the alleged plotters in the Paris and Brussels terror attacks had collected Belgian welfare benefits.



Bilal Hadfi

ROLE Suicide bomber at Paris soccer stadium

BENEFITS Received \$700 student allowance, cut off in March 2015 when he left for Syria



Salah Abdeslam

ROLE Key logistics player in the Paris attacks

BENEFITS Collected about \$21,000 in benefits from Jan. 2014 to Oct. 2015



Brahim Abdeslam

ROLE Blew himself up outside a Paris restaurant

BENEFITS Unemployment benefits ended in 2013

BROTHERS



Khalid el-Bakraoui

ROLE Brussels subway suicide bomber

BENEFITS Collected about \$28,000 in unemployment from Feb. 2014 to Dec. 2015



Ibrahim el-Bakraoui

ROLE Suicide bomber at Brussels airport

BENEFITS Collected about \$6,700, mainly in unemployment; cut off in May 2015

BROTHERS

Source: Belgian officials Photos: Agence France-Presse/Getty Images (Hadfi; Brahim); Associated Press (Salah); European Press-Photo Agency (Khalid; Ibrahim)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

collecting welfare benefits until shortly before they carried out their attacks.



revenue for those bent on committing terrorist atrocities.

"We've identified that the benefit system is vulnerable to abuse for terrorist financing purposes," said Tom Keatinge, director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "What are we going to do about that?"

European governments may want to give benefits in the form of vouchers, or re-examine their hands-off approach to how people spend their benefits, Mr. Keatinge said. "If you're paying benefit to people in certain parts of Brussels, maybe you need to be a little more observant about who you're paying to, and what they might be doing with it."

All of the Paris and Brussels terror suspects known to have received welfare were EU citizens.

Philippe de Koster, director of Belgium's Financial Intelligence Processing Unit, said security and welfare officials need better coordination to avoid benefits being paid to "people suspected of financing terrorist activities."

That would require a change in law, because currently benefits can be cut only after a person is convicted of terrorism, or the suspect leaves the country.

Mr. de Koster, whose agency investigated the financial side of the Paris and Brussels attacks, said there is no evidence that welfare benefits were used by the alleged plotters to directly finance those attacks. But, he said, "social-welfare benefits provided them with livelihoods and indirect support for their terrorist activities." In some cases, Mr. de Koster said, suspects transferred welfare money onto prepaid debit cards that later were used in the twin attacks. He wouldn't provide details, saying the matter was classified and part of a continuing investigation. Stemming terror financing has been a major goal of governments around the globe. While the focus has been on depriving Islamic State of oil revenue and other macro financing sources, officials also are trying to cut off local funding avenues for small-cell and lone-wolf attacks.

The task is difficult because the sums are so small. Officials have estimated it cost less than €30,000 to carry out the Paris attacks, and less than €3,000 for the Brussels attacks. The Tunisian immigrant who mowed down scores of people in Nice, France, paid

€1,600 to rent the truck used in the attack, prosecutors said.

Government officials have identified student-loan fraud, insurance scams and robbery as among the money sources for terror suspects in the West.

Islamic State itself suggested welfare benefits as a financing source, in a 2015 manual called "How to Survive in the West: A Mujahid Guide." In a section headed "Easy Money Ideas," the manual suggested "if you can claim extra benefits from a government, then do so."

European countries including Belgium, France, Netherlands and Denmark collectively have cut off hundreds of people from welfare after discovering they had traveled to Syria to fight with Islamic State.

Legislation pending in the Netherlands would make it easier to cut off suspected foreign terrorist fighters after a finding by intelligence services.

"We don't want violent jihadist activities to be funded by Dutch taxpayers," Minister of Social Affairs Lodewijk Asscher has said. People who return from Syria and are prosecuted won't get benefits restored; those who aren't prosecuted must reapply.

In Belgium, officials last fall found that seven suspected foreign fighters who had left the country and 15 returnees from Syria were receiving unemployment benefits. Five proven to be in Syria were cut off, officials said, but there were no legal grounds to suspend payments to the others.

Since the Brussels attacks in March, checks by officials have become more frequent, one Belgian official said. One in April by the National Employment Office, conducted after revelations by the public broadcaster, found that 14 terrorism detainees had received benefits while in prison.

Fred Cauderlier, the Belgian prime minister's spokesman, said a law was changed following the Paris attacks to prevent people convicted of terrorism from receiving benefits while in jail.

He defended his country's welfare system and said it would be an "offensive intellectual shortcut" to say that welfare benefits sponsored the Paris and Brussels attacks.

"This is a democracy," he said. "We have no tools to check how people spend their benefits."



In Belgium, people exiting prison often receive social benefits to help reintegrate into society. This was the case with Khalid el-Bakraoui, who served two years in prison before blowing himself up in the Maelbeek subway station in Brussels in March.

Bakraoui was given jobless benefits in early 2014, after a stint in prison for armed robbery and carjacking. In total, he collected about €25,000 in unemployment, medical and other

benefits, according to one of the people familiar with the case.

He wasn't shut off until last December, when Belgian authorities issued a warrant for him in connection with the Paris attacks. He went underground, and using fake IDs rented several hide-outs used by the Paris and Brussels attackers. He later was glorified by Islamic State as one of the main organizers of the March massacre in the Belgian capital.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: We do not invite them to our countries. We pay them money not to work. They are not wishing to integrate and adapt and at the end they murder those who gave them a glass of water in hard times. We are enjoying what we suffer – there is no doubt about this!



No Game: The Olympics, Rio and Terror

By Mauricio Santoroaug

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/05/opinion/no-game-the-olympics-rio-and-terror.html?_r=0

Aug 04 – Brazil's Olympics begin on Friday, and local leaders and Brazilian society are ill-prepared for the threat of a terrorist attack like those in Munich in 1972 and Atlanta in 1996. They lack experience with the issue and don't have sufficient human and financial resources. In addition, the structure of public security in the country is weak. International cooperation is helping, but Brazil must face the challenge and improve its institutions for the future.

Since July 21, the Federal Police have arrested 12 suspects on charges of attempting to establish connections with the Islamic State. The arrests were carried out under a new antiterror law passed just this year. The suspects, who called themselves "Defenders of the Shariah," have been ridiculed on social media for lacking military weapons or training, for not even knowing one another, and for using mobile messaging services like WhatsApp and Telegram. But men with similar profiles committed massacres in Nice and Munich.

There is a historical reason that makes it hard even to discuss the issue of terrorism in Brazil. The 1964-85 dictatorship used the word "terrorists" to classify peaceful groups who opposed it. Since then, under the democratic regime, the political leadership has avoided using the word altogether. Fundamentalist groups, such as Al Qaeda or the Islamic State,

are far from the reality of Brazilians, who for more than a century have lived with a large Arab community — seven million to 10 million, including the interim president, Michel Temer, a son of Lebanese immigrants — that is prosperous and well integrated.

Brazilians are dealing with not only the authorities' inexperience with terrorism, but also a lack of safety resources. Rio de Janeiro is going through a financial collapse; firefighters, doctors, police officers and teachers often have to endure 10- to 30-day delays in receiving their salaries. Sometimes, there is no money for basic supplies like gasoline for police cars. The government hired a private company to screen the public for weapons at the sport facilities, but it was small and had no experience in large events and no trained personnel. Last week, Justice Minister Alexandre de Moraes canceled the contract, and transferred the responsibility to the Brazilian Force, a military force similar to the United States National Guard.

The current political crisis, including the continuing impeachment proceedings against President Dilma Rousseff, and the worst economic recession in 25 years have made a majority of the population hostile or indifferent to the Olympics — only 40 percent of Brazilians believe such an event would be good for the country. Many Brazilians are



also confused because justice and defense ministers offer a very different analysis on the nature and dimension of a potential terrorist attack. Are any threats strong or weak? How many suspects have been detected? What should be done to confront them? It depends whom you ask.

The general perception is that the counterterrorism law — passed, ironically, during the administration of Ms. Rousseff, who was a political prisoner during the dictatorship for having been involved in a guerrilla group labeled terrorist — came about as a result of international pressure, and mainly because Brazil had been chosen to host the Olympics. The new legislation is controversial because it embodies a vague definition of terrorism that has been criticized by human-rights organizations and the United Nations, which are afraid the word can be used against grass-roots movements that have organized protests against Brazilian governments since 2013.

The government is focused on the risk of lone wolves, inspired by fundamentalist groups, who might target foreign delegations. Despite strong international cooperation, the Brazilian police and intelligence services lack agents and specialists with expertise on how the Islamic State operates.

There is also a concern over the rising homicide rate in Rio de Janeiro. The government reported 2,100 murders from January to May of this year,

a 13 percent increase over the same period in 2015. The city is overwhelmed by crime, uncontrolled circulation of automatic weapons and unprepared police officers. The National Force, which is in charge of protecting sports facilities during the Olympics, is being coerced by paramilitary groups in poor areas, restricting the movements of the officers and establishing rules for their behavior — for example, forbidding them to go to bars in these communities. For most Brazilians, everyday crime is a much more imminent threat than terrorism. But this does not make the threat of terrorism less dangerous or real.

Brazil's experience with the World Cup in 2014, and now the Olympic Games, can be a foundation for investing in and developing the country's capabilities against terrorism — specialists, investigative work, reliable information networks and awareness campaigns to educate the population about the seriousness of the issue. And we need to achieve all this without the human rights violations that have marked our past and tainted many other international efforts against terrorism.

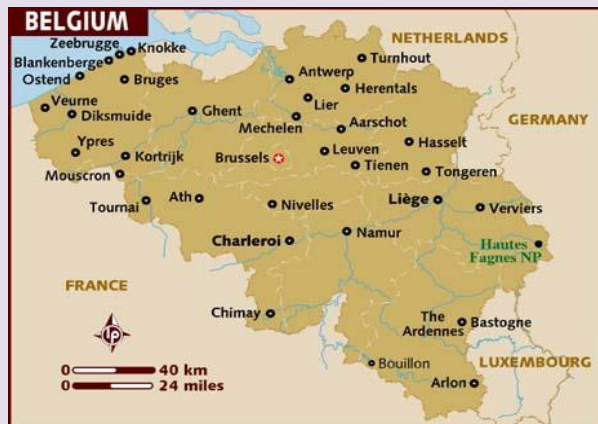
Succeeding against the threat of terror is for Brazil one of the major tests during this Olympics. The hope is that this can be accomplished without victims, something increasingly rare in our world.

Maurício Santoro is a political scientist and a professor of International Studies at Rio de Janeiro State University.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Finally a good article from the academia! Let us only hope that Prof. Santoro will be asked to participate in the post-Olympics Brazilian security reform (although I am afraid that when the Games will be over many things will return to "normal" as well...)



2 female Belgian police officers wounded in **machete** attack, assailant shouting 'Allahu Akbar'



Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/354876-belgium-police-attack-charleroi/>

Aug 06 – Two female officers were injured after being attacked by a machete-wielding man near the police station in the Belgian city of Charleroi, the authorities said.

The perpetrator, who could be heard shouting "Allahu Akbar," was shot and injured by a third officer on site, the RTL radio station claims, citing local police.

Witnesses said they heard gunshots near the Charleroi police station at around 16:00 local

time on Saturday.

The injuries received by one of the officers are described as "serious," RTBF reports. The police have established a security perimeter around the site of the attack.

Charleroi was used as a base by some of the jihadists involved in the attacks on Paris in November 2015 and Brussels last March.

UPDATE

Islamic State claimed responsibility on Sunday for an attack by a machete-wielding man in Belgium that left two female police officers seriously injured, the group's Amaq news agency said on Twitter.

Shortly before the claim, Belgian prosecutors had identified the assailant as a **33-year-old Algerian, K.B., who had lived in Belgium since 2012**, saying that he may have been inspired by terrorism.



Machete-wielding man causes evacuation of neighbourhood in Liege, Belgium

Aug 07 – Early on Sunday Belgian police arrested a man in his 20s with a machete in the eastern city of Liege, broadcaster VRT reported. It said Liege police had cordoned off an area before detaining the man. It said he was **of Turkish origin**, did not use the machete and was not previously known to the police.

Brazil: Jittery Ahead of the Olympics

Source: http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=45710&no_cache=1&mc_cid=e98b463e19&mc_eid=6b175f7276#.V6g6VqL8sgU



Federal police in Brazil have arrested at least 12 people in connection with an alleged Islamic State (IS) cell, ahead of the Olympic Games. The arrests follow the emergence online of a group calling itself Ansar al-Khilafah Brazil, which declared allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in July, the first Latin American outfit to do so ([SITE](#), July 18).

On August 2, a pressure cooker filled with bolts and nails exploded in the parking lot of the Conjunto Nacional shopping mall, an incident police said had "indications" of a terror attack ([Correio Braziliense](#), August, 2). It is unclear who was behind the blast.

Brazil, which is hosting the Games amid its own unfolding political crisis, has little history of Islamist terrorism, but the threat of an attack appears real. In April, Brazilian intelligence confirmed the authenticity of a tweet by Maxime Hauchard, a French



national who has appeared in IS beheading videos, in which he stated: “Brazil, you are our next target” ([EBC Agencia Brasil](#), April 14).

With a mounting number of attacks in Europe this summer, the Brazilian authorities are leaving little to chance. In July, they deported the French-Algerian physicist Adlene Hicheur ([20 Minutes](#), August 4). Hicheur, who was arrested and jailed in France in 2009 over alleged links to al-Qaeda, links he denies, was a researcher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland and had moved to Brazil nearly three years ago.

There was also concern in June when a former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Abu Wael Dhiab, who had been living in neighboring Uruguay, went missing supposedly having crossed into Brazil ([El Observador](#), June 18). He later turned up at the Uruguayan consulate in Venezuela.

Dhiab was among six Guantanamo detainees repatriated to Uruguay in 2014. The former detainees’ experiences in their new South American home are instructive. Initially welcomed, the men were treated as a media spectacle and have struggled to adjust to their new surroundings, due no doubt in part to their years in incarceration.

In fact, an online operation such as Ansar al-Khilafah Brazil, however amateur, is a greater threat to security during the Games. As with the recent incidents in Europe, an attack is most likely to be staged by an individual, radicalized online, and with few obvious ties to established terrorist networks.

Plot to hit Singapore's Marina Bay with rocket from Batam foiled

Source: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/indonesia-foils-plot-to/3016798.html>

Aug 06 – Indonesian authorities have arrested six terror suspects, including the group leader who had plans to fire a rocket from Batam in an attack on Singapore's Marina Bay.

The men, aged between 19 and 46, were arrested at various locations across Batam. A stash of weapons was found at one of the locations, a housing complex, according to Indonesian media reports.



The six were allegedly from **terrorist group KGR@Katibah GR** - whose ringleader Gigih Rahmat Dewa, 31, is said to be behind the plot to attack Marina Bay.

The other five suspects are: Trio Syafrido, 46, a bank employee, and factory workers Eka Saputra, 35; Tarmidzi, 21; Hadi Gusti Yanda, 20; and M Tegar Sucianto, 19. The group is suspected of harbouring two Uighurs, according to Indonesian police.

“Yes, there were indeed plans for the attack. But the plans did not materialise,” Indonesian national police spokesperson Boy Rafli Amar was



quoted in reports as saying.

The plan to fire the rocket missile from Batam was hatched with the help of Bahrin Naim, an Indonesian fighting for Islamic State in Syria, reports said. Bahrin is believed to be one of the masterminds of an attack in January in central Jakarta, in which eight people were killed including the four attackers.



Gigih Rahmat is suspected of receiving and channelling funds for radical activities sourced from Bahrún.



Mr Boy Rafli said police had yet to determine the motive behind the plot or when the suspects were planning to launch the attack with rocket missiles - evidence of which has not been found. The suspects are currently being investigated at special counter-terrorism squad Densus 88's headquarters for their involvement in Islamic State's Indonesian terror network.

Singapore “aware” of terror plot

In response to media queries, Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said it is aware of the attack plan and has been working with the Indonesian authorities since the discovery of the plot.

“Our security agencies have been coordinating closely with the Indonesian authorities since the discovery of this attack plot, to monitor the activities of the group and to apprehend those involved. We are grateful for the good cooperation by the Indonesian authorities and their actions to apprehend the group,” the ministry said.

The Singapore police and other agencies have stepped up inland and border security measures in response to this threat and the “prevailing security situation”, MHA added.

“This development highlights the seriousness of the terrorism threat to Singapore, and the importance of the SGSecure national movement. The public is advised to remain vigilant.”

Youth Walks down Street in Verviers, Belgium (close to Liege), Cursing the Christians and Praying for Their Annihilation



Source: <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/5604.htm>



EU spy agencies can now share counter-terrorism information in real-time

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160808/world/eu-spy-agencies-can-now-share-counter-terrorism-information-in-real.621445>

Aug 08 – **A European counter-terrorism intelligence database designed to generate greater intelligence sharing among allies to avert deadly Islamist attacks has gone online after overcoming traditional reluctance by spy agencies to sharing information.**

European officials were spurred into setting up the project by the Paris attacks last November by Islamist militants which exposed intelligence gaps. A total of 130 people were killed in those attacks.

Hosted by the Dutch intelligence service in the Hague, the database went live on July 1, the German Interior Ministry and the German domestic intelligence agency (BfV) said.

"The intelligence database will make it much easier and quicker to share information about possible threats," said one intelligence official.

The database enables European intelligence agencies to share real-time information about suspected Islamist militants collected by members of the Counter-Terrorism Group (CTG), which groups all 28 European Union countries, Switzerland and Norway.

Its creation marks a step forward in the fight against Islamic State, which is focused increasingly on orchestrating large-scale and "lone wolf" attacks as it suffers setbacks and loses territory in Iraq and Syria.

"We need a close exchange of information that is rapid and comprehensive, based on the relevant legal and privacy regulations," said one official at the German interior ministry.

A refinement of earlier databases, **the new system is designed to make it easier to cross-reference material provided by different countries' security services,** a Dutch security services official told Reuters.

"If we see one of our targets travelling to Amsterdam, we haven't been checking until now if his brother or nephew is also travelling," the official said, giving an illustration of the way the new database worked.

European police agencies have long shared information about potential criminals through Europol and Interpol, but spy agencies are generally reluctant to share intelligence data, except on a specific case-by-case or bilateral basis.



Lack of cooperation was a focal point after the Paris attacks. Several of those involved in the attacks had been on the radar of authorities in other countries.

Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the suspected mastermind behind the Paris attacks, for instance, had mocked European frontier controls and boasted how easy it was for him to move between Syria to his Belgian homeland and the rest of Europe.

In another case, the former French spy Claude Moniquet has been quoted as saying that France did not pass on information about Mehdi Nemmouche, a French-Algerian dual national, who shot four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in 2014.

After Abdesalam's arrest, US officials privately disparaged European intelligence-gathering and said they were working closely with European authorities to ensure they had the training needed to prevent another Paris-style attack.

The Netherlands, which held the rotating EU presidency at the time, played a key role in setting up the database. Dutch officials urged global counter-terrorism officials to agree to greater sharing of banking details and key data about potential militants after missed signals in Paris.

In the past, they said, countries often failed to share lists of suspects whose assets had been frozen, making it possible for someone blacklisted in one country to drive across the border and use their bank cards in a neighbouring country



The tools of modern terror: How AK-47 and AR-15 became weapons of choice for mass killers

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/The-tools-of-modern-terror-How-AK-47-and-AR-15-became-weapons-of-choice-for-mass-killers/articleshow/53593234.cms>

Aug 08 – Time and again it's the same. A lone gunman or a small group of killers with rifles commits spectacular crimes that seize the attention of the world.

The list reaches back decades: the killing of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972; the school takeover in Beslan, Russia, in 2004; the attacks in Mumbai, India, in 2008; the mall assault in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2013; the killing of more than 100 people in Paris in 2015.

Often the rifles are variants of the AK-47, the world's most abundant firearm, an affordable and simple-to-use assault rifle of Soviet lineage that allows a few people to kill scores and menace hundreds, and fight head-to-head against modern soldiers and police forces.

In recent years they have also been descendants of the AR-15, the US military's response to the Kalashnikov's spread. Semi-automatic versions of the AR-15 were used by sympathizers of the Islamic State in San Bernardino, California, in 2015, and a Mini-14 and an MCX, rifles that fire the same cartridge as the AR-15 and compete with it for market share, were used in the mass shootings in Norway in 2011 and in Orlando, Florida, in June.

In the hands of terrorists, military-style rifles have repeatedly been used for swiftly killing on a large scale. How did the Kalashnikov - a disruptive technology that flooded the world almost three generations ago and still retains an outsize role in organized violence - become such a ready amplifier of evil and rage? In what ways did it drive the AR-15 and its competitors to such prominence, too?

A Cold War product

The answers reach to the years immediately after World War II, when the Soviet Union was developing multiple weapons for multiple roles. As scientists worked on nuclear arms that would freeze borders



under the fear of total war, teams of gunsmiths and engineers set out in a contest to design a conventional weapon - a rifle - that would combine the rapid-fire ferocity of machine guns with the portability of lighter-weight arms.

The weapon was to be a conceptual copy of Nazi Germany's sturmgewehr. In the evaluations and field trials that followed, Senior Sgt. Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, a wounded veteran of tank warfare, was credited with a prototype for a medium-powered rifle capable, like the sturmgewehr, of both automatic and semi-automatic fire.

The AK-47, with an effective range beyond the length of a pair of football fields, was accepted in 1947. A few years later, a lighter and easier-to-manufacture update, the AKM, entered mass production and was on its way to becoming the standard rifle for almost all communist ground forces.

Unpacking its appeal

The Kalashnikov line was shorter and lighter than traditional rifles, inexpensive to manufacture, built for durability and extraordinarily reliable. With few moving parts, and a design that made its disassembly and reassembly almost intuitive, its basics could be mastered in very little time. The cartridges were smaller than traditional rifle cartridges, which meant that a fighter with a Kalashnikov could carry more ammunition and be more deadly. Medium-power cartridges



also meant the weapon had little recoil, allowing trainees to learn marksmanship with relative ease. The Kalashnikov's physical characteristics alone do not explain its prominence. The vast scale of rifle and ammunition manufacture in mammoth arms plants drove the Kalashnikov to its status as one of the most readily identifiable objects in the world.

Soviet production began in the 1940s before expanding to the vassal states of the Warsaw Pact and to China, North Korea, Yugoslavia and beyond. Tens of millions of the rifles were churned out in planned economies, whether they were needed or not.

A constellation of ammunition plants ensured ready supplies. More state forces adopted the weapons and began cartridge production, too. In the 1970s the Soviet Army introduced a new model, the AK-74, which fired a smaller, faster cartridge. Millions of older Kalashnikovs became officially obsolete, freeing them for global trade. Taken together, a series of industrial decisions in planned economies had created conditions for near ubiquity.

Guerrilla warfare

The spread changed modern warfare. As communist governments passed Kalashnikovs to allies and proxies, the rifles assumed an unexpected role: battlefield leveler.

Vietnam offered the breakout. Africa had been colonized by small detachments of European soldiers turning machine guns against larger local forces that lacked access to equivalent weapons. In Vietnam, much of that advantage was gone. Guerrillas armed with Kalashnikovs fought toe-to-toe against foot soldiers of a superpower. Modern expeditionary units, facing automatic fire from inexpensive rifles carried by peasants, had met their close-quarters match. Often their ambitions were checked.

The Kalashnikov's superiority to the US M-14 in jungle warfare in Vietnam spurred Robert S. McNamara, the defense secretary at the time, to push the Pentagon to hurry production of a new US assault rifle, the AR-15, which became known as the M-16. The decision would propel assault rifles to their current position as standard military firearms across the world.

In terrorists' hands

After its effectiveness was proved in Vietnam, the Kalashnikov assumed its indelible association as the terrorists' choice.

Hostage-takers with Kalashnikovs scaled an Olympic Village fence in Munich in 1972 and seized members of the Israeli team. The rifle had broken its leash. It was no longer a tool of the state, or communist ideology. The era of Kalashnikov terrorism had begun, with the world watching live on TV.

Instruction in the rifle had by then become a staple of irregular warfare training, including in curricula at Palestinian camps. Its spread continued to such a grand degree that the Kremlin's foes began procuring the weapons. US and Pakistani intelligence officers coached Islamic fighters on Kalashnikov use in the war to expel Soviet forces from Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Intended to strengthen authoritarian states, the Kalashnikov had gained outlaw credibility, morphing to a symbol of revolt, blowback, crime and jihad.

A rifle for all ages

The Kalashnikov's simplicity, compact size and gentle recoil combine to make it uncannily well-suited for child soldiers.

In many wars commanders have provided the rifles to teenagers, and occasionally to combatants yet to reach their teenage years, who despite their small stature are able to manage the weapon and carry a large load of ammunition.

Kalashnikovs are primary firearms for entire formations of child soldiers, including Joseph Kony's notorious Lord's Resistance Army in Africa, and the weapon is routinely used by children who augment rebel or irregular forces in wars around the world.



The Islamic State, following the pattern, has made images of its child soldiers posing with Kalashnikovs part of its propaganda routine. They are not alone. Images of child soldiers with Kalashnikovs have been common in conflicts for many decades.

The US

response

Prone to jamming, the M-16 had a disastrous introduction in the Vietnam War. But most of its early flaws were worked out, and it secured its place in US armories. From there, NATO standardization prompted Europe to field its own assault rifles, spreading this class of weapons across the non-communist world.

The Kalashnikov had fueled an arms race. By the 1980s the AK-47 and the AR-15, and their many descendants - were a global pair.

US laws mostly limited civilian possession of AR-15s and their competitors to models that fire semi-automatically only. But as they gained popularity with veterans, gun-rights advocates, survivalists and, occasionally, criminals or terrorists, their place in crime grew - even as Kalashnikov production ebbed. AR-15 variants were used in mass killings in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, and at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, and by Islamic State sympathizers in San Bernardino. An MCX, a military rifle designed for Special Forces but available in semi-automatic form, was used in Orlando in June.

Semi-automatic Kalashnikovs are also part of the grim routine. The gunman who killed five schoolchildren in Stockton, California, in 1989 used a Chinese Kalashnikov. His crime was an impetus for bans on assault-style weapons at the state and national level. The Army veteran who killed five police officers in Dallas in July used a semi-automatic Kalashnikov, too.

Modern conflicts

In the 1980s and 1990s, as communism failed, the market economy welcomed Stalin's old goods. Successor governments continue to unload huge stockpiles, further flooding the world.

Among the principal movers of Kalashnikovs has been the Pentagon, which bought them by untold thousands for proxy forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Pentagon also distributed tens of thousands of M-16s, and the shorter M-4 carbine based on the AR-15 design, to the same forces.

Many of these forces failed, yielding their rifles to bazaars or foes, making ever more weapons available to dangerous hands.

Today the Kalashnikov and AR-15 variants remain the most commonly seen weapons on modern battlefields; their use is central to almost every war. They are a staple of insurgency and terrorism and all but fundamental to the grim routine of mass shootings.

The Islamic State has killed far more people in Europe with bullets than with bombs, and controls territory in multiple countries in part through its military rifle stocks.

Governments have done little to stop the spread of this class of weapons. Often, as in the case of the United States, they have contributed to it. Acts of crime, terror and oppression with Kalashnikovs and AR-15 descendants, endured by civilians under withering fire, have been hard-wired into our times. There is no end in sight.



South Korea Confronts Islamist Terror

By Paul Sung

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6177/south-korea-confronts-islamist-terror>

Aug 04 – For over sixty years, North Korea was South Korea's singular security threat. Today, however, the threat posed by Islamist terrorism demands increasing attention.



South Korea's first ISIS member, a teenager believed to have been killed last year

Domestic Islamic terrorism was once unheard of in South Korea, which has a tiny Muslim minority of about 150,000.

Although the majority of Islamic leaders in South Korea tend to be fundamentalist, violent extremism within the Muslim community has been uncommon. South Korean civilians working abroad occasionally fell victim to jihadists, notably in a 2009 suicide bombing in Yemen and the Ansar Beit al-Maqdis Sinai Peninsula

2014 attack, but they had little to worry about at home. South Korea's concerns with Islamic terrorism primarily centered around North Korea's relations with Middle Eastern organizations.

In the last few years, however, South Korea has come to be viewed as a hostile country by ISIS and likeminded jihadists. This is likely because it hosts the largest deployment of American troops abroad, has partnered with the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan and sends large numbers of Christian missionaries around the world.

ISIS listed South Korea in its September 2015 edition of *Dabiq* as an enemy for being part of the anti-ISIS global coalition. Six months later in March 2016, twenty government and civilian South Koreans were targeted through YouTube. No reasons were provided as to why these specific workers were targeted beyond the fact that ISIS considers South Korea a hostile country. Some on the list have no apparent relationships with the U.S. military, such as a Korean woman who translates Korean texts into English for a medical charity.



ISIS lists South Korea among 62 countries in a U.S.-led "crusader coalition"

In June 2016 South Korea's Nation Intelligence Service (NIS) announced that the Islamic State was trying to incite attacks against United States Air Force installations throughout the country, prompting the government to provide extra security. These installations are

among the 77 NATO member installations in ISIS's worldwide hit list. Additionally, the pro-ISIS hacker group United Cyber Caliphate called Muslims to "fight the Crusaders" and to "get revenge for Muslims." It then posted the name, email, and home addresses of a Korean welfare employee, who has since been under police protection. **Most of this is public information, disseminated to instill fear and boost perceptions of ISIS's worldwide reach.**



So far, no Islamist attacks have actually occurred on South Korean soil, but multiple foiled plots have garnered media attention. **From 2010 to January of 2016, South Korea deported 51 foreigners who had ties to militant groups.** In 2015, South Korea arrested five Lebanese bomb smugglers who sympathized with ISIS and an al-Nusra Front-aligned [Indonesian man](#) who violated the Immigration Control Law with forged documents. The country apprehended three other suspects connected to the Indonesian man who were willing to ["die fighting against the U.S. and Russia."](#) By the end of January 2016, [seven foreign workers](#) had joined ISIS after leaving the country. The incidents prove that South Korea has to vigilantly screen foreigners to prevent Islamic crimes from coming into fruition.



Though most radicalized Muslims in South Korea are foreigners, at least three South Korean citizens have attempted to join ISIS. In January 2015, a 17-year-old middle school dropout with [animosity towards feminists](#) became the country's first native citizen to join ISIS. Two other disgruntled South Korean nationals [attempted](#) to join the organization but had their passports confiscated. In order to combat youth radicalization, the government is implementing an [anti-ISIS curriculum](#) for public education.

While geared primarily toward the North Korean threat, South Korea's [recently-passed](#) anti-terrorism legislation will bolster its ability to uncover and thwart terror plots. This [bill](#), first proposed in the wake of 9/11, expands the powers of the NIS to wiretap terror suspects, establishes a counterterror center under the prime minister's office, and facilitates the [deployment](#) of military units to combat domestic terror operations.

Critics of the legislation are wary of the NIS gaining such power. While the organization was called the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), it [kidnapped, tortured, and killed political opponents](#). Though liberal reforms have turned South Korea away from authoritarianism, the NIS was credibly accused of [interfering](#) in a presidential election as recently as 2013.

In spite of its increasing influence, the threat to South Korea posed by radical Islamism is not going to surpass that of North Korea anytime soon, but it is likely to grow more challenging in the years ahead. While Seoul cannot [eradicate jihadi terrorism](#), it can manage the threat by boosting its counter-radicalization efforts and enhance its ability to detect, prevent, and react to terrorist attacks.

Paul Sung is a research intern at the Middle East Forum and a student at Grove City College.

Mass shootings driven by "media contagion": Study

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160808-mass-shootings-driven-by-media-contagion-study>

Aug 08 – **People who commit mass shootings in America tend to share three traits: rampant depression, social isolation, and pathological narcissism,** according to a [paper](#) presented at the American Psychological Association's annual convention that calls on the media to deny such shooters the fame they seek.

"Mass shootings are on the rise and so is media coverage of them," said Jennifer B. Johnston of Western New Mexico University. "At this point, can we determine which came first? Is the relationship merely unidirectional: More shootings lead to more coverage? Or is it possible that more coverage leads to more shootings?"



The APA says that Johnston and her coauthor, Andrew Joy, also of Western New Mexico University, reviewed data on mass shootings amassed by media outlets, the FBI and advocacy organizations, as well as scholarly articles, to conclude that “media contagion” is largely responsible for the increase in these often deadly outbursts. They defined mass shootings as either attempts to kill multiple people who are not relatives or those resulting in injuries or fatalities in public places.

The prevalence of these crimes has risen in relation to the mass media coverage of them and the proliferation of social media sites that tend to glorify the shooters and downplay the victims, Johnston said.

“We suggest that the media cry to cling to ‘the public’s right to know’ covers up a greedier agenda to keep eyeballs glued to screens, since they know that frightening homicides are their No. 1 ratings and advertising boosters,” she said.

The demographic profile of mass shooters is fairly consistent, she said. Most are white, ostensibly heterosexual males, largely between the ages of 20 and 50. They tend to see themselves as “victims of injustice,” and share a belief that they have been cheated out of their rightful dominant place as white, middle-class males.

“Unfortunately, we find that a cross-cutting trait among many profiles of mass shooters is desire for fame,” she said. This quest for fame among mass shooters skyrocketed since the mid-1990s “in correspondence to the emergence of widespread 24-hour news coverage on cable

news programs, and the rise of the internet during the same period.”

She cited several media contagion models, most notably one proposed by Towers et al. (2015), which found **the rate of mass shootings has escalated to an average of one every 12.5 days, and one school shooting on average every 31.6 days, compared to a pre-2000 level of about three events per year.** “A possibility is that news of shooting is spread through social media in addition to mass media,” she said.

“If the mass media and social media enthusiasts make a pact to no longer share, reproduce, or retweet the names, faces, detailed histories, or long-winded statements of killers, we could see a dramatic reduction in mass shootings in one to two years,” she said. “Even conservatively, if the calculations of contagion modelers are correct, we should see at least a one-third reduction in shootings if the contagion is removed.”

She said this approach could be adopted in much the same way as the media stopped reporting celebrity suicides in the mid-1990s after it was corroborated that suicide was contagious. Johnston noted that there was “a clear decline” in suicide by 1997, a couple of years after the Centers for Disease Control convened a working group of suicidologists, researchers and the media, and then made recommendations to the media.

“The media has come together before to work for good, to incite social change,” she said.

“They have done, and they can do it. It is time. It is enough.”

Brother-in-law of Charlie Hebdo killer arrested for trying to join ISIS

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160808-brotherinlaw-of-charlie-hebdo-killer-arrested-for-trying-to-join-isis>

Aug 08 – The brother-in-law of one of the gunmen who attacked the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris in January 2015 has been detailed in Turkey, and deported to Bulgaria, on suspicion that he was trying to join ISIS in Syria.





Mourad Hamyd was first arrested in January 2015 on suspicion that he was the getaway driver for the Kouachi brothers, who carried out the attack.

Journal du Dimanche reports that he was released after a social media campaign conducted by his high school classmates, who claimed he was in class at the time of the attack.

It appears that one of his former classmates tipped the French authorities that Hamyd was on his way to Syria — the Paris prosecutor's office told AP someone "close to Hamyd" alerted the police — and he was detained in Turkey on 28 July and deported to Bulgaria.

Hamyd carried no weapons, but the French magazine said he had a military uniform, gloves, and sturdy shoes in his backpack.

Back in January 2015, when he was first arrested, Hamyd said he was a normal 18-year-old who lives with his parents, saying he had "nothing to do with this whole thing" and hopes it will not affect his future.

"I was stunned, completely overwhelmed by the events," he told AFP in

the presence of **his lawyer** and **family members**.

"I'm in shock, people said horrible and false things about me on social media even though I am a normal student who lives quietly with his parents."

Hamyd's sister was married to Cherif Kouachi, one of two brothers who carried out the deadly attack which killed twelve people at the *Charlie Hebdo* offices.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: In order to avoid future anomalies it would be great if we could follow more drastic approaches against terrorist's environment. Independently if the terrorist was killed or arrested, all members of his family and third degree relatives and close friends with their families should be collectively deported to their country of origin. While on first thought this sounds inhumane and injustice it might act as a "safety valve" against initial radicalization and consequent violent actions. Terrorist's environment should keep an open eye to each other and do their best to avoid/postpone future bloodshed the moment virus is infiltrating the brain of the future terrorist. They live together 24/7; they know that there is something wrong but either they ignore the signs or even secretly support them. Now they will all pay the consequences of not standing up for neutralizing similar actions. Has this proposal a chance to be ever implemented? Of course not! We are too civilized to propose such counter-measures and we have a lot of flowers and candles to defeat international and domestic terrorism!

German responses to terror range from cautious to conspiratorial

By Johanna Schuster-Craig

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160805-german-responses-to-terror-range-from-cautious-to-conspiratorial>

Aug 05 – **Until this month, Germany had been spared from terrorist attacks with momentous losses of life.**

Since 18 July, four attacks have occurred: one by a teenage refugee on a train in Würzburg; a mass shooting and suicide by a German schoolboy in Munich; a murder and attack by a refugee in Reutlingen; and a suicide bombing by a refugee in Ansbach.

A total of ten innocent bystanders died in the attacks: one in Reutlingen and nine in Munich. The confirmation that two of the perpetrators were motivated by radical Islamic ideology has changed the mood here in Germany.

While the attacks have been frequent, none has been as deadly as the attacks in Nice, Paris or Orlando. That is a perverse comfort in times when attacks occur daily. But Germans no longer feel like terrorism is a distant tragedy. **On 25 July, Bavarian journalist Andreas**



Bachmann commented that these events represent “the end of the world as we know it.” Fear and vigilance have entered the German vocabulary.

As a cultural studies scholar who researches migration to Germany, my research focuses on how stereotypes about Muslims – especially of violent Muslim men – are pervasive in German culture. Despite the association of refugees with terror, the most deadly attack was committed by a German citizen in Munich. Media responses to these attacks show an increasingly polarized political climate.

The German media landscape

Germany has a partially state-sponsored media system that requires official networks to be “balanced, nonpartisan and objective.”

In the breaking news segment broadcast by one state-sponsored outlet about Munich the evening of 22 July, the reporting was calm and measured. The blurry cellphone video of the shooter was shown – the viral clip so common to these tragedies. But the majority of the program consisted of two men in suits conversing about police readiness. The female reporter in the field ended her segment quickly, saying “There’s really nothing more to report.”

Bernd Ulrich, a journalist from *Die Zeit* (The Times), tweeted that evening: “This solidarity in the streets, this caution on TV, the decency of the police: I love this country.”

“Cautious” appropriately describes the state-sponsored media response to the attack. They were highly resistant to speculation and reluctant to label the motive of the shooter. On the other hand, CNN’s reporting received criticism from a political science professor, Cas Mudde, who posted screen shots of the coverage on Twitter.

Right-wing conspiracies

The right-wing “Alternative for Germany” party has been downright angry about the cautious reporting. The far right in Germany, just like in the U.S., is arguably fact-resistant. A research project conducted by students at the Cologne School of Journalism found the Alternative for Germany party spokesperson, Frauke Petry, the most likely politician to give false statements to the media.

The representative vice chairman of the Alternative for Germany party, Alexander Gauland, declared on July 27 that Germany should refuse to offer Muslims asylum due to recent events. This declaration has prompted comparisons to Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. **In Germany, where the history of the Holocaust and the right to protection from persecution are taken very seriously, this demand is unconstitutional.**

There is a tendency among the far-right to see contradictions in reporting as evidence of conspiracy. Vera Lengsfeld, a center-right politician, wrote a blog post on July 25 titled “The Inconsistencies of Munich.” In this post, she argues that the government is lying about the details of the attack and that “Moslems” are at fault.

Lutz Bachmann, the leader of the nationalistic group PEGIDA (“Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West”), has posted a stream of links on his Facebook profile to news reports about refugees committing crimes: knifings, fights at public pools, sexual assaults. Before Munich, most of these reports were buried in the crime pages. After Munich, they function as proof that refugees are violent and that Chancellor Merkel has damaged German society by granting them refuge.

Even a left-wing politician, Sahra Wagenknecht, has declared that Chancellor Merkel’s decision to open the borders was a mistake, and that there are problems with integrating refugees into German society. Despite criticism of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s refugee politics, and even despite the high correlation of refugee status with violence in these attacks, Germany let in more asylum-seekers in 2015 than any other country in Europe. **The German Ministry of the Interior recorded 1,091,894 arrivals in 2015. Of those, 476,649 people filed a formal application for asylum in Germany.**

Trauma and psychic unrest as causes of terror

That three of the perpetrators were refugees from Muslim-majority countries, and that the German shooter also held Iranian citizenship, makes the association of Muslims with crime difficult to dispel. That all four perpetrators struggled with mental health concerns, and that the perpetrator in Ansbach was suicidal, are lost details obscured by fears of terrorism.



One year ago, a mentally ill man in Ansbach – the site of the suicide bombing on 24 July – killed two elderly people on the street. That attack was twice as deadly as the suicide bombing. It did not generate widespread press attention.

Germany has yet to see large-scale terrorist attacks like those in France or Belgium. The sheer number of refugees and the limited number of attacks ultimately makes the link between refugees and terror weak. The polarization of political opinions about security, however, could threaten Chancellor Merkel's chances for reelection in 2017.

On 28 July, Chancellor Merkel gave a press conference in which she laid out a nine-point plan against terrorism. She refused to yield to her critics, saying she is confident Germans will rise to the occasion: "We can do it, and by the way: over the past eleven months, we've already done so very, very much."

Johanna Schuster-Craig is Assistant Professor of German and Global Studies, Michigan State University.

EDITOR' COMMENT: I thought that the "academia" was independent from "politics" (in general, not individually) but this article kind of prove that this is not the case since we can easily speculate what is the favorite part of the author. But this is a personal opinion and I might be wrong as well!

AQAP Issues Inspire Magazine 'Guide' on 'Nice Operation'

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/aqap-issues-inspire-magazine-guide-on-nice-operation/07e790c876f9f520ed61e07ee3324441.html>



[many people as 31-year-old Tunisian Muslim emigre Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel obviously intended to do](#) when he massacred at least 84 people when he drove a rented 19-ton Renault truck for more than a mile along a Nice, France beachfront roadway filled with Bastille Day celebration crowds last week.

AQAP praised Bouhlel's method of jihad, noting its article, *The Ultimate Mowing Machine*, in the second issue of AQAP's *Inspire* magazine, published in 2010.

July 21 – Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) "Lone Jihad Guide Team" has released its *Inspire* magazine [Inspire Guide: Nice Operation France](#), "offering its insight on the attack and how to improve it," Homeland Security Today was told by Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) Executive Director Steve Stalinski. In the *Inspire Guide*, [AQAP makes clear that it urged jihadists to use trucks to slaughter as](#)

■ The message of the operation

The Nice operation has many important messages, the first of them is the creation of a state of fear and terror and spreading it to other European nations. And this is the result of targeting the general gatherings of people. The French people lived a night of terror and fear asking themselves ... why here? And what is the reason? The answer directly comes when they say "this is Islamic Terrorism". The Mujahidin answer "as you treat others, you will be treated the same" and "as you kill you will be killed" and "as we live in fear, you too will be in fear". We are defending ourselves. Sheikh Usama has offered you a truce of 10 years and you decided to refuse and go to extremes. Today the decision will be in hands of the French public, the ones capable of stopping all this.

