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Italian Mafia Warns Islamic State Group to Stay Away from NYC

Source: <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Italian-Mafia-Warns-Islamic-State-Group-to-Stay-Away-from-NYC-20151122-0013.html>



The Italian mafia in New York has warned Islamic State group against carrying out attacks in New York, or otherwise face the consequences, RT reported Sunday.

The son of a New York mob boss, Giovanni Gambino Jr., said the mafia is in much better position to protect New Yorkers than the country's security forces, such as the FBI and Homeland Security.

"They [federal security forces] often act too late, or fail to see a complete picture of what's happening due to a lack of 'human intelligence,'" Gambino told NBC News.

According to Reuters, Gambino said the mafia's knowledge of individual movements and interaction with locals gives it the upper hand, even compared to the latest surveillance technologies being used by U.S. security and intelligence agencies.

The Gambino mob family said they want to pitch in their grain of sand to protect New Yorkers from extremists and their possible attacks in the city.

Giovanni Gambino Jr. is attempting to carve out a career as a Hollywood screenwriter, Reuters added, saying that the crime boss' son said that after the Nov. 13 Islamic State group attacks in Paris, protection in New York is more important than ever.

"The world is dangerous today, but people living in New York neighborhoods with Sicilian connections should feel safe," he said. "We make sure our friends and families are protected from extremists and terrorists, especially the brutal, psychopathic organization that calls itself the Islamic State."

Gambino Jr assured viewers that the Islamic State group fears the Sicilian mafia, saying that is one of the main reasons why the extremist group has not tried to operate cells out of Sicily.

"The mafia has a bad reputation, but much of that's undeserved," says Gambino, who moved to Brooklyn in 1988. "As with everything in life, there are good, bad and ugly parts – the rise of global terrorism gives the mafia a chance to show its good side."

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Mafia's proposal reveals the big existing gap: lack of street intelligence or HUMINT. Extensive reliance on electronics, clouds and drones will never get to know the people on ground. And if Mafia can do it, we can do it as well.

SA a 'soft target'

Source: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/stnews/2015/11/22/Terror-SA-a-soft-target>

As the world reels under a bloody spate of terror attacks, State Security Minister David Mahlobo has told South Africans there is no need to panic.

Mahlobo told the Sunday Times that the government was working with international intelligence agencies to ensure that there were no threats to the country's security.

"We remain vigilant as a country and do our routine work, but we are not on high alert. There is no panic," said Mahlobo.

"The reality is that there is no country that is immune to terror, so we need to address the root causes."



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Friday's attack in Mali's capital, Bamako, during which at least 21 people were killed, has sent shock waves across the globe. The attack came a week after the bloodshed in Paris that claimed 130 lives.



However, Mahlobo said he was confident that any threats to South Africa would be detected, saying the government was "working with communities on a larger scale to fight any contact with radicals".

Yesterday French minister of foreign affairs Laurent Fabius met with President Jacob Zuma to discuss the upcoming COP21 climate conference and co-operation on fighting terrorism.

Asked about recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Mali and whether his meeting with Zuma was related to these events, he said: "Our countries do co-operate in the fight against terrorism, through the exchange of information and sharing our respective analyses.

"Although my visit is focused on the COP21 conference, we addressed the fight against terrorism."

Institute for Security Studies counterterrorism expert Anton du Plessis said recent attacks around the world indicated a shift in strategy by terror groups - one that placed South Africa under potential threat of an attack.

"What we've seen in the last two weeks is a serious game-changer in terms of where global terrorist groups are trying to position themselves. It's clear from attacks taking place

around the world that terrorist groups are trying to attract headlines and keep their recruitment strategies alive.

"If IS- and al-Qaeda-affiliated groups in Africa have changed strategy, then South Africa does face a threat. South Africa's government is not considered a high target for terrorist groups, but we have probably the highest concentration of what would be considered soft targets that would generate the highest level of publicity and fear within Western targets on the continent."

On an operational level, South Africa had good counterterrorism capacity in close co-operation with countries such as the UK, US and France, as seen during the World Cup, he said.

"But as we saw in Paris, you don't need a highly organised, big group of guys with explosives. You just need three or four people with AK47s, which are freely available in this part of the world, to pull off an attack right under the nose of intelligence."

"I don't think we can be complacent. The US embassy alert [in September] is a reminder that we're not off the radar."

The Department of International Relations yesterday condemned the terror in Mali: "South Africa stands with the rest of the international community in its condemnation of attacks targeting civilians and reiterates its stance that terrorism, in whatever form and from whichever quarter, cannot be condoned."

Meanwhile, a US security expert said African nations would remain vulnerable to militant attacks and it would be difficult for them to prevent similar violence in future.

"The ability to conduct attacks on soft targets is going to continue to be a challenge," General David Rodriguez, the head of US Africa Command, told reporters in Washington on Friday.

In the wake of the attack on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall in September 2013, which left 67 people dead, it emerged that "White Widow" Samantha Lewthwaite, the alleged mastermind behind the killings, managed to obtain fake South African IDs and spent time in Mayfair, Johannesburg, with her two children.

Boko Haram was this week named the world's deadliest



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terrorist group by the Global Terrorism Index. The militant group, which has targeted Nigeria and its neighbours for years, was responsible for 6664 deaths last year, more than any other terrorist group in the world, including IS, which killed 6073 people, according to the index.

Attacks in Nigeria this week alone, including two female suicide bombers detonating vests at a cellphone market in the northern city of Kano, left scores of people dead. In Cameroon yesterday suicide bombers killed six people and wounded dozens.

In Mali, security forces were hunting down at least three people suspected of involvement in Friday's jihadist attack in Bamako.

"We are actively pursuing three suspects who might have been involved in Friday's attack on the Radisson Blu Hotel," a source said.

The Malian government declared a 10-day state of emergency from midnight on Friday and called for three days of mourning for the victims.

Belgium yesterday closed the Brussels metro network after police found an arsenal of

chemicals and explosives, as the UN unanimously endorsed a resolution urging nations to combat IS, warning that the terrorist group intends more attacks similar to Paris.

The Belgian government raised the terror alert to its highest level, shutting the transit system. A receptionist at the Radisson Blu in Bamako described Friday's attack, during which heavily armed gunmen shouting "Allahu Akbar! [God is great]" stormed the hotel, seizing hostages and leaving bodies strewn throughout the building. The gunmen barrelled past the hotel's light security, using fake diplomatic licence plates to confuse guards, and burst into the lobby guns blazing.

"They started firing everywhere," said the receptionist. "They cut someone's throat, a white man. I saw four of them, armed to the teeth."

US President Barack Obama condemned the assault calling it "another reminder that terrorism threatens many of our nations".

Japan to set up terrorism intelligence unit as early as next month

Source: <http://english.kyodonews.jp/news/2015/11/385527.html>

Nov 22 – **Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Sunday that Japan will set up a new intelligence gathering unit on terrorism as soon as early next month, as the country gears up to host a key summit next year.**

"Ahead of the Ise-Shima summit, we will boost our counterterrorism measures and bolstering intelligence gathering with the international community is a pressing issue. For this end, we will create a new intelligence gathering unit," Abe said at a news conference, after wrapping up a series of regional summits in Kuala Lumpur.

Abe's remarks come as the international community is putting up a united front to combat terrorism in the wake of the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris.

Next year's Group of Seven summit which will bring together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Japan and the United States will be held in May in

A Japanese government source said Friday that Tokyo is Ministry's new intelligence gathering unit on terrorist bases -- in Amman, Cairo, Jakarta and New Delhi.

The government plans to assign staff from the foreign and defense ministries and the National Police Agency with regional expertise and fluency in local languages to the foreign offices, according to the source.

Intelligence teams will be set up at the Japanese embassies in those cities, with the unit's members stationed as diplomats. The move is also aimed at enhancing cooperation with foreign intelligence agencies.



Germany, Italy, central Japan.

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Islamic State terrorists chose to construct chemical weapons, officers allege

Source: <http://newzy.net/2015/11/22/islamic-state-terrorists-chose-to-construct-chemical.html>



Nov 22 – In the United States, several Republicans have criticized Obama's tactics against ISIS as ineffective, saying airstrikes alone will not defeat the terrorists.

Recent months have seen success. His trip also took him to the Philippines and Turkey, where he met with Putin on the sidelines of a worldwide summit.

Even with the surge of global terrorist activity, the likelihood of the average American dying in a terrorist attack is less than the possibility of being struck down by a meteorite. It calls for the use of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and ISIL on second reference.

Yet consider the Republican strategies being advanced. "[Obama] must call in the best military minds from the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization... and finally construct a comprehensive strategy that integrates our effort with the Kurds, Turks, Saudis, Egyptians and Jordanians".

Obama said he envisioned escalating that strategy, not overhauling it. And he called on other nations to step up their involvement in the fight against the extremists.

Mitt urges instead an alliance of countries that have done next to nothing to defeat ISIS.

"Terrorism hit France not because of what it is doing in Iraq and Syria ... but for what it is", Valls told the lower house of Parliament. The Saudis are bombing the Houthis in Yemen, not ISIS in Raqqa. The Egyptians are preoccupied

with their own homegrown terrorists. It might be Islamic State (IS) as a shorthand and the group's preferred term now that it claims it is breaking down borders and creating a state of much larger scope, ISIL as a full acronym, or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syrian (ISIS), an alternate translation. But why did he not mention Russian Federation, Iran, Assad and Hezbollah, all of which also wish to eradicate ISIS?

We partnered with Stalin in WWII. Is Vladimir Putin an untouchable?

Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham want USA ground troops sent into Syria and Iraq. Huge numbers of respected Muslim leaders, cultural commentators, and others across the Muslim cultural and political spectrum have argued that they reject the organization's position as a caliphate, considering it "void", and they join millions of Muslims worldwide who condemn ISIS and its policies.

And whom does Jeb propose to fight? The troops will help local Kurdish and Arab forces fighting ISIS with logistics and are planning to bolster their efforts. Does Bush plan to shoot down Syrian planes flying over Syria and Russian planes flying in support of Assad? His statement in the August 2012 campaign season that Assad's use of chemical weapons would be "a red line" seemed to many a reasonable deterrent.



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But that's the lesson, isn't it: When your government answers every problem in the world with military force, war begets war. But we take far fewer Christians fleeing the same war under almost the same circumstances.

MANILA - President Barack Obama moved to dent Russia's optimism that a deal is near with the U.S. and France to co-ordinate the fight against Islamic State. Within six months, the negotiations are to establish a "credible, inclusive and nonsectarian" transitional government that would set a schedule for drafting a new constitution and holding a free and fair U.N.-supervised election within 18 months. "So, don't test me". If we want to stop these terrorists, we can't stay on defense.

However, he said Islamic State has greater financial resources, adding that intelligence agencies have long underestimated IS' capabilities.

Gordon Adams, a military expert at American University in Washington, D.C., told the newspaper at the *time* that it was troubling that "we're helping to arm our enemy", and added that unintended support was coming from all sides of the conflict. "We could see more groups draw inspiration from that, knowing that the USA can be baited into attacking them, even if their size is relatively small".

This is a generational war and it won't be won with platitudes about how ISIS doesn't represent true Islam.

Terror fears over Islamist extremists released from UK jails

By Robert Mendick, Chief Reporter

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/12010007/Terror-fears-over-Islamist-extremists-released-from-UK-jails.html>

Nov 21 – **More than 140 Islamists jailed for terror offences in Britain are understood to have been released from prison and are free to walk the streets, according to new research.**

The study shows that out of 245 extremists convicted and put behind bars, more than half of them have served their minimum sentences and are thought to be at liberty.

The sheer volume of extremists now at large is deeply troubling for security services and police, who complained in a leaked letter leaked that 20 per cent budget cuts "severely impact" on their ability to keep Britain safe from terror attacks.

It is estimated that keeping just one terror suspect under surveillance for 24 hours requires 10 officers.

"The majority of Islamism-inspired terrorist offenders in this country in the last 15 years have served their minimum custodial sentences allowing for time spent on remand." Hannah Stewart, co-author of *Islamist Terrorism: The British Connections*

The list of extremists includes terrorists involved in some of the most serious plots targeting Britain in recent years who have either been released or are due to be next year, including:

- Six members of an al-Qaeda 'Dirty Bomb' cell that had plotted an attack on London

using limousines packed with flammable gas cylinders and explosives;

- an al-Qaeda financier who arranged for jihadists to go to training camps in Afghanistan who could not be deported back to Algeria after completing his prison sentence;
- Two junior members of one of the gang that planned to blow up transatlantic airliners in a coordinated attack using liquid bombs assembled on the flights;
- A law student, who had returned from Syria, caught with a bomb-making manual and the address of Tony Blair who was convicted at a secret trial as recently as April;
- the wife of a senior figure in the Islamic State and a close associate of 'Jihadi John' who was convicted only last year of funding her husband's fighting in Syria;
- Seven members of a Birmingham 'rucksack' plot who had planned the coordinated detonation of eight rucksack bombs in crowded places

The study of jailed Islamists going back to 1999 shows 141 have served the minimum jail terms and are as a consequence likely to have been released under licence. Many will have conditions placed on their release including reporting to probation officers, not contacting certain individuals and possible night-time curfews.



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Some may be electronically tagged.

A further 13 are due to be set free in the next 12 months.

Since 1999 it is estimated just 11 jihadists have been deported or extradited while 82 extremists remain in jail or else have died, according to the Henry Jackson Society, a security and intelligence think tank which has trawled public records for its findings.

Hannah Stewart, who has researched the list for a new edition of a book *Islamist Terrorism: The British Connections*, said: "The majority of Islamism-inspired terrorist offenders in this country in the last 15 years have served their minimum custodial sentences allowing for time spent on remand."

She said the number of offenders "puts an increased strain on Britain's intelligence services, who are already overstretched" adding: "Among those released are individuals who remain ideologically committed to Islamism-inspired terrorism and violence.

"We know this, not least because some have subsequently travelled to join jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq, but also because of the prevalence of repeat offending here in the UK." The research also shows that the number of criminals convicted of terror-related offences has risen sharply in the past five years.

Almost as many Islamist extremists have been convicted and imprisoned on terror charges in the past five years as had been sent to jail in the whole of the previous decade.

Between 1999 and 2010, 128 people were convicted and jailed for Islamist terror offences compared to 117 people in just five years from 2001 to 2015.

Among those thought to be released are terrorists involved in some of the most notorious plots in recent years as well as offenders found guilty of fundraising and organising jihad for al-Qaeda and other terror groups.

The UK authorities will not give details of when offenders are released from prison but by studying the sentences of those convicted, the laws on sentencing at the time, and by deducting time taken off prison terms for periods served on remand awaiting trial, the think tank has been able to piece together

dates for when prisoners held on terror offences are due for release.

The list includes **Erol Incedal**, a British law student, who was convicted as recently as April this year and sentenced to 42 months after a bomb-making manual was found in his possession along with Tony Blair's home address.



Erol Incedal Photo: Metropolitan Police

But Incedal had been in custody on remand since October 2013 after being arrested at Tower Bridge and then subject to the first ever secret trial.

Incedal was cleared of a more serious charge of plotting with a terrorist in Syria to murder Mr Blair or another 'individual of significance'.

Having been sentenced to 42 months in prison, he will have served half of that in jail – a total of 21 months – with the rest of the sentence spent out of jail on licence. But having already served 18 months on remand awaiting trial, Incedal was eligible for release in July.

Others already out of jail include Baghdad Meziane, an Algerian who was jailed in 2003 for running a terror network linked to al-Qaeda. Meziane, who lives in Leicester, was released in 2009 and has spent the past six years successfully fighting deportation.

"It is reasonable to draw the conclusion that a small but significant minority of released terrorists will try to further their terrorist ambitions."

Lord Carlile, former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation

Six members of a gang who had plotted attacks in the UK using limousines packed with gas cylinders and also targeted key buildings in New York are also understood to have been freed.

The men likely released, according to the Henry Jackson Society, are Omar Abdur Rehman, Qaisar Shaffi, Mohammed Zia Ul Haq, Mohammed Naveed Bhatti, Nadeem Tarmohamed and Junade Feroze, who were all convicted in 2007 for sentences ranging from 15 years to 22 years. But the 'Dirty Bomb' plotters spent almost three years on remand. Only the gang's two most senior members including its mastermind Dhiren



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Barot, once described as 'al-Qaeda's most senior operative in the UK', are certain to still be in jail.

Others also thought to be out include **Amal el-Wahhabi**, who was eligible for release in October. El-Wahhabi was convicted of funding her husband who was fighting in Syria. Aine Davis, a close associate of Mohammed Emwazi – also known as 'Jihadi John', was arrested last week in Istanbul where he was thought to have been plotting a terrorist atrocity.



Amal El-Wahabi Photo: Enterprise News and Pictures

El-Wahhabi was found guilty August 2014 and jailed for 28 months and was due for release in October having served half the sentence.

"This is a major problem for law enforcement authorities. It is extremely difficult to keep tabs on so many potentially very dangerous people."

Harry Fletcher, former assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation officers

The prospect of keeping tabs on so many offenders convicted of terror related activities is compounded by the extra strain of tracking British jihadists returning from Syria.

Lord Carlile, the former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, said "a significant minority" of extremists released from jail presented an ongoing threat.

"If you look at the Paris terrorists, some of them were known to security services and had been in trouble with the law," said Lord Carlile, "It is reasonable to draw the conclusion that a small but significant minority of released terrorists will try to further their terrorist ambitions.

"They may be so resentful of their prison experience that they may seek to lead terrorist plots. It is therefore crucial that the security services and the police should have significant resources to protect the public. In this context the proposed cut of 20% to police funding is seriously worrying."

Harry Fletcher, former assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "This is a major problem for law enforcement authorities. It is extremely difficult to keep tabs on so many potentially very dangerous people."

Radicalisation and fighters returning to Ireland are our biggest threat

By **Cormac O'Keeffe** (Irish Examiner Reporter)

Source: <http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/analysis/islamic-state-terrorism-radicalisation-and-fighters-returning-to-ireland-are-our-biggest-threat-366201.html>

Nov 21 – The risk of an attack here is low but we cannot let our guard down, says

Cormac O'Keeffe

In an area shrouded in secrecy, scraps of information and a lack of independent experts, questions have been raised about the threat to Ireland from so-called Islamic terrorism and how the gardai are tackling it.

A range of security sources who spoke to the Irish Examiner this week agree the direct threat is low. But they do highlight some dangers and the challenges of intelligence work.



Risks

The main risks are radicalization and returned fighters.

"There are sympathizers or supporters of Isis here," said Shaykh Umar Al-Qadri of the Al-Mustafa Islamic Centre in Blanchardstown, west Dublin.

“You hear them saying they can understand why Isis is doing this, they are standing up to the US.” Though small in number, he said it was “very dangerous” if they went unchallenged.

“We in the Muslim community must ensure young Muslims are taught categorically that there is no justification within Islam for what Isis is doing, because the young men are learning their Islam from online.”

He said any radicals known to be attending mosques must be confronted: “We must talk to them and if we can’t talk sense into them we must consider not allowing them in the mosque.

“We must also inform Gardaí about them. That is your duty as a Muslim and as a citizen.

“God forbid, if something did happen here, we can say the Muslim community took responsibility to try and prevent that.”

As regards returned fighters, sources estimate 30-40 Irish people have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq.

While it is difficult to get hard estimates on numbers that have returned, one security source estimated that some 20 may have returned to Ireland, but this cannot be confirmed.

“The biggest threat is fellas that have gone out and come back,” he said.

“They have military training and experience of combat. The fear is they might set up a little cell.”



Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan (photo) has identified this area as a risk, including the threat from so-called lone wolves, or people acting on their own.

One source said there was also the matter of cells here plotting to target someone abroad, as with the plot to kill Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks.

The plot, intercepted in 2010, involved Muslim people in Ireland, the US and Asia, as well US citizens, two of whom were convicted of terrorism in the US.

So what is the Gardaí doing to combat the problem?

Counter-terrorism

The operational arm of security policing in Ireland is carried out by the Special Detective Unit, which boasts around 300 members.

This, since last year, was structured between Counter Terrorism Domestic and Counter Terrorism International, along with the Emergency Response Unit and other units.

An estimated 40-50 people are assigned to CTI, split up into five shifts.

Sitting above the SDU is Security and Intelligence Section at Garda Headquarters. It gathers and analyses intelligence and handles informants in the Covert Human Intelligence Source, which has a specific CTI section. S&I also directs any surveillance or interception of communications of CTI suspects, a handful of whom are thought to have their phones tapped. S&I directs the activities of the National Surveillance Unit and liaises with foreign intelligence agencies.

Figures on the number of radicals that are being monitored is very difficult to establish, with some sources estimating it to be a couple of a dozen people.

Sources point out that much of the public is misinformed when they hear about suspects being ‘monitored’ or ‘tracked’.

“To conduct physical surveillance on people is enormously resource intensive,” said one source.

“To do it properly you could have six-10 people from the NSU and 10-12 from the ERU. You could do that for three to four days, and there may be very little reward to show for it.

He added: “You could log him going to Tesco’s, going to work, going to the mosque, going home, maybe he meets someone, but not much else.”

He said this is where other building blocks come into play — the application of technical surveillance, such as audio/visual devices and phone tapping; information from CHIS informants; information from community gardaí and the Muslim community.

“It’s the same with dissidents [republicans], the lifeblood of our work is intelligence. That points you to where to go.”

CTI faces issues in dealing with those suspected of travelling to fight in Syria and those returning back.



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According to sources, both the S&I and the CTI have had lengthy discussions on how to handle this “tricky” area, particularly those on the way out.

“If you stop them, you show your hand,” said one source.

“They will wonder ‘How did they know I was going out. That fella told them’. And then your CHIS source could be compromised.”

He added: “Also if you stop an 18-year-old and he says he’s travelling to Egypt to visit his granny, there’s not a lot you can do. We don’t have the power to arrest them, on what basis?” He pointed out that the people don’t have to



speak to them, as it is all voluntary. The same when they return.

“Again we have no power of arrest, unless there’s an offence. You are relying on them to talk to you voluntarily. They might have attended camp over there, been radicalized, and fought for 6-8 months with an AK in their hand. They’re full of testosterone. They’re not frightened of you and tend not to say too much.”

Sources said that many fit back in and do nothing else to warrant concern, but that some “may have got a taste of mad action” and remain a worry.

CTI try and keep track of them as best they can, but again there’s a limit, like any intelligence agency, as to what they can physically, and legally, do.

Gaps

There are basic ones, affecting the entire Garda force, such as staffing levels and overtime budgets. But there are a range of other issues affecting both the CTI and S&I.

A number of sources have said that neither section has members who can speak or read Arabic, posing obvious limitations: from monitoring Arabic communications — both online and in phone taps — to reading any Arabic documentation.

It also limits their ability to talk to people on the street and during interrogation. The latter results in the State spending money on interpretation services, which can also affect detention periods for suspects.

Both the London Met and MI5 have no shortages in this area and MI5 recruits civilian language specialists.

But some sources within the units here play down the effects of not having Arabic speakers, saying they converse with people in English. They said S&I have the use of expertise outside the force or through Interpol.

A Garda spokesman said the organization had “linguistic capabilities to meet our needs”.

While Shaykh Al-Qadri has no knowledge on this, he said it would be a concern.

“If it is true that the Gardaí don’t have Arabic speakers, that is a big problem,” he said.

“They should have Arabic speakers. One language the terrorists use is Arabic, they can communicate in it and some of the propaganda websites are in Arabic.”

This ties in with a second issue: the reported lack of a dedicated unit within S&I tasked with monitoring social media or so-called open source information. This was highlighted in the Garda Inspectorate’s Crime Investigation report.

It said the PSNI “use this sort of intelligence on a daily basis and have deployed resources to manage this process”.

Sources said that the SDU had done this sort of work on an “ad



hoc” basis and that it played a part in an investigation of a well-known Irish Muslim with extremist views.

One source indicated that S&I have been in contact with the PSNI regarding the software technology they use in their online unit.

Shaykh al-Qadri said he “didn’t have confidence [social media] is being monitored” and said he had come across many disturbing posts on Facebook from Irish Muslims.

He also said that the hacker group Anonymous had this week published information on thousands of Twitter accounts of people linked to, or supporting, Isis. He said these include people with accounts based in Ireland.

A Garda spokesman said that Operation Mizen was a National Co-ordination Unit which examined a range of open source information, not just on water charges, as previously stated. He said the unit was liaising with “agencies and academic institutions” to “further enhance” its capabilities.

Shaykh Al-Qadri said there also needed to be some kind of deradicalisation program for returned fighters.

“All of those who come back must be monitored and they must be obliged to take part in a deradicalization program. Unfortunately, we don’t have such a program, partly because the numbers are small.”

Another gap is the level of knowledge regarding the growing number of ‘prayer houses’ around the country, in people’s homes and in industrial units that are not linked to mosques. Some of these have been the center of CTI concern before.

“We have an excellent relationship with the Muslim community and no issues with the

mainstream mosques,” said one security source.

“But there’s nothing stopping anyone setting up a prayer house and some of them are more fanatical and they are difficult for us to get into and we’ve had ones where people who were known to us were going into.”

Shaykh Al-Qadri said there was “no solid information” on numbers of such houses and said they should be regulated to provide “transparency”.

A further gap, and a long-term one, is recruitment of Muslim people into An Garda Síochána.

“There’s been no recruitment for so long, that the demographic makeup has not changed,” said a security source.

“You need a community service that looks like the community it serves. That doesn’t just mean Muslims, but also Polish, Latvian and Romanian.”

A source at Garda management level agreed: “Do we want a service that represents the community? Absolutely. They can link in with these communities, of which they are a member, in a positive way.”

He said these issues were to the forefront in the recruitment which had resumed last year.

Shaykh al-Qadri said: “To win the war against radicalism we need to give the Muslim community more assurances that they are part of the society and give them the space to integrate and be part of the Gardaí.”

He said he knew of some Muslims who had been recruited into the Garda Reserve and this could be built on.

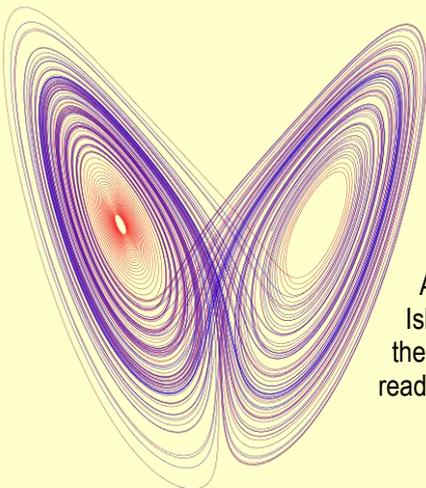
“It is very essential there are Gardaí from Muslim background, who can speak Arabic. It needs to change.”

Chaos theory: Islamic state’s apocalyptic vision

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/11/chaos-theory-islamic-states-apocalyptic.html>

Dabiq is a small village outside the Syrian capital of Damascus. A few years ago, it was overrun by fighters of the Islamic State. Subsequently, the IS named its main online propaganda mouthpiece “Dabiq.” The obsession of this terrorist-state that boasts of taking on a global coalition of “60 flags” with this unimportant village reveals a lot about its motivation.

According to Islamicist prophecies, Dabiq will be the site of a final battle between Islam and its enemies, a battle that would pave the way to the end of the world. Capturing Dabiq was not about winning a war, it was about readying the ground for the apocalypse.



As the people of Paris have discovered, wanton bloodshed is the hallmark of Islam's cult of doom. The IS repeatedly says its ultimate goal is tawahhush, the Arabic word for chaos.

This apocalyptic vision was the primary source of difference between Abu Musab al Zarqawi, the founder of what was to become IS, and his original mentor, Osama bin Laden, founder of al Qaeda. Bin Laden had a clear political goal of creating a global caliphate.

Zarqawi and his successors saw that only as a step towards fulfilling prophecies that foresaw an end to the world. IS ideologues also argued this required a ruthless purging of Muslims who were trying to stop judgment day. This included Shias, moderate Muslims and eventually even al Qaeda. A disgusted al Qaeda declared in February 2014 that it was "not responsible for [the Islamic State's] actions," and that they had no organisational ties too.

Rise of madness

A series of events left a vacuum in West Asia that allowed IS to emerge. The first domino was the US overthrow of Saddam Hussein, part of an unsuccessful attempt to rework the Arab world following 9/11.

Zarqawi's initial war was with the US and it was not successful. Andrew Hosken, author of *Empire of Fear*, argued that by 2010-11, "80 per cent of their leaders had been captured or killed and they ended up as a little rump. We didn't finish them off and like a cancer they came back."

The second domino was the Iraqi regime of Nouri Maliki. A Shia, Maliki's biases against Sunnis led to a resurrection of the IS. The third was the Arab Spring and the subsequent self-destruction of the Shia-minority government of Bashar al Assad.

The civil war there degenerated into a Sunni versus Shia conflict — and opened up eastern Syria to what was now renamed the Islamic State of Iraq and Shams (Arabic for the Levant). From 2013 to 2014 what had been a small insurgency became a large regional one and, with the capture of oilfields and cities like Mosul and Raqqa, a rich terrorist state. Writes William McCants of Brookings, "The major reason why the IS was so successful from 2013 to 2014: it was left alone."

Rebranding itself the Islamic State, it soon developed an international notoriety as it began recruiting would-be terrorists from Europe and

parts of the Arab world and imposed a seventh-century legal system that allowed child marriage and slavery.

Global war

By autumn 2014, the IS was at the pinnacle of its power. It had overrun northern Iraq and was eating away at the Assad regime. Thousands of foreign fighters were joining its ranks and estimates puts its annual income at \$ 2 billion.

The IS began advertising for engineers and plumbers as it seemed to develop the attributes of a normal government. But the IS remained at war with the Shia states of Iran and Iraq. Its attacks on secular Syrian rebels and capture and beheading of foreign hostages led the US to initiate airstrikes against it in September. The Gulf monarchies and countries like Jordan joined the US campaign.

The IS began to look for ways to retaliate against the West. It began recruiting militants-in-the-making in the West via the internet, urging them to attack their homelands rather than come to Iraq and Syria. This policy merged with the IS's apocalyptic vision.

It began encouraging such attacks regardless of whether that country had joined the coalition against IS or not. Says Cole Bunzel, IS expert at Princeton University, "It's important to look at the audio address issued September 21, 2014 by the speaker of IS, Abu Muhammad al Adnani, who called on IS supporters to attack Westerners globally in retaliation for the air campaign against IS in Syria and Iraq. He put special emphasis on citizens of the coalition countries, but also said to kill all Europeans as equally complicit in the West's crimes."

Geopolitical smarts

The IS has seemed until now to practice a canny "foreign policy". Ringed by Iran, Turkey, the Gulf kingdoms and Israel — some of whom could overrun IS in an all out war — the terrorist-state has carefully avoided being anyone's main enemy.

It attacked the Kurdish minorities in Syria and Iraq, knowing they are Ankara's number one concern. They have avoided attacking the region's most formidable power Israel. They have fought against the Shia front of Iraq and Iran — but have been happy to sell oil to their ally, the Assad regime.

The Gulf kingdoms see the IS as the Sunni Arab's swordarm,



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helping blunt Iranian power. Analysts are divided. Is this a sign the IS leadership is lot more “normal” than its rank and file’s ravings would indicate or a result of circumstances? Avoiding conflict with Israel is sensible realpolitik, but it also fits in with prophecies that say the conquest of Jerusalem is part of the third stage of the apocalypse — which comes after the global caliphate is established.

In the past few months, it seems the IS has overstepped itself. In two major terrorist attacks — the Russian airline over the Sinai and the massacres in Paris — the IS has ensured two great powers have mobilised against it, with the US moving towards even greater involvement in the conflict.

Bernard Haykel, author of a forthcoming book on IS believes ISIS is a “symptom of a much deeper structural set of problems in the Sunni

Arab world.” In an interview, he said. “[It has] to do with politics. With education, and the lack thereof. With authoritarianism. With foreign intervention. With the curse of oil ... I think that even if ISIS were to disappear, the underlying causes that produce ISIS would not disappear.” As he and others have argued, for an Arab living in much of West Asia the past decade of chaos has ensured that the IS’s claims that the world is about to end, that the Anti-Christ is coming to battle the Prophet, ring true. A 2012 survey found that half of Muslims in North Africa and West Asia expected the “imminent appearance” of the Mahdi — the Muslim saviour, who would mark the end of the world. And none of this will go until the larger crisis of a collapsing West Asia is settled — and no one other than IS claims to have a solution to that.

Why Sweden's terror threat is a game changer

Source <http://www.thelocal.se/20151119/why-swedens-terror-threat-is-globally-significant>



Swedes are on high alert for a terror attack for the first time in history. While the move has barely grabbed global media attention, it's a big deal in what is one of the safest countries on the planet, argues The Local's Editor Maddy Savage.

"I'm watching the press conference and I am wondering if we should stay in tonight," a Finnish friend texted as Sweden's Security Service Säpo announced on Wednesday that the terror threat level in Sweden had been raised to 'high' amid a hunt for a man suspected of plotting terror crimes here.

"I've never seen such serious warnings from the authorities of any Nordic country," the message continued.

On the streets of Stockholm on Thursday, there were similar jitters.

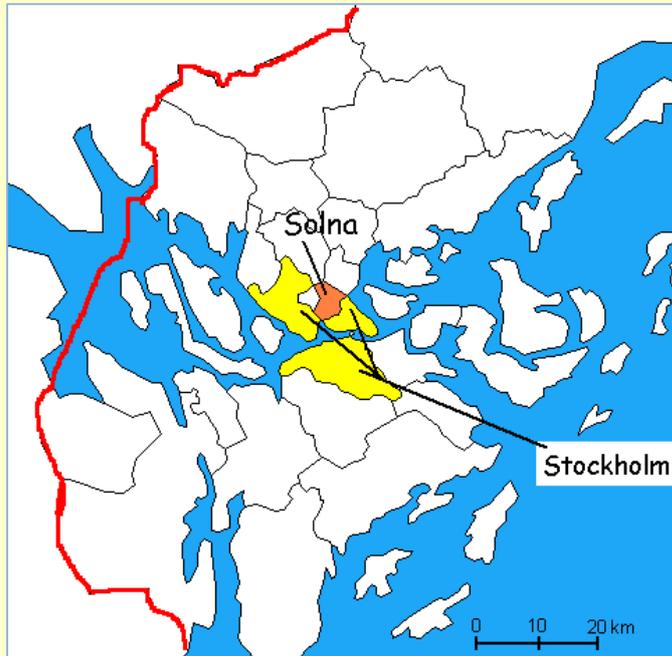
"I don't like the subway now. It doesn't feel nice," said Helle Aarniporo, 58, who was visiting the capital from Umeå in northern Sweden.

"It's worse to be here than at home. There are many more people. I'm not from Stockholm, so I don't know what [places] to avoid or what to do," she told The Local nervously as she prepared to board the underground at



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Slussen, a busy station close to the city centre. For plenty of Swedish residents the idea of a terror attack on home soil remains unimaginable. The country is frequently ranked [among the safest](#) and [most peaceful](#) in the world.



There has never before been a nationwide threat level this high, although it was briefly raised in Gothenburg in 2007 amid fears of terrorist activities in the city.

Unlike in Paris, Madrid, London or Copenhagen, **there is no history of Swedes being killed at the hands of Islamist extremists in their home country.**

Stockholm did experience an attempted suicide attack in 2010, but while the bomber died, only two people were hospitalized with minor injuries.

"It really is a game changer," said terrorism expert Magnus Ranstorp from the Swedish Defence University when contacted by The Local.

"Other European countries are raising the threat levels, so this is part of the European reaction. But also we now have this concrete threat," he added.

"I think that most people have been pretty ignorant and in a state of denial about the threat of extremism - general Swedes and politicians (...) Now people are waking up to the idea that this is an immediate threat, this is very real."

Despite the shifting dynamic in the Scandinavian country, authorities have been quick to reassure people that -- so far -- no

threats have been made against the general population.

At his press conference on Wednesday night, Interior Minister Ygeman said that only official buildings had been targeted and urged people not to "give in to the fear that the terrorists want us to feel".

Meanwhile Säpo's Director General Anders Thornberg said there was "absolutely no need" for Swedes to be afraid, but explained that they should have a slightly heightened state of vigilance.

Their messages do appear to have got through to some Stockholmers, with many brushing off the fears expressed by other residents when approached by The Local on Thursday.

"I have seen some people writing questions online and stuff and they seem quite scared, but in my circle at least people aren't worried," said Alexander Östman, 25, who lives in the Södermalm neighbourhood, just south of the city centre.

"They [Swedish authorities] were quite honest to say that it was a more general raise across the whole country. If it was just Södermalm for example, I would be perhaps a bit more threatened, but right now I just feel that they explained it pretty good, why they raised the threat level."

Linus Skoglund Orwald, 17, told The Local that while he had been "terrified" to hear about the recent attacks in the French capital, where his cousins live, he was not concerned about anything similar happening in his home city.

"I trust our security and I hope the government can handle this (...) it can't happen over here in Sweden."

But the fact that Säpo has raised the threat level is firm evidence that Nordic authorities believe a terror attack is possible.

The official definition of a 'high' alert is that "the probability that players have the intent and ability to carry out attacks is high".

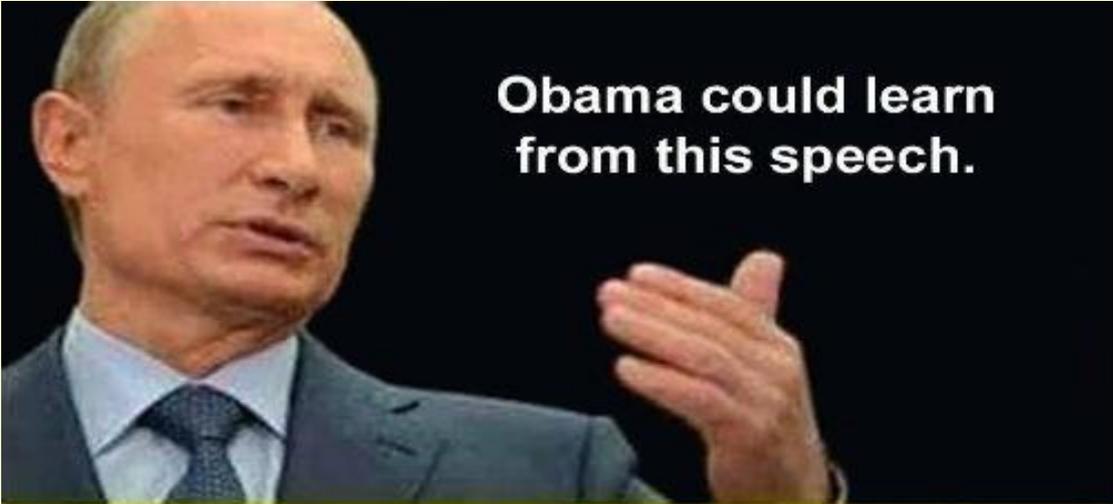
While Swedes appear to be divided on how to respond to the new warning, what is clear is that discussions about terrorism are no longer focused on what's happening abroad.

In offices, homes and universities around the country, people are



asking "what if a terror attack happens in Sweden?"

That is a huge deal in a country that has just celebrated 200 years of peace.



Obama could learn from this speech.

In Russia, lives Russians. Any minority from anywhere, if it wants to live in Russia, to work and eat in Russia, should speak Russian, and should respect the Russian law. If they want Sharia Law, then we advise them to go to those places where that's the state law. Russia does not need minorities, minorities needs Russia, and we will not grant them special privilege, or try to change our laws to fit their desires, no matter how loud they yell "Discrimination".

Vladimir Putin, Russian President

ISIS Mastermind in Syria Set up Intelligence State like the Stasi

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/11/isis-mastermind-in-syria-set-up.html>

Do we really know our enemy in ISIS?



The primary school grasp of our 21st century world of war was shockingly revealed by knee-jerk reactions of the male presidential candidates to the last week's escalation of terrorism.

Trump's war on refugees, Jeb's Islamophobia, Bernie's begging CNN to hold off on national security questions, Rubio's repeat of George W's fatal policy of crashing of another country's civil war -- all these are emotional outbursts.

Isn't that supposed to be women's weakness?

Hillary Clinton was the only candidate ready to respond in real time, and able to speak with a tone of Presidential authority, on how to fight this metastasizing monster. That's because she has what none of her competitors do - global experience and a steel trap over her emotions.

None of the other candidates was prepared to articulate a strategy for dealing with the primary threat - taking down the despotic leader of Syria, President Bashar al-Assad. And where are those "moderate Syrian rebels" the White House always references



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as our fallback friends? Why don't they ever show up on our non-stop breaking news about the Paris attacks?



The remnants of those Syrian rebels who haven't already joined up with ISIS or the Nusra Front are right now fighting to hold off a fatal siege of Aleppo, Syria's largest city. They learned their bitter lesson much earlier in this five-year war: relying on the fantasy of America's promises to help arm them in the fight against President Assad is futile.

Every time Assad unloads a devastating barrel bomb on a school or a market or uses weaponized sarin gas to devastate a rebel-held neighborhood without leaving traceable evidence, he recruits more desperate Syrian moderates to ISIS. Assad is the despot who created the vacuum and invited in a mashup of terrorist groups that the diehard rebels have been fighting all along.

Another, even more poisonous layer, lies beneath the religious rhetoric of ISIS, and nobody is talking about it. The New York Times finally mentioned the name of Hajji Bakr, nicknamed "the Prince of Shadows." He became second in command to the current leader of the Islamic State, a Jordanian known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The Prince of Shadows was in charge of setting up Islamic State operations in Syria back in the early 2000's. He was killed in 2004.

But the Prince of Shadows left secret files which were published by Der Spiegel. **They reveal that the organization, at the leadership level, was not driven by a manifesto of faith. It was actually a coldly calculating plan for an "Islamic Intelligence State" run like East Germany's notorious Stasi domestic intelligence agency.** The "brothers," meaning recruits (and later, presumably, foreign fighters) would be married off to daughters of the most influential families in each town, to "ensure penetration of these families without their knowledge." Core tactics of this most successful terrorist army in recent history are, as Hajji Bakr wrote, "surveillance, murder and kidnapping."

How do we fight an infiltrated civilian population in Syria? It sounds eerily like the human minefield we faced in North Vietnam.

The first step is a White House that fully emerges from denial and uses every means - social media, diplomatic message to build a coalition bolder than WWII, serious support for moderate Syrian rebels, if there are any left. This can't be America's fight alone, on that the American public shows in polls that they agree with Clinton. But we know what happened when we walked away from the Middle East, convinced that we had won the war in Iraq. It's time for America to lead.

New report claims IS using ammunition manufactured in 21 countries



Source: http://www.army-technology.com/news/newsnew-report-claims-is-using-ammunition-manufactured-in-21-countries-4733517?WT.mc_id=DN_News

Nov 20 – A new report has claimed that terrorist group Islamic State (IS) is using weapons and ammunition manufactured in 21 different countries, including China, Russia and the US. London-based Conflict Armament Research has identified the origins of cartridges manufactured for machine and submachine guns, rifles, and pistols in a European Union financed-report.

More than 1,700 cartridges used by the group were collected during last July and August in northern Iraq and Syria. One cartridge was found to be of Soviet origin, and dated back to the 1940s.

The report claims that Russia and the former Soviet Union produced a total of 492 of the recovered shells, followed by China and the US, who supplied 445 and 323 of the cartridges respectively.

Some of the US cartridges were manufactured at an army munitions factory in Missouri. According to the report, Bulgaria and China supplied more than half of the 170 cartridges that were discovered to have been produced between 2010 and 2014.

In September, US Congress passed a new law requiring the US Department of Defense (DoD) and State Department to monitor where weapons end up to minimize their misuse. Last week, a series of terror attacks in Paris left 129 dead and hundreds more injured.



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The US has vowed to redouble efforts by using military, diplomatic, law enforcement, and economic power against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

German terrorist cell planned to attack German-Holland soccer game

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151123-german-terrorist-cell-planned-to-attack-germanholland-soccer-game-last-tuesday>



Source: GoogleEarth

LARIS KARKLIS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Nov 23 – Last Tuesday's friendly soccer game in Hanover between the national teams of Germany and the Netherlands was canceled at the last minute after credible information that terrorists were planning to detonate three bombs inside the stadium during the game.

High German official told the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* that the German security services were tipped off by French counterparts that an ISIS-affiliated terror cell in Germany planned to detonate five bombs in Hanover – three inside the stadium, one at a bus stop, and one at a railway station.



The *Independent* reports that the match, which was to be attended by Chancellor Angela Merkel and other high-level political leaders from both countries, was called off ninety minutes before kick-off and the stadium was quickly evacuated.

The French intelligence provided the German security services with the names of the would-be attackers, but the German official said the names were not familiar to German counter-terrorism agencies.

The German authorities are now

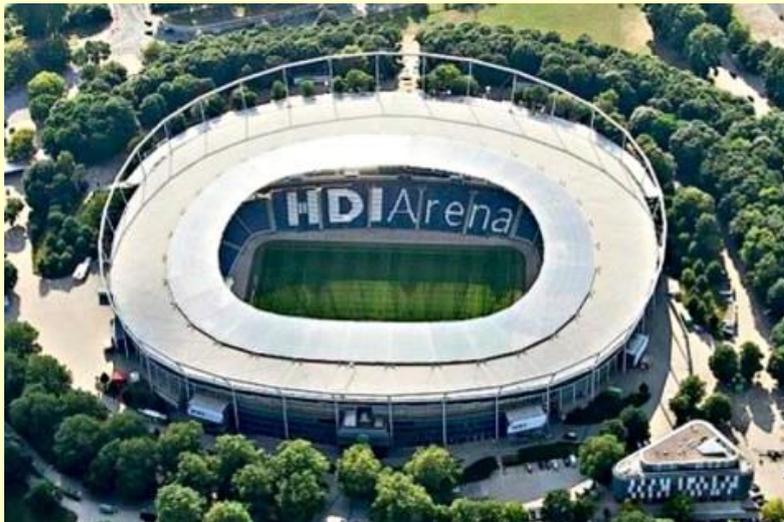
looking for the suspects, and federal and state police units are expected to increase the number of raids on suspicious sites in the coming days.

"Many of the terrorists who committed the attack in France were natives, and many were Syrian returnees. Both of those are true of many radical Islamists in Germany," the official told the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*. "For that reason, there is a great danger that we could experience a similar attack here."



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State broadcaster ZDF, though, reported that the German intelligence services are divided over the



accuracy of the information provided by the French counterparts, and that there are doubts whether a German cell existed.

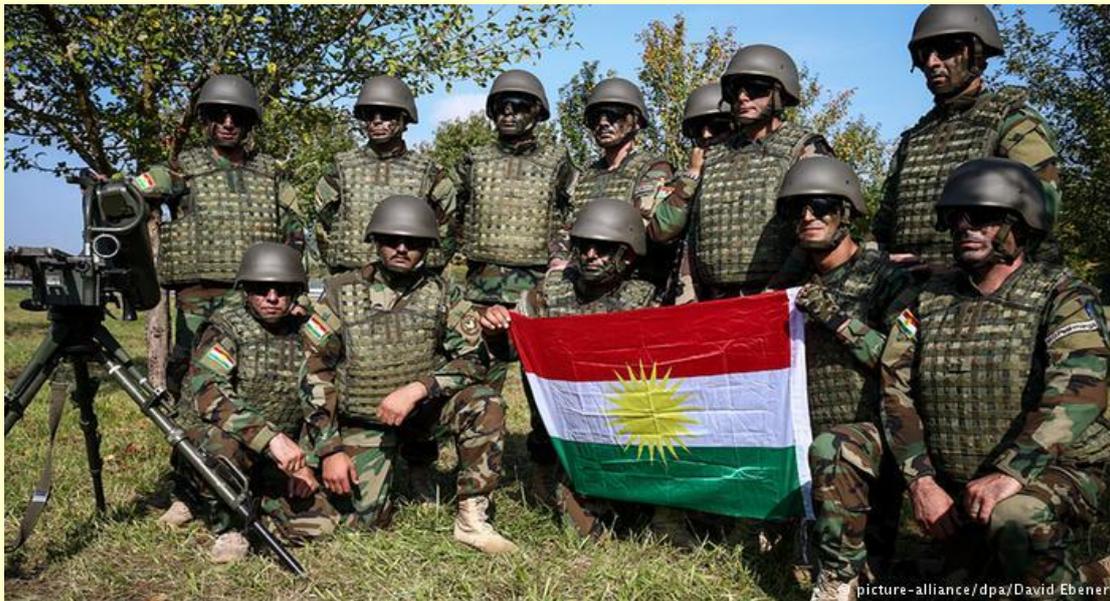
ZDF quoted German intelligence officials to say that they receive warnings about the existence of five-to seven-man terrorist cells “almost weekly.” In most cases, the reports turn out to be unsubstantiated, the officials told ZDF, but “since Paris we are looking at those warnings differently.”

BfV, Germany’s domestic intelligence agency, says there are 1,100 Islamists in Germany, of which 420 are classified as high-risk because of their potential to threaten public safety. These Islamists have exhibited a readiness to use violence.

The Kurds Can Defeat ISIS if We Provide Incentives

By Jonathan Spyer

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5640/kurds-isis>



Nov 22 – Islamic State (aka ISIS) is a murderous enterprise based on an insane ideology. It nevertheless desires its own survival and expansion.

In October, prior to the downing of the Russian jet over Sinai and the attacks last week in Paris, no serious threat to its continued existence was apparent. The US-led coalition bombing campaign was halfhearted, and Western support for Kurdish and Arab elements engaged in conflict with Islamic State

was clearly intended to contain, rather than destroy, it.

By its own actions, Islamic State has now altered this calculus. Why might it have chosen to do so, and what is this likely to mean for the next phase of the conflict in Iraq and Syria (and now metastasizing beyond it)? The bombings in Paris constitute the latest act in a turn toward international terrorism by Islamic State that began in the summer of this year.



It claimed responsibility for a bombing of a Shi'a mosque in Kuwait on June 26. But the first really substantial evidence of this turn was the attack on July 21 on a Kurdish community center in the town of Suruc, close to the Syrian-Turkish border. This attack was clearly intended as a strike at the "underbelly" of an enemy that formed the main barrier to Islamic State's ambitions in northern Syria.

The Suruc bombing was followed in subsequent months by Islamic State acts of terrorism in Ankara against a pro-Kurdish demonstration, over the Sinai against the Russian Metrojet Flight 9268, in south Beirut against the Hezbollah-controlled Borj al-Barajneh area, and now in Paris.

The tactical motivation for these attacks is fairly obvious. In all cases, the attacks are against forces or countries engaged on one level or another against Islamic State.

Islamic State has lost around 20-25 percent of its holdings in the course of the last half year. But these losses are manageable. Indeed, the group has in recent weeks continued to expand in a western direction, across the desert to Palmyra and thence into Homs province in Syria. Why, then, embark on a path that risks the destruction of Islamic State at the hands of forces incomparably stronger than it?

The answer is that Islamic State does not, like some other manifestations of political Islam in the region, combine vast strategic goals with a certain tactical patience and pragmatism. Rather, existing at the most extreme point of the Sunni Islamist continuum, it is a genuine apocalyptic cult. It has little interest in being left alone to create a model of Islamic governance according to its own lights, as its Western opponents had apparently hoped.

Its slogan is "baqiya wa tatamaddad" (remaining and expanding). The latter is as important an imperative as the former. Islamic State must constantly remain in motion and in kinetic action.

If this action results in Western half-measures and prevarication, then this will exemplify the weakness of the enemy to Islamic State supporters and spur further recruitment and further attacks. And if resolve and pushback are exhibited by the enemy, these, too, can be welcomed as part of the process intended to result in the final apocalyptic battles which are part of the Islamic State eschatology.

Because of this, allowing Islamic State to quietly fester in its Syrian and Iraqi domains is apparently not going to work.

The problem and consequent dilemma for Western policy-makers are that Islamic State is only a symptom, albeit a particularly virulent one, of a much larger malady. Were it not so, the matter of destroying a brutal, ramshackle entity in the badlands of Syria and Iraq would be fairly simple. A Western expeditionary force on the ground could achieve it in a matter of weeks and would presumably be welcomed by a grateful population.

This, however, is unlikely to be attempted, precisely because the real (but rarely stated) problem underlying Islamic State is the popularity and legitimacy of virulently anti-Western Sunni Islamist politics among the Sunni Arab populations of the area.

This is evidenced by the fact that the greater part of the Syrian Sunni Arab rebellion also consists of Sunni Islamist or jihadi forces, many of them not a great deal less extreme than Islamic State. The most powerful rebel coalition, Jaysh al-Fatah, for example, is a union between al-Qaida (Jabhat al-Nusra), the Muslim Brotherhood and local Salafi elements. As the Iraq insurgency and the Syrian and Palestinian examples show, the tendency of popular and street-level Arab politics in the Levant and Iraq is to take the form of violent politicized religion. As a result, any Western force entering Islamic State territory as a liberator would rapidly come to be considered an occupying force and would be the subject of attacks.

It is possible that because of this, Western policy will continue to follow the path of least resistance, as evidenced by the French bombing of Raqqa this week. Such bombings may serve to sate an understandable feeling of rage and desire for revenge on the part of the French public, but they will do little to degrade, much less dislodge, Islamic State.

Islamic state is part of a larger process whereby Iraq and Syria have collapsed and fragmented into their component parts, and vicious sectarian war among their ruins is taking place. If Western policy-makers conclude that even given the continued existence of this larger process, Islamic State is a particular manifestation that must be wiped out, and if they seriously wish to pursue this policy, how might it be



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achieved, given the determination to avoid a Western ground invasion for the reasons noted above? The answer is through the effective partnering with reliable local forces, which could be persuaded, bribed or induced to undertake the military task of destroying Islamic State, in cooperation with Western air power.

The obvious candidates to undertake such a task would be the powerful Kurdish military organizations in both Iraq and Syria, presumably with a leavening or decoration of Arab fighters (Sunni Arab tribal forces in Anbar, small Free Syrian Army-associated groups in Syria, and so on) for appearance's sake and for holding the area following the destruction of Islamic State.

Kurdish successes in cooperation with US air power in both northeast Syria and northern Iraq provide the blueprint for such a path.

The problem here, of course, is that the Kurds, reliable as they are, have little or no motivation for risking the lives of their fighters in the probably thankless task of providing the

backbone for a ground assault on Islamic State.

This problem is not insurmountable, but it would require a strategy able to provide sufficient political inducements for the Kurds. This would almost certainly have to include support for Kurdish statehood or a very entrenched version of "sovereignty- minus."

Turkish concerns would of course become a factor here. Syrian-Kurdish agreement to remain east of the Euphrates seems to have calmed Ankara, for now. But Turkey's agenda in Syria, and in particular the problematic support offered by Turkey to jihadi elements there, remains a factor awaiting attention.

What is most urgent is a clear understanding that both Iraq and Syria as unitary states have ceased to exist, that part of a successful strategy must include thinking about what replaces them, and that the way to challenge the negative elements active among their ruins is by supporting the positive elements.

The weeks ahead will indicate whether such a strategy is in the process of being formulated.

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

A mystery team in the Southeast: Esedullah

Source: http://www.todayszaman.com/national_news-analysis-a-mystery-team-in-the-southeast-esedullah_404799.html



Nov 21 – The “[Esedullah timi](#)” (Esedullah team), whose name is sprayed on the walls of tense southeastern towns that have witnessed ongoing clashes between security forces and the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party ([PKK](#)), remains a mystery.

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) in a report it recently prepared has called on the government to urgently determine who this team is. This team was also brought to Parliament's agenda by the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in a parliamentary question. However, the Interior Ministry has not yet responded to the question posed by the opposition on the team.



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Turkey heard about the “Esedullah team” for the first time in Cizre, a town in Şırnak province. Journalists who entered Cizre after a several-day-long curfew that left 23 people dead was lifted in September observed some graffiti sprayed on the walls of in the town. Among those slogans was “Esedullah timi burada” (the Esedullah team is here).

After Cizre, the same slogan also appeared on walls in Diyarbakır's Sur district, where two police officers were earlier killed during clashes. Then the same slogan was also seen in other southeastern towns where intense clashes took place during several-day-long curfews.

Who sprayed such slogans on the walls of streets where only special ops units were able to enter? Some observers say it is a special unit formed by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, others believe this team consists of bearded men who were brought from Rojava -- the Kurdish name given to northern Syria -- while some others say it is a new unit established within the police.

Grffiti stating “You will see the power of the Esedullah team and the power of Turks” was found on a wall in Sur, where a four-day curfew was imposed in October.

After images of the graffiti circulated in the media, HDP Diyarbakır deputy Çağlar Demirel in a parliamentary question in October asked Interior Minister Selami Altınok what the “Esedullah team” was. Demirel asked who wrote the graffiti on the wall in Sur during the curfew, also asking if this team is linked to the special ops units that were deployed to Sur for an operation.

The HDP deputy also asked whether such a team exists in the police or military units, further questioning what authorities and duties

were given to members of this mystery team. However, Altınok has not yet answered Demirel's questions although nearly two months have passed since the question was submitted.

Esedullah team most recently seen in Silvan

Similar graffiti also appeared in Silvan, a town in Diyarbakır province, where a 12-day curfew was imposed. Phrases such as “Girls, we have come and we have entered your dens” and “Esedullah Timi” were written on the walls of houses and offices in Silvan. Some images showing special ops officers writing on the walls in Silvan also circulated on social media networks. The Interior Ministry launched a probe after the images surfaced.

The CHP also acted following the release of the images, preparing a report based on its examinations about the curfews in the Silvan, Bismil and Sure districts of Diyarbakır. In the report, the CHP stated the graffiti such as “Esedullah Timi” has raised suspicions of the existence of a team acting like a “team of revenge” in the predominantly Kurdish towns in the Southeast.

Speaking to Today's Zaman, HDP deputies Demirel, Sibel Yiğitalp and Ziya Pir say those who were involved in operations in the Southeast do not resemble ordinary security personnel. Demirel says: “These people point guns at women and children. They get men on the ground and crush their legs, hands and backs with their feet. They do not recognize any laws. Their faces are covered. No one knows who they are.” Yiğitalp says the identity of those people who oppressed the locals in Silvan must be made public as soon as possible. “If this team consists of the security forces, it is much more serious,” Pir added.

Brazil to accept global intelligence help for 2016 Games

Source: <http://www.newsfultoncounty.com/world/news/2318124-brazil-to-accept-global-intelligence-help-for-2016-games>

Nov 23 – Brazil signaled Monday that it would accept help from international intelligence agencies in order to safeguard the Olympic and Paralympics Games set for next year in Rio de Janeiro.

“Recent events ... show that we can never be too careful in the steps and preparations that we take,” Government Secretary Ricardo Berzoini told reporters at the opening of an anti-terrorism seminar in Brasília.

“There is no limit to ... the number of precautionary steps available to the Brazilian authorities' disposal that we will take,” Berzoini was quoted by the G1 news site, adding that the Olympics would be “of greater complexity” than the World Cup, which Brazil



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hosted in 2014, given the far greater number of visiting nations and wider swath of political backgrounds.



Berzoini referred to a string of recent terror attacks. Ankara, Paris, Beirut and Mali's capital of Bamako have all experienced deadly attacks in recent days. The downing of a Russian passenger plane in the Sinai Peninsula is also believed to have been terror-related.

The head of Brazil's intelligence agency said "no country is 100 percent prepared" for terrorist attacks but that Brazil had experience in providing security for mega events.

The government's message aimed to reassure the international community that the country was taking steps to safeguard the mega sporting event after President Dilma Rousseff seemingly brushed off concerns in comments made at a recent G20 summit in Turkey, in which she said Brazil was "a long way off" from recent attacks.

France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius visited Brazil on Sunday as part of a tour ahead of the upcoming United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Paris and offered "an exchange of information with France's intelligence services" to boost security at next year's Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A controversial new law defining terrorism currently making its way through Congress has been criticized by social and political movements as an attempt to effectively outlaw potential protests similar to ones in the run-up to the World Cup that might embarrass the government while in the international spotlight next year.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Better now than never you might say! But timing indicates wrong estimations so far and that international terrorist incidents make it impossible to keep on walking alone. Let's only hope that this new turn will include CBRNE threats as well!

Tools for Deterring Terrorist Travel (CRS)

Source: <http://fas.org/blogs/secretcy/2015/11/terror-travel/>

Nov 17 – A new report issued by the Congressional Research Service describes the various procedures that the U.S. government can use "to prevent individuals from traveling to, from, or within the United States to commit acts of terrorism."

See [Legal Tools to Deter Travel by Suspected Terrorists: A Brief Primer](#), *CRS Legal Sidebar*, November 16, 2015.

In light of the Paris attacks, CRS also updated its short report on [European Security, Islamist Terrorism, and Returning Fighters](#), *CRS Insights*, November 16, 2015.

These 3 charts show homegrown terrorists are a bigger threat than refugees

Source: <http://www.vox.com/2015/11/23/9765718/domestic-terrorism-threat>

Nov 23 – Last week, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would halt the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the US and impose an even stricter vetting process, including case-by-case approval from the FBI director.

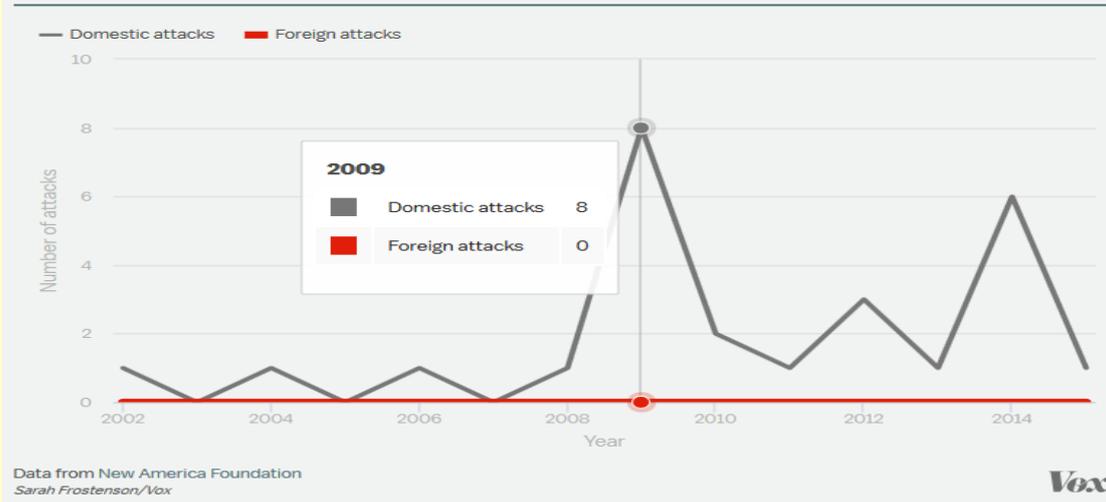


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Data from the [New America Foundation](#) suggests this effort to better secure America's borders is misguided: When you look at the history of terrorism in America, the perpetrators are rarely foreign nationals. The story of

killing more than 3,000 people and wounding countless others. But 9/11 is an outlier. In the 14 years since, not one domestic terrorist attack has been committed by an outside foreign terrorist organization.

26 deadly terrorism attacks since 9/11, but no foreign attacks

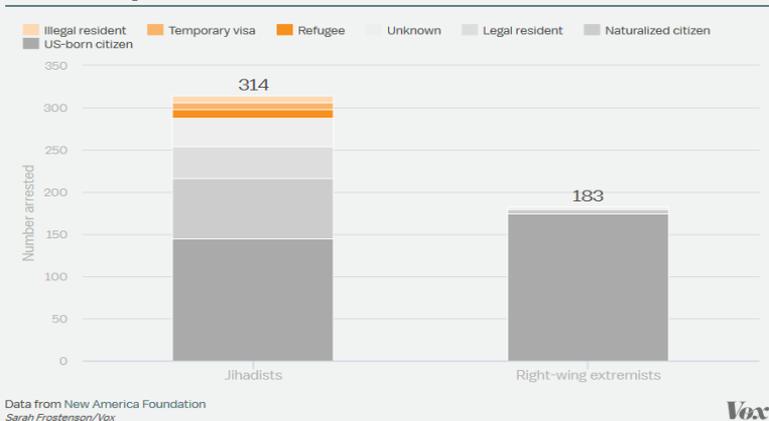


terrorism in America is one of homegrown radicalism.

"There is a conventional wisdom that terrorism in the US is the province of foreigners and is

In the same time frame, however, there have been 26 deadly domestic terrorist attacks perpetrated by homegrown terrorists. Homegrown terrorism commonly refers to terrorist acts committed by a

Citizenship of terrorists arrested since 2001



Jihadists

Illegal resident	8
Temporary visa	8
Refugee	10
Unknown	34
Legal resident	38
Naturalized citizen	71
US-born citizen	145

seen as a problem of infiltration," says David Sterman, a senior program associate with the international security program at the New America Foundation. "And while there is certainly a reason for that perception, as the September 11 attacks were conducted by people who came in from abroad, in the 330 cases we've examined since September 11, we found 80 percent are US citizens."

US citizens have committed 80 percent of terrorist attacks since 9/11

September 11, 2001, marked the worst international terrorist attack on American soil,

government's own citizens. While sometimes used to describe an Islamic extremist threat, homegrown terrorism isn't tied to any one ideological background. Of the 26 deadly homegrown terrorist attacks, only seven of those attacks were related to Islamic extremism. The other 19 attacks were led by right-wing extremists, including, most recently, the mass shooting that killed nine at a historic black

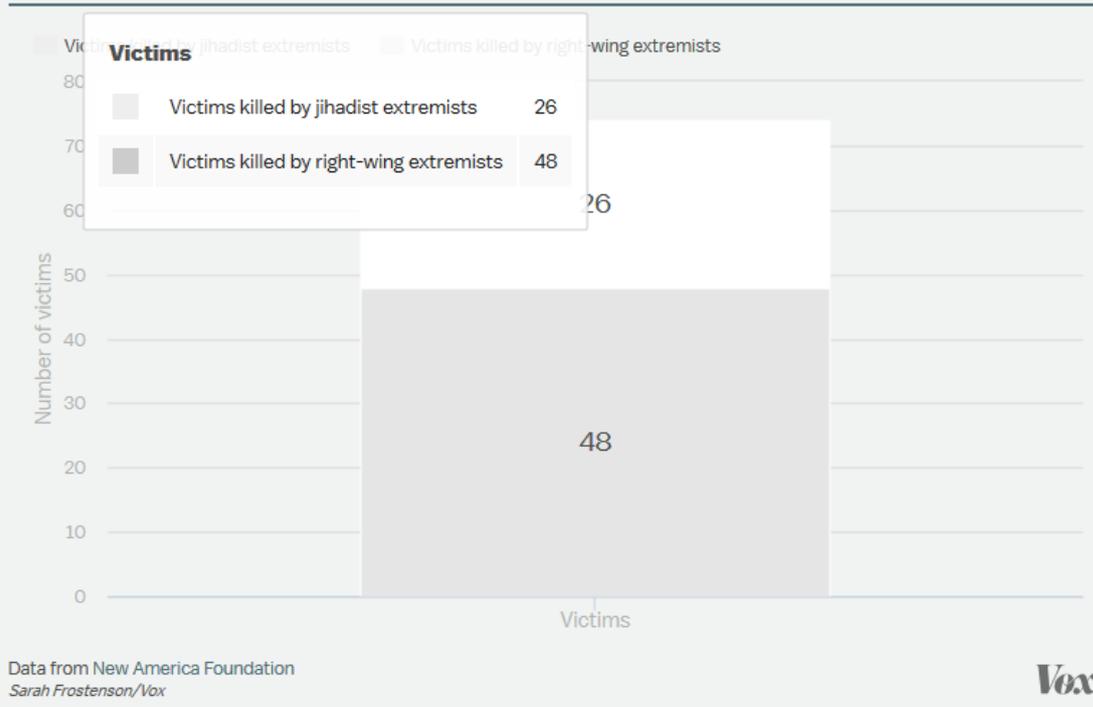


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church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The data from New America clearly shows that domestic terrorist attacks have, since 2001, been more commonly perpetrated by right-wing groups than by Islamic extremists. But when you look at data on arrests, the story flips:

US-born citizens. Of the 497 individuals arrested for terrorism, 64 percent were born here. As my colleague Jennifer Williams notes, citizens living at home can radicalize and become terrorists, too, even though that issue gets less attention. And as the data from

74 victims killed from terrorism since 2001

Since 2001, there have been 314 arrests for "jihadist terrorism," which New America defines as violent extremism motivated by al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups, and only 183 arrests for right-wing terrorism.

Sterman says one reason for this discrepancy is it is often hard to obtain reliable data on right-wing terrorism, as the government doesn't always label it as terrorism, whereas jihadist terrorist activity is almost always labeled as some form of terrorism. When deciding whether to classify a violent attack as a terrorist attack, Sterman said New America focuses on whether the attack was linked to a political group or organization — meaning many hate crimes often wouldn't fall under this kind of categorization. The presence of large weapon caches is another criterion used in their assessment, as Sterman said it speaks to the organizational aspect of the attack.

Most acts of domestic terrorism are committed by US citizens

Regardless of the type of terrorist attack — jihadist or right-wing — the overwhelming majority of terrorist attacks are committed by

New America confirms, terrorist acts committed by US citizens and not by refugees has formed the narrative of domestic terrorism since 9/11.

The New America data set does show that since 2001, 10 refugees have been arrested on terrorism charges. That number is still dwarfed, however, by the 320 American citizens arrested for the same charges.

Right-wing terrorism kills more Americans than jihadist extremism

In the 14 years since 9/11, domestic terror attacks have killed 74 people. Forty-eight of those people died in attacks by right-wing extremists, and 28 died from jihadist extremism. The most deadly jihadist attack since 9/11 was the attack on the Fort Hood military base in Texas in 2009, in which 13 people were killed and more than 30 others were wounded.

Domestic terrorism kills a small number of Americans each year; far more die from gun violence annually. But what gets lost in the national conversation on domestic terrorism is that terrorist acts are



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largely perpetrated by American citizens already living inside America's borders. Radicalization — whether it's jihadist

extremism or right-wing extremism — more often than not starts at home in the US rather than entering the country from abroad.

NOTE: All tables are interactive.

SITE Intelligence Group: the secretive company that filters Islamic State propaganda to the West

Source: <http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/other-industries/site-intelligence-group-the-secretive-company-that-filters-islamic-state-propaganda-to-the-west/news-story/dfeb0397c8be73cf6279198327e9d17c>

Nov 23 – **When the news breaks of a terrorist attack in the heart of a global city, a tense wait begins.**

The world's eyes turn to the media, seeking answers to the questions: How many are dead and wounded? What is being done? Who is responsible?

As the devastating Paris attacks unfolded, strong suspicions that Islamic State was behind the slayings were confirmed when global media outlets published a statement from the jihadi group claiming responsibility.

Written in Arabic and French, the statement warned that the deadly gun and bomb attacks that killed 129 people were only “the first of the storm”, and called France a “capital of prostitution and obscenity”.

While many did not mention the statement's original source, major outlets like *Time* and *The New York Times* referenced the SITE Intelligence group, a little-known private research organisation that monitors jihadi activity online.



French Islamic convert Fabien Clain, identified as the voice in IS audio claiming responsibility for the Paris attacks. *Source: AFP*

While the group may not be well known, most people are likely to have seen its work.

SITE has been the first source of some of the world's most publicised news events — like the beheading video of American journalist Steven Sotloff last year.

The organisation lurks in the dark corners of the internet — including jihadist channels on the encrypted chat service Telegram — and look for intelligence, which staff translate and email to a list of paying subscribers.

Steven Sotloff appears with “Jihadi John” in a still from the Islamic State beheading video released by SITE Intelligence



Sitting outside government intelligence organisations means SITE can release footage that may be held up if it were in the hands of a state-run security organisation.

So who is behind this secretive group, and what is their agenda?

An acronym for Search for International Terrorist Entities, SITE is a private, non-profit research organisation based in Maryland in the United States.

Co-founded and run by 52-year-old Rita Katz, an Iraq-born Jew whose father was executed as an alleged Israeli spy, SITE provides intelligence about terrorist groups to paying clients in business and government, according to *The Washington Post*.

Ms Katz publicly tweets about major discoveries, like Friday's video of Islamic State's threat to bomb the White House, last year's beheadings, and the Paris attacks.



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When she gave a rare interview to the New Yorker back in 2006, the operation was run out of a tiny three-room office at a secret location that she forbade the reporter from naming.



Her mission was described as being “to convince Americans of the seriousness of the threat by building a direct conduit to the terrorist mind”.

When terror strikes, all eyes turn to Rita Katz’s Twitter feed. *Source: Twitter*

She appears to have succeeded.

Last September SITE published images of American journalist Steven Sotloff dressed in an orange jumpsuit, being beheaded by

Islamic State.

Just days after that video made headlines, US Secretary of State John Kerry secured the support of his NATO allies — including the United Kingdom and Australia — for air strikes against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

SITE’s website states that Ms Katz “has studied, tracked, and analysed international terrorists, the global jihadist network and terrorism financing for more than a decade” and has been briefing United States government and spy agencies “since well before September 11”.

“As part of her work, Ms Katz, has gone undercover to numerous terrorist’s front group gatherings, collecting crucial information, and working to expose those groups in the United States,” the website says.

“Ms Katz received special recognition in 2004 from FBI Director Robert Muller for her ‘outstanding assistance to the FBI in connection with its investigative efforts’.

In 2003, she published an anonymous memoir titled [Terrorist Hunter: The Extraordinary Story of a Woman Who Went Undercover to Infiltrate the Radical Islamic Groups Operating in America](#), which she promoted on *60 Minutes* wearing a wig and a fake nose, and with her voice altered.

Ms Katz is not without her critics; there are those who argue she gives organisations like Islamic State a greater platform to spread their message, while leftists accuse her of propagandising war.

Some conspiracy theorists claim that the beheading videos are fake, created by the CIA to drum up public support for British and American military operations.

It is widely accepted that the similar video depicting the beheading of journalist James Foley is likely to have been staged —although most experts believe it was produced by Islamic State, with the actual execution carried out later.

Feminist writer and pro-Palestinian activist Naomi Wolf questioned SITE’s agenda in a Facebook post bemoaning the media’s reliance upon the organisation in its reporting on the Paris attacks.

“There is one internet. We should be able to check these destinations online for ourselves with no trouble at all,” Ms Klein wrote.



“We can translate them for ourselves ... It is not undermining but honouring the victims of a terrible tragedy to make sure that gatekeepers with their own agendas are not distorting the events to serve their own lucrative purposes.”

But former Australian spy and terrorism expert Warren Reed said commentators often failed to understand the nature of espionage.

“People who have never worked in intelligence think everything is black or white,” Mr Reed told news.com.au.



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“But most intelligence is neither black nor white; it’s in the grey area.”

Mr Reed said the work done by organisations like SITE Intelligence was “invaluable” in the fight against terrorism.

“Their outstanding value is that they’re nimble, they’re fast moving and they can often get into certain intelligence that the agencies get, often, far too late,” Mr Reed said.

“The great usefulness of an agency like SITE in the vital role they often play is that they’re outside the silo system.”

He said America’s intelligence apparatus was bogged down in bureaucracy and political agendas, which slowed the flow of information.

“Very rarely does raw intelligence gathered by spies in the field get distributed,” Mr Reed said.

“It goes through the huge filter of the analysts, and they feed on it like a shark frenzy.”



US National Security Agency headquarters at Fort Meade, Maryland. Picture: Saul LoebSource: AFP

He described an “ivory tower” of bureaucrats who filtered intelligence based on their own agendas, who “can’t stand spies in the field getting something that contradicts what the analysts have concluded”.

“When you work in an agency, you become part of a particular mindset or disposition,” he said.

“They use ‘intelligence speak’, Washington jargon. Rita’s group is completely free of that.”

One of her greatest assets, he said, was the linguistic and cultural fluency needed to pick up on “the inflections that often carry the essence of the meaning” in conversations among jihadis, uncovering intelligence that spy agencies and government found useful.

“Clearly Rita has been able to play that role on a significant number of occasions,” he said.

“If she can do that, I can tell you that’s the tip of the iceberg. There’ll be a wealth of other stuff that we’ll never hear about.”



The Paris Attacks Reflect Intelligence Failure, Not Change in ISIS Strategy

By Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi

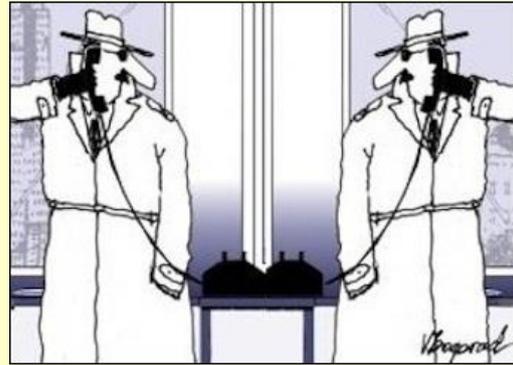
Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5641/paris-attacks-intelligence-failure>

Nov 20 – The recent attacks in Paris carried out by the Islamic State have led to widespread speculation about a possible shift in strategy on the part of ISIS. Taken in conjunction with the downing of a Russian passenger plane over the Sinai and the bombings in the predominantly Shia Dahiyeh suburbs of Beirut, it is argued that ISIS is lashing out at the "far enemy" as it comes under pressure on the home fronts in Iraq and Syria, such as its recent loss of control of Sinjar, a town that formed part of a key route connecting the de facto ISIS capitals of Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq.

Further, Iranian-backed forces – including Lebanese Hezbollah and Syrian President Bashar Assad's army, backed by Russian airstrikes, were able to break the long-standing ISIS siege of Kweiris airbase to the east of Aleppo city despite ISIS mobilization calls in Aleppo province to counter the offensive. On a more general level, internal documents suggest that ISIS is facing problems of cohesion in its military ranks, as the General Supervisory Committee issued an amnesty for deserters last month, whereas the normal ruling for fleeing from battle without appropriate justification is execution.

While it certainly is valid to point to these developments as setbacks for ISIS, they are too ephemeral in nature to tie them to the Paris attacks in particular. The sophisticated nature of the Paris attacks would have required planning and procurement of provisions predating ISIS's latest setbacks. Though it will still take time for more precise details to emerge, nothing so far definitely shows that the Paris attacks differ significantly from prior failed plots involving sleeper cells operating in Europe – including returned foreign fighters in their ranks – with suspected links to low to mid-level ISIS operatives in Iraq and Syria.

In fact, Abdelhamid Abbaoud, a key figure in the Paris attacks, was openly flaunting his role in establishing cells to conduct attacks in Europe in an interview with ISIS's magazine



Dabiq in February. If he was assigned a general role by the highest echelons of ISIS to conduct attacks in Europe, this assignment apparently took place almost a year ago.

Concerns regarding these networks have long been on the radar of Western intelligence services, and the fact the Paris attacks came to fruition represents a significant failure in detection more than anything else. The reason we have come to associate ISIS with lone wolf attacks rather than well-planned operations is because lone wolf attacks are usually harder to foresee and easier to carry out.

A similar analysis of the problem of sleeper cell networks applies to the situation of ISIS in Lebanon. Lebanon is a target for ISIS as it constitutes a part of the greater al-Sham region over which ISIS claimed geographical coincidence when it officially declared its expansion beyond Iraq in April 2013. Indeed, the Dahiyeh suburbs were already the subject of ISIS-claimed bomb attacks in January 2014. Only the Russian aircraft downing can be tied to recent developments as ISIS seeks to gain credibility for fighting back against the Russian intervention in Syria that has provoked widespread anger among Sunni Muslims.

As for the recent setbacks for ISIS within Iraq and Syria, they do not represent a decisive shift away from the overall reality of stalemate that was apparent months ago amid proclamations that ISIS was on the march and "winning," following the capture of Palmyra and Ramadi. Even now, ISIS has more recently made advances further west through the Homs desert with the capture of the town of Muhin from regime forces. In addition, there are still no effective ground forces to challenge ISIS control of the most important population centers of Raqqa and Mosul cities, as well as the majority of Deir az-Zor province and the



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towns of western Anbar province and eastern Aleppo province.