What increases their fear in this operation is its uniqueness; the operation was in a new manner and form, it was unexpected. The weapon used can be readily available in the streets. And what increases more fear in them is that some authorities in charge of security admit that it is impossible to stop similar type of operations.

The second message is that tourism in France from now on will never be safe. And this will pose a threat to the annual revenue France gains from tourism. And this is a message to the tourists all over the world, that France is no longer safe. The third message is for the Muslims. France that celebrate the Bastille Day, which represents freedom, brotherhood and equality. The French who made the issue of attacking the Bastille prison a symbol of revolution and freedom. While at the same time, France is the one which imprisons many Muslims, persecuting them, plundering their wealth, killing the children and women with the help of their American allies. This freedom is meant only for the French, as for the Muslims then they have nothing.



Bouhlel “has executed the operation in its totality and perfection; and it is not left for us except to add a few points of observation. We have previously presented in *Inspire* magazine issue 2 an idea of using a vehicle to run over gatherings of kuffar. We added a method that will increase the casualties of the targets and assure their killing. The method includes placing a wide sharp blade at the front of the vehicle in a way that will not raise any suspicions, like placing a bumper to camouflage it. You can refer to the second issue of the magazine for more reference.”

“The second point is for the executor to send a message for his motives. He must use any means to send a message so as the people may know and understand his motives,” AQAP’s “Nice Operation” guide added.

While US and European counterterrorism intelligence officials have indicated Bouhlel appears to have been pushed suddenly into radical Islam by ISIS online jihadist propaganda, Stalinski said, “I think AQAP are jealous they haven’t been able to succeed in a while with a successful attack in the West, and that ISIS has gotten all the attention lately in the media. The quality and production value of the [new AQAP guide], which is only four pages, also shows a diminished *Inspire* magazine. Also worth noting that this is the second issue (the first was on the Orlando attack) of those special editions of *Inspire* that AQAP started putting out after attacks in the West offering its insight on the attack and how to improve it.”

Two weeks before Bouhlel’s jihadi attack in Nice, [a video was released](#) using a Telegram channel managed by French ISIS fighters, likely in Mosul, in which an ISIS fighter called for French jihadists to use large trucks to carry out mass killings of “infidels.”

“Jihadi groups have called for lone wolf style attacks in the West and the use of vehicles in attacks has been previously recommended by both ISIS and AQAP,” MEMRI noted.

Within 48 hours of the attack, ISIS claimed Bouhlel as one of its foot soldiers.

Whether or not Bouhlel, however, was inspired by ISIS or AQAP’s detailed 2010 instructions for

using trucks to kill infidels, AQAP is certainly taking advantage of Bouhlel’s method of attack to promote itself.

“The Nice operation has many important messages, the first of them is the creation of a state of fear and terror and spreading it to other European nations,” AQAP’s new guide stated. “And this is the result of targeting the general gatherings of people. The French people lived a night of terror and fear asking themselves ... why here? And what is the reason? The answer directly comes when they say, ‘this is Islamic Terrorism.’ The Mujahidin answer, ‘as you treat others, you will be treated the same,’ and, ‘as you kill you will be killed’ and ‘as we live in fear, you too will be in fear.’ We are defending ourselves. Sheikh Usama has offered you a truce of 10 years and you decided to refuse and go to extremes. Today the decision will be in hands of the French public, the ones capable of stopping all this.”

AQAP said, “What increases their fear in this operation is its uniqueness; the operation was in a new manner and form, it was unexpected,” noting, “The weapon used can be readily available in the streets. And what increases more fear in them is that some authorities in charge of security admit that it is impossible to stop similar type of operations.”

“The second message,” AQAP stated, “is that tourism in France from now on will never be safe. And this will pose a threat to the annual revenue France gains from tourism. And this is a message to the tourists all over the world, that France is no longer safe.”

Lastly, AQAP said the “third message is for the Muslims. France that celebrate the Bastille Day, which represents freedom, brotherhood and equality. The French who made the issue of attacking the Bastille prison a symbol of revolution and freedom. While at the same time, France is the one which imprisons many Muslims, persecuting them, plundering their wealth, killing the children and women with the help of their American allies. This freedom is meant only for the French, as for the Muslims then they have nothing.”



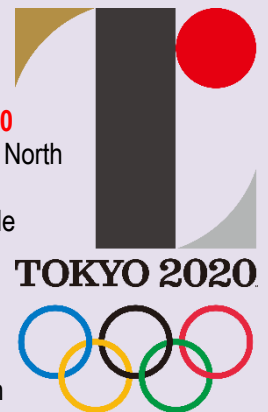
Japan Upgrades Defense Toward 2020 Olympics

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2016/08/japan-upgrades-defense-toward-2020-olympics/>

Aug 03 – Japan is upgrading its Patriot PAC-3 missile defense system in time for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, adding range and accuracy needed to intercept more advanced North Korean ballistic missiles, sources with knowledge of the plan said.

According to sources quoted in the local press, the move represents the most significant upgrade to Japan's missile defense system in a decade and is part of an increase in military spending in the region, where geopolitical tensions are rising. The upgraded PAC-3 is said to be necessary to counter the North Korean Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missile.

The rollout of the new advanced Missile Segment Enhancement, which could double the range of the current PAC-3 missiles to around 30 km (19 miles), will likely start next year. A spokesman



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for Japan's Defence Ministry said "nothing has been decided" on the PAC-3 upgrade. However, the International Olympic Committee's decision to grant Tokyo the 2020 games will help unlock funding for the PAC-3 upgrade despite military budget constraints, the sources told Reuters.

The Patriot upgrade, to be conducted by MHI, would likely be an enhancement to Japan's ballistic missile defense. Those guarding the Tokyo area will take priority and some used for training will not be upgraded.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: They first showed up in public at London 2012. Rio followed and now Japan. Welcome to the "Olympic Security Games"! What exactly they are protecting us for? Hijacking a commercial plane and transform it to a flying bomb? Air Force can deal with that. Firing rockets against critical infrastructure? Explosive or RadUAVs? Armed civilian helicopters? Firing a SCUD from a vessel in international waters? Are these systems suitable for these threats and similar? Do terrorists have **real** access to such advanced systems and related capabilities to transport them to Japan for the



Games? Or is it a good opportunity for the military to buy more systems (and defense companies to sell) being unable to do this during “peace” time? Are we talking about “Sports Games” or “War Games”?

The Peril in Paroling Jihadists

By A.J. Caschetta

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6166/peril-in-paroling-jihadists>



Aug 03 – Adel Kermiche, the jihadist who killed Rev. Jacques Hamel while he was celebrating a Catholic mass in France, is the latest illustration of what happens when a known threat is paroled by a society that finds prison inhumane. Kermiche, an ISIS recruit arrested trying to reach Syria, was released by a lenient judge. Parole has been in the news a lot lately.

In a rare act of courage just over a week ago, California governor Jerry Brown [overruled](#) a parole board decision to release Manson family member Leslie Van Houten, killer of Leno and Rosemary La Bianca.

And then last week, John Hinckley, who shot Ronald Reagan and James Brady in 1981, secured his own sweet [parole deal](#) (technically it was “convalescent leave”) through the leniency of U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman.

New York State changed its gun laws in response to a shooting rampage by William Spengler, who was paroled in 1998 after serving 17 years in prison for killing his grandmother with a hammer. New York State doesn't need more gun control; it needs parole control.

The U.S. has a history of accepting jihadist parolees. Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind sheikh, was paroled by Egypt after spending

years in prison for his role in the 1981 assassination of Sadat. He came to the U.S. in 1990 and was granted a green card in 1991. He is currently serving a life sentence for his roles in the 1993 WTC bombing and the [Landmarks Plot](#).

But the most outrageous example of granting freedom to dangerous criminals is the ongoing release of Al-Qaeda and Taliban jihadists from Guantanamo Bay. *The Hill* has [reported](#) that of 676 released Gitmo detainees 118 are confirmed to have rejoined the fight and another 86 are suspected to have done so. The recidivism rate among Gitmo detainees has been [estimated](#) at 30%.

The massive jihad parole has happened under both the Bush and the Obama administrations, and both have released killers back to the battlefield. When Ibrahim al-Rubaish was released by George Bush in 2006, he promptly became an [important leader](#) of AQAP. When Ibrahim al-Qosi was released by [Barack Obama](#) in 2012 he [did the same](#).

Both administrations tried to retain secrecy about the goings on in the prison. But Bush was mostly trying to keep information from the



enemy about which fighters were out of action, whereas Obama is trying to keep information from Americans about which fighters he is releasing and the threats they still pose.

Senator [Kelly Ayotte](#) (R-NH) [has written](#) of "a

a [CBS report](#), a September 2014 arrest of 88 Al-Qaeda operatives had 59 graduates; later that year when 77 were arrested for an attack on a Saudi Shiite mosque, [44 of them](#) were discovered to be bin Nayef alumni.



consistent and concerted effort by the Administration to prevent Americans from knowing the truth regarding terrorist activities and affiliations of past and present Guantanamo detainees."

Assuming there ever were any genuinely innocent people rounded up accidentally from the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq, they were released long ago. When the Obama administration took over, many in the Bush administration warned that those remaining at Gitmo were "[the worst of the worst](#)." Releasing these dedicated jihadists has led to predictable results.

Some have been released to Saudi Arabia where they are sent to the [Mohammed bin Nayef Center for Counseling and Care](#). Here they are involuntarily enrolled in the kingdom's terrorism rehabilitation and de-programming center, allegedly purged of their fondness for jihad and transformed into productive members of society through different kinds of therapy and "structured debate."

The recidivism of the bin Nayef Center is probably higher than that of Gitmo. According to

[Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Nayef Center for Counseling and Care has a dismal success rate rehabilitating jihadists](#)

Other [parolees have been sent](#) to Qatar, Senegal, the UAE, Palau, and Ghana. Rep. Edward Royce (R-CA) [has written](#) that the Obama "administration is releasing dangerous terrorists to countries that can't control them, and misleading Congress in the process."

In 2014 six jihadists were sent to Uruguay, among many predictions of bad things to come. One of the men, Jihad Ahmad Diyab, has [disappeared in Brazil](#) — timing many find perilously close to the upcoming Olympic Games.

What possible benefit could any society derive from releasing a member of the Manson family or a man who killed his grandmother with a hammer? And what possible value can come from releasing committed jihadists to nations that cannot control them or track them if they disappear?

[A.J. Caschetta](#) is a Shillman-Ginsburg fellow at the Middle East Forum and a senior lecturer at the Rochester Institute of Technology.



Armed French police deployed on Channel ferries

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160804-armed-french-police-deployed-on-channel-ferries>

Aug 04 – **Passenger ferries going between Britain and France are now being accompanied by armed sea patrols to protect them from jihadist attacks.**

“A permanent unit has been deployed for passenger ferries since August 1,” Lieut Pierre-Joachim Antona told AFP.

“The marine gendarmes will carry out patrols, which will be random but regular, with the aim of securing these vessels against the terrorist threat,” he added.

CNBC reports that marine police deployed all along the French coastline — from the North Sea to the Mediterranean — now have to additional task of coordinating more closely with French land security forces to secure the country’s waters, the spokesman said.

The first such patrol took place on Monday, with French officers flown in by helicopter onto the Mont Saint-Michel ferry, just as it entered French waters from southern England. The officers remained on board until the vessel reached its final destination in the northwestern French town of Caen.

Antona said the armed patrols would be similar to those in train stations across France. The police say that the high visibility of these patrols helps deter attacks.

France and Britain are in talks about expanding the marine patrols’ mandate beyond the limits of French territorial waters. The French security forces want French officers to go on board



ferries before the ferries leave English ports.

Tourism industry officials have complained that the heightened security measure taken by France have caused massive backups. Last week, for example, British holidaymakers spent fifteen hours in their cars in long queues which snaked back from the port of Dover as a result of tightened entry checks by French border police.

Islamic State 'calls on jihadis to target Miss World competition in Philippines'

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/09/islamic-state-calls-on-jihadis-to-target-miss-world-competition/>



Aug 09 – **Islamic State terrorists have called for attacks at the Miss World competition due to be held in the Philippines in January 2017, according to online threats.**

A branch of the terror network called on “everyone who can” to launch attacks at the event, according to reports of posts on a social media channel used by jihadis in the Philippines.

One of the posts included an online tutorial that explained how to make a suicide bomb.

Addressing “brothers who love martyrdom,” the author said “everyone who can” should launch attacks at the event. It was not possible to verify the reports.

The location for Miss World 2017 has yet to be announced, but current champion, Filipino-German model Pia Wurtzbach, is likely to attend.



The beauty pageant was last held in the Philippines in 1994.

The threat from Isil has been growing in the country. Abu Sayyaf, an insurgent group fighting for a hardline Islamist state in the southern Philippines, has pledged allegiance to Isil.

Two Canadians were murdered by the group earlier this year.

Abu Sayyaf has its roots in the long-standing Islamist insurgency in the southern islands of the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines, and has focused its operations on lucrative banditry.

The faction – a loose alliance of splinter groups – has survived the deployment of US special forces “advisors” as part of George W Bush’s “war on terror” and a series of offensives by the poorly-equipped Philippine army.

Examining Systematic Crime Reporting Bias Across Three Immigrant Generations: Prevalence, Trends, and Divergence in Self-Reported and Official Reported Arrests

By Bianca E. Bersani and Alex R. Piquero

Journal of Quantitative Criminology; pp 1-23 (First online: 16 July 2016)

Source: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10940-016-9314-9>

Abstract

Objective

Mounting evidence reveals that foreign-born, first generation immigrants have significantly lower levels of criminal involvement compared to their US-born, second and third-plus generation peers.

This study investigates whether this finding is influenced by differential crime reporting practices by testing for systematic crime reporting bias across first, second, and third-plus generation immigrants.

Methods

This study draws on data from the Pathways to Desistance Study, a longitudinal investigation of the transition from adolescence to young adulthood among a sample of serious adolescent offenders. Self-reported and official reports of arrest are compared longitudinally across ten waves of data spanning 7 years from adolescence into young adulthood for nearly 1300 adjudicated males and females.

Results

This study reveals a high degree of correspondence between self-reports of arrest and official reports of arrest when compared within groups distinguished by immigrant generation. Longitudinal patterns of divergence, disaggregated by under-reporting and over-reporting, in self- and official-reports of arrest indicated a very high degree of similarity regardless of immigrant generation. We found no evidence of systematic crime reporting bias among foreign-born, first generation immigrants compared to their US-born peers.

Conclusions

First generation immigrants are characterized by lower levels of offending that are not attributable to a differential tendency to under-report their involvement in crime.

Patterns of Islamic State-Related Terrorism, 2002-2015

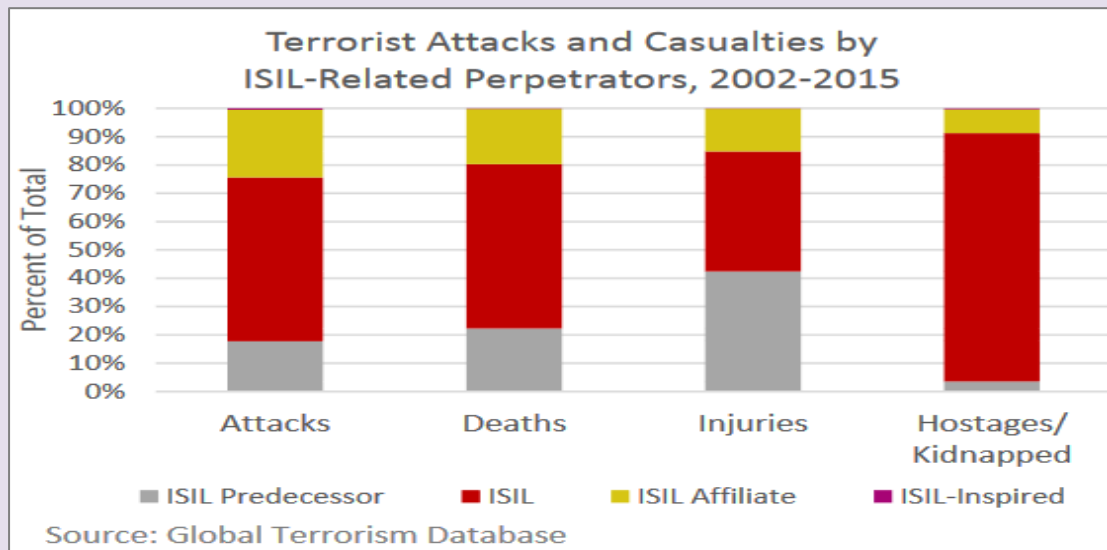
Source: https://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_IslamicStateTerrorismPatterns_BackgroundReport_Aug2016.pdf

For more than a decade, the organization now known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or simply the Islamic State, has carried out deadly terrorist attacks. **Beginning as a small network led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the first terrorist attack attributed to this group was the assassination of American diplomat Laurence Foley in Amman, Jordan in October 2002.** Since then, the group initially known as Tawhid and Jihad (Jama'at al-Tawhid w'al-Jihad (the Party of Monotheism and Jihad)) has undergone a complex evolution, including name changes, leadership changes, and shifts in allegiance to other Salafi-jihadist organizations, most notably al-Qaida. In addition, the reach of ISIL's violence surpasses its



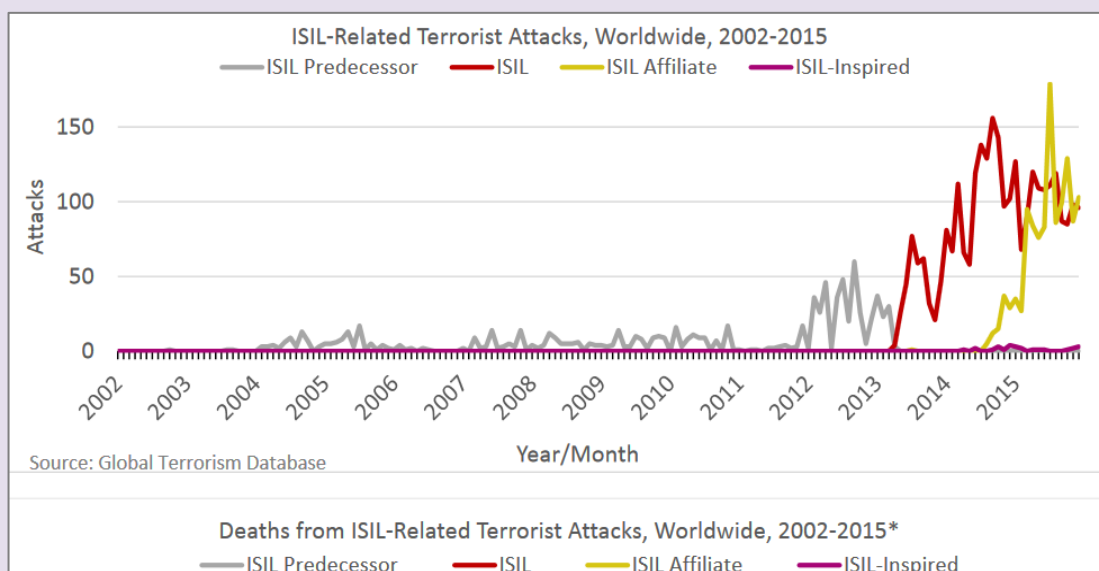
own membership, to include attacks carried out by other groups and individuals who have pledged allegiance to ISIL regardless of whether or not formal ties exist.

This complexity makes it difficult to comprehensively and systematically place into context the violence of



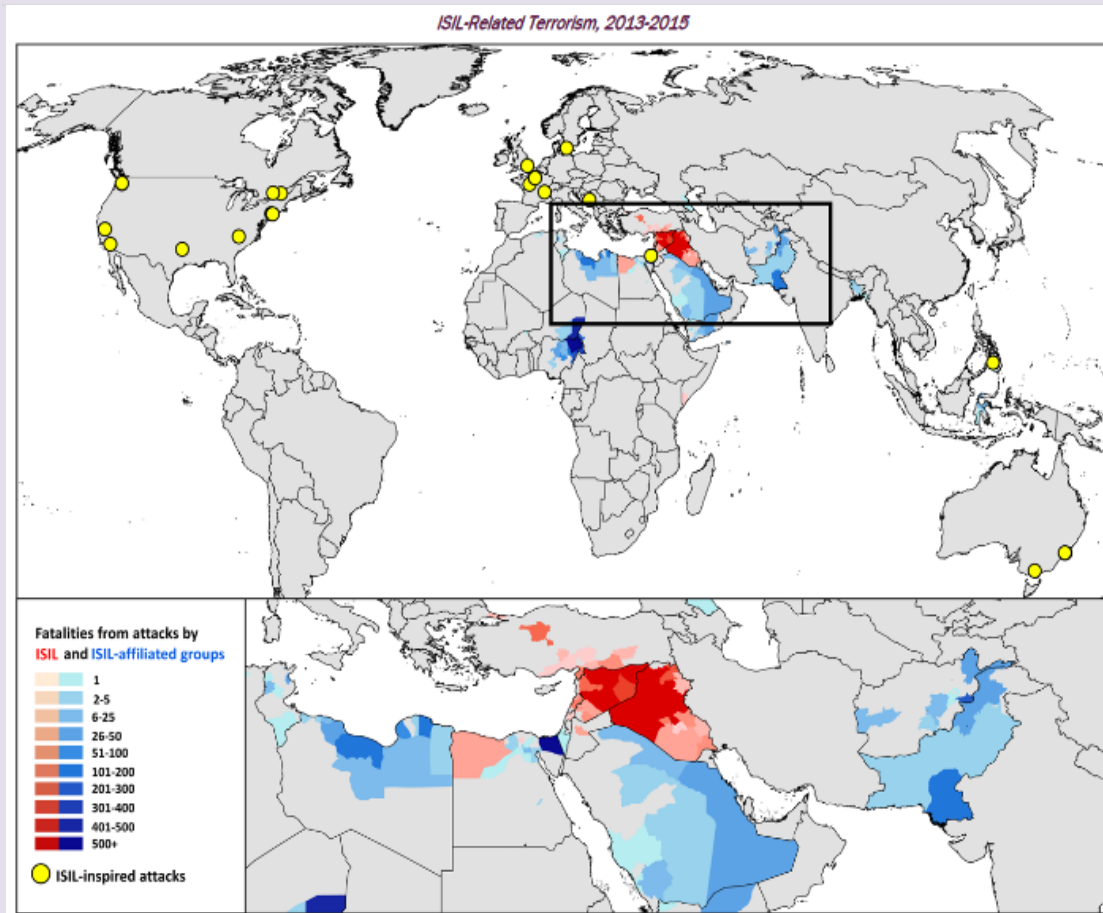
one of the most active and deadly terrorist organizations in recent history. For the purpose of this report, we have classified the terrorist attacks in the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) into four ISIL-related perpetrator categories:

- **ISIL Predecessor:** attacks by organizations that were part of the ISIL lineage prior to adoption of the ISIL name in 2013
- **ISIL:** attacks by operatives of the “core” of the organization, based in and primarily active in Iraq and Syria
- **ISIL Affiliate:** attacks by organizations that have declared allegiance to ISIL
- **ISIL-Inspired:** attacks by individuals who have indicated that they were motivated by allegiance to ISIL
- **ISIL-Related:** any of the above



This report presents data that illustrate the dynamics of ISIL-related terrorism over time and place, from 2002 to 2015. In particular, we investigate trends in the number of attacks and deaths caused by ISIL-related terrorism over time, the geographic spread of ISIL-related terrorism, and patterns of tactics, targets, and lethality of ISIL-related terrorism.





Tourism in Times of Terror

Source: <http://www.ipkinternational.com/en/read-news/article/64/?cHash=ef80e0d1f9053f9f2b03ff6371af2c55>



Close to half of all tourists worldwide are changing their travel behavior, shows the latest special survey of IPK's [World Travel Monitor®](#) commissioned by ITB Berlin.

The threat of terrorism influences the travel behavior of 40 per cent of international tourists although the results varied significantly depending on the source market. Further, differences were also noted between various traveler segments. Clear is, that 2016 will show substantial shifts

between travel destinations.

In February 2016, IPK International surveyed outbound travelers in 42 countries in Europe, Asia, Middle East, North and South America (covering approx. 85% of the world outbound travel demand)

Close to half of all tourists worldwide are changing their travel behaviour

in order to ascertain "how the current terror attacks and terror warnings are influencing the travel behavior in the next 12 months". The study's data is based on surveys representative of the population carried out in the scope of IPK's World Travel Monitor®, the world's largest primary international study on international travel behavior.



The report gives a clear picture on the changes in travel behavior that can be expected in the source markets in 2016 and contains a wealth of vital information including:

- In which source markets the terror threats will strongly influence the travel planning/travel behavior in the next 12 months (terror-sensitive markets) and in which source markets not (terror-resistant markets)?
- Which target groups are most terror-sensitive?
- What kind of reactions/changes in travel behavior are to be expected due to the terror threat?
- If there will be a decrease of outbound travel, and therefore an increase of domestic travel?
- Which role the aspect of “safe” travel destinations will play regarding the travel decision?
- Hence, which travel destinations are currently perceived as “safe” and which are not?
- Thus, which travel destinations could profit from their “safety image” as a demand driver and which ones should try to improve their image to avoid losing demand?
- Which transportation means are seen as safe, and which are not?

The information obtained from this report will allow destinations and other tourism players to adjust their marketing activities to the changed conditions in the individual source markets and thus lessen or even prevent negative development.

The report includes results for the total European, Asian, Middle Eastern, North and South American source markets as a whole as well as for each of the following 42 source markets: Germany, Great Britain, France, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Norway, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Japan, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel.

The safety image was asked in all 42 source markets for the following important travel destinations: Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Croatia, Austria, Great Britain, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Poland, USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, China, Thailand, India, Australia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia.

New results due in November

It remains to be seen how the tourism industry will fare in the face of terrorism over the course of the year. As of yet it is unclear what impact the recent attacks in Germany and Nice will have on the perceived safety of these countries. The next special survey analysing 'The Threat of Terrorism for Tourism' is scheduled for September/October this year. The initial results will be presented in early November 2016 in Pisa, Italy, at the World Travel Monitor® Forum, which is organised by IPK International in cooperation with ITB Berlin.

Netherlands: Another Muslim slasher screaming “Allahu Akbar” terrifies shoppers

Source: <http://www.barenakedislam.com/2016/08/10/netherlands-another-muslim-slasher-screaming-allahu-akbar-terrifies-shoppers/>



Aug 10 – Police officers were forced to shoot down a knife wielding MUSLIM man who terrified shoppers with shouts of ‘Allah Akbar.’ The incident took place on yesterday afternoon in Spijkenisse, a commuter-town close to the city of Rotterdam in the west of the Netherlands. *The police spotted a local man, 35, close to the central metro station of Spijkenisse who made wild movements with a butcher’s knife. Shoppers and commuters were especially worried by shouts of ‘Allah Akbar’. A police officer was forced to shoot down the man when he came storming towards them with the knife. According to a police spokesman, the knife wielding MUSLIM was still responsive after he was shot in his leg, and was taken to a hospital. No other people were injured in the incident. It is not yet known why the man, a 35-year-old*



citizen of Spijkenisse, wielded a knife or shouted 'Allah Akbar'. According to the police, the man looked confused.

Multiple eye-witnesses heard the shouts of 'Allah Akbar', although some who watched the scenes unfold were not impressed. A group of girls reported that the suspect also dropped his pants in front of them before making a scene with the butcher's knife.

French 14-year-olds to have school lessons on surviving terrorist attacks

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/10/french-14-year-olds-to-have-school-lessons-on-surviving-terroris/>

Aug 10 – **French 14-year-olds are to receive training on how to survive a terrorist attack on their schools, following a spate of Islamist killings in recent months**, the government announced on Wednesday.

Starting in September, pupils aged 14 and upwards will be taught basic "life-saving" measures. Head teachers will be required to carry out mock attack exercises and to secure "vulnerable areas" of their schools.

"The recent attacks and the context of the terrorist threat means heightened vigilance is required," said a joint statement from the interior and education ministries.

It underlined how schools are a "top priority" target for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isil), which delivered a direct threat last December. The terrorist group's francophone propaganda magazine, Dar al Islam, urged Muslim parents to remove their children from French schools and to kill teachers, who were called "enemies of Allah" for teaching the French principle of secularism.

Each school will now hold three exercises per academic year, covering the "ability of schools to react and not be taken by surprise".

A text messaging alert system will warn pupils, along with a specific alarm different to the one used for fires.

Headteachers have been asked to hold meetings with parents to explain the new security measures.

In January, several Paris secondary schools were evacuated due to bomb threats, although these turned out to be hoaxes.

In March 2012, Mohamed Merah, a jihadist with links to al-Qaeda, killed three children and a teacher outside a Jewish school in south-western France.



Machine of Tomorrow with a Mission to Protect Olympic Athletes Today

Source: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Machine-of-Tomorrow-with-a-Mission-to-Protect-Olympic-Athletes-Today-389648061.html>



Aug 09 – When it comes to security in Rio, it is man and machine.

Security technology is playing a crucial role at Olympic village – in particular, a Palo Alto-produced machine called **Qylatron**.

"It looks like Star Wars," passersby would say as they went through security lines.

To enter Rio de Janeiro's Olympic Village, you first have to make it past Qylatron, a high-tech



scanner that's at least twice as fast as what you see at the airport. It was first used in Brazil at the 2014 World Cup, but it's the first time at an Olympic Games.



"The green door means the cell is available for scanning, and once you close the door, scanning begins," Qylur Intelligence Systems' Yair Dolev said.

Once closed, the door light changes to red, which means screening is in process. If it turns purple, that means there is a problem and the doors lock, trapping your belongings inside.

"The more operation you have, the more bags you scan, the more machines working, the stronger they become," Dolev said.

Dolev says Qylatron uses artificial intelligence and becomes smarter over time. It uses x-ray technology and other sensors to look for explosives, drugs, radioactive materials and other items deemed security threats.

Engineers at Qylur headquarters in Palo Alto teach the machine by putting a variety of items, including weapons, through it.

They also collect data from Qylatron machines around the world to make the system stronger. There is even one at Levi's Stadium.

Israeli counterterrorism expert Leo Gleser says technology is helping protect these games. His company, International Security and Defense Systems (ISDS Ltd.), has trained many of the police and soldiers patrolling the Olympic Games, and brought in Qylur to be a part of its security force in Rio.

"Suspicious materials – you have no access to that," Gleser said, referring to Qylatron's locking system once it detects a dangerous device. "This is very important – if you are a criminal, crazy, lone wolf or terrorist, you are going to be out of the elements that you have to make some killings."



Does Integration Prevent Radicalization?

Source: <https://www.clarionproject.org/news/does-integration-prevent-radicalization>

Aug 09 – Does integration prevent radicalization? We asked our American readers for their views on this question.

We recently reported the FBI has an ISIS "kill list." Many on the list belong to non-Muslim groups trying to help young Muslims integrate culturally into American society.

Pro-jihadi websites are urging American Muslims to undertake "personal jihad" against those who are helping Muslims study or settle in the United States. They know that one more integrated US Muslim is one less jihadi fighter.

In general, close to 26 percent believe that integration prevents radicalization, 20



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – August 2016

percent think it can help partially, 14 percent think it is unlikely to help and 40 percent think it will not help.

Here are a sampling of the more than 600 responses we received to our question:

Yes, I work with Muslim refugees in the Detroit area. Just this past week one of them (from Syria) commented on their disapproval of neighboring Muslim countries who do not take in refugees or help them in any way. They are very surprised that non-Muslim countries, Germany and the USA, are willing to help. Now that they are here in the U.S., they see the difference and are very grateful. They have told us that they never want to return to Syria because we are their new family. I know that there is a danger in allowing refugees into our country, but I believe that most realize that we are not the devils they thought us to be.

-- JC

It will help in with some, probably many, quite possibly most.

-- MG

No, the apparent integration of Muslims into American society provides no guarantee that this will inhibit their future radicalization, as we can see both in Europe and the US. And the reason is simple: lapsed or non-devout Muslims, like members of other religious communities, can become "born again fundamentalists" and thence embrace Islamist ideology rather quickly, even if they appear to have been Westernized.

-- JB

Believe it depends on the education level of those entering the country as refugees; the better educated they are, the better they will assimilate into our economic and social structure.

-- NF

There is absolutely no doubt that intergration of Muslims immigrating to the U.S. into American culture **won't** prevent ALL radicalization but it would come close to doing so.

-- SM

Integration reduces radicalization, but **nothing** can prevent radicalization among any significant Muslim population.

-- RW

I've noticed that, **yes**, young Muslims who become thoroughly integrated into American (or other Western) society -- especially if they're rewarded with good grades, good-paying jobs, social acceptance, et. al. do tend to become modern, moderate, secular, democratic and tolerant. And that's exactly why the various mullahs, madrasses, and other Islamic cultural enforcers work so hard to prevent it

-- LF

Absolutely **yes**. Of course, real integration. Happy people with an established meaning of life, a good job, a family, and a society that accepts them, rarely become terrorists.

-- JL

No it will prevent them from becoming radical. Too many ways are out there for it.

-- JC

Yes, I do believe that integration into our society is key to preventing radicalism. We can't be isolationist and we can't have a war against 1.5 billion Muslims. Finding a way to live together is our only hope for peace in the world.

-- JH

No, it won't prevent radicalization. Look at France and England.

-- JKF

Youthful environment is important. Look at teenagers. Teenagers want to be with teenagers. The environment of teens on teens can and does strongly influence the status and social posture of said teens. Often this influence supersedes the home environment and probably tends to have a lasting effect going forward.

-- FB

I would have to say **no**! Integration of Muslims into American society will not prevent Islamic radicalization; however, it will reduce it.

-- DF

I believe that integration is all important, however trying to integrate young Muslims would only work if their families were moderate Muslims, who in turn wish to be part of the host country. The family is very important to them, so the success of integration would depend on what beliefs their families hold.

-- LC



TSA Discovers 3D Printed Gun in Carry-On Luggage at Reno Airport

Source: <https://3dprint.com/145323/3d-printed-gun-reno-airport/>

Aug 09 – It's safe to say that one of the most controversial topics in the 3D printing world – if not the most controversial – is that of 3D printed guns. Guns in general are a hot-button topic in the US especially, and the fact that 3D printers have made it possible to make your own functional firearm at home has some people very concerned. While the threat of 3D printed guns [may be somewhat overblown](#), authorities have expressed [a lot of apprehension](#) about the potential for terrorists and criminals to take advantage of

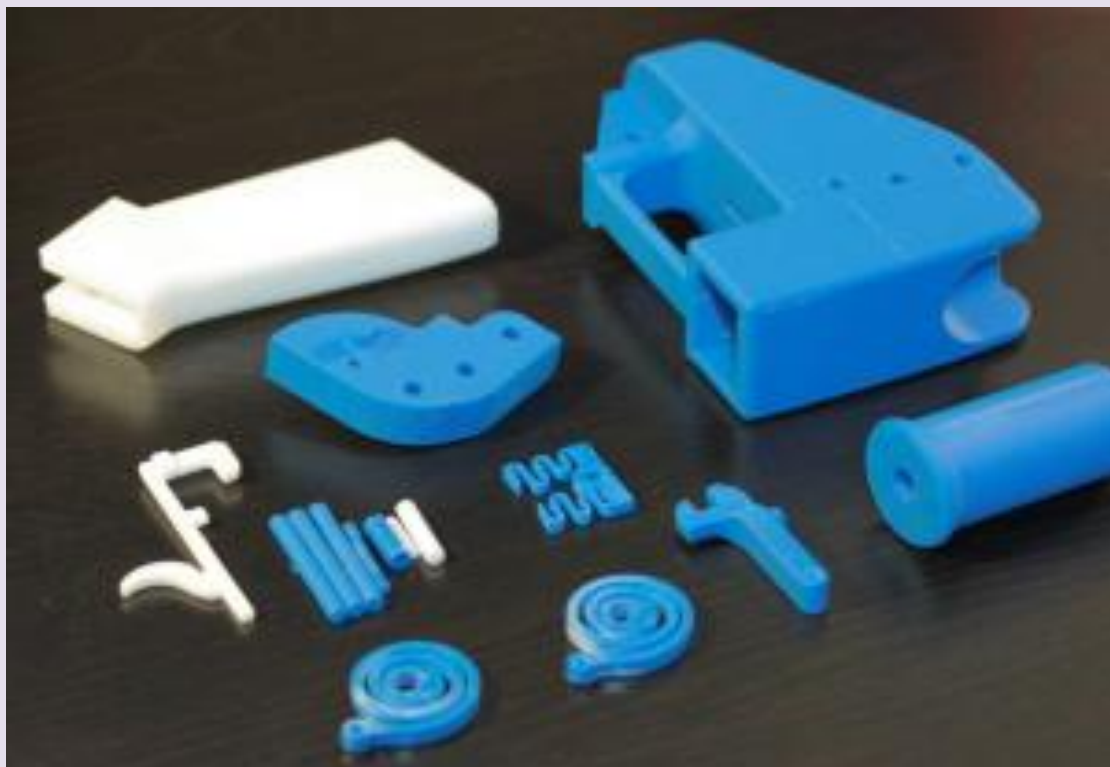
the DIY technology and readily available files.

One of the worries people have is that because most 3D printed guns are made from plastic, they can more easily slip through security in airports. It's a fair concern – particularly after [a report from the Department of Homeland Security](#) last year showed that the TSA was failing to prevent prohibited items from passing



through security 95 percent of the time – but a man with a 3D printed gun didn't get very far at Reno-Tahoe International Airport last week.

According to a [TSA blog post](#), 68 firearms were discovered in carry-on bags across the US last week. One of those firearms was a 3D printed revolver loaded with live ammunition. The man packing the weapon wasn't cited or arrested; when security asked him if he wanted to check the item, he chose to surrender it instead.



The Liberator broken into parts



Was the man intending to do harm with the 3D printed pistol? Or did he just forget that packing a gun in a carry-on bag is a bad idea? Surprisingly, it seems as though many air travelers are unfamiliar with TSA regulations, as evidenced by the 67 other people who had guns in their carry-on luggage last week – not to mention the other weapons and weapon replicas that are regularly confiscated by the TSA.



A selection of the guns confiscated by the TSA last week

“In addition to all of the other prohibited items we find weekly in carry-on bags, our officers also regularly find firearm components, realistic replica firearms, bb and pellet guns, airsoft guns, brass knuckles, ammunition, batons, stun guns, small pocketknives and many other prohibited items too numerous to note,” the TSA states.

While that may seem alarming, the TSA also reassures that just because someone has a weapon in their carry-on isn’t necessarily evidence of a nefarious plot.

“Just because we find a prohibited item on an individual does not mean they had bad intentions; that’s for the law enforcement officer to decide,” the agency continues. **“In many cases, people simply forgot they had these items.”**

I can’t imagine forgetting that I had packed a gun or brass knuckles, but the point is that just because an item is plastic doesn’t mean that it’s undetectable. The concern expressed by the Department of Homeland Security report was less about passenger and luggage screening methods and more about better vetting and training of security workers at airports. In my experience, airport screening technology misses very little – I’ve been pulled aside for forgetting to empty a water bottle in my carry-on bag, and more than once because the bunched-up lining in my jeans pocket showed up as an area of concern on the body scanner.

Now, if the only method of screening in a secure area is a metal detector, that’s a different story, but on an X-ray machine, the outline of a 3D printed gun shows up just as clearly as that of a metal gun – or a water gun, for that matter. Guns may be transported in checked baggage if they’re unloaded, properly packed, and declared at check-in; the TSA also reminds people to familiarize themselves with local gun laws wherever they’re traveling.



Another issue that concerns security agencies is that 3D printed guns can be dismantled and reassembled after passing through security; in 2013, [two Daily Mail reporters tested security](#) at St. Pancras International Station by 3D printing a gun using the [Liberator files posted online by gun advocate Cody Wilson](#). They were able to easily get through screening with the various parts of the gun concealed in their clothing; once on the train, they assembled the gun in minutes. When the story broke, it horrified security experts and prompted politicians to call for improved screening measures in public transportation. Agents also managed to get [67 out of 70 weapons and fake explosives past TSA in a US security test, which led to further concerns](#).

Authorities are uncertain where the files for the gun confiscated at the Reno airport came from; a search of 3D printable gun files posted online turned up nothing that matched the gun the passenger was carrying. It's possible he may have designed it himself.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Just love TSA's sense of humor! You carry a gun in your baggage but you forget that you actually do! As if we prepare our baggage to travel six months in advance and then we forget what we put inside suitcases!!! 3-D printing is not the problem; brain-tongue interoperability is!

UK Man Sentenced for 'Offending' Muslims

By Raheem Kassam

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/blog/2016/08/uk-man-sentenced-for-offending-muslims>

Aug 08 – **A man from Manchester in the United Kingdom has been sentenced to 180 hours of unpaid work and a 12-month community order after posting comments that were said to be "grossly offensive" towards Muslims.**

Stephen Bennett, 39, reportedly took to the Greater Manchester Police's Facebook page to post comments "concerning an Asian woman" as well as another which was "likely to be offensive to Muslims."



"Is this about that Muslim thing on Facebook? I'm getting locked up for sticking up for my own country," said Stephen Bennett, father of seven, upon being arrested for offending Muslims in a social media post.

While the Greater Manchester Police refused to disclose the details of the case to Breitbart London, he is said to have

also written: "Don't come over to this country and treat it like your own. Britain first," according to the *Manchester Evening News*.

The father of seven, whose mother-in-law and sister-in-law are Muslim, was visited at his home at 8 am by police officers who arrested him under the anti-free speech Malicious Communications Act. He is reported to have said to the officers: "Is this about that Muslim thing on Facebook? I'm getting locked up for sticking up for my own country."

The legislation, brought forward under Tony Blair's Labour government in 2003, states that a person is guilty of an offense if they "send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character" or "cause any such message or matter to be so sent." It adds: "A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a



term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both." The loosely worded law has caused legal experts to question the "menacing" nature of the legislation. It is the same legislation that saw a man frustrated with airport delays who tweeted a sardonic threat to

I disapprove of
what you say, but
I will defend to
the death your
right to say it.



Voltaire

"blow the airport sky high!" prosecuted in a much-publicised case – the "[Twitter Joke Trial](#)" – which eventually led to a court quashing the sentence after three appeals.

A Muslim witness told the Manchester court that Mr. Bennett's comments were "irresponsible," incited hatred, and could be a "potential tool for radicalisation."

The judge said his comments ran "the risk of stirring up racial hatred in the present climate" and sentenced him to a 12-month community order with 180 hours unpaid work. The judge added: "Your remarks damaged the community in which you

live, and it's the community that you must repay."

Raheem Kassam is a Shillman-Ginsburg fellow at the Middle East Forum and editor-in-chief of Breitbart London.



Knife attacks: Lessons learned from China



Police in Beijing have distributed "forks", long poles with semi-circular prongs that security guards could use to fight assailants.