The larger fallacy in viewing the attacks in Paris and elsewhere as a shift in strategy is the premise that the ISIS state-building project and the notion of attacking the far enemy are mutually exclusive. In fact, the latter is meant to complement the former in undermining the ability of ISIS's enemies to harm its state structure. ISIS hopes to confuse enemy consensus on what to do about the terrorist group, as many ponder whether any intervention is justified at all given the risk of retaliatory terror attacks or fear "mission creep." ISIS hopes to sow division and discord on the enemies' home fronts. It wants to instill terror in its enemies and reinforce Muslim versus non-Muslim divides in civilian populations.

Looking forward to the question of responses to these attacks, it is tempting to look to the intense French airstrikes launched on Raqqa as the way forward. However, reports indicate that no major damage has been inflicted on ISIS military assets by these strikes as ISIS has learned to keep them out of the sight of coalition bombing. The U.S. has also decided to go after trucks carrying oil in ISIS territory in

the belief that oil is the key lifeline for ISIS funding. Such a policy reflects a serious over-estimation of the contribution of oil to ISIS income, which actually relies far more on confiscation and taxation.

Worse, the U.S. bombing overlooks the fact that those who transport oil from ISIS-controlled oil fields are not necessarily affiliated with ISIS. The end effect instead is likely to be significant humanitarian harm – not only to civilians in ISIS territory but also those living in rebel-held areas of Syria, which suffered a major fuel crisis when last cut off from trucks delivering oil from ISIS-held territory on account of an ISIS-imposed blockade in the early summer.

In short, one should have no illusions that simply intensifying airstrikes and more tough talk can lead to the defeat of ISIS. As before, we must have a realistic view of the true scale of commitment required to defeat ISIS: namely, an extensive international presence on the ground to enforce a political settlement acceptable to all major actors and to assist a massive nation-rebuilding project. Unless international consensus emerges for such an undertaking, one must not harbor pretenses about destroying ISIS.

Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi is a research fellow at Middle East Forum's [Jihad Intel](#) project.

Tunisia declares state of emergency after bus blast kills 12

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/11/tunisia-declares-state-of-emergency.html>



Nov 25 – Tunisia's president declared a 30-day state of emergency across the country and imposed an overnight curfew for the capital Tuesday after an explosion struck a bus

carrying members of the presidential guard, killing at least 12 people and wounding 20 others.



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The government described it as a terrorist attack. The blast on a tree-lined avenue in the heart of Tunis is a new blow to a country that is seen as a model for the region but has struggled against Islamic extremist violence. Radical gunmen staged two attacks earlier this



year that killed 60 people, devastated the tourism industry and rattled this young democracy.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack against the presidential guard, an elite security force that protects only the president.

President Beji Caid Essebsi, who wasn't in the bus at the time, declared the state of emergency and curfew on the Tunis region. He convened an emergency meeting of his security council for Wednesday morning.

Speaking on national television, he said Tunisia is at "war against terrorism" and urged international co-operation against extremists who have killed hundreds around Europe and the Mideast in recent weeks, from Paris to Beirut to a Russian plane shot down over Egypt.

"I want to reassure the Tunisian people that we will vanquish terrorism," he said.

Police fanned out throughout central Tunis after Tuesday's explosion, and ambulances rushed to the scene, evacuating wounded and dead. Top government ministers visited the scene of the attack after it was cordoned off by police.

Interior Ministry spokesman Walid Louguini told The Associated Press that at least 12 were killed and 20 wounded in the attack.

Witness Bassem Trifi, a human rights lawyer, said the explosion hit the driver's side of the bus, describing a "catastrophic" scene.

"I saw at least five corpses on the ground," he told the AP. "This was not an ordinary explosion."

The attack came days after authorities visibly increased the security level in the capital and deployed security forces in unusually high numbers.

Earlier this month, Tunisian authorities announced the dismantling of a cell that it said had planned attacks at police stations and hotels in the seaside city of Sousse, about 150 kilometres (95 miles) southeast of Tunis. Sousse was one of the targets of attacks earlier this year.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner, speaking in Washington, said the U.S. government was still seeking details on what happened in Tunis, but added, "We strongly condemn the attack."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, visiting Tunis earlier this month, pledged expanded economic and security support for Tunisia, whose popular uprising unleashed the democracy movements across the region in 2011 that became known as the Arab Spring.

Kerry said the U.S. and Tunisia would soon begin negotiations on a major loan guarantee and were discussing expanded military co-operation, including intelligence sharing and the possible use of drones to collect information about potential threats. A U.S. military team was expected in Tunisia around late November to begin those talks.

Tunisia is the only Arab Spring country to have solidified a new democracy, but it is facing serious economic and security challenges.

Tunisia's tourism industry has been hit especially hard this year. Shootings at a luxury beach hotel in Sousse last June killed 38 people, mostly tourists, while in March, an attack by Islamist extremists at Tunisia's famed Bardo museum near the capital killed 22 people.

The attack came two weeks before a group of Tunisians heads to Oslo to receive this year's Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to the country's National Dialogue Quartet for negotiations that rescued the country's fledgling democracy from a constitutional crisis.

Tunisia's influential Islamist party also denounced the explosion, and urged Tunisians to unite behind the security forces as they hunt for the perpetrators.



"Tunisia is targeted because it is a democracy and represents a model of moderate Islam," it said.

The U.N. Security Council "stressed that no terrorist attack can reverse the path of Tunisia towards democracy and its efforts towards economic recovery and development."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the United Nations "will continue to stand with the people of Tunisia as they confront the scourge of terrorism and continue to consolidate and strengthen their democracy."

Why can't Democrats say 'Islamic terrorism'?

By Ramesh Ponnuru

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/latest-columns/20151124-ramesh-ponnuru-why-cant-democrats-say-islamic-terrorism.ece>

Nov 24 – **Hillary Clinton has twisted herself into a pretzel on the subject of terrorism and its connection to Islam. Like many Democrats, she says that we must choose our words carefully to avoid scapegoating peaceful Muslims or driving them into the terrorists' arms.** But the words she has chosen won't help achieve our foreign-policy goals or help peaceful Muslims — because they make no sense.



In a Nov. 19 speech on how to combat Islamic State, Clinton argued that our rhetoric is part of our strategy: "Islam is not our adversary. Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people, and have nothing whatsoever to do with terrorism. The obsession in some quarters with a clash of civilization, or repeating the specific words 'radical Islamic terrorism' isn't just a distraction, it gives these criminals, these murderers more standing than they deserve. It actually plays into their hands by alienating partners we need by our side."

These were prepared remarks. One might be tempted to give Clinton the benefit of the doubt anyway and assume she meant to imply that "most" Muslims are as swell as she says. Surely she doesn't mean to deny that some Muslims leave something to be desired in the peaceful-and-tolerant department.

But other Democratic foreign-policy luminaries are saying similarly far-fetched things. John Kerry, Clinton's successor as secretary of state, said a few days before her speech that the Islamic State's barbarism "has nothing to do with Islam; it has everything to do with criminality, with terror, with abuse, with psychopathism — I mean, you name it."

Nothing to do with Islam? **Does anyone think we're going to find professed atheists among these psychopaths?** Kerry obviously

wanted to condemn Islamic State and its allies while not lumping in most Muslims with them. He could have simply noted that most Muslims reject terrorism, that many call it a perversion of Islam, and that he hopes this view prevails among more and more of them.

Unlike what he actually said, none of that would have been absurd.

Clinton also spoke for others in rejecting the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism." Liberal pundits say it's "ugly." The Democratic Party is running an ad alleging that it equates all Muslims with terrorists and incites fear. But to invoke "radical Islamic terrorists" logically implies that it is possible to be other Islamic things: for example, a kindhearted Islamic scholar. So it wasn't bigoted when Clinton, in 2005, gave a speech criticizing "radical Islamist extremists."

It's possible that some Muslims who hear that phrase will wrongly conclude that the speaker is expressing enmity toward all Muslims. But some misunderstandings are inevitable — and, in any case, Clinton's preferred terminology does nothing to reduce their likelihood.

If using the word "Islam" in the vicinity of "terrorism" is a bad idea, then so is using the word "jihadism" to mean, well, Islamic terrorism. So it isn't surprising that the J-word has run into the same criticism. In 2009, John Brennan, then an adviser to President Barack Obama and now head of the CIA, said that the administration disavowed the term



“jihadism” for pretty much the same reasons Clinton dislikes “radical Islamic terrorism”: It “risks giving these murderers the religious legitimacy they desperately seek” and “it risks reinforcing the idea that the United States is somehow at war with Islam itself.”

All this tortured diction is pointless. We’re at war with people who believe that Islam justifies mass murder. There’s no way to conduct that war without giving some people the impression that we’re at war with Islam, period. And there is such a thing as going too far to try to avoid giving that impression. When that imperative leads officials to say things that can’t be believed, it sends the opposite message from what they intend: It suggests that our leaders are expressing obvious untruths because they can’t acknowledge that Islam really is our enemy.

I suspect, in other words, that the nothing-to-see-here denial of any link between Islam and terrorism has a symbiotic relationship with anti-Muslim prejudice. If you insist that the alternative to distrusting Muslims in general is to pretend that there’s no such thing as Islamist terrorism, then some people will figure that distrust is safer.

They’ll also figure that they can’t believe anything you have to say on related subjects. **The latest Washington Post/ABC poll shows that 54 percent of the public opposes taking in Syrian refugees.** Maybe the majority is right and maybe it’s wrong, but I can’t help thinking that the number would be lower if the people calling for letting the refugees come here weren’t the same people who say that “Islam has nothing to do with terrorism.”

Bloomberg columnist Ramesh Ponnuru is a senior editor for National Review.

ISIS release chilling new video in English threatening UK for being part of a 'coalition of devils'

Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/isis-release-chilling-new-video-6896405>

Nov 25 – ISIS have released a chilling new video threatening the UK for being part of a 'coalition of devils'.

The film also taunts America to 'bring it on' claiming that military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have left troops "demoralised".



During the four minute clip, released online yesterday, an image shows the flags of 60 nations the terrorists say are part of a global coalition against the Islamic State.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: It is not surprise that Greece is included in the so called “global coalition”. Greece is an EU member state; a NATO member state; an US ally (?); an Orthodox country; it has an inexperienced left (?) government with a ridiculous opposition party; it has a vast coastline and is the “gate of Europe” towards East. So why not? But they should also keep in mind that we have a history of thousand years in our genes and despite our current sepsis **we can always cry out “Molon Lave” (Come and Get it)!**



Brazil auditor worried by border security for Rio Olympics

By Mauricio Savarese (Associated Press)

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/news/politics-government/article46420590.html>



In this Nov. 19, 2015 photo, Brazilian police officers take part in a security drill in preparation for the Rio 2016 Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A government watchdog says "flaws" in Brazil's border security are a "big concern" heading toward the Summer Olympic Games. Augusto Nardes, speaking at a news conference organized by Brazil's Justice Ministry, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015, says Brazil's police and military need better ways to control the country's 17,000 kilometer-long (10,500-mile) border, which touches 10 countries and runs through remote areas of the Amazon jungle. Silvia Izquierdo AP Photo

Nov 25 – A government watchdog said Wednesday that "flaws" in Brazil's border security are a "big concern" heading toward next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Augusto Nardes, a government auditor, told a news conference organized by Brazil's Justice Ministry that police and military need better ways to control the country's 17,000 kilometer-long (10,500-mile) border, which touches 10 countries and runs through remote areas of the Amazon jungle.

"We are aware that we have seven months to correct (the problem)," Nardes said, speaking at a news conference with security issues for the Olympics on the rise following the deadly attacks almost two weeks ago in Paris.

However, Public Security Secretary Regina Miki dismissed those concerns.

Miki said Brazil's policing was also questioned before the World Cup in 2014, when thousands

of police and soldiers were deployed to keep order.

"The Olympics in Rio will be held in total security," she said.

Andrei Rodrigues, a former bodyguard for President Dilma Rousseff and since 2013 managing Brazil's security for special events, said the Paris attacks did not change Olympic security planning.

"Brazil is now a reference in big events, we have know-how," he said.

However, independent security consultant Paulo Storani disagreed.

"Brazil's public security plan for the Olympics is a total improvisation," he told The Associated Press. "There are no deadlines for things to happen. It is hard to know who is responsible for what."

As in most Olympics, Brazil is working with many countries,



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including France and the United States, to improve security.

Rio's top state security official, Jose Mariano Beltrame, said last week that preventing terrorism has "always been the No. 1 priority" in Olympic planning, even though Brazil does not have a history of attacks.

The more visible problem in Rio is endemic street crime, with frequent assaults in high-profile tourist spots like Copacabana and Ipanema beaches.

Much of the violence takes place in sprawling hillside slums, where police are outnumbered

by armed gangs. Some of these areas border Rio's famous beach areas in the south of the city, which will host several Olympic events.

Beltrame said there would be 60,000-65,000 police on the streets during the Aug. 5-21 Olympics, with a contingency force of another 15,000 troops awaiting deployment in case of an emergency.

Several months ago Beltrame said an extra 30,000 might be needed to provide "ideal" security.

Olympic Security Good Enough despite Terror Threats: Brazil

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/sport/Olympic-Security-Good-Enough-Despite-Terror-Threats-Brazil/2015/11/27/article3149632.ece>



The 2016 Rio Olympic Games torch stands on display during its presentation ceremony in Brasilia, Brazil, Friday, July 3, 2015. Brazil will host the 2016 Summer Olympics. | AP

Nov 27 – The Brazilian government has announced it has already adopted the best measures to combat terrorism and there is no need to increase the security arrangements for the 2016 Olympic Games 2016 despite recent terrorist threats.

Despite the terrorist attacks in Paris two weeks ago, "there are no changes in the plans because we have already adopted the best measures to prevent and combat terrorism. However, we are careful, vigilant and more cautious," said the special secretary for the Ministry of Justice's Security for Important Events, Andrei Rodrigues, during a news conference on Thursday, reports Xinhua.

For Olympics, the Brazilian authorities trust the Comprehensive Centre for Police Cooperation as well as the fact they have already organised and held the football World Cup in 2014.

The authorities will allow the country's police to exchange information and collaborate with police from at least 40 countries and regions.

Foreign police will also be involved in operations and protecting their respective delegations during the event. However, foreign police will be under constant supervision of Brazil's Federal Police.

"It will be the first time that police and intelligence organisations from all over the world work together against terrorism in an Olympic Games," said Rodrigues.



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International cooperation is fundamental in avoiding any act of terrorism in Rio de Janeiro during the event, according to Rodrigues.

All help offered by other countries to fight terrorism is welcome, he added.

Hamburg 2024 bid hinges on referendum

Source: <http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/sports/swimming/360290/hamburg-2024-bid-hinges-on-referendum>



French world champion 2015 Boris Neveu practises on his kayak during the Canoe and Kayak test event for the RIO 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 26, 2015.

Nov 29 – **Germany's sports stars have pledged their support to Hamburg's bid to host the 2024 Olympic Games, which faces a referendum today that has split the Hanseatic city.**

Hamburg would need to see off rivals Budapest, Paris, Los Angeles and Rome to host the Games when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announce their decision on September 13, 2017.

But first the German bid must receive the backing of residents in Hamburg and neighbouring Kiel, where the sailing events would take place.

According to a survey commissioned by the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DSOB) this month, only 56 percent of Hamburg residents wanted their port city to host the Games -- down from 63 percent in September.

A final decision is expected at 2200 local time (2100 GMT) tonight.

In order for the Hamburg bid to continue, a majority yes-vote is required -- as well as

the support of at least 260,000 people, or 20 percent of the city-state's population.

Nearly 500,000 have already sent in absentee votes. Both Mario Goetze, who scored Germany's winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final, and Joachim Loew, who coached the team to their Brazil triumph, have backed the bid.

Former tennis star Michael Stich, NBA superstar Dirk Nowitzki and former ice-skating world and Olympic champion Katarina Witt have also pledged support.

"We want all those identified with the Hamburg bid to be perceived internationally as the faces of German sport," said DSOB president Alfons Hoermann.

Critics are concerned by the staggering costs of hosting the Games -- projected at 11.2bn euros (\$11.9bn) -- and question the sustainability of the project.

A counter campaign -- **NOlympics Hamburg** -- has labelled the Summer Games "a money-burning machine", which "speeds up gentrification" and is



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“not sustainable”. It has gained support amongst local residents.

“The Olympia threatens to become a costly nightmare for Hamburg”, NOlympia activist Michael Roths Schuh told SID. “Hamburg does not need the Olympics.”

Stich says it's now or never and echoed Hoermann's sentiments that a 'No' decision will make it more difficult to get financial support for less visible sporting disciplines in football-mad Germany.

“If it turns out to be a negative answer, I don't think Germany will apply in my lifetime again for an Olympic Games. It would be a very bad sign, for the whole country,” the 47-year-old Stich told SID.

Meanwhile, **Brazil** is preparing to deal with a terrorist attack at the Rio Olympics but has no information of any planned plots, the country's intelligence chief said yesterday.

“We have no information about a terrorist cell preparing in Brazil. Our risk assessment does not indicate this, but we are working permanently as if the threat were imminent, as if this could happen tomorrow,” Wilson Trezza, director of the Brazilian Intelligence Agency, said.

With nine months before the first Summer Games in South America, Brazilian **security officials say they will be able to stop any threat**. Brazil has no history of conflict with Islamist or other violent radical groups. However, with 10,500 athletes from 206 countries and dozens of heads of state and large numbers of tourists, the Olympics are considered a potential target. **Brazil says it will deploy 85,000 security personnel, double the number used during the 2012 London Olympics.**

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: (1) 11.2bn euros (\$11.9bn)??? – for what? To watch who is the fastest person in planet? Who can jump over 6m? Who will put the ball more times in a basket or goal post? Or to see new sophisticated defense systems in place? (2) Any person who states that “is able to stop any terrorist threat” is just an idiot or has political ambitions. Simple as that!

Laser-guided British missile on standby to wipe out terror chiefs: Brimstone weapons can hit vehicles doing 70mph while generating little debris

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3338746/Laser-guided-British-missile-standby-wipe-terror-chiefs-Brimstone-weapons-hit-vehicles-doing-70mph-generating-little-debris.html?ito=embedded>



Britain's precision missiles could be used to cut off the 'snake's head' of Islamic State and instil fear at the top of the terror group if attacks in Syria are authorised.

The laser-guided Brimstone missile, which can hit a small, fast-moving target, could be used by RAF pilots to assassinate IS leaders one by one.

Britain and Saudi Arabia are currently the only two countries in the world to have invested in Brimstones.



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The British-designed missile destroys its target with a contained explosion that generates relatively little debris.

It is far more sophisticated than the Americans' Hellfire weapons, which generate a large and deadly field of shrapnel when they explode.

The £100,000 **Brimstone** – which was used against Colonel Gaddafi's regime in Libya in 2011 – can be fired from a Tornado GR4 at 20,000ft and is capable of hitting vehicles travelling at up to 70mph.

It can be launched from a plane which is flying up to seven miles away from its target.

Each missile has a small but highly focused explosive warhead – which reduces the chance of shrapnel

HOW BRIMSTONE FINDS ITS TARGET

- 1** If RAF war planes are deployed in Syria, then Britain's Brimstone missiles could be used to target IS leaders. So if troops spot a jihadi leaving a meeting on a motorbike, then they could use spy planes flying above to confirm his exact location.
- 2** The surveillance aircraft would then pass coordinates to an RAF Tornado pilot. They could opt for the Brimstone, which helps minimise collateral damage.
- 3** The pilot would then programme the missile so it would give off the smallest possible explosive effect. The Brimstone would use laser and radar to guide itself towards the jihadi's location.
- 4** The warhead is designed to kill its target, but leave the surrounding area virtually undamaged, reducing the risk of civilian casualties.

Brimstone factfile

- Estimated cost: **£100,000**
- Length: **5ft 10in**
- Range: **7 miles**
- Speed: **Supersonic**

Guidance fins

Explosive

Programmable fuse

High-definition radar and laser locator

hitting civilians – as well as an adjustable fuse which allows the pilot to decide exactly when it will explode.

The RAF would use the state-of-the-art weaponry to take out particular targets on a British 'kill list' in Syria should MPs vote in favour of extending the mission this week.



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It is understood that Tornado planes would concentrate on hitting the 'upper tier' of IS leadership structure in their stronghold.

IS command posts and training camps will also be identified as key targets for any British aircraft operating over Syria, according to Defence Secretary Michael Fallon.

The missile's dual-mode guidance system – with a laser designator and a sophisticated radar – makes it the ideal weapon for destroying IS fanatics driving on motorbikes or on gun trucks.

It also makes the RAF a formidable force in the IS stronghold of Raqqa, where other coalition nations have struggled to take out targets for fear of civilian casualties in crowded areas.

While other air forces have been pounding Raqqa with air strikes, they have found it difficult to get to the 'snake's head' of the terrorist group, as David Cameron described the IS leadership.

Last week the French defence minister, Jean-Yves le Drian, referred to the Brimstone missile when he called on Britain to bring high-grade skills to the air campaign.

However last night a senior military figure suggested that Britain would have to go further and put boots on the ground in Syria to win the war against Islamic State.

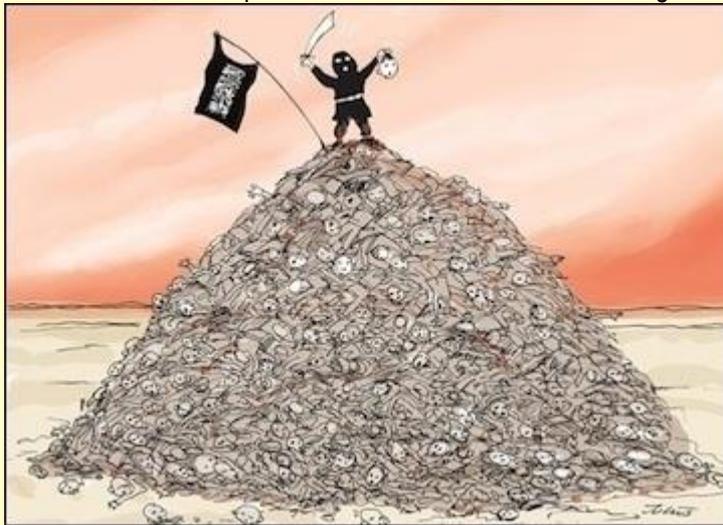
General Sir Richard Shirreff, who served as Britain's top commander in NATO, told the Daily Telegraph: 'To take a city of 350,000 is going to need a massive force. It's not something you are going to achieve with 70,000 so-called Syrian moderates.'

Caliphate Accompli

By A.J. Caschetta

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5662/caliphate-accomplish>

Nov 29 – At the G-20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey, Barack Obama gave one of the most bizarre performances of his presidency. The November 16, 2015 speech was notable, first,



for its gloating over imaginary successes at a time when failures are evident and, second, for the emergence of a new strategy against the Islamic State (ISIS).

In the gloating category, the president touted his administration's handling of Libya 26 days after Congressional hearings exposed the [lies](#) of Benghazi, boasted of improving worldwide airline security 17 days after an ISIS bomb downed a Russian passenger jet, and hectoring his political foes for suggesting he reconsider accepting thousands of refugees from Syria

just 2 days after it was learned that one or [more](#) of the Paris suicide bombers had come to France from Syria as refugees. It was as though he was trying to eclipse the bad timing of his November 13 [interview](#) with George Stephanopoulos, when he claimed to have "contained" ISIS only hours before the Paris attacks.

But the short speech and the long Q&A session were even more remarkable for illustrating the administration's deliberate tactic of attempting to embarrass and belittle ISIS verbally – as though words alone will halt its growth.

The president referred to ISIS as "simply a network of killers," "a handful of people who don't mind dying" and "killers with fantasies

of glory." He drew the facile conclusion that "ISIL pretends that they're a functioning state" and that "we play into the ISIL narrative when we act as if they are a state."

While it is true that military power alone is unlikely to defeat ISIS permanently, and that an attack on its ideology is necessary, this new approach is nothing more than the president casting aspersions on the Islamic legitimacy of ISIS and downplaying its operational capabilities and significance. As a strategy, it



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reveals a shocking failure to understand what ISIS seeks to be and what in fact it has become.

Early hints of the president's rhetorical tactic were evident in his first significant speech about ISIS on September 10, 2014, when he [claimed](#) that "ISIL is not Islamic" (a [claim](#) few believed). This tactic will undoubtedly have the same effect on ISIS that it had on the Taliban when Bill Clinton and George W. Bush contested Mullah Omar's Islamic bona fides and called his regime's crimes "un-Islamic." As Daniel Pipes [pointedly asked](#) fourteen years ago, "realistically, which Muslims accept spiritual guidance from the White House?"

Also evident in that first speech was an early version of the attempt to downplay ISIS's significance by asserting that it "is recognized by no government, nor the people it subjugates." Seeking to counter Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's [claim](#) that he had restored the caliphate, Obama decreed: "ISIL is a terrorist organization, pure and simple. And it has no vision other than the slaughter of all who stand in its way."

But al-Baghdadi's proclamation of a caliphate and desire to expand the territory ruled by Sharia law are part of a very clear vision. Failing to recognize that vision may have been excusable in September of 2014, but not on November 16, 2015. The president's apparent belief that ISIS's existence depends on his recognition is downright solipsistic. ISIS is an Islamic polity that holds territory greater than Great Britain, stretches over three continents, and has demonstrated the ability to project power throughout the world. It is more powerful than many states, and far more dangerous than all but a few. It is a caliphate accompli.

Obama is not alone in his view. Current Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri [claims](#) that al-Baghdadi is not worthy of the name caliph. The International Union of Muslim Scholars, one of Yusuf Al-Qaradawi's projects, found al-Baghdadi's declaration illegitimate and [pronounced](#) it "null and void."

Many Western analysts concur. Writing in the *Guardian*, William Dalrymple [finds](#) al-Baghdadi's "self-declaration" dependent on a "flimsy legal basis." Jocelyne Cesari, director of Harvard University's "Islam in the West" program and Georgetown University's "Islam in World Politics" program, [argues](#) that since "most historical caliphates were actually fairly

tolerant political entities" al-Baghdadi's claim is "kind of ridiculous."

Worse still, Raymond William Baker, excerpting his [book](#) for Salon.com, [argues](#) that "The United States is at war with a very different, mythic Islam of its own making that has nothing at all to do with this Islam of the Qur'an. To make sense of that conjured threat, scholarly studies of Islam or Islamic movements are of no help at all." The president appears to be following Baker's advice.

Of course Baker is profoundly wrong, for the history of the Islamic Caliphate is enormously instructive. According to Islamic tradition, after the death of Muhammad in 632, a leader was required to rule the empire created by what the Koran [calls](#) the "Seal of the Prophets." That leader became known as the Caliph (Arabic for "successor"), and his empire was called the caliphate. Muhammad's follower and friend Abu Bakr was named the first Caliph – clearly Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has chosen his *nom de guerre* carefully.

Islamic tradition refers to the first four Caliphs as the "rightly-guided Caliphs" who ruled the empire from the origin of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula. Then came the Umayyad dynasty which ruled the caliphate from Damascus, followed by the Abbasid dynasty, which ruled from Iraq. By the 10th century, the caliphate had grown so large that it ceased effectively to be governed by one entity and fell into a state of tribal dominance. First came the Buyids, then the Seljuqs, and finally the caliphate was subsumed by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman growth was not stunted until the Battle of Vienna on September 11, 1683, which began its two-century slide into a steadily smaller and less influential entity.

Abolition, for all practical purposes, came after World War I, when the triumphant French and British Empires carved up the Ottoman Empire, but it officially came when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk announced its dissolution in 1924. Nearly a century of irredentism followed, leaving a trail of Islamists longing for the Caliphate's restoration.

The first serious attempt to restore the caliphate began with Hasan al-Banna's Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Cairo in 1928. But perhaps the idea was [expressed](#) most succinctly by Syed Abul Ala Maududi's concept of a "World Revolution." Speaking at the town hall in Lahore, Pakistan on Iqbal



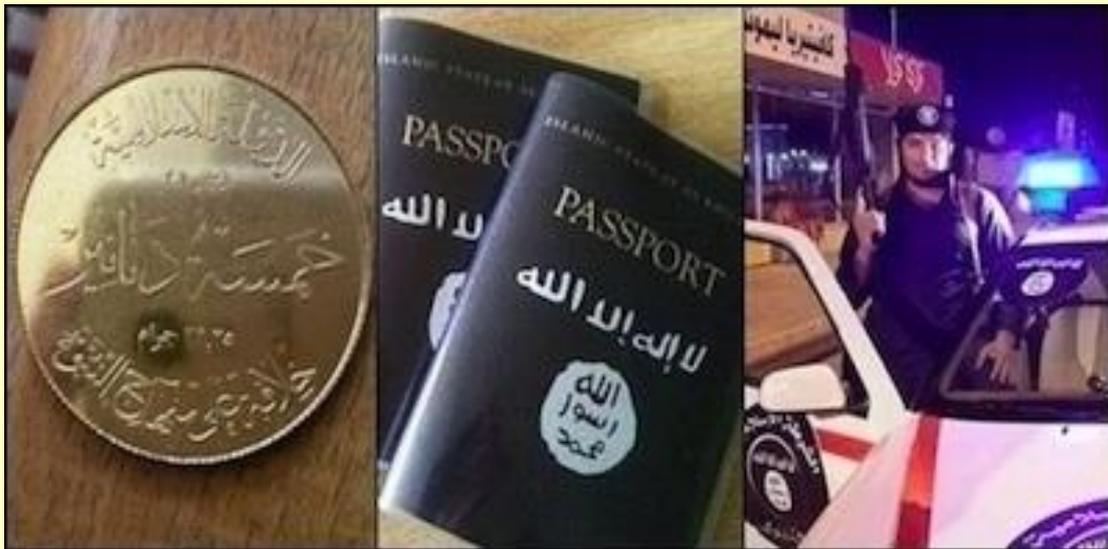
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Day, April 13, 1939, Maududi [announced](#) that "Islam does not intend to confine this revolution to a single State or a few countries; the aim of Islam is to bring about a universal revolution." Osama bin Laden was essentially following Maududi in his quest to unite the numerous competing Islamic vanguards into the "World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders" in 1998.

So while the president denies that ISIS is anything other than a second-rate terrorist group (formerly the junior varsity), it functions very much like a state: [minting](#) its own currency, [printing](#) its own passports, and

carried out a [suicide bombing](#) in Sucruc, and killed vocal critics of ISIS such as [Ibrahim Abdulqadir and Fares Hamadi](#).

The fact that ISIS holds significant territory and is capable of threats more like those posed by nation states than by clandestine terrorist organizations might lead some to include it in a category dubbed the "gray area phenomenon" – which according to [Bruce Hoffman](#) denotes a terrorist organization that controls "immense regions or urban areas" and poses "threats to the stability of nation states." Fortunately, when a terrorist group attains this level, it also becomes susceptible to conventional military



[running](#) its own schools (which [reject](#) the instruction of art but [specialize](#) in the art of suicide bombing).

Like the original caliphate, ISIS seeks to expand. By reaching out to other Islamists and terrorist organizations, al-Baghdadi is following Maududi's vision of amalgamation. In October 2014, the Pakistani Taliban [pledged](#) allegiance to ISIS, prompting [fears](#) that the Afghan Taliban will follow suit. In March 2015, Boko Haram [pledged](#) allegiance. In October 2015, factions of the Somali group Al-Shabaab [pledged](#) allegiance. In fact, [according to the Intel Center](#), 35 Islamist terror groups have pledged allegiance to ISIS, making Maududi's dream of all the vanguards coalescing into one United Jihad Front look like a reality.

ISIS has made inroads and struck across the entire Maghreb: cells have been broken up in [Morocco](#), [Tunisia](#), [Algeria](#), [Libya](#), and [Egypt](#). The new Caliphate is even encroaching on the remnants of the Ottoman Empire, where it has

tactics, as was the case with the Tamil Tigers. The FBI says it has [investigations](#) into ISIS cells in all 50 states – territory where no caliphate ever existed, but where Islamists from Sayyid Qutb to Osama bin Laden have dreamed of conquest. Pretending the caliphate does not exist is unlikely to yield positive results. And yet this fantasy has become a significant part of the "degrade" half of the Obama ["degrade and destroy"](#) strategy.

The belief that verbal ripostes and incisive humiliation will degrade ISIS betrays the mindset of an administration still overly impressed with its rhetorical skills. John Keats summed up this delusional thinking nearly two centuries ago when he wrote: "Let the fish philosophize the ice away from the Rivers in winter time, and they shall be at continual play in the tepid delight of summer." Unfortunately, ISIS cannot be philosophized away.



A.J. Caschetta is a senior lecturer at the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Shillman-Ginsburg fellow at the Middle East Forum.

Selected Articles: Blood and Oil. Dirty Dealings are “Oxygen for Jihadists”

Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/selected-articles-blood-and-oil-dirty-dealings-are-oxygen-for-jihadists/>
Global Research, November 30, 2015



Turkey Refines and Sells Stolen Syrian and Iraqi Oil for ISIS

By Stephen Lendman, November 30 2015

Erdogan is an international outlaw. He's supporting ISIS, US proxy foot soldiers in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, directly involved in their oil smuggling, refining and sales worth hundreds of millions of dollars on the black market.

'Oxygen for Jihadists': ISIS-smuggled Oil Flows through Turkey to International Markets – Iraqi MP

By RT, November 30 2015

"In the last eight months ISIS has managed to sell ... \$800 million dollars worth of oil on the black market of Turkey. This is Iraqi oil and Syrian oil, carried by trucks from Iraq, from Syria through the borders to Turkey and sold ...[at] less than 50 percent of the international oil price," Mowaffak al Rubaie said in an interview with RT.

Britain's "Robust Arms Export Control Regime." UK Munitions Sales to Saudi Arabia, Bombing Yemen, Crimes against Humanity....

By Felicity Arbuthnot, November 30 2015

As Prime Minister David Cameron attempts to persuade Parliament to back another illegal assault on a country posing no threat to the UK, Syria, it transpires that Britain may anyway face war crimes charges for arms sales to Saudi Arabia, arms being used to decimate civilians and civilian infrastructure in Yemen.

Syrian Christian Leader Tells West: 'Stop Arming Terror Groups Who Are Massacring Our People'

By Ruth Gledhill, November 30 2015

The world leader of Syria's besieged Christians has issued a heartfelt plea to the West to "stop arming and supporting terrorist groups that are destroying our countries and massacring our people."

Erdogan Government Arrests Turkish Generals for Stopping Syria-Bound Trucks "Filled With Arms"

By Sputnik, November 30 2015

Two Turkish generals and a colonel were detained on Saturday for intercepting Syria-bound trucks that belonged to Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT), the newspaper Today's Zaman reported.

Mass-Fatality, Coordinated Attacks Worldwide, and Terrorism in France

Source: http://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_ParisMassCasualtyCoordinatedAttack_Nov2015.pdf

Between 1970 and 2014, there have been 176 occasions on which terrorist attacks killed more than 100 people (excluding perpetrators), in a particular country on a particular day. This includes both isolated attacks, multiple attacks, and multi-part, coordinated attacks. The first such event took place in 1978, when an arson attack targeting the Cinema Rex Theater in Abadan, Iran killed more than 400 people.



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Since the Cinema Rex attack, and until 2013, 4.2 such mass-fatality terrorist events happened per year, on average. In 2014, the number increased dramatically when 26 mass-fatality terrorist events took place in eight different countries: Afghanistan (1), Central African Republic (1), Iraq (9), Nigeria (9),

Lethality of Coordinated Terrorist Attacks among Countries with the Highest Percentage of Coordinated Terrorist Attacks, 2000-2014					
Country	Total Attacks	% Coordinated Attacks	Total Fatalities	Perpetrator Fatalities	Victim Fatalities
France	331	40%	0	0	0
South Sudan	57	35%	763	293	470
Bangladesh	480	35%	27	5	22
Nigeria	2170	33%	4592	776	3816
Myanmar	123	32%	26	0	26
Spain	412	29%	198	5	193
Indonesia	472	29%	318	17	301
Chile	63	29%	0	0	0
China	111	28%	196	118	78
Greece	442	27%	0	0	0

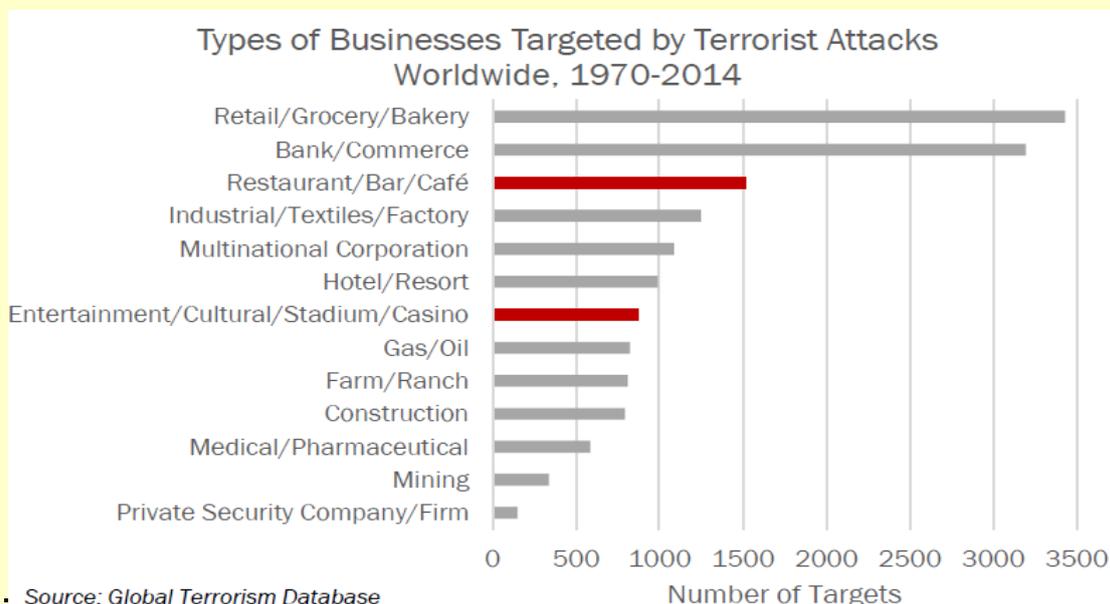
Pakistan (1), South Sudan (1), Syria (3), and Ukraine (1).

The attacks in Paris reportedly targeted several “soft” targets where large numbers of civilians gather

Perpetrator Groups Responsible for the Most Coordinated Terrorist Attacks, 2000-2014		
Perpetrator Group	Coordinated Attacks	Percent of Coordinated Attacks
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)	757	12%
Boko Haram	558	9%
Taliban	444	7%
Al-Qa`ida in Iraq	400	6%
Communist Party of India - Maoist (CPI-Maoist) / Maoists	337	5%
Al-Shabaab	244	4%
Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	175	3%
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)	165	3%
New People's Army (NPA)	119	2%
Fulani Militants	104	2%
Al-Qa`ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)	103	2%
Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC)	86	1%

without extraordinary security measures in place. The targets included several restaurants, a theater where a concert was being held, and a sports arena where a soccer match was being held.