Canada Takes Down 'Known Wolf' Islamic State Jihadi Planning Suicide Bomb Plot

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2016/08/11/canada-takes-known-wolf-jihadi-thwarts-suicide-bomb-plot/>

Aug 11 – **Working on a tip from the American FBI, Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police moved against 24-year-old Aaron Driver, an Islamic State supporter, and killed him after a tense standoff on Wednesday, before Driver could carry out a planned suicide bomb attack.**

Reuters reports the raid was conducted in the small Ontario town of Strathroy, 140 miles south of Toronto. When the police confronted Driver, he detonated an explosive device, injuring himself and another person.

"I hear a bomb sound, like a 'bang' – I was freaking out because this is a small and quiet town," said eyewitness Irene Lee. "All of a sudden the policemen were yelling, 'everyone get into your houses.'"

According to *The Sun*, the other person injured in the explosion was a taxi driver. Driver was shot dead by the RCMP after setting off the bomb.

The *Globe and Mail* says Driver planned to take the taxi to a shopping mall in nearby London, Ontario. A CBC report adds that police informed Driver's family that he "had another device, and planned to detonate it," presumably in a suicide attack at the shopping mall. The FBI tip to Canadian authorities concerned an imminent "rush-hour attack in a major Canadian city."

Driver was a perfect example of the "known wolf" jihadi, an individual who was very much on law enforcement's radar screen,

long before he attempted to murder innocents in the name of the Islamic State.



A Muslim convert who sometimes used the alias Harun Abdulrahman, Driver was "under a court order from earlier this year to not associate with any terrorist organization, including ISIS," as [NBC News](#) puts it.



"In February, Driver's lawyer and the prosecutor agreed to a peace bond stating there are 'reasonable grounds to fear that he may participate, contribute directly or indirectly in the activity of a terrorist group,'" NBC adds.

In Canada, a "peace bond" is essentially a form of extended probation – the signatory promises to "keep the peace" for a period of up to one year, or face criminal charges.

"Obtaining a peace bond may take several weeks or even months, so peace bonds do not deal with emergencies. In an emergency, call 911," Canada's [Department of Justice](#) helpfully suggests. One such emergency would be when a jihadi is able to build multiple bombs, in spite of being theoretically under law-enforcement surveillance because he's a known terrorist sympathizer.

According to the *Globe and Mail*, the conditions of Driver's peace bond included "wearing a GPS tracking device, not using the Internet or having any communication with Islamic State, including not having any object on his person that bore an Islamic State logo." **That would make him the second jihadi to carry out a violent attack while wearing a GPS tracker in the past month.**

"The restrictions drew criticism from civil liberties activists in Manitoba," adds the *Globe and Mail*. The lawyer who helped him work out that peace bond, Leonard Tailleir, said he was "shocked" and "saddened to hear that it had to end this way for him."

Perhaps Tailleir would be a bit less shocked if he studied the statements that brought Driver to the attention of police. In June 2015, he gave CBC a 90-minute interview in which he defended terrorist attacks against Canadian civilians by Islamists, and specifically stated that "when it does happen, they shouldn't act surprised," because "they had it coming to them, they deserved it."

The reason CBC wanted to interview Driver for 90 minutes is that he was arrested by the RCMP, which confiscated his "custom-made computer, phone, flash drives, and Koran," because he had been posting blood-curdling holy warrior messages on social media, justifying the terrorist murder of soldiers and police officers.

The *Globe and Mail* notes that under his Harun Abdulrahman name, Driver had a "network of

friends and followers who consisted mainly of British Muslims fighting for the Islamic State on the ground or online."

"I think the big issue is I'm a Canadian living in Canada, and I'm OK with soldiers or police officers being targeted for what they're doing to Muslims," he said, correctly identifying something that should have been an even *bigger* issue with the authorities. "I think it's a little hypocritical that people would take issue with people retaliating against them... when it's the police and the military who are killing Muslims."

He said that after he was arrested, the police kept asking him about Twitter messages from ISIS fighters and recruiters he had retweeted. "Driver doesn't remember the exact motivation behind the retweet, but said he believes he found it funny at the time," wrote CBC.

In that lengthy interview, Driver said he got into some trouble as a teenager, but decided to straighten up his act at 17, when his girlfriend got pregnant. Since he came from a Christian family, he tried reading the Bible, but said he "just decided it couldn't possibly be the word of God."

"I started watching debates to find some answers. A lot of debates between Christians and atheists and Christians and Muslims, and the Muslims were always destroying them in these debates," Driver said, further explaining that he became radicalized because of Western powers killing Muslims in the Middle East.

He said he might be willing to give up his radical views if the West stopped killing, bombing, and arresting Muslims, and if Western nations "take responsibility for the crimes they've committed and just stay home and work on their own problems."

Then he told Canadian authorities he wasn't a threat, and they believed him.

CBC quotes people who lived near Driver complaining that they weren't told he was a terrorism suspect. "I think they should have, just so that we're well aware of this, so that we can keep an eye out ourselves too. We should have the right to know. I'm pretty sure they had close tabs on this guy... but living beside him, I would feel not safe," said one neighbor.



Man launches arson, knife attacks on Swiss train passengers; six hurt

Source: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1277358>



Aug 14 – **A man set a train carriage in Switzerland on fire using a flammable liquid and stabbed passengers on Saturday, injuring six people, including a six-year-old child**, police said.

The man, a 27-year-old Swiss citizen, carried out the attack on a train travelling in Switzerland's far east, along its border with Liechtenstein, and was also injured, regional police in Saint Gallen said in a statement.

Police said the attack had taken place at around 2:20pm (1220 GMT) near the Salez station on a train running between Buchs and Sennwald and that some of the injuries were serious.



"According to the information we have for the time being, the 27-year-old Swiss man poured out a flammable liquid ... which caught fire," police said, adding that the man "was also armed with at least one knife".

Seven people including the suspected attacker were admitted to various hospitals with burn and stab wounds, the statement said. Contacted by AFP, police said the motive for the attack was unknown.

The victims included two men aged 17 and 50, and three women aged 17, 34 and 43. Dozens of

people were on the train at the time of the attack, the police statement said.

A massive contingent of rescue workers rushed to the scene, including police, firefighters, ambulances and three rescue helicopters.

The Salez station remains closed, and police said replacement buses had been set up. Saint Gallen prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into the attack.

Police said the train had suffered damages upwards of 100,000 Swiss francs (\$103,000).



Swiss police later said they have not ruled out the motive being a “crime of passions”. A police spokesman told welt.de: “A terrorism background still seems very, very far-fetched.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: It is always very interesting to study the perception of terrorism in countries living in their own parallel universe. Nice hard working people mind their own business who have escaped two world wars they are surprised by actions of terrorism and make statements like above. Whether the man is connected with a known or unknown terrorist group or organization (domestic or international) there is no doubt that the man is a terrorist and his actions are simply terrorism. There is no immunity to terrorism and certain countries should understand this the sooner the better and act accordingly before we buy more flowers and candles.



It should also be noted that modus operandi in this incident (arson + knife attack) is a first and this should alert security forces Europe-wide about future attacks using combinations of undetectable common-use weapons!

UPDATE (Aug 14): **A 34-year-old Swiss woman (one of the victims) and the terrorist both died in a hospital.** The 6 and 17 year olds reportedly remain in a serious condition in hospital.



Police officers allowed to carry heavier weapons

Source: <http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/News/1.2735980>

Aug 10 – Police trades unions are happy with new measures announced by Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon (N-VA). **Police officers will be allowed to carry heavier weapons, and to carry these with them at all times**, if so decided by the minister. Police unions threatened with strike action, but have now withdrawn this threat.

The machete terror attack in Charleroi, which left two female police officers heavily injured, pushed police



unions to demand more measures to step up their own safety - they were unhappy with last weekend's decision which left the terror threat for police at 2+ (instead of lifting it to 3 as is the case for public places).

Police unions threatened with strike action to put pressure on Mr Jambon. A new meeting with the Interior Minister meant a breakthrough. Extra measures include the possibility for police to carry

arms 24/7, also in their private life, and heavier guns than the ones they have now.

At present, this 24/7 option was already possible, but it was decided by the local heads of police. Now, it will be imposed from the national level, but only under certain circumstances. At the same time, a number of guidelines will be issued to better protect police stations.

British Airways jet attacked with laser pen as pilot prepares to land at Heathrow Airport

Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/british-airways-jet-attacked-laser-8591477>



Aug 08 – **A British Airways flight fell victim to a laser pen attack while making its final approach to Heathrow airport tonight. Flight BA759 from Bergen was targeted by the green laser on at 9.20pm on Monday evening.**

The attack raises fresh concerns over the potentially fatal consequences of laser pen attacks on passenger jets as they take off and land at UK airports.



A former US Navy pilot warned earlier this year that an increasing number of such incidents could lead to a “terrible tragedy.”

Dr Steve Schallhorn, who is Chief Medical Director at Optical Express and a former US

Pilots at Birmingham Airport are facing more than one potentially-deadly laser pen attack every week - the worst outside of London.

A pilots' union called last month for the lasers to be classified as “offensive weapons” after a New



Navy pilot, said there needed to be more

York-bound plane had to turn back to Heathrow Airport after being targeted by yobs.

The West London airport is the only site in the UK where pilots suffer more attacks than Birmingham, the Birmingham Mail reports .

The latest available figures show that pilots flying out of Heathrow were targeted 48 times in the first six months of 2015, whilst there were 32 attacks at Birmingham.

“Laser attacks on pilots are exploding and could lead to a terrible tragedy if people continue to target aircraft,” Dr Schallhorn, one of the world’s top ophthalmologists, said.

“The problem is that I’m not sure that people who misuse powerful laser pens actually understand the harmful effect they can have on vision.

“Sudden exposure to a laser beam during a critical phase of flight such as take-off or landing could



education about the irreversible eye injuries that can be caused by laser pens.

seriously distract or disorient a



pilot, causing a disruption in concentration or instrument scanning.

“And when viewed directly, powerful lasers can cause irreversible eye injury by burning the retina.

“The severity of injury depends on the amount of radiation that enters the eye and the length of exposure, but you only need to look at a laser beam for a few seconds to suffer devastating damage.

“Other possible side-effects include glare, which can cause reduced vision, and flash blindness, which obliterates a portion or all of a pilot’s visual field and cause the occurrence of after images.

“Flash blindness is similar to but much more intense than the reaction to a strobe flash from a camera or the reflection of bright sunlight from a window, windshield or mirror — and it lasts much longer.”

According to the Civil Aviation Authority , almost 9,000 laser incidents were reported across the UK between January 2009 and June 2015.

It is illegal to shine a light at an aircraft in flight so as to dazzle or distract the pilot.

Dr Schallhorn, who trained fighter pilots while he was in the US Navy, also urged caution over the purchase and use of laser pens.

He added: “Laser pens should be bought from reputable retailers and those who already own laser pens to ensure they follow the safety instructions.

“As these devices are increasingly powerful, I would urge anyone who thinks they have looked at a laser to consult an optometrist.

“Those who have suffered laser exposure should also refrain from rubbing their eye and possibly inducing further injury.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: Perhaps it would be a good idea to advise pilots to wear special anti-laser glasses during landing process. Commercial Laser Safety Glasses provide ANSI Z136 compliant and CE certified laser radiation protection. The lenses are made from absorptive dye encapsulated in hardened polycarbonate, which provides superior resistance to breaking and prevents minor scratches from affecting laser protection.



Is America Any Safer?

The Atlantic (Sept 2016 issue)

By Steven Brill

Source: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/09/are-we-any-safer/492761/>



Fifteen years ago this September 11, 19 terrorists, using four jetliners as guided missiles, killed 2,977 people—and enveloped the country in fear. It was the first sustained attack on American soil since the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which was a far-off military base. This massacre hit the center of our government and blasted away part of our most iconic skyline. It left a stench that New Yorkers could smell weeks later as remains continued to be recovered from the ashes.

Suddenly, we were vulnerable. Not just to disease, tornadoes, accidents, or criminals, but to the kinds of enemies that had always threatened others but never us.

Barack Obama remembers that after the second plane hit, he left the Chicago building that housed his state-Senate office.

“I stood in the street and looked up at the Sears Tower, fearing it might be a target, too,” he told me in a recent email exchange, adding, “I remember rocking Sasha to sleep that night,



wondering what kind of world our daughters were going to grow up in.” He continued, “With nearly 3,000 people killed in the places where we lived our daily lives, there was a feeling that our homeland was truly vulnerable for the first time.”

This is the story of the first 15 years of how we have dealt with that newfound fear—how we have confronted, sometimes heroically and sometimes irrationally, the mechanics, the politics, and the psychic challenges of the September 12 era.

Have we succeeded in toughening up what overnight became known as “homeland security”? Absolutely. But not without a series of extravagant boondoggles along the way.

Are we safer? Yes, we’re safer from the kind of orchestrated attack that shocked us on that September morning. It’s harder for terrorists to get into the country, and harder for them to pull off something spectacular if they do. But we have not plugged some of the most threatening security gaps. Worse, as the Orlando massacre reminded us, the world has become more populated by those who want to exploit those gaps, including those living among us—and who, in the United States, can easily obtain military-grade weapons. They are not deterred by the prospect of their own death, and they are happy to commit acts less ambitious than those of 9/11. That makes their attacks much harder to detect in advance. Our defenses are far stronger, but what we have to defend against has outpaced our progress.

Have we adjusted, politically and emotionally, so that we can make rational decisions as a government and as a people to deal with the ongoing threat? Not yet. In a bitterly divided democracy, where attention spans are short and civic engagement is low and the potential for oversimplification and governing-by-headlines is high, that is hardly a surprise.

But in those first hours after the planes hit their targets, we did answer the call—which required an almost complete turnaround of America’s mind-set and produced just as stunning a turnaround in our security posture.

Part I: The Good News

On September 10, 2001, then–Attorney General John Ashcroft rejected an FBI request to increase anti-terrorism personnel for the coming fiscal year beyond a fraction of the bureau’s overall staff. The next morning, Ashcroft headed to Milwaukee to read to schoolchildren while his boss, President George W. Bush, was doing the same at an elementary school in Sarasota, Florida.

Also on September 10, FBI officials declared at a congressional briefing that the most imminent domestic terrorism threat was from animal-rights activists. Fifteen years later, the Justice Department has a national-security division, set up in 2006, that has consolidated and fortified all the department’s counterespionage and counterterrorism litigation and related legal-policy decisions. The overall FBI budget has nearly tripled since 2001, and its mission of investigating and prosecuting federal crimes that have already happened has been expanded to stopping terrorists before they strike. Most of the new resources—for intelligence analysts, technology upgrades, and additional agents—have been directed at prevention. “About half” of all agents are now assigned to national security, FBI Director James Comey told me, up from “maybe a quarter before the attacks.”

Connecting the Dots

On September 10, 2001, the Federal Aviation Administration, which was responsible for air-travel security, had a watch list of 12 people, even though the FBI and the CIA had identified hundreds more in their databases. A proposal to expand the FAA list to include those additional names had been sitting for months in the inbox of an FAA security official. In reporting for a book about the nation’s recovery efforts in the first year after 9/11, *After: How America Confronted the September 12 Era* (2003), I discovered that two of the hijackers had been on that expanded list. Distribution of their names to the airlines had been delayed because the FBI and the FAA had not resolved which organization’s letterhead should be attached to the memo bearing the new list.

On the day the World Trade Center fell and the Pentagon was left smoldering, the CIA knew that two suspected terrorists whom it was tracking around the world—and who ended up on the 9/11 planes—had come to the U.S. months earlier. But the agency never told the FBI. When this came to light, the September 12-era phrase *failure to connect the dots* was born.

Today, all U.S. security agencies share the same watch lists and threat databases, which are constantly updated. They share intelligence tips with one another (though sometimes



still grudgingly), and federal officials even sit on task forces with their local counterparts. With some lingering exceptions, we do connect the dots.

Safety in the Air

On September 11, the airlines themselves were responsible for airport-security lines. They employed 16,000 poorly trained, low-wage private screeners, who operated under guidelines, approved by the FAA, that allowed the kind of box cutters and knives (up to four inches long) that the hijackers used. The airlines had lobbied the FAA for these and other accommodations to keep costs down and the security lines moving.

Today, there are 46,000 screeners, almost all federal employees, trained by the Transportation Security Administration. Although management failures have produced security gaps in fast-moving lines, followed by—especially this spring and summer—long wait times resulting from efforts to plug those gaps, the screening process is undeniably tighter than it was on the morning of September 11. And cockpit doors have been fortified to block anyone who slips past the screeners, making a repeat of the 9/11 plot to commandeer planes and turn them into missiles hard to imagine.

In the 1970s, hundreds of federal air marshals—undercover cops in the air—were deployed on American planes to thwart hijackings to Cuba. By 2001, the number of marshals had been reduced to 33—negligible coverage for the more than 20,000 flights leaving 440 airports in America every day. Within a month of 9/11, an emergency program had recruited 600 new marshals, and by 2005 approximately 5,000 were on planes. (The actual number is classified.)

Securing the Ports

When Kevin McCabe, the chief inspector of the U.S. Customs contraband team at the giant Elizabeth, New Jersey, freight port, looked across the water at the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan and saw the second plane hit, he knew his country was under assault.

McCabe stared out his office window at the pier below, loaded with more than 7,000 cargo containers that had arrived from all over the world, and began what was probably America's first exercise in post-9/11 profiling. He directed his 70 inspectors to move every container that had arrived from the Middle East or North Africa—about 600 of them—to a far-off section of the pier. They then began the days-long process of X-raying and, if anything seemed untoward, hand-searching all 600.

The X-rays and searches, however, had always been geared to looking for smuggled drugs. The inspectors were great at finding cocaine hidden in limes from Ecuador. But they had little training in looking for bombs—and little equipment for detecting material that could be used for a radiation-laced “dirty bomb.”

Fifteen years later, every American port screens cargo using billions of dollars' worth of technology, including radiation detectors. Containers that register high on a threat matrix (based on information sent in advance about the content and its shippers) are singled out for additional screening; many containers are screened in foreign ports by U.S. Customs inspectors before they set sail.

The system is far from airtight. But the port inspectors have come a long way from McCabe's panicked game of musical containers.

Preparing for a Biological Attack

A week after the attacks, America was again caught flat-footed, when envelopes containing deadly anthrax were sent to several media outlets and two U.S. Senate offices, ultimately killing five people and hospitalizing 17. When Tom Ridge, the Pennsylvania governor, whom President Bush had just recruited to become the White House homeland-security adviser, convened his first meeting about anthrax in the Roosevelt Room, across from the Oval Office, he was stunned by the cluelessness of those assembled at the table. There was no playbook. No list of medical experts to call. No emergency supply of antidotes and no plan to produce one.

Today, a collection of federal agencies—so many that, if anything, there is bureaucratic overlap—has playbooks for a variety of biological and chemical outbreaks, and billions have been spent to stockpile antidotes.



Part II: The Spirit of September 12

Beginning September 12, 2001, crash efforts were the order of the day.

Reconstituting the air-marshals program.

Doubling the number of Border Patrol agents.

A Victim Compensation Fund was conceived of and passed by Congress in 10 days and became the nation's single greatest act of tort reform. To the dismay of many trial lawyers, it allowed victims' families to seek millions each in uncontested claims directly from the federal Treasury (and also bailed out the airlines).

The TSA was legislated and launched within months, led by a fresh group of recruits from the private sector. They held their first meetings standing in an empty room in the Department of Transportation's headquarters, clutching laptops—until someone gave up on the glacial government procurement system and went to a local Staples and ordered chairs and desks with his own credit card.

Tom Ridge was emblematic of the September 12 mind-set. He'd been the governor of Pennsylvania for nearly seven years, and loved his work. But he took the job heading homeland-security efforts within hours, on September 19, not knowing where he would live or what his salary would be. This same spirit moved members of Congress to pass piles of bipartisan legislation and assemble on the Capitol steps the night of the attacks, holding hands and singing "God Bless America."

Of course, that has changed. The initial September 12 spirit was like a rush of adrenaline. Much of what Americans in and out of government did was extraordinary; in hours worked, helping hands extended, immediate problems solved, they stretched beyond what they might have expected of themselves.

Then the rush subsided. When the headlines—the adrenaline that fuels Washington—died down, Beltway norms returned. Contractors, consultants, academics, and bureaucrats swarmed in to co-opt the new big thing, while the politicians retreated to their respective corners.

In April 2002, working as a reporter, I watched as a spirited band of new recruits got the TSA up and running at its first airport, in Baltimore. They timed passenger throughput, and high-fived each other when it stayed below four minutes per person. When the sun glared through a glass wall, killing the view of a carry-on-bag X-ray machine, someone found a piece of cardboard to shade it. More high fives.

When I visited TSA headquarters five years later to discuss a business I was starting that would expedite prescreened passengers through the security lines, administrators and other back-office employees—who by now numbered about 5,000, in addition to the 44,000 screeners working in airports—had their own building, near the Pentagon. As I rode the elevator, two people with TSA ID badges got on. One grouched to the other that his parking-space assignment was unfair.

"Even I think the pendulum has swung way too far" in the direction of overspending and bureaucracy, says Richard Clarke, the anti-terror chief on President Bush's National Security Council, who had been derided for being the guy in the White House most obsessed with the threat of an al-Qaeda attack. "Beginning almost the morning after, the consultants and contractors came out of the woodwork."

Billions of dollars awaited contractors who promised infallible new technology: bio-threat and radiation detectors in towers to catch border-jumpers, upgraded Coast Guard cutters, biometric identification cards, \$1 million baggage-screening machines, new data-collection software.

Billions more would go to cities and towns savvy enough to slap a homeland-security label on grant proposals.

A burgeoning industry of homeland-security conferences and trade shows sprang up.

Across the country, colleges and universities went after research grants aimed at everything from how to make office windows blast-proof to how to secure international shipping channels. Academic institutions began offering degrees in homeland security. I counted 308 such programs when I scanned the web a few weeks ago.

"Sure, we're safer than we were 15 years ago," says one senior auditor at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), whose 3,000 auditors independently monitor federal agencies. "But we've spent hundreds of billions since 9/11. The question is how much of that was wasted and how much should have been used on other programs to address other security gaps."

Bioterror and "Failures of Imagination"

Here are excerpts from an eye-opening report highlighting one of those continuing gaps, which I bet you never heard about, even though it was issued less than a year ago:



Nine weeks ago, terrorists unleashed insidious biological attacks on our Nation's Capitol during our Independence Day celebrations. The infectious agent they used ultimately led to the deaths of 6,053 Americans

We discovered later that other attacks had already begun elsewhere in the Nation, using methods we have yet to identify that spread the disease among livestock in rural communities.

The report then offered a stinging indictment of America's security apparatus:

The terrorists were successful because the government—including Congress—failed. They took advantage of our failure to achieve early environmental detection of the agent, failure to quickly recognize its occurrence in livestock, failure to rapidly diagnose the disease caused in sick patients, failure to consistently fund public health and health care preparedness, failure to establish sufficient medical countermeasure stockpiles, failure to make sure that non-traditional partners communicate. Ultimately, they took advantage of our failure to make biodefense a top national priority. Sadly, much as the 9/11 Commission observed in its analysis of the attacks of 2001, the attacks of 2016 occurred because of another “failure of imagination.”

The report was written by an all-star bipartisan panel consisting of, among others, Tom Ridge, the founding secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; Joe Lieberman, the former chair of the Senate Homeland Security Committee; Donna Shalala, who served as the secretary of health and human services under Bill Clinton; and Tom Daschle, the Democratic former Senate majority leader. They were organized by Lewis “Scooter” Libby, who now works at the Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank. As Vice President Dick Cheney's national-security adviser, Libby led the country's bioterrorism-defense initiatives following 9/11 and the anthrax attacks.

No, the attack described in the report didn't actually happen. Rather, the authors introduced the scenario as something that *could* happen, because, they wrote, “the threat is real and growing” and “carries with it the possibility of millions of fatalities and billions of dollars in economic losses.” It was meant to be a “wake-up call” to get the nation's attention, Ridge told me.

It didn't work. The rest of the report drew on dozens of experts' testimony and reams of data to present the case for renewed attention and national leadership to address the threat of bioterrorism, which Libby says is “still the most likely game-changing terrorist attack.” Yet the report received scant news coverage when it was issued on October 28.

The Obama administration had the same nonreaction. The panel's primary recommendation—to put one senior person in charge of consolidating the hodgepodge of agencies that have some role in biodefense—has never been acted on. “I read the report, and I respect it,” Jeh Johnson, the Obama administration's current secretary of homeland security, told me. “But it's a lot like everything else I deal with. We have to make choices every day about risk and priorities.”

What a difference 15 years makes. The bioterror threat hasn't receded; if anything, as the panel pointed out, advances in science and technology have made it easier to launch these kinds of weapons. But the nation's attention has receded—which is emblematic of the roller-coaster way our democracy and its leaders deal with risks. As suggested by the report's rhetoric about “failures of imagination,” our imagination is limited to the day's headlines. Policy makers fight the war that made those headlines, not the war that might come next.

A week before the 9/11 attacks, three *New York Times* reporters—Judith Miller, William J. Broad, and Stephen Engelberg—published an article in *The Times* adapted from their book, *Germes*, a vivid account of the danger of bioterrorism that would be published the following month. After the Twin Towers fell and the anthrax envelopes were delivered, *Germes* shot to the top of best-seller lists and the media were filled with reports about how a successful biological attack could kill as many people as a nuclear weapon—yet would be far easier to pull off, a point that had been made earlier, by the 1999–2001 commission led by former Senators Gary Hart and Warren Rudman, whose pre-9/11 warnings about a terrorist attack on the U.S. were widely ignored.

Immediately after the anthrax attacks in September 2001, Libby got Cheney and the rest of the Bush administration behind an urgent biodefense drive. Within months, during which there were several false alarms signaling apparent follow-on germ attacks (including one that officials feared had penetrated the White House), what would become a program costing hundreds of millions was launched to buy dozens of BioWatch detectors. These were deployed at



pedestrian gathering places in 20 major cities to collect air samples. By 2005, 36 metropolitan areas were covered.

The instinct to do something, anything, about the threat was understandable. But collecting and analyzing BioWatch air samples could take up to 36 hours. By then, of course, an aerosolized attack could have infected thousands of victims who would have long since dispersed. Besides, samples of only six possible pathogens were even theoretically detectable, and that was only if the offending germs were sprayed close to the detectors.

Worse, it wasn't clear that even those six pathogens would be detected at any distance. According to GAO reports about BioWatch and a study by the National Academy of Science, the devices had never been tested in real-world conditions, because officials hadn't determined how to avoid the obvious risks during the testing process. The sensors deployed indoors (at places like Grand Central Terminal) seemingly had a better chance of working than those scattered outside along busy streets. But no one knew for sure whether any of them worked.

A new BioWatch program was launched in 2003 to develop systems that could cut down the analysis process to six hours and broaden the range of threats that could be detected. The effort lasted 11 years and ate up another \$200 million in fees to Beltway contractors. But it was canceled in 2014 because the new devices didn't work.

Meantime, the original sensors are still deployed. Whether they work is still not known; many experts doubt they do unless the aerosol is released in intimate proximity. The continuing 36-hour sample-collection process and related maintenance cost \$80 million a year—more than \$1 billion over the past 15 years.

As of the end of 2014, the BioWatch sensors had produced a total of 149 alarms—none of which, according to a 2015 GAO report, “was linked to an attack or to a public health threat.” In fact, BioWatch is considered such a dud that local officials routinely ignore any alarms that federal homeland-security officials pass along from it.

“We knew it was a stopgap, but we felt we had to put something out there” at the time, says Ridge, who was the homeland-security secretary until the beginning of 2005. “But 13 years, and nothing better? Come on!”

This past February, when a House homeland-security subcommittee held a hearing on BioWatch, senior DHS officials assured their inquisitors that they were working on the problem. “We seem to be having the same hearings over and over again,” Bennie Thompson, a longtime Democratic subcommittee member, complained.

The subcommittee's then-chair, Martha McSally, a Republican freshman from Arizona and a former Air Force fighter pilot, seemed more upbeat, until she noted that industry vendors had told her they'd responded to DHS requests for information about possible new versions of the technology two years earlier but never heard back. Reginald Brothers, the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for science and technology, replied that he was now sending out still more such requests. Testifying in a near-empty committee room that would have been filled with bioterror-obsessed media 15 years earlier, the undersecretary said his team was engaged in an “exploratory process” and hoped to have a fix in place in “three to eight years.”

“This kind of stuff just drives you crazy. It's all so slow and bureaucratic,” McSally told me. “We rolled something out in a panic after 9/11 and then it lingered in a substandard place because attention shifted.” When I asked Jeh Johnson about his deputy's apparent acceptance of a process whereby exchanges of information with the private sector stretch out over years and whereby a fix to an urgent problem is still three to eight years off, he sighed in what seemed to be exasperation, then offered this: “I can think of a number of instances where the best technology is a ways off.”

“When germs were sexy right after 9/11, they focused on it,” says Judith Miller, one of the co-authors of *Germes*. “But until someone engineers one of these pathogens and releases it, we're not likely to do anything more.”

“Jack Bauer Syndrome”

The story of BioWatch's exercise in hope over reality illustrates what one GAO auditor calls “Jack Bauer Syndrome,” referring to the counterterrorism agent who was featured in 24, the hit TV series.



"If you're shocked and scared and you know there's a threat out there, you'll do anything, spend anything, to deal with it," the auditor explained, "even if what you spend it on hasn't been tested and you haven't even set any standards to evaluate it."

Chip Fulghum, the Department of Homeland Security's chief financial officer, who took the job in 2013 and says he considers himself part of a "cleanup operation," puts it this way: "Right after 9/11, the spigot got turned on and a fire hose of money poured out. Much of it was badly monitored and much of it was for stuff that just didn't work."

Multiple programs—salivated over by Beltway contractors, who formed "capture teams" to reel in business—were launched with exuberant announcements, after which they quietly tailspinned into implementation delays, revised promises, and finally failure.

"We rolled something out in a panic after 9/11 and then it lingered in a substandard place because attention shifted," Martha McSally says.

Two billion dollars was doled out to improve the TSA's screening of checked bags for bombs, but the new equipment yielded no discernible improvement.

Another \$1 billion was wasted on a network of motion sensors and camera towers across just a fraction of the U.S. border with Mexico as the first step in what was to be a \$5 billion program. When the government awarded the coveted contract to Boeing in 2006 (to replace a failed \$2.5 billion program started in 2004), President Bush heralded it as "the most technologically advanced border project ever." Once deployed, however, the system's sensors set off alarms when all varieties of wildlife moved around, and its cameras swayed in the wind and failed to provide visibility in areas where the land wasn't level. The program was finally euthanized in 2011, after which an Israeli firm was brought in to provide a system that apparently works.

Similarly, a \$2.5 billion plan to replace drive-through radiation detectors at border crossings with a new model that would cut the high false-alarm rate was killed in 2011 after \$230 million in prototype tests showed no improvement.

A long-running contract awarded to Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin to build new Coast Guard cutters has so far come in \$1 billion above its \$4.7 billion budget and four years late.

And a \$400 million program (also feasted on mostly by Lockheed Martin) to distribute 3.5 million tamperproof biometric ID cards to truck drivers hauling hazardous material and to workers at seaports and airports was completed five years behind schedule, in 2011. Worse, the ID-card readers have never worked and are not being used, making the high-tech credentials no more secure than a library card.

The granddaddy of all the misbegotten big ideas may be something called FirstNet, a project set up to provide a telecommunications system exclusively for firefighters, police officers, and other first responders [that would cost as much as \\$47 billion](#).

"Attack 2" Versus a Flaming Bagel

Clarke, the former White House anti-terror chief, has a weekend house in Rappahannock County, Virginia (population 7,400). He says that one Sunday morning a few years after the 9/11 attacks, he burned a bagel in his toaster and his smoke alarm went off. "This monster fire truck with four volunteer firemen—two teenagers and two guys my age—arrived," Clarke recalls. "They could barely drive the thing. It had a logo on it calling it 'Attack 2.'" Clarke was stunned to find out that the truck, which cost \$185,000, had been paid for by a federal homeland-security grant.

"Want to see how your homeland-security money was spent?" a longtime anti-terror official who was one of Tom Ridge's senior aides asked me. "Go to your local Fourth of July parade anywhere in small-town America and you'll see a logo on a spiffed-up fire truck or armored police truck saying we paid for it."

The largesse has hardly been limited to souped-up emergency vehicles. Across the country, small towns have loaded up on everything from a "latrine on wheels" in Fort Worth, to fish tanks in Seguin, Texas (presumably to help counterterrorism cops relax?), to unspecified equipment in American Samoa. In all, more than \$40 billion has been spent on homeland-security grants since 9/11.

Everything in the grant applications was linked to terror, an exercise in which the grant writers suffered no failures of imagination. A Senate report documenting this spending found that one law-enforcement website offered "a how-to guide, *Tapping Into Federal Funds*, advising public safety officials to amplify the frightening 'what ifs' in their request for funds by pointing out 'the worst case scenario' ... that the project for which you're seeking funds would help."



The arrival of Attack 2 to extinguish Clarke's bagel was proof that homeland security had morphed from an emergency mission into politics as usual. When asked during a 2004 Senate hearing what kind of formula governed decisions about who received grants, Tom Ridge, himself a former congressman, replied in a burst of candor that he was looking for something that gets "218 votes in the House or 51 votes in the Senate." This explains why Congress mandated that each of the 56 states and territories had to receive some grant money, regardless of actual risk of terrorism.

Today, the grants continue, though at a reduced rate, and they are mostly restricted to high-risk metropolitan areas.

Which is the other side of the story.

Money Well Spent

The flow of federal funds to major cities has plugged innumerable security gaps.

In New York City, federal grants enabled newly elected Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his police commissioner, Raymond Kelly, to set up a 1,000-person Counterterrorism Bureau that includes specially armed quick-response units and intelligence officers assigned overseas.

On September 12, 2001, the train tunnels under New York's rivers could have been breached by a bomb small enough to fit in a backpack. Thousands could have been drowned. The most vulnerable were PATH trains running under the Hudson River to New Jersey. Hundreds of millions of dollars were quietly allocated to reinforce the tunnels' roofs.

More federal money went to reinforcing subway tunnels, installing cameras to detect intruders, and assigning undercover officers to ride the trains.

Money from Washington helped pay for the hardening of the Madison Square Garden–Penn Station complex, a venue that had been easy prey for even a small car bomb and that—because it is a high-profile, crowded hub sitting atop crucial subway junctions and Amtrak's Northeast Corridor rail lines—was feared to be a prime terrorist target.

On the Upper West Side, an exposed bit of a pipeline running natural gas up the East Coast was encased in a protective shed, as was a vulnerable water main in the Bronx that could have flooded much of that borough.

Federal money helped pay for a team of consultants to work with Kelly's Counterterrorism Bureau to produce a smartly written manual called "Engineering Security." Now widely used across the country, it provides those responsible for the security of office buildings and other facilities guidance on everything from gauging the blast resistance of different grades of glass to determining a venue's overall risk profile. Washington also paid for cops to be posted at key targets. At the Brooklyn Bridge, according to Kelly, these officers staved off a plot to cut its cables—which intelligence officials learned about when questioning Khalid Sheik Mohammed, al-Qaeda's 9/11 mastermind.

Overall, anti-terror money sent from Washington to New York has exceeded \$6 billion.

The federal government made similar investments in other cities and other high-profile venues across the country. Joint Terrorism Task Forces—which had previously consisted of small groups of FBI agents, representatives of other federal law-enforcement agencies, and a few local police officers—were beefed up with funding from Washington. The number of detectives and intelligence analysts on Ray Kelly's task force in New York went from 17 to 120.

In 2001, there were 35 Joint Terrorism Task Forces around the country; today, there are 104. The federal government has also funded broader groups of law-enforcement and emergency-response agencies, called fusion centers.

The feds have sponsored drills and other exercises to help state and local police departments, and other first responders, rehearse how they would work together in an emergency. One full-scale, 24-hour exercise in Massachusetts, six months before the April 15, 2013, bombing of the Boston Marathon, is credited with helping officials do such a good job of stationing medical personnel at the site before the event began and mapping out how mass casualties would be distributed to the city's multiple trauma centers that, amazingly, none of even the most grievously injured among the 264 victims was added to the death toll of the three who died immediately at the scene.



Part III: Washington's Most Maligned Agency

By my calculation, over the past 15 years, the American government has spent \$100 billion to \$150 billion on failed or unworthy homeland-security programs and on acquiring and maintaining equipment that hasn't worked. However, as with the equipment procured for port inspections, launching the TSA, and grants for protecting New York's subway tunnels and running emergency drills in Boston, much more than that was well spent.

The same mixed verdict applies to the agency created to dole out that money and manage the programs. President Bush's decision to combine 22 far-flung government agencies into the Department of Homeland Security belatedly followed a primary recommendation of the Hart-Rudman commission, whose warning, in three reports starting in 1999 and culminating on January 31, 2001, about the need for the government to prepare for terrorist attacks had been largely ignored. The details of the reorganization are still being debated. Should the FBI have been left out? Should the Secret Service have been included? But combining agencies such as Border Patrol, Customs, the new TSA, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency into one department responsible for putting the people and systems in place to defend against or recover from an attack made sense, as did enabling the still-separate FBI to gather intelligence in order to stop the people planning attacks or track them down after an attack occurred.

Nonetheless, the result, especially at first, was management disarray and ineffectiveness that could fill a textbook on bureaucratic dysfunction.

DHS—which has had seven undersecretaries or acting undersecretaries for management—has perennially been on the GAO's list of agencies whose overall management is considered "at risk." From the beginning, the agencies thrown into the new superagency fought to keep their turf, often calling on congressional allies to help. "At one meeting early on, I mumbled something about why should the Coast Guard and Customs each have their own helicopters and planes," Tom Ridge recalls. "Why couldn't they combine to purchase the same stuff? Within a few days, we had calls from Capitol Hill warning us not to mess with the Coast Guard's or Customs' procurements." (The two agencies still have their own air forces.)

Ridge was preoccupied during his tenure with organizing the new agency and launching urgent programs, like the BioWatch detectors and the posting of U.S. Customs inspectors overseas. His successor, Michael Chertoff, a former federal appeals judge and head of the U.S. Justice Department's Criminal Division, prioritized tighter management, but ended up overwhelmed during most of his tenure by his department's failures in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Chertoff, who declined repeated requests to be interviewed, was succeeded during President Obama's first term by Janet Napolitano, who resigned as governor of Arizona to head the department. Napolitano focused, she told me, on rebuilding FEMA following the Katrina disaster, border security, and the (unsuccessful) effort to pass a broad immigration-reform bill.

Only Jeh Johnson, who succeeded Napolitano when she left to take over the University of California system in late 2013, seems to have made forging a cohesive organization—he calls it "unity of effort"—a priority.

Johnson, who turns 59 on September 11, was the first African American to make partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, a New York law firm that has long been a home for prominent Democrats who rotate in and out of government. A former general counsel for the Defense Department, Johnson seems to have become a smart, tough manager. He has made significant progress in rationalizing DHS, which today is a \$64.9-billion-a-year colossus with 240,000 employees. But the challenges of fusing so many long-standing independent bureaucracies remain, even 14 years after they were first thrown together.

Dealing with these multiple agencies is further complicated by the fact that DHS's senior executives and staff are spread among 120 offices, scattered, wherever space has been available, throughout Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Most work far from Johnson's office, a shabby, converted naval facility in Northwest D.C. that is itself far from downtown Washington. (After many false starts, a closer-in, massive \$600 million headquarters seems likely to be built within the next two or three years.)

The Office of Personnel Management's latest annual survey of employee morale across all government agencies ranks DHS in the bottom tier across multiple measures of employee satisfaction and sense of mission. In a category called "intrinsic work experience," DHS somehow scored below the Federal Elections Commission, an agency so famously paralyzed by partisan deadlock that its mission has basically been put on hold.



"I really care about that survey, and we're going to improve those numbers," Johnson told me. "But it's going to take time."

An approachable boss who has made a habit of mingling with his troops wherever he goes, Johnson seems well suited to the challenge. At a town-hall meeting for DHS employees in New York, I watched him connect with those who asked questions, inquiring about their families and then demonstrating that he was immersed in the issues they cared about. Last March, Johnson was a big hit at the Baltimore-Washington International airport when he played undercover boss, acting as a TSA screener.

"I wasn't planning to be a manager when I came into this job," Johnson said. "But during my [Senate] confirmation-oversight process, I kept hearing 'management reform, management reform,' so this is something I've had to focus on."

Although the GAO recently reported that DHS has made significant progress in tightening management, Johnson still has work to do, starting with customer service. In June, a friend tried to call Customs and Border Protection with a complaint about a Global Entry card that he should have been able to use when entering the United States after an international flight. The line was constantly busy, so he tried the agency's email complaint system, only to receive a reply telling him that the response time for emails like his was "16–20 business weeks." I followed up and called three different DHS customer-service lines. No one ever picked up the phone.

Last winter, a House subcommittee hearing about a DHS human-resources IT program produced another installment of a C-SPAN drama that has played out in dozens of episodes since the agency was put together: indignant inquisitors lacerating their witness. Noting that the IT program had so far cost \$180 million over 13 years without yet being operational—and that there is no set schedule for when it would be—Scott Perry, a Pennsylvania Republican, told Chip Fulghum, DHS's chief financial officer, that the program was the "poster child for inept management."

Congressional Malpractice

As Perry's scolding of Fulghum demonstrates, members of Congress in both parties have never been shy about criticizing, even mocking, the Department of Homeland Security for mismanagement and low staff morale. But the longest-running failure of management when it comes to homeland security—a failure that is deliberate, self-centered, and easy to fix—has to do with Congress itself.

When Congress voted in 2002 to consolidate 22 federal agencies into a unified DHS, each of those agencies and their dozens of subunits was overseen by different congressional committees and subcommittees. "We figured congressional leaders would reorganize things," says Ridge, referring to how, after the departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force were put into the new Defense Department, congressional oversight was consolidated accordingly.

That never happened. "There is no committee chairman or subcommittee chairman or ranking member who will give up jurisdiction over something that they had jurisdiction over, especially something as sexy as homeland security," Martha McSally, the House subcommittee chair, told me. Thus, four House and Senate transportation subcommittees oversee the TSA and the Coast Guard, but subcommittees of the House and Senate homeland-security committees oversee them too. In all, 119 congressional committees or subcommittees assert some kind of jurisdiction over DHS.

Those committees and subcommittees held 300 hearings in 2011 and 2012 alone, according to a tally compiled by DHS. Each hearing required DHS secretaries, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, or agency heads to sit for hours, listening to the members read ponderous opening speeches and then responding to questions. It adds up to one or more senior DHS officials sitting through these hearings about three times a week. And that's not counting the many more informal briefings conducted for members of Congress.

"It's outrageous," says Napolitano. "You get all those directions and priorities from all those committees and subcommittees. It's a huge burden and a huge waste of time."

When then-Speaker John Boehner was asked during a December 2014 press conference why oversight hadn't been consolidated under the homeland-security committees, he chuckled and said, "I've been working on this for about six years ... It should have been done."

I could find no member of Congress or congressional staffer willing to defend the current setup. Rather, unlike any other issue when it comes to terrorism—where urgency and



indignation at even the slightest failing is the order of the day on Capitol Hill—everyone I talked with seemed to accept their own bipartisan failure to act as an immovable fact of life.

The Duct-Tape Dilemma

Some morale problems at DHS may have less to do with management and congressional harassment and more to do with the nature of DHS's mission. There are few noticeable victories—but multiple opportunities for failure, embarrassment, and ridicule.

"The FBI are the stars and the DHS people basically are seen as the garbagemen," Richard Clarke told me. While the FBI, he explains, does high-profile detective work, DHS mostly screens people and things at airports and borders, reviews claims for cleanup grants after disasters, and does the unsung work of advising the private sector on how to protect its infrastructure. Even DHS's arguably most glamorous agency, the Secret Service, makes headlines only when it fails.

"In law enforcement," says Johnson, who is a former federal prosecutor, "you get a big takedown and you get a big press conference." You get headlines like "Eight Charged in Check-Kiting Mob." But the nature of homeland security "is different. We're on defense."

Although DHS mostly makes the news when it fails, it also gets attention when it becomes the butt of comedy monologues about mindless bureaucracy.

Early on, the jokes had to do with color codes and duct tape. Both illustrate the no-win proposition of having a government agency try to deal with the changing impulses of the September 12 era.

The much-ridiculed color codes—public pronouncements that the country was at a green, blue, yellow, orange, or red state of alert—came about because Ridge insisted that federal officials should share threat information with the local police agencies who would be on the front lines. But the information the locals got was leaked, spurring outcries that the public deserved to know at least something about potential threats.

The resulting color scheme, announced in 2002, was derided as so vague as to be meaningless. But it was seen as better than the alternatives of saying nothing or telling everyone, including the bad guys, specifically what the government knew. Ten years after the attacks, the color advisories were abandoned in favor of equally vague but wordy "bulletins" that are infrequently updated on the DHS website, where they are largely ignored but are no longer a source of derision.

Duct tape was about a more important, if equally ridiculed, initiative. In the aftermath of the anthrax crisis, amid growing fears of bioterror attacks, Ridge's office urged citizens to prepare emergency "ready" kits. One of the suggested ingredients—in addition to flashlights, a portable radio, water bottles, and nonperishable food—was duct tape, which could be used along with plastic sheeting to seal doors and windows so that people could safely "shelter in place."

This was, and remains, a prudent security precaution. But Ridge and his team were almost immediately lampooned, perhaps because joking about a possible disaster relieved nerves. Of course, if Ridge had discarded experts' recommendation that he tout duct tape because it could protect people during a bio attack and then an attack had occurred, he would have been denounced for his failure of imagination.

The Agency That's Always Wrong

DHS's most visible unit is the Transportation Security Administration, which has more daily interactions with more Americans than any other federal agency. Those encounters are inherently a source of public cynicism: They're inconvenient, and to many they seem an exercise in bureaucratic rigidity.

In June 2015, news leaked that testers from the DHS Office of the Inspector General had been able to smuggle simulated weapons or explosives through checkpoints 67 out of 70 times at airports across the U.S. Johnson was so incensed that he removed the acting TSA administrator and replaced him with Peter Neffenger, a highly regarded Coast Guard vice admiral. Since taking over, Neffenger has completely redone the TSA training program and required all current staff members to be retrained to focus on the agency's primary mission—security.

"We were worried too much about throughput," Neffenger told me. "We had to go back to basics."

Neffenger said he is also determined to expand the PreCheck program. Launched in 2012, PreCheck provides expedited TSA clearance for the 3 million people (so far) who have agreed to be prescreened. Neffenger is determined to improve its marketing, open more-



convenient enrollment centers, and give government officials who already have a security clearance automatic enrollment.

PreCheck is “the most popular thing I’ve ever done in public service,” Napolitano, the former DHS secretary who initiated the program, told me. But it will be popular only until a PreCheck member does something bad—which is bound to happen today or 10 years from today, because no security process is perfect. Making homeland-security decisions based on logical weighing of risks makes sense and avoids public frustration and ridicule—until something bad happens.

As those who have flown lately know, the problem of slow airport-security lines was exacerbated this spring and summer by record air-travel volume and by the fact that three years ago, the TSA began to trim its airport staff. The staff cuts came because letting up on its tight process, which ultimately allowed the inspector general’s testers to slip through with their simulated weapons and bombs, had given DHS the false sense that it could keep the lines moving while getting by with fewer people. Hiring and training to get back to staffing levels sufficient to cut the current wait times while maintaining security will take at least until the beginning of next year.

Costs Versus Benefits

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, fewer people flew, because they feared more aviation attacks. However, once the TSA was operating, people resumed flying instead of driving. According to a study done by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, there were likely 1,018 more traffic fatalities in the three months following 9/11 than there would have been had people believed flying was safe. In other words, the reassurance provided by the establishment of the TSA arguably saved more than 300 lives a month.

Put differently, terrorists can kill 300 people a month by scaring us off airplanes—and that’s in addition to the economic havoc that fear of flying produces.

All of which suggests that judging the TSA’s efficacy—and the claims about the agency’s bureaucratic bloat and its pointless “security theater”—is complicated.

Of course, the TSA gets no credit for those 300 lives a month. Turning that theoretical math into congratulatory high fives is a stretch. But other, more direct measures of homeland-security success are no easier to calculate.

Just before Tom Coburn, a Republican senator from Oklahoma famous for being waste-averse, left office in 2015, he issued a 162-page report on DHS that attacked almost every aspect of the agency for wasting money while “not successfully executing any of its ... main missions.”

Coburn’s argument boiled down to a recitation of the obvious: American taxpayers have spent \$1 trillion since 9/11 (on DHS and on terror-related work at other agencies), but Americans are still not safe from terrorist attacks. Which is like declaring that a health-care system doesn’t work because people still get sick and die.

“People ask, ‘How many terrorist attacks has TSA thwarted?’,” Jeh Johnson said. “We’re never going to know the true answer to that question. I do know that last year TSA seized in carry-on luggage 2,500 guns—83 percent of which were loaded.”

Coburn’s attempt at more-detailed cost-benefit analyses highlighted how complicated that exercise can be. One of his most intriguing critiques was directed at the Federal Air Marshal Service, which, he pointed out, was spending about \$800 million a year (equal to about 40 percent of the Secret Service budget and nearly 10 percent of the FBI’s). That adds up to more than \$10 billion since the 9/11 attacks. Yet, Coburn wrote, “it is unclear to what extent the ... program is reducing risk to aviation security.”

Air marshals are supposed to prevent terrorist hijackings. There have been no hijackings. Why complain about that? Isn’t that the best possible proof that the program works? How do we know how many hijackers were deterred by the well-publicized air-marshal buildup?

Then again, even for \$800 million a year, the air marshals can be on only a fraction of all flights—maybe about 5 percent, depending on the number of air marshals, which is classified. No marshal was on board either shoe bomber Richard Reid’s plane or the one carrying underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

And what about the flights that air marshals were on? On the hundreds of thousands of flights carrying undercover air marshals since 9/11, not a single hijacker has been taken down. In



fact, there have been more arrests of air marshals since 9/11 (for off-duty conduct such as drunk driving) than by air marshals for conduct in airports or on planes.

This is what makes any cost-benefit analysis so challenging. There have been no hijackings since 9/11—and the deterrent value of having even a small percentage of flights protected by marshals might account for that. Yet training thousands of men (and some women) for armed combat in the sky and then having them travel (mostly in first class, to be near the cockpit) on endless flights every day does seem to be overkill, especially when all cockpits have been fortified to prevent the kind of forced entry that precipitated the buildup of the marshal force.

That would seem to be a good argument for at least dropping the Federal Air Marshal Service down on the DHS priority list. Yet only in the past four years have any members of Congress even mildly urged cuts in its budget.

Part IV: Everything Is a Priority

At least in the case of the air marshals, there is a tactical argument for cutting the program: The fortifying of cockpit doors and the arming of thousands of pilots may have eliminated the threat that the marshal program was supposed to address. But no one in Washington seems willing to rank threats in terms of the relative risk they pose. Saying that something is less of a threat than something else is a political third rail. Everything is always a priority.

Kathryn Brinsfield, a former emergency-room doctor and administrator of EMS services in Boston, is the DHS assistant secretary running the agency's bioterror-prevention programs, including the BioWatch sensors that have been waiting 15 years for next-generation technology. Those are the upgrades that one of her colleagues told Congress he hoped to have within the next "three to eight years." When I asked her to discuss the obvious—that her bailiwick had lost the priority status it had in the months following the anthrax crisis—she gamely replied, "No, BioWatch is a major priority."

Jeh Johnson is only a bit more forthcoming: "We have to be concerned about all ranges of attacks," he says. "I never categorize anything as low priority, but we have to look at what's high risk and what's less high risk and spend our time accordingly."

The problem with ducking a real discussion about priorities is that it allows for decisions to get made ad hoc and out of the limelight, typically based more on what's "hot" or on what's a political priority than on what the evidence might dictate.

"Not Your Father's Terrorism"

What's hot today is the threat of lone wolves.

Even before the Orlando massacre, every government official or television pundit was talking about how lone wolves—terrorists acting on their own, or in small groups—are the major threat to homeland security, rather than the kind of centrally managed, patiently planned shock-and-awe attacks al-Qaeda launched on 9/11. Although the Brussels and Paris massacres were, in fact, organized by sizable cells emanating from ISIL in Syria, multiple one-off attacks have become relatively common, from the Boston Marathon to Orlando to San Bernardino to Fort Hood to Garland to Chattanooga.

It adds up to what Johnson calls "an entirely different global environment."

"This is not your father's terrorism," says John Miller, a former CBS News senior correspondent who is now the deputy commissioner for intelligence and counterterrorism at the New York Police Department. Miller has a newsman's flair for describing the current situation pungently: "Al-Qaeda was an elite organization. They would turn people away," he says. "ISIL does no screening; they do mass marketing ... Their attitude is 'We don't care if you're a loser. And we don't care about some apocalyptic event. Just go do your thing.'"

"You do not have to be smart to kill people this way," Miller continues. "The fact that they're morons is academic. Any moron could make the pressure-cooker bomb those idiots used in Boston. The San Bernardino couple were idiots. If they had been directed by anyone, they'd have picked something a lot more crowded than the place where the guy worked. But ISIL latches on to people like that, telling them, 'It's okay to lash out at people you hate—in our name. It's okay that you're a loser. You can still have an impact. You can be a hero.' It's elixir for someone sitting in the glow of their laptop in their parents' basement."



Al-Qaeda's biggest failing was ego, Miller says. "Bin Laden thought of himself as a historic figure and that if he just blew something up that wasn't spectacular, he'd be just like the Palestinians. So they didn't go after malls or anything ordinary. ISIL is just the opposite."

So how do we guard against would-be killers sitting in their parents' basements?

Miller's team includes a crew of several dozen multilingual people sifting through websites and social media. "We have an easier time getting Arabic speakers than the FBI, because we don't have to put them through the security clearances that the bureau does," he says.

According to Miller, who served as the head of public affairs at the FBI from 2005 to 2009, 15 of the past 19 cases in which the FBI made arrests charging people with offenses such as planning to join ISIL stemmed from leads developed by his NYPD unit.

Carlos T. Fernandez, the FBI special agent in charge of the New York-based counterterrorism division, which runs the city's Joint Terrorism Task Force, told me he is "not sure" of Miller's count, and that "there were many [cases] where we were both working leads"—which, he added, "is really the point: The big change since 9/11 is how we work together."

Strengthening the FBI

Fernandez's New York operation is on three floors of an old office building overlooking the Meatpacking District in Lower Manhattan. The task force—whose major wins include the 2009 disruption of a bomb plot by a homegrown terrorist who had driven to Queens from Denver—now numbers some 400 federal, state, and local agents and investigators from the FBI, the NYPD, and all the metropolitan area's other law-enforcement agencies. That's a dramatic upgrade from when the unit was formed in 1980 with 10 FBI agents and 10 city detectives in response to threats from Croatian extremists and the Jewish Defense League. "Those were the good old days," says Fernandez, whose work as an agent on the task force in the months after 9/11 had him spending much of his time overseas chasing leads.

Divided into 17 squads, the office has jurisdiction not only over New York, but also over cases emanating out of Canada, western Europe, and Africa.

One squad chases down any and all tips from the public and refers those that seem credible to more-specialized units. Others hunt terrorists on the internet. Separate squads track ISIL and al-Qaeda. Has Fernandez's al-Qaeda team lost focus in the wake of ISIL's rise to prominence? "That's why we keep separate squads," Fernandez says, "so that they don't."

A weapons-of-mass-destruction unit looks for intelligence about dirty bombs and bioweapons, keeping tabs on, as Fernandez puts it, "the potential players in bio or nuclear who, if we got a tip, we would look at first."

"The threat information bubbles up from the units," Carl Ghattas, the head of the FBI's counterterrorism division at headquarters in Washington, told me. "It's a triage process. You look at the patients in the emergency room and decide what needs your immediate attention or what needs some kind of longer-term initiative." That raises the question of whether—as with DHS paying inadequate attention to bioterror vulnerabilities and, as we will see later, other federal agencies not doing enough to secure potential dirty-bomb material—the FBI's triage process is allowing lower-profile, higher-impact threats to fester.

"You have to worry about all the marginal, stupid people that ISIL may motivate here," James Comey, the FBI director, told me. "But there are still smart people waking up every day over there trying to kill us. We know ISIL is trying to develop chemical weapons. And you have to worry about that, too. Balancing those threats is a challenge today."

Comey was a chief federal prosecutor in New York and then the deputy attorney general under George W. Bush until he left for the private sector in 2005. He recalled that when he returned to government to run the bureau eight years later, "I felt like Rip Van Winkle." His predecessor as FBI director, Robert Mueller, "had totally transformed the place." The agency now has something like 3,000 intelligence analysts. "The way we use local police is probably the biggest single change. All in all, I think we really are a well-oiled anti-terror machine."

However, Comey acknowledged that even in the brief time since he took over the bureau in 2013, the rise of lone wolves has changed the nature of the intelligence his agents have to try to collect. Detecting the plans of a lone wolf or a small group can't be done by monitoring a known foreign terror cell. The bureau has tools to sift through social media to try to connect the dots—but the volume of the traffic and possible connections between all those dots make



this a hit-or-miss proposition where only hindsight provides clarity. As of this writing, it's unclear whether Omar Mateen, who massacred 49 people in Orlando, was in contact with anyone about his plans. True, certain clues suggested that Mateen might be a threat—but they were no clearer than the hints about the thousands of people like him who hit the FBI's now-vigilant radar screens every week. No amount of resources, let alone compromises in constitutional rights, would make it possible for the bureau to detain or even surveil all these people.

"It's hard," said Comey, who spoke with me a few weeks before the Orlando massacre. "But I'm not ready to give up. We have to keep trying."

The FBI had interrogated Mateen twice in the past, but never had cause to arrest him, or to keep him under constant surveillance. "We are looking for needles in a nationwide haystack," Comey said at a press conference the day after the Orlando massacre. "But we're also called upon to figure out which pieces of hay might someday become needles."

In the aftermath of attacks like those in Orlando and San Bernardino, some critics charge that Comey and his people were not aggressive enough in monitoring or arresting the perpetrators of those attacks before they occurred. Others argue that the FBI has overstepped constitutional boundaries in its drive to find out what people might be planning, often by entrapping suspected terrorists into actually creating attack plans they might otherwise never have thought of.

"Since 9/11 the FBI has organized more jihadist terror plots in the United States than any other organization," Peter Bergen, a longtime terrorism analyst, wrote in *United States of Jihad: Investigating America's Homegrown Terrorists*, published early this year. Bergen cites several cases in which defendants have argued that while they might have expressed hostile thoughts to someone who ended up informing on them, the FBI stepped in and, through informants or undercover agents, created an attack plan for them, encouraged them to try to carry it out—and then arrested them when they proceeded with the attempted attack. In June, a *New York Times* report calculated that two-thirds of the bureau's recent prosecutions of suspected ISIL supporters have involved undercover agents or informants engaged in aggressive sting operations.

"Think about it from our perspective," Comey said when I asked about this. "Suppose someone is overheard in a restaurant saying that he wants to blow something up. And someone tells us about it. What should we do? Don't we need to find out if he was serious? Or was he drunk? The way to do that is to have someone engage him in an undercover way, not show up with a badge and say, 'What are your thoughts in regard to terrorism?'"

"Plenty of times it's a wing nut or some drunk, and we drop it," he continued. In fact, an informant was assigned to sound out Mateen two years before the Orlando attack, after co-workers reported that he had allegedly made inflammatory comments about terrorists. But Mateen did not seem to be a threat.

"People have had plenty of opportunities to try that [entrapment] defense, and it hasn't worked," Comey added. The FBI has charged approximately 90 individuals with plotting a terrorist attack since 2013. So far, no entrapment defense has been successful.

Reaching the Kid in His Basement

Because finding such homegrown cases is difficult (not everyone blabs online, let alone in a restaurant, about their bad intentions), a new homeland-security acronym has come into vogue: CVE, or "countering violent extremism." CVE is a program that aims to reach people who are so alienated or unstable that they may be susceptible to ISIL's appeals.

Last September, President Obama authorized the creation of the \$50 million CVE program, to be run by a new Office for Community Partnerships at DHS. A big part of the effort has been making DHS's "If you see something, say something" campaign more effective. Beginning as a billboard tagline created by the New York City transit system's ad agency, the program has become an effective message enlisting the public to alert authorities if they notice something or someone that seems suspicious, such as a suitcase left unattended on a train. George Selim, the director of the Office for Community Partnerships, works with a staff of about 30—as well as with Jeh Johnson personally—to encourage leaders in Muslim communities to look for signs of trouble more subtle and further upstream than abandoned luggage, such as teenagers in schools or at mosques who appear disaffected.



“All the data from Boston to Garland to San Bernardino indicate that someone around them knew something but didn’t want to or know how to report it,” Selim, a former Justice Department community-relations liaison, told me.

Johnson, who has thrown himself into the CVE effort, says that when he goes into Muslim communities, he tells people that he understands profiling. His grandfather, he explains, was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, because “in 1949 any black man with a Ph.D. was suspected of being a Communist.” He says he tells Muslim community leaders that he “will be your public champion, but that I have an ask, too, which is ‘Help us help you with homeland security. It’s your homeland too.’” Another aspect of Selim’s work involves reaching out directly to that kid “sitting in the glow of their laptop in their parents’ basement.”

His office has been giving grants and running contests at colleges and universities that form student teams to compete for prizes in internet and social-media messaging aimed at countering ISIL’s online recruiting. “We recognize that government is not a credible messenger for that demographic,” Selim explains. “So we have recruited peer-to-peer messengers.” With the State Department—and Facebook (“to add to the cool factor,” Selim says)—as co-sponsors, he contracted with a private consulting firm that has now persuaded 101 colleges and universities around the world to establish courses, backed by a \$2,000 U.S.-government stipend per school, offering academic credit to students who create these peer-to-peer anti-jihad social-media campaigns.

Cyberterror

The other hot new threat is cyberterrorism.

Because 87 percent of the country’s critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector—power plants, financial institutions, water companies—much of the Department of Homeland Security’s lower-profile work involves sharing information and convening forums and sponsoring drills aimed at helping industries help themselves.

Meantime, the government’s efforts to protect its own digital infrastructure have provided steady fodder for cynics. To take the latest examples, neither a data-hosting service at the Department of the Interior—whose technology setup was declared by federal officials to be a “Center of Excellence”—nor the Office of Personnel Management detected the hacking in 2014 and 2015 of 25 million records kept by the OPM. A \$1 billion cybersecurity program designed by DHS, called “Einstein,” was, according to the GAO, so ineffective that it missed the hacking of the OPM records. In fact, most government agencies initially defied a presidential directive and refused to even install the much-derided Einstein.

It’s a bad sign when a program called Einstein turns into a clown show, and it’s tempting to make that a metaphor for the government’s cybersecurity efforts more generally. However, since taking over DHS’s cybersecurity and communications unit three years ago, Phyllis Schneck, a highly regarded cybersecurity engineer who came from the private sector, seems to have put the agency on a better track. She has worked to professionalize the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, which, although it has produced yet another mind-numbing acronym (NCCIC), has the potential to be effective, according to one Silicon Valley star programmer who has advised the Obama White House on cyberissues. “With counterterrorism, I have an expectation, and it’s met every day, that I will get a full report on threats across the spectrum, because we put in place structures ... to ensure information-sharing across the intelligence community, as well as with state and local law enforcement,” says Lisa Monaco, President Obama’s White House homeland-security and counterterrorism adviser. “With cyber, we’re not there yet, but we’re getting there.”

Hidden on four floors in a nondescript office building in Virginia (it’s not listed in the lobby directory), Schneck’s operation includes a heavily guarded floor with space for 150 cyberdetectives, many recruited from the private sector.

Some sit at screens looking for trouble as they monitor the innards of dozens of federal agencies (except the Defense Department, which has its own cybersecurity apparatus). For example, a dramatic upsurge in traffic at the IRS during tax time, in mid-April, would mean nothing, but the same spike on Commerce Department servers could spell trouble.

Others monitor web traffic around the world, looking for similar regional or countrywide anomalies that could indicate attempted sabotage.



“These savages have so far only figured out how to use the internet to proselytize ... What happens when they figure out how to use it to break into a chemical plant, or a blood bank?” James Comey says.

Schneck, whose father was a computer scientist at the National Security Agency, describes one approach she is applying as “biological.” The Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program, for which \$275 million has been budgeted for the coming fiscal year, will reject a virus that makes it onto a government network “in real time, even if we don’t know what it is,” Schneck says.

Using data-analytics tools from the private sector, she is also augmenting Einstein (which has been allocated \$460 million in this year’s budget and \$471 million for next year) with software that will prevent such intrusions in the first place by implementing what she calls “a cyber no-fly list.” There are now ways of using data, she explains, to target the address of a machine that has been the source of other hacks, and to keep it from accessing the emails or websites of the agencies she is protecting.

I asked Schneck whether cyberattacks on the government would be impossible or nearly impossible anytime soon. “Of course not,” she said. “But we are going to try to stay ahead of them most of the time, and if they do get in, we’ll have ways to mitigate, fast. This is not yesterday’s government.”

Schneck’s command center also acts as a real-time clearinghouse for threat information from cybersecurity chiefs in the private sector. The voluntary information-sharing process has been made easier by recent legislation that shields private companies from liability for sharing the information.

For his part, the FBI’s Comey worries more about a cyberterror onslaught directed at the private sector than one directed at the government. “These savages,” he says, “have so far only figured out how to use the internet to proselytize, not to wreak physical damage. What happens when they figure out how to use it to break into a chemical plant, or a blood bank and change the blood types? We know they are trying. And they don’t have to come here to do it.”

Last fall Ted Koppel, the former ABC News correspondent and *Nightline* anchor, published *Lights Out*, a short, alarming book that makes the case that the United States is unprepared for a cyberattack on its electric grid. Tens of millions of Americans could be left without power for weeks or even months—and, therefore, also without access to water, ATMs, the towers that transmit their cellphone messages, and other lifelines. Koppel argues that neither the power companies nor the government has sufficient protective measures or backup plans to avert or recover from this kind of disaster.

Because much has improved in the two years since Koppel began his research, the odds of us facing a sustained power outage are lower than Koppel calculates.

To be sure, the power industry has successfully resisted regulations requiring safeguards and backup plans that could render Koppel’s book almost moot. However, with prodding and assistance from DHS’s infrastructure-protection office (and obviously wanting to ward off regulation), the industry seems to have taken measures to head off catastrophe. Koppel writes that a smartly directed cyberattack could disable enough giant transformers to cause huge swaths of the country to lose power—and that it would take months to procure and ship replacements to get the grid back online. But according to Gerry Cauley, the president of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, an industry trade group, there are now reserves of these transformers placed strategically across the country. Moreover, Cauley told me, cyber-repair teams are prepared to spring into action much the way that power-line repair teams from across the country did in response to Hurricane Sandy.

These and other arrangements have been coordinated through DHS’s energy-infrastructure-sector team, one of 16 such units covering sectors from information technology to financial services to commercial facilities, such as shopping malls and sports arenas.

The energy-infrastructure team helps organize a biennial attack exercise, during which energy-company executives, along with relevant law-enforcement and other officials, convene for two days to simulate how they would work together in the event of an attack. The most recent exercise, held in November, “stressed us to the point of failure, with multiple cyber- and kinetic attacks across the country,” says Thomas Fanning, the chief executive of Southern Company, the giant Atlanta-based utility. In all, more than 4,000 people participated in the exercise. Along with executives and officials in Washington, local law-enforcement and power-company personnel across the country helped defend and recover from simulated cyberattacks, bomb blasts, and gunfire at multiple facilities.

Fanning, an industry leader in cybersecurity, has been a consistent campaign contributor to conservative Republican candidates over the years, which makes this comment notable:



“When it comes to these issues, the capability of these government officials in this administration is terrific.”

Part V: The Gaps That Remain

One way to measure how far both DHS and the private sector have come since 9/11 against how far they still need to go is to imagine the inevitable report citing our next failure of imagination, much the way that the bipartisan panel organized by Scooter Libby last year reminded us of the threat of a catastrophic bio attack. It's a parlor game that's easy to play; we can never be completely safe from people who are willing to commit suicide to hurt us. Yet it's worth playing not only because some vulnerabilities are far more serious and likely to be exploited than others, but because the two most-talked-about threats of the moment—lone wolves and cyberterrorism—so dominate headlines that they may have unduly diverted our focus from bigger dangers. As Tom Ridge told me, “Democracies tend to be reactive, not prescriptive, and that's a homeland-security problem that will be with us forever.”

Exploiting some of our vulnerabilities requires more expertise and planning than a one-off shooting spree in a mall. However, the small groups necessary to take advantage of them could easily be trained in countries where ISIL, or new groups we haven't heard of yet, hold territory. And, of course, they could be homegrown.

Many such threats remain, including the bioterror attack that the Libby panel warned of last year. The potential for sabotaging a freight train carrying oil or toxic chemicals, which could kill thousands, would also be on my list.

But my reporting leads me to conclude that the most ominous terrorist threat—based on the relative ease of pulling off such an attack, the possible damage it could do, and, most of all, the danger of overreaction to it—is the dirty bomb.

The Bomb That Lasts for Decades

In March 2002, Joe Biden, who was then the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, held a hearing in which the president of the Federation of American Scientists used a study recently completed by his organization to describe a doomsday scenario unfolding a few blocks from Capitol Hill.

Biden had convened the committee to hear testimony about the threat of dirty bombs—a conventional explosive mixed with commonly available radiological material, such as that used in hospitals and industrial facilities. Henry Kelly, then the president of the federation, which was formed by scientists in 1945 to study ways to prevent nuclear catastrophes, described for the committee what would happen if a small conventional bomb mixed with a small amount of cesium-137—which can be found in everything from nuclear reactors to radiation therapy for cancer patients—were set off at the National Gallery of Art. The explosion might kill only a few people, but it would create an area with contamination levels as dangerous as a “Superfund” site—a venue designated as having high levels of toxic waste that demand immediate government intervention and often evacuation. The contaminated area would cover 40 city blocks that include the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the Capitol. Those buildings could have to “be abandoned for decades,” Kelly warned.

According to Kelly, an extra one in 10,000 people would die of cancer if people were not evacuated and if the area were not completely scrubbed. The decontamination process could take years and cost billions, because radioactive material adheres stubbornly to cement, which means that many roads, sidewalks, and buildings would have to be replaced.

However, that prospective death toll is worse than it sounds. Indeed, as the hearing proceeded, it became clear that dirty bombs present less a safety challenge than a perception challenge. In a city of 500,000, the contamination level Kelly cited would mean an extra 50 cancer deaths over a period of years—an incremental casualty rate that could probably be offset by an antismoking campaign in one or two D.C. office buildings.



Even concentrations of radiation higher than what Kelly posited would still not endanger masses of people. But because of popular perception, an explosion would unleash panic—which is why many experts are surprised that a dirty-bomb attack has not happened.



There were 325 reported instances of nuclear or radiological material being lost or stolen in 2013 and 2014. This material could easily be used to build a dirty bomb. Sometimes only a cheap padlock stands between would-be terrorists and radioactive material. (Government Accountability Office)

The ingredients are readily available. According to a recent white paper from the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI)—the nonprofit dedicated to fighting proliferation founded by Ted Turner and Sam Nunn, the former Democratic senator from Georgia—“the ingredients for a radioactive dirty bomb are in tens of thousands of radiological sources located in more than 100 countries around the world.” The report cited a database that had documented 325 instances of nuclear or radiological material having been publicly reported lost or stolen in 2013 and 2014 alone. And those are just the publicly reported losses and thefts.

The release of the NTI's white paper was timed to coincide with the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Obama in March. This was the last of a series of meetings of world leaders that Obama had initiated in 2010 to address nuclear proliferation. Lately, the threat of dirty bombs—whose radiological material isn't potent enough to make actual nuclear weapons—has become a significant part of the nuclear-security agenda. Twenty-three of the summit's 52 countries, including the United States, have made commitments, according to the NTI, “to secure their most dangerous radiological sources.”

That's significant progress, and it has been accompanied by clandestine efforts around the world by U.S. and allied counterterror agents who, I learned in reporting this story, have blocked multiple attempts by would-be terrorists to obtain radiological material and, in some cases, nuclear material. But if only 23 countries have committed to securing their radioactive material, that leaves most of the world uncommitted to securing widely dispersed ingredients for dirty bombs.

Last October, DHS officials testified before a House transportation subcommittee on whether someone from one of those countries could ship such material through an American port. They tried to put the best gloss on a scary reality. Todd Owen, a Customs official, said that all 11 million containers arriving at U.S. seaports are “analyzed” and “screened.” What he meant was that all containers are subject to a data-based threat matrix. Scanning every container—which is what that Customs supervisor at the New Jersey port wanted to do on the afternoon of September 11—at least with X-rays, if not by hand-searching them, was mandated by Congress in 2007. But it has never been done for every container—and arguably can't be done, given the delays in international commerce such a process would precipitate. Only about 3 percent of containers (those that register high on the threat matrix) are now X-rayed.

One hundred percent do pass through some kind of radiation monitor, Owen said—but those monitors cannot detect radiological material wrapped in lead or other protective covering. This is why the thousands of small radiation monitors that police in cities like New York now carry may be an important tool for detecting unshielded illicit material, but are unlikely to



detect a dirty bomb, because the low levels of radiation necessary for such a device are not difficult to shield. The shielding material could likely be detected in an X-ray—but, as noted, only about 3 percent of containers are X-rayed.

Moreover, hundreds of thousands of a different kind of potential container—cars coming into American ports from factories abroad—are never X-rayed at all or subject to any kind of actual threat-matrix analysis.

I asked John P. Wagner, a deputy assistant Customs commissioner, why a terrorist couldn't simply put shielded dirty-bomb material in the trunk of a BMW. Wagner explained that car exporters are in his agency's "trusted shipper" program, meaning that "we inspect those factories regularly to make sure they have adequate security plans in place." When I followed up and asked for details about the last time Customs had inspected an auto factory, Wagner's office said there was no record of any such inspection. So it doesn't require a wild leap to imagine someone with terrorist sympathies planting shielded radioactive material in a car or a cargo container that then makes its way through one of our ports. But it's even easier to imagine a dirty bomb being constructed from material that doesn't have to be snuck through the ports—because, despite significant work done by the Obama administration, large quantities of radioactive material already sit unguarded in the U.S.

According to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), approximately 1,400 industrial facilities in the United States house high-risk radiological sources. The material is used for everything from testing the ground for oil drilling to irradiating food in order to kill germs. In addition, some 1,500 hospitals and other medical facilities use high-risk radiological material.

Responsibility for guarding this material is split between the NNSA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), both of which are units of the Energy Department. According to multiple GAO reports, efforts to secure radioactive material have been hamstrung by turf battles between the two agencies. The NRC regulates all entities that use radiological material and imposes security requirements on them. But those requirements have been consistently criticized by independent security experts—and by the government's own experts at the NNSA—as dangerously lax.

"We choose not to be prescriptive in our regulations," says the head of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. "We take a more general approach, offering guidelines."

The NNSA is responsible for maintaining the safety of the American nuclear arsenal and also for providing expertise related to counterproliferation. In that context, it conducts security surveys and encourages facilities to enforce standards that are much tighter than those required by the NRC. But the NNSA itself can impose no security requirements.

If a dirty bomb goes off in Washington or on Wall Street, the question of why the standards that one federal agency (the NNSA) believes are necessary are higher than those of the federal agency (the NRC) that can actually regulate toxic material will no doubt be the subject of another blue-ribbon commission.

What this new commission will find is that once the adrenaline flowing from the September 11 attacks receded, the industries licensed by the NRC began to push back against those sounding the terror alarm.

"The NRC is basically a captive of the industry," says Andrew Bieniawski, a veteran proliferation expert who is the vice president for material security and minimization at the Nuclear Threat Initiative. "They get 90 percent of their funding from licensing fees from the industry, and they're always saying they're worried that tougher requirements would put licensees out of business."

"Just a Matter of Time"

The NNSA has persuaded 796 of the 1,503 hospitals that use radiological material to implement security upgrades that extend well beyond the NRC's vague requirements. That is a major improvement; in 2012, the GAO noted that only 321 hospitals had made these upgrades. Other hospitals and medical facilities have been persuaded to make the transition from high-risk material to newer, safer substitutes. But that still leaves hundreds of medical facilities with threadbare security, many in highly populated urban areas. It is astonishing that so many hospitals have refused to spend what Bieniawski says is the \$300,000 to \$400,000 necessary per site to increase security, and the \$250,000 necessary to replace a cesium-chloride blood irradiator with an equivalent FDA-approved nonradiological device, especially because the hospitals that use this material for advanced treatments are typically large enterprises with tens of millions of dollars in annual operating profit.



"It's just a matter of time until someone puts two and two together and sees that you don't have to go to Syria or Iran for this material, that you can get it in New York," Bieniawski says.



Shipping containers at Maher Terminals in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Screening such containers for dirty-bomb material remains a challenge for DHS and local law enforcement. (Mark Lennihan / AP)

Nonmedical industrial users remain an even bigger threat. In 2014, the GAO issued a report that will be another proverbial smoking gun if something catastrophic happens. Independent auditors roundly criticized the NRC's regulations as weak and inconsistently enforced. Some trucks carrying radiological devices used by oil-drilling companies, for example, were found to have cheap padlocks to secure the equipment. Background checks of drivers and warehouse employees were not standardized. GPS devices for the trucks, which could track them down if they were stolen, were not required. Storerooms containing material that could be used to turn Disney World into a ghost town had no entry alarms and were protected by simple padlocks—if they were locked at all. Even when storerooms and trucks did have alarms, many were found to be inoperable or shut off. After a truck went missing in Washington State, the governor's request to get the NRC to require GPS devices was rejected.

"We choose not to be prescriptive in our regulations," Scott Moore, the acting director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, told me when I asked about the GPS requirement. "We take a more general approach, offering guidelines," which he believes "are adequate to assure public health and safety." As for the apparent disconnect between the security measures the NNSA believes are necessary and the NRC's requirements, Moore said, the "NRC's approach provides adequate security; NNSA's suggestions are for additional security."

Part VI: The End of "Never Again"

The TSA spends about 98 percent of its budget on one transportation sector, aviation. Why does it make sense to screen airplane passengers and not the millions more people getting on trains and subways every day? And why place all those resources at our big freight ports when a pleasure boat carrying a dirty bomb can arrive in Florida from the Bahamas with no inspection? What about the ferries that each haul thousands of people through the waters off New York City and Seattle? A well-placed explosive could kill many more people on a train or boat than on a jetliner.

In May, the inspector general of DHS sharply criticized the TSA for failing to implement legislation passed in 2007 requiring a variety of security measures for Amtrak, including checking to see if railroad employees were on terrorist watch lists. In response, the TSA promised that it had "assigned the highest of priorities" to implementing the nine-year-old



law. However, the reality is that although we have stepped up police monitoring of trains (and ferries), we can't treat trains like planes.

Why not? The math doesn't allow it. The New York City subway system has about as many entrances as there are checkpoints at all the airports in the country. To secure the subways in New York, we would have to create a whole other TSA. Beyond the \$7-billion-a-year tab that would come with a New York TSA, the new security process would probably double travel times. (Imagine: shoes off before boarding the subway.) It's such a ridiculous notion that even typing this paragraph is embarrassing.

The security measures that do make sense are those that local and federal officials implemented after 9/11 to make the subway tunnels more secure, helping to ensure that a potentially catastrophic September 11-level massacre following a huge explosion and subsequent flood is more likely to be limited to a routine semi-mass casualty.

Routine?

I use the word deliberately.

The morning after 9/11, President Bush famously directed then-Attorney General John Ashcroft to make sure "this can't happen again." It was an understandable sentiment. But it was a fantasy then—and it is even more of a fantasy now, despite everything we've done.

The reality we face 15 years after the September 11 attacks is that for all the people and money we have thrown at the cause of "never again"—much of it heroically and wisely, and much that in hindsight looks desperate, stupid, or corrupt—the threat of terror hasn't been eliminated. In fact, despite our best efforts, terror is destined to become, yes, routine—a three- or four-times-a-year headline event, perhaps almost as routine in this country as people with mental-health problems buying a semiautomatic and going hunting at a school or movie theater. But if, as seems to be the case, Americans have come to accept mass killings carried out by those who are mentally unstable as horrifying but not apocalyptic, why do they perceive an attack linked—even if just rhetorically by the perpetrator—to Islamist terrorism differently?

President Obama described the difference to me this way: "If the perpetrator is a young white male, for instance—as in Tucson, Aurora, and Newtown—it's widely seen as yet another tragic example of an angry or disturbed person who decided to lash out against his classmates, co-workers, or community. And even as the nation is shaken and mourns, these kinds of shootings don't typically generate widespread fear. I'd point out that when the shooter or victims are African American, it is often dismissed with a shrug of indifference—as if such violence is somehow endemic to certain communities. In contrast, when the perpetrators are Muslim and seem influenced by terrorist ideologies—as at Fort Hood, the Boston Marathon bombing, San Bernardino, and Orlando—the outrage and fear is much more palpable. And yet, the fact is that Americans are far more likely to be injured or killed by gun violence than a terrorist attack." The FBI's Comey agrees. "That the shooter in San Bernardino said he was doing it in the name of ISIL changed everything," he told me. "It generates anxiety that another shooting incident, where the shooter isn't a terrorist, doesn't. That may be irrational, but it's real."

In that instance, the sheer ordinariness of the venue—a meeting room at a family-services center—exacerbated the anxiety. "For me, San Bernardino was the game changer," Ray Kelly, the former New York City police commissioner, told me. "It put the whole country in the target zone."

"Engineering Security," the manual that Kelly's department published in 2009, urged building owners to consider the status of their venue in assessing how much protection it needed. Iconic structures or those housing high-profile businesses should be the most fortified, as should those where an attack could cause inordinate damage.

That ranking system still makes sense, "but the kind of place attacked in San Bernardino means that everything is a target," Kelly explained. "The FBI and the NYPD can do a great job finding and rolling up some people who are even thinking about doing something bad, but they can't find everyone, and they can't be everywhere. Imagine if just a few of these people got together and shot up a few malls the same day around the country. Then no one would feel safe."

Yes, we can take steps to harden those softer targets a bit. We can improve surveillance technology and add guards. We can keep doing our best to identify those among us who are susceptible to online jihadist recruitment pitches, by persuading neighbors and family members who "see something" to "say something." We can keep improving how we connect the intelligence dots around the world.



But there is a limit. We can't turn every Macy's or high-school basketball game into a TSA operation. And even if we did, those terrorists who don't care about dying—for whom there is no such thing as deterrence—will still shoot people on the street. Or bomb them. Or use a truck to mow them down. We have to accept that that is going to happen. A favorite September 12 mantra in the anti-terror community is: "The terrorists have to be right only once—but we have to be right 100 percent of the time." We can't be right 100 percent of the time. The FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Forces have stopped between three and five dozen plots since 9/11, depending on one's definition of a plot. Comey's "well-oiled anti-terror machine" has indeed improved our defenses. And the TSA, Customs, the air marshals, and other DHS units have undoubtedly deterred attacks. But we can't catch everything.

Layers

That's why those in the anti-terrorism business focus on another post-9/11 buzz phrase: *layers of security*. When it comes to flying, that means first checking prospective passengers' watch-list status. Then, when passengers arrive at the airport, undercover security agents look for suspicious people in the departure lobby. That's a layer now being fortified following the Brussels and Istanbul airport bombings, although it is difficult to see why airport lobbies should get more security attention than other similarly crowded venues.

The third layer is at the security checkpoint, where passengers are screened for valid identity credentials and to make sure they are not carrying anything dangerous. Fourth, an air marshal might be on board the plane to interrupt a possible attack. The fortified cockpit door offers a final security layer. The fact that we have all these layers is our tacit admission that no single layer of defense is perfect—but the odds of getting through all of them, while not zero, are pretty steep.

Think of the process as a funnel, in which we start with a large population and whittle it down, layer by layer, to those allowed to board a plane. "Sometimes I think that the lid has come off the world," Comey told me. "People are unsettled, unmoored. I worry that as we squeeze ISIL in Syria—and we are—their troops will go to Libya or Europe," he continued. "There will be a terrorist diaspora. Trained fighters will go there and then be more easily able to come here, or if they can't get here directly they'll get to Canada and try to drive over the northern border."

That so many could pour into the top of the funnel—including those recruited online, at home in America, without having to cross any border—is as important in calculating our odds of avoiding an attack as assessing the remaining gaps in even our most porous layers.

The New Reality

Those who have enlisted since 9/11 to maintain those security layers—the infrastructure-security coaches at DHS advising and cajoling stadiums, utilities, water plants, and other private-sector venues; the TSA airport screeners; the cyberdetectives; the FBI dot-connectors—have no control over how many would-be killers pour into the top of that funnel. And they get little attention from the rest of us until something goes wrong. We go about our lives oblivious to the threats that are their obsession—until the next catastrophe produces headlines. Meantime, we often dismiss their work that is visible to us, such as at the airports, as excessive. Yet we remain so ready to be retroactively indignant if something goes wrong that political leaders, encouraged by a Beltway culture that tries to keep the spigot always turned on, are afraid to make any choices other than to declare everything a priority.

Sooner or later we have to realize that "never again" is a fantasy, and that it is not an excuse to make everything a priority. A democracy must make rational decisions, even when that's not easy, and especially when security is involved.

Can the tens of billions for FirstNet or for "homeland security" grants for toys like that monster fire truck in rural Virginia be justified as smarter investments than replacing the lead pipes in a significant portion of the nation's water systems? Wouldn't the \$800 million a year for air marshals be better spent on more TSA staffing to cut wait times? Can't we have tougher procurement contracts, so that Boeing and Lockheed Martin would have to give the money back when their products don't work, so the country could direct those billions to hiring more FBI agents or perhaps to expanding early-childhood education?



Conversely, does it make sense that Congress has decided that giving everyone, including deranged people and terrorists, free rein to buy assault weapons at gun shows is the one situation where “never again” is not the highest priority?