The Global Terrorism Database classifies these particular types of targets as businesses, subcategorized as “restaurants/bars/cafés” and entertainment/cultural/stadiums/casinos.” Between 1970

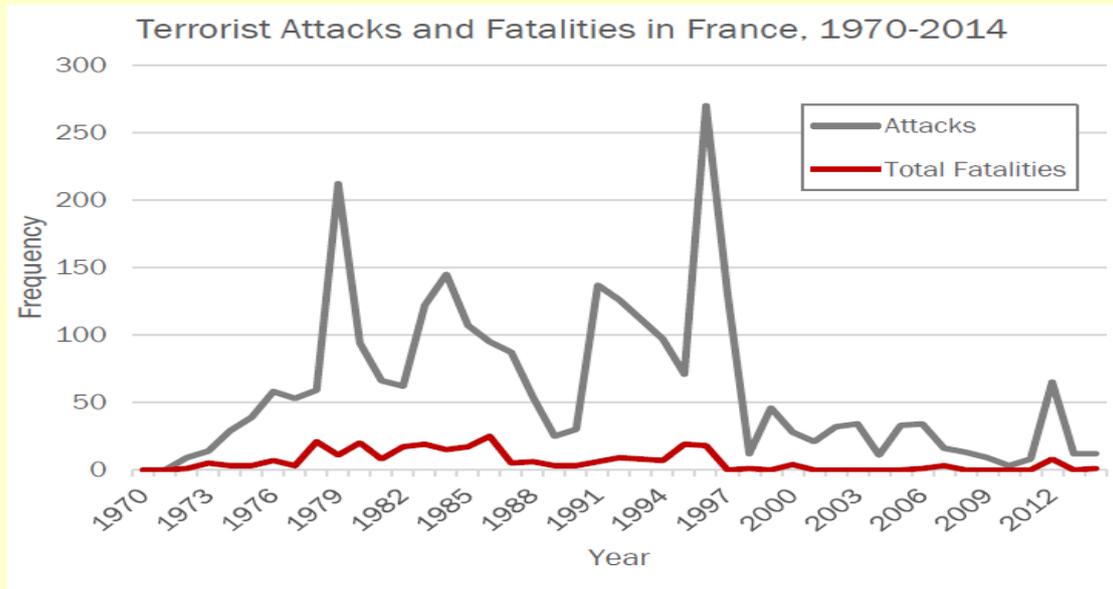


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and 2014, more than 2,300 of these types of targets were attacked by terrorists.

Terrorist attacks in France, 1970-2014

Between 1970 and 2014, 2,580 terrorist attacks took place in France, killing 269 people, including 15 perpetrators. Terrorism in France has evolved considerably since the 1980s and 1990s when the majority of attacks took place, most frequently carried out by the Corsican separatist group, the FLNC. In stark contrast to the recent attacks in Paris, most of the attacks in France between 1970 and 2014 (86%) were non-lethal, and the deadliest single terrorist attack in France during this time period took place in 1978 when nine people were killed in Marseille.



In the first six months of 2015, 17 terrorist attacks took place in France, five of which were lethal. In particular, in January 2015, assailants affiliated with al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) killed 12 in a shooting at the *Charlie Hebdo* newspaper offices.

Deadliest Perpetrators of Terrorism in France, 1970-2014		
Perpetrator Group	Total Fatalities	Terrorist Attacks
Anti-terrorist Liberation Group (GAL)	17	15
Unaffiliated Individual(s)	15	13
Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia	14	50
Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC)	13	637
Armed Islamic Group (GIA)	10	9
Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)	10	4

Source: Global Terrorism Database

► Read the full paper at source's URL.

Terrorism in Mali

Source: http://www.start.umd.edu/pubs/START_MaliFactSheet_Nov2015.pdf

In response to the attack on a hotel in Bamako, Mali on November 20, 2015, START has compiled the following information from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD).

Between 1990 and 2014, Mali experienced 199 terrorist attacks, which killed a total of 725 people, including 178 perpetrators. **The majority of these attacks (70%) took place between 2012 and 2014.** In addition, preliminary data from the first six months of 2015



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indicate that 77 terrorist attacks were carried out in Mali, killing 154 people, including 48 perpetrators. The most common targets of attacks in Mali between 2012 and 2014 were classified as military (28%) and diplomatic (25%) targets. Attacks against military targets were typically aimed at army checkpoints. Nearly all of the attacks against diplomatic targets were against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

This trend persists in 2015 when, according to preliminary data, MINUSMA was the target most frequently attacked.

Attacks against business targets in Mali, like the recent attack on a hotel in Bamako, were very rare during this time period and include a single attack in which perpetrators believed to be Islamist extremists opened fire on a bar in Gao, killing one person.

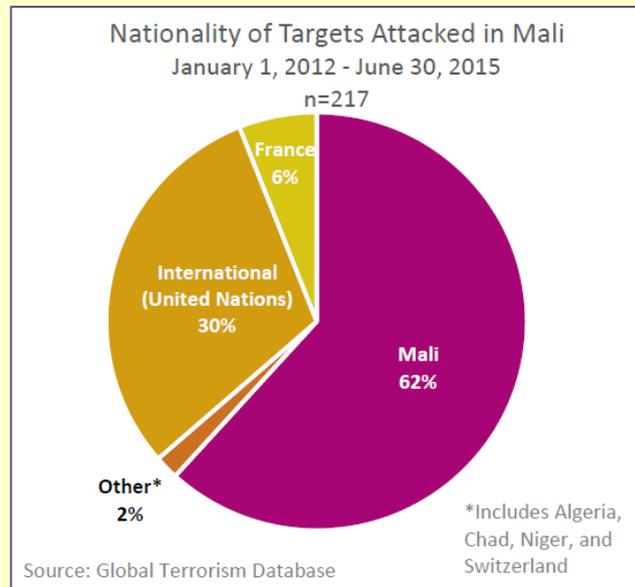
Targets of terrorism in Mali were most frequently Malian (62%). However, nearly one-third of attacks targeted the United Nations, 6 percent targeted French targets, and 2 percent targeted other nations, including Algeria, Chad, Niger, and Switzerland.

The deadliest single attack in Mali since 2012 took place in May 2014, when assailants opened fire on the office of the regional governor in Kidal.

Eight soldiers, eight civil servants, and 28 assailants were killed, and 91 others were wounded, including 62 assailants. In addition, 32 civil servants were abducted, and released within two days. The Azawad National Liberation Movement (MNLA) claimed responsibility for the attack, indicating that it was carried out in response to the government's lack of commitment to peace talks.

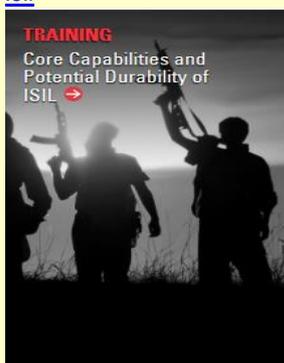
From 2012 to 2014, 14 percent of all terrorist attacks in Mali involved hostages or kidnap victims. The attack involving the most hostages was the 2014 attack in Kidal described above, in which 32 civil servants were abducted.

Information about the perpetrators of terrorist attacks in Mali was reported for approximately two-thirds (66%) of all attacks. Among attacks for which perpetrator information was available, three organizations were responsible for nearly three-quarters (72%) of all attacks: the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO; 38%), al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQLIM; 17%), and Azawad National Liberation Movement (MNLA; 17%).



Core Capabilities and Potential Durability of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

Source: <http://www.start.umd.edu/core-capabilities-and-potential-durability-islamic-state-iraq-and-levant-isil>



Overview

- **Training format:** Series of online video lectures (Online Short Series)
- **Number of lessons:** 3 ([Introduction](#), [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#))
- **Duration of each lesson:** Introduction (4 min), Part 1 (12 min), Part 2 (9 min), Part 3 (10 min)
- **Total duration of training:** 35 minutes of video; additional time needed to complete readings
- **Intended audience:** Decision-makers, analysts and operators seeking to understand, anticipate, and respond to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant



Description

This series of brief online training lectures explores research-based findings on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (referred to as ISIL in this training). These findings are the result of a research network facilitated by the Strategic Multilayer Assessment office within the Department of Defense and this training has been produced with funding from the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's Office of University Programs.

The lessons explore two key questions:

1. What makes ISIL so magnetic, inspirational, and deeply resonant with a small, but significant, portion of the Muslim population?
2. Is ISIL a durable organization, and what are the characteristics of ISIL that can help us anticipate its durability?

At the end of each lesson, a list of suggested readings is presented. These readings, as well as full text scripts, are available for download as PDF files by clicking on the links below each video (→ at source's URL).

We should be free to question the roots of Islamic terrorism, especially the brand pushed by Islamic State

By Andrew Hastiet

Source: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/opinion/we-should-be-free-to-question-the-roots-of-islamic-terrorism-especially-the-brand-pushed-by-islamic-state-writes-andrew-hastie/story-fni6unxq-1227628706965>



We are living in troubled times. The murderous attacks in Paris by Islamic State on innocent civilians have again prompted public discussion — in Europe and Australia — about Islamic terrorism and its origins.

The failure of the Grand Mufti of Australia to unequivocally condemn the attacks in his initial statement to the media has drawn fire from the media, politicians and everyday Australians.

Over the weekend, Minister Josh Frydenberg called out the Grand Mufti for his “graphic failure of leadership”. Along with other Liberal colleagues, I support Josh’s comments. To cite “causative factors such as racism, Islamophobia, curtailing freedoms through securitisation, duplicitous foreign policies and military intervention” while failing to unequivocally condemn the attacks as cold-blooded murder was indeed a failure of leadership.

We can always debate the causes of terrorism — especially in a free society like Australia — but that was the time for the Grand Mufti to use clear, concise and strong language condemning the Islamic State.

Now, more than ever, is the time for the Australian Muslim leadership to systematically and clearly make the case that Islam is a religion of peace. Islamic State is controlling

the narrative by their violent actions and Australians want reassurance from those who have an intimate knowledge of the Koran.

I do not claim to be an expert on Islam or the Islamic faith. But I am not ignorant of some of the realities of Islamic terrorism. And I know that ideas have consequences.

I have read the Koran in its entirety. In my previous job with the Australian Defence Force, I studied Islamic State propaganda including many of its violent videos and images in an effort to understand their objectives, aims and rationale.

I was disturbed by what I saw, but not cowed into inaction. A consistent thread throughout the Islamic State narrative is reference to the Koran and historical Islam. It is fair to say that IS draws inspiration from their own version of Islamic theology.

The point is clear: ideas matter. The Islamic State strategic blueprint is nested within their interpretation of Islam and their theology. The capture of the Syrian town, Dabiq, in 2014 was critical to Islamic State not for its strategic utility but rather for its theological significance. They believe that Dabiq will be the location for the final battle between the armies of Islam and Rome.

We cannot understand Islamic State through the presuppositions of our Western worldview. Islamic State defies the paradigms of



international relations taught in Western liberal universities. They can't be considered rational state actors who use a calculus of self-interest in advancing their agenda.

We need to understand them through their own ideas and their worldview. We need to challenge their theology. Only then can we start dismantle the Islamic State and deny them of a following in Australia and elsewhere. I want to make it clear that the Australian Muslim community is an important part of our society and I'm proud to live in a country like Australia where cultural and religious diversity is respected.

In my previous career, I've planned and conducted military operations with Afghan Muslim soldiers. I enjoyed their hospitality and discussed our different faiths over many meals. I have no bone to pick with fellow law-abiding citizens, whoever they may be.

But I think that we should be free to question the roots of Islamic terrorism, especially the brand pushed by Islamic State. It is troubling that we have had young Australians sympathising with the theology and ideology of Islamic State.

Young men like Junaid Thorne, Uthman Badar and Zaky Mallah (to name but a few) have all publicly failed to condemn Islamic State and have expressed strong opposition to the fundamentals of Australian society such as parliamentary democracy and the rule of secular law. Hizb Ut-Tahrir, which advocates its ideology under the very Australian freedom of speech it decries, wants to see the re-establishment of Islamic caliphate governed by sharia law.

It is encouraging members of the Australian Muslim community to not co-operate with law enforcement agencies. The Islamic theology and ideology they have expressed in public

overlaps with the theological framework of Islamic State.

If we tolerate this brand of radical Islam in our communities, why are we surprised when teenagers like Farhad Jabar gun down innocent people like Curtis Cheng outside the Parramatta Police Station? It is noteworthy that he cried "Allahu Akbar" and had just left Parramatta mosque prior to the attack.

These are hard facts but we must not be afraid to examine them in seeking to understand why young men — 15-year-old boys — are willing to kill and die in the name of religion.

I'm calling on the Australian Muslim community to lead the Australian public in a discussion about the theological roots of Islamic extremism. It should not be off-limits.

Christianity has been under the academic blowtorch for 200 years with the Bible subject to critical and sustained academic scholarship. Deconstruction — the academic method of pulling apart texts and their meaning — has permeated Western universities for the past 40 years.

Our Western cultural heritage has endured the same academic criticism. And you only need to visit a university arts and social science faculty to pick that up. Why then do we refrain from asking the hard questions of extremist Islamic theology and ideology?

If we are serious about understanding Islamic State, let's apply the same standard of criticism to the ideas that inform its vision and that inspire its followers. Let's ask the hard questions and find the answers.

Until we do, we'll fail to understand the nature of the threat posed by Islamic State and their affiliates.

As the Chinese Sun Tzu famously wrote, **"Know thy enemy, know thyself and you will never lose a 100 battles."**

Andrew Hastie is the Liberal member for Canning and a former member of the Special Air Service Regiment.

This might be the most controversial theory for what's behind the rise of ISIS

By Jim Tankersley

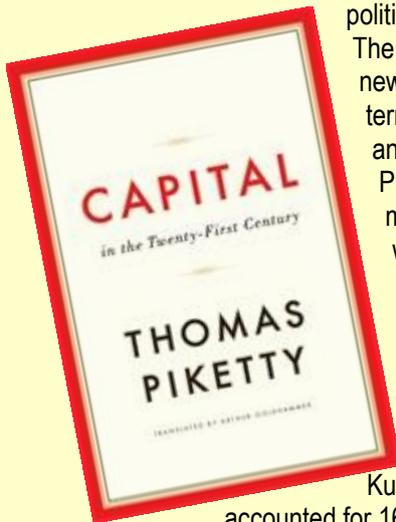
Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/11/30/why-inequality-is-to-blame-for-the-rise-of-the-islamic-state/>

Nov 30 – A year after his [700-page opus](#) "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" stormed to the top of America's best-seller lists, Thomas Piketty is out with a new argument about



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income inequality. It may prove more controversial than his book, which continues to generate debate in political and economic circles.



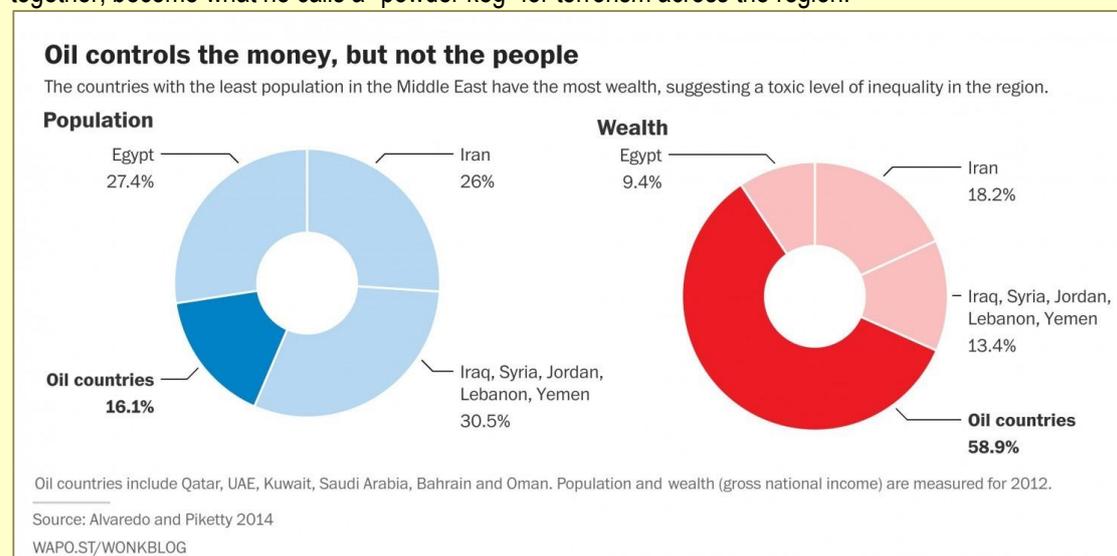
The new argument, which Piketty [spelled out recently](#) in the French newspaper *Le Monde*, is this: Inequality is a major driver of Middle Eastern terrorism, including the Islamic State attacks on Paris earlier this month — and Western nations have themselves largely to blame for that inequality. Piketty writes that the Middle East's political and social system has been made fragile by the high concentration of oil wealth into a few countries with relatively little population. If you look at the region between Egypt and Iran — which includes Syria — you find several oil monarchies controlling between 60 and 70 percent of wealth, while housing just a bit more than 10 percent of the 300 million people living in that area. (Piketty does not specify which countries he's talking about, but judging from a study he co-authored last year on Middle East inequality, it appears he means Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. By his numbers, they accounted for 16 percent of the region's population in 2012 and almost 60 percent of its

gross domestic product.)

This concentration of so much wealth in countries with so small a share of the population, he says, makes the region "the most unequal on the planet."

Within those monarchies, he continues, a small slice of people controls most of the wealth, while a large — including women and refugees — are kept in a state of "semi-slavery." Those economic conditions, he says, have become justifications for jihadists, along with the casualties of a series of wars in the region perpetuated by Western powers.

His list starts with the first Gulf War, which he says resulted in allied forces returning oil "to the emirs." Though he does not spend much space connecting those ideas, the clear implication is that economic deprivation and the horrors of wars that benefited only a select few of the region's residents have, mixed together, become what he calls a "powder keg" for terrorism across the region.



Piketty is particularly scathing when he blames the inequality of the region, and the persistence of oil monarchies that perpetuate it, on the West: "These are the regimes that are militarily and politically supported by Western powers, all too happy to get some crumbs to fund their [soccer] clubs or sell some weapons. No wonder our lessons in social justice and democracy find little welcome among Middle Eastern youth."

Terrorism that is rooted in inequality, Piketty continues, is best combated economically.

To gain credibility with those who do not share in the region's wealth, Western countries should demonstrate that they are more concerned with the social development of the region than they are with their own financial interests and relationships with ruling families. The



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way to do this, he says, is to ensure that Middle Eastern oil money funds "regional development," including far more education.

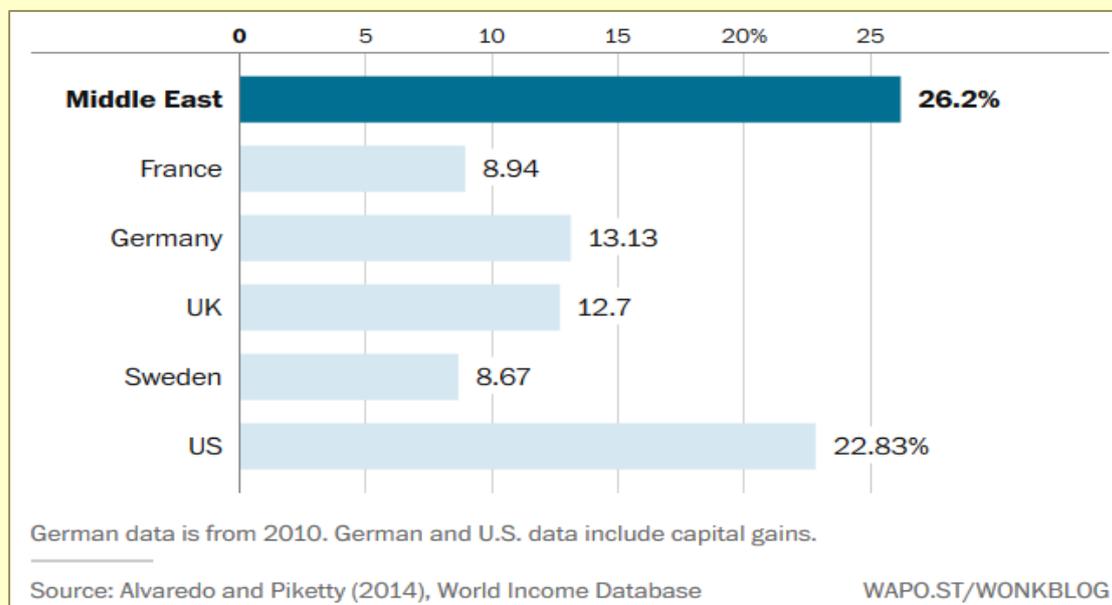
He concludes by looking inward, at France, decrying its discrimination in the hiring of immigrants and the high unemployment levels among those populations. He says Europe must turn away from "austerity" and reinvigorate its model of integration and job creation, and notes that the continent accepted a net 1 million immigrants per year before the financial crisis.

The argument has not gained much notice in the United States thus far. It rests on some controversial principles, not the least of which is the question of how unequal the Middle East is compared to the rest of the world — a problem rooted in the region's poor quality of economic statistics. In his [paper](#) last year, Piketty and a co-author concluded inequality was in fact quite high.

"Under plausible assumptions," the paper states in its abstract, "the top 10% income share (for the Middle East) could be well over 60%, and the top 1% share might exceed 25% (vs. 20% in the United States, 11% in Western Europe, and 17% in South Africa)."

Top 1 percent income share, 2012

Under a "high inequality" model by the economists Facundo Alvaredo and Thomas Piketty, inequality in the Middle East exceeds even the United States.



Those would, indeed, be jarring levels. They are the high end of the scenarios Piketty lays out in the paper. Whether they are a root cause of the Islamic State is a debate that is very likely just beginning.

Jim Tankersley covers economic policy for The Post.

Why a 'war' on terrorism will generate yet more terrorism

By Roy Greenslade

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2015/nov/30/why-a-war-on-terrorism-will-generate-yet-more-terrorism>

Nov 30 – MPs preparing to vote on whether or not to bomb Isis in Syria would do well to read an article in Foreign Policy magazine, [The threat is already inside, and nine other truths about terrorism nobody wants to hear.](#)

Written by Rosa Brooks, a law professor at Georgetown University who has served as an adviser to the US state department, it places

the Paris attacks - and all acts of terrorism by Isis - in perspective:

"Occasional terrorist attacks in the west are virtually inevitable, and odds are, we'll see more attacks in the coming decades, not fewer. If we want to reduce the long-term risk of terrorism — and reduce its ability



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to twist western societies into unrecognisable caricatures of themselves — we need to stop viewing terrorism as shocking and aberrational, and instead recognise it as an ongoing problem to be managed, rather than ‘defeated.’”

She concedes that “politicians don’t like to say any of this” and goes on to list nine “painful truths”. In short form - you need to read Brooks’s piece in full - they are:

1: We can’t keep the bad guys out. All borders are permeable. There aren’t enough guards in the world to monitor every inch of coastline or border

2: Besides, the threat is already inside. The 2005 terrorist attacks in London were carried out by British citizens, the Boston Marathon attack was perpetrated by a US citizen... and the Paris attacks appear to have been carried out mainly by French citizens. Every country on earth has its angry young men.

3: More surveillance won’t get rid of terrorism, either. As Edward Snowden’s 2013 leaks made clear, the United States is already surveilling the heck out of the entire planet and so are half the governments in Europe. The trouble is, the more data you collect — the more satellite imagery and drone footage and emails and phone calls and texts you monitor — the harder it gets to separate the signal from the noise.

4: Defeating Isis won’t make terrorism go away. Aside from Isis, there is Nigeria’s Boko Haram. Before Isis, there was al-Qaida and before that there was Hezbollah and Hamas... and before that there was Abu Nidal, Black September and various other PLO factions. And it’s not just Islam. Right-wing extremists in the United States still kill more people than jihadis. The 2011 attack in Norway — which left 77 people dead — was carried out by a single far-right terrorist. Since 2006, more than half of all deaths in terrorist attacks in the west have been caused by non-Islamist “lone-wolf” attackers.

5: Terrorism (in the west) remains a relatively minor threat. Between 2000 and 2014, only

2.6% of terrorism victims in recent years lived in western countries.

6: But don’t relax too much, because things will probably get worse before they get better. From a historical perspective, the relative safety and security currently enjoyed by those in the western world is anomalous. The history of the west is every bit as violent as the modern Middle East. The world is likely to see an uptick in violent conflict in the coming decades, and the west is unlikely to be fully spared.

7: Meanwhile, poorly planned western actions can make things still worse.

The fat, happy, over-privileged west wants to turn away the hundreds of thousands of desperate Muslim families seeking shelter and peace, just because a tiny fraction of those refugees might be militants. Islamic militants couldn’t ask for a better recruiting gift. The same goes for stepping up military action against Isis.

8: Terrorism is a problem to be managed. We can’t “win” a “war” against terrorism or terror or terrorists any more than we can “win” a war on crime or drugs or poverty. But we can adopt sensible policies to reduce the risk and damage caused by terrorist attacks, such as funding moderate Muslim organisations. If we’re creative in our approaches, we can find ways to make terrorist attacks a little harder to carry out successfully, and make successful attacks less rewarding to those who carry them out.

9: To do this, however, we need to move beyond the political posturing that characterises most public debates about counter-terrorism, and instead speak honestly about the costs and benefits of different approaches.

Brooks concludes by arguing against overreacting to terrorism. “We need to stop viewing terrorism as unique and aberrational. The more we panic and posture and overreact, the more terrorism we’ll get.”



Roy Greenslade is professor of journalism at City University, and was editor of the Daily Mirror from 1990-91.



How the Paris Attackers Honed Their Assault through Trial and Error

By Rukmini Callimachi, Katrin Bennhold and Laure Fourquetnov

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/01/world/europe/how-the-paris-attackers-honed-their-assault-through-trial-and-error.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>



Left, the American rock band Eagles of Death Metal performing at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, shortly before it was attacked on Nov. 13. Right, treating a victim outside the hall. Credit Left, Marion Ruzniewski/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images; right, Pierre Terdjman for The New York Times

Nov 30 (Paris) — The gunfire had still not subsided, and those who could were running for their lives. But one man was crossing Paris to get close to the scenes of death.



Just after 10 p.m. on Nov. 13, the man, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, parked his rented getaway car in the eastern suburb of Montreuil, leaving behind the Kalashnikov he is believed to have used to shoot diners in central Paris a half-hour before. Apparently unconcerned as security cameras recorded his movements, he boarded the No. 9 subway line and returned to the part of the city that was still under siege. Before the night was over, investigators say, he had walked past the shattered cafes and bloodied concert hall that had been

among his targets.

After a year of plotting terror in Europe but only producing four fizzled attempts, Mr. Abaaoud made sure this time was different. This time, he was on the scene, not directing from afar. This time, he monitored his team of assassins — old friends and new zealots —



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and surveyed the suffering. This time, investigators say, he had prepared for a second wave of assaults days later, and planned to die himself as a suicide bomber in the heart of the Paris region's business district.

A foot soldier turned lieutenant in the Islamic State's hierarchy, Mr. Abaaoud, a 28-year-old Belgian, had been under increasing pressure to deliver something big, Western intelligence officials say. "All these operations in 2015 had been failures, embarrassing failures," said Louis Caprioli, a former deputy head of France's domestic counterterrorism unit. "He needed to make sure this operation succeeds."

Two weeks after the attacks, as France buries its dead and a lengthening list of Mr. Abaaoud's suspected confederates are rounded up, more evidence has emerged about how the group of at least nine militants pulled off the assaults, and the intelligence and security lapses that allowed them to do so. There had been repeated hints of their intentions and efforts to hone their skills, according to dozens of interviews, court documents and government disclosures. Despite growing alarm in French counterterrorism circles about the threat they posed, the overburdened security apparatus proved ill equipped against an enemy practicing what one official calls "dartboard terrorism," hurling multiple lethal darts at a distant target until one hits the mark.

In January, the police raided a safehouse in the Belgian town of Verviers, thwarting a plot that proved to be a chilling precursor to the synchronized murder that played out across the French capital 10 months later. The raid uncovered an arsenal that included the ingredients to make the same volatile explosives used in Paris, according to an American intelligence document.

The militants have become "more professional," learning from their mistakes, said one intelligence official. Earlier this year, a plotter linked to Mr. Abaaoud planned to mow down the congregation at a French church but instead shot himself in the leg. But the gunmen in Paris — a majority of them battle-hardened in Syria — were well trained. After phone taps uncovered the Verviers plan, Mr. Abaaoud began using encryption technology and may have concealed his communications in that way with his Paris team, intelligence officials said.

Exploiting Europe's passport-free zone and patchy intelligence sharing, Mr. Abaaoud and his team moved not just across the Continent, but also to Syria and back. They did so despite being questioned at airports, flagged by security services or pulled over during routine traffic stops.

"Abaaoud was in the database of every single European country, but he returned to Europe like he was going on a vacation to Club Med," said the mother of an 18-year-old Belgian jihadist who died earlier this year after joining the same Islamic State brigade to which several of the Paris plotters belonged.

The attack in Paris was the deadliest terrorist assault on the Continent in a decade, killing 130 people. It reverberated across the region, forcing Brussels to lock down for four days, spurring Germany to cancel a soccer match and prompting Britain to increase its military budget after years of cutbacks.

Trying to reassure a grieving nation, President François Hollande of France has pledged to defeat the Islamic State's "cult of death." Yet intelligence officials warned of the West's vulnerabilities. Paris, they fear, heralds a new era of terror, one that could play out on the streets of European capitals for years to come.

"They try, they fail, they learn, they try again," said one French official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "They have patience and they have an army of willing martyrs that feed on an ideology that is immune to bullets."

Warning Signs

Earlier this year, an official at Europol, the Continent's law enforcement agency, paid an urgent visit to Athens to ask for help tracking down a Belgian named Abdelhamid Abaaoud, according to news media reports.

For months, investigators had been intercepting suspicious calls originating near Pangrati, a neighborhood of Athens, said a retired European official who was briefed on the details.

Mr. Abaaoud, then 27, appeared to be planning an attack in his native land — a possibility considered improbable at first. He seemed like other young Europeans who had joined the Islamic State: a fanatic who made grandiose threats online, but did not have the know-how or the network to pull off mass murder on European soil.



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But after the calls were tracked to Verviers, a SWAT team raided a residence there on Jan. 15, turning up evidence of surprising sophistication. The police found automatic weapons, a large quantity of cash, a body camera, multiple cellphones, hand-held radios and fraudulent identification documents, according to a United States Department of Homeland Security intelligence assessment.



They also found the precursor chemicals for the explosive triacetone triperoxide, or TATP, according to the document, which was the same chemical compound used in the suicide belts in Paris. The compound is highly volatile, according to Claude Moniquet, who spent two decades at the French spy agency D.G.S.E. "If you don't get it just right, you'll either blow off your hand, or it won't go off at all," Mr. Moniquet said. "It suggests the presence of a bombmaker."

The discovery set off a manhunt in Greece, but Mr. Abaaoud's SIM card stopped transmitting immediately after the raid. The police found his DNA in an Athens apartment, according to news media reports. But officials lost his trail.

A few weeks later, Mr. Abaaoud resurfaced in the Islamic State's online magazine, bragging about having plotted terrorism under the noses of the European authorities. "My name and picture were all over the news yet I was able to stay in their homeland, plan operations against them, and leave safely," he said.

Until then, said David Thomson, the author of a book on French jihadists, Mr. Abaaoud had been seen inside the Islamic State as nothing special. "They spoke of him as they would of anyone else — and not as an important guy," Mr. Thomson said.

If anything, he was known mostly for his appearance in a grotesque Islamic State video, whooping and laughing while dragging corpses behind a 4-x-4 truck.

Yet, Europe's most notorious jihadist was once a hapless delinquent.

In 2010, he planned to break into a garage in the Belgian countryside with a childhood friend. But he slipped off the roof, and the pair were later found soaking wet and nearing hypothermia on a river edge, recalled his former lawyer, Alexandre Château.

The bungled burglary was unremarkable, but the partnership was not: His accomplice was one of two brothers who would later be at Mr. Abaaoud's side during the Paris attacks.

Mr. Abaaoud's father said his son began showing signs of extremism after a stint in prison.

On March 23, 2013, the authorities intercepted a call Mr. Abaaoud made on a Turkish cellphone to a friend in Belgium. He said he was leaving for "The Camp," according to



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court records. His brother told Belgian security officials that Mr. Abaaoud had said he was going to Syria “to do jihad,” according to a court transcript.

When the police went to search his home in the Molenbeek district of Brussels months later, the items found inside his abandoned residence included pepper spray, gloves and two crowbars, along with the keys to a stolen Audi and three license plates.

Inscriptions praising the Islamic State, also known as ISIS and ISIL, were on his door. On the wall, the court filing noted, was “a crude drawing of the ISIS flag, drawn with a marker.”

Sometime between late 2013 and early 2014, he joined a brigade called the Mujahedeen Shura Council based in Aleppo, Syria, which would soon pledge allegiance to the Islamic State.

One of his first jobs was searching the bodies of freshly killed troops. “He was in charge of emptying the pockets of cadavers after battle,” Mr. Thomson said.

Even when Mr. Abaaoud — by then called Abou Omar — joined the Katibat al-Battar, or al-Battar Brigade, an elite squad made up of French-speaking fighters that rose to prominence in 2014 within the Islamic State, his name surfaced only in passing, said Mr. Thomson, who spent months exchanging private messages with the French members of the unit as research for his book.



In January, the police raided a terrorist safe house in Verviers, Belgium, and uncovered an arsenal of weapons. Credit Olivier Hoslet/European Pressphoto Agency

That changed abruptly after the Verviers plot. Though the operation had failed, Mr. Abaaoud’s ability to travel in and out of Europe impressed his fellow fighters in Syria, turning him from an ordinary soldier into an inspiration. “They would say, ‘Look at Abou Omar,’ ” Mr. Thomson recalled. “By which they meant: ‘If Abou Omar succeeded, then anyone can.’”

Battlefield Bonds

Investigators say they believe that it was in Syria that Mr. Abaaoud and most of the Paris attackers found one other.

As early as 2013, a well-established pipeline was funneling young men from Belgium to the Islamic State. Some took out loans with few questions asked from institutions like ING Belgium, where one future jihadist received 15,000 euros, or about \$15,800, according to a recent court filing.

Others bought cheap “burner” phones that are often discarded in an effort to avoid detection. One man stole flashlights and GoPro cameras, a favored tool for recording atrocities, according to court documents.



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They knew to leave via trains or buses to other European countries before boarding flights to Turkey, evading relatively greater scrutiny at airports in their home countries.

Mr. Abaaoud, for example, accompanied his 13-year-old brother, Younes, to Syria, apparently by first making their way by land to Germany.

On Jan. 20, 2014, they checked in for a flight to Istanbul from Cologne. At passport control, an alert flashed: Mr. Abaaoud was on a Belgian watch list. When he claimed to be visiting family in Turkey, he was allowed to proceed.

Even when suspects are properly classified, they can fall through the cracks because of the lack of a centralized European database. There are currently 1,595 jihadists in the Europol terror database, said Jean-Charles Brisard, who has testified as an expert witness in terrorism trials. The actual number, if European countries shared their information more efficiently, should be well over 6,000, he said.

Many of the future Paris attackers ended up in the al-Battar brigade in Syria. Only Mr. Abaaoud and the two brothers from Molenbeek, Salah and Ibrahim Abdeslam, appear to have known one other before they were radicalized.

Several came from intact, middle-class families, including Mr. Abaaoud, a shop owner's son who had been sent to an exclusive Catholic school. Second- and third-generation immigrants of Moroccan and Algerian descent, the attackers included a bus driver, a bar owner and a mechanic for the Brussels Métro. The oldest was 29, the youngest just 20 — he wept, his mother recalls, the day he left for Syria. Some had criminal records, and their families were reassured at first when they began to show signs of piety.

Mohammed Abdeslam said he had believed his two brothers were cleaning up their act. "When your brother tells you that he will stop drinking, it's not radicalization," he told a Belgian broadcaster.



The plotters Clockwise from top left; Samy Amimour, one of the suicide bombers who attacked the Bataclan concert hall; an unidentified man, one of the suicide bombers at the Stade de France stadium; Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the suspected architect of the Paris attacks; Ibrahim Abdeslam, a Bataclan attacker; Ismaël Omar Mostefai, a Bataclan attacker; an unidentified man suspected of being involved in the attacks; Bilal Hadfi, one of the suicide bombers at the stadium; and Salah Abdeslam, who remains at large. Credit Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



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Bilal Hadfi, the youngest of the group, had been smoking and doing drugs until one month before his departure to Syria in January, his mother told the Belgian news media, and started fasting on Mondays and Thursdays.

“He was by no means the cliché you’d expect,” recalled one of his mentors at the Instituut Anneessens-Funk in Brussels, where Mr. Hadfi, 20, was studying to become an electrician. “He didn’t have a beard.” He had “excellent grades” and was “extremely intelligent,” said the professor, who asked to remain anonymous in talking about a student. Then Mr. Hadfi stopped coming to class.

Mr. Hadfi is believed to have arrived in Syria last, on Jan. 15, eventually joining a team that included two hardened French jihadists: Ismaël Omar Mostefaï, a 29-year-old from the Courcouronnes suburb of Paris, and Samy Amimour, a 28-year-old bus driver from Drancy, northeast of the French capital.

Mr. Mostefaï was arrested eight times for petty crimes, and in 2010 his contact with hard-line Islamists at the local mosque prompted officials to add his name to the “S list,” a French database of those considered a potential security risk.

Mr. Amimour’s route to jihad began with an aborted trip to Yemen in 2012. After he stopped reporting to the police station in September 2013 as required, it took a month for an arrest warrant to be issued. By then, he had crossed into Syria — the same day as Mr. Mostefaï, officials say they believe.

As Frenchmen, the two would most likely have come across an older French jihadist who had already made a name for himself in the Islamic State: Fabien Clain, who had been to prison for recruiting fighters from France and Belgium to Iraq a decade ago. Mr. Clain, investigators said, was the speaker in an Islamic State audio recording claiming responsibility for the Paris massacre.



A mosque outside Chartres, France, that was attended by Ismaël Omar Mostefaï, whose contact with hard-line Islamists prompted officials to a database of those considered a potential security risk. Credit Dmitry Kostyukov for The New York Times

Intelligence officials call him a “bridge” between the French and Belgian jihadists who may have facilitated links between Mr. Abaaoud and his fellow plotters. Described as one of the most senior operatives in the Islamic State hierarchy, he works under Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, the group’s chief of external operations. Mr. Abaaoud was lowlier, “a platoon



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leader, not the head of the armed forces,” said François Heisbourg, a former defense official and counterterrorism expert.

By August, Mr. Abaaoud’s blueprint and team for attacking Europe may have been nearly ready. That month, Montasser AlDe’emeh, the author of two books on jihad and a former neighbor of Mr. Abaaoud’s in Molenbeek, heard his phone vibrate with a WhatsApp message. It was an audio recording from a Belgian jihadist in the same unit as Mr. Abaaoud.

“This is a message for the Belgian government from the mujahedeen of ISIS,” the audio begins. “It’s not a threat or a stupid thing, or just talk. This is a declaration of war. We have the plans.”

Raising the Alarm

The man who served as France’s chief antiterrorism judge until three months ago had heard Mr. Abaaoud’s name numerous times over the past year. Dozens of young French Muslims returning from Syria were brought to his office for questioning.



Marc Trévidic, who served as France’s chief antiterrorism judge until three months ago, said he had heard Mr. Abaaoud’s name numerous times over the past year. Credit Remy De La Mauviniere/Associated Press

“Abaaoud came up all the time,” the judge, Marc Trévidic, recalled in an interview last week. “Especially after the January raids in Verviers.”

It was always the same story: Mr. Abaaoud had told his young disciples to “do whatever they can” to inflict death and damage at home. They described him as obsessed. “He was mentioned as someone who wanted, at all cost, to recruit volunteers to carry out attacks in Belgium and France,” said Mr. Trévidic, now vice president of the high court in Lille, northern France.

But there was never a specific target, nor a date for an attack. The mission was always vague.

That changed on Aug. 15. In one of the last interviews the judge conducted, he found himself opposite a young Frenchman who had been handed money, encryption software and the most concrete target to date: “a rock concert hall” in Paris.

The young man, Reda Hame, had been arrested coming back from Syria, accompanied by a Muslim from Belgium. His companion had told the police that Mr. Hame was planning an attack in France.

Mr. Abaaoud had asked Mr. Hame to hit a soft target where he could achieve “maximum casualties.” He had given Mr. Hame an email address to reach him on and a USB stick with an encryption key he was to download on his computer. Mr. Abaaoud had promised further instructions by email on where to



obtain weapons for the attack and which specific concert hall to strike.

Fans left the Stade de France after the soccer game between France and Germany amid confusion caused by the attacks in the area. Credit Christophe Ena/Associated Press

It was two weeks before Paris’s annual Rock en Seine musical festival. Was the target one of dozens of concerts playing over

the three-day event in a Paris suburb? Was it one of the city’s many other music venues, like the Bataclan, which had been mentioned as a possible target at least twice before?

Mr. Trévidic placed an urgent call with the domestic intelligence services, the D.G.S.I., and asked them to trace Mr. Abaaoud’s email address.



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“From late summer we knew something big was being planned,” said one French intelligence official. “We knew Abaaoud was involved in it but we didn’t know what, or where, or when. Everyone was on high alert.”

The sense of alarm only spread when, six days after Mr. Hame’s interview, a 26-year-old Moroccan, Ayoub El Khazzani, also linked to Mr. Abaaoud, stepped out of the bathroom of a high-speed train barreling toward Paris with a Kalashnikov before being subdued by three Americans.

With hindsight, some suggest the lone-wolf style attacks — single gunmen sent on missions to kill — that were thwarted in recent months were never the main focus. Whatever his intention, Mr. Trévidic said, Mr. Abaaoud “kept security services busy and distracted with these mini-plots while preparing the real attack.”

The United States had also picked up intelligence in recent months that showed the Islamic State was plotting an attack in France, senior American officials said. But they had nothing specific about targets or timing.



Emergency workers removed the bodies of victims at a cafe in Paris. Credit Philippe Wojazer/Reuters

By late September, Mr. Hollande’s government launched airstrikes on Islamic State targets in Syria. On Oct. 8 and 9, French fighter jets targeted training camps near Raqqa, the stronghold of the self-proclaimed caliphate in Syria. Mr. Hollande has publicly denied that the strikes were targeting an individual. But according to two Western intelligence officials, the hope was also to take out operatives including Mr. Abaaoud.

“When you don’t know where to hit the enemy here, you have to try to hit him over there,” Bernard Squarcini, the former head of France’s domestic intelligence agency, said in an interview.

A Calculated Attack

While the security services had their eyes on Syria, most if not all of Mr. Abaaoud’s team was already back in Europe, quietly putting in place the modern logistics of mass murder.

At least two are believed to have entered through the refugee flow on the Greek island of Leros, where the authorities fingerprinted them in October.

In the period leading up to the attack, the support network expanded — though just how far is not yet clear — to include radicalized family members and loyal friends, landlords and online arms dealers. Mr. Abaaoud’s cousin helped hide him after the attacks before dying alongside him in a police raid. Five friends of Salah Abdeslam, who dumped his suicide vest in a trash can and remains at large as the only surviving member of the



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attackers, have been arrested in Belgium for allegedly helping him escape. In Germany, one man who may have sold the group assault rifles over the Internet was placed in custody last week.

The plan involved three teams, whose members set off in at least three rental cars from Belgium and booked rooms in at least two locations in and around Paris, including two hotel rooms in the suburb of Alfortville and a house with bunk beds in Bobigny. Like tourists, they used online services including Booking.com and Homelidays.com, with the Abdeslam brothers handling the logistics.

In September, Salah Abdeslam made a foray to the edges of Paris to buy half a dozen electronic components used to make fireworks explode. He spent 390 euros in Les Magiciens du Feu, or “Fire Magicians” shop, said the shop’s in-house lawyer, Frédéric Zajac. “Unlike other clients, he did not ask any questions about how it all worked,” he said.

Mr. Abaaoud had learned from past mistakes: Unlike the plot in January, when his accomplices were still searching for an ice machine to store the TATP explosive, he made sure they had refrigerators. At the Appart’City hotel where four of the attackers stayed, rooms come with a kitchenette.

And rather than sending a single gunman or picking a single target, Mr. Abaaoud sent teams to a variety of locations — hedging the risk of failure and forcing the police to spread themselves thin. “They found out that if you use this ‘swarm theory’ you will exhaust the resources of law enforcement,” explained Ron Sandee, the former chief Al Qaeda analyst for Dutch military intelligence.

The roster for each team suggests more forethought: The two jihadists with more than four years of battlefield experience in Syria between them, Mr. Amimour and Mr. Mostefaï, were assigned the most important target, the Bataclan, with a third, still-unidentified man. Witnesses say they saw the Bataclan gunmen flanking each other, with one fighter reloading his magazine while another kept firing.

By contrast, the attackers at the Stade de France, the national soccer stadium, included the youngest and least experienced jihadist — the 20-year-old Mr. Hadfi. He was dropped off strapped with an explosive belt that needed only detonating. (Neither of the other two suicide bombers at the stadium has been identified.) “They said to themselves, ‘The kids will get as far as they can,’” and after that only need to “hit a button,” said Mr. Moniquet, a veteran of France’s intelligence agency who now directs the European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center.

Mr. Abaaoud himself was believed to have gone to a busy stretch of restaurants on the Rue de Charonne, equipped with the Kalashnikov that was later recovered bearing his DNA. Phone records released by the French prosecutor indicate that he left the house at Bobigny in a rented Seat car at 8:38 p.m. accompanied by another still-unidentified attacker and Ibrahim Abdeslam, his accomplice in the bungled garage theft five years ago.

It remains unclear if Mr. Abaaoud joined his troops to fire on the bars and cafes, though it seems likely: Witnesses saw gunmen leaning out of the black Seat rental car, and in front of each shattered establishment, investigators recovered “hundreds” of .762 mm cartridges, according to the French prosecutor.

Between 8:40 p.m. and 9:21 p.m. the phone “most probably” used by Mr. Abaaoud was in “sustained contact” with the one used by Mr. Hadfi, according to the Paris prosecutor. That was when Mr. Hadfi tried to enter the soccer stadium near Gate D, only to be turned away.

Moments later, at 9:20, he detonated the explosive.

The last attempted call between the two phones came a minute later — the platoon leader checking up on the recruit.

Rukmini Callimachi is a foreign correspondent for The New York Times covering Islamic extremism, including Al Qaeda and the Islamic State. She is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, the winner of the Michael Kelly award, and the first journalist in the 75-year history of the Overseas Press Club to win both the Hal Boyle and the Bob Considine awards the same year. She joined The Times in 2014. Her series of articles, “[Underwriting Jihad](#),” showing how ransoms paid by European governments had become one of the main sources of financing for Al Qaeda, won the George Polk Award in International Reporting. In 2013 on an assignment for The A.P. in northern Mali, locals led her to a complex of buildings which had served as the headquarters of Al Qaeda’s North African branch. On the floor and in upturned filing cabinets, she found thousands of pages of internal Al Qaeda documents including letters from the man considered to be the general manager of the terror network. Her series “[The Al Qaeda](#)”



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Papers” illuminated the inner workings of the extremist organization, revealing that terrorists camping out in the dunes of the Sahara are expected to keep receipts and file monthly expense reports. Ms. Callimachi was born in Romania and along with her mother and grandmother, she fled the country when she was 5, settling first in Switzerland, before immigrating to the United States when she was 10. Her stepfather, Mihai Botez, was a Romanian mathematician, university professor and dissident who spent a decade under house arrest after criticizing the regime of the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. She began her reporting career as a freelancer for Time Magazine covering the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, before covering city hall at The Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, Ill. from 2001 to 2003. She joined The A.P. in the news agency’s Portland, Ore., bureau, and moved to New Orleans in 2006 to cover the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

**2014 Pulitzer Prize Nominated Finalist****International Reporting**

Rukmini Callimachi, the Associated Press, for her discovery and fearless exploration of internal documents that shattered myths and deepened understanding of the global terrorist network of al-Qaida.

All links are to pdfs

December 29, 2013	\$0.60 for cake: Al-Qaida records every expense
May 28, 2013	AP Exclusive: Al-Qaida rips into prima donna terrorist for failing to deliver big operations
February 6, 2013	Woman in Timbuktu punished for forbidden love
February 14, 2013	In Timbuktu, al-Qaida left behind a manifesto
January 22, 2013	Fight for Mali town reflects Islamist tactics
June 11, 2013	Mali manual suggests al-Qaida has feared weapon
February 21, 2013	Al-Qaida tipsheet on avoiding drones found in Mali
July 9, 2013	Yemen terror boss left blueprint for waging jihad
September 29, 2013	Terrorists used new tactic to spare some Muslims
December 9, 2013	AP reporter’s quest to find bodies ends in desert

Katrin Bennhold is a staff writer based in London. A native German who spent most of her career in France, Ms. Bennhold’s reporting has ranged from covering terrorist attacks in Algiers to youth rioting in Paris’s ethnically mixed suburbs, teenagers addicted to Facebook and rogue trading at one of France’s biggest banks. She writes a regular news column for the international edition of the paper. From 2010 to 2013, Ms. Bennhold focused primarily on gender issues, exploring gender gaps



and work-life models across Europe. She met Swedish hunters on father's leave, looked beneath the veneer of equality in republican France and discovered layers of stubborn history in Germany's struggle to give women more opportunities. As French political correspondent from 2004 to 2009, Ms. Bennhold covered the final years of Jacques Chirac's presidency and the rise of Nicolas Sarkozy, writing about efforts to reform the labor market and zooming in on issues of religious and ethnic identity among Muslim immigrants. Before joining The Times Co. in 2004, Ms. Bennhold was an international economics writer for Bloomberg News in Paris and a television reporter for Bloomberg TV and N24, a German 24-hour news channel in London. She graduated in 1998 from the London School of Economics with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 2012 and 2013.

I know Isis fighters. Western bombs falling on Raqqa will fill them with joy

By Jürgen Todenhöfer

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/27/bomb-isis-west-learned-nothing-from-war-terror-defeat-muslim-world-equal-partner>

Nov 27 – Since the Paris attacks, western politicians have been walking open-eyed into a



trap set by the terrorists – just like they did after 9/11. They retaliate with bombs, even though bombs are one of the main reasons why we are facing terrorism in the first place: because bombs predominantly kill innocent people, and thus help to create fresh recruits for the terrorist cause.

As I learned from spending time interviewing Islamic State members in Syria and northern Iraq, George W Bush's "war on terror" turned out to be a classic terrorist recruitment programme of this kind. In 2001 there were roughly a couple of hundred terrorists in the mountains of the Hindu Kush who posed a threat to the international community. Now, after the war on terror has claimed what some estimate to be as many as [one million Iraqi lives](#), we are facing some 100,000 terrorists. Isis was created six months after the start of the invasion: it is Bush's baby.

How can it be that leading politicians learned nothing from 14 years of counterproductive anti-terror wars? How can it be that they still believe that the best way to get rid of an infestation of wasps is to batter the nests with a sledgehammer?

The Syrian city of Raqqa, which is now populated by only 200,000 citizens, has become one of the favourite targets of the French president, François Hollande. American, Jordanian, Russian and Syrian military jets have been reinforced by French bombers. British ones could soon be joining them, dropping their deadly load on what remains of the city's foundations – even though out of 20,000 Isis fighters who used to hide in the city, only a couple of thousand remain at most. **The majority have long ago fled to Mosul, in Iraq, or to Deir Ezzor, also in Syria.**

France is currently bombing everything that looks like camps or barracks: small factories, communal buildings, hospitals. The majority of the Arab world has seen photos of dead children in Raqqa – Isis is doing everything it can to spread them. And for every murdered child, there will be new terrorists. **War is a boomerang, and it will come to hit us back in the form of terrorism.**

Of course, Hollande has to react. But no one is stopping him from reacting with a bit of brains.

As a head of state he should know that urban guerrillas cannot be defeated with bombs. He should know that Isis fighters only march in tight orderly



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lines or drive in convoys in their propaganda videos. Off camera, they avoid hanging around in large groups and spend their time among the local population, preferably in apartment blocks that house families. **That's the very first chapter in the dummies' guide to terrorism.**

Look at Mosul: this is a city that is home to 1.5 million people, and at most 15,000 Isis terrorists. If you wanted to get rid of Isis in Mosul, you would have to flatten the entire city. In October 2014 I was the first western journalist to spend time with Isis and return safely. During my stay, we were repeatedly targeted by American fighter jets and drones. It's hard to overemphasise how quickly our Isis escorts managed each time to disappear among the local population. **While driving through the territory of the "Islamic State" with three cars – one of which was usually a decoy for the drones – there was always a 10km distance between the vehicles.** We frequently switched positions. The mantra of the Isis fighters was: never be a target.

A bombing strategy employed by France – which, potentially, will now be joined by Britain – will above all hit Syria's population. **This will fill Isis fighters with joy.** Hollande could only make them happier if he were to send in ground troops as well: western boots on the ground in Syria is the ultimate Isis dream. Instead of mainly killing Muslims, they are desperate to live out their imaginary

apocalyptic showdown between good and evil, in which they can at last fight against the US, the UK and France – on the ground.

They would have a good chance of winning battles there too. **These fanatical fighters have excellent military training and love death. Western soldiers' love life.** The west cannot beat Isis with military means.

But there are ways to beat Isis. **First,** America has to stop Gulf States delivering weapons to the terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

Second, the West has to help Turkey seal its long border with the "Islamic State", to stop the flow of new fighters joining Isis.

Third, Isis can only exist because it has managed to ally itself with the suppressed Sunni population of Iraq and Syria. They are the water that carries the Isis project. If the west managed to bring about a national reconciliation in Iraq and Syria, and integrate Sunnis (which in Iraq would have to include former Ba'athists) into political life, Isis would be finished, like a fish out of water.

Is it really so hard to see that the attempt to defeat terrorism with wars has failed? That we have to rethink the war on terror? That we have to finally start treating the Muslim world as true partners, and not as a cheap petrol station we can raid when we feel like it? Bombing civilians will recruit new terrorists. Again and again.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: This is a "logical" article written from someone who has been in enemy's territories. My only argument is for proposal #2: Turkey does have the military capabilities to seal its borders with Islamic State without additional help from West. The problem is: Does Turkey have the will to do so? Until now its overall attitude is controversial (e.g. illegal oil trade; hospitalization of wounded IS members in its hospitals; bombing of Kurdish villages, towns and war lines; incident with Russian jet – to name a few).

In Wake of Paris, How Prepared Are U.S. States, Cities?

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/In-Wake-of-Paris-How-Prepared-Are-US-States-Cities.html>



Nov 24 – For Tuscaloosa, Ala., there are lessons to be learned from the terror that gripped Paris just over a week ago.

After the Islamic State attacks, Democratic Mayor Walter Maddox took note of the Parisian security staff that prevented a suicide bomber from entering the French national soccer stadium. His thoughts turned to Bryant-Denny Stadium -- where more than 100,000 people



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gather for University of Alabama football games.

Maddox said he considered what could happen in his 95,000-person city. But he and some terrorism and security specialists say many chief executives and police departments in midsize U.S. cities may not realize that terrorism could put their people and infrastructure at just as much risk as high-profile targets like New York City and Washington, D.C.

"The larger cities understand and grasp this," Maddox said. "I'm not sure that at the midlevel cities the awareness is that high."

But terrorism can and does happen in those places. This year, two men suspected of communicating with overseas terrorists were killed when they attempted to attack a free-speech event in Texas, a gunman killed four people at a military recruiting center in Tennessee, though it was unclear if he had worked with known terrorist organizations, and security was heightened across the country during Fourth of July weekend.

In the days following the Paris attacks New York City deployed the first 100 officers in the city's new Critical Response Command. The 500-officer program will be dedicated to counterterrorism in the city, which spent \$170 million this year to bring 1,300 new police officers to its 34,500-officer force.

Conversely, in Wichita, Kan., where an airport worker was arrested after he tried to execute a suicide attack at the local airport in 2013, the 437-officer police force was struggling to stay fully staffed this summer.

While it's difficult to tell just how prepared every state and municipality is for a potential terrorist attack, security specialists say the ability to prevent and react well depends on a communication system and local counterterrorism efforts that are still underdeveloped, even 14 years after 9/11.

Chet Lunner, a security consultant and former senior official at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), said the FBI has counterterrorism investigations in every state, but most places probably lack the resources to prevent or respond to an attack.

"You might think that all 50 states are responding to that kind of warning, but I'm not sure that they are at the appropriate level," Lunner said.

The Paris attacks on "soft" targets like the restaurant and the concert hall -- places with

minimal security -- should signal to local governments in the U.S. that they, too, could be at risk.

Lunner and Michael Balboni, a security consultant and former New York state senator who wrote homeland security laws for his state, say even if smaller cities and towns aren't at high risk for violence and are short on the financial resources that big cities have, they should still plan and practice for terrorist attacks.

"State and local personnel are literally the tip of the spear," Lunner said. "They owe it to themselves as well as the communities they serve" to be as prepared as possible.

Communication Is Key

Despite repeated efforts and hundreds of millions of dollars spent on collecting and sharing information nationwide about potential terrorist threats, **questions remain about how much filters down to local officials, especially in smaller municipalities.**

In 2003, DHS and the U.S. Department of Justice began creating fusion centers to encourage and ease the sharing of information between federal law-enforcement and counterterrorism officials in states and major urban areas. But a 2012 U.S. Senate subcommittee report found the centers yielded little counterterrorism intelligence.

In 2011, the White House released the first national strategy and plan to empower local governments to prevent domestic violent extremism and homegrown terrorism. The plan advocates enhancing federal engagement with local communities that may be breeding grounds or targets for violence, though it has been criticized for disproportionately focusing on and alienating Muslims.

Until there is centralized information-sharing between the national and local governments, it will be difficult to get localities invested in sustained antiterrorism work, Balboni said.

Balboni, who also served as a New York state homeland security adviser, said the fusion centers need to morph into what he calls "command and control centers" that gather intelligence and work in places where a potential threat or terrorist activity surfaces.

Outside Big Cities

People who don't live in big cities typically viewed as likely terrorist targets may not think about



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terrorism affecting their communities or about devoting the resources to countering the possibility they could be hit. But they ought to.

Less-populated locales are where terrorists may settle in to plan or practice attacks,

Lunner said. It is up to local police to get to know people and seek out information about potential threats.

"In this country, if you dial 911, the CIA does not show up at the end of your driveway," Lunner said.

In Minot, a North Dakota city of less than 50,000, dealing with terrorist threats became a reality in the wake of the Paris attacks as the names of six people stationed at the Minot Air Force Base



appeared on an Islamic State hit list.

The biggest challenge in responding to such a threat, Police Chief Jason Olson said, is the limited amount of resources his department has to focus on gathering intelligence and analyzing data.

Minot is a good example of a place that many would not typically consider to be at risk for terrorism. And all Olson and local officials can do is push for relevant and timely information from the federal government. But, Lunner said, they are probably not as informed as their counterparts in places like New York City.

Although states were quick to spend billions of federal dollars funneled to them after 9/11, they couldn't sustain salaries needed to run long-

term local surveillance programs with that one-time infusion of money. Since then, local spending on antiterrorism has been reduced, said Doug Farquhar, a program director with the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"The problem is that they knew this was one-time dollars," Farquhar said. "You can buy a firetruck or build a building, but you can't hire employees."

Localities have also been unlikely to pay more attention to antiterrorism because of the infrequency of attacks, he said.

Maddox said Tuscaloosa is unique in its willingness to dedicate money and resources to prepare for terrorism and disaster. He credits much of that willingness to training that he and his staff received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2009.

"It's getting your team to believe that we need to prepare for a moment that may or may not ever come," he said.

Disaster Prep Equals Terror Prep

For many states and municipalities, counterterrorism has become just a part of general disaster preparation, Farquhar said.

Maddox, who has been credited with an exemplary response to a 2011 tornado that destroyed 12 percent of the city, said the same elements of responding to a natural disaster or a major violent crime -- providing emergency medical care, shelter and food, and good law-enforcement -- extend to counterterrorism.

"Whether we have a natural disaster or an active shooter situation, my protocols are going to be nearly identical in how we approach that situation," he said.

And in Minot, which has suffered a number of disasters in recent years -- **including a train derailment and subsequent ammonia spill, a chemical warehouse fire and historic flooding** -- Olson said responding to terrorism has become just a part of the disaster preparedness plan.

Terrorist acts increase prejudice and hate crimes against Muslims

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/302916.php?tw>

Nov 19 – Anti-Muslim prejudice and hate crimes increase in Europe and the USA as a consequence of Islamist terrorist attacks, a new study in the journal Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations reveals. But high-profile hate crimes against Muslims have paradoxical effects.



A recent study by Klas Borell, Professor of Sociology and Social Work at Jönköping University, shows that anti-Muslim prejudice is largely event driven; terrorist attacks will cause anti-Muslim public opinion to quickly flare up and then, in calmer times, subside.

"The terrorists' indiscriminate violence creates insecurity and fear, and it is in such an emotional climate that people can equate Islamist terrorists with ordinary Muslims", says Klas Borell.

His research shows that anti-Muslim sentiments influence the number of hate crimes directed against Muslims and Muslim communities, however indirectly.

"Terrorist attacks and anti-Muslim sentiments give room for Islamophobic groups and networks to manoeuvre", says Klas Borell.

The international research overview done by Professor Borell shows that high-profile hate crimes are in themselves dramatic events with unexpected effects.

"When hate crimes are highlighted in the media, they often trigger a strong counter reaction. Crimes of this nature are challenging the sense of justice in many people and lead to solidarity actions. **A statistically representative study from Sweden shows these paradoxical effects. It is precisely in the areas in Sweden where Muslim communities have suffered the most hate crimes, the leaders of the communities consider the support of Muslims' rights to practice their religion to be the greatest. Hate crimes, in other words, work as catalysts for solidarity actions of various kinds and may not give the effects that the perpetrators intended**", says Klas Borell.

Klas Borell's international research review "When is the Time to Hate? A Research Review on the Impact of Dramatic Events on Islamophobia and Islamophobic Hate Crimes in Europe" is now published in the international journal *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 26(4): 409-421



After Paris, it's traditional detective work that will keep us safe, not mass surveillance

By Pete Fussey

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151125-after-paris-it-s-traditional-detective-work-that-will-keep-us-safe-not-mass-surveillance>

Nov 25 – Before the dust has even settled from the attacks on Paris, familiar calls for greater surveillance powers are surfacing. The desire for greater security is understandable, but that doesn't mean we should suspend our judgement on the measures proposed to bring it about.

In the aftermath of the attack, Prime Minister David Cameron intimated a desire to accelerate the passage of the Investigatory Powers bill through parliament, while in the United States, CIA chief John Brennan called for greater powers for the intelligence and security services. Such sentiments reflect a longstanding attitude championing the benefits of technological solutions.

The rush to legislate and grant sweeping powers has led to untried and untested provisions and incoherent laws that complicate security practice. Following the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in January 2015, the French government enacted new surveillance laws that introduced warrantless searches, the requirement for ISPs to collect communications

metadata, and watered-down oversight regimes. In the United Kingdom, the response to the September 11 attacks included rushing through powers in the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001, but it's the more considered Terrorism Act 2000 and other laws already on the books that have proved more useful when it comes to convicting terrorists.

Politicians make claims about the number of threats and plots averted by the secret services' use of surveillance data. But this rhetoric is rarely backed up with facts, and masks the practical and ethical problems that strong powers of mass surveillance bring.

A technocratic mirage

Those supporting mass surveillance of digital communications data have to conclusively demonstrate its usefulness. The history of technocratic approaches to security is littered with claims of effectiveness that are overstated,



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unproven or just wrong. Such claims must be treated with skepticism, not least because money spent here will divert scarce resources away from traditional intelligence and policing techniques that are tried and tested.

As a journalist and confidant of Edward Snowden, Glenn Greenwald said: “Every terrorist who’s capable of tying their own shoes has long known that the U.S. and U.K. government are trying to monitor their communications in every way that they can.” Academic research has consistently shown terrorists are innovative in their use of technology in order to evade detection. A Flashpoint intelligence report in 2014 revealed that there had been no expansion of terrorists’ use of encryption technology following Snowden’s revelations, largely because those that could were already using it.

Following the Snowden revelations, President Obama established [a review](#) into their use which concluded: **“The information contributed to terrorist investigations by the use of section 215 [of the PATRIOT Act] telephony meta-data was not essential to preventing attacks and could readily have been obtained in a timely manner using conventional ... orders.”**

Traditional methods have, even during the internet era, consistently prevented and disrupted terrorist attacks. For every anecdote supporting the usefulness of online surveillance, others exist to underline the role of more mundane interventions and police detective work. Shoe-bomber Richard Reid’s attempt to bring down an airliner, the attempt to bomb Times Square in 2010, and this year’s Thalys train attack at Pas-de-Calais were all averted by the actions of observant and brave members of the public.

The best intelligence is human

It’s widely accepted that intelligence work is the most effective form of counter-terrorism, and that the best intelligence comes from community engagement, not coercion. The arrest in 2008 of Andrew Ibrahim for intent to commit terrorism followed tip-offs from Bristol’s Muslim community, for example. Detective work plays the key role in identifying terrorists after attacks — despite the oft-shown surveillance camera footage of the 7/7 bombers at Luton station, it was forensic examination of corpses and intelligence from

the missing persons helpline that identified them.

What public evidence there is on anti-terrorist investigations demonstrates the overwhelming importance of community tip-offs and informants. **One of the most robust studies concluded that information from these sources initiate 76 percent of anti-terrorist investigations.** This analysis of 225 individuals recruited or inspired by al-Qaeda revealed that **“the contribution of NSA’s bulk surveillance programs to these cases was minimal,”** playing an identifiable role — with the most generous interpretation of the results — in just 1.8 percent of cases. **The vital importance of traditional investigative and intelligence methods is undeniable.**

Getting priorities right

A recurring problem is prioritizing and analyzing the information already collected. It’s no longer remarkable to discover that terrorists are already known to police and intelligence agencies. This was the case with 7/7 bombers Mohammed Siddique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer in London, and some of those thought responsible for the Paris attacks, Brahim Abdeslam, Omar Ismail Mostefai, and Samy Amimour.

Questions are rightly asked about lost opportunities to apprehend them before they could kill, but this does at least indicate that intelligence-gathering is effective. What it also shows is the problem of prioritizing information, and acting on it, particularly when there is an enormous amount of information to process.

Surveillance scholar David Lyon in his analysis of the Snowden revelations suggests that 1.2 million Americans are under surveillance and considered a potential terrorist threat. Notwithstanding debates over proportionality and the reach of such activities, such an enormous number suggests there’s already sufficient surveillance capacity among the surveillance agencies. It’s the ability to properly scrutinize what they learn and make use of it that’s needed — not powers that would allow them to collect even more.

As contemporary philosophers of science have consistently argued, the [physical and online realms are intrinsically yoked together](#). It makes no sense to suggest that surveillance of digital communications and



internet use is something de-personalized that doesn't infringe an individual's privacy. These are claims made to soften the vocabulary of surveillance and excuse the lack of consent or proportionality.

So we must be wary of the evangelism of those pushing technological solutions to security problems, and the political clamor for mass surveillance. There are practical and cost considerations alongside the debate

around the ethics of mass surveillance and its effects on privacy, consent, data protection, the wrongful characterization of innocents as suspects, and the potential chilling effects on free expression. As mechanisms for collecting data become more opaque it becomes increasingly difficult to hold the agencies responsible to account and assess whether the social costs are worth it.

Pete Fussey is Professor of Sociology, University of Essex.

Rio 2016 Olympics security questioned by Brazil government watchdog

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/summer/generic/rio-olympics-border-security-questioned-1.3336928>



Nov 25 – While the 2014 World Cup played in Brazil, including at Maracana Stadium passed security tests, a government watchdog is concerned with border security for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. (Matthew Stockman/Getty Images)

A government watchdog said Wednesday that "flaws" in Brazil's border security are a "big concern" heading toward next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Augusto Nardes, a government auditor, told a news conference organized by Brazil's Justice Ministry that police and military need better ways to control the country's 17,000 kilometre-long border, which touches 10 countries and runs through remote areas of the Amazon jungle.

"We are aware that we have seven months to correct [the problem]," Nardes said, speaking at a news conference with security issues for the Olympics on the rise following the deadly attacks almost two weeks ago in Paris.

However, Public Security Secretary Regina Miki dismissed those concerns. Miki said Brazil's policing was also questioned before the World Cup in 2014, when thousands of police and soldiers were deployed to keep order. **"The Olympics in Rio will be held in total security,"** she said.

Andrei Rodrigues, a former bodyguard for President Dilma Rousseff and since 2013 managing Brazil's security for special events,

said the Paris attacks did not change Olympic security planning.

"Brazil is now a reference in big events, we have know-how," he said.

However, independent security consultant Paulo Storani disagreed.

Plan a total improvisation

"Brazil's public security plan for the Olympics is a total improvisation," he told The Associated Press. **"There are no deadlines for things to happen. It is hard to know who is responsible for what."**

As in most Olympics, Brazil is working with many countries, including France and the United States, to improve security.

Rio's top state security official, Jose Mariano Beltrame, said last week that preventing terrorism has "always been the No. 1 priority" in Olympic planning, even though Brazil does not have a history of attacks.

The more visible problem in Rio is endemic street crime, with frequent assaults in high-profile tourist spots like Copacabana and Ipanema beaches.

Much of the violence takes place in sprawling hillside slums, where police are outnumbered by armed gangs. Some of these areas border Rio's famous beach areas in the south of the city, which will host several Olympic events.

Beltrame said there would be 60,000-65,000 police on the streets during the Aug. 5-21 Olympics, with a contingency force of another 15,000 troops awaiting deployment in case of an



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emergency. Several months ago Beltrame said an extra 30,000 might be needed to provide

"ideal" security.

5 things we learned from inside the U.S. intelligence war

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/11/24/politics/terror-threat-intelligence-nsa/>



Nov 25 – In the wake of the attacks in Paris, the world's attention has refocused on terrorism, and in the U.S., conversations about national security have increased in both frequency and force.

The U.S. intelligence apparatus is vast, spanning some 16 agencies, with a staff of more than 100,000 people, a budget above \$66 billion and a staggering array of operations, many of which are necessarily secretive.

CNN sought to shed some light on the United States' many intelligence agencies and what they say they are doing to protect the country from threats around the globe. The overview included interviews with some of the nation's top spies, and behind-

the-scenes access never before granted to journalists. Here are five things we learned from inside the U.S. intelligence war:

1. The United States has satellites that "sense"

"We don't have a presence physically in Syria," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper admits. "When you're thwarted in one direction with one particular discipline, you try to compensate for it in other ways."

The United States compensates for its lack of human resources on the ground in Syria by trying to get the most out of its resources in space.

The National Reconnaissance Office has launched spy satellites to monitor activity the world over. But these satellites don't just take pictures. Even from the void of space, they hear noise, sense heat and record vibrations.

"We used to play near tracks, railroad tracks, and you could feel the train coming before you could hear it. You could hear it before you could see it," NRO Director Betty Sapp explained, comparing her childhood experience with the satellites.

This sensory data feeds into the NRO's ground station in White Sands, New Mexico -- what the NRO calls its "brain." Then the NRO sends the information back out to those who need it in almost "real time," according to Sapp.

"Whether it's following signals or whether it's tracing weapons, whether we're making sure that the treaties that the U.S. has signed are actually being enforced, we contribute to all of those missions," Sapp said. Would the Iranian nuclear agreement fall into that category? "We can contribute to that mission, yes," said Sapp.

2. The U.S. intelligence community has built its own "virtual reality for surveillance"

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Director Robert Cardillo said the agency was able to build a model of the compound where Osama Bin-Laden was killed. The agency used satellite images taken of various angles of the compound -- along with satellite



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images the agency had from before the compound even existed -- to build a scale model of the now-demolished structures in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

However helpful that model from only a few years ago was, that kind of construction is a thing of the past. The NSA's "immersion lab" offers virtual models, allowing the agency greater ability to display and understand details about an area. The agency can then share its models with people planning a mission -- or soldiers executing one.

Marc Boysworth of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency even suggested giving information to soldiers on smart watches.

"They just may need to know danger from this direction and have it flash up on their Apple Watch," Boysworth said.

3. The NSA hinted that it can break encryption

According to Clapper, people trying to avoid detection use couriers or go silent altogether.

Asked if there was a way for the intelligence community to work past this, Clapper laughed.

"I mean, if they don't communicate -- no," Clapper said.

One step removed from going silent and giving up on electronic communication is the practice of using encryption to cloak their conversations, what the NSA refers to as "going dark."



"There is part of the world that's dark to us. In other words, we can't see," Deputy Director of the NSA Richard Ledgett said.

In the rest of the world, end-to-end encryption can secure communications from the sender to

the receiver, which means that theoretically, no one can intercept the information. Many technology companies and privacy advocates have embraced encryption, to the chagrin of law enforcement. Following the attacks in Paris, the debate over the strength of encryption has bubbled up again. FBI Director James Comey renewed his calls for backdoor access to encrypted communications after reports the Paris attackers had encryption apps on their phones.

The debate about encryption aside, the privacy technology may not be a total roadblock for the U.S. intelligence community.

Asked if the NSA had a way around encryption, Ledgett said, "So that's a really difficult question to answer. Sometimes there is. Sometimes with a lot of work there is."

4. The U.S. has an ISIS-related investigation in every state

The United States has 900 investigations pending against suspected operatives it says ISIS inspired. There is at least one investigation in every state.

ISIS recruits from the United States have typically been young and active online, but they have not fit one ethnic or geographic profile. Most ISIS recruitment stories seem to follow a pattern, with ISIS recruiters trying to entice young people from the internet to come their corner of the world. According to Peter Bergen, a CNN national security analyst, ISIS sent one 23 year-old woman chocolates and books. The recruiters talked to her online for thousands of hours. And once ISIS recruiters feel comfortable, they offer potential recruits advice and even a "travel guide" to get to Syria. "It's basically everything you need to know about how to get into ISIS territory," Bergen said.

5. Foreign actors have the capability to take down U.S. infrastructure

Electricity, water, transportation, finance -- virtually all the things underpinning daily life in the United States -- are vulnerable to cyber attacks. "We are in a battle, if not an actual war, in cyberspace," Ledgett said.

The deputy director of the NSA went on to list China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, as well as non-state actors like criminals in Eastern Europe, as perpetrators



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of cyber attacks against the United States. Ledgett claimed the NSA's Cyber Command views "hundreds of thousands" of attacks every day.

The U.S. believes Russia breached an unclassified White House network and that China was behind a massive hack into the Office of Personnel Management.

Inside the 'ant trade'- how Europe's terrorists get their hands on arms

Source: <http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/inside-the-ant-trade-how-europes-terrorists-get-their-hands-on-arms-34228128.html>

Nov 25 – When they first pulled him over for a routine check on the Bavarian Autobahn, police saw little unusual about the middle-aged motorist in the rented VW Golf.

Aged 51 and from Montenegro, he told police he was off on holiday to Paris, and was looking forward to climbing the Eiffel Tower.

Only when officers searched his car under a new procedure to check for illegal migrants did they discover that there seemed rather more to his itinerary than sightseeing.

For stashed in hidden compartments was a terrifying arsenal of weapons, including several Kalashnikovs, hand grenades, a pistol and 200g of dynamite.

An underworld armorer off to supply a gangster client for a particularly bloody feud? Or a would-be quartermaster to the terror network that brought carnage to Paris last weekend?

As of yet the exact plans of the suspect, who was arrested eight days before the Paris attacks, are still a mystery.

Identified only as Vlatko V by German officials, he remains in the custody of German police, who are "intensively investigating whether there is a connection with the events in Paris," according to the Bavarian interior ministry.

Either way, though, the case provides a disturbing snapshot of what security experts' call the 'ant trade', the cross-border weapons traffic that arms criminals - and now also terrorists - all over Europe.

"We call it the ant trade because in Europe, it tends to be lots of individual operators carrying one piece at a time, rather than big lorryloads," said An Vranckx, an expert with the Belgium-based Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security, which monitors the global black market in small arms. "But if that ant column is big enough, it all adds up."

In Britain, the ant trade showed its deadly effect two years ago, when Dale Cregan, a Manchester gangster, used a hand-grenade in an attack that killed two police officers.

The grenade was part of a batch of several hundred from the former Yugoslavia believed to have been used by everyone from Northern Ireland paramilitaries through to drug gangs in England. And as David Dyson, a firearms analyst, told 'The Daily Telegraph' last week: "If a guy like that in Manchester can get hold of this kind

of stuff, people who follow Isis may be able to do the same."

True weapons of war are still rare on Europe's streets. In the UK, when Scotland Yard parades confiscated underworld firearms stashes, they are more likely to be made up of World War II antiques.

It is, however, a different story on the Continent, where thanks to the borderless Schengen zone, those involved in the ant trade face little more than a long-distance commute to and from their supply sources in the ex-Communist countries of Eastern Europe.

In the Soviet era, the likes of Bulgaria and Ukraine maintained vast small arms silos in anticipation of war with Nato, and when the Iron Curtain fell, those weapons leaked all over the world, fuelling conflicts from West Africa to the Balkans. In Albania, for example, some half a million weapons were pillaged from state depots following the collapse of the government in 1997. Montenegro, the home of the man arrested on the Autobahn, is similarly awash. Indeed, it may be no coincidence that Montenegro is also the home of Europe's top armed robbery gang, the Pink Panthers.

But while the Panthers' exploits have made them folk legends - a drama about their exploits,



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featuring John Hurt, hit TV screens earlier this month - the same weapons supplies that made them so formidable are now also being accessed by terrorists.

For France, the wake-up call came in 2012, when Mohammed Merah, a petty criminal-turned-jihadist, killed seven people in a rampage around Toulouse. His arsenal turned out to include a Kalashnikov and an Uzi, prompting 'Le Figaro' to ask: "How was he able to buy all these guns, like one buys yoghurts?" The answer was that he had not done so legally: in France, as in the rest of the EU, automatic weapons are already forbidden. Instead, all Merah had to do was meet his contacts in the French underworld, which has a strong presence in France's deprived

immigrant banlieus as it is. According to Nic Marsh, a small arms expert at Oslo's Peace Research Institute, some 4,000 machine guns are thought to be in circulation just in the banlieus alone.

Was that how the Paris cell also got their Kalashnikovs? Right now, investigators are not saying. But given that several of the terrorists planned their operation from Belgium, police may well be looking once again at a shabby back-street market behind Brussels' main railway station, where Kalashnikovs change hands for as little as €1,000 - and it was here the 'Charlie Hebdo' attackers are believed to have sourced their guns, which police have traced back to a dealer in Slovakia

20 percent of Islamic State converts were Christian: expert

Source: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/151125/world-americas/article/20-percent-islamic-state-converts-were-christian-expert>

Nov 25 – **A terrorism expert says about 20 percent of the recruits to the Islamic State extremist group are from Christian families and three-quarters of those who become foreign fighters for militant groups do it through their friends.**

Scott Atran, co-founder of the Center for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at Oxford University, says research has found that only one in five young people are recruited by a family member and that "radicalization rarely occurs in mosques" and very, very rarely through anonymous recruiters and strangers.

He told a meeting on "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" Tuesday organized by the U.N. Security Council's counter-terrorism committee that "it is the call to glory and adventure that moves these young people to join the Islamic State" and that "jihad offers them a way to become heroes."

What to Know about the Deadly ISIS vs. al-Qaeda Rivalry

Source: <http://time.com/4124810/isis-al-qaeda-rivalry-terror-attacks-mali-paris/>

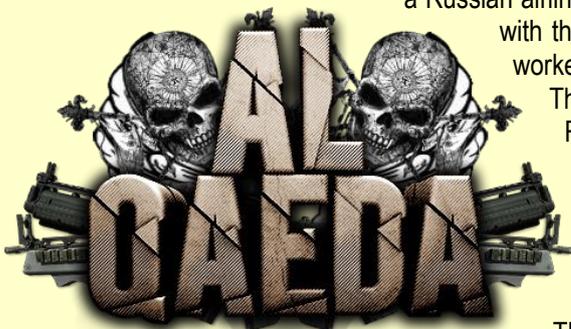
One was an American public health expert working on women's health and HIV. Six were employees of a Russian airline. Three were Chinese railway executives. Another was an official with the Belgian parliament. One was an Israeli educational worker. Six were Malians.