Getting past “never again” doesn’t just mean making tough choices about priorities; it also means preparing for the inevitable.

In theory, a realistic approach should be uncontroversial. For example, conceding the usefulness of drills because some attacks will inevitably succeed is not an admission that we don’t care about prevention, any more than having ambulances on call is a sign that we don’t care about preventing traffic accidents or violent crime.

But when it comes to terrorism, the balance between prevention and accepting the reality that prevention will not always work is trickier.

President Obama is the first post-9/11 president, and he and his administration have made significant, if often muted, progress in adding two dimensions to the homeland-security mission beyond the first goal of prevention: mitigation (lessening damage from a successful attack) and recovery.

In his 2015 report on DHS, Senator Coburn demonstrated how officials who make mitigation and recovery a priority can be political targets. He acknowledged that the terrorism drill conducted in Boston before the marathon bombing might have played a “constructive” role, but he criticized a DHS report about the drill because it suggested that the Obama administration was more focused on “preparing state and local first responders for the emergency and swift response” than on “what additional roles DHS could play in preventing future terrorist attacks.” That “raises questions,” Coburn concluded, about whether “terrorism prevention truly is the Department’s first mission and whether that mission has been transformed into preparing to recover from terrorist attacks.”

I asked President Obama about Coburn’s critique. “Part of keeping the American people safe is making sure we’re ready for all contingencies,” he told me. “So it’s not ‘either/or’—preventing attacks or being able to respond to and recover from attacks. We have to do both. In fact, to focus solely on prevention while ignoring response and recovery—or vice versa—would be irresponsible.”

“After all,” President Obama continued, “from Boston to San Bernardino to Orlando, we’ve seen how important it is for communities and first responders to be ready if and when tragedy strikes. That’s a critical part of preventing attacks from causing even greater loss of life. It’s a key part of our resilience. It’s one of the ways we can show terrorists that they will not succeed—that Americans get back up and we carry on, no matter what.”

Mitigation and recovery need to be about more than repairing physical damage. After all, terrorism’s first goal is inflicting psychic damage—scaring us into changing our way of life and even turning against one another.

President Bush’s strategy was simply to tell us not to worry—that we should fearlessly keep on shopping. As a short-term measure, it was a sensible effort to calm a shocked nation. But the longer term requires a more nuanced, and politically perilous, message, because there is no such thing as “never again.” Attacks will happen, and, as San Bernardino and Orlando portend, they will happen in random venues—where part of what’s so frightening is the randomness, suggesting that anyone, anywhere, anytime could be vulnerable.

In the April issue of this magazine, Jeffrey Goldberg reported that President Obama “frequently reminds his staff that terrorism takes far fewer lives in America than handguns, car accidents, and falls in bathtubs do.” Goldberg also wrote that the president had frequently expressed to him “his admiration for Israelis’ ‘resilience’ in the face of constant terrorism, and it is clear that he would like to see resilience replace panic in American society.”

When *The Atlantic* published this account, Obama was immediately attacked by Republicans in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail for not taking terrorism seriously and for admitting defeat.

“President Obama’s job is to keep us safe,” Tom Cotton, a Republican senator from Arkansas, said on *Morning Joe*. “It’s not to minimize the fear Americans justly fear about terrorism ... President Obama goes around telling people that more Americans die in bathtub falls than are killed by terrorists.

It’s that mentality that we have to change and get on offense against the Islamic State if we don’t want to see a Brussels-style attack here.”



One of Obama's senior security advisers countered in a conversation with me: "If we overreact to these relatively small attacks, it creates more incentive for someone else to try one, but that's what the media does and what most politicians do."

"What if those militiamen who took over that park in Oregon had been Muslims? We'd have had wall-to-wall coverage," the adviser added. "The president sees trying to get Americans to take a more nuanced view of terror as part of his job."



Dirty Bombs

Obama's ambition to give Americans a realistic understanding of terror threats is certainly more advanced than his predecessor's "never again" posture. But when it comes to the weapon in the terrorist arsenal that is most about perception versus reality—the dirty bomb—he has recognized the problem yet fallen short of the challenge.

Beyond forcing his Nuclear Regulatory Commission to promulgate security regulations at least as strict as the measures his National Nuclear Security Administration is stuck trying to persuade custodians of radiological material to adopt, the president ought to launch an education campaign about dirty bombs from his own bully pulpit. Removing the public's untoward fear of the bomb can defuse its power to terrorize.

The Bush administration's sole contribution to public understanding of dirty bombs went in the opposite direction. In 2002, when John Ashcroft announced the detention, with no hearing or charges brought, of José Padilla, an American citizen, for allegedly being part of "an unfolding terrorist plot" to detonate a dirty bomb (an allegation later dropped for lack of evidence), he sought to justify depriving Padilla of due-process rights by warning that a dirty bomb could cause "mass death and injury." Tom Ridge, as well as two senior members of Bush's White House staff, told me at the time that they were appalled by Ashcroft's hyping of the danger, though they did nothing publicly to correct his message. President Obama and his administration obviously understand the perception problem. In 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency, in a move coordinated by the National Security Council, softened its Protective Action Guides related to radiation incidents. These are the radiation metrics, originally published by the EPA in 1992, that first responders would use to determine what area, if any, had to be evacuated in the event of a radiological-contamination event. With the change in these guidelines, the bomb hypothesized in the 2002 Senate testimony of the Federation of American Scientists president—which would have forced the abandonment of a 40-block area around Capitol Hill—might now dictate the clearing of a smaller area or no area at all, depending on the type of bomb.

The guideline revisions, which were published in the Federal Register, cited advances in understanding the science of radiation and also a new focus on a "broader range of radiological emergencies, including terrorist acts."

What that means, according to a senior White House security official, is that the Obama administration decided that the original guidelines for handling the aftermath of a dirty bomb's detonation were unreasonably extreme—that evacuating downtown Washington to avert the possibility of 50 cancer deaths would be an absurd overreaction.

All of which makes sense—except that the Obama administration squandered an opportunity by flinching when it came to announcing the change. There was no press release. No public explanation at all. Just changes described mostly with physics jargon and numbers dropped into the Federal Register. As a result, what could have been an ambitious, gutsy exercise in public education—a "teachable moment"—now risks being discredited as an anticipatory cover-up if a dirty-bomb attack occurs. Breathless press reports will "reveal" that the guidelines were changed sub rosa, and that—based on the guidelines in place before President Obama's staff quietly tinkered with them—much of Washington is being asked to live and work atop land as dangerous as a Superfund site. In the aftermath of a dirty-bomb explosion, explaining the guideline changes in a way that calms anyone would likely be impossible.



The President has failed to finish the job of securing radiological material in hospitals and other facilities—and taken only tentative steps toward leveling with the public.

Following Donald Trump's criticism of President Obama and Hillary Clinton in the wake of the Orlando massacre for not being "tough," political commentators called the attack a "June surprise" that could affect the presidential election. Imagine the eruption from the Trump campaign that could come from an administration attempt to explain the loosened guidelines the day after an ISIL-inspired group used a dirty bomb as the ultimate October surprise aimed at disrupting the coming election.

"People inside and outside the government who worked on these guidelines went back and forth over whether to announce it or bury it, and they decided to bury it," says Charles Ferguson, who, as the president of the Federation of American Scientists, now occupies the post previously held by Henry Kelly, who laid out the Washington evacuation scenario during the 2002 Biden Senate hearing. "On the merits, they did everything right—but then they went into duck-and-cover mode."

When I asked President Obama why his administration didn't announce the change in guidelines and use it as an opportunity to begin a public discussion about dirty bombs, he referred me to Laura Holgate, a senior National Security Council official. Holgate provided a statement saying that publishing the revisions in the Federal Register had attracted "public comment" from interested parties and was a "normal process" that was "not, in any way, secret."

How Washington has coped with the threat of dirty bombs is a microcosm of how the country has dealt with terror overall in the past 15 years.

First, by bringing proliferation to the international stage through the summits he has hosted, Obama improved on his predecessor's prevention efforts—much as he has done by hunting down terrorist leaders abroad while hardening targets and tightening homeland-security management at home.

However, the president has failed to finish the job of securing radiological material in hospitals and industrial facilities, or to crack down on the threats from bioweapons and toxic chemicals. Second, with his revised EPA guidelines on dirty-bomb damage, Obama has taken a tentative but insufficient step toward leveling with the public in a way that deprives terrorists of their ability to spread hysteria. That mirrors what he has tried to do more generally: tentatively steer Americans toward the realistic view that while terrorism is inevitable, it is not an existential or apocalyptic threat—unless we treat it like the apocalypse.

This is a politically perilous path—which may explain why the administration proceeded so quietly when announcing the revised radiological-contamination guidelines.

In fact, this may be a path only a lame duck could risk. The politically easier path is to promise "never again." As Trump's hard-line rhetoric about the president being weak on terrorism demonstrates, Obama and anyone who follows him and tries to continue on that path will be an easy target for opponents who will claim that transforming homeland security from the fantasy of never-again prevention to a combination of prevention and mitigation and recovery is throwing in the towel.

That this is still a debate in an election season 15 years after the 9/11 attacks is evidence that although we've made progress, we're still a long way from adjusting—politically and psychologically—to this new normal, where, unlike during the Cold War, there is no relying on deterrence for protection.

Steven Brill is the founder of The American Lawyer and CourtTV. He is the author of [America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Backroom Deals, and the Fight to Fix Our Broken Healthcare System](#).



World Security Report (Jul/Aug 2016)

Source: <http://www.torchmarketing.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WSR%20JulAug%2016.pdf>



World Security Report, incorporating Border Security Report, is your bi-monthly electronic, fully accessible e-news service distributed to over 40,000 organisations globally. It tracks the full range of problems and threats faced by today's governments, armed and security forces and civilian services and looks at how they are dealing with them. **World Security Report** is a prime source of online information and analysis on security, counter-terrorism, international affairs and defence.

The Western vegetarian wolves...

By Anwar Abdulrahman

Source: <https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/106111/The-Western-vegetarian-wolves%E2%80%A6>

The recently released and long-awaited Chilcot report – a massive two million word tome – is providing crucial testimony and damning evidence of wrongdoing by the then British government in invading Iraq alongside US forces.

Unfortunately, this inquiry, however forthright and informative, will not change the reality that more than a million Iraqis lost their lives, and another four-to-five million have been displaced from their homes. In fact their security situation is far worse now than under Saddam Hussein, with the country's economy also shattered.

All these crimes were committed under the guise of the presence of 'weapons of mass destruction', which were never found and never existed.

What is the remedy? Will British justice bring those criminals who did this to trial? They represent a large number of Tony Blair's cabinet cronies, and of course ringleader Mr Blair himself! Or will it be typical of Western tradition to simply consign the tragedy to its history books?

Just a few days ago *The Guardian's* Louise Kettle wrote that the rationale for going to war with Iraq was based on the threat to UK national interests posed by Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. Yet in 2001-2 the greatest threats of nuclear and missile proliferation came from elsewhere.

Sir William Ehrman, Foreign Office director of international security at the time, told the inquiry that the nuclear programmes of Libya, Iran and North Korea were "maturing", and were probably of greater concern than Iraq. A fact totally ignored by Tony Blair's administration.

Furthermore, the inquiry has taken SEVEN years at a cost of more than 10 million pounds, and examines a "hugely significant and detrimental event in recent British history".

Its findings are important and should be widely debated, but while opening a two-day Commons discussion of the Chilcot findings, present Chancellor Phillip Hammond said: "I suspect that the world's eyes will not be focused on our proceedings with quite the laser light intensity that might have been expected".

And regrettably very few MPs bothered to attend the session.

The big question is why? This case is now nearly 13 years old, and



Tony Blair clearly played an enormous role in delaying the report by withholding crucial documents.

Iraq today is not only in a mess, but half of it is controlled by Iran, which appointed a puppet government. The entire police force and intelligence network is also controlled by Iranian Revolutionary Guards and their henchmen. In fact, what everybody feared would transpire after the invasion – a worse case scenario that Iran would benefit from it – has become 100 per cent true!

The perceived decency and humanness of Whitehall, as well as Number 10 Downing Street, have been badly tarnished, not only in the eyes of Iraqis and Arabs, but also British citizens – especially those who lost dear ones in a treacherous and unnecessary war.

Yet there are still honourable men in Britain's diplomatic corps. Men of high calibre, humanity and decency – like Ambassador Craig Murray, former UK envoy to Uzbekistan. It's worth reminding ourselves of what he said in a television interview...

"I worked for the British Foreign Office, I became a British ambassador, I was a British diplomat for 20 years. I was always patriotic to be British, I was very, very proud.

I remember when I first became a British ambassador and first went out in my own flag car with the Union Jack flying on the front as the ambassador; I had a lump in my throat, it was a proud moment for me.

It was only six months after that I discovered that in the country where I was ambassador we and the Americans were shipping people in order for them to be tortured and some of them were tortured to death, now as you may imagine my world view changed.

It was the second time about a month later we invaded Iraq against the will of the Security Council, not just without permission of the Security Council, but in the full knowledge that if it had gone to the Security Council we would have been voted down.

I as a British diplomat saw all the internal memos that went through that decision, I know for certain – I used to be head of the FCO unit that monitored Iraqi weapons of mass destruction – I know for certain I can tell you they knew there weren't any, it wasn't a mistake, it was a lie.

I think it is impossible to be proud of the United Kingdom, I think when we invaded Iraq we did

to the United Nations what Hitler and Mussolini did to the League of Nations.

I think what we've done since, where the truth is often much hidden in the bombing, if you look at Libya, disaster now, we bombed it.

We killed 15,000 people when NATO bombed it, something they never told you on the BBC, did we make it better? No.

I saw in Uzbekistan, I saw the gas contracts signed by Imron, a company called Unocal which George Bush senior was on the board, it's a big gas pipeline from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan over Afghanistan down to the Indian Ocean; that was actually what the Afghan war was about.

They'd actually had talks with the Taliban and Unocal to see if the Taliban would provide pipeline security.

The person who held those talks, the consultant of Unocal was certain Mr Karzai, who after being employed by George Bush senior as a consultant went on to become president of Afghanistan, that was their plan B; the Taliban wouldn't do it so they invaded.

I've seen it on the inside; it's almost always about control of resources, it is every bit as corrupt [interruption, inaudible chatter] I can tell you it is not an academic construct.

The system stinks, Westminster stinks, British Government is deeply, deeply immoral. They don't care how many people they kill abroad if it advances them and anybody who votes 'no' is voting to support a psychologically flawed, a pathological state which is a danger to the world, a rogue state, a state prepared to go to war to make a few people wealthy".

Should we laugh, or should we cry? Whitehall mandarins, as well as White House spokesmen, constantly talk about human rights or the lack of them in our region or the Third World.

Yet they shamelessly never pause to think about what harm they have done to the world, never viewing themselves as collaborators or agents of doom and destruction.

They often merchandise so-called human rights as a tool to embezzle weaker nations.



It is time for this part of the world to think of their own countries and their people, and not be held to ransom by Western human wrongs in the name of human rights. Because those US and

UK politicians who lack basic feelings of humanness, act in a self-serving, selfish way, as Genghis Khan and Tamberlaine did.



Let me end this article with a quote from an honourable Englishman, William Inge (Writer 1860-1954), who said: "It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism while the wolf remains of a different opinion."



Patterns of Islamic State-Related Terrorism Revealed in New Study

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/patterns-of-islamic-state-related-terrorism-revealed-in-new-study/a9d00ef3a780c13f5114fd34d1dd647c.html>

Aug 09 – **Between 2002 and 2015, more than 4,900 terrorist attacks were carried out by groups or organizations affiliated with the Islamic State which resulted in more than 33,000 deaths and 41,000 injuries (including perpetrator casualties), and involved more than 11,000 individuals held hostage or kidnapped, according to a new report** from the University of Maryland-based National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).

Funded by the Department of Homeland Security, the START study found that, "Excluding incidents where the perpetrator group was not identified, these attacks represented 13 percent of all terrorist attacks worldwide, 26 percent of all deaths, 28 percent of all injuries and 24 percent of all kidnap victims or hostages due to terrorism during the same time period."

Along with private citizens and property, military targets (21 percent) and police targets (14 percent) comprise nearly three-quarters of all attacks carried out by ISIL, the study said.

Based on data from START's Global Terrorism Database, the new study illustrates "the dynamics of Islamic State-related terrorism over time and place, from 2002 to 2015. In particular, we investigate trends in the number of attacks and deaths caused by Islamic State-related terrorism over time, the geographic spread of Islamic State-related terrorism, and patterns of tactics, targets, and lethality of Islamic State-related terrorism."

The new START study revealed that, "Among ISIL-related perpetrators of terrorism, 'core' ISIL was responsible for the majority of attacks (58 percent), deaths (58 percent), and especially hostages (88 percent),



compared to ISIL predecessor groups, ISIL-affiliated groups and individuals inspired by ISIL. Attacks carried out by ISIL and ISIL predecessor groups each comprised 42 percent of all injuries caused in ISIL-related terrorist attacks.”

The START study said, “A key distinction of the attacks by ISIL-inspired perpetrators, all of which occurred in 2014 and 2015, is that they took place in locations where terrorist attacks were relatively rare compared to where ISIL and ISIL affiliates were typically active. Eight of the ISIL-inspired attacks took place in the United States, six in France, four in Australia, two in Denmark, two in Canada; the Gaza Strip, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United Kingdom and the Philippines each experienced one ISIL-inspired attack.”

During the same time period, the START study found, “the weapons used by ISIL in terrorist attacks between 2013 and 2015 were disproportionately explosives rather than firearms and incendiaries. Specifically, the vast majority (80 percent) of weapons used in ISIL’s attacks were explosives, compared to 58 percent of weapons used worldwide. An additional 16 percent of weapons used by ISIL were firearms, compared to 33 percent globally, and 2 percent involved ‘melee’ weapons (usually sharp or blunt objects). Only 1 percent of the weapons used in ISIL’s attacks were incendiaries, much lower than the usage of

incendiary weapons in 6 percent of terrorist attacks worldwide. Chemicals, vehicles as weapons, and sabotage equipment comprised less than 1 percent of the weapons used in attacks by ISIL between 2013 and 2015.”

START noted “that recent reports indicate that ISIL’s use of chemical weapons became more common in 2016.”

START further noted that, “Although attacks carried out by individuals who claimed allegiance to ISIL have drawn considerable media attention in recent months, these perpetrators were responsible for less than 1 percent of all ISIL-related attacks and casualties between 2002 and 2015. In addition, attacks carried out by individuals inspired by ISIL were 74 percent less deadly on average than ISIL-related attacks in general (1.9 deaths per attack on average, compared to 7.3).”

For more than a decade, START said, ISIS “has undergone a complex evolution, including name changes, leadership changes and shifts in allegiance to other Salafi-jihadist organizations, most notably Al Qaeda. In addition, the reach of ISIL’s violence surpasses its own membership, to include attacks carried out by other groups and individuals who have pledged allegiance to ISIL regardless of whether or not formal ties exist. This complexity makes it difficult to comprehensively and systematically place into context the violence of one of the most active and deadly terrorist organizations in recent history.”

Terrorists Have Attack Drones? Let Fly the Eagles!

Source: <https://www.clarionproject.org/analysis/terrorists-have-attack-drones-let-fly-eagles>



Aug 12 – Terrorists have now started using drones to carry out attacks.

The Iranian backed [militia group Hezbollah](#) used an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to drop cluster bombs on a village in Syria and released footage of the attack on Tuesday.

This attack marks the first time Hezbollah has used attack drones to carry out bombing raids, despite having used drones for reconnaissance or one-use “kamikaze” style attacks in the past.

[The Islamic State](#) is known to also have reconnaissance drones and is feared to have bomber drones as well. “The Government has evidence that Daesh has used



small, commercially available unmanned aerial vehicles in Syria and Iraq to extend their surveillance capability, produce propaganda material and carry small improvised explosive devices” the UK’s Foreign Office Minister Baroness Anelay said at the end of July.

A NATO chemical weapons expert warns that such drones could be fitted with chemical weapons such as World War One mustard gas, while former head of the British navy Admiral Lord West warned “If they are using them there, then in fact they are probably even easier to use them here because you can get them so much easier.”

In July the Pentagon requested an additional \$20 million to [combat Islamic State drone capabilities](#).

So how can terrorist attack drones be combated?

One innovative approach being considered by police in the Netherlands is training eagles to rip drones from the skies. The birds see drones as prey and are capable of immobilizing a drone and carrying it to a safe place without any people.

Interceptor drones are another possibility. In December 2015 Tokyo police launched a program of [interceptor drones](#) which carry nets with which to ensnare unauthorized drones.

When Being Raped By ISIS Brings Shame on the Family

Source: <https://www.clarionproject.org/analysis/when-being-raped-isis-brings-shame-family>

Aug 11 – Women held as sex-slaves by the Islamic State are remaining in the hands of ISIS because their families are too ashamed to rescue them, according to the pan-Arab outlet Al-Aan, which is based in Dubai.

Reports that were depending on testimonies from women who escaped ISIS show that Turkmen families whose daughters have been rescued from Islamic State captivity are treating the girls as a source of shame.



The paper claimed to know about 5 Turkmen girls who could have escaped ISIS and joined their families in the province of Al-Najaf and Karbala in the south of Iraq. But their families refused to cooperate with any rescue agencies that can give them information because of the fear of shame.

The liberation of six hundred women and girls has reportedly been prevented by concerns over honor. In Iraq where tradition firmly controls society, women and girls are prohibited from having emotional relationships or eloping without the permission and knowledge of the family.

Girls who violate these social codes are typically murdered by their families.

Despite the fact that rape is by definition non-consensual, families still look down on rape victims because they regard the woman’s chastity as having been breached by the mere act of penetration regardless of the volition of the woman concerned.

Such brutal honor codes and what activists are doing to stand up against them were chronicled in Clarion Project’s award winning movie Honor Diaries.

Human rights organizations have to take on these problematic cultural trends if they are serious about rehabilitating women that have already undergone so many traumas.



The mindset that views women as property to be bought and sold in sexual slavery is the same as the mindset that views a woman to be damaged goods and a source of shame after she has been raped. She is not seen as a person in her own right but as a mere appendage to a male. This toxic perception of women must be challenged.

ISIS ranks in Syria, Iraq “decimated,” with only 15,000 fighters left: U.S. commander

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160812-isis-ranks-in-syria-iraq-decimated-with-only-15-000-fighters-left-u-s-commander>

Aug 12 – **The number of ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria has been substantially reduced by an effective U.S.-led military campaigns, leaving as few as 15,000 militants to fight**, a senior U.S. commander said. Not only has the estimated number of ISIS fighters shrunk from earlier estimates of between 19,000 and 25,000, but the U.S. commander said that the quality of ISIS fighters has decreased. “The enemy is in retreat on all fronts,” Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland said.

UK confusion between integration and counter-terrorism hinders Muslims

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/aug/11/uk-confusion-integration-counter-terrorism-hinders-muslims>

Aug 11 – **The government’s conflation of integration with counter-terrorism has exacerbated inequalities experienced by British Muslims**, MPs have said. Islamophobia, stereotyping, cultural traditions

overcome these issues but directs some of its strongest concerns towards integration policy. The MPs say that rather than focusing on issues such as **language difficulties** through the lens of counter-extremism, which they say happens



at present, the emphasis should be on “how it improves the life chances of disadvantaged communities”. The committee’s chair, Maria Miller, said: “The government is making attempts to deal with the problems that Muslim people face in getting work but our analysis would be that their attempts are being undermined by this clear link that Muslim people are making between government policy on employment and government policy on counter-extremism.”

and insufficient role models have also contributed to Muslims experiencing the highest levels of **unemployment among all religious and ethnic groups – 12.8% compared with 5.4% for the general population** – according to the Commons women and equalities committee. The report, called Employment Opportunities for Muslims in the UK, [published by the committee on Thursday](#), calls on the government to introduce specific policies to help Muslims

While acknowledging the importance of the counter-terrorism strategy, the committee said it had destroyed trust within Muslim communities to the extent that some individuals were reluctant to talk to its members for fear they were part of [the controversial Prevent programme](#). The report highlights that as well as experiencing the highest levels of unemployment, **41% of Muslims are economically inactive, compared with 21.8% of the**



general population. But it bemoaned the lack of data on Muslims, which it said must be addressed to help devise the government's response to the inequalities.

Other recommended policies include possible legislation to introduce **name-blind**

The inquiry heard evidence that traditional family pressures holding that women are homemakers and the lack of women in governance roles at mosques are among the obstacles preventing Muslim women fulfilling their potential. To counter these, the committee suggests mosques should promote opportunities for women and the government should introduce a role models and mentoring programme aimed at Muslim women.

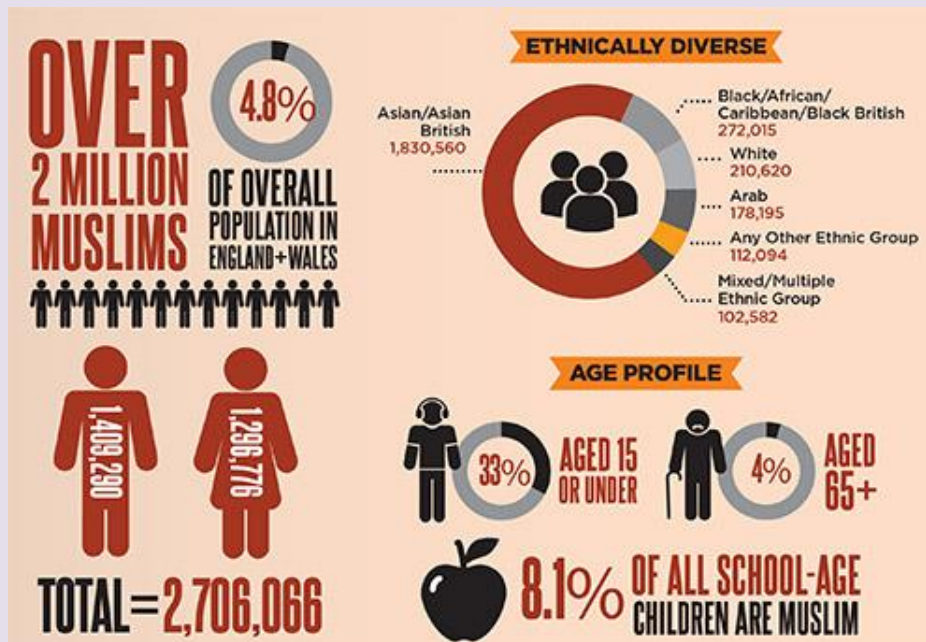
It says employers should be made aware of their legal duties with respect to discrimination, especially with respect to women who may wear cultural or religious clothing.

The MPs want the government to come up with a plan by the end of the year to tackle the inequalities it has highlighted.

Farah Elahi, research and policy analyst at a race equality thinktank, [the Runnymede Trust](#), welcomed the report and said it

was time for government action. "The government should be concerned about these issues because they are legitimate [in their own right], not just through the prism of counter-terrorism."

A government spokeswoman said: "We want all people, regardless of their faith or gender to have access to the same opportunities so that they can reach their full potential. We are making progress – for example, there are now 45% more Muslim women in work than in 2011 – but we know there is much more to do. We will look carefully at the recommendations and respond in due course."



recruitment by employers, local budgets for Jobcentre Plus offices to fund targeted support in areas with high levels of Muslim unemployment and a dedicated careers service for minority ethnic students in universities.

The committee says there is a particularly pressing need to help **women, who, it says, face the triple issue of being female, BME (black and minority ethnic) and Muslim** and face the most barriers, when job-hunting and once in work.

Millar said she was personally shocked by the inequalities they face. "It was made very clear to us that Muslim women face very real stereotypes to counter – both in the workplace and in their community – with respect to work."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Unemployment, religions, ethnic groups, language problems, working women, etc.etc. Empty words to cover the truth of a failed business experiment: multicultural societies. What is really the unemployment issue? No jobs? No qualifications? No will/ability to work? Starting from the later: do incoming illegal immigrants and refugees will to work? Do they really want to integrate to their new host nation? Do they care to learn the language? Do they have the right qualifications to join the work force? For the vast majority of them the answer is no! Are there any testing mechanisms



to ensure integration process? (similar to those when applying for citizenship) Benefits given are nice but for a limited period of time but not for life! Working nationals are not stupid to work daily for often less money. It is a complex problem but what is written in this article is not exactly the right approach. How the UK gov and people will change the shitty position of women in the local Muslim societies? How can they change the difficult time teachers are experiencing in their schools where they are always in the corner from both the pupils and their families? How can they change the feeling of a Luton visitor that often wanders if he is in the right country or in the suburbs of Lahore in Pakistan? And the working percentage: what exactly they do? Is there a study done showing the distribution of the immigrants' force into various professions? Do they just fill the gaps in works that Brits hate to do? Finally, I just loved the name-blind recruitment proposal that once more brought Einstein into my mind!

This Sydney building could be a terror target thanks to a 'media stunt'

Source: <http://thenewdaily.com.au/news/state/nsw/2016/08/12/sydney-building-terrorism-target/>



The illustrious QVB and its staff will go through terror training in the coming weeks. *Photo: Getty*

A dispute has erupted over terror training exercises planned for the Queen Victoria Building in central Sydney, with a security specialist describing them as a "media stunt".

Critics claimed the exercise will alert terrorists to one of Australia's softest terror targets.



release.

Roger Henning, director of Homeland Security Asia Pacific, described the exercise as a dumb and dangerous public relations stunt.

The QVB is a huge tourist attraction for tourists in Sydney. *Photo: Getty*

"Counter Terrorism is about saving lives, not using a media stunt to endanger lives," Mr Henning said in a press



"The golden rules in counter terrorism, are to never arm your enemy with free information, or bait a radicalised Islamic extremist to have a go at a high profile site," Mr Henning later told *The New Daily*. American security companies are now aggressively marketing such programs to businesses around the country, and the exercise therefore has national implications.

The QVB, as it is widely known, is a famous Romanesque Revival style building built in the late 1800s which has been transformed into an upmarket shopping centre.

With a spate of terrorist attacks on soft targets around the world, including clubs and public celebrations, next week, for the first time, staff will be taken through what to do in the case of mass casualty event.

Spokeswoman for the QVB Taryn McGurk said the exercise was to teach shopkeepers how to deal with armed individuals and to ensure the highest level of safety procedures were enforced.

One retailer said: "We are a high-risk tourist building so we need to know what to do if there is ever a situation like this."

Mr Henning said the QVB was an easy target for terrorism.

"Easy access to the QVB on foot, after arriving by bus, train, or entry from its own underground carpark, is an open invitation to a lone wolf attacker, or for a terrorist cell to stage a co-ordinated suicide bombing.

He said the most ludicrous aspect of the exercise was the publicity surrounding it.

"The naivety of the person responsible at the QVB for sensationalising a security need, with footage of an 'active shooter' training exercise, aired on TV, is a real cause for concern."

Other experts disagreed, saying a display of capability is essential.

'Not stupid at all': expert

One of Australia's most senior counter terrorism experts Allan Behm, former head of the international security divisions with both the Department of Defence and the Attorney General's Department, told *The New Daily* the QVB exercise was a good idea. Not to do so would be like never having a fire drill.

"These people don't need tuition on what is a soft target," he said.

"The threat doesn't get worse because you identify it. It only gets worse if you don't identify it."

Terror expert at the Australian National University Dr Clarke Jones, who helped man the Terror Intelligence Centre for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, told *The New Daily* it was vital the government and various security agencies show capability.

"It is not a stupid idea at all," he said. "Australia's counter terrorism experts have highlighted concerns over soft targets, shopping centres, train stations, anywhere large crowds gather. It is very important for the public to be able to see a security presence,"

***Active Shooter Guidelines for Places of Mass Gatherings, aimed particularly at business, can be downloaded from the Australian National Security website [here](#).

***Improvised Explosive Device Guidelines for Places of Mass Gatherings can be downloaded [here](#).

Note *** Following a change to the classification system, the National Terrorism Threat Level for Australia has changed from High to Probable. This means credible intelligence, assessed by our security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia. The government urges the public to exercise caution and report any suspicious incidents.



Germany mulls revoking citizenship of extremists in tough anti-terror proposals

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/germany-mulls-revoking-citizenship-extremists-tough-anti-terror-proposals-1575648>

Aug 13 – Under new anti-terror proposals unveiled in Germany on Thursday, those with dual nationality in the country will lose their German citizenship if they go abroad to

fight for terror groups.

Addressing a press conference Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said deportations of



convicted criminal migrants will be sped up, while extra personnel, machinery and surveillance powers will be made available to the police.

He also said the burqa will not be banned in the country, adding the move would be "problematic" and "you cannot ban everything that you reject".

The minister said the border police would come up with a new scheme wherein **refugees who are resettled in Germany under the Turkey-EU deal and who do not have passports, will have to hand over their smartphones to the police for checking.** "If you want to come to Germany, we have to make safety checks on you. And to make safety checks, we will ask you to show us your Facebook contacts from the last few months, which are public in principle anyway," he said.

These proposals will reportedly be presented to the public on 18 August.

French President Francois Hollande had recently put forward a similar proposal but it did not get through the French parliament.

According to German media reports, the Christian Democratic Union's coalition partner, Social Democrats (SPD) is against the ban on dual citizenship. The Green Party has also said they are not in favour of the idea.

In July, two attacks by jihadist migrants shocked Germany; an axe attack on a train in Wuerzburg and suicide bombing in Ansbach.

According to German secret service estimates, at least 820 people from Germany left to fight for extremist jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria. The German intelligence agencies also reportedly have evidence to prove that "hit squads" from the Islamic State (Isis) have got into the country disguised as refugees.

"We have to accept that we have hit squads and sleeper cells in Germany. **We have substantial reports that among the refugees there are hit squads.** There are hundreds of these reports, some from refugees themselves. We are still following up on these, and we haven't investigated all of them fully," Manfred Hauser, vice president of Bavaria area's intelligence gathering agency, BayLfV, told the BBC on Thursday, 11 August.

Colombia: Sexual Violence By FARC Guerrillas Exposed

Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/08/11/colombia-sexual-violence-farc-guerrillas-exposed>

Aug 11 – "The worst thing is that you can't have a baby," Andrea told Human Rights Watch when we [interviewed](#) her in 2002. Andrea was describing her time as a 11-year-old girl in the ranks of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas. Two years before we interviewed her, aged just 12, FARC members had terminated Andrea's pregnancy against her will, after telling her they merely wanted to check on her health.



Before leaving office last week, Colombia's acting Attorney General Jorge Fernando Perdomo announced the results of an investigation by his office into sexual violence in the FARC guerrilla movement. His office **documented 232 cases in which boys and girls in FARC ranks suffered sexual crimes at the hands of guerrillas, including 214 girls who were subject to rape, forced sterilization, forced abortion, and other forms of sexual violence.** His office also found alleged evidence that the acts of sexual violence were not isolated incidents, but rather guerrilla policy handed down by top officials.

These terrible findings should raise concerns in Colombia and further afield in light of the justice agreement the government and FARC reached last December as part of their peace talks. The deal allows those

responsible for atrocities like these to avoid spending even a single day in prison for their



crimes. Instead, perpetrators who confess will be subject to modest restrictions while working on projects to help victims of FARC abuses. But these sanctions – which appear more like community-service orders than proper prison sentences – seem shockingly disproportionate to the gravity of these terrible crimes against children.

Even more troubling, perhaps, the peace deal also includes a misleading definition of “command responsibility” – a key principle of international humanitarian law – that could be used to allow FARC commanders to escape responsibility for atrocities committed by troops under their control, often according to abusive policies developed by them.

Peace talks with FARC guerrillas are an opportunity to stop these abuses, including sexual violence against children who were forcibly recruited. But it's hard to believe that grave human rights violations won't happen again if those who carried out atrocities, like raping vulnerable girls and forcing them to have abortions, are allowed to escape any meaningful punishment.

The 10,000 Kidnapped Boys of Boko Haram

By Drew Hinshaw and Joe Parkinson (The Wall Street Journal)

Source: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-kidnapped-boys-of-boko-haram-1471013062>



In a forest of thorn trees somewhere far outside this city, the Boko Haram insurgency ran a boot camp for about 100 boys. Children as young as 5 years old learned to handle assault rifles and march through the woods in flip-flops. Their teacher was only 15.

“I was terrified if I didn’t do it, they would kill me,” said Idriss, the teenage instructor, in an interview. He said he was kidnapped by the militants in 2014 but has since escaped.

While the world focused on Boko Haram’s mass kidnappings of women and girls, the Islamist group was stealing an even greater number of boys. Over the past three years, Boko Haram has kidnapped more than 10,000 boys and trained them in boot camps in abandoned villages and forest hide-outs, according to government officials in Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon, and to Human Rights Watch, a New York-based advocacy group.

Abubakar was abducted by Boko Haram and forced to participate in the violent terrorist group’s campaign in northeast Nigeria. He managed to escape a year later. Video: Gabe Johnson/Mackenzie Knowles-Coursin/WSJ

Child soldiering was a big problem in various collapsing states in the 1990s, including some in Africa. What is happening here in northeastern Nigeria is part of a disturbing rise in child



jihadism. Young boys and at times girls are being indoctrinated into violent fundamentalism and used as fighters, suicide bombers and spies.

Something similar is happening in other countries battling Islamist insurrections. Commanders of al Qaeda's branches in Yemen, Somalia and Mali have deployed youngsters. Islamic State has used children in combat, suicide bombings and in execution videos in Iraq and Syria.

Interviews with 16 young Nigerians who escaped from Boko Haram captivity and with other witnesses, soldiers, researchers, officials and diplomats in Nigeria and Cameroon provide a picture of the harrowing



life endured by the children who wage jihad. The Wall Street Journal isn't publishing their surnames.

Witnesses said the boys were trained and sent into battle, at times unarmed and often numbed with opiates. Many of the boys were beaten and some died of starvation or thirst, these people said. Their individual accounts couldn't be independently verified but are consistent with information gathered by researchers and military officials, both in terms of timing and specific details.

"They told us, 'It's all right for you to kill and slaughter even your parents,' " recalled Samiyu, a former captive who said he witnessed a beheading on the first day of his 11 months with Boko Haram. He said other boys helped hold down the victim.

"They said, 'This is what you have to do to get to heaven.' "

Witnesses recounted Boko Haram using fleets of passenger vans to move child fighters through the forests of northeastern Nigeria. Some have described camps of more than 1,000 boys and adolescents training to fight, with very few adults present.

"If you go there, you can see 12-year-olds talking about burning down a village," said Fatima, a 20-year-old former hostage. "They have converted."

As more such boys escape from the group and others are captured by government forces, West African officials are debating whether the boys can be returned to their families—and how.

In the 1990s and 2000s, Nigerian peacekeepers helped end the civil war in Liberia, and thousands of young boys were disarmed and returned to society. Some of those peacekeepers are now ranking officers. They must confront a new generation of child combatants raised on an ideology more apocalyptic than anything offered by the warlords of 1990s Liberia.



Boko Haram recruited children from the earliest days of its insurgency. First it tapped them as spies and couriers before shifting toward front-line mobilization, according to Nigeria's military and Human Rights Watch.

A young man displaced by fighting in Nigeria wears a necklace adorned with a tiny AK-47.

In 2013, Abba was a 12-year-old beggar in a Quranic school.

Boko Haram gave him a

cellphone and asked him to call whenever he saw soldiers pass. "That was the only work I did for them," he recalled.



He was arrested by the army several months later and appeared at a press conference with 34 other children, age 9 to 15. Several said they had been given \$30 and a keg of gasoline to set fire to their schools.

The next year, Boko Haram began to take big towns, and with them, lots more boys.

The group's mass abduction of 276 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok in April 2014 grabbed global attention. The next month, it seized six villages in the nearby mountains and rounded up children in each location, with only scant coverage outside the Nigerian press.

A few months later, the group captured the town of Damasak, and with it, more than 300 students, most of them boys, age 7 to 17. The militants imprisoned them in a school, witnesses said. Their parents were held in separate rooms. For months, the children learned the Quran, according to witnesses, Human Rights Watch and Nigerian media accounts.

Eventually, Boko Haram left the parents behind and drove away with the children. There is no public record of any of them being rescued.

By 2014, Boko Haram was running boot camps across its rapidly expanding territory and training thousands of kidnapped children, according to the escaped children, military officials and researchers.

Rachel, a 13-year-old captive who spent about a year in a separate camp, recalled that during her first day in Boko Haram custody there was a beheading. She watched as several dozen boys from her village tied up a kidnapped man so he wouldn't resist. "They told them they shouldn't have feelings about it," said the girl, who is pregnant by rape and living in a camp for rescued girls.

In many camps, boys hardly old enough to hold guns were taught how to shoot. Thirteen-year-old Modu said that in his former camp, they practiced firing at planks of wood. Elsewhere, boys shot cows or goats. In Rachel's camp, older militants took young boys on trips into the countryside to rob herdsmen of their cattle. For even minor infractions, militants beat boys nearly unconscious, or denied them food and sleep for days, former captives say.

Girls were kept in a separate area and raped. Many of their rapists were young boys, according to rape victims and the counselors who treat them.

One 13-year-old girl said she was raped by a boy around her own age. He left her pregnant, she said. "We want the government to kill them all, including the children, so we don't have a resurgence of this," she said, referring to the Boko Haram fighters.

Ten-year-old Abubakar said he was a sitter in an abandoned village for infants and toddlers kidnapped or conceived through the rape of female captives. The children, none older than 4, watched jihadist propaganda videos and rehearsed a game called "suicide bomber" where they ripped open sacks of sand strapped to their torsos.

"When they play that game, they're smiling, having a good time. They're laughing," said Abubakar, who picked at his toes and wore a belt emblazoned with the image of Bob Marley. "They're preparing for war." Older children described camps packed with gadgetry stolen from military bases and ransacked government buildings. Boys kidnapped from mud-brick homes came to live amid satellite internet terminals, flat-screen TVs, walkie-talkies, refrigerators and kitchens run by diesel generators.

"They have so many laptops of exactly that type," said Assabe, a 15-year-old-girl who escaped captivity, pointing to a reporter's MacBook Air.

At night, in the camp where an adolescent named Mohammad lived, militants encouraged the boys to watch American war movies: "They cheer for the U.S. soldiers, actually," he said. "They say these are the kinds of things they want to replicate."

Military officers said many of the children are fearless on the battlefield.

In Cameroon, a local commando unit dispatched helicopters and artillery against waves of children who appeared to be drugged, some armed with no more than machetes, said Col. Didier Badjeck, the army spokesman.

"It's better to kill a boy than have 1,000 victims," he said. "It's causing us problems with international organizations, but they're not on the front lines. We are."

During a recent battle in the north of Cameroon, more than 100 screaming boys ran toward a fortified position, many of them barefoot and unarmed, and most were swiftly gunned down, Mr. Badjeck said. Soldiers found in many of their pockets packaging from the opiate tramadol, he said.

Most internationally agreed upon laws of war don't forbid firing at child soldiers during battle.



Felicité Tchibindat, who runs the Unicef operation in Cameroon, said children as young as 6 have been trained to carry bombs into markets and mosques. As more youngsters were co-opted as killers, she said, they have become double victims: kidnapped but unable to go home.

"Children are now become something to fear for these communities," she said.