The 20 victims of the armed assault on the Radisson Blu hotel in Mali's capital Bamako on Nov. 20 included a cross-section of international visitors to this West African country. According to multiple reports, the gunmen separated Muslims from non-Muslims by demanding they recite verses from the Quran.

The siege at the hotel followed an uptick in attacks by militants in Mali, including groups that denounced the country's fragile peace accord.

But the digital aftermath of the assault on the hotel illustrated an ongoing rivalry between al-Qaeda, other assorted jihadist groups, and the militants of ISIS, who have pioneered their own brand of indiscriminate killing.

In contrast to the wholesale slaughter of civilians in Paris and Beirut a week earlier—by suicide bomb and assault weapon—the killings in Bamako typified the somewhat more



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targeted approach to terrorism professed by al-Qaeda, whose leaders have said that they disapprove of ISIS' indiscriminate tactics. Al-Qaeda supporters expressed their admiration for the attack online.

While the killing in Mali unfolded, one al-Qaeda supporter wrote online that ISIS "should learn a thing or two" from the gunmen in Mali. Another supporter posted: "Lions who carried out #MaliAttack separated Muslims from Christian in order2 protect the inviolable blood of Muslims."

The sparring between al-Qaeda and ISIS over tactics is just one front in a much larger struggle within the jihadi universe in which the two networks compete for funding, prestige and recruits. It is a fight that ISIS had been winning decisively prior to the attack in Mali. By seizing and controlling huge chunks of territory in Syria and Iraq—and proclaiming a "caliphate"—ISIS had supplanted al-Qaeda as the preeminent force in the international jihadist movement.

The caliphate provided ISIS with a territorial base for training, governing and extracting resources (in the form of oil, wheat, taxation and extortion) on a scale al-Qaeda has never come close to achieving. The group has also succeeded in building an army of fighters from across the world, many of them drawn through online recruitment efforts. ISIS' online presence is bigger and far more sophisticated than al-Qaeda's, including social media campaigns that sometimes produce tens of thousands of posts in a day, propaganda videos with high production values, and intensive efforts to recruit individual followers across the world.

The killings in Bamako were claimed by an al-Qaeda splinter group called Mourabitoun, which was founded by the Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar. According to some reports, the group acted in concert with al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, an al-Qaeda franchise operating in the Sahara and Sahel regions. Separately, a new Malian group called the Macina Liberation front also claimed responsibility for the attack. French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said it was "likely" that Belmokhtar's group was behind the attacks.

If that all seems confusing, it is, even for experts who study international jihadism. The relationship between Mourabitoun and al-Qaeda remains murky. The group's founder, Belmokhtar, split with al-Qaeda in 2012 after he was rebuked by the al-Qaeda leadership for being uncooperative. Further complicating matters, the U.S. claimed to have killed Belmokhtar in an airstrike in Libya in June, although his death was never confirmed.

The attack in Mali underscored the possibility of an unpredictable and bloody scenario in

which multiple jihadist groups and sub-groups around the world compete for notoriety and resources, in a possible contest of who can kill more and more creatively. In its own attacks ISIS appears to rely a loose network of militant cells, including foreign fighters returning to their home countries from Syria and Iraq. Those cells may plan and execute attacks with the approval of ISIS' leaders, but with little direction from the central command in Syria and Iraq. It was ISIS' local franchise in Egypt that claimed to have bombed a Russian passenger jet on Oct. 31, killing 224 people.

"They'll banner under one network or the other, but I feel like its way more loose and way more self initiating than it was 10 years ago," said Clint Watts, a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank in Philadelphia. "From a counterterrorism standpoint it's like a giant pile of spaghetti. Which noodle are you going to pull on and run with? It's a capacity problem and it's a triage problem."

Both ISIS and al-Qaeda have killed now civilians in terror attacks on a large scale. Al-Qaeda, while it may now claim to be more careful in its targets, has engaged in indiscriminate killing in the past, including the September 11 attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people. But al-Qaeda faced a strategic and tactical turning point during the bloody insurgency against the U.S. occupation of Iraq. Between 2003 and 2006, the man who became al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, presided over a devastating series of suicide bombings that killed numerous Iraqis, particularly Shiite Muslims (al-Qaeda's followers are primarily Sunni). The campaign marked the embrace of an extreme sectarian worldview that labeled Shiites as apostates.

Osama bin Laden's deputy, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri, eventually rebuked Zarqawi, urging him cease indiscriminate attacks that killed Muslims, arguing they undermined the organization's recruiting efforts. Zarqawi was killed in 2006, but remains of the extremist group formed the basis for what became ISIS.



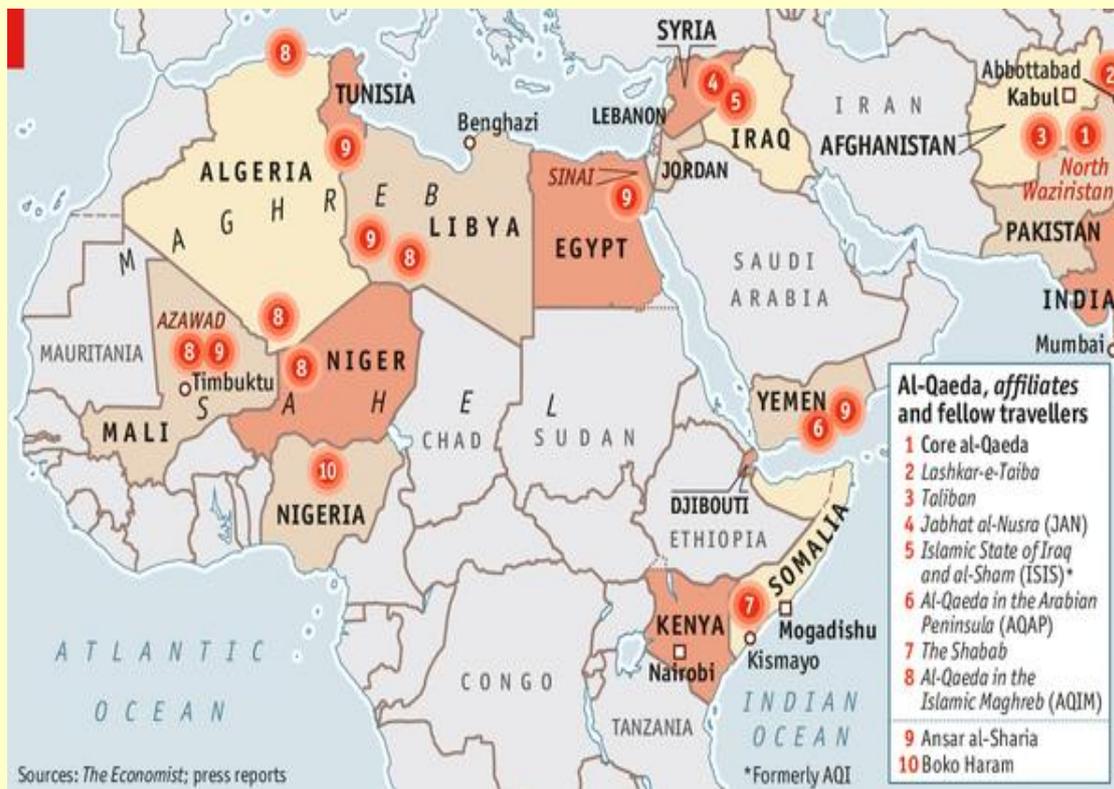
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While al-Qaeda leaders expressed a desire to impose some limits on the use of violence and focus the fight on non-Muslims, ISIS seemed to embrace brutality and sectarianism as a selling point. The group has captured world attention with propaganda videos depicting grotesque scenes of killing, including footage of hostages beheaded and burned alive. Analysts have described those videos as an attempt to

allegedly forming alliances with former agents of the Yemeni government.

The attack in Bamako took place in the context of ongoing political conflict in Mali, where transnational militant groups operate among a range of local groups. The attacks came after leaders recently called for violence in response to a peace accord signed in June.

"It does seem from the outside that roots of



“outbid” its militant competitors in a tournament of cruelty.

In recent months, the two groups have engaged in a propaganda battle, each assailing the other over strategic and doctrinal differences. Al-Qaeda and its affiliates recently lashed out at ISIS for targeting Muslims. In a video released in the name of al-Qaeda branches in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula that surfaced before the Paris attacks, the militants accused ISIS of “deviation and misguidance.”

On the other side of the divide, ISIS accuses al-Qaeda of lacking purity when the group forms alliances with local forces and insurgent groups in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and elsewhere. The most recent edition of an online ISIS publication called *Dabiq*, written in English and released following the Paris attacks, includes an entire article critiquing al-Qaeda for

these attacks are Malian, and they’re rooted in what’s happening in that country,” says Michael Wahid Hanna, a fellow at the Century Foundation and an adjunct senior fellow at the Center on Law and Security at New York University.

Nevertheless, the rivalry among jihadists could be one of the dynamics driving future violence across the world. “The most dangerous scenario isn’t two big things,” says Watts. “It’s 15 little things running wild all over the world.” There is mounting evidence of the potential for a competition in which ISIS, al-Qaeda, their affiliates, and individuals inspired by those groups attempting to match or surpass one another’s acts of killing. In the short term, one group may succeed in attracting more recruits and funding, more praise from their online acolytes. But in the long term this is a



contest with no winners, only losers, the victims.

Does the hybrid terrorism seen in Paris herald the dawn of a new phase of warfare?

By Candyce Kelshall

Source: <http://www.defenceiq.com/air-land-and-sea-defence-services/articles/does-the-hybrid-terrorism-seen-in-paris-herald-the/>

The existing structure of law enforcement and prevailing views of terrorism are officially antiquated. Decentralisation, destabilisation and insurgent methodology using mixed techniques in multiple sites, simultaneously are the hallmarks of the new wave of terrorism Europe is grappling with. It is neither ISIL nor AQ but a combination of both – employed by invisible citizen soldiers who have been trained by seasoned fighters.

Nov 23 – As dawn broke in Paris after the November 13 attacks, the era of violent transnational social movements was cemented into history.

Hybrid terrorism struck Paris as the effects of Snowden's security leaks were finally revealed to the world. A pseudo-military terrorist node was able to elude the combined efforts of multi-national, joint agency surveillance and monitoring. Europe has been on a heightened state of alert and still a cloak of secrecy surrounds the planning and execution of the 11/13/15 attacks in Paris. This is the stuff intelligence nightmares are made of. The attackers were able to mount this sophisticated attack without coming to the attention of law enforcement. It is not that the French were incompetent – in fact, French intelligence is highly regarded. The issue is that Snowden has effectively plunged agencies in the dark, as if flicking a switch off. The terrorist node was able to operate below the radar, demonstrating ease and familiarity with insurgent techniques. They moved convincingly, unobserved and invisible amongst the crowds of French citizens, hiding in plain sight, not raising alarm until they commenced their attacks. The ability to blend in ensures lethality, in this and future attacks, in other cities around the world. We should be under no illusion about the fact that this is the new blueprint for future terrorist attacks.

Techniques

The November attacks denote hybrid techniques which illustrate a levelling up in the nature of the terrorist threat which states face. The actions of the attackers cannot be easily placed into a framework for analysis, using existing tactical identifiers. The seven simultaneous and co-ordinated attacks were well planned and had significant infrastructure behind it, funding it and supporting it. Suicide bombs and active shooters combined in different locations is not a new terrorist approach. We have seen this before in Mumbai. **But six different simultaneous attack sites adds new depth and complexity rendering effective domination of the scene beyond the resources and capability of most state law enforcement apparatus.** Added to this consideration is the fact that long range strategic planning is hindered by a lack of chatter and the complete darkness which terrorists now know how to ensure. Surveillance of email, phone communications and messaging is practically rendered useless

and irrelevant. The publicity around their monitoring ensures that those who seek to do harm no longer use them.

Tactical terrorist hybridity and decentralisation of command

The November 13 attacks suggest a large network with the ability to manage complex co-ordination for obtaining weapons, explosive devices, transport and logistics required for up to six shootings in separate areas and several reported suicide detonations. This is an illusion. Given the nature of ISIL and the way it operates in international space this does not have to be the case. ISIL is a self-sufficient organisation. It needs only local knowledge (logistics, supply and response) and the ability to leverage this knowledge through training, belief and identity. **The hostage-taking which occurred inside the Bataclan concert hall is not a technique associated with ISIL outside of its areas of operation but it is a technique which we associate with Al Qaeda.** In particular, this clash of



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knowledge and technique occurs in Syria in the shape of the al Nusra front and early ISIL incarnations. The Paris attacks were not conducted by a terrorist group in the conventional sense. In much the same way, we can suggest that this attack did not employ 'conventional' terrorist tactics, in terms of depth, complexity and intention. While its key objective was to induce fear, its purpose was to attack places where Westerners relax and engage in the liberal lifestyle. **It falls into the domain of fourth generation warfare and is a good example of compound warfare but even then the nature of the attacks mark this departure in motive and intention.** It is not about highlighting a political issue or a religion. ISIL does not have a political axe to grind. It does not seek to make governments change their mind on policy or practice. In fact its business does not lie with governments, but with populations. ISIL arguably intends to change the very nature of the state system and to accomplish this it layers its attacks with psychological warfare tactics designed to ensure that communities become polarised by identity and borders become irrelevant. **This is fifth generation warfare and we have not seen it before.** Compound asymmetric tactics, psychological warfare and a cause above politics: Civilization. It is western civilization that ISIL is attacking. This includes the very structure and make-up of the Westphalia state. **The venues were civilian but the attacks were military in nature and precision.** The hostage-takers were all described as young. The shooters were calm and focused and did not speak except at one location. This suggests that they have been trained and are familiar with weaponry, as well as able to deal with adrenalin, noise and confusion. It suggests familiarity with active, hostile, conflict environments or war zones.

The nature of the events suggest that this is the work of well trained, sophisticated operational planners with a military background or trained by military professionals. They may be a military unit of suicide bombers who are members of a secondary, informal and decentralised group who have received training by either ISIL or an AQ affiliate and may not be formally part of one of those groups. **While the ability to blend terrorist and mainstream military activity does bear the hallmark of ISIL, other elements, such as the simultaneous co-ordinated nature of the**

attack suggests AQ. The hybridity of techniques used, in particular, suggests an element of "mix and match". This type of hybrid attack, which combines the lethality of a suicide attack with active shooters and hostage-taking, is complex to plan and even harder to deploy, train and prepare a tactical response to. When the issue of identity is deliberately stage-managed via the survival of passports after suicide detonations is taken into account, a clear psychological warfare layer has been added. It is unusual and unprecedented.

Destabilisation

These considerations give rise to the possibility that the Paris attackers were made up of individuals with different degrees of exposure and influence to both methods of terrorist tactics. This is an alarming development which demonstrates the morphing of the threat we are facing in the West. Terrorism may no longer be the domain of the "terrorist group". Terrorism may be evolving to become the domain of anyone who reads and can get training from a seasoned fighter. There are thousands of 'seasoned fighters' who have been to Syria, Iraq and Libya. These individuals are returning under the radar and blending into their parent communities around the world. These citizens of our countries might be viewed as a decentralised wave of insurgents whose role is destabilisation of our cities. **Paris is only the first of these destabilisation missions.**

The decentralised nature of a cell under its own impetus and using its own resources demonstrates further evidence that the nature of this conflict is shifting and twisting away from accepted definitions and more importantly from accepted ways of fighting terrorism. The old methods will no longer work if the 'enemy' is in the population. Targeting a population means targeting civilians. Turning civilians and citizens into the 'enemy' will have long-term effects which have not yet been considered. There was apparently no consideration of survivability on the part of the hostage-takers and shooters, implying that this is not a political act concerned with domestic matters within the borders of France and for which negotiation might bring resolution. Rather this appears to be an act which is focused on issues external to the borders of France and for which



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no negotiation is required or desired. The implications for policing and counter terrorism are immense.

Focused attacks on the hallmarks of civilisation

The intention and motivation of any terrorist action is to ensure panic and psychological trauma. These attacks have accomplished this. The attacks occurred at a football game, a restaurant, a bar, a night club – in the very streets where freedom and liberty were fought for. They represent an attack on liberal western

civilization. The choice of targets should not go unnoticed. They were selected because they are the places that young westerners go to relax. The target choices deliver a message to populations in all cities that security services cannot protect them and living a social western lifestyle is dangerous. The implication is that westerners should change social behavior to be safe. Our thoughts remain with Paris and its law enforcement community – and to the officers who fell in the line of duty, protecting the people, the way of life and the state they love.

Candace Kelshall is a Fellow at the Center for Security and Intelligence Studies at The University of Buckingham in the United Kingdom. She is a specialist in Conflict and Global affairs and is the author of two books: Armed Forces and Government and Mutiny or Revolution?

EDITOR'S COMMENT: This is an article I did not like! Experts love to put eye catching labels on everything: "Hybrid war"; "Fourth generation war"; "Fifth Generation War" – and alike. They also love to glorify the enemy by providing various speculations about the background of the terrorists involved and the modus operandi used. Almost never an analysis of what we did wrong is presented. Here there is a short comment on the ability of French intelligence: "French intelligence is highly regarded" (but failed!). Not a word on the tragic delay before special forces stormed Bataclan theater. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, hybrid means: (1) an offspring of two animals or plants of different races, breeds, varieties, species, or genera; and (2) a person whose background is a blend of two diverse cultures or traditions. In that respect where exactly is "hybrid" mentioned herein? Is there such a significant difference between al Qaeda and Islamic State in practice, not in theory? Is it so important if one terrorist group conduct multiple attacks (Mombay) or if separate cells of one group conduct multiple attacks (Paris)? Are logistics/support different if conducted in India or in France? It is like we support the view that weaponry smuggling is something new in Europe compared to Asia. Is it surprising that European jihadists returning back home might continue to do what urged them to travel to war zones in the first place? Or should they open a shop or hired in a multinational corporation as specialized individuals? And a second surprise: population is the target! Do we keep on forgetting that terrorism is not about killing many people; it is about spreading the message to people that they are next! Finally what is right in this article is the fact that we are all facing a class of civilizations. In that respect there are only two solutions: either we will come to a truce and both civilization will together in peace without one trying to conquer the other or we will fight to the end – whatever that means!

**In an age of global terrorism, what should we tell the children?**

By Teru Clavel

Source: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2015/11/25/issues/age-global-terrorism-tell-children/#.Vlwpi78XeXe>

As parents, should we shelter and protect our children from the horrors of terrorism, or does that promote the very ignorance it thrives on?

On the morning of Saturday, Nov. 14, families across Japan awoke to blanket media coverage of the unfolding tragedy in Paris. In those moments, many parents were forced to make a decision about how they would engage

with their children about the attacks, which left 130 people dead, hundreds more hurt and countless others traumatized.

Being an island nation halfway around the world, it could be argued that such news is only tangentially relevant to Japan. But with coverage of the aftermath of the attacks being almost unavoidable



in our increasingly interconnected world, do parents have a greater responsibility than ever to educate their children about global events, regardless of the degree of relevance to their daily lives? And by extension, do their teachers, too?

According to the Institute of Economics and Peace, deaths from terrorism last year increased 80 percent over the total for 2013 to the highest level ever recorded. If this is the wider world we are educating our children to become active adult participants in, are we properly preparing them? In homes where these topics are avoided — particular when older children are involved, who are increasingly bombarded with news and views through TV, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and so on — the issue must feel like the elephant in the room.

“In this digital age, I think the best way that we can protect our children is by informing them,” says Sara Hitchens, a Tokyo-based counselor. **“Left to their own devices, it is all too easy to pick up misinformation and prejudice.”**

Such events are educational opportunities to introduce and discuss issues such as conflict resolution, peace, human rights, multiculturalism and acceptance.

“I think that talking about conflicts in the world is necessary for raising conscientious, globally minded, empathetic — which to a significant extent needs to be taught — individuals with an ability to take varying perspectives and resolve conflicts,” says Melanie Borisoff, a clinical psychologist currently practicing at the TELL

Counseling Center in Tokyo.

Numerous studies, such as those conducted by Patricia Ramsey, a professor of psychology and education and the author of **“Teaching and Learning in a Diverse World,”** have shown that **understanding diverse cultures at a young age can help us overcome and prevent racial and ethnic divisions that can ultimately lead to violence.**

When having open discussions, Borisoff explains that it is important

for children to know that it is acceptable to have views that differ from those of their parents and peers, and that these differences don't necessarily have to be reconciled. “I think that is much more realistic,” she says. After all,

such complex issues are rarely black and white.

Cyrille Vigneron, a French national with two middle-school-age children in Japan and immediate family in Paris, believes open communication is imperative.

“It is part of our children's responsibility to defend their values and to understand what is happening around them,” he says. Vigneron feels that parents too often confuse innocence with ignorance, and that in many cases they may prefer to avoid debate.

“But education should be the opposite — teach them as early as possible what they should know to become independent and responsible,” he says. “Many issues precisely come from ignorance.”

And though children's views may initially correspond with those of their parents, Hitchens believes that this is a starting point for discussion with friends to work out what they feel independently.

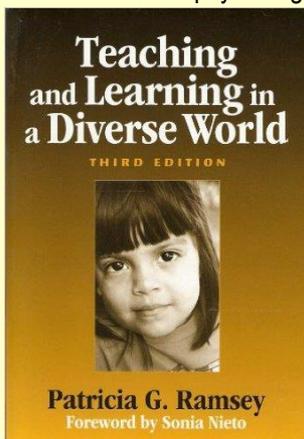
Conversations and exposure should be age-appropriate. Children can be more sensitive and have highly active imaginations.

“There is no advantage in scaring them unnecessarily by telling them about the world prematurely,” says Hitchens. “On the other hand, if they are old enough to ask a serious question, they deserve a serious answer.”

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry offers several suggestions: Remind students that they are safe; maintain a sense of normalcy; create forums for discussion and asking questions; use age-appropriate words and concepts; monitor exposure to news and graphic images; be honest; coordinate information between the home and school; and watch for physical and emotional signs of stress. At the end of the day, however, parents must evaluate what is appropriate for their own families.

Borisoff offers some age-specific guidelines. For 5-year-olds,

parents should stay concrete and practical while being careful not to create anxiety. She suggests employing storytelling as a device to explain what can happen with adults — using scenarios such as when children play but sometimes disagree at the playground — and relate this to feelings of being scared or even bullied. **Eight-year-olds** can understand greater emotional complexity, and can therefore



grasp concepts like conflict between governments and different countries. **Fifteen-year-olds** can engage more as adults. And parents of children of all ages should be prepared to discuss issues like death and violence.

But how relevant is this discussion to Japan and its children?

“Frankly speaking, what is happening in Paris or Syria is very distant both geographically and culturally from Japan,” says Yasuhiro Matsuda, an associate professor at the University of Tokyo’s Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia. “But if something happens in China or Korea, then it will be very big news. If ordinary parents see international news with their kids, they may discuss these ideas, but most Japanese people simply think that this is very horrible and fearful, and that’s all.”

Matsuda explains that there is a faction of intellectuals in Japan who are very critical of France, the U.S. and other Western nations — those who may classify themselves as pacifists. And there are others who feel safe from terrorism because the actions in the Middle East are seemingly irrelevant to Japan’s domestic policies. And while stressing that terrorism should not be justified, says Matsuda, “people here simply do not know how to react or to deal with it.”

This, it could be argued, is precisely why open discourse about terrorism is necessary.

“Japanese people think it’s totally disconnected from their country,” says mother of three Yuka Irie. “They are not concerned about it. It happened really far overseas, and it’s never going to happen on their soil.”

But since returning to Tokyo after having lived in the U.S. at the time of the Sept. 11, 2011, terrorist attacks, Irie’s thinking has changed. “We don’t know what the future holds, and we must prepare our children,” she says.

The Japanese media can seem to reinforce this sense of being far removed from the events in Paris, a trend lamented recently by Toshihiko Ogata, senior international correspondent at the Asahi Shimbun.

“Japan is now ready to exercise the right to collective self-defense, and it means Japan, too, is at risk of Islamic State attacks,” writes Ogata, referring to the group that claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks. “Yet the Japanese media are broadcasting cooking and variety shows as usual.”

So, what role should schools play? While the Lycee Francais International de Tokyo sent out an email to parents after the Paris attacks and held a minute’s silence followed by a talk from its head of school on the subject, some schools chose to ignore the events entirely.

“Schools not talking about it is a missed opportunity to explain what is going in our world and to learn,” believes Borisoff. “Not talking to them about it is not educating them and keeping them naive, and that’s not what education is about. Of course you should talk about it at home, but if you only talk about it at home, you have a narrow vision of what is going on.”

Cyrille Vigneron’s son Jun, an 8th-grader attending an international school in Tokyo, agrees. “What I think is most important is if we can talk in school,” he says. “In my family, we can all share. But I have some friends who have different opinions from their parents, and they tell me it’s really unpleasant to talk to them. And we need to do this every day for practice, so we can form our own opinions.”

Regular Japanese schools rarely deviate from the centralized curriculum mandated by the education ministry into unauthorized topics that could be deemed controversial. When a series of Japanese teachers at state schools were revealed to have shown graphic videos or images of the beheadings of Islamic State hostages Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa earlier this year to junior-high and elementary school students, they were publicly rebuked by the ministry for having caused unnecessary trauma — arguably rightly so. But this doesn’t mean there is no appropriate way to broach these kinds of subjects in the classroom.

Parents and teachers alike may feel they do not have the tools, training or support to feel comfortable initiating the spontaneous discussions and lessons about complex global events necessary to cultivate 21st-century skills. As The Asia Society stresses, “Pressing issues such as protecting the environment, managing unprecedented human migration and addressing the challenges of poverty, global health and human rights will demand a generation of individuals with a strong capacity to cooperate across national borders.”

So, with an abundance of resources out there to help (see sidebar), parents and educators



labeling ISIS as Islamic extremists, having other people use the term can be a sensitive subject.

"People tend to be quite defensive about Islam," Vidino said. "They fear by using certain language it will de-legitimize their faith in general. Internally, where everyone is Muslim and people do know the difference, they have no problem using those terms."

Vidino explained that in Muslim countries, there's a perception that Westerners don't "appreciate the differences between Islam and Islamism."

Split Along Party Lines

That perception has certainly increased in the past year since ISIS emerged onto the scene, and concerns are now at their highest over terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001, in some cases.

"There's no question that in the summer of 2014 that the emergence of ISIS really affected people's attitudes in a lot of ways over concerns about Islamic extremism," said Carroll Doherty, director of political research at the Pew Research Center.

A [Pew survey](#) from September 2014 found that 6 in 10 people were "very concerned" about the rise of Islamic extremism. But they're sharply divided along party lines.

Among Republicans, 82 percent said they were concerned about Islamic extremism around the world, and 71 percent were concerned about its impact on the U.S.

Just 51 percent of Democrats shared concerns about its rise around the world, while 46 percent were very concerned about its impact in America.

Along with that concern, the partisan divides on how to deal with the threat from the Middle East have also widened. Democrats are less likely to support engagement, while Republicans want more action.

"There's a big division over whether or not to introduce ground troops," Doherty explained.

"Democrats are deeply worried about becoming too involved in Iraq and Syria, and Republicans expressed the opposite concern."

But even within the countries where ISIS draws from, there's little respect for the terrorist group. Another Pew survey released last week

showed disdain for ISIS among most Muslim countries.

Within those countries, Vidino said, Muslims will refer to the group as jihadists.

But there's another debate over how much ISIS actually draws from Islam.

"An overwhelming majority of Muslims oppose ISIS and its ideology," Shadi Hamid, a senior fellow at the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy, wrote in a Washington Post op-ed last week. "But that's not quite the same as saying that ISIS has nothing to do with Islam, when it very clearly has something to do with it. If you actually look at ISIS's approach to governance, it would be difficult — impossible, really — to conclude that it is just making things up as it goes along and then giving it an Islamic luster only after the fact."

Hamid continued, "I am a Muslim myself, and it's impossible for me to believe that a just God could ever sanction the behavior of groups like ISIS. ... What Islam should be and what Islam is actually understood to be by Muslims [including extremist Muslims] are very different things."

In American politics, any discussion of those differences gets quickly glazed over and put into partisan terms. The finger-pointing over the use of the term continued last week when the Democratic National Committee released an online ad saying GOP presidential candidates were "equating Islam, all Muslims, with terrorists" in using language like "radical Islamic terrorism."

"It's oversimplistic, and it's wrong," the ad continues, flashing to footage of George W. Bush defending the religion after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Ultimately, Vidino said, there may be no "right or wrong" that can be reached in trying to find a consensus term. Even the White House earlier this year tried to take religion out of the equation when it hosted its 'Summit on Countering Violent Extremism.'

But even though the term Islam wasn't used, Vidino said, "everyone understands what kind of extremism we're talking about."



EDITOR'S COMMENT: Just another of my favorite articles! (those commencing about nothing) As if it is so important to put labels on anything in order to understand what we are talking about! As if it is important to label color, sex, religion, origin, motivation and alike in order to realize that "terrorism/terrorists" originated from "terror". That is all! Unless we are planning other things behind the curtains of debates as this one. Many years ago, in a pilot NATO course held in Rome with representatives from the Mediterranean basin we spend a whole day together with the official translator of the Pope in order to define the difference between "Islamic" and "Islamist" – the translator suggested that the right term was "Islamistic" [terrorism].

Former intelligence chief: We have known for a long time that terrorists use this country as a safe haven or transit state

Source: <http://www.radio.cz/en/section/panorama/former-intelligence-chief-we-have-known-for-a-long-time-that-terrorists-use-this-country-as-a-safe-haven-or-transit-state>

Ever since the terrorist attacks in Paris, security issues have been at the forefront of public and media attention in the Czech Republic. Although the country's intelligence says it has no indication of an imminent threat, security has been tightened around key institutions and will remain so at least until the end of the year. The need to consider security is affecting things like the traditional lighting of the



Christmas tree on Old Town Square as well as people's travel plans for the holidays. For this edition of Panorama I spoke to **former military intelligence chief Andor Šandor** about the security threat to this country, its emergency forces and the effectiveness of its public warning system.

"The sirens that we hear every first Wednesday in the month are just to tell the people that there is a system that would warn them. But I am not at all sure that people would know what to do. They are used to hearing the sirens every month and there is no reaction, no panic. The only ones who are uncomfortable are the foreigners because they walk along the street and suddenly they hear sirens. And they do not know what it means. Nobody knows what it means. It is just a warning system. We have a supplement to it if something really occurs and that is a warning via amplifiers - fixed amplifiers (in the smaller villages) or amplifiers on cars which the authorities use to tell people there is a problem. But I can tell you from experience that it is not very effective. In the summer there was a water contamination problem in a part of Prague where I live and cars with amplifiers went round and round telling people they should not drink the tap water. But the warning was not heard in flats or inside people's houses. So the system is far from perfect and something should really be done about that."

The prime minister has now asked for the introduction of a security threat scale – will that help?

"It may help if the system knows what to do. If you have a threat scale –three, four, five points – it depends on how you determine the danger, what you want to do and how you want to call it, but it requires that the integrated emergency system knows what to do when a given threat level is declared. So creating a scale is fine, but what really matters is that the system knows how to react when a threat occurs. So it remains to be seen what will come of that. Our military has a four-point security scale based on the NATO system Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and

Delta but that has no relation to the civilian population."

We know that the police, firefighters and soldiers cooperated very well during the floods but are the Czech emergency forces ready to respond to terrorist attacks such as those in Paris?

"That's a good question. We have never experienced anything like that and we hope that we will not ever experience anything like it. Even France had a problem coping with the scale of the attacks. The system that we have tries to cope with threats, but whether it would be able to cope well with something like the attacks in Paris I really do



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not know. I do not want to say that the system is bad and I do not want to tell people they can be 100 percent sure that the system would cope in the event of attacks such as we saw in Paris.”

Does the present legislation give our special forces enough powers to fight terrorism and to prevent such attacks?

“I think our legislation responds to what we need. Recently we made improvements in the police capability of tracking email addresses, IT addresses and so on, but preventing terrorism is a very difficult thing. Recently the chief of NSA said that from the enormous amount of information collected they were only able to prevent one terrorist attack that nearly happened in Los Angeles –so prevention is a very difficult thing. We collect a certain amount of information but it is difficult to put the pieces together in a way that will tell us what is going to happen.”

Recent statements from France suggest that the Czech Republic has repeatedly been used as a transit state by terrorists. The interior minister says intelligence knew about it and was not sleeping on the job - but if that is the case why is the country serving as a transit state?

“Well, I would say – surprise, surprise! We have known for a long time that terrorists transit our country. It is nothing new to the intelligence services. We are a pretty safe country, there are not many police checks on the roads and on the highways and since we entered Schengen there have not been border controls anywhere. So we know about somebody coming here when we are informed by our partners in neighbouring countries. As far as this case is concerned I have no information about it at all because I am out of the service, but as I said in the beginning it is nothing new to us, we have known for a long time that terrorists use this country as a safe haven or transit state. But we do not know for sure what the terrorist who planned the crimes in Paris advised his accomplices – whether he said use Prague, or use Prague, Warsaw and Bratislava – we do not know.”

Would you say that the peaceful lives we led in this part of the world are over –or is that too dramatic? Could we end up having tight security such as we see in Israel?

“At the end of the day we may end up having a situation similar to that in Israel – that means we could be witnessing terrorist attacks quite often. If we do not start solving the causes of Islamic terrorism, if we do not ask ourselves the question why these people hate us so wholeheartedly, why we have problems in our capitals and so many people living on the margin of society and why we maintain our political and military operations in the Middle East and Northern Africa then we will end up in a situation when terrorist attacks occur much more often than they have so far.”

General Šedivý (former army chief of staff) says that a terrorist attack in this country is a question of when, not if, do you agree with that view?

“Yes, I have been saying so from 2003. Despite the fact that we are one of the safest countries in the world, we may experience a terrorist attack. We may have a terrorist attack from inside the country. If we keep arguing against Islam, against the Koran, if we keep alienating our Muslim community –which is not large, but it is here – we may end up in a situation that some of the Muslims will feel offended and do something. Or, the right wing extremists who are bored with “solving the gypsy [Romany] problem” in this country may find the Muslim community a suitable new target – and all this could bring about a situation where terrorist attacks could occur in this country without being imported from abroad.”

Do you see the Muslim community in this country as a threat right now?

“No, definitely not. We have about 20,000 Muslims, five hundred of them Czech converts, they are not radicalized, but they are not without problems. Frankly though, we cannot see into the head of every Muslim so it may be that there is someone who is radicalized, but I have no information about that at all and our intelligence services say the same thing. They have no information of a direct threat in this country. But that is the situation now – in ten years’ time it may be different, or in ten months it may be different – who knows? If we keep alienating Muslims in our country it may be that terrorist attacks could happen on our territory.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: “We have known for a long time that terrorists use this country as a safe haven or transit state!” **And you did what? Exactly???**



Drug-crazed terrorism: Boko Haram, Turkish intelligence tied to spreading use of stimulant drugs to fuel Islamist attacks

[Excerpts from a report based on sources in Nigeria and the Middle East]

Source: <http://www.worldtribune.com/drug-crazed-terrorism-boko-haram-turkish-intelligence-tied-to-spreading-use-of-stimulant-drugs-to-fuel-islamist-attacks/>

The use of narcotic stimulants by Boko Haram (BH) Islamist fighters in north-eastern Nigeria may have provided a means for ensuring the remorseless strength and energy of its attacks against civilian and military targets, but it may also provide some clues for targeting the organization and its logistical links.

...

Consistent evidence of the widespread use of narcotic stimulants by Boko Haram fighters matches the use of such drugs through 2014-15 by Daesh [Islamic State of Iraq and Levant or ISIL] combatants in Syria, Iraq, Libya, and in the Daesh-linked Paris attacks of Nov. 13.



Seifeddine Rezgui was found to have been high on drugs when he carried out the Tunisia massacre this summer.

It is not yet clear whether the Boko Haram use of narcotics has been recommended, or suggested, as an operating doctrine, or whether this has arisen spontaneously. What is clear through investigations of the impact of these stimulants is that they not only

promote energy levels and a sense of alertness, but also heighten aggression and savagery.

One significant line of enquiry would be to determine whether supplies of Captagon pills were reaching BH. In January 2014, it was reported that Syria was manufacturing and trafficking large amounts of amphetamines, primarily the drug called **Captagon** (although not necessarily the same drug, or same contents, as the original, legal pharmaceutical of the 1980s; only the name remains the same), generating hundreds of millions of dollars in profits. (► Read more on Captagon on Nov 2015 issue of the Newsletter).

Captagon, once a brand name for Fenethylline, is a synthetic stimulant which is a popular recreational drug in the Middle East. As a result of the Syrian conflict, the drug began to be produced on a large scale by jihadi groups in Syria. In one incident, the Syrian Arab Army seized a tank truck containing a ton of pills.

Captagon has been smuggled to Lebanon which traffics it to the rest of the Gulf region. In 2014, Lebanon's Internal Security Forces (ISF) seized 55-million pills; in 2013 they seized 12.3-million; and before 2013 they seized less than half a million pills per year.

Large scale seizures of Captagon in Lebanon were unheard of until the collapse of Syria.

Several reports in August 2014 claimed that Daesh (Islamic State) was receiving large revenues by making and trafficking methamphetamine at pharmaceutical manufacturing labs they seized in Aleppo. The Aleppo plants contained the chemicals and equipment necessary to make high-grade product.

A report in the UK newspaper, The Telegraph, on Jan. 12, 2014, quoted a Syrian drug control officer in the central city of Homs, who said that he had observed the effects of Captagon on protesters and fighters held for questioning. He noted: "We would beat them, and they wouldn't feel the pain ... Many of them would laugh while we were dealing them heavy blows." Khabib Ammar, a Damascus-based media activist, told The Telegraph that Syrian fighters involved with the drugs trade were buying weapons with the money they made.

The linkage between terrorist groups and criminal groups — particularly narco-traffickers, weapons traffickers, and human traffickers — has been a regular feature of the terrorism phenomenon historically, crossing ideological lines. Significantly,



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“charitable” front organizations often serve as links between criminal enterprises and terrorist groups.

The role of the Turkish intelligence agency, National Intelligence Organization (NIO) (Milli İstihbarat Teşkilatı: MİT), bears investigation, given its growing function of supporting Daesh



operations in Syria, Iraq, and Libya, and linked with Muslim Brotherhood operations in Sudan. Turkish Islamic charities such as the İHH (Foundation for Human Rights and freedoms and Humanitarian Relief: İnsani Yardım Vakfı) have been working in Africa since the mid-1990s, and İHH has now been identified as a major tool of MİT, as became apparent in the role of the “charity” in the attempted breaking of the Israeli maritime blockade of Gaza in May 2010.

İHH — a strongly Sunni/neo-Wahhabist organization, linked with the Muslim Brotherhood — in August 2015 acknowledged ongoing operations in Benghazi, Tripoli, Misrata, Derne, and Sebhe: all node points for interaction with people- and weapons-traffickers linking down through the Sahel to the Niger Basin region. İHH is even more heavily engaged in Sudan, and, as in Libya, is working on genuine charity work. However, its primary mission has been to undertake proselytization and linkages on behalf of MİT. İHH also functions heavily in Nigeria, particularly in medical charitable work in

northern Nigeria, but also in providing “relief” to “victims of Boko Haram”. Specifically, İHH has been operating openly in the Niger-Chad-Nigeria border regions, giving it clear opportunities to work directly with Boko Haram itself. Moreover, İHH’s medical work gives it the perfect cover to handle shipments of pharmaceuticals.

Narcotic stimulants have been used extensively to engender courage and stamina in many other conflict situations, including, reportedly, among the Maitatsine Islamist jihadists in Northern Nigeria the 1980s. The use during World War II by the Germany armies

(Wehrmacht and SS) of **Pervitin**, a methamphetamine drug released in 1938 by the Berlin-based Temmler pharmaceutical company, particularly in the 1939-40 blitzkrieg operations against Poland and France, paved the way for widespread and routine use of such drugs throughout the war by Germany.

In 2014, the US State Dept. indicated that about half the 59 terrorist groups it listed were linked to narcotics trafficking.

While it is known that Boko Haram facilitated much of its early operation through kidnapping and extortion and bank robberies — quite apart from attacks on military units to seize weapons — it is now clear that narco-trafficking is a significant aspect of the group’s operation. But it is the use of narcotic stimulants which also enhances the pace and scale of BH operations. A major question is whether this drift into narco-trafficking occurred naturally, or organically, or whether it is part of the pattern linking BH with Daesh (via Daesh’s major facilitating organization, MİT).

Islamic State Terrorism Is Serious but We’ve Faced Even Deadlier Threats in the Past

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/11/28/islamic-state-terrorism-threat_n_8670458.html

“We have never known anything like Isis.”

“What we’re facing in Iraq now with Isis is a greater and deeper threat to our security than we have known before.”

“The threat we are facing today is on a scale and at a tempo that I have not seen before in my career.”



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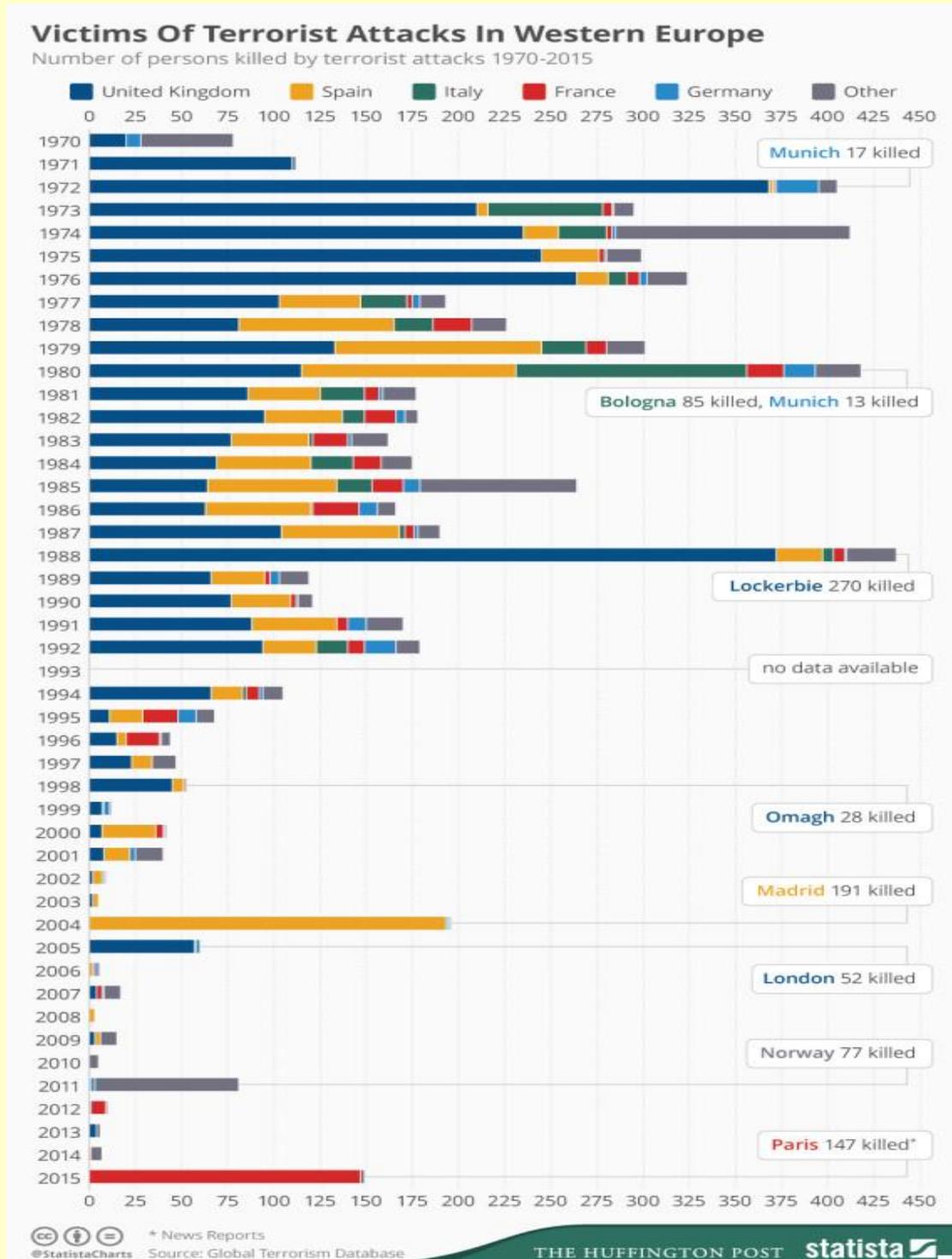
Since the horrific terror attacks in Paris earlier this month much has been made of the threat the UK faces from Islamic State.

A total of 130 people died in the French capital killed by people not afraid to die in the name of their beliefs.

While IS's methods and doctrine unnerve their enemies, Western Europe's bloody and violent recent history of terrorism shows its streets are actually safer now than they have been for decades.

Dr. Adrian Gallagher, Associate Professor in International Security at Leeds University, said: "The reality is... Western Europe is safer now than it has been for decades and is far safer than most other parts of the world.

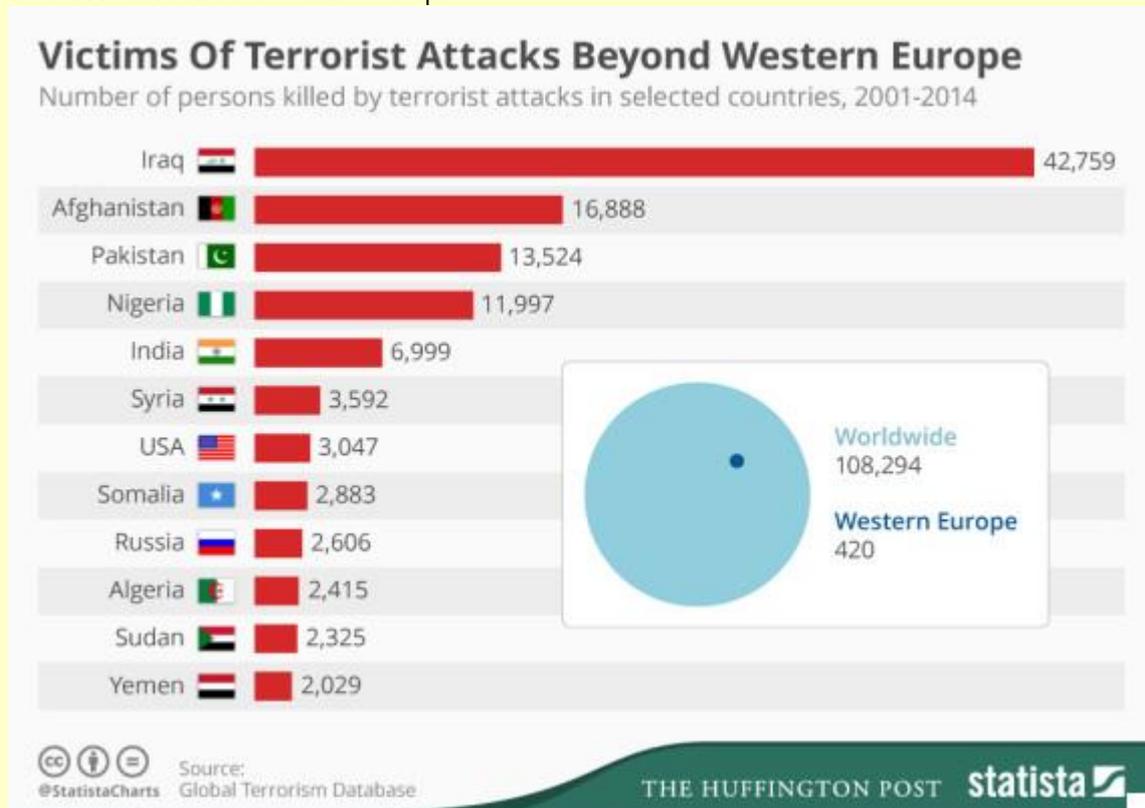
"At the broader level, the data supports the idea that we are now living in the most peaceful period of human history.



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"These graphs support the idea that Western Europe is perhaps more peaceful now than at any point in modern human history."

An examination of global data lays stark the reality of terrorism worldwide and shows the level of the terrorist threat outside of Western Europe.



None of this should suggest the threat from IS is not real - the group's methods and ideology have been taken seriously enough to prompt David Cameron to recruit an extra 1,900 spies to help combat them. Raffaello Pantucci, Director of International Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute, said: "If you look back at historical attacks, there was always a plan to get away.

"They would shoot, blow things up but they would not plan to die. Nowadays you are dealing with people who are willing to die in pursuit of the action and that makes it much harder to protect people from them."

The death toll alone can never show the full picture of the threat from Islamic State.

Dr. Gallagher said: "Of course, we should never be complacent. One thing the graphs do not show us is how many terrorist attacks were stopped prior to them being carried out."

Here's a look at some of the most notable terrorist organisations who have perpetrated attacks in Western Europe since the 1970s...

Provisional IRA

Active from: 1969 until 2005

Motivation: The ending of British rule in Northern Ireland and the creation of a united Ireland

Tactics: Bombings, shootings mortar attacks.

Operated in: UK

Killed in Western Europe: 621 to 644 civilians (1,840 civilians are thought to have died altogether during 'The Troubles'

Notable attacks: 1996 Manchester bombing



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In this picture, trainee members of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) practice guerilla warfare tactics at a secret location in the countryside outside the town of Donegal in the Irish Republic, 21st August 1986

Black September

Active from: 1970 - 1973

Motivation: Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation

Tactics: Kidnapping

Operated in: Germany

Killed in Western Europe: 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team

Notable attacks: Munich

In this picture taken on September 5, 1972 shows a Palestinian guerilla member (C) appearing on the balcony of the Israeli house watching an official (L) at the Munich Olympic village. As German magazine 'Der Spiegel' reports in its edition from June 18, 2012, German neo-Nazis supported the Palestinean assassins of the 1972 Olympic Games. A group of 'Black September' Palestinian guerrillas broke into the Israeli building in the Olympic village near Munich where 10,000 athletes were staying 05 September. Eleven Israeli hostages were killed in the attack.

**Ordine Nuovo**

Active from: 1969 - 1974

Motivation: Far-right neo-facist group

Tactics: Bombings, shootings

Operated in: Italy

Killed in Western Europe: 38

Notable attacks: The Italicus Express massacre in 1974 in which 12 people were killed and 48 wounded

In this picture, Public Prosecutor Vittorio Occurso (1928-1976) slumps in his car after having been assassinated as he left home in Rome by the Neo Fascist group.

**Charles Martel Group**

Active from: 1973 - 1987

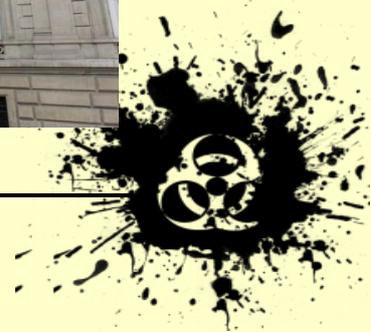
Motivation: French far-right anti-Arab terrorist group

Tactics: Bombings, kidnappings

Operated in: France

Killed in Western Europe: 4

Notable attacks: Bombed the Algerian consulate offices in Marseilles in 1974



The Baader Meinhof gang

Active from: 1970–1998

Motivation: Far-left militant group in "anti-imperialistic struggle" with West German government

Tactics: Bombings, shootings, assassinations, kidnappings, bank robberies

Operated in: Germany, Sweden

Killed in Western Europe: 34

Notable attacks: The West German Embassy siege in Stockholm



In this Oct. 31, 1968 file picture, Andreas Baader, left, is seen together with Gudrun Ensslin during the proclamation of their sentence in their department store arson trial in Frankfurt/Main, West Germany.

Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia

Active from: 1975–1988

Motivation: "To compel the Turkish Government to acknowledge publicly its responsibility for the Armenian Genocide in 1915, pay reparations, and cede territory for an Armenian homeland."

Tactics: Bombing, shootings

Operated in: France, Italy

Killed in Western Europe: 38

Notable attacks: The 1981 Turkish consulate attack



In this picture, Vahran Vahranian, Mihran Mihranian and Murad, respectively spokesman and members of political committee of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), during a press conference 15 October 1986 in Beirut. ASALA, one of the Lebanese-based extremist groups, claiming co-responsibility for a wave of terror bomb attacks in France, was demanding the release from prison in France of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, presumed leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, Anis Naccache, convicted assassin of former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar, and ASALA militant Varadjian Garabidjian, jailed for a 1983 bombing of a Turkish airline counter at Orly airport near Paris.

ASALA, the Marxist-Leninist terrorist group was formed in 1975 with the stated aim of forcing Turkey to acknowledge responsibility for the deaths of 1,5 million Armenians in 1915, to force Ankara to pay reparation and cede territory for an Armenian homeland. ASALA also conducted an armed campaign mainly against Turkish targets in the world.



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – December 2015**Carlos the Jackal**

Active from: 1973 - 1994 (arrested)

Motivation: Left-wing political terrorist and member of the PLFP

Tactics: Bombing, assassination

Operated in: France

Killed in Western Europe: 11

Notable attacks: The OPEC siege in which three people died.

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as "Carlos The Jackal" is pictured in an undated photo. Venezuelan-born Carlos, the world's most elusive terrorist. He went on trial in Paris on December 12, 1997, for the 1974 killings of two French counterintelligence agents. He was also been charged in the 1974 attack at a noted Paris cafe that killed two people and wounded 34.

**Nuclei Armati Rivoluzionari**

Active from: 1987 - 1981

Motivation: Italian neofascist group

Operated in: Italy

Tactics: Bombing

Killed in Western Europe: 85

Notable attacks: The Bologna massacre



General view of Bologna Central station and of wagons of the Ancona-Chiasso train pictured on August 02, 1980 in Bologna after a terrorist bombing which killed 85 people and wounded more than 200. At 10:25 am., August 02, a timed improvised explosive device (IED) contained in an unattended suitcase detonated inside an air-conditioned waiting room, which, the month being August (and with air conditioning being uncommon in Italy at the time), was crammed full of people. The IED was made of TNT, T4 and

a 'Compound B', also known as Composition B.



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – December 2015**Libya?**

Motivation: Military confrontations with US military

Tactics: Bombing

Deaths: 270

Notable attacks: Lockerbie

In this December 1988 file photo wrecked houses and a deep gash in the ground in the village of Lockerbie, Scotland that was caused by the crash of Pan Am Flight 103. Although the now-deceased Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi accepted responsibility in 2003, doubts remain about the truth behind the disaster.

**ETA**

Active from: 1959 - 2014

Motivation: [Basque separatism](#)

Tactics: Bombing, kidnapping, shooting

Killed in Western Europe: 829 (343 civilians)

Notable attacks: The 1987 Hipercor bombing

In this picture, masked members of the Basque militant group ETA hold up their fists in unison following a news conference at an unknown location. A Commission overseeing the Basque group ETA's cease fire has verified on Friday Feb. 21, 2014 that ETA has sealed and put beyond operational use a specified quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives.

**Al-Qaeda**

Active from: 1988 - Present

Motivation: Militant Islamist

Tactics: Bombing, shooting

Operated in: Spain, UK

Killed in Western Europe: 255

Notable attacks: 7/7 Bombings



Anders Breivik

Active from: 2002 - 2011 (from planning to execution of attacks)

Motivation: Far-right and anti-Muslim extremist

Tactics: Bombing, shooting

Operated in: Norway

Killed in Western Europe: 77

Notable attacks: 2011 Norway attacks



In this Aug. 24, 2012 file photo, mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik, makes a salute after arriving in the court room at a courthouse in Oslo. Breivik, who admitted killing 77 people in Norway in 2011, was declared sane and sentenced to prison for bomb and gun attacks. Convicted mass killer Anders Behring Breivik has applied for admission to the University of Oslo, testing the limits of Norway's commitment to rehabilitate criminals rather than punish them.

Breivik wants to study political science, and prison and university officials say he could conduct self-studies in his cell if admitted to the school. University rector Ole Petter Ottersen told The Associated Press on Thursday Aug. 1, 2013 that inmates are judged by the same criteria as other applicants.



Islamic State

Active from: 1999 - Present

Motivation: The establishment of an Islamic Caliphate

Tactics: Bombing, shooting, kidnapping

Operated in: France

Killed in Western Europe: 130

Notable attacks: Paris Attacks

In this photo, a man lights a candle which forms a peace sign during a candlelight vigil for the Paris attacks in the town square of Molenbeek, Belgium on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015

We are all terrorists

By Rafia Zakaria

Source: <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/11/we-are-all-terrorists.html>

Nov 28 – I arrived in Oslo, Norway, on Nov. 16 as Europe began its first workweek after deadly terrorist attacks in Paris. As I stood in line for passport control, a clipped voice over a public address system declared that it was time for a moment of silence in solidarity with Parisians. As the announcement ended, the two men ahead of me in line, clutching green Pakistani passports, exchanged a glance.

I understood their palpable anxiety. The horrors of Paris have bloated the weight of being brown and Muslim to grotesque proportions. Terrorism's ravages dangle over the exchange that permits entry or can deny it. In the hush, I

began to rehearse my responses to anticipated questions. I felt nervous and unprepared.

Europe was coming together to commemorate the 130 lives lost, the 350 people injured and the millions left traumatized in seven coordinated attacks claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Despite condemnations by Muslim community leaders and ordinary Muslims alike, the post-Paris political climate was overtaken by a seductive Islamophobia that substantiates existing prejudice and rallies the terrified Westerner to support



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outright exclusion of Muslims from their countries or an abridgment of their rights. It did not matter that Muslims are the most frequent



targets of terrorism and the vast majority of Muslims condemn ISIL. In the odd instance that Muslims were included in television debates or quoted in news reports, their remarks have been ineffectual, bouncing off the Teflon-coated belief in Muslim complicity and culpability.

Religious profiling and social and cultural exclusion often reach a fever pitch after a terrorist attack. Such profiling and the resultant mass surveillance place undue expectations on ordinary Muslims. During a radio interview I did a few days after the Paris attacks, my interviewer appeared baffled when I insisted that my power to stop terrorism was equivalent to his capacity to stop the next mass shooter.

The anti-Muslim bias also assumes that there is something inherently Islamic about terrorism, making all Muslims inherently suspect and tainted. Muslims try to counter this misconception with condemnations, disassociations and enumerations of Muslim lives lost. But they lose every time. **More than a decade after 9/11, 56 percent of U.S. citizens think the values of Islam are at odds with American values.**

The time has come for Western Muslims to act differently and to consider the consequences of ignoring an insidious debate meant to ensure their defeat. A dominant Western narrative has incorrectly labeled all Muslims as would-be terrorists, a premise that serves as the basis for laws and policies, war and inclusion and exclusion. No amount of Muslim condemnations will stop Western governments from treating every Muslim as a potential terrorist or sympathizer.

In fact, the current dynamic that forces Muslims to condemn terrorist attacks ensnares them in a game whose purpose is the maintenance of a façade of equality and representation in a

system already convinced of their contamination. This game can change only if Muslims stop playing, stop countering the label imposed on them and refuse to accept the inequities of special cards and the xenophobia of proposed databases.

The prejudice of the dominant majority cannot be countered with facts; reminding people of the numbers of Muslim deaths from terrorism or the realities of ravaged Muslim ghettos does little to dislodge its entrenched status. Refusing to counter the narrative that views all Muslims as terrorists or potential terrorists defeats the dynamic by nonparticipation and exposure. It forces a revelation that Western Muslims are permitted to exist in societies ostensibly committed to equality only by participating in their own subjugation and marginalization.

This may be the only way the powerful can be exposed as the hateful: to be confronted with the question of whether the objective of exclusion is simply to insist that all Muslims are terrorists or whether it marks a step to the destination of mass extermination, even annihilation. Some will recognize this tactic from World War II, when Germans of Jewish descent were forced to participate in their own marginalization. Similarly, after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans were rounded up and placed in internment camps in Arizona, California, Oregon and other states. The ongoing demonization of Muslims appears to be a regurgitation of these old xenophobic practices. Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump [has suggested special identification cards for Muslims](#).

I answered all the questions at the airport in Norway, adding some offhand quips about the weather to underscore my benign, peace-loving intentions. I do not know if the Pakistani men made it into Norway, since they were directed to a different window. Four days later, on Nov. 20, as Muslims in France held countrywide prayers mourning the victims of the Paris attacks, emergency laws went into effect in Norway, tightening its asylum criteria. Norway's staunchly anti-immigrant Progress Party led the measure, and polls showed that the party's support surged over 10 percentage points from just the month before.

The project of keeping out the hordes of asylees, mostly Muslims, it seems, was a good thing for the party.



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Unfortunately, Norway is not alone. For the rest of the Western world, the Paris attacks appear to have lent credence to a judgment it made

long ago: that terrorism is Islamic and Muslims are terrorists or terrorist sympathizers.

Rafia Zakaria is an attorney, a political philosopher and the author of “The Upstairs Wife: An Intimate History of Pakistan.”

Turkey is the Wrong Partner to Fight Terror

By Burak Bekdil

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5659/turkey-is-the-wrong-partner-to-fight-terror>



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right), seen here with Hamas leaders Khaled Mashaal (center) and Ismail Haniyeh in June 2013, famously declared that "there *is* no Islamic terror."

Nov 28 – Sadly, the free world feels compelled to partner with the wrong country in its fight against Islamic terror.

The host of this year's G-20 summit, which came right after the Nov. 13 Paris attacks, was Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In his usual Sunni supremacist language, he accused the victims of jihad rather than the jihadists. "New tragedies will be inevitable," he said, "if the rising racism in Europe and other countries is not stopped. Racism, coupled with enmity against Islam, is the greatest disaster, the greatest threat."

Yet Erdogan willingly ignores the rising racism, xenophobia, and anti-western, jihadist sentiments that increasingly command the hearts and minds of his fellow Turks. A quick look at a few sports games and fan behavior in recent weeks would reveal much about the Turkish mind and heart.

On October 13, three days after a twin suicide bomb attack in Turkey's capital, Ankara, killed more than 100 Kurds and pro-Kurdish, leftist and secular Turks, the central Anatolian province of Konya, a hotbed of political Islam in Turkey, hosted a Euro 2016 football qualifier between Turkey and Iceland. Before the kick-off, both teams stood for a moment of silence to protest the bomb attack -- a typical gesture to respect the victims. Sadly, the moment of silence was marred by whistles and jeers: apparently the football fans of Konya were protesting the victims, not their jihadist killers.

Anyone under the impression that the whole world stands in solidarity with Paris should think again. Hundreds of Turkish fans booed and chanted "Allahu Akbar" ("Allah is greater" in Arabic) during a moment of silence for the Paris attack victims before a Turkey-



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Greece soccer friendly. Once again, the Turks were exhibiting solidarity with the terrorists, not their "infidel" victims.

More recently, on Nov. 21, Turkish police had to deploy 1,500 policemen so that



Turkish fans could not harm the visiting Israeli women's national basketball team.

One thousand five hundred police officers at a women's basketball game! Despite that, Turkish fans [threw objects at Israeli players](#) as they were singing Israel's national anthem. Fans also booed the Israeli players while others applauded the fans who threw the objects.

Unsurprisingly, Turkish fans waved Palestinian flags. Israeli women basketball players were barred from leaving their hotel other than for training and the game.

None of that is surprising although, at least in theory, Turkey is a candidate state for membership in the European Union. A new [study](#) by Pew Research Center revealed **that 8% of Turks have a favorable opinion of the Islamic State (IS), higher than in the**

Palestinian territories, where support for IS stands at 6%, and only one point lower than in Pakistan. Nineteen percent of Turks "do not know" if they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of IS -- which means 27% of Turks do

not have an unfavorable opinion of the jihadist killing machine. That makes more than 21 million people! Of the countries polled, Lebanon boasted a 100% unfavorable opinion of IS and Jordan, 94%. In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, 4% reported a favorable opinion of IS, half of Turkey's.

This is Erdogan's "neo-Ottoman" and increasingly Islamist Turkey. After the Paris attacks, this author saw tweets that called the victims "animal carcass;" that said "now the infidels will lose their sleep out of fear;" and others that congratulated the terrorists "who shouted Allahu Akbar."

Meanwhile, and so funny, the free world cannot see that its ally to fight the jihadists is another jihadist. How should Erdogan fight Islamic terror – something he does not believe exists? One of Erdogan's famous remarks is, "there is no Islamic terror." But he thinks that "just like fascism," Zionism is a crime against humanity. There is a Turkish saying that could perhaps describe the free world's alliance with Erdogan's Turkey against jihadist terror: "*Kuzuyu kurda emanet etmek*" ("to trust the wolf with the sheep").

Burak Bekdil is an Ankara-based columnist for the Turkish daily Hürriyet and a fellow at the Middle East Forum.

ISIS sympathizers in U.S. differ widely in background, motivation

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151202-isis-sympathizers-in-u-s-differ-widely-in-background-motivation-study>

Dec 02 – A new study offers what its authors describe is the first comprehensive review of Americans who have been recruited by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The study is based on legal records and social media research conducted by the George Washington University's Program on Extremism. The report, *ISIS in America: From Retweets to Raqqa*, examined social media accounts and legal documents of nearly 400 Americans who sympathize with ISIS.



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“The phenomenon of Americans joining jihadist groups is not new, but the size of the ISIS-related radicalization and mobilization is unprecedented,” said Lorenzo Vidino, director of the GW’s Program on Extremism.

The study finds the following characteristics of ISIS U.S. sympathizers, based on information included in legal documents:

- Their average age is 26
- More than 50 percent traveled or attempted to travel abroad
- Authorities have made arrests in twenty-one states
- 40 percent converted to Islam
- 14 percent are female

GW says that the report examined more than 7,000 pages of legal documents related to the seventy-one individuals charged with ISIS-related activities in the United States. It found that the profiles of individuals involved in ISIS-related activities in the United States differ widely in race, age, social class, education, and family background. Their motivations are equally diverse. The report says there have been active investigations in all fifty states, and U.S. law enforcement officials have made arrests in twenty-one states. It notes the highest number of ISIS recruits were charged in New York and Minnesota.

“Other than size, diversity is the other main characteristic of this phenomenon. We have seen cases in big cities and rural towns. The individuals involved range from hardened militants to teenage girls, petty criminals and

college students,” Dr. Vidino said. “While some seek to join the self-declared caliphate in ISIS-controlled territory, others plan attacks within the United States. It’s a growing and disturbing phenomenon.”

The Program on Extremism monitored nearly 300 Twitter accounts of U.S.-based ISIS sympathizers during the six-month study. This activity showed how social media plays a crucial role in the radicalization and, at times, mobilization of U.S.-based ISIS sympathizers.

“ISIS and its supporters are adept at using social media to radicalize and recruit Americans,” said Seamus Hughes, deputy director of the GW’s Program on Extremism. “A small number of Americans have wholeheartedly embraced their new-found ISIS support system online. The bar for Americans to join these terrorist organizations has been lowered, allowing a level of connectivity and interaction with recruiters and propagandists unheard of just a few years ago.”

The Program on Extremism will publish some of the legal documents used to compile the report on its Web site. This will be one of the largest online collections of ISIS-related legal documents on American cases.

GW notes that the paper concludes with policy recommendations, including increased resources devoted to countering violent extremism, a framework for targeted interventions with radicalized individuals and legal guidance for people interested in sharing messages countering ISIS propaganda.

— Read more in Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes, *ISIS in America: From Retweets to Raqa* (Program on Extremism, George Washington University, December 2015)



Maps Reveal Chain of ISIS Oil Smuggling Routes from Syria and Iraq into Turkey. Russian Defense Ministry

Global Research, December 02, 2015

Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/maps-reveal-chain-of-isis-oil-smuggling-routes-from-syria-and-iraq-to-turkey-russian-defense-ministry/5492899>

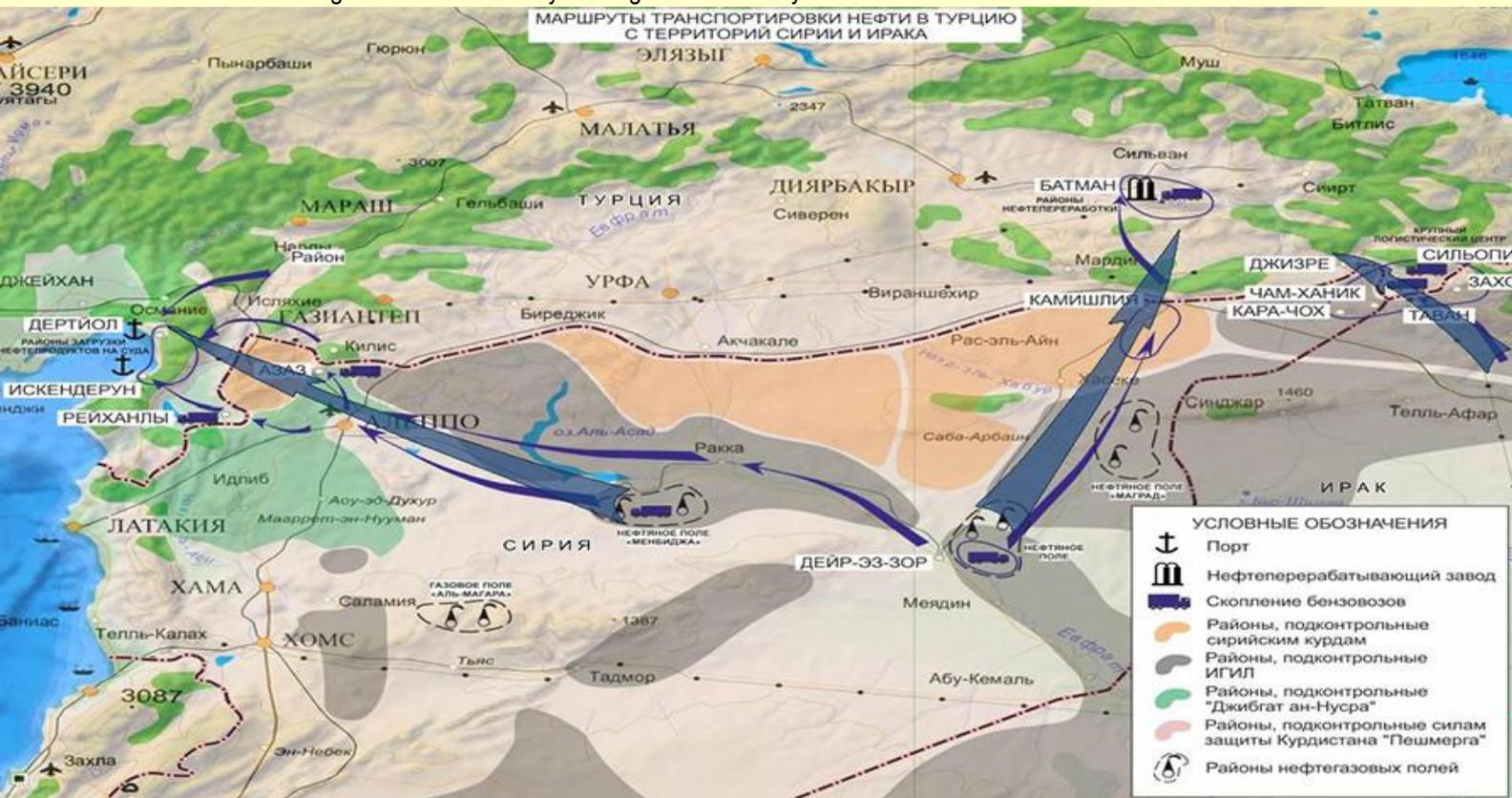
Russia’s Defense Ministry published images and a map it says reveal a chain of oil smuggling to Turkey from Islamic State – from extraction to refining facilities.

At least three ISIS oil supply routes were located, all leading to Turkey.

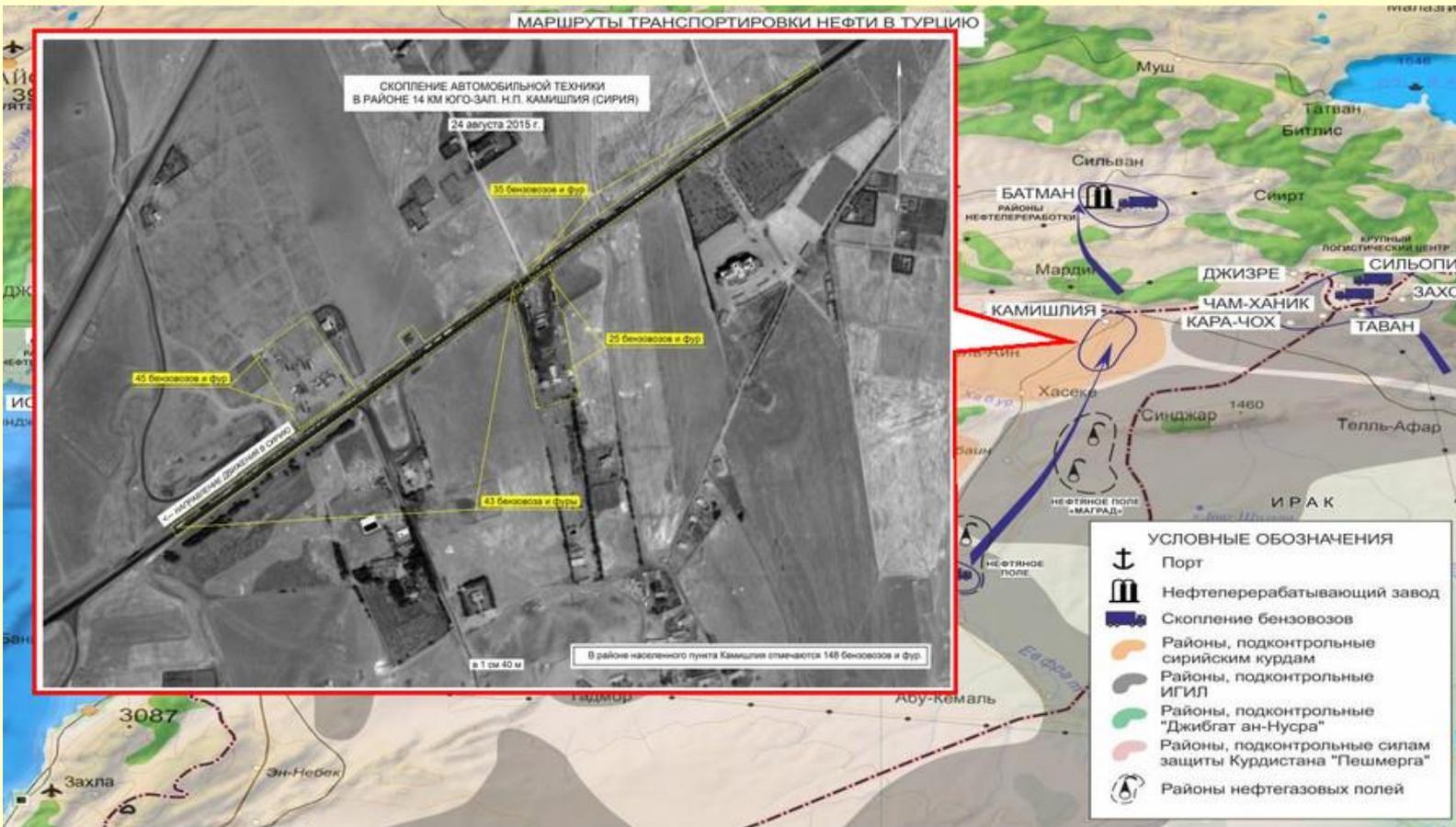


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"The General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces has irrefutable evidence of Turkey's involvement based on aerial and space reconnaissance data," Lieutenant-General Sergey Rudskoy said during the Defense Ministry briefing on Wednesday.



The routes of alleged oil smuggling from Syria and Iraq to Turkey © syria.mil.ru



The routes of alleged oil smuggling from Syria and Iraq to Turkey © syria.mil.ru



According to Rudskoy, Russia has identified “three main oil transportation routes from ISIS-controlled Syrian and Iraqi territories into Turkey.”

“The western route leads to the Mediterranean ports, the northern route leads to the Batman oil refinery on the Turkish territory and the eastern one leads to a large transfer base in Cizre [Turkey].”

The [documents](#) published by the ministry show “the entire chain of oil supply into Turkey – from extraction to refining facilities.”

The routes of alleged oil smuggling from Syria and Iraq to Turkey © syria.mil.ru

“In total, in their illegal oil smuggling business, terrorists are using at least 8,500 trucks to transport up to 200,000 tons of oil every day.”

He added that the vehicles with illegal oil that are crossing Turkey are not checked at the border.

“The presented photos, which were taken this August, demonstrate hundreds of oil trucks and heavy vehicles moving both to and from the Turkish border.”

Rudskoy concluded that most of the oil is being transferred from eastern Syria to a large oil refinery plant in Batman, 100km from the Syrian border.

After Paris, Are French Security Forces Up to the Task?

By Michel Gurfinkiel

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5669/after-paris-french-security>

Nov 19 – A state of emergency has been declared in France.

So far, everyone, right and left, seems to agree that the country must resort to drastic means to restore safety. Commentators frequently point to Israel as an example to be followed. Border controls loosened under the Schengen regime

have been re-established, there have been arrests, mosques seen as hotbeds of radicalism may be closed, and some foreign imams may be expelled. Security forces in combat gear have been guarding public buildings and public spaces.



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Still, one wonders how effective such policies can be.

According to Vincent Desportes, a former general and author of a book on national defence, France's security apparatus is crippled and overstretched. He said the military's "operational strength" was cut by 25 per cent under Nicolas Sarkozy, and again by 25 per cent in President Hollande's first three years. As a result, no more than 100,000 troops can be mobilised and the cream of the country's forces are constantly rotating on missions abroad.

The French also rely on the Gendarmerie, a semi-militarised police corps, and the regular police, each over 100,000-strong. The entire defence and security apparatus can thus be estimated at just over 300,000, barely enough for a population of 67 million.

According to the newspaper *L'Opinion*, troops deployed after the January attacks to protect "sensitive" sites such as synagogues and schools have complained of being overworked. A second major difficulty is France's ethnic and religious diversity. The eight terrorists involved appear to have been Muslim French citizens of

North African descent. Previous killings were perpetrated by Muslim French citizens of North African or Sub-Saharan African descent.

Thousands of young French Muslims have joined Al Qaeda and Daesh in Syria, and many of them are back in the country. Many areas have been described as "no go" zones by police and seem to be controlled either by ethnic criminal gangs or jihadist networks.

In such circumstances, a sustained war on terror may easily lapse into a kind of civil war between the ethnic French and the French Muslims. This possibility exists, despite the fact that minorities make up a large proportion of the security forces.

Muslims make up nine per cent of the population. A French political science think tank split them into three groups: the "observant," the "believers," and the "French citizens of Muslim origin."

The first group grew from 36 per cent of the overall Muslim population in 2001 to 42 per cent in 2014, and is much more likely than the two other groups to entertain negative views against non-Muslims.

Michel Gurfinkiel, a Shillman-Ginsburg Fellow at the Middle East Forum, is the Founder and President of the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Institute, a conservative think tank in France.

Rio 2016: Can Rio secure the Olympics?

By Shasta Darlington (CNN)

Source: <http://www.wdbj7.com/sports/rio-2016-can-rio-secure-the-olympics/36754646>

Dec 02 – It happened at Munich in 1972 when the brutal murder of 11 Israelis overshadowed the Olympic Games.

And in the wake of the Paris attacks, concerns about terrorism affecting Rio 2016 are on the rise, even if Brazil has no declared enemies and Olympics organizers plan to have more than double the number of security agents used in the 2012 London Games.

Rio state security Chief Jose Mariano Beltrame says there have been no immediate changes to the Rio 2016 security plan as a result of the multiple assaults in the French capital last month that left 130 people dead.

"Because terrorism was always treated as a priority, our infrastructure is very strong," Beltrame told CNN in an interview at the modern central command in downtown Rio de

Janeiro that will be the security headquarters during the Games next August.

"We have been coordinating with delegations. We are ready," added Beltrame, speaking under a wall of screens showing live video from thousands of cameras placed around the city.