Over the past year, the tide of the Boko Haram conflict has turned. Soldiers from Chad advanced on Boko Haram positions in Nigeria, forcing the group to pull back from its settlements.

That has helped some children escape. Abubakar, the 10-year-old baby-sitter, ran down a forest trail early one morning. With him was a cousin his age who also had been kidnapped. "We just decided on our own," Abubakar said. "If the army came by, they would easily kill us."

They walked for two days until an old man guided them to safety. He now lives in the home of a local man who is secretly caring for several escaped boys.

"When I first got here I missed the children," Abubakar said. "But now it's been a while and I'm forgetting about them."

Idriss, the teenager who trained children to fight, made his own getaway in the middle of last year. He said he persuaded a militant to let him take a motor scooter to fetch water from a distant well. Halfway there, he ditched the scooter on the road and ran down a forest trail to the nearest village.

Now, he also lives in the local man's home, fearful of being found by the military, Boko Haram or his neighbors. He said he hasn't found the courage to tell even his parents where he has been and where he is staying now. "I don't like to think about my time with Boko Haram," he said.

Speaking softly, he showed no emotion when he described his former life in the camp. "They say they will all die soon," he said of Boko Haram's militants. "We were bringing up the children who will keep it going."

The Nigerian authorities are now beginning the mammoth task of reintegrating Boko Haram's children. Recently, they began offering amnesty, shelter and care for Boko Haram defectors, particularly those kidnapped into the group.

Very few boys are coming forward.

"There's almost an entire generation of boys missing," said Mausi Segun, Nigeria researcher for the advocacy group Human Rights Watch. "My guess is that a large majority of them will die in the conflict."

Former ISIS Sex Slaves Form All-Female Battalion 'Sun Ladies' to Launch Massive Assault on ISIS

Source: <http://en.alalam.ir/news/1787751>



Aug 15 – **Hundreds of former ISIS sex slaves have joined an all-female battalion to launch a massive assault against their abusers in Iraq.**



The Yazidi women – who call themselves the **'Force of the Sun Ladies'** – have taken up arms in the quest for revenge but also to preserve the future of their race.

They are among around 2,000 captives who have escaped their terrorist tormentors who subjected them to horrific

torture and rape and massacred thousands of their loved ones after storming their villages in the summer of 2014.



ISIL's intelligence unit effectively exports terrorism worldwide

By Amanda Macias

Source: <http://www.worldtribune.com/top-secret-isils-intelligence-unit-effectively-exports-terrorism-worldwide/>

Aug 14 – A secretive intelligence branch of Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) is exporting terrorism worldwide. **The unit, known in Arabic as the Emni**, is a combination of an internal police force and an



external operations branch, according to French, Belgian, German and Austrian intelligence and interrogation documents.

[Abu Mohammed Al-Adnani](#).

The documents show that Emni's foot soldiers have been sent to Austria, Germany, Spain, Lebanon, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia. One of Emni's operatives, German citizen Harry Sarfo, said the ISIL unit uses mostly "people who are new Muslims, who are

converts. Those "clean" converts "get in contact with the people, and they give them the message."

"The big man behind everything is Abu Muhammad al-Adnani," Sarfo told a reporter. "He is the head of the Emni, and he is the head of the special forces as well."

Sarfo, in an interview from the maximum-security prison near Bremen where he is being held, said that the Emni operatives told him they had "loads of people living in European countries and waiting for commands to attack the European people. And that was before the Brussels attacks, before the Paris attacks."

Amanda Macias is Business Insider's national security correspondent. Before moving to New York, she worked as a field producer for Reuters in Brussels covering NATO and EU political institutions. Amanda grew up in the US Army and graduated from the University of Missouri-School of Journalism. She lives in Manhattan with her spoiled cat named Harlem.

Israel's Virtual Security Zone in Syria

By Jonathan Spyer

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6194/israel-virtual-security-fence>

Aug 12 – **Cautious and prudent Israeli policy has largely succeeded over the last five years in sealing off the Syrian civil war from Israel's territory.** This has been achieved through the careful



cultivation of a working relationship with rebel militias on the other side of the border, along with a readiness to act decisively on occasion to neutralize emergent dangers.

The success of such a policy is by definition fragile, as is the calm it produces. A single mishap could transform the situation. In recent weeks, there has been a notable uptick in the volume of incidents on the border, though a general deterioration still seems distant.

Reserve soldiers serving along the borderline describe a reality in

which both regime and rebels are engaged in constantly testing the alertness of Israeli forces, looking to take advantage of any momentary lapse of attention.



Israel responds to all incidences of fire into Israeli territory, including when these appear to be inadvertent rather than deliberate. The intention is to keep the war away from the border.

One of the unplanned results of this policy is the emergence of small tent emplacements close to the line of division. Refugees have made their way to the border area, assuming that the Syrian government army will tend to avoid it.

July was a busy month. On July 4th, the technical fence was damaged by Syrian army fire. Israel responded by striking at two regime targets.

Then on the 18th, a drone was dispatched across the border to Israel. Israeli attempts to down it were unsuccessful.

A week later, Israel responded to stray Syrian mortar rounds which came across the border. An Israeli drone destroyed the mortar emplacement.

July witnessed an unexpected visit to the Quneitra area by General Mohamed Reza Naqdi, commander of the Basij paramilitary forces in Iran.

There were also reports of Israeli bulldozers operating in the Demilitarized Zone east of the technical fence, in the area between Ein Zivan and Quneitra. This reporter witnessed evidence of this work, on a recent trip to the Golan.

Thus far with regard to the Assad regime and its allies. But of course the regime only controls a few points along the border. Most of it is held by rebel forces, described as a mix of Jabhat al Nusra and other free army groups by IDF soldiers stationed at one of the border posts.

The IDF is in communication with representatives of these forces, though relations are less than ideal. The southern part of the border, however, is the area of greatest concern. This is held by the Khaled Ibn al-Walid Brigade, a franchise of the Islamic State, formerly known as the Shuhada al-Yarmouk Brigades. The Israeli assumption is that at a certain point this organization will almost certainly turn its guns against Israel. In the meantime, the two sides watch each other closely.

The entry of rebel and civilian wounded via the border fence is a regular occurrence, as is the transfer of humanitarian aid. The UN is the body which facilitates this process.

It all seems to be working smoothly.

The sound of gunfire punctuates the days and the nights on the Golan. Sometimes it is the distant, ominous boom of heavy artillery, perhaps from the area south of Damascus. The Syrian capital is only 70 km away. At other times the rattle of small arms fire can be heard. This is closer, perhaps evidence of a skirmish between the rebels and the jihadis of the Khalid Ibn al-Walid. But on the Israeli side of the border the wine is good, the restaurants are open, the summer days seemingly endless.

So how will all this end? Will the division of Syria hold, making the militia arrangements across the border and the relationships created permanent? Perhaps. But in judging the likely future direction of events, it is necessary to widen the lens, and observe events further north.

One of the key battles of the Syrian civil war is currently under way in Aleppo province, far to the north. The regime sealed rebel controlled eastern Aleppo in early August. The rebels now appear to have broken the siege. But the outcome is not yet decided.

If the regime succeeds in taking Aleppo city back in its entirety, this will mark a decisive setback for the rebellion. It will open the way for a regime campaign to retake the rural north. If this too succeeds, it will then be the turn of the southern border area. Such a turn of events is not inevitable, and may not transpire. But if it does, it will mean that the tense but stable arrangements that Israel has built up over the previous half decade will come to an end. It is possible that the preparations on the border fence are in anticipation of this eventuality. Should it come, the virtual security zone established by Israel across the borderline will prove to have been just one of the transient, if among the most fascinating, episodes of the Syrian civil war.

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





Business Booming in Rio's 'Bin Laden Bar' Despite Islamic State Threat

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2016/08/15/business-booming-rios-bin-laden-bar-despite-islamic-state-threat/>



Aug 15 – The Bar do Bin Laden, one of a series of Bin Laden-themed bars that took the city by storm in 2014, is the creation of José Felipe de Araújo. His is the most centrally-located establishment for the Olympics, bringing tourists by the dozens to take photos with him – his resemblance to Osama bin Laden the basis for the bar's name – and enjoy the signature drink caipirinha.



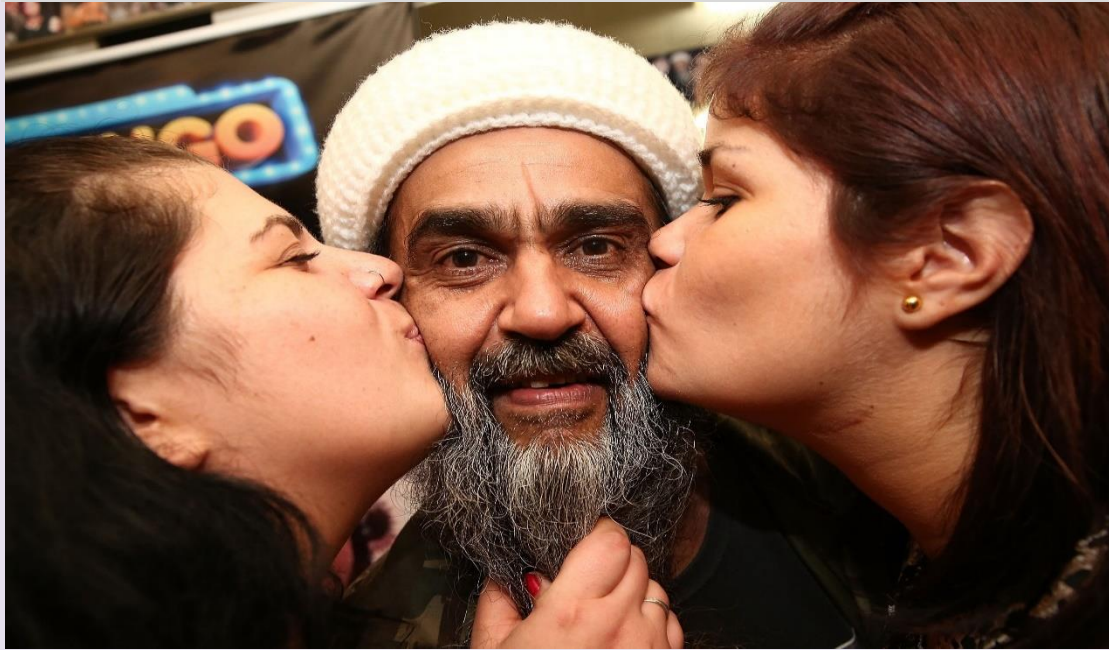
"I have nothing to complain about – I'm right at the heart of the Games," he tells *O Globo*. He notes that the only challenge of hosting Olympians is that he does not speak the same language as most, but they get over it. "To make a request, they point, I point, and all is well," he notes. "I have no schooling, but I always learn from them."

Even American tourists are enjoying the bar.

Among those quoted is Olympic gymnastics coach Kim Tanskanen. "Bin Laden is dead. What matters is that the service is great," she notes. She adds that caipirinhas are "very sweet."

In 2014, when Brazil hosted the FIFA World Cup, [Rio de Janeiro's Bin Laden-themed bars](#) – most owned by bearded impersonators – became a source of international curiosity. At the time, Francisco Elder Braga Fernandes was the proprietor of "Bar do Bin Laden." He told *Vocativ* his resemblance to the late Al Qaeda terrorist "was great for business." His competitors, with names like "Bin Laden's Cave," also did well with foreigners.





Fernandes opened his bar before the fated Navy SEAL siege in Pakistan, following his interactions with police. His neighbors, he said, had reported him to authorities, believing that the real Osama bin Laden had fled to Brazil. The police took photos with him once they confirmed he was not, in fact, Osama bin Laden. The Bin Laden craze [placed the U.S. soccer team](#) alarmingly close to a jihadi-themed bar at the time.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: No other comment other than “Even American tourists are enjoying the bar”. How easily people forget tragedies...

Pakistani community in Greece

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqdgrWilX0A>





4:56 / 6:11

Pakistan Community Of Greece چودہ اگست آزادی پاکستان
ایتنہز میں ایک خوبصورت منظر

Children parade with guns...



Is Terrorism Getting Worse? In the West, Yes. In the World, No.

By Margot Sanger-Katz

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/16/upshot/is-terrorism-getting-worse-in-the-west-yes-in-the-world-no.html?_r=0

Aug 16 – If it feels as if terrorism deaths are rising in the West, it's because they are. Yet the numbers remain relatively small, and globally, deaths from terrorism appear to be declining, not rising. According to two big databases, the number of people who died in terror attacks in North America and Western Europe rose markedly in 2015, claiming more than 200 lives. This year, according to one count, it is on track to be even worse.

But terrorism in the West is rare. In the parts of the world where it is more common — deaths in those regions are in the thousands rather than the dozens — terror attacks appear to be decreasing.

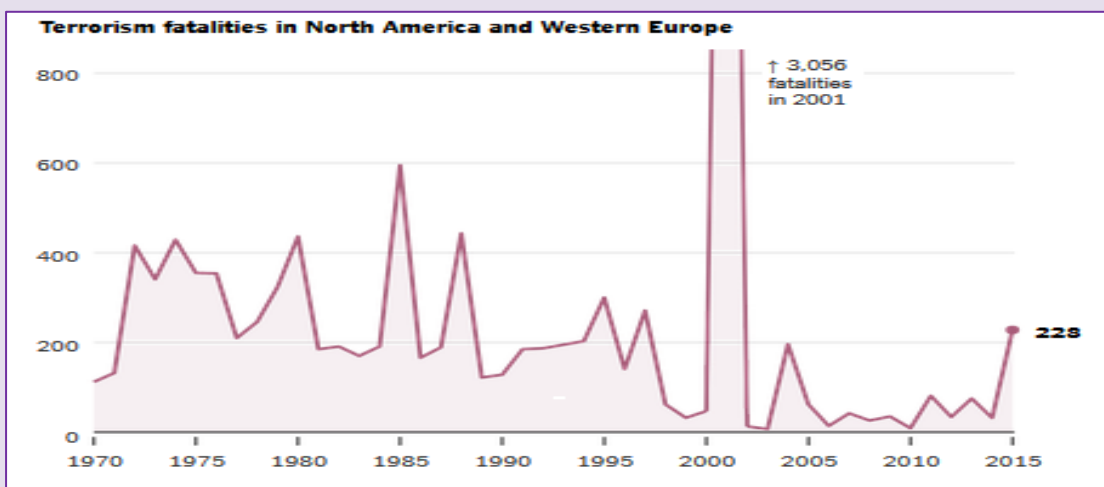
And as bad as terrorism has been in the West recently, it was worse in the 1970s and 1980s.

High-profile attacks in cities that include Brussels; Paris; Orlando, Fla.; and San Bernardino, Calif., have [fed public fears of terrorism](#) in the United States and made it a big issue in the presidential campaign. President Obama, Hillary Clinton and Donald J. Trump have all highlighted the risk of terrorism at home. Analysts who monitor terror attacks around the world note that risk perception doesn't always correspond to actual risk. The groups committing acts of terrorism over time have changed, of course. But data from the Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland, which has cataloged terrorist attacks since 1970, shows last year's terrorism death toll would have been fairly typical for an earlier era.

Terrorism Killed More Westerners in the 1970s and 1980s

The death toll from terrorism increased in the West last year, with large attacks in San Bernardino, Calif., and Paris. But terrorism was more deadly in decades past.

The Global Terrorism Database releases public data on attacks once a year. That means the



accompanying chart doesn't include any information about 2016, omitting the big attacks in Brussels; Nice, France; Orlando; and several smaller ones in Europe.

IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center, which monitors terrorist events in real time for militaries, intelligence agencies and defense contractors, is one source of more recent numbers. The Jane's numbers for 2015 are different from those in the Global Terrorism Database, so it's impossible to make a direct comparison. But Jane's documented a total of 204 terrorism deaths last year in North America and Western Europe, compared with 219 through Aug. 3 of this year, meaning this year's total is on track to be higher than last year's, according to this count.

All methods of measuring terrorism involve imperfect data and rely on judgment calls. Analysts must comb through news media and other credible reports of violence, then decide what is terrorism and what is more typical criminal attacks. The counters generally look for violence committed by nonstate actors conducted for a political purpose.



They don't always agree. Jane's included the Nice attack in its total for 2016. But Erin Miller, the program manager for the Global Terrorism Database, said analysts there were still waiting for more information from the event's investigation before they made a final decision on whether the attack had a political motivation necessary to count as terrorism.

Because the number of terrorist fatalities in the West are small, individual decisions can make a big difference. If you don't count the Nice attack, which killed 86 people, including the perpetrator, the Jane's 2016 number would look a lot smaller.

Tactics associated with the Islamic State have made these judgments particularly tricky. The group, which commits acts of direct violence primarily in Iraq and Syria, has encouraged sympathetic individuals to carry out attacks overseas in the group's name. While the Islamic State has trained terrorists who have carried out attacks in the West, like [those involved in the Paris attack](#) last year, more Western attacks were carried out by people who have described their violence as "[inspired](#)" by the group. The result is that some acts of violence are now more likely to be presumptively described as terrorism.

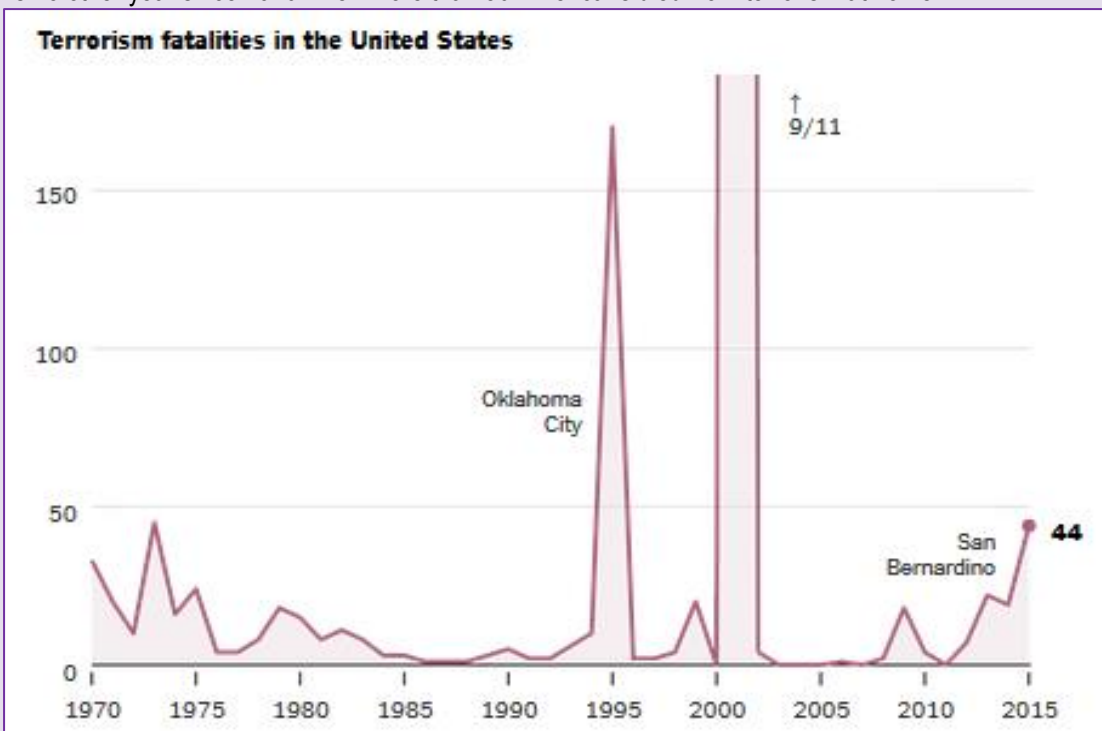
"Increasingly these days, the operating assumption is it is likely to be terrorism," said Matthew Henman, the top analyst at Jane's. "Especially if the attacker fits a certain profile."

Several recent crimes in Europe, initially described as terrorism, were ultimately [determined not to be](#). In a past era, such crimes might never have been covered as terrorism or even considered by analysts for inclusion.

In the United States, the terrorism threat is even smaller than it is in the West generally. With the exception of the huge Sept. 11 and Oklahoma City attacks, there is no year since 1970 when terrorism killed more than 50 people in the United States. Last year, the number was 44, according to the Global Terrorism Database. That means that terrorism typically kills about as many Americans as lightning strikes do.

Terrorism Deaths in the United States Remain Rare

Thousands of Americans died in the Sept. 11 attacks, and 170 in the Oklahoma City bombing. But there is no other year since 1970 when more than 50 Americans died from terrorism at home.

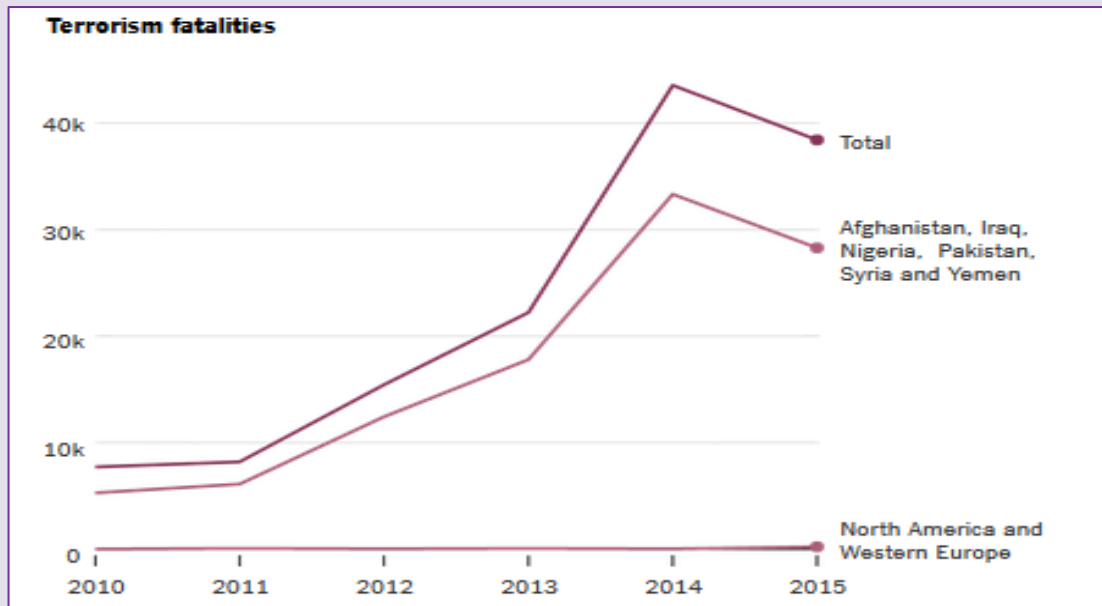


The vast majority of terrorist events in the world occur in a handful of countries experiencing civil unrest. More than three-quarters of all terrorism fatalities over the last five years took place in six countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen.

Terrorism Is a Big Problem in a Few Countries



More than three-quarters of terrorism deaths in recent years have occurred in six countries. On this scale, the increase in the West isn't even visible.



Because of the way the Global Terrorism Database has measured terrorism over time, its numbers throughout history are not all equivalent, but data from the last few years show a big peak in 2014, in part because of continuing conflict in Iraq and Syria and the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Last year, global terrorism deaths declined by 12 percent. Data from this year won't be available until after the year is complete.

Jane's provided numbers on terrorism deaths in the world through Aug. 8. They show a decline relative to similar periods last year and the year before. Analysts at Jane's draw on reports of terrorism from a wider array of sources than the Global Terrorism Database, which means they count more deaths every year.

Tracking terrorism globally is even more challenging than doing so in the West. The big differences between the counts from Jane's and the Global Terrorism Database — both widely respected sources — highlight the challenges. To count in the databases, the attacks must be reported and require verification from trusted sources.

That means that attacks in countries that lack a free press or are too dangerous for reporters (think Syria and Somalia) may go unrecorded. There are also risks of overcounting. Because most terrorism deaths occur in places with civil wars, it can be hard to untangle what counts as terrorism and what is traditional armed conflict.

"In a war like Syria and Iraq, you're going to get a lot of terrorist attacks that are just part of fighting," said Seth Jones, the director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the RAND Corporation, which compiled its own database of terrorism through 2009.

Big cruise ships could be terrorist targets

Source: <http://www.southernstar.ie/news/roundup/articles/2016/08/15/4124825-opinion-big-cruise-ships-could-be-terrorist-targets-/>

Aug 16 – Last week, a colossus of the cruise ship world, the Caribbean Princess, visited Cobh, which is one of its regular pit stops. Having paid its respects, the 290-metre (950-foot) liner with 3,306 passengers and 1,158 crewmembers, set sail for Dublin. And then, 25 miles southeast of the capital, it broke down!

Yes, kaput! Its engines failed, and along the Wicklow coast it drifted for nine hours.





What a sight that was! The 17-deck tall, 'grand class' behemoth of the seas, with a population aboard that was ten times the village of Timoleague, aimlessly bobbing about, carried along by currents of air and water, with no clear purpose or goal.



If it had not been for the goodness of the sea-gods, Poseidon, Neptune and our very own Lir, an easterly wind might have been blowing at the time. But the gods thought otherwise. There was no easterly wind, thus ensuring the liner did not run aground off the Dublin or Wicklow coast.

A tragedy of Titanic proportions was avoided but not before bizarre rumours circulated of Muslim

terrorists having hijacked the vessel.

After all, the possibility of a hijacking was hardly new.

The Achille Lauro remains fresh in the memory of maritime security geeks, as evidenced by the UK vice-admiral who told the Daily Mail that the next target for ISIS could be a cruise ship.

Indeed a former director of security for Princess Cruises, the US company that runs the vessel, wrote a book, entitled *Cruising for Trouble*, which specifically addresses the potential of a cruise ship as a target for Muslim terrorists!

Ship pollution

Thankfully, nothing like that threatened the Caribbean Princess. All its problems were due to a 'technical glitch.' So they said.

No one on board had been in any danger, everyone was 'safe and secure' and the ship did not lose total power. Air conditioning, lighting and hotel services all continued to function while the emergency was taking place.

But, and here's a good one: threats other than terrorism are surfacing. Public concern at 'ship pollution' is growing. Residents' groups in Greenwich, near London, are mounting a high court challenge that is based on the concept of 'ship pollution' and on the fact that London has already exceeded its annual pollution limit. The outcome could have some repercussions for the liner trade in Cobh, Bantry and Dublin.

The point at issue in Greenwich is council approval for the construction of a new wharf that will handle 55 cruise liners annually. Locals oppose the wharf and the increased liner traffic. According to Travel Industry Today, the liners will burn about 700 litres of diesel an hour for six months of the year. Environmental consultants estimate that to be the equivalent of 688 trucks permanently running their engines at Enderby Wharf in Greenwich.

Larger ships would emit as many diesel fumes as 2,000 trucks a day. Greenwich residents complain that, as ships get bigger, the pollution gets worse.

Monster liners

An environmental consultant to New Scientist, Fred Pearce, revealed some years ago this mind-boggling statistic: Sixteen of the world's largest ships can produce as much sulphur pollution as all the world's cars.

The environmental organisation Friends of the Earth argues that cruise ships are responsible for significant air pollution because of the dirty fuel that they burn even while at dock. The dirty-diesel engines provide electrical power to passengers and crew that, according to environmentalists,



can lead to serious problems such as serious cardiovascular problems, premature death, acid rain, habitat destruction and climate change.

'Every day that an average cruise ship is at sea it emits more SOx (air pollution from maritime transport) than 13 million cars and more soot than one million cars,' it says.

Ironically, as opposition to the new generation of 'mega' liners is strengthening in Britain, support for them is intensifying in this country. The Port of Cork, which last year catered for 57 cruise liners in Cobh, expects to increase that number to 75 visits a year by 2019.

And, within the next two to four years, the port company hopes to welcome gigantic liners that are similar to the 1,188ft-long Harmony of the Seas, which can carry 6,780 passengers and 2,100 crewmembers.

Floating towns

Yet, and very strangely, neither environmentalists working for Cork County Council nor the Port of Cork have advised the public on the pollution impact on Cobh of these vessels, despite the fact that they are effectively floating towns powered by the largest diesel engines in the world.

So, perhaps now is time for the Port of Cork to show good reason for promoting an industry that has huge pollution implications.

Certainly the State-owned company last year saw its revenue increase by 12.9% to €29.8m (largely from charges to port users, liners and property rental increases). Cobh overtook Dublin in terms of cruise business and, for the first time ever, the number of passengers from cruise ships went above the 100,000 mark.

The company also said that estimated tourist input to the local economy from cruise ships was about €4m a year. Unfortunately the Port of Cork gave no breakdown as to where most of the

money was generated – Cobh, Cork, Blarney or Killarney.

In the meantime, Cobh is belatedly realising that it could become a pollution hot spot, as could Bantry should the liner trade continue to develop in that part of West Cork.

Of course there are procedures to ameliorate ship pollution.

Friends of the Earth claim that new technologies could reduce air emissions. 'Cold ironing technology allows cruise ships at dock to plug in to shoreside power and receive electricity to operate their refrigeration, cooling heating, and lighting systems without having to burn dirty fuel in ship engines.'

Not equipped

But, for cost reasons few cruise lines are prepared to adopt the procedures. As well, it seems that planning permission does not require a cleaner operation, nor do health feasibility studies have to be undertaken.

The Royal Caribbean shipping line responded to the 'cold ironing technology' proposal with the argument that only six of the 490 ports that their cruise ships visit worldwide have shore power. And the developers of the new wharf at Greenwich argue that supplying electrical power was not commercially viable because many cruise liners are not equipped to use it.

But whatever the arguments for or against, it is a fact that cruise ships at dock run dirty diesel engines to provide electrical power to passengers and crew.

Question is, should Cork County Council have demanded that the Port of Cork provide an onshore power supply for visiting liners so that the vessels could turn off their engines while berthed?

And is it too late to make that demand?

'Islam for Dummies': ISIS recruits have poor grasp of faith

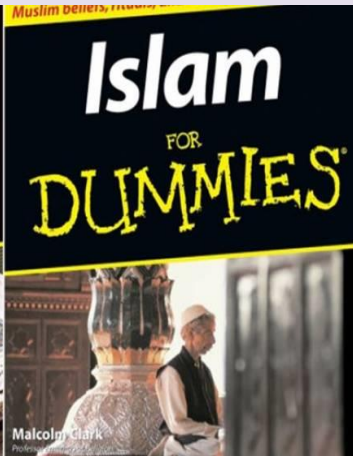
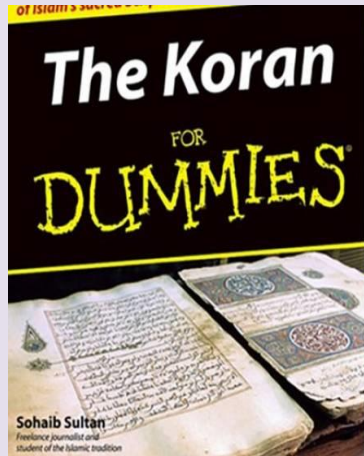
Source <http://m.timesofindia.com/world/middle-east/Islam-for-Dummies-ISIS-recruits-have-poor-grasp-of-faith/articleshow/53721724.cms>

Aug 17 – The jihadi employment form asked the recruits, on a scale of 1 to 3, to rate their knowledge of Islam. And the Islamic State applicants, herded into a hangar somewhere at the Syria-Turkey border, turned out to be overwhelmingly ignorant.

The extremist group could hardly have hoped for better.



At the height of Islamic State's drive for foot soldiers in 2013 and 2014, typical recruits included the group of Frenchmen who went bar-hopping with their recruiter back home, the recent European convert who now hesitantly describes himself as gay, and two Britons who ordered "The Koran for Dummies" and "Islam for Dummies" from Amazon to prepare for jihad abroad. Their intake process complete, they were grouped in safe houses as a stream of Islamic State imams came in to indoctrinate



them, according to court testimony and interviews by the Associated Press.

"I realized that I was in the wrong place when they began to ask me questions on these forms like 'when you die, who should we call?'" said the 32-year-old European recruit, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. He said he thought he was joining a group to fight President Bashar Assad and help Syrians, not the Islamic State.

The European, whose boyish demeanor makes him appear far younger than his age, went to Syria in 2014. He said new recruits were shown IS propaganda videos on Islam, and the visiting imams repeatedly praised martyrdom. Far from home, unschooled in religion, having severed family ties and turned over electronic devices, most were in little position to judge.

An AP analysis of thousands of leaked Islamic State documents reveals most of its recruits from its earliest days came with only the most basic knowledge of Islam. A little more than 3,000 of these documents included the recruits' knowledge of Shariah, the system that interprets into law verses from the Quran and "hadith" — the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad.

According to the documents, which were acquired by the Syrian opposition site Zaman al-

Wasl and shared with the AP, 70 percent of recruits were listed as having just "basic" knowledge of Shariah — the lowest possible choice. Around 24 percent were categorized as having an "intermediate" knowledge, with just 5 percent considered advanced students of Islam. Five recruits were listed as having memorized the Quran.

The findings address one of the most troubling questions about IS recruitment in the United States and Europe: Are disaffected people who

understand Shariah more prone to radicalization? Or are those with little knowledge of Islam more susceptible to the group's radical ideas that promote violence?

The documents suggest the latter. The group preys on this religious ignorance, allowing extremists to impose a brand of Islam constructed to suit its goal of maximum territorial expansion and carnage as soon as recruits come under its sway.

Islamic State's most notorious new supporters appear to have an equally tenuous link with religion. Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, who killed 85 people by plowing a truck into a Bastille Day crowd in Nice, France, was described by family and neighbors as indifferent to religion, volatile and prone to drinking sprees, with a bent for salsa dancing and a reported male lover.

Unlike Omar Mateen, the Orlando attacker, Bouhlel did not make a public declaration of allegiance to Islamic State, much less prove he had direct ties to extremists in the war zone. Still, the group was quick to claim both as foot soldiers.

'Koran for Dummies'

The AP analyzed the IS entry form documents of around 4,030 foreign recruits who crossed into Syria when the group was rapidly expanding and seizing territory in Iraq and Syria in 2013 and 2014. At that time, the CIA estimated the extremist group had between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters across Iraq and Syria. Among the documents were forms for nine of 10 young men from the eastern French city of Strasbourg, all recruited by a man named Mourad Fares. One of them, Karim Mohammad-Aggad, described



barhopping in Germany with Fares. He told investigators that IS recruiters used "smooth talk" to persuade him.

He'd traveled with his younger brother and friends to Syria in late 2013. Two died in Syria, and within a few months, seven returned to France and were arrested. Mohammad-Aggad's brother, 23-year-old Foued, returned to Paris and was one of the three men who stormed the Bataclan in a night of attacks November 13 that killed 130 people.

"My religious beliefs had nothing to do with my departure," Karim Mohammad-Aggad told the court, before being sentenced to nine years in prison. "Islam was used to trap me like a wolf," he said.

IS data shows Karim and his brother Foued were among eight in the Strasbourg group listed as having "basic" knowledge of Sharia.

Expressing a common sentiment shared by many Europeans of North African descent, Mohammed-Aggad told the court he felt like an immigrant in Algeria and "a dirty Arab" in France. After just a few months in Syria, he said he left IS because he was treated by the extremists as an "apostate" — someone who had renounced his religion.

When pressed by the judge on his knowledge of Shariah and how the IS group implements it, Mohammad-Aggad, a former gas station attendant, appeared dumbfounded, saying repeatedly: "I don't have the knowledge to answer the question."

One of his co-defendants, Radouane Taher, was also pressed by the judge on whether beheadings carried out by the IS group conformed to Islamic law.

He couldn't say for sure, answering: "I don't have the credentials."

That's where Amazon comes in.

The trial of longtime friends Mohammed Ahmed and Yusuf Sarwar, from the British city of Birmingham, revealed the 22-year-olds had ordered "The Koran for Dummies" and "Islam for Dummies" books in preparation for their trip to join extremists in Syria. They were arrested on their return to Britain and convicted in 2014 of terrorism offenses.

Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer with extensive experience with Mideast extremist organizations, said some people claim allegiance to IS out of religious belief, but that most who join, including those from the West,

are people "reaching for a sense of belonging, a sense of notoriety, a sense of excitement."

"Religion is an afterthought," said Skinner, who is also director of special projects at security consultancy the Soufan Group.

Those who truly crave religious immersion would go to Al-Azhar in Cairo, he added, referring to the thousand-year-old seat of learning for Shariah and Quranic studies.

In its recent English language magazine Dabiq, dedicated largely to bolstering its own Muslim credentials, Islamic State dismissed Al-Azhar as part of an "approach to subdue Muslims through appeasement," with the West.

Mohammed Abdelfadel, an Islamic scholar who heads a German-language unit at Al-Azhar that tracks Islamic State propaganda and statements, said the group spews superficial notions about what is "halal and haram," or what is permissible and forbidden in Islam. He says the group's propaganda videos lionize IS fighters as masculine, strong martyrs going to heaven for the sake of God — counter to Islamic laws that forbid terrorism, the murder of non-combatants in war, the imposition of Islam on non-Muslims and other criminal activity.

Shariah knowledge is important

The recruits' Shariah knowledge is important because IS not only needs soldiers and suicide bombers, but administrators and Shariah officials to oversee its local courts and judges, who in turn promote IS ideology. It also matters because those who've claimed advanced knowledge in Shariah on the IS entry documents were less likely to want to become suicide bombers, according to a study by the US military's Combating Terrorism Center, an academic institution at the United States Military Academy.

"If martyrdom is seen as the highest religious calling, then a reasonable expectation would be that the people with the most knowledge about Islamic law (Shariah) would desire to carry out these operations with greater frequency," said the report.

However, despite the religious justification that IS uses for suicide missions, "those with the most religious knowledge within the organization itself are the least likely to volunteer to be suicide bombers," the study found.

Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan said a close look at the IS group's



top commanders shows that many had no religious credentials but, instead, they once held senior positions under Saddam Hussein's secular Baathist government.

Ramadan teaches Islamic Studies at Oxford and has written numerous books on Islam and the integration of Muslims in Europe. He says Muslim scholars must demonstrate that what IS teaches is wrong.

"The people who are doing this are not experiencing martyrdom, they are criminals. They are killing innocent people. Nothing in

Islam, nothing ever can justify the killing of innocent people, never, ever."

The gay European recruit said he converted to Islam because he was interested in the culture and it was easy.

"It only required one prayer and no prior understanding of Islam," he said. "There was no hierarchy and it was all about living a good life." As a convert with almost no knowledge in Islam, he says he was easy prey.

"People like me were tricked into something that they didn't understand. I never meant to end up with IS."

Radical UK Islamist preacher Anjem Choudary guilty of inviting support for IS

Source <http://m.timesofindia.com/world/uk/UK-radical-preacher-Anjem-Choudary-found-guilty-of-supporting-ISIS/articleshow/53727297.cms>

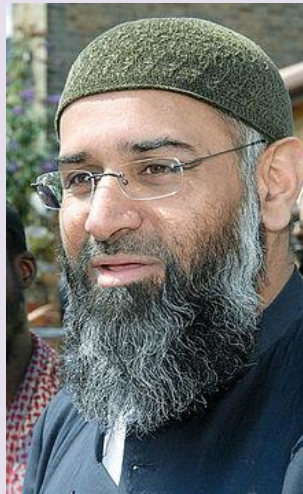
Aug 17 – **Anjem Choudary, Britain's most high-profile Islamist preacher whose followers have been linked to numerous plots across the world, has been found guilty of inviting support for the Islamic State.**

Choudary, 49, was convicted at London's Old Bailey court of using online lectures and messages to encourage support for the banned group which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq.

Notorious in Britain where the tabloids denounce him as a hate preacher, he is also well-known abroad, making regular TV appearances in the wake of attacks by Islamist militants to blame Western foreign policy for targeting Muslims.

"These men have stayed just within the law for many years, but there is no one within the counterterrorism world that has any doubts of the influence that they have had, the hate they have spread and the people that they have encouraged to join terrorist organisations," said Dean Haydon, head of London police's Counter Terrorism Command.

Prosecutors said that in postings on social media, Choudary and his close associate Mizanur Rahman, 33, had pledged allegiance to the "caliphate" declared by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and said Muslims had a duty to obey or provide support to him.



Both men, who had denied the terrorism charges and claimed the case was politically motivated, were found guilty last month but their convictions could not be reported until Tuesday for legal reasons. They are due to be sentenced in September and could face a jail sentence of up to 10 years each.

Choudary, the former head of the now banned organization al-Muhajiroun, became infamous for praising the men responsible for the 9/11 attacks on the United States and saying he wanted to convert Buckingham Palace into a mosque. Despite his often controversial comments and refusal to condemn attacks by Islamists such as the London 2005 bombings, Choudary

has always denied any involvement in militant activity and had never been previously charged with any terrorism offence.

Rahman served two years in jail for encouraging followers to kill British and American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq during a protest in 2006.

Breeding ground for militants

Al-Muhajiroun has been regarded as a breeding ground for militants since it was founded in the late 1990s by Syrian-born Islamist cleric Omar Bakri, who was banished from Britain in 2005, and was banned under anti-terrorist laws in 2010.



Police said it was suspected of being the driving force behind the London bombings while

on Twitter, although the preacher told Reuters at the time he had no links to him.



Michael Adebolajo, one of the men who hacked to death British soldier Lee Rigby on a London street in 2013, had attended protests Choudary had organised.

Last year, the trial of a teenage Muslim convert found guilty of plotting to behead a soldier in London was told he had fallen in with al-Muhajiroun.

The group's influence is said to extend far beyond Britain. Those connected to it include Abu Hamza al-Masri, jailed for life in the United States last year for terrorism-related offences. Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, the gunman who shot and killed a soldier in Canada's capital and then stormed parliament in 2014, followed Choudary

"Over and over again we have seen people on trial for the most serious offences who have attended lectures or speeches given by these men," Haydon said in a statement.

Both Choudary and Rahman say they abide by a "covenant of security" which forbids Muslims from carrying out attacks in non-Muslim lands where their lives and wellbeing are protected.

"We're living in a global community and no doubt Muslims around the world who have their eye on what's happening in Syria and Iraq or want to know about the sharia (law) will come across us at one point or another," Choudary told Reuters in 2014.

"That does not mean that we're encouraging people to carry out any acts of terrorism."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The famous "British Lion" is not only sleeping but snoring as well!!

Turkey IS supporting terrorists and Islamist groups in Syria according to leaked German government report

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3743900/Turkey-supporting-terrorists-Islamist-groups-Syria-according-leaked-German-government-report.html>

Aug 16 – **A leaked confidential report from the German government has accused the Turkish government of supporting terrorist groups across the Middle East.**

The document - produced by the Interior Ministry - says Turkish President Erdogan's government supports Palestinian Hamas, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and various Islamist groups fighting in Syria.



It emerged after the left party Die Linke made a confidential request in the German Parliament, the Bundestag, and the report was leaked to German public broadcaster ARD.

'The many expressions of solidarity and support actions by the ruling AKP and President Erdogan for the Egyptian MB (Muslim Brotherhood), Hamas and groups of armed Islamist opposition in Syria emphasise their ideological affinity with the (broader) Muslim Brotherhood,' ARD has reported the document as stating.

This is the first time the German government has made a direct link between the Turkish authorities and Hamas, an EU and US listed terrorist organisation.

An Islamic militant and political group, Hamas governs the Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip, after democratically winning elections in 2006, although rule is shared with the Palestinian Authority.

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood is not deemed to be a terrorist organisation by either the EU or the US, and traditionally has close sympathies with Turkey's interpretation of political Islam.

Significantly, the report states that Ankara has deepened ties with the groups and have even become a 'platform for action' in the region.

'As a result of the step-by-step Islamization of its foreign and domestic policy since 2011, Turkey has become the central platform for action by Islamist groups in the Middle East,' the document states, according to ARD.

'The German government cannot publicly designate the godfather of terrorism Erdogan as a partner, while internally warning about Turkey as a hub for terrorism,' said Sevim Dagdelen, a lawmaker and member of the Linke party.

The German government released part of its response to the party, but declined comment on the secret portion

Tensions between Ankara and the West have been aggravated by the failed coup attempt in Turkey on July 15. Turkey is incensed by what it sees as an insensitive response from Western allies to the failed putsch, in which 240 people were killed.

Germany's European affairs minister Michael Roth said Germany would continue to raise its concerns about Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's detention of more than 35,000 people as part of a crackdown on suspected putschists. Michael Roth told Reuters that it was clear from the start that a migrant deal struck between the EU and Turkey required completion of 72 criteria before Turks could be granted visa-free travel.

Turkey faces a long and arduous path to obtaining visa-free travel within the European Union, and immediate prospects are not bright, 'Turkey faces a very long and difficult path. The criteria must be fulfilled, and it doesn't look good at the moment,' Roth said. 'As long as the 72 criteria have not been fulfilled - and a few are still open - there cannot be visa liberalisation.'

At the same time, Roth said it was important to keep open channels of communication with Turkey, which would remain an important partner given the refugee crisis, and because of the presence of over 3 million people in Germany of Turkish descent.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu warned on Monday that Turkey could walk away from its promise to stem the flow of illegal migrants to Europe if the EU failed to grant Turks visa-free travel to the bloc in October.

Shortly after Roth spoke, German broadcaster ARD published part of the confidential government report which it said marked the first official assessment linking Erdogan's government to support for Islamist and terrorist groups.

George Soros and His Minions Target the Middle East Forum

By Gregg Roman (Director MEF)

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6197/soros-targets-middle-east-forum>

Aug 16 – An anonymous website (dclears.com) released over 2,500 confidential files from George Soros' Open Society Foundations (OSF) on August 13, shedding light on the hedge fund billionaire's funding of anti-Israel and pro-Islamist organizations.



The leaked files include an internal memo from 2011 titled "[Extreme Polarization and Breakdown in Civic Discourse](#)." It discusses a \$200,000 OSF grant to the Center for American Progress (CAP) to "research and track the activities" of the Middle East Forum and other NGOs working to combat the spread of radical Islam in America.



Sure enough, in 2011, CAP published a 138-page report, [Fear, Inc.: The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America](#), which condemned Middle East Forum President Daniel Pipes as a "misinformation expert" whose "alarmist rhetoric" encourages anti-Muslim stereotyping, charges repeated in a [follow-up report](#) in 2015.

The Soros-funded CAP assault on the Middle East Forum is part and parcel of its support for American Islamist groups. Thus, the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#) (CAIR) is hailed in *Fear, Inc.* as a "civil rights group." In 2013, CAP issued a [report](#) asserting that the "basic tenets of Sharia" are "familiar to any Christian or Jew: faith in a single god, prayer, charitable giving, and fasting."

CAP is an organization with annual revenue of [\\$45 million](#), close ties to the Clinton family (it is "not completely wrong to see it as ... a White House staff in readiness for President Hillary Clinton," according to [Robert Dreyfuss](#), contributing editor at the left-wing *Nation* magazine), and a [list of corporate donors](#) a mile long.

Unlike CAP and many other think tanks, the Middle East Forum does not accept ["pay-to-play" donations from the corporate world](#) or receive [grants from foreign governments](#). We reaffirm this commitment even as we combat well-funded Soros minions trying to silence our voice.

Cousin of Brussels attacks brothers now wanted by Belgium

Source: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/08/18/world/cousin-brussels-attacks-brothers-now-wanted-belgium/#.V7V4hqL8sgU>

Aug 18 – **Belgian authorities are hunting a cousin of the El Bakraoui brothers, who blew themselves up in the Brussels airport and metro attacks**, a source close to the inquiry said Wednesday.



Oussama Atar, who **spent years in jail in Iraq before returning to Belgium in 2012**, is wanted on suspicion of involvement in the March 22 Islamic State-claimed bombings, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity, confirming Belgian media reports.

Police arrested Atar's mother, sister and one of his friends during raids in Brussels on Aug. 11 but released them shortly afterward, said the source, who was not authorized to speak on the record.

Investigators have "very strong" suspicions that Belgian-Moroccan national Atar was linked to the attacks in which his cousins Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui blew themselves up with a third bomber, killing 32 people, the source said.

Atar was one of the "most wanted in Belgium and even in Europe," the source added.

Khalid El Bakraoui attacked the Maalbeek metro station, while his brother blew himself up at Brussels' Zaventem Airport. Both were part of a cell with links to the November attacks on Paris.

Atar's brother, Yassine, was arrested with two other men five days after the Brussels attacks and remains in detention.

Two of his other cousins, Moustapha and Jawad Benhattal, were arrested on June 18 on suspicion of planning an attack during a public screening of a Euro 2016 soccer match between Belgium and Ireland, Belgian media reported.

Atar was arrested in Ramadi, Iraq, in late 2004 and sentenced to 10 years in jail for illegally crossing the border from Syria, his lawyer at the time, Vincent Lurquin, told AFP.

After spending time in jails, including the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, he was freed and sent back to Belgium in September 2012.

"I don't know what happened to him after that," Lurquin said.

Atar claimed in an interview in 2011 that he had gone to Syria to study Arabic, then went to Iraq to take medicines to people in need. **His case had been backed by rights group Amnesty International.**



Developing the UK's first terrorism risk model for the insurance industry

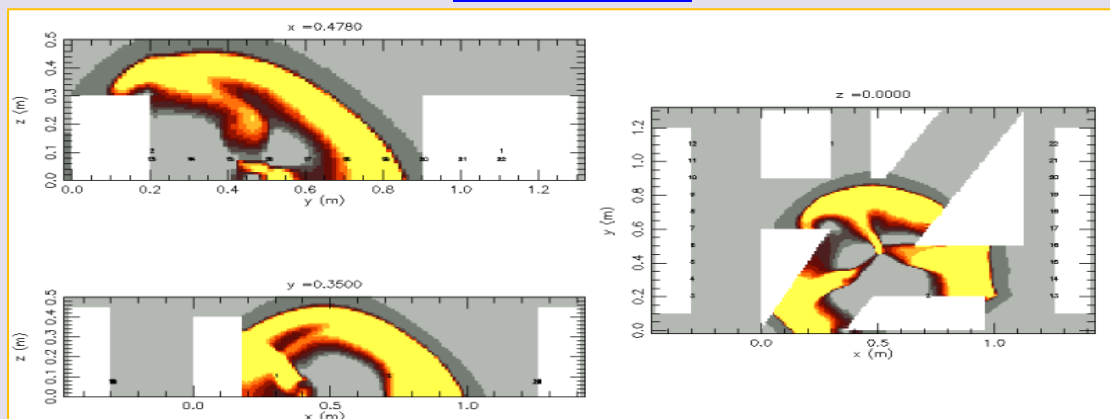
Source: <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/case-studies/research-case-studies/pool-re>



At Cranfield we are working in partnership with reinsurers Pool Re to model potential terrorist attacks and determine the impact in terms of life, property damage and business interruption.

Key Facts

- We are producing a unique tool to model terrorist attacks, including drone and Mumbai-style attacks.
- It will include challenging CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) modelling.
- Central to this work will be Cranfield's [PROSAIR blast model](#).



- There will be significant international collaboration for scenario development. As well as [Pool Re](#), we are working in partnership with [Guy Carpenter](#) reinsurance brokers.

Impact of our research

The insurance sector will have a better understanding of the impact of such attacks. This will inform their products, which will benefit the public and private sector, who will have better access to insurance cover.

The models, particularly for novel attack types, will be highly complementary to government, security and defence sectors. Connected with better insurance understanding, this can lead to such innovations as reduction in premiums for particular countermeasures being in place.

While focused at the UK initially, the research has the potential to be applied and support allied countries around the world.

Why the research was commissioned

The Pool Re scheme was set up by the insurance industry in cooperation with the UK Government as a mutual reinsurer whose members comprise the vast majority of insurers of property and membership affords them a guarantee that ensures they can provide cover for losses resulting from acts of terrorism, regardless of the scale of the claims.

In the past 20 years, the fund has paid out following 13 separate terrorism incidents covering losses of more than £600 million and since the 9/11 attacks, insurance for terrorism around the world has suffered a challenge. Insurers have been uncertain of the extent of exposure for catastrophic events and either turned from providing cover, or governments had to develop schemes to support the market. These schemes are different around the world – but the common challenge is understanding that impact.

In order to better develop their own models and support UK markets, we were asked by Pool Re to create the most accurate models that were achievable with current science, which could be used within the insurance sector.

Why Cranfield?

We are in a unique position to support this research. Our deep understanding of explosives and weapon effects, a long history of CBRN defence research and close relationships with key stakeholders in the UK



and internationally allows us to bring together the multidisciplinary team required to deliver the research.

Importantly for a subject so sensitive, we also have appropriate security-cleared staff that can manage and review the research to make sure that it is appropriate.

Julian Enoizi, Chief Executive of Pool Re, said: *"We are fortunate to be able to work with Cranfield University whose leading academic*

experience in security issues is crucial in the model's development."

Notably, our ProSair blast modelling tool, our [Impact and Armour Group](#) and the experience of our staff in CBRN modelling and terrorism studies were a perfect combination to deliver the work with partners such as [Decision Lab](#), a modelling company, and intelligence company [IMSL](#).

Facilities used

[ProSair](#) is fundamental to the project, but it may also be supported by Cranfield Defence and Security's explosives testing ranges, [ERDA](#) and [COTEC](#).

Trends in Aviation Terrorism

[Download Full Report](#)

By Dr. Eitan Azani, Lorena Atiyas Lvovsky and Danielle Haberfeld

Source: <https://www.ict.org.il/Article/1757/trends-in-aviation-terrorism>

Aug 10 – On October 31, 2015 a Russian Airbus A321 plane was shot down on its way from the Sinai Peninsula to Saint Petersburg by a bomb that was planted under one of the plane's seats.[1] The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the terror attack and said that it had been able to detect a security breach at the international airport in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Sinai Peninsula.[2] The force of the blast on the plane was equivalent to one kilogram of TNT explosive material which, according to the organization, had been hidden in a beverage can. The attack, which was carried out in the wake of Russia's involvement in the war in Syria, caused the plane to crash and killed all 224 people on board.[3]

Shortly after the terror attack in Sinai, three more significant attacks were carried out against the aviation industry. In the first attack, on February 3, 2016, a bomb was planted by Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen on a passenger plane in Somalia, which caused a hole in the plane shortly after takeoff. The second attack was carried out a month later on March 22, 2016 in Brussels by the Islamic State. Two suicide terrorists exploded at the entrance to the international airport terminal in Brussels and another suicide terrorist blew himself up inside a train carriage in a subway station next to the EU Parliament.[4] The third terror attack took place on June 28, 2016 in Ataturk international airport in Istanbul, Turkey. In this attack, three terrorists opened fire in the departures terminal and later detonated explosive vests, killing more than forty people and injuring 150 others.[5]

These attacks testify to the existence of terrorist organizations' motivation and ability to carry out terror attacks against the aviation industry, which they consider to be an attractive target. The motivation to attack public transportation targets in general, and the aviation industry in particular, is tied to the direct psychological effect of this type of attack. These attacks create fear and anxiety among the population, and may paralyze the transportation at the state level and sometimes at the international level.[6] The famous statement made by George Habash following the successful hijacking of an El-Al flight to Algeria at the end of the 1960's that "when we hijack a plane it has a more significant effect than if we killed a hundred Israelis in battle", [7] emphasizes the importance that terrorist organizations ascribed, even then, to the psychological and media effect of terror attacks in the aviation arena.

Global terrorist organizations, led by the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda, continue to demonstrate motivation to carry out attacks on the aviation industry. They do so by conducting intensive dialogue on the subject via the Internet, in closed forums, social networks and by communications applications. After the terror attack in Brussels, an Islamic State supporter called on Muslims in Germany to carry out a terror attack against the Cologne Bonn Airport in Germany, inspired by the Brussels attacks. Similarly, in April 2016 a jihadist posted, on the Telegram application, a



call to hijack planes and even included a link to instructions on how to prepare a bomb.[8] It should be noted that in April 2016, a German public television network revealed that 230 pages of the Cologne Bonn Airport's classified safety protocol had been published on the airport's website in November of 2015. Despite claims by airport authorities that the information was not classified, the documents specified the steps to be taken in the event of a terror attack, with reference to incidents of hostage attacks, detonation of explosives, explanations about emergency exits and gathering areas, and more.[9] It is impossible to ignore the possibility that the jihadist's call to carry out a terror attack at this airport was not coincidental and stemmed from the exposed emergency plan.

Terror attacks against the aviation industry are not a new phenomenon. They began in the 1960's with the wave of Palestinian terrorism. However, it was the September 11 terror attacks that placed the threat of aviation terrorism and its potential damage at the forefront of the international arena. Naturally, these attacks constituted a significant milestone in the tactical innovation of terrorist organizations and in the use of a plane as a platform for executing a terror attack and not just as a target.

In effect, in the wake of the "staggering success" of the September 11 attacks and the tendency to attempt to replicate it, terrorist organizations carried out more attacks, demonstrating innovation, especially in the field of explosives. For instance, approximately two months after the September 2001 attacks, Richard Reid, a British Al-Qaeda operative, was caught on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami with an improvised explosive device hidden in his shoe. An additional incident occurred in 2006 when an Al-Qaeda plan to carry out 17 simultaneous attacks on Canadian and American planes traveling from London to the United States by smuggling liquid explosives in soda bottles, was discovered. In 2009, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) attempted to attack an American passenger plane, en-route from the Netherlands to the United States, using a sophisticated explosive device consisting of powder and liquid. After this attempted attack, an issue of the organization's online magazine, *Sada al-Malahem*, was published containing details of the incident, demonstrating the process used by terrorist organizations to draw conclusions after attacks.[10] In October 2010, packages of explosives were discovered on two aircrafts, which had been sent originally from Yemen destined for the United States. The first explosive device was discovered on a layover in Dubai, while the second was discovered on a layover in Britain. An investigation into the incidents revealed that PETN explosive material, which is especially powerful, had been hidden inside ink cartridges and was aimed at the intended target of Jewish religious institutions in Chicago, USA. Following this attempt, an article was published in an issue of AQAP's *INSPIRE* magazine titled "\$4,200", implying the low cost of the aforementioned terror attack compared with the billions of dollars invested by the West to develop sophisticated security counter-mechanisms.

These events, despite their failure, reflect the great efforts being made by terrorist organizations to carry out attacks of this type, as well as their understanding of the range of possible acts against the aviation industry. These include when planes serve as the target of the attack, a platform for executing attacks against a strategic target, or a tool for transporting explosive material to a selected target.[11] **In addition, recent successful attacks against aviation targets strengthen the motivation of terrorist organizations to carry out attacks in this arena, which - as demonstrated above - are not limited to attacks on planes but include attacks within airports as well.**

One of the main trends emerging from recent terror attacks is the attempt to make use of personnel employed by the aviation industry to aid or execute an attack. In many cases, terrorist organizations choose to recruit airport employees in order to transfer weapons to secure areas by bypassing security measures or to carry out the attack themselves. The recruitment of these employees is mostly done via social networks, especially Facebook, which can provide an almost unlimited supply of potential recruits. It should be noted that the recruitment can also be carried out in traditional ways, via other circles of acquaintances such as worshippers in mosques, family, friends and more.

In a study carried out by the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) in 2015, Facebook profiles were discovered that belonged to employees of airports throughout Europe who had access to secure areas of commercial and cargo flights and who had posted Islamic-jihadist content. Despite airports' strict security policy, there has been an increase in the number of incidents in which deficiencies in the employment process were found. For example, security forces in Egypt conducted a thorough investigation of employees at Sharm El-Sheikh Airport following the crash of a Russian plane in the Sinai Peninsula in October 2015, in an effort to examine the possibility that a bomb was smuggled onto the plane by an airport employee.[12] At the end of January



2016 it was reported that a mechanic, a transport worker (loading luggage) and two police officers at Sharm El-Sheikh Airport were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the attack.[13] Following the attack in Sinai and the possibility it involved an airport employee, US security agencies reported discovering 69 airport employees suspected of identifying with the Islamic State.[14]

Additional incidents in which airport employees chose to join terror organizations were noted at the Minneapolis - St. Paul international Airport in the United States, including: Abdifatah Ahmed, who filled fuel tanks for aircrafts and worked as a cleaner on planes until he joined the Islamic State; Abdirahmaan Muhumed, who joined the Islamic State from Minnesota, USA, had also worked as a cleaner on planes at the same airport;[15] Shirwa Ahmed, a trolley driver at the airport who transported passengers to the gates of the airport, joined Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen. It should be noted that four years after he joined the organization, he became the first American suicide bomber in Somalia; Abdisalan Hussein Ali, who served coffee at the airport, joined the ranks of Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen and became a suicide terrorist in Mogadishu, Somalia.[16]

This issue has a significant impact, especially in the European context where there is the potential to recruit a relatively large number of airport employees to carry out terror attacks.[17] It should be noted that according to Belgian television reports, one of the suicide terrorists in the Brussels airport attack last March, Najim Laachraoui, had worked at the airport terminal for five years until 2012 and at an earlier stage had also worked as a cleaner at the European Union Parliament. It was also reported that near the time of the attack, a hidden prayer room was located in the airport where radical Muslim employees used to pray in secret.[18]

Another incident which reinforces the potential danger in recruiting airport employees is the terror attack on Daallo Airlines plane, which took place in Somalia in February 2016. In the attack, an explosion caused a hole in a passenger plane shortly after takeoff. A US government source claimed that a bomb planted in the plane caused the explosion.[19] It was also suggested that the explosive was smuggled in the terrorist's personal computer and that had the explosion occurred while the plane was at cruising altitude, the bomb would have caused the entire plane to explode due to the passenger's location, near the fuel tanks.[20] As noted, this conjecture was not confirmed or verified by officials but in a video published after the attack, taken from airport cameras, the explosive device is seen being transported inside a computer to an airport employee, in order to evade the security check.[21] According to other reports, it is possible that two terrorists were involved in the attack, one of whom used a wheelchair in order to avoid or minimize potentially rigorous security checks. According to these reports, the terrorist in the wheelchair was booby-trapped and was the one who detonated the device during the flight.[22]

Another threat that should not be underestimated in this context, are the foreign fighters leaving for theaters of jihad around the world. One of the most significant dangers inherent in this phenomenon is the return of those fighters to their countries of origin, some of whom have citizenship from various western countries. Their accumulated military experience, coupled with increased radicalization processes, turn these returning fighters into "ticking bombs".

For instance, after the terror attacks in Brussels, the Islamic State published in its magazine, *DABIQ*, photos of the terrorists directly or indirectly involved in the attack wearing IS uniforms, most likely while they were staying in Syria.[23]

In another incident, Abu al-Ayna al-Ansari, a Salafi-jihadist operative in the Gaza Strip affiliated with the Islamic State, was interviewed on an American radio station in New York and stated that the organization has agents dispersed at sensitive facilities around the world, including metro stations and airports in the West and in the Arab world. He stated that the organization made sure that its operatives integrated as employees at these sensitive facilities.[24]

Another trend emerging in light of events taking place in conflict zones and from the jihadist discourse has to do with the tactical and technological knowledge and experience that terrorist organizations and their fighters accumulate. This knowledge is likely to be applied to the implementation of terror attacks in the local and international aviation industry, in the foreseeable future.

For instance, in addition to the "traditional" threats to the aviation industry posed by rockets, new threats are emerging in technologies such as simulators, drones, laser, as well as cyberspace capabilities.



The Rocket Threat

In recent years, shoulder-fired missiles (man-portable missile) and anti-aircraft missiles have become one of the central threats to civil aviation around the world. Shoulder-fired missiles are inexpensive, do not require advanced training and they have even become a common weapon used by terrorist organizations in conflict zones. In this framework, in 2002 an attempt was made to shoot down an “Arkia” civil aircraft that took off from the airport in Kenya on its way to Israel.[25]

It should be noted that the threat is not limited to missiles fired at planes in-flight but also extends to missiles fired at airports. For example, in December 2015, the Kurdish rebel organization, TAK, claimed responsibility for launching anti-tank missiles at the international airport in Istanbul, Turkey, which caused damage to several planes.[26]

Terrorist organizations and their supporters express great interest in promoting training in the use of anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons. For instance, a visitor to a jihadist Web forum noted that the Islamic State’s Sinai Province held a training course on the subject for its members. The visitor presented photos from the course in which the weapons were displayed alongside theoretical presentations. In another instance, a guidebook was published on how to self-produce anti-aircraft missiles, and another article reviewed the possibility of assembling a “heat-seeking missile” from components that can be purchased on the Internet and described the launch angles needed in order to attack aircraft.[27]

Shoulder-fired and anti-aircraft missiles are not the only threat for the aviation industry; steep-trajectory missiles also pose a growing threat. During Operation “Protective Edge” in 2014, a rocket hit a residential building in the city of Yehud, near Ben Gurion International Airport. Despite the fact that the airport itself was not hit, foreign airlines announced that they were canceling their flights to and from Israel, and so Hamas’ steep-trajectory missiles threatened to paralyze, even partially, the aviation system in Israel.[28]

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (“Drones”) Threat

The phenomenon of flying drones has gathered momentum in recent years and become an international concern. On August 8, 2015 a drone passed by a plane that was in descent for landing at Ben Gurion Airport. The drone was seen near the airplane at an altitude of approximately 4,000 feet and less than 100 meters from the plane,[29] forcing the “Brussels Airlines” pilots to deviate from their intended course.[30] The head investigator at the Israeli Transportation Ministry claimed in the incident investigation report that the incident was part of a growing and concerning phenomenon of piloting drones, both private and commercial, without the supervision, regulation, coordination or awareness of the relevant authorities.[31] The report also noted that in certain cases it may even be possible to down an airliner, especially when it comes to activity near airports where planes are in various stages of ascent or descent.[32]

The drone threat is also recognized at the international level. For instance, at a NASA-sponsored conference that was held in July 2015 in California, it was revealed that drones had been detected near airports in Newark, New Jersey, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Austin, Texas.[33] In light of the threat posed to the aviation industry, on December 21, 2015 the head of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced the first step in a series of regulations in the field, according to which drone owners will be required to register them as planes.[34]

The first case of a crash between a drone and a civil aircraft, which was reported in London, took place on April 2016 when a drone hit a “British Airways” passenger plane as it was landing at Heathrow Airport in London. Even though the incident ended without damage or injuries, sources report that while planes are designed to deal with birds, tests have not been conducted to examine scenarios of a drone’s impact with a plane’s motor or windshield.[35]

Terrorist organizations do not hide their motivation to make use of this technology. During the month of April 2016, jihadists posted on the Telegram application a recommendation to use remote-controlled drones carrying explosives in order to attack planes. In another post on a jihadist Web forum, a visitor suggested making an assembly line for the production of gliders for the Islamic State.[36] In addition, a variety of suggestions were published on how to carry out terror attacks against airplanes using drones. The owners of the “Mujahideen Secrets” (*Asrar al-Mujahideen*) channel on the Telegram application maintained that simple drones can carry C4 explosives weighing 300 grams, which “are sufficient to crash a plane on the airfield”.



In other cases, terrorist organizations use drones in order to collect intelligence. Beginning in 2014, a significant increase was noted in terrorist organizations' use of drones for this purpose. The most significant use of drones in this context was found in Syria, followed by Iraq, Libya and Yemen. In addition, the Islamic State and its various branches use the largest number of drones of any terrorist organization.[37]

Simulators Threat

Simulators serve as one of the most significant sources of information found on the Internet, which have become a training tool in the hands of terrorist organizations in recent years. Today, there are a wide range of games that illustrate, almost precisely, how to operate aircrafts. For example, there are simulators which emulate the different flight phases as well as multiplayer games that serve as a type of social network in which one can learn about the aviation world in different countries, including flying civilian aircraft and fighter jets.[38] The Islamic State is one such terrorist organization that uses this type of simulator. For instance, the organization trains its fighters in Libya using civilian and combat simulators. The simulators, which are posted in the city of Sirte, simulate various aspects of flight, including air-to-ground communications.[39] It should be noted that the use of simulators has become a widespread phenomenon in various arenas of jihad.

Lasers Threat

In recent years, an average of 11 incidents per day were recorded of lasers being aimed at planes. The laser confuses the pilots and temporarily blinds them to the point that, in some cases, pilots have needed medical attention. Since the issue started to be tracked in 2005, the number of such incidents has increased by over 1,000 percent.[40] Just recently it was discovered that pilots on ten different passenger planes and even a US military aircraft were temporarily blinded by lasers as they approached landing at La Guardia Airport in New York, Newark Airport in New Jersey and Pittsburgh Airport in Pennsylvania.[41] In another incident on November 24, 2015, it was reported that a laser caused significant damage to the eyes of a "British Airways" co-pilot as he landed the plane at Heathrow Airport in London. The identity of the pilot remains confidential but it was reported that he has not yet returned to work. It was noted that the retina in one of the pilot's eyes was burned, a fact that may indicate the use of an especially powerful laser. It is evident that the widespread prevalence of laser pens, has led to a significant increase in laser attacks against pilots.[42]

Although no real damage has yet been caused by the laser threat against airplanes, the possibility cannot be ignored that terrorist organization will use laser beams against pilots in order to carry out a terror attack. This issue becomes even more significant in light of the fact that there are particularly powerful laser devices that can be found in the possession of terrorist organizations.

Cyber-Terrorism Threat

Cyberspace can also serve as a platform for executing terror attacks against the aviation industry. In addition to the professional debate regarding the possibility of causing real damage in a cyber-attack against airplanes, several gaps in the field also need to be addressed. For example, reports were found stating that cyber-security experts successfully hacked a plane's control system from a passenger seat. In this instance, the hacker claimed that he was able to penetrate the network in the cockpit through communication with the aircraft's network. In this context, it seems that many entertainment systems have USB connections and some planes even operate Wi-Fi. As such, there are information security researchers who claim that the architecture of the communication network on a plane is not sufficiently secure, and that there are security gaps that allow flight systems to be breached and the normal activity of the plane to be disrupted.[43] In August 2014, Ruben Santamarta, an information security researcher, revealed that he had found a way to exploit security gaps in wireless Internet systems on the plane in order to gain access to additional systems.[44] It should be noted that a breach of the passenger network is unlikely to enable the takeover of the plane's network since they are designed as separate systems despite the fact that they have overlapping interfaces.[45]

In another incident that took place in June 2015, Poland's national airline, LOT, was grounded in light of what appeared to be a breach by hackers of the airline company's computers at the international airport in Warsaw, and the breach of the systems that issue



flight plans. The breach caused the cancelation and delay of dozens of flights.[46] In this case as well, it was apparent that cyber operations against the aviation industry have broad implications at the national and international levels.

It should be noted that, in order to carry out cyber-attacks, the technological capabilities of professional hackers are needed, not to mention the capabilities of the state or at least state support. Nevertheless, various terrorist organizations, especially the Islamic State, are working hard to recruit hackers to their ranks in order to operate in the cyberspace as well. The terror organizations' interest in this arena is manifested in the many publications on this topic, including a post by a visitor to a jihadist Web forum in which he appealed to Islamic State engineers to find ways to disrupt an airplane's GPS and other means of navigation. The visitor also claimed that the Iranians had used "GPS Spoofing" in order to down a UAV belonging to American intelligence in December 2011 and he referred to an academic study on the topic titled: "The Requirements for Successful GPS Spoofing Attacks". In addition, in March 2016 the Israeli Shin Bet revealed that a computer engineer from Gaza had managed to hack into the IDF's UAV system and view images that were broadcast.[47] Nevertheless, **experts in the field estimate that, at this stage, terrorist organizations are not capable of executing cyber-attacks at the magnitude of an attack on civilian aircraft.**

How Has the Civil Aviation System Handled Recent Terror Attacks?

Since the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, the United States and the European Union have formulated a strategy for addressing the issue of aviation security and have even implemented several steps to improve cooperation between security forces. This, in addition to applying uniform standards and increased security around airports. **Recent terror attacks, whether those that were carried out in the aviation sphere or other significant terror incidents such as the attack in Paris in November 2015, have led to a number of changes in the aviation security systems in the United States and Europe.** In the days following the terror attack in Paris in November 2015, the European Parliament revealed that it had begun to perform risk assessments in the aviation industry that are focused on terror threats posed to the Union. Among the topics raised in the framework of the risk assessment: the terror threat to cargo planes and commercial flights, illegal trafficking of weapons and explosives, flights arriving from conflict zones and commercial flights that fly over conflict zones.

However, there are a number of issues whose solutions are incomplete or whose effectiveness is currently discussed in the public and professional discourse. For example, **the issue of border crossings in the EU and the Schengen Agreement, which allows free movement between the countries that are party to the agreement.** An investigation into the November 2015 terror attacks in Paris revealed that at least one of the terrorists was born in Belgium and it is possible that another terrorist managed to infiltrate Europe in the guise of a refugee using forged documents, indicating that the terrorists exploited the lack of inspections at border crossings between EU countries and managed to evade detection by security agencies. As a result, Belgium decided to increase border inspections and placed 19 electronic gates in the airport in Brussels.[48] It should be noted that **the efficiency of technological security measures** was also examined. This issue has been raised in the wake of the EU's response to the attacks in Paris, in which steps have been taken to increase the use of new technological systems rather than manual security checks,[49] while the latest screening machines were installed to detect explosives.[50] Despite the implementation of advanced technology systems at airports, experts note that the security systems lack the means to detect a fake explosive device. For example, in December 2015 an Air France flight from Mauritius to Paris was forced to make an emergency landing for fear of a bomb on board. An investigation into the incident found a fake bomb on board the plane.[51] Even though an actual terrorist attack was not carried out, this incident could damage passengers' sense of security, thereby indirectly affecting the entire aviation industry.

Another issue on the agenda is the growing importance of **implementing a passenger name record (PNR) system** also in systems related to the aviation industry, such as companies involved in booking flights.[52] In recent years, especially in the wake of the growing threats of terrorism and organized crime, law enforcement agencies have begun to use PNR data with greater frequency and efficiency. This type of data includes: flight dates and routes, contact details, travel agent, payment details, seat number and information about the passenger's baggage. Although airline companies have been required to transfer information about their



passengers entering EU countries since the 2004 train attacks in Madrid, it appears that the EU is subject to data protection laws that prevent it from providing PNR data to countries that are not members of the EU unless they provide adequate protection for personal information. **Although these processes were put into motion prior to the recent terror attacks, it can be assumed that the attacks served as a catalyst for these decisions and their implementation.**

The terror attacks at the Brussels Airport in March 2016 and Istanbul Ataturk Airport in June 2016, constitute another step in radical Islamic terrorist organizations' war against the West, possessing both a psychological and economic effect. The Brussels airport suffered an economic blow when the departure area was completely damaged, a fact that has impacted the airport's ability to operate at full capacity to this day.[53] **These terror attacks revealed the need to improve security systems prior to the stage of security checks for the passengers themselves, including the positioning of security in additional locations throughout the airport such as the entrance hall and parking areas.**[54] Attacks of this type have an impact on circles far beyond the borders of the attacked country. The fact that several countries, including Belgium's neighbors, decided to cease flights to Brussels immediately after the attack, led to the paralysis of the city and all subsequent implications. Air traffic was diverted from the airport in Brussels to other airports in Europe and Belgium, including Charleroi, Liege and Ostend-Bruges, and the alert level was raised in several airports throughout Europe.[55] Another incident which indicates the ease in which one can damage the extended aviation infrastructure, though it was not carried out as an act of terror, occurred in June 2016 when a man threw an explosive device at the check-in desk area of the international airport in Shanghai, injuring four travelers. The preliminary investigation showed that the attacker had filled a beer bottle with gunpowder from fireworks and firecrackers.[56]

One of the central lessons for the EU in this context was **to increase regulations on the implementation of the security standards outlined by the EU.** Nevertheless, a special EU committee published a report, months before the Brussels attack, which unveiled the existence of security gaps at the Brussels Airport, but no steps were taken in order to correct them. As a result of this, fierce public criticism arose against Belgium's Transportation Minister, Jacqueline Galant, who subsequently resigned.[57] Additionally, an examination recently conducted by the Aviation Safety Agency of the European Union found that airports in Germany were ranked next to last in regards to airport security, with 18 serious security gaps detected.[58]

Another issue that made headlines was that of **screening airport employees.** In November 2015, the French media reported that several private companies in the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris were under investigation for employing workers who were under surveillance by French law enforcement authorities. These employees, who had access to sensitive sites within the airport, were catalogued as "Fiches-S", an indicator of a serious threat to national security.[59] In December 2015, security clearances of over 70 employees working in sensitive areas of the airport in Paris were revoked on suspicions that they had undergone radicalization processes. Since the recent terror attacks in France and Belgium, airport employees are being thoroughly and rigorously checked. As such, authorities searched over 4,000 lockers of employees at the Charles de Gaulle Airport and Orly Airport in Paris.[60] Additionally, the Brussels airport police claimed that at least 50 Islamic State supporters work in the airport as baggage handlers, cleaners and catering staff, some of whom have tags that allow them direct access to planes. A sharply worded letter sent by police stated that a warning had been sent to the companies regarding these employees but that nothing was done about the matter.[61] It seems that security officials in the EU failed to realize the scale of the challenge and that the steps taken so far in the field are not sufficient.

In the United States, in response to recent terror attacks, it was decided to implement stricter inspection of travelers. As such, the head of the American Transportation Security Administration (TSA) updated security inspection protocol in airports and decided that passengers can now be required to undergo inspection by body scanner technology, as opposed to certain cases in the past when passengers could request a manual inspection. This update is designed to reduce the security weaknesses that exist in the detection of metallic and non-metallic contraband during a manual inspection.[62]

In addition, travelers who do not require an entry visa to the United States will be required to undergo a biometric security check, iris scan and fingerprint checks, in addition to information about visits to countries that may provide a breeding ground for terrorist activity, such as: Somalia, Mali, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Colombia, Venezuela, and others.[63] It should be



noted that efforts are currently being made in the United States to write a law prohibiting foreign fighters from flying. The law is supposed to be based on a database of people under surveillance by law enforcement agencies in the US and its goal, among other things, is to improve information sharing between law enforcement and security officials in airports.[64]

It should be noted that about a month after the attacks in Paris, the airport security system in the US was challenged when packages sent from the airport in Cairo to the United States by an express mail service company required an additional inspection for fear that they contained explosive material.[65] The packages went through the standard security process but, apparently due to the existence of ink used for printers, the scanners reported that the packages contained suspicious substances. According to a source at the Cairo Airport, the packages - weighing approximately 10 kilograms - were on their way from Egypt to the United States via London. Even though no explosives were found, the United States asked Egypt not to send packages and/or mail on commercial flights to the US.[66] In this context, it is important to note the initiative of US Congressman, John Katko, to provide the TSA with a platform to evaluate risks at airports around the world and to provide airports facing a high threat with measures to handle these threats accordingly in order to reduce the threat posed to American passengers traveling abroad and on flights to the United States.[67]

In conclusion, despite the changes that have been made in Europe and the United States in an attempt to cope with recent terror attacks against the aviation industry, efforts are needed to promote international cooperation with regard to passenger records and the implementation of biometric identification, with emphasis on the continuous security surveillance of transportation infrastructure employees. In the wake of the growing competition between terrorist organizations and security officials, it is evident that a comprehensive approach is needed, one which integrates the promotion of capabilities at various security layers, from the individual level to the implementation of advanced technologies.[68]



► References are available at source's URL.

Have any aircraft, military or civilian, ever been attacked by chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons? Attacks on persons on-board the aircraft (rather than the aircraft itself) included.

Islamic State claims responsibility for attack on traffic police in Russia

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-islamic-state-idUSKCN10T25S>

Aug 18 – **Islamic State on Thursday claimed responsibility for an attack on a traffic police post outside Moscow a day earlier in which both of the attackers were killed.**

The militant group made the claim via the Amaq news agency, which it regularly uses to issue statements. The Amaq statement said: "Two fighters of the Islamic State assaulted Russian policemen in the Balashikha area, east of Moscow".

Russia's Investigative Committee said two unidentified people armed with a firearm and two axes had attacked a traffic police post outside Moscow on Wednesday.

One of them was shot dead while attacking the post while the other was killed when he tried to put up armed resistance, investigators said.

Two police officers were injured in the attack, one seriously. Russia has been bombing militants in Syria in an aerial campaign in support of President Bashar al-Assad.





230 Websites and Blogs for Terrorism Research

PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM

Compiled and selected by Judith Tinnes

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/270/html>

Abstract

This resource collection lists 230 websites and blogs which are deemed to be valuable information sources for serious researchers in the field of (counter-) terrorism studies. The first part lists websites run by academic, governmental, non-governmental, and private institutes, organisations, companies, as well as individual experts. The second part of the collection comprises blogs, many of them containing analyses of primary source materials as well as up-to-date news.

Introduction

The following resource collection lists 230 websites and blogs that are **likely to be useful for students, researchers, and professionals in the field of terrorism and counter-terrorism**. It is update as of end of May 2013. **The first part** comprises websites run by a broad spectrum of actors in the field, including

Brookings Institution, The

<http://www.brookings.edu>

CATO Institute - Foreign Policy and National Security

<http://www.cato.org/research/foreign-policy-national-security>

CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter

<http://www.cbrne-terrorism-newsletter.com>

Center for American Progress - Terrorism

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/terrorism/view>

Center for a New American Security (CNAS)

<http://www.cnas.org>

Center for Applied Counterterrorism Studies

<https://securitystudies.uncc.edu>

academic, governmental, and private institutes, organisations, companies, and individual experts. Many of the sites contain so-called “Grey Literature”, i.e., non-conventional publications such as reports, working papers, or research briefs. Generally, grey literature is often harder to locate than conventional literature (such as journal articles or books) because it is “neglected by most library catalogs and databases”. It encompasses a broad range and variety of materials. Many of the publications are original, covering topics in a thorough, in-depth fashion – often surpassing in length conventional journal articles. To find publications at a particular website, researchers are advised to search for the relevant section (often entitled “Publications”), which can be retrieved either by browsing or via the site map. A Google search with the site operator (e.g.: *publications site :ctc.usma.edu*) may also deliver satisfactory results.

The second part of this resource collection covers blogs maintained by terrorism experts. In the dynamic field of terrorism research, blogs are an invaluable information source as they provide users topical and thematic information. Many terrorism research blogs publish well-

founded analyses of primary source materials (e.g., statements, video, and audio publications by terrorist organisations), point to news sources or expert literature and also provide links to additional relevant websites (so-called “Blogroll”). Several bloggers in the field run accompanying Twitter accounts where they tweet news headlines and information on newly released publications by terrorist and counter-terrorist organisations, enabling readers to track events in nearly real-time.

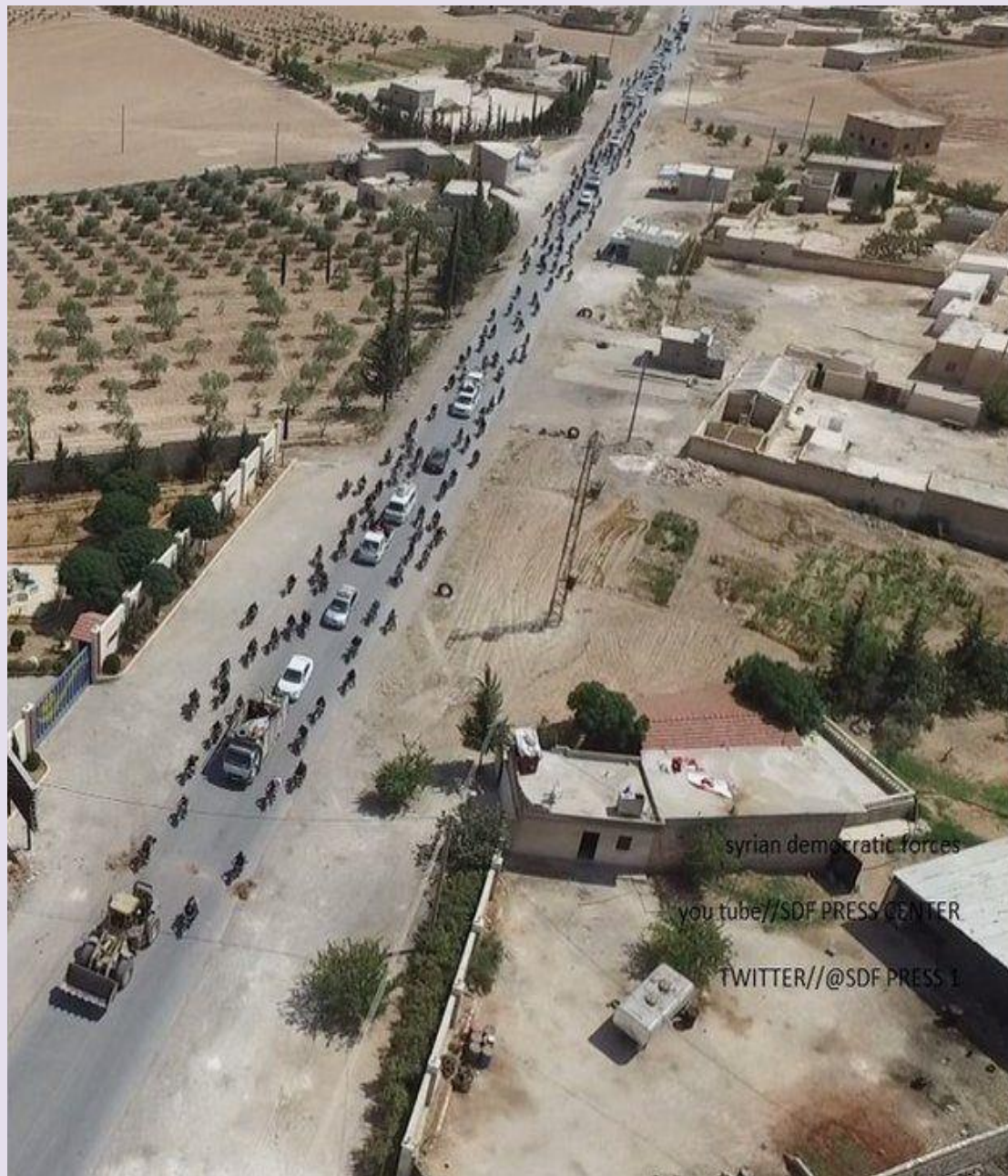
The resources assembled here were identified by scanning a variety of information sources such as bibliographies, institutional resource guides and expert blogs. Like every hand-searched resource collection, this one reflects subjective choices. Since the information requirements of researchers differ, the present resource list should not be used as single source for website and blog retrieval in the wide interdisciplinary field of terrorism studies. Especially for disciplinary sub-topics, researchers are advised to look out for additional online resources tailored to their specific needs. Readers should also keep in mind that this list focuses mainly on English-language



resources. However, there is a growing amount of Internet resources available in other languages for those who have the necessary language skills.

Judith Tinnes, Ph.D., studied Information Science and New German Literature and Linguistics at the Saarland University (Germany). Her doctoral thesis dealt with Internet usage of Islamist terrorists and insurgents. Currently she works in the research & development department of the Leibniz Institute for Psychology Information (ZPID). She also serves as Editorial Assistant for 'Perspectives on Terrorism'.

We heard about “human shields” – so here they are!



Aerial photos have been released showing Islamic State (IS) militants using civilians as shields to escape the northern Syrian town of Manbij.



Have you seen the Olympic Truce?



The Olympic Truce is symbolised by the dove of peace with the traditional Olympic flame in the background. In a world that is plagued by wars and animosity, the peace-dove symbol represents one of the IOC's ideals to build a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal. The Olympic flame has brought warm friendship to all the people of the world through sharing and global togetherness. In the symbol, the flame is made up of colourful effervescent elements - reminiscent of festivities experienced in the celebration of the human spirit. These elements represent people of all races coming together for the observance of the Truce.



Germans to store 10-day emergency stock of food, water in case of attacks – leaked defense plan

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/356682-germany-defense-plan-food/>

Aug 21 – German authorities are set to introduce a new state defense plan that would make citizens stockpile food and water, enough to last for at least ten days, in the event of a major disaster or an armed attack, local media revealed.

"The population will have to hold an individual food stock that is to last ten days," the document titled "Concept for Civil Defense" reportedly said.

Alarm systems, better building protection, wider health care coverage have also been named



among the necessary things needed to boost security level in the country.

The concept is to be submitted for a parliamentary committee vote on Wednesday, a spokesman for the interior ministry told AFP.

Though an attack in Germany is not seen possible, people should **“prepare appropriately for a development that could threaten our existence and cannot be categorically ruled out in the future,”** the report suggested.

Protection of government bodies is also a matter of priority, the document reportedly says, adding that in case of need responsibilities of one body should be easily handed over to another one.

Apart from that, civilians should provide more support to the German armed forces, the document concluded.

This is the first time since the Cold War period that the German government has suggested its citizens take such steps. The move may have been triggered by the two

Islamist attacks and a shopping mall shooting carried out by a mentally unstable teenager. However, Frankfurter Allgemeine claims the plan was worked up as early as 2012.

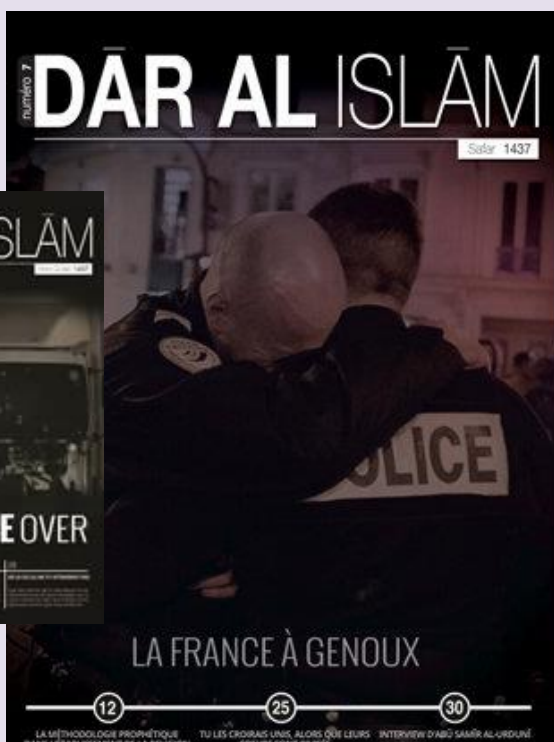
State defense programs have been a sore point for the modern-day Germany with its past marred by Nazi heritage. In July the defense ministry came up with a report that stated Berlin's intention to play a greater role in the defense of NATO and the EU. The report noted that Germany has *“a responsibility to help shape the world order.”*

On top of everything, Berlin also announced its plan to allocate more resources to police and security forces and set up a special unit to fight terrorism and cybercrime.

A closer cooperation between police and military is also expected to take place in Germany since the country lays in the “crosshairs of terrorism” and should be ready to Paris- and Brussels-style attacks, Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said earlier in August, according to Reuters.

IS Tells France “Game Over” in 10th Issue of French Magazine, Identifies French Imam for Death

Source: <https://news.siteintelgroup.com/Jihadist-News/is-tells-france-game-over-in-10th-issue-of-french-magazine-identifies-french-imam-for-death.html>



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – August 2016

Aug 20 – The Islamic State (IS) released the 10th issue of its French magazine, “Dar al-Islam,” telling France that it is “game over” and the country has failed to prevent terrorism on its soil, and identifying a French imam for lone wolves to kill.



Woman injures 3 in Belgium stabbing attack

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/356750-brussels-stabbing-attack-woman/>

Aug 22 – **Police shot and wounded a woman in a Brussels suburb after she attempted to stab three people**, the city's public prosecutor's office has confirmed.

The attack took place as passengers were disembarking a bus in the municipality of Uccle in the Belgian capital at around 5pm on Monday, by a woman who had also been inside the vehicle.

National broadcaster RTBF said that two of the victims have been taken to hospital with serious injuries, and one suffered a minor cut.

"The assailant came out talking, we didn't understand what she was saying," Severine Marot, who witnessed the incident, told RT's video news agency Ruptly.

As panic spread on the street, she *"sat at a table, we told everybody to leave the terrace. We made sort of a security zone until the police came and stepped in."*



Police reportedly told the attacker, who refused to comply, to give herself up, before shooting her in the arm with a blank.



Police sources have told RTBF that the woman was Asian and had a history of **mental illness**. Investigators do not currently believe that this was a terrorist incident.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Good news!!! **Terrorism does not exist!** We are all psychiatric patients and there are medications to counter terrorism! Next time you fly to Belgium buy some pills covered with the famous Belgian chocolate!

Cops Without Guns Dominate as London Awaits 'Likely' Attack

Source: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/cops-without-guns-dominate-london-awaits-likely-attack-n631721>



London's Unarmed Bobbies
■ 1996 Dunblane
Primary School massacre

Aug 22 – Seconds after his police radio crackles into life, Inspector James Beattie

kicks the squad car into gear, triggers its siren and roars the

wrong way down a busy road.

Beattie and his partner, Constable Jill Simpson, are wearing stab-proof vests and carrying batons, canisters of mace and handcuffs. But like the vast majority of London cops, neither of them has a gun.

"I've never, ever felt the need to have a firearm," Beattie said while on patrol last week. "Our prime tool for defusing any situation or conflict is always talking to someone. If I deal with any confrontation, I'm not reaching for my belt. I'm talking to them to see if I can disengage the situation."

Arriving at their destination, they discovered reports of a disturbance at a medical center were nothing more than an irate patient. But even during their most challenging calls-outs, their relaxed attitude about being unarmed is the norm for London cops.

While America's police have become increasingly militarized, the British tradition of unarmed "bobbies-on-the-beat" has endured.

Despite [top officials warning that a terrorist attack in the U.K. is "highly likely,"](#) **more than 90 percent of the Metropolitan Police officers tasked with protecting the city's 8.5 million residents do not carry guns.**

"The British policing way ... is that we're part of the public," the force's Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe told NBC News. "A firearm ... puts a barrier between people and the police."

A recent string of attacks — in cities including Paris, Brussels, Nice and Istanbul — has forced authorities across Europe to re-assess their approaches to tackling terrorism.

But while police forces on the continent and in the U.S. routinely arm their officers, London's so-called "Met" has largely avoided that.

Even with a recently announced boost in officers carrying guns on the U.K. capital's streets by the end of this year — [from 2,200 to 2,800](#) — they will make up just 8.8 percent of the force.



According to Brian Dillon, former head of the Met's firearms command who now runs the counterterrorism consultancy Rubicon Resilience, the force's "unique policing model" can't be found anywhere else in the world.

The statistics surrounding police shootings in the U.K. are startling when compared to the U.S.

- Officers in England and Wales fired just seven bullets between March 2015 and this March. (Not including accidental shots, shooting out tires, or putting down dangerous or injured animals.)
- During that period, just five people were shot dead by police in England and Wales, according to British charity Inquest, which helps families after police-related deaths.
- Police Scotland — tasked with guarding 5.3 million people in an area the size of Maine — reports only one officer-involved shooting since the national force was created in 2013.
- In London, the Metropolitan Police has fatally shot just 10 people in the past 10 years.

U.S. law enforcement officials have this year killed 693 people and counting, according to figures compiled by The Guardian.

Simpson, the police constable, said that in her decade-and-a-half with the Met she has never had a gun pointed at her and never seen shots fired during active duty.

"I've used my [mace] spray twice and I think I've used my baton twice — in 15 years," she said.

The Dunblane Effect

This chasm between the U.S. and U.K. comes with the caveat that American cops are far more likely to encounter armed criminals.

Around one-third of Americans own a firearm or live with someone who does, and there are more than 30,000 gun-related deaths in the U.S. every year, according to GunPolicy.org, a project run by Australia's University of Sydney. By contrast, just 144 people were killed by guns in Britain in 2013, the most recent year the site holds records for Britain.



London's bobbies have traditionally been armed with nothing other than batons. Gamma-Keystone via Getty Images file

That's not to say British police don't put themselves in harm's way. **Simpson recounts once being struck over the head with her own handcuffs and pulled to the ground by her hair**

while attempting to arrest a man who had beaten his girlfriend. The constable said she chased the suspect and was only able to detain him after spraying him with mace. Did she ever feel like she needed a gun? "Not really. When he pulled me to the ground, obviously there is fear there," said Simpson, 48. "But for me the ... [mace] worked and did what it was supposed to do."

Gun laws in the U.K. are among the toughest in the world.

Brits who apply for a licence are subject to extensive background checks, and police can interview their friends, family and even their doctors when assessing their applications.

Handguns and assault rifles — or any weapon capable of automatic fire — are banned outright.

The stringent controls were imposed after Scotland's Dunblane massacre of March 1996, when former Scout leader Thomas Hamilton entered a school and fatally shot 16 children and a teacher. The killings — carried out with four handguns that were legal at the time — shocked politicians into action in a way America's mass shootings have not.



The U.K. has another advantage in that it's a relatively small island — not even the size of Michigan — with no land borders. That makes it difficult to smuggle illegal guns into the country.

Most of the recent high-profile attacks in London have involved assailants using bladed weapons.

In May 2013, two radicalized Muslim converts armed with knives and a meat cleaver hacked a British soldier to death on a south London street. In Dec. 2015, a man with a history of **mental illness** cut a stranger's throat at a London subway station. And earlier this month, a Norwegian national allegedly killed 64-year-old American Darlene Horton during a knife rampage in busy Russell Square. In the latter two incidents, no shots were fired. Police instead chose to use stun guns to subdue the suspects.

The last large-scale attack in London came on July 7, 2005, when four coordinated suicide bombers killed 52 people and injured more than 700 others on the city's transport network.

Despite this attack — plus three decades of threats and bombings by Irish republicans — the Met's principles have shifted little in its 187-year history.

In 1829, British Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel founded the Met on the principle of "policing by consent."

He was keen to avoid any suggestion the Met was a military force. Most new recruits didn't carry guns and they were instructed to "preserve public favor ... by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to law."

In recent years, the British capital has so far been spared the ISIS-linked violence that traumatized Paris and Brussels. But many Londoners fear they may be next.

The U.K.'s national threat level has been considered "severe" since 2014. The government says "an attack is highly likely" and Commissioner Hogan-Howe admitted last month "it is a case of when, not if" London is hit.

British intelligence services worry about the 800-or-so Brits who traveled to join ISIS or other extremist groups in Iraq and Syria.

Around half of these so-called "foreign fighters" have returned to Britain, and officials say some of them pose a security threat.

This year's boost to the number of armed police on London's streets is an attempt to counter this perceived danger. More cops wielding long rifles are being posted to potential targets such as busy tourist attractions.



Members of a Metropolitan Police counterterrorism team. Kirsty Wigglesworth / AP



"We're not trying to militarize London," one counterterrorism officer told NBC News, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of his work. "What we are trying to say is there is an effective and fast response to any criminal or terrorism attack."

Metropolitan Police officers are only given guns if they volunteer, and even then "they still have to go through quite a rigorous selection process," according to Chief Superintendent Martin Hendy.

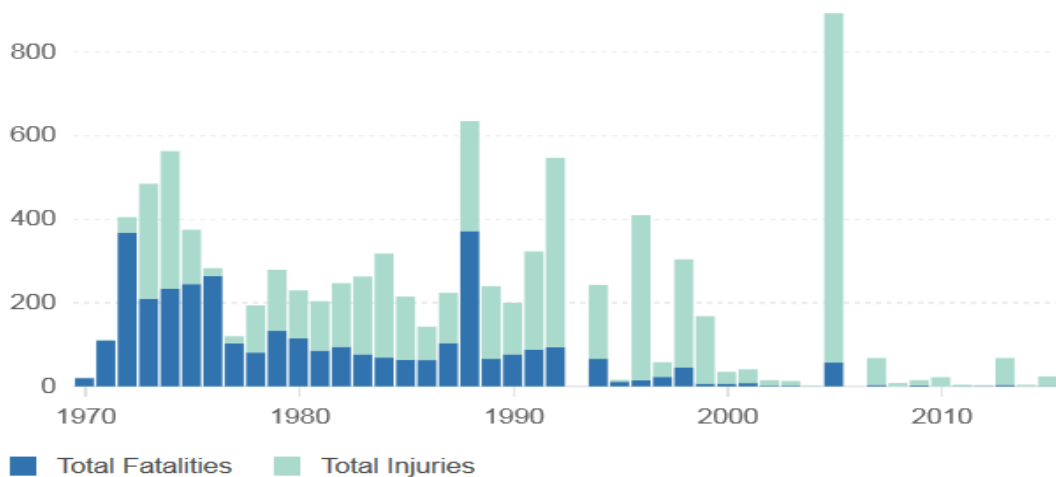
'Living in a War Zone'

This approach is not without its critics. Calls to arm Britain's police peaked in 2012 when two unarmed officers, Nicola Hughes and Fiona Bone, were killed in a gun-and-grenade attack in Manchester.

"The romantic image of the unarmed police service should be consigned to the history books," according to Norman Brennan, who served for 31 years with the British Transport Police and now campaigns to arm his former colleagues. **"We are now living in a war zone where terrorists have infiltrated Europe ... the least we can do to give our police the tools they need."**



Sum of fatalities and injuries since 1970 in the country the attack took place in. A terrorist attack is defined as the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation.



Brennan claimed officers without guns are "sitting ducks" when facing armed criminals and terrorists. Despite the increase in London, the number of armed officers across England and Wales has actually plummeted by 1,267 since 2009 to just 5,639 this year.

Some are reluctant to volunteer for firearms duties because they fear they will be "hung out to dry" if they have to use their weapons, according to the Police Federation — which represents officers.

Many point to Anthony Long, an ex-Met officer only cleared in 2015 after fatally shooting a suspected armed robber a decade earlier. Long told the BBC this month that the U.K.'s police watchdog "seems to be treating officers as criminals."

A poll by the federation this year said that 40 percent of officers fear being attacked at work — but just half that number were willing to be armed.

"By time people start hitting you, it's too late to defend yourself"

Members of the public are evenly split on the issue, according to [figures published earlier this month](#) by pollster BMG Research. **Only 26 percent believe police are prepared for a terrorist attack. But just 42 percent were in favor of arming all officers — down from 48 percent in December.**

British officials point out that police with guns haven't prevented terrorists from striking other countries. In most of the recent incidents across the U.S. and Europe, bodies were already on the ground when officers arrived.

"We saw the terrible attack of Charlie Hebdo, where an officer arrived with a handgun and was outgunned, and therefore hadn't got a reasonable response," said Hogan-Howe,



referring to the Paris shooting in which two al-Qaeda gunmen killed 11 people, including [a Muslim cop](#). The Met says it's well-equipped to stop attackers getting past the planning stage because of what it describes as a world-class intelligence setup. But this approach has also attracted controversy. Its "Prevent" strategy, with an annual budget of around \$52 million, focuses on gathering information about potential plotters.

"Our strategy has always been that good intelligence allows you to prevent the attack in the first place," Hogan-Howe told a press conference last month. "By time people start hitting you, it's too late to defend yourself."

The Met says its close relationship with Britain's domestic and foreign intelligence services helped foil eight terror plots in the past year. Between April 2015 and this March, 325 people were arrested and 48 people convicted on terrorism charges. Many more await trial.

The force encourages anyone worried a family or a friend may be drawn toward extremism to call its confidential anti-terror hotline. Around 60 to 70 people every month have been "drawn back" from "the pathway to radicalization" — 10 percent from tip-offs, according to a Met spokesman.

But critics say this approach has sown a deep mistrust of police, especially among members of Muslim communities.

Former Metropolitan Police Chief Superintendent Dal Babu told the BBC last year that the strategy had become a "toxic brand."

And east London's Waltham Forest Council of Mosques said the policy was used to "spy and denigrate the Muslim community and cause mistrust." These misgivings prompted the U.K.'s terror watchdog to call for a review of the strategy.

Hogan-Howe says that while the strategy "has its faults, I'm not sure I've seen a better system around the world."

Nevertheless, there appears to be little chance authorities in Britain will ditch their current methods and arm every officer like in the U.S.

"I think there'd be a lot of police officers that might consider leaving the service or wouldn't have wanted to join ... had carrying a firearm been part of our routine work," Beattie said.

"There's no gun envy," he added.

California Killer of Grandparents Was Influenced by Islamists

Source: <https://www.clarionproject.org/news/california-killer-grandparents-was-influenced-islamists>

Aug 22 – **Police officers in California say a 35-year old man who bludgeoned his grandparents to death last year was influenced by and infatuated with radical Islamists**, as reported by the *Los Angeles Times*.

Nathaniel Scheiern killed his grandparents after attending a church service with them on June 28, 2015. The judge hearing the case ruled in a recent preliminary hearing there was enough evidence to move forward with a trial.

Although it is unclear if Scheiern converted to Islam, his Facebook page is full of declarations to Allah, including the following (all taken verbatim):

"Ponder no [more] and bombs to cease [unwise strikes of Believers] on (Allah's children, women, and the Elderly and the young) who fight but by Example in except concepts to for (God and God alone) guidance and spiritual growth. One love n respect"

"None in mans wisdom can allow a [leader] to fall into the ways of those [Secure] in faith and full of patients lacking [Allah] and thus far from [patience] of (God) so the answer is up to free-will. And FREE I WILL (God willing) [His] Peoples Mind."

"Rivers of punishment flow to [advise] for only God demands Praise."

"Want Allah in All. !"

"Praise be to Allah who [will] in searing pain smite my enimies with haste ... its not a race if quickness .but of [Waste] no more time in [Staying] pious and [true] in patiently waving."



June 2016 Terror Threat Snapshot: 800 ISIS Investigations in All 50 States

By Glynn Cosker

Managing Editor, *In Homeland Security*

Source: <http://inhomeandsecurity.com/june-terror-threat-snapshot-800-isis-investigations-50-states/>

June 22 – House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) released his [Terror Threat Snapshot](#) for June and – as usual – it makes for some disturbing reading. Topping this month's lists of concerns is the threat here in the United States where **officials have investigated more than 800 ISIS-related cases in all 50 states over the past two years.**

According to the report, there were at least 152 homegrown terror plots in the United States since 9/11. **Of those plots, approximately 85 percent occurred within the last seven years.**



Another key point in this month's snapshot is news of a terrorist – recently released from Guantanamo Bay – who is now filling a prominent role with al-Qaida's affiliate in Yemen. In fact, the report states that **over 30 percent of Guantanamo Bay detainees have "returned or are suspected of having returned to jihadist activity."**

"We face a challenging threat environment here at home as Islamist extremists abroad have dug into their core sanctuaries and expanded into new territory," stated McCaul upon releasing the snapshot.

Homegrown Terrorists – ISIS in America

According to the report, FBI Director James Comey said that in May 2016, around 80 percent of the FBI's 1,000-plus homegrown terrorist investigations were linked to ISIS. Comey stated: The group's "ability to motivate troubled souls, to inspire them, remains a persistent" threat in America.

Recent arrests

- May 24: A 22-year-old U.S. citizen – originally from Albania – was arrested for attempting to join ISIS.
- May 11: A 28-year-old Uzbekistan citizen was arrested for his participation in a terror cell that assisted with the travel and equipment for ISIS recruits heading to Syria.
- April 29: James Gonzalo Medina, a 40-year-old U.S. citizen was arrested for plotting to bomb a Florida synagogue. He told police that the plot was for "ISIS in America."

Terror Threat Snapshot: Foreign Fighters

The June Terror Threat Snapshot also reports that an average of 500 foreign fighters travel to Iraq and Syria each month – with spikes of up to 2,000 during busier months. The flow back is equally as alarming with thousands of them descending upon Europe where Islamist terrorists continue to infiltrate borders posing as political and economic refugees. In Germany



alone, there were 40 cases of suspected terrorists penetrating borders by posing as displaced migrants. Also of note, The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has identified "...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program." That information will likely not halt the Obama administration's plan to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the United States in 2016.

The snapshot's other takeaways include information on foreign jihadist networks and safe havens, as well as the Iranian terror threat.

► Download the full June Terror Threat Snapshot [here](#).

Former Al Qaeda Detainee Promises 'Creative And New' Attacks On US

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/breaking-former-al-qaeda-detainee-promises-creative-and-new-attacks-on-us/23d4947ed597c2d546d0e74b6f729828.html>



As the Obama administration released 15 more high value Al Qaeda detainees from Guantanamo (GITMO), former detainee Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud Al Qosi -- who was released in 2012 as part of a plea deal after pleading guilty to conspiracy and supporting terrorism and joined and immediately hooked up with Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in December 2014 -- this week vowed attacks in the US by English-speaking jihadis with Western names not on CIA or FBI terrorist lists.

"[Attacks] will continue but will be [in] a creative and new way by men of your own [who] carry your names, speak your language, and did not receive training in Afghanistan, and whose names are not on the CIA and FBI black list -- men who might have in the past drunk alcohol, eaten pork, or been soldiers in your army," Al Qosi, a member of AQAP's Shura council, vowed in an article published by *Al Marsa*, a weekly newspaper affiliated with AQAP.

He also "urged the mujahideen in Syria to unite and form a new army whose mission would be to liberate Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem," according to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

Homeland Security Today previously reported that Al Qaeda and its affiliated groups like AQAP

were actively recruiting radicalized Westerners unknown to counterterrorism authorities who are able to travel freely throughout the West.

In September 2004, and again in November 2007, Joint Task Force-GITMO (JTF-GITMO) "recommend[ed] this detainee for continued detention under Department of Defense [DoD] control" because he "is an admitted veteran jihadist with combat experience beginning in 1990 and it is assessed he would engage in hostilities against US forces, if released," [according to JTF-GITMO'S classified file on Al Qosi](#).

Indeed, the "Secret" JTF-GITMO file on Al Qosi considered him to be, "A high risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests, and allies" if he were ever released, noting that he vowed a "long term commitment to jihad."

The JTF-GITMO file further noted Al Qosi "has openly admitted being a member of Al Qaeda, as well as a trusted associate and loyal bodyguard to Usama Bin Laden (UBL)," and "has been very forthright regarding his commitment to UBL and Al Qaeda."

The classified file further noted that he "is an admitted Al Qaeda operative and one of UBL's most



trusted associates and veteran bodyguard. Detainee was the accountant for UBL's Taba Investment Company (TIC) in Sudan, which provided financial and logistical services for UBL and Al Qaeda. Detainee served as a treasurer and courier for TIC. Detainee is associated with senior Al Qaeda members and received advanced training. Detainee participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces at Tora Bora, Afghanistan."

In his article, *Oh the Mujahideen in Syria: Form Osama's Army*, "Al Qusi criticized Muslim scholars and preachers who advocate for peace and moderation on TV channels instead of inciting Muslims to wage jihad, and praised the mujahideen for sacrificing their blood and lives for jihad for the sake of Allah," MEMRI reported. "The term 'Osama's army' in the article refers to an army created by the Prophet Muhammad during his last days and commanded by one of his companions, Osama Ibn Zayd."

He called on the "mujahideen to be prepared and continue the fight against the US until its last soldier leaves the Muslim lands," MEMRI said.

"Al Qosi then proposed that the mujahideen in Syria unite and form an army to fight the Jews and liberate Al Aqsa in Jerusalem," MEMRI said. "This army, he said, will enrage and terrify the Jews and the Americans."

"By Allah's name, this matter [the army] is what most terrifies the Americans and the Jews, as well as those who support and protect them [such as] the surrounding countries and the hypocrites led by the Al Saud [family] and all the parties of resistance, as they will [find themselves] in a critical situation before all Muslims and would have two options, the sweetest of which would be bitter: either to be

with the mujahideen or with the brothers of apes and pigs," Al Qosi wrote.

Addressing the mujahideen in Syria, he added, "Al Aqsa is waiting for you and the [Islamic] Ummah is counting on you, and you are in a position in which every Muslim wishes to be; therefore, organize your ranks and unite your goals, and [keep in mind that it is vitally important] to stick to the fundamentals."

Al Qosi's classified JTF-GITMO file stated he "trained at the Al Faruq Training Camp outside of Khowst, Afghanistan in 1990," and "received training with various weapons, including the RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades and 120mm mortars. Detainee fought in the area of Jalalabad ... until Jamal Ahmed Al Fadl asked [him] to leave and go to Peshawar, Pakistan to work in UBL's logistics office due to [his] accounting background."

At the time, the logistics office was headed by Ghazi Al Madani (aka Madani Al Tayyib), a Saudi who was related by marriage to UBL. Detainee performed financial duties in the office."

Continuing, the JTF-GITMO file stated, "In 1992, detainee returned to Khartoum to work for UBL's TIC which was a subsidiary of the Wadi Al Aqiq Company. Detainee's job at TIC involved converting Sudanese currency to US dollars. Detainee utilized the local black market, as the banks in Sudan would not sell dollars. Since dollars were more stable than Sudanese currency, UBL and TIC always needed dollars. Detainee worked in TIC as a certified accountant and treasurer for approximately two years. Detainee also worked with Abu Ayoub Al Iraqi who was in charge of the Taba offices in Ed Damazin, and later Kassala."

U.K. to ban hate preachers from mosques, universities, public speaking to tackle radicalization

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160818-u-k-to-ban-hate-preachers-from-mosques-universities-public-speaking-to-tackle-radicalization>



Aug 18 – Prime Minister Theresa May is developing plans to bar Islamist hate preachers from entering mosques and universities in order to prevent a repetition of the campaign conducted by Anjem Choudary to radicalize young Britons.

Choudary was convicted earlier this week for promoting terrorism and pledging allegiance to ISIS. The hate preacher was

openly active in Islamist extremist causes for nearly twenty years, and in the last two years has directed his effort to recruiting young Britons for ISIS.



The *Telegraph* reports that the government is now exploring ways to impose blanket bans which would prevent extremists from addressing large groups in public. The government is also looking into ways to force social media sites to remove extremist messages and videos posted online.

May sees countering extremism as a central element of her tenure in government – she was home secretary before becoming prime minister – and the measures she has instructed government ministers to explore could form the centerpiece of a new Extremism Bill which May intends to place before Parliament, and which will be announced in this year's Queen's Speech.

Experts say that Choudary's nearly 20-year campaign of hate, incitement, and radicalization had exposed the limits of current anti-terror laws. Choudary was found to be connected to fifteen terror plots since 2000 and to more than 500 British jihadists who traveled to Syria to fight in ISIS ranks. He had also been active spreading his extremist Islamist message on social media and on college campuses.

David Anderson, the government's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, urged ministers to tighten the law to avoid repeats of the Choudari phenomenon.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today program, he said of current anti-terror measures: "These are useful offenses, they are being increasingly used, but I think one would have to admit that

until now the law has barely touched Anjem Choudary.

"In the meantime a lot of people have been radicalized and yes, we do need to look at what might be done if there are impediments, technical reasons why it's not as easy to get convictions under these laws as it should be."

Government ministers and security officials have been frustrated by the fact that extremists could easily radicalize young Britons while not breaking the law. Experts say that one way to limit the effectiveness of hate preachers is to ban them from attending certain mosques, community groups, and universities. Another measure would bar radicals from speaking to groups of a certain size in public.

A third measure would give security officials the authority to order Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites to remove extremist material. This measure, however, would be limited because the bigger social media companies are based outside the United Kingdom.

Anderson, however, said he was concerned about the increasing number of restrictions the could be imposed on suspected extremists without court approval.

He argued that bypassing juries to tackle extremism could be "very dangerous" and that there was a chance it would be "counter-productive."

Anderson also called on Internet companies to treat extremist videos and messages the same way child pornography is treated.

Al-Shabaab Aims for 'Hearts and Minds' With Establishment of Islamic Police Force

By Sunguta West

Source: http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=45726&no_cache=1&mc_cid=99ee23aceb&mc_eid=6b175f7276#.V7wZZzX8sgU

Aug 19 – **Al-Shabaab, the al-Qaeda affiliate in Somalia, claims to have established a religious police force in an area it controls in southern Somalia, seeking to push forward its Islamist agenda even as it struggles to hold on to its territory in the face of the advance of African Union (AU) troops.**



Al-Shabaab has lost a great deal of territory to the Somali National Government forces and the troops of the AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) over the years, but it continues to control parts of southern Somalia ([Horseed Media](#), May 6).

While some analysts suggest that contradictory policies and AMISOM's own inefficiencies have sustained the conflict and even bolstered al-Shabaab, the group



has nonetheless suffered heavy losses at the hands of better-armed AMISOM troops and struggled with internal differences ([Herald](#), May 17). The establishment of the new (so-called) Islamic police, or Hisba, is yet another indication that the group is far from defeat.

Islamic 'Police Force'

The Hisba officers were first sighted in Jilib, the most populous town in Somalia's Middle Juba region and currently the group's political and military headquarters, on August 9. Photographs released by the group through its mouthpiece Radio Andalus showed men in uniform with ID cards and branded vehicles on patrol in the city ([Hiraan Online](#), August 9).

From Jilib, al-Shabaab hopes to deploy the force across the areas it controls, including Juba, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Bay and Bakool, Hiraan, and Galgudud in southern Somalia.

News of the Hisba's establishment followed the release on July 12 of the first audio message – entitled "Sharia or Martyrdom" – from Sheikh Ahmad Umar Abu Ubaidah, the leader or emir of al-Shabaab (see [Terrorism Monitor](#), August 5). That Umar felt compelled to release the message at all suggests morale among the militant group was low. Through his message Umar sought to inspire his forces. While the audio recording was aimed at the fighters, the message sent by the establishment of the Hisba force is clearly intended for the public in the regions al-Shabaab controls.

The establishment of the new force is intended to win the movement public support in those areas by highlighting its role in the dispensation of justice.

Seeking Public Support

According to the group, the force will be unarmed, but it will work as part of the commission for the promotion of virtue and prevention of vice and seek to "encourage" morality among Somali citizens.

The Hisba will carry out its work under the group's strict interpretation of sharia. Its main task is providing moral guidance in line with Islamic teachings, and al-Shabaab has made clear the new force can be expected to arrest and even behead those engaging in the consumption and sale of alcohol. The group has also made clear the force will carry out harsh punishments including cutting-off men's penises

as a punishment for adultery, stoning to death promiscuous women, and amputating the hands of those caught stealing. Those wearing Western clothes regarded un-Islamic will also be detained. It will also protect the quality of food, medicine, and clothing in the market ([Zipo](#), August 10).

This is reminiscent of group's early activities from 2006-2009, when it stormed through central and southern Somalia and implemented a strict form of sharia, cutting-off limbs, stoning women to death, and caning others who broke its religious laws ([Standard](#), September 27, 2014). In those days, the group even carried out double amputations – cutting-off the arms and legs of people suspected of stealing people's property in Southern Somalia ([Hiiran Online](#), June 22, 2009). This harsh dispensation of justice reduced crime with brutal efficiency, but this came at a huge cost to personal and social freedoms ([SomaliaReport](#), January 24, 2012; [Somalia Report](#), December 4, 2011).

Jilib as a Strategic Stronghold

In many ways, the Hisba is not a new phenomenon; the militants themselves have carried out such duties in the past ([Tuko](#), August 9). In regions where the government has no administrative control (such as Jilib), al-Shabaab continues to conduct its sharia courts, run schools, manage a taxation system, and install its own governors ([Zipo](#), August 10).

Jilib became al-Shabaab's de-facto base in 2015, after the group was forced out of Bardheere, its operation and logistical headquarters, and Dinsoor, its political center, by AMISOM troops ([Tuko](#), July 24, 2015; [Horseed Media](#), July 24, 2015).

Jilib, with its population of 45,000, is a commercial town located on the main road from Mogadishu's south to the port city of Kismayu. Once the headquarters of Islamic Courts Union, the Islamist movement from which al-Shabaab splintered amid the Union's defeat in 2006, Jilib's location allows al-Shabaab to access the Indian Ocean through secret routes. Through these routes, it receives contraband, including arms, and new recruits.

Jilib is described as vast, flat agricultural zone that ensures access to food for the group, and it provides them with a tactical advantage. AMISON forces and their international partners recently increased aerial



bombardment of the city with a view to weakening the movement ([Intelligencebriefs](#), August 26, 2015). Hundreds of fighters are believed to have been killed in the attacks, which have been carried out mainly by the Kenya Defense Forces.

Potential for Local Appeal

With the announcement of its new police force in Jilib, al-Shabaab is seeking to strengthen its grip on the city, one of its few remaining strategic strongholds, by creating a force that can easily

engage with the public, maybe even winning over public opinion and furthering public support for the group.

Judging by the group's past success in combating crime, it is possible the new force will have some appeal at a local level.

Meanwhile, the heavy public promotion of the new Islamic police force will likely encourage further sustained attacks by AMISOM and its partners, who will be wondering at al-Shabaab's confidence in heralding the establishment of such a unit.

Kabul siege: 12 killed in attack on American University

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/08/24/asia/kabul-afghanistan-american-university-blast-gunshots-heard/index.html>

Aug 25 – **Twelve people were killed in an attack on a university in Kabul, the Afghan capital**, a spokesman for the Chief of Kabul Police tells CNN.

Seven students, three policemen and two security guards were killed in the attack on the

"We have ended our clean-up operation. Two attackers were gunned down," Obaidi said about 10 hours after the assault began.

The gunmen detonated explosives and fired guns, witnesses said, causing some students and faculty to flee. Others hid inside buildings, a senior State Department official told CNN.

No group immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan government and supporting US officials have battled the Taliban for years. Two professors were abducted recently.

Despite its name, few Americans study at the school, a senior US State Department official told CNN. But a number of Americans serve on the faculty and may have been trapped inside buildings. The school is regarded as a symbol of cooperation between

Afghanistan and the United States.

Ahmad Samin said he was teaching a chemistry class Wednesday evening when the assailants struck.

The attackers opened fire and detonated explosives on the campus. Quickly, the lights went out in Samin's classroom.

"It was very dark, (and) everyone was running. Everyone started screaming," said Samin, who is a US citizen. "(It) was the scariest



American University campus, Basir Mujahid, the spokesman said.

Around 750 students were on campus at the time, he added.

Police searched the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul early Thursday and **killed two attackers who stormed the campus with guns and explosives**, Fraidoon Obaidi, chief of Kabul police's criminal investigation department, told AFP early Thursday.



moment in my life. I was just thinking about my son and daughter who are in (the United States)."

Amid black smoke, he took off running with the students and other faculty, and "the smoke entered my mouth" as he fled, he said.

'Enormous and harsh sound'

Witnesses described a chaotic scene.

A student, who asked to remain anonymous out of fear for his safety, told CNN he was attending a lecture class when he heard a "very enormous



and harsh sound" -- an explosion roughly 50 meters from his classroom.

"Everyone looked around the room looking for an escape," he said. "We have an emergency exit area in the corner of the campus. It's like a gate that opens when people need to get out of campus. Everyone was running out of there."

He heard gunfire as they ran, then a second explosion. Both explosions came from the school's entrance, he said.

"People were screaming for help. Everyone was screaming," he said.

He saw several people injured -- some from glass, others by bullets. A guard had injuries that appeared to be a result of one of the explosions, he said.

The student said he had heard from friends trapped in three buildings.

Bilal Sawary, a journalist in Kabul, said he'd heard from several people on campus.

"One of my family members who was there told me the attackers had maps, they were drinking Red Bulls, clearly aiming to stay as long as they could and some of them were tossing hand grenades," he said.

Security fears in Kabul

The school opened in 2006. It's the only private, nonprofit coed university in the country and has about 1,700 full- and part-time students.

The university is a very close partnership between the United States and Afghanistan and is an **important symbol of the partnership between the two countries**, the State Department official said.

It is considered an elite school that represents the modern and moderate Afghanistan, where many Afghan government and nongovernment organization officials have studied. The United States funds a lot of scholarships for Afghans to study, including many for women.

The blast occurred at 7:50 p.m., when students were gathering and eating together.

It comes less than three weeks after the school was forced to suspend campus operations after two teachers -- an American and Australian -- were kidnapped at gunpoint. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Security fears

A rash of kidnappings and Taliban bombings have heightened security fears in Kabul, the Afghan capital. American and other diplomats have been barred from traveling by road the short distance from the city's international airport to their diplomatic missions. Instead, they've been ferried by helicopter.

Many countries, including the United States and United Kingdom, have longstanding travel advisories against all but essential travel to Afghanistan because of the security situation.

"We are closely watching the situation at the American University in Kabul," a U.S. defense official told CNN. "A small number of advisers from the Resolute Support Mission is currently assisting Afghan forces as they respond. These advisers are not in



a combat role; they are advising their Afghan counterparts."

The National Security Council issued this statement on Wednesday: "The United States condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack today on the American University of Afghanistan. We salute the quick work of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces

who responded to the attack and secured the university. We send our thoughts and prayers to the families and loved ones of those killed and our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery to those wounded. We further reaffirm the support of the United States for the Afghan government and people as they continue to build a more stable, secure, and prosperous Afghanistan."

Queensland stabbing: British man fighting for life after attack at Australia hostel

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-37171751>

Aug 25 – A British man who suffered life-threatening injuries after being stabbed at a hostel in Australia has been named locally as Tom Jackson.



The 30-year-old is said to be fighting for his life [after the attack at the Shelley's Backpackers hostel in Home Hill, Queensland on Tuesday evening](#).

Mr Jackson and a 21-year-old woman, Mia Ayliffe-Chung, were attacked in front of around 30 witnesses.

Ms Ayliffe-Chung was pronounced dead at the scene and Mr Jackson was rushed to hospital in a

critical condition.

A 46-year-old Australian man, Grant Scholz, was also stabbed in the leg as he attempted to intervene but has since been released from hospital. **It had previously been reported the attacker had shouted "Allahu Akbar".**

A French national has been charged in connection with the attack. Queensland Police

said the suspect had no known links to Isis and they believe he acted alone.

They said the incident was being treated as a murder, [not a terrorist incident](#). They are investigating a number of possible motivations, including drugs misuse, mental health issues and extremism.



The stabbing took place at 23:15 local time on Tuesday at Shelley's Backpackers in Home Hill.

The small town - about 100km (60 miles) south-east of the city of Townsville - is popular among travellers looking to do agricultural work, such as fruit picking.

Miss Ayliffe-Chung had lived in Surfers Paradise, on Australia's Gold Coast, and worked as a waitress at the Bedroom Lounge Bar before making an 800-mile trip north to work outdoors.

She was just days into a three-month trip working with animals when she was killed.



EDITOR'S COMMENT: The "psychiatric virus" hit Australia as well. Brave Australians fight back chickenism and stupidity!



Remember the boy in p.211?

See who took the photo



Colombia, FARC to sign historic peace deal today, ending 52-year war

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20160824-colombia-farc-to-sign-historic-peace-deal-today-ending-52year-war>

Aug 24 – **The front-page headline of this morning's (Wednesday) *El Tiempo* says it all: “¡Histórico! Gobierno y Farc llegan a acuerdo y cierran negociación.”**

Indeed. Colombia's government and the leftist FARC rebel organization have reached a final and comprehensive peace agreement which puts an end to Latin America's longest war. The FARC campaign against successive Colombian governments began in 1964, leaving more than 220,000 people dead and more than six-and-a-half million displaced.

After four years of negotiations, the peace deal will be signed Wednesday evening in Havana, Cuba.

El Tiempo notes that the deal, after being signed by the Colombian government and FARC leaders, will be submitted to popular plebiscite scheduled for late September or early October.

A coalition of conservative politicians and parties, led by former president Alvaro Uribe, has been campaigning against peace deal, arguing that it offers an amnesty to people who



committed large-scale atrocities and who, their Marxist proclamations notwithstanding, were actively collaborating with the dreaded drug cartels in the 1980s and 1990s.



The 7,000 or so remaining FARC fighters will hold a vote on whether to approve the deal, which calls for the disarming of FARC and turning it into a political movement. The agreement calls for the FARC fighters to be initially concentrated in twenty-three areas across Colombia. After the FARC fighters are settled in these areas, they will, over a period of six months, hand over their weapons to UN observers.

The FARC has presented itself as the guardian of the neglected and exploited Colombian farmers, and the peace deal contains government guarantees to increase the funding going to rural development, the replacement of drug crops with legal crops, and a program to facilitate political participation for a demobilized FARC in Colombia's political system.

The deal also establishes a transitional justice system for crimes committed by FARC followers. The system will allow FARC members who confess to committing crimes to avoid serving their sentences in jail.

It is this point which has galvanized the opposition to the deal. During their five decades of guerrilla war, FARC fighters have committed many abuses – murdering judges, politicians, and ordinary people; kidnapping children for ransom; indiscriminately shelling of villages and towns; forcibly displacing hundreds of thousands of people; and colluding with the drug cartels in effort to destroy the Colombian state.

Uribe, who served as president from 2002 to 2010, led a tough military campaign against FARC, with open U.S. support, which significantly weakened the organization and drove it to the negotiation table. He said that FARC has been so weakened, that many of the concessions given to FARC by the current Colombian government, led by Manuel Santos, were unnecessary. The anti-deal coalition he leads says that, at a minimum, the deal should be renegotiated to include jail time for crimes against humanity and a ban on those convicted of such crimes from holding public office.

The Santos government says, however, that if the deal is rejected in the coming referendum, it will mean an end of the negotiations and a return to war.

El Tiempo notes that the most recent round of public opinion polls show the Yes and No votes practically tied – each with a third of vote. A third of the voters say they intend to abstain.



FARC has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States. Two months ago the Colombian government has officially asked the Department of State to remove FARC from the Foreign Terrorist Organization list.