The plan currently calls for 65,000 police and troops to secure the Games in Rio and key locations where competitions will take place, with a contingency force of 15,000 personnel that can be called upon. In London, 40,000 agents were used.

"At this point our understanding of the level of risk hasn't changed," said Beltrame, though he admitted that they could turn to the contingency force if delegations requested a higher security presence.



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However, not everyone shares Beltrame's optimism.

At an event in Rio organized by the Justice Ministry, a government auditor said there were "flaws" in border security that needed to be corrected over the next seven months.

Porous borders

Brazil has some 23,000 kilometers of sea and land borders that it shares with 10 countries. There are few controls in the sparsely-populated regions, part of the reason why Brazil has struggled to combat drug and arms trafficking.

Paulo Storani, an international security consultant and former captain of Rio's Special Ops Police, says Brazil's assumption that it is a peaceful country and its lack of intelligence expertise combine to make it a target.

"There is no doubt that if somebody has been plotting against the Olympic Games, they are already in Brazilian territory,"

Storani told CNN.

"Soldiers are going to be spread out among the Olympic structures and tourist sites to prevent crimes or attacks," he added.

"But anything that was planned, likely won't be impeded by more forces on the ground, they have to be prevented by intelligence before they happen."

Another contentious issue is a visa-waiver scheme. In order to attract more tourists, Congress approved a **90-day visa waiver for**

foreigners during the Games. But after the Paris attacks, many had hoped Brazil president Dilma Rousseff wouldn't sign the bill -- including Rio's security chief.

"I personally think that visas help register people and create a databank so we know their whereabouts," Beltrame said.

The scheme was also criticized by General Jose Carlos de Nardi, who had been the military point man for Olympics security.

Nonetheless, just last week, Rousseff signed the measure and now it has been announced that De Nardi is to be replaced.

The scope of the program will likely be limited to a specific handful of countries such as the United States, Japan and Australia, when it is published.

Officials insist that they have experience of securing international events such as the 2014 World Cup and the visit of Pope Francis the year before.

The biggest incidents during those events were rowdy fans breaking into stadiums and adoring followers rushing the Pope's motorcade.

Even so growing concerns over terrorism could mean a shift in focus for police and troops on the ground.

The major operations in Rio have been aimed at cleaning up violent favelas -- precarious neighborhoods long controlled by drug traffickers -- and fighting crime in popular tourist zones.

Shooting in San Bernardino Kills at Least 14; Two Suspects Dead

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/03/us/san-bernardino-shooting.html?_r=0

Dec 03 – A heavily armed man and woman **terrorized** this city on Wednesday, killing at least 14 people and wounding at least 17 at a social services center before leading the police on a manhunt culminating in a shootout that left the two suspects dead, the authorities said.

Panic, chaos and rumor gripped this largely working-class community about 60 miles east of Los Angeles as the attackers carried out the nation's worst mass shooting since the assault on an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., nearly three years ago.

Chief Jarrod Burguan of the San Bernardino Police Department identified the two suspects as Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 27. Mr. Farook was born in the United States. Family members say they were married and had a 6-month-old daughter.

Chief Burguan said it was not clear if a third person taken into custody after the shootout with the police was involved.

"We are reasonably confident that we have two shooters and we have two dead suspects," he said.



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Mr. Farook, an environmental inspector, had been employed with the county health



department for five years. On Wednesday morning he attended a holiday party for the department at the Inland Regional Center, a sprawling facility that provides services for thousands of people with disabilities. He left “angry” after a dispute of some sort, the chief said, and returned with Ms. Malik around 11 a.m. — heavily armed.

“There had to be some degree of planning that went into this,” Chief Burguan said. “I don’t think they just ran home and put on these tactical clothes.”

He said the motive had not been determined. “We have not ruled out terrorism,” he said.

The couple were armed with .223-caliber assault rifles and semiautomatic handguns.

While shots rang out, others in the building covered and hid, sending out texts. Chief Burguan said that most of the victims were found in one part of that building but it took hours to render the scene safe.

The attackers left three explosive devices behind, and the authorities were only starting to process the scene and could not identify any of the victims late Wednesday.

As the suspects fled in a black sport utility vehicle, large parts of the city were paralyzed throughout the day. Residents were told to remain indoors, and government buildings, stores, offices and at least one school were either closed or put on lockdown. Yellow school buses filled with survivors of the shooting were escorted by police vans to meet anxious relatives at a church.

Officials Say Two Suspects Dead

A third person fled the scene and was



detained, but police are unsure of that persons’ involvement. An F.B.I. spokesman said they were still unsure if the shooting was a terrorist act.

Late in the afternoon, dozens of heavily armed police officers in tactical gear descended on a residential neighborhood in pursuit of the attackers. Witnesses described a wild scene as dozens of officers closed in on a vehicle, with hundreds of shots fired as the people in the vehicle battled the police.

Chief Burguan said there were at least 20 officers involved in the gun battle.

The chief said a third person fled the scene and was taken into custody, but the police did not know his role, if any. A police officer was wounded in the



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shootout and was being treated at a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

In a year repeatedly marked by such massacres, San Bernardino joined a tragic roster that includes Charleston, S.C.; Roseburg, Ore.; and Colorado Springs, where just five days earlier a gunman killed three people and wounded nine at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

access to guns for people who might pose a danger.

“We should come together in a bipartisan basis at every level of government to make these rare as opposed to normal,” he said in a previously scheduled interview with CBS News. He added, “The one thing we do know is that we have a pattern now of mass shootings in this country that has no parallel anywhere else



Investigators were puzzling over the motives, and there were conflicting accounts of what led to the shooting.

David Bowdich, assistant director of the F.B.I.'s office in Los Angeles, would not rule out terrorism. “We will go where the evidence takes us,” he said. “We are definitely making some movements that it is a possibility.”

One senior American official said that **Mr. Farook had not been the target of any active terrorism investigation, and he was not someone the bureau had been concerned about before** Wednesday's shooting. Other officials said the F.B.I. was looking into a possible connection between Mr. Farook and at least one person who was investigated for terrorism a few years ago.

Earlier in the evening, law enforcement officers knocked down the door of the small townhouse in the nearby city of Redlands that they believed to be associated with Mr. Farook. They also secured Mr. Farook's office.

President Obama once again called for better background checks and new restrictions on

in the world, and there's some steps we could take, not to eliminate every one of these mass shootings, but to improve the odds that they don't happen as frequently.”

California has the strictest gun laws in the nation, according to [the most recent report card](#) by the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. It is among a handful of states that ban sale or possession of many assault weapons, including the most common models, although people who owned those firearms before they were banned are allowed to keep them. It was not known where and how the suspects obtained their weapons.

The attackers drove up in a dark S.U.V. to a complex of buildings run by the Inland Regional Center, spent “several minutes” shooting inside one of the buildings, and then fled, Chief Burguan said. They wore masks and body armor, he said.

While the right wing is hyperventilating about the danger posed by Syrian refugees, we are



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shooting up our country very nicely ourselves. “They were dressed and equipped in a way that indicates they were prepared,” he said at a

residents suffered a high rate of home foreclosures, and the commercial downtown deteriorated. The population has swelled



over the past generation with immigrants from Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, drawn by proximity to Los Angeles, and housing that is affordable.

news conference about three hours after the shooting. “They came prepared to do what they did, as if they were on a mission.”

For hundreds of people who worked in the Inland Regional Center or were clients of its services, a quiet morning turned into a scene of utter panic and bloodshed, as people fled or hid behind locked doors and under desks, communicating with family and friends through panicked phone calls and text messages.

Jamille Navarro, who works with special needs children at the center, called her mother, Olivia, saying that there were gunman in the building. “She was hiding in her room,” Olivia Navarro said, crying. “They turned off the lights. She was whispering because she didn’t want to be heard. I told her to stop talking. I said, ‘All right, I’ll be right there, turn out the lights, don’t do a thing.’ Why would somebody want to hurt somebody who helps children?”

Aftermath of the Mass Shooting in San Bernardino

San Bernardino is a city of more than



200,000 people that has struggled in recent years as the city filed for bankruptcy,

After the shooting, teams of officers searched the buildings, room by room, for survivors or suspects, and the F.B.I. and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also dispatched agents.

Lavinia Johnson, executive director of Inland Regional, said that when the shooting started, she and her staff, in another building on the property, remained hidden in their offices for two hours until law enforcement officers led them to safety.

The Inland Regional Center, which was opened in 1971, is a nonprofit agency that serves people from San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The facility’s Facebook page said 670 staff members served more than 30,200 people.

Large contingents of officers, many in body armor, cordoned off the 1300 block of Waterman Avenue, a major north-south street, and other officers hustled survivors from the building complex across the avenue to the golf course of the San Bernardino Golf Club.

Emergency crews treated victims lying in the street, while medical helicopters landed on the golf course to ferry the most seriously hurt patients to hospitals.

The radio traffic conveyed a chaotic and tense situation, as officers guided civilians from the building and described graphic scenes as they passed victims inside. Sometime after the attack began, an officer radioed, “They just found another room with more victims.”

A while later, another officer asked, “Do you need assistance



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on the scene or do you need us to stay mobile in case these guys hit again?”

Gabriel Torres said his wife, Carina, a social worker who works at the center, spent half an hour or more on the phone with him as she hid under her desk, crying, after her supervisor told her to take cover. Terrified, Ms. Torres told him

that he should make sure to take care of their four daughters, ages 10 to 24, if anything were to happen to her.

Her mother, Maria Hernandez, said: “We know she is O.K., I’m going to be O.K., I can tell you, I’m going to pass out. These feelings — I cannot tell you.”

EDITOR’S COMMENT: Another domestic terrorism (that does not exist) in the United States. 352 mass attacks by active shooters within 336 days! This time AR-15 were used; an IED have been neutralized by EODs – in a State with the strictest gun laws... President Obama was upset again but it seems that the national gun/arms lobby is equally powerful (again). **By the way:** if you are a registered hunter it is logic to have a gun. If you have licence to carry a pistol for various reasons it is logic to have it. But what is the purpose of possessing assault rifles in urban environment??? If you want to see how they look like, join the military or the police!

ISIS sympathizers Tweet ‘#America_Burning’ in celebration of the San Bernardino mass shooting

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/isis-users-tweet-america-burning-celebrate-shooting-article-1.2453460>

Dec 02 – The Islamic State cheered on Twitter after the tragic deaths of 14 people in a shooting Wednesday at a San Bernardino, Calif., social services center, according to a report.

ISIS sympathizers used the “#America_Burning” hashtag in Arabic on Twitter and in extremist deep web forums to show their glee at the killing of more innocent people, Vocativ reported.

ثلاث ليون اثلجوا صدورنا بفضل الله مازالوا
أحياء ويتجولون شوارع كاليفورنيا بالزى
العسكرى وبأسلحة ثقيلة #أمريكا_تشتعل #تكبير
— سَلَامِيَّةُ الدَّوْلَةِ (@Neran_Da3shya) December
2, 2015

“Three lions made us proud,” one user Tweeted. “California streets are full with soldiers with heavy weapons. The Unites States is burning #America_Burning.”

“Let America know a new era #California #America_burning,” said another hateful Tweet.

“God is the greatest,” a third Tweet cited by Vocativ said. “May God spread fear in the homes of the Crusaders”.

None of the Tweets or message lists linked to ISIS claimed the terrorists were responsible for the mass killing, though. Other Twitter users immediately replied to the apparent ISIS fan Tweets to show their disgust with the celebration of death.

California Shooting: The Debate Starts Here

Source: <http://www.clarionproject.org/analysis/california-shooting-debate-starts-here>

Dec 03 – With the investigation of the California shooting in its primary stages, what we do know about this horrific attack is that it was highly planned. The shooters were prepared: in dress -- they donned “assault-style clothing” (described as dark, tactical garments) and body armor; with weapons -- they chose AK-47 Kalashnikov semi-automatic rifles (or

the equivalent) plus pistols; and with ammo -- they were carrying multiple magazines and had planted explosive devices resembling pipe bombs.

Without ruling out other motives, law-enforcement officers say the facts of this case point to a terrorist attack.



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What we do know is that Syed Rizwan Farook, one of the shooters, “was very religious,” according to his father. He had travelled to Saudi Arabia and returned with this wife, who he had reportedly met online.

A neighbor said Farook lived with his wife,

Republican candidates initially offered prayers for the victims and their families, as well as law-enforcement officers in harm’s way. At a speaking engagement, Ben Carson pointedly asked, “What happened to our country? Where did that come from? I will tell you where



mother and baby and “sounded really happy. I did notice there were lots of packages being dropped off and he was in the garage working on stuff.”

Larson had assumed they were Christmas packages, perhaps unaware of Farook’s religious beliefs. She says in retrospect she wonders if they were the munitions and other elements he needed for the attack.

Fellow workers say Farook was quiet and **didn’t socialize with them**. Those same workers had recently made a baby shower for him sometime after his now six-month-old child was born. In a list of workers and their salaries at the facility where Farook worked, he is listed as an **environmental specialist with a salary of over \$50,000**.

Less is known about his wife, Tashfeen Malik, Farook’s accomplice and fellow shooter.

In the wake of the attack, U.S. President Barack Obama and Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley all immediately called for gun-control laws, not venturing into the territory of what makes another human being *want* to cause so much death and destruction with a gun.

it did not come from. It did not come from our Judeo-Christian values. It came from something else.”

If, indeed, the shootings turn out to be an Islamist terror attack, Carson’s questions need to be answered. The current administration’s policy of denying the ideological underpinning of the world’s current battle with worldwide terror is as dangerous as it is ridiculous.

Having an unidentified elephant in the room, a lurking “that-who-will-not-be-named” presence wreaking havoc in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people does not make it go away. On the contrary, it only empowers it.

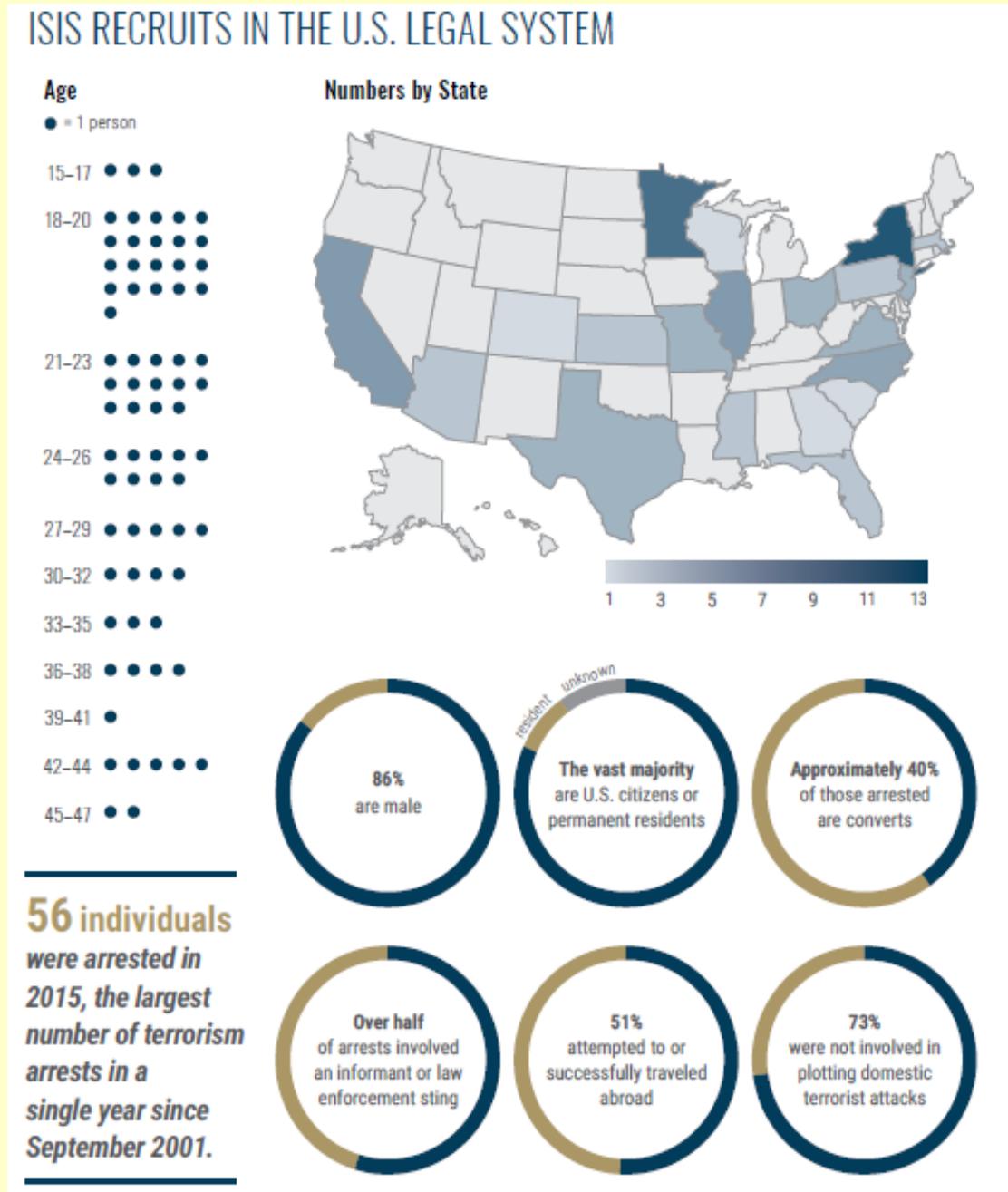
By limiting the conversation to the voices of those recruiting and building a movement fueled by Islamist ideology, we have taken away one of our prime weapons to fight it: Our ability to refute it and offer an alternative.

Young people, possibly 28-year-old Farook and his 27-year-old wife, do not get radicalized in a vacuum. To borrow a common proverb, it takes a village. With the advent of modern technology and social media, that village has become global.



Groundbreaking Report Tracks ISIS Support in America

Source: <http://www.clarionproject.org/news/groundbreaking-report-tracks-isis-support-america>



Dec 03 – **There are 300 Islamic State sympathizers based in the United States who are active on social media, according to a new report by the Program on Extremism, at George Washington University.**



The groundbreaking report, by Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes, identifies 250 Americans who have attempted to join the Islamic State and 900 open FBI investigations relating to ISIS.

It analyzes the Islamic State's presence in the United States, monitoring both online and offline activity and details case studies of individuals

who have joined the Islamic State.

Seventy-one individuals have been charged



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It's broken down into two parts. The first exhaustively pulls together available information on all U.S. citizens who have been arrested for Islamic-State-related activity. The second examines motivations, including the role of social media.

"While jihadist causes have lured American recruits for several decades, the surge spurred by the rise of ISIS and its sophisticated marketing of its counter-culture to impressionable Americans is unprecedented" the report concludes.

"The data and vignettes provided in this report illuminate the complexity of the threat and caution against simple solutions. In their response to this challenge, American political and civic leaders will need to be bold, experimental, and receptive to novel policies and initiatives in order to defeat ISIS and protect some of our fellow citizens from falling into its clutches."

with ISIS-related activities since March 2014. Fifty-six have been arrested in 2015 alone, a record number of terrorism-related arrests for any year since 9/11.

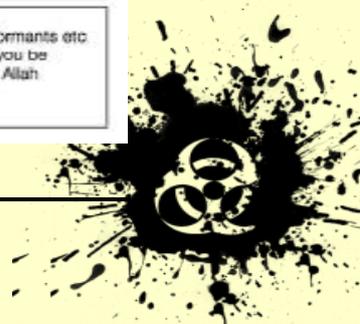
Of those charged:

- The average age is 26.
- 86% are male.
- Their activities were located in 21 states.
- 51% traveled or attempted to travel abroad.
- 27% were involved in plots to carry out attacks on U.S. soil.
- 55% were arrested in an operation involving an informant and/or an undercover agent.

THE RADICALIZATION ECHO CHAMBER

The collage features several key elements:

- Top Left:** Statue of Liberty holding a banner with Arabic text.
- Top Middle:** A lion in a desert landscape, captioned "Dabiq witness" from Texas, USA.
- Top Right:** A post from "Aashir al amrki" dated Jul 3, saying "brothers only, Inshallah." and "Contact me on telegram".
- Middle Left:** A post titled "SHOUTOUT PLEASE SUPPORT Umm Maryam" with a colorful graphic.
- Middle Center:** A hand holding a yellow smiley-face grenade with the text "HAVE A NICE DAY".
- Middle Right:** A post from "Abu Cowboy" dated Jun 28, stating "Hijrah does not stop as long as there is still jihad (Sh Anwar Al-Awliak)".
- Bottom Left:** A post from "al Amrki" dated Jun 12, titled "Bolingbrook man charged with trying to join ISIL pleads guilty".
- Bottom Center:** A post from "abdullah al-american" dated Jun 12, saying "Make dua for me for my migration soon! Make Bayah To Sheikh Almunneen every day. Inshallah and salaam".
- Bottom Right:** A post from "Jannah Bride" dated Mar 4, stating "Mujahideen are true real men fighting for Allah (swt). Not like wimps in Detroit good for nothing thugs." with hashtags #detroitmusims and #JihadJohn.
- Other elements:** A post from "Generation Awlaki" dated Jun 12, a post from "Abu Harb Al Amrki" dated Jun 6, and a post from "New Era Jihadi 13" dated Jun 17.



► Read the full Dec 2015 50 pages report: [ISIS in America – From Retweets to Raqqa](#)

Connecting the Terror in Paris with the Terror against Israel

By Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser

Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/connecting-the-terror-in-paris-with-the-terror-against-israel/>

Dec 03 – Seemingly, the connection between the Islamic terror against the West and the Palestinian terror against Israel is confined to technical aspects and does not run deeper than that. It mainly involves the notion that terror is terror and any form of it is cruel and morally unjustified, induces feelings of fear and helplessness in the target population and has to be fought with similar intelligence and operational measures. As many Israelis have been saying, “Now the French understand how we live.”

Main Findings

Generally speaking, the Palestinian terrorist who attacks the Israeli security forces and Israeli civilians in Judea and Samaria. Those who question the connection Israel draws between the two kinds of terror claim that, whereas the anti-Western terror stems from a militant interpretation of Islam calling for an assault on the West, its culture, and its behavior (this, it must be acknowledged, is certainly a possible interpretation of the Koran and the other central Islamic texts, even if not an exclusive interpretation), the anti-Israeli terror stems largely from nationalist motives, even if these are entwined and suffused with Islamic claims. It is, then, even if unjustified, an in-built reaction to Palestinian suffering and the supposed wrong that was done them with Israel's establishment and its ongoing control of the post-1967 territories.

If there is a connection between the two, it lies – some say – in the fact that among the factors contributing to Islamic terror against the West are the injustices the West has done to the Muslims, including the creation of a nation-state for the Jewish people in the heart of the Islamic region at the Palestinians' expense. Thus, they assert, in addition to the acceptable forms of fighting terror, the West must find a way to atone for its crimes and enable the fulfillment of the Palestinian national goals, even if it entails a risk to Israel's security. With that, Islamic anger will be allayed.

Dangerous Forbearance for “Realistic Radical Islam”

Seemingly there is some justification for distinguishing between the two kinds of terror. One kind is perpetrated by “ultra-radical” elements within radical Islam such as ISIS, the other mainly by Palestinians, some of whom

belong to the “realistic” camp within radical Islam (primarily Hamas, which is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood), and some of whom (belonging to Fatah) lean more to the “pragmatic” camp in the Muslim world. At the same time, the common denominator among all the actors who belong to the radical camp – the ultra-radicals and the realists – is the vision of a struggle against the West and its culture and against Muslims who are prepared to adopt elements of Western culture and are regarded as heretics.

The difference is that the ultra-radicals believe the time to fight the West and the heretics who are friendly to it has already arrived, especially given the West's spiritual weakness and inability or unwillingness to fight back as it seeks to gratify its earthly desires in this physical world (recently reflected in its willingness to pave Iran's path to the bomb, its reluctance to put “boots on the ground” in the war against ISIS and the fear of calling the radical Islamic threat by name and preference for the hollow term “violent extremism”). The realists within radical Islam believe that in this stage terror should only be directed at Israel, the West's “extension in the Middle East,” and not against the West as a whole, which is not yet weak enough for the terror to be effective.

In this regard the struggle that the ultra-radical Islamists are waging against the West and its allies, on the one hand, and the Palestinian struggle against Israel, on the other, complement each other. Their common goal is to destroy the world order that the West created after the First World War, which included the dismantlement of the caliphate, the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and the adoption of the Balfour Declaration at the San Remo Conference as part of the British



Mandate. This world order was reinforced after the Second World War, among other things by the decision to establish a Jewish State in *Eretz Yisrael*, whose implementation in the face of Muslim opposition is still rejected by the Palestinians and by radical Islam in all its variants. Thus, the terror against Israel and the terror against the West are two sides of the same coin from an ideological standpoint as well, not only regarding its methods and the means of fighting it. Israel needs to make this connection clearer to its friends in the West.

What disturbs the Palestinians is that as radical Islam's direct warfare against the West expands, they lose a key asset for promoting their goals. If, as is becoming increasingly clear, the Palestinian issue is not the heart of the problem, then the West's expression of regret for its "crimes" on this issue will not solve the greater problem. The request for penance must be much more far-reaching; Iranian President Hassan Rouhani recently made dialogue with the United States conditional on an American request for Iran's forgiveness. In

addition, the more the connection between the two kinds of terror grows, the more the radical Islamic component of the Palestinian rejection of Israel's existence as the democratic nation-state of the Jewish people and preference for a violent struggle to eliminate it, is exposed. The West would better understand how difficult it is to promote a settlement and may (as Israel would hope) come to understand that the terror against Israel is essentially part and parcel of the terror against the West.

Israel's outlawing of the northern branch of the Israeli Islamic movement, which is the arm of realistic radical Islam among the Israeli Arabs, is part of the struggle against this radical ideology. Unfortunately, many in the West still think that realistic radical Islam (Rouhani and the Muslim Brotherhood, for example) is a legitimate partner in the fight against the ultra-radical Islamists, and favor it over the pragmatic elements in the Islamic world. I'm afraid that even the current wave of attacks will not suffice to change this mindset.

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser is Director of the Project on the Regional Implications of the Syrian Civil War at the Jerusalem Center. He was formerly Director General of the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs and head of the Research and Analysis and Production Division of IDF Military Intelligence.

Syed Rizwan Farook was in touch by phone, social media with "international terrorism subjects": FBI

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151203-syed-rizwan-farook-was-in-touch-by-phone-social-media-with-international-terrorism-subjects-fbi>

Dec 03 – **Syed Rizwan Farook, the 28-year man who, with his wife, killed fourteen and injured twenty-one people in a San Bernardino social service center Wednesday, had reportedly been in contact with at least two international terrorism subjects who were already being monitored by the FBI.**

CNN reports that Farook had been in touch with these international terrorism figures on social media, and that he had also contacted them by phone on several occasions. FBI analysts told CNN that if this information checks out, it may mean that Farouk and his wife may have become radicalized in the months leading up to the deadly attack.



The *Washington Post* reports that police now say that Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, fired between 70 and 75 rounds as they entered the Inland Regional Centre in San Bernardino on Wednesday morning. The couple, armed with semi-automatic rifle and hand-guns, and wearing bullet-proof vests, also left a home-made pipe bomb at the building. Their black SUV was surrounded by police in a nearby residential area, and the couple was killed in the shootout that followed. The

police found 1,400 .223 ammunition and 200 9mm rounds in the SUV.

The house in nearby Redlands, where the couple lived, police



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found more than 2,500 round of .223 ammunition, 2,000 bullets for the hand guns and twelve pipe bombs. In the couple's home, the police also found tools typically used in the production of more bombs.

At this point, the official police position is that the couple's motive is unclear.

"At this point we do not know a motive," said San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan.

FBI official Mark Bowdich told the *Independent* that the international angle was still being looked at that angle. He said the couple had entered the United States in 2014 and that inquiries were underway into overseas visits that had made — reportedly to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

"It would be premature to call it terrorism at this point," Bowdich said.

The *New York Times* reports that on Thursday, President Barack Obama said that the FBI was

still investigating the incident and had not yet come to a conclusion as to the motive that lay behind the shooting.

"It is possible that this was terrorist-related, but we don't know. It's also possible this was workplace-related," Obama said after a meeting with his national security team.

"We don't know why they did it. We don't know at this point the extent of their plans."

On CNN, Dr. Kris Mohandie, a clinical psychologist, said that the fact that the couple attacked fellow workers in a social services center, which could not be construed as a high-value target for terrorists, lends support to the idea that the attack was work-related, but this does not necessarily mean that terrorism-related issues were not involved.

Until Wednesday's attack, neither Farook nor Malik was known to the FBI or on a list of potentially radicalized individuals to be tracked.

Islamic State: Why Afghanistan isn't panicking – yet

Source <http://news.yahoo.com/islamic-state-why-afghanistan-isnt-panicking-yet-120001620.html>

A



driver-by-trade with hands worn from hard work, Sayed Jan is not a man who scares easily. He has seen years of Taliban control of his remote Kunar Province, and watched as American troops once dug in to fight back.

But the recent arrival of black-masked Islamic State (IS) militants and their brutal ways in eastern Afghanistan has prompted fear, and convinced him to flee his village.

"When [IS] burned the school, two people tried to stop it and they shot them," says Mr. Sayed, whose gray beard is turning white. He had just arrived safely in Kabul, and says he plans to bring out his nine children one at a time, to avoid IS detection.

Of all the multitude of problems in Afghanistan – from a resurgent Taliban and political gridlock, to an exodus of despair by the nation's best and brightest – IS's emergence and control of remote areas in the east is not a top priority.

The extreme views of IS, and the foreign flavor of its cadre, mean the group is not likely to displace the puritanical Taliban as the Islamist militants of choice in Afghanistan. But IS jihadists are already fighting the Taliban and have absorbed some of its rival's most radical members, including a top commander, Mullah Mansour Dadullah, who was reportedly killed last month in an internecine firefight in southeastern Zabul Province.

\$500 a month in pay

IS fighters are known to have infuriated ordinary Afghans by killing and abusing them; and they have also taken ownership of the Taliban's anti-government, foreigners-must-go message. But IS has also made gains on the ground and may grow stronger, Afghans say, simply by paying high salaries of up to \$500 per month.

That makes IS a challenge to the government and some Taliban factions, say United Nations monitors. Afghan officials -- sometimes prone to exaggerate about IS -- contributed to a UN report in June that IS has been sighted in 25 of 34 Afghan provinces. The UN report also said that recruiting is the primary goal of IS, and the organization's "branding" is going



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“viral.” Afghan security forces, however, describe IS as a “potential” new threat rather than an “immediate” threat.

“The only reason people join [IS] is because they pay more money,” says Abdul, a former small shop owner whose family fled Nangahar province, near the Pakistan border. The Taliban “don’t pay fighters, so they get weaker day-by-day.”

The IS focus, by contrast, “is on teenagers and young people,” says Mr. Abdul, speaking in Kabul. “They are very emotional, it’s very easy to convince them [to join IS].” Abdul says he watched as IS arrived and burned Taliban homes in his village. He was forced to dig graves for relatives and friends who were executed because of their ties to the government.

“We are really afraid,” he says. “Our children are always crying when they see IS. They have very dangerous faces.”

Reports of IS first emerged in Afghanistan in mid-2014, as Pakistani militants came across the border to avoid a Pakistani government crackdown. In January this year, they announced the creation of the “Khorasan” franchise of IS, an ancient term that includes Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It is unclear what direct ties this Khorasan branch may have with the self-declared IS “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria. But some of the more brutal tactics are being copied. A propaganda video of the execution of 10 alleged collaborators has turned up showing victims forced to kneel en masse on explosives.

When IS militants came to Sayed’s village months ago, they shot their guns and gathered all men at the mosque. They introduced themselves as IS and ordered the men to sever all ties with the government. That first visit, they arrested six people for their official connections to Kabul, but elders got them released.

The next time, they arrested almost a dozen more; then another 18 on a third round. Sayed says he was among the latter, and was held

overnight because his beard was not long enough. In a neighboring village, some of those arrested were killed.

Business with you, you and you

“They would point people out, and say: ‘You, you, and you – we have some business with you,’” recalls Sayed. Two of his teenage sons were “invited” to join Daesh, he says, using the Arabic acronym for the group.

In his area, children were not allowed to go to school and women were forced to stay at home. These rules are enforced by beatings in the street. Sayed estimates that of the 350 families in his village, some 60 of them have fled to safety in large cities like Jalalabad or Kabul.

“The new Islamists are bad to the family, knock on the door at night demanding food or a safe place to sleep,” he says. His Naray district once housed a US forward base, but today has little central government presence. “People don’t have the ability to fight them.... I don’t know about other areas, but in Naray is it not in Daesh policy to be friends with us.”

The brutal treatment is in contrast to the welcome IS portrayed for itself when visited by an Afghan television crew earlier this year. IS commanders showed how local children were given over to their cause willingly; they were taught the tenets of jihad, how to shoot a pistol, and how to throw a grenade.

But that is not how the IS has treated residents of Kunar.

“They tell us, ‘You are not Muslim because you are with this government. You are with the Americans, so don’t pretend you are Muslim,’” says Sayed. “If the security situation stays as it is now, it’s possible for Daesh to go all over the province.”

“It’s a big change, because in the Taliban regime it was not like this. There were schools and women could go out. The villagers cooperated,” he adds. “But these people are really different. We don’t know their rules, or who they are.”

Justice Department created new office to focus on domestic terrorists

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151016-justice-department-created-new-office-to-focus-on-domestic-terrorists>

Oct 16 – **The Justice Department said this week that it has created a new office which would on homegrown extremists.**



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Assistant Attorney General John P. Carlin announced the move on Wednesday in a talk at a terrorism seminar at George Washington University. He said the new office, the Domestic Terrorism Counsel, will be the main point of contact for federal prosecutors working on domestic terrorism cases. Carlin said the new office was created “in recognition of a growing number of potential domestic terrorism matters around the United States.”

The announcement dove-tails with findings earlier this year by the *Kansas City Star* that following the 9/11 attacks, U.S. law enforcement had shifted its attention, and the allocation of law enforcement and intelligence resources, from domestic to foreign terrorism. The result, the *Star's* investigation found, was that federal authorities had lost sight of domestic extremists.

The *Star* notes that that lack of focus, funding, and information-sharing across disparate agencies occurred at a time when violence was metastasizing, leading to fatal consequences for unsuspecting victims around the country. In his presentation on Wednesday, Carlin said the Domestic Terrorism Counsel would coordinate domestic terrorism cases and have an important role in identifying trends and exploring ways to disrupt the threats.

Carlin, who runs the Justice Department's national security division, said intelligence and law enforcement agencies had been mainly focused on Islamic extremists in recent years.

“Much attention has focused on those inspired by Al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's (ISIL) message of hate and violence spreading worldwide and reaching homes here in America through the group's unprecedented social media recruitment efforts,” he said. “And rightly so.”

He said, however, that “Looking back over the past few years, it is clear that domestic terrorists and homegrown violent extremists remain a real and present danger to the United States. We recognize that, over the past few years, more people have died in this country in attacks by domestic extremists than in attacks associated with international terrorist groups.”

A recent analysis by the [New America Foundation](#), a Washington, D.C.-based think

tank, showed that since 9/11, terrorists motivated by extreme anti-government views or virulent neo-Nazi/anti-Semitic beliefs have killed more people in the United States than jihadist terrorists motivated by Islamist ideology.

A [study released in June](#) found that despite public perception about the threat posed by Islamist extremists, law enforcement officers are more concerned about threat posed by homegrown terrorists. In addition, the study, published by the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security at Duke University, found that the violence associated with foreign-inspired extremists has remained low in comparison to violence perpetrated by domestic terrorism.

The *Star's* report in April found that 52 people had been killed in attacks since 9/11 by domestic extremists, including white nationalists, militias, and sovereign citizens. The *Star's* list uses the definition of domestic terrorism employed by the FBI, which does not include attacks on American soil by those who live here but are inspired by violent jihadist groups abroad (the Charleston, South Carolina attack and a shooting rampage in a Lafayette, Louisiana movie theater in July brought that total to 63).

Carlin said that racial hatred motivates many of the acts committed by violent extremists.

“Among domestic extremist movements active in the United States, white supremacists are the most violent,” he said. “The Charleston shooter, who had a manifesto laying out a racist worldview, is just one example. His actions followed earlier deadly shooting sprees by white supremacists in Kansas, Wisconsin and elsewhere.”

Carlin added that law enforcement agencies also are concerned about violence associated with anti-government groups, particularly the growth of the sovereign citizen movement. Adherents to the sovereign citizen ideology believe the government is corrupt and out of control; therefore, they do not recognize local, state or federal authority.

Carlin said authorities were seeing two traits emerge among both foreign and domestic extremists: the prevalence of “lone wolf” attacks and an increase in the number of those who are inspired to commit violence and spread their hate over the Internet and through social media.



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Carlin said the new office will work closely with the Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee, a task force originally created by the Justice Department in 1995 after the Oklahoma City bombing.

The group disbanded in the aftermath of 9/11, but in April, the month of the twentieth anniversary of the bombing, the Justice Department revived the group.

Daryl Johnson, a former senior analyst with the Department of Homeland Security who was criticized in 2009 for writing a report warning that there could be a surge in violence committed by domestic extremists, welcomed the announcement about the new office.

Johnson told the *Star* that when he was at Homeland Security, he worked with the Justice Department's domestic terrorism coordinator to

launch meetings in 2007 with law enforcement agencies to discuss domestic terrorism issues.

"We got everybody together, went down to Justice, had a meeting with them," Johnson said. "But it was mainly exchanging business cards between Homeland Security, FBI, the marshal's service and park police. And everybody talked about what we might want to do in the future."

They decided to meet regularly, he said. But the group disbanded after the second meeting because of a lack of interest.

"This sounds like the same thing, just renamed and repackaged," Johnson said. Still, he said, "I'm optimistic that it's a move in the right direction. So I'm holding out hope that it's a sincere effort and will do something positive."

Terror Attack in Mali Analysis: Preplanned or Inspired by Paris Attacks?

By William Tucker (Chief Correspondent for In Homeland Security)

Source: <http://inlandsecurity.com/terror-attack-in-mali-analysis-preplanned-or-inspired-by-paris-attacks/>

Nov 20 – Around 7 a.m. local time, terrorists attacked and seized scores of hostages in a luxury hotel in the Malian capital of Bamako.



Witnesses to the attack stated that the attackers arrived in a vehicle bearing diplomatic plates. Hotel Raddison is used by UN diplomatic staff and is popular with tourists making the hotel a perfect target to gain

international attention. Soft targets such as hotels have been frequently targeted by terrorists worldwide because of lax security and the potential for taking numerous hostages. In this case, security wasn't much better, but the quick reaction of Malian Special Forces certainly helped in bring the attack to a quick resolution. Bamako did request the assistance of French Special Forces in the country that has been helping with the overall security situation and U.S. Special Forces played a role as well. As of 3:59 Eastern, CNN is reporting as at least 21 dead.

The perpetrators of this attack are thought to be a West African jihadist group affiliate of al-Qaeda named al-Mourabitoun and though they claimed responsibility it hasn't yet been independently verified. Mali was the subject of a coup attempt three years ago in 2012 and by 2013 a collective of Taureg and several jihadist groups had declared northern Mali to be an

independent nation under their rule. The collective failed due to political differences between the players and a French-led military intervention that eventually freed



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the north. Though the intervention was successful, the security situation in Mali remained tenuous. Indeed, Mali has been suffering from a spate of terrorist attacks over the last year. It's certainly accurate to say that international support of the government in Bamako is still necessary.

Speculation was quick to suggest that the recent attacks in Paris served as inspiration for this recent hotel siege. However, there are several points that may belie that claim. Because the Raddison Blu was frequently used by UN and other foreign diplomatic staff, there was an extra layer of security albeit a limited layer. Knowing this, would have required prolonged surveillance of the target by the attackers. Furthermore, the attackers used diplomatic plates of their vehicle meaning that they took the added risk of securing the plates

or the entire vehicle for this operation. Such a risk is rather high considering that the acquisition of the plates or vehicle could've unraveled the plot before it began.

Hotels are difficult to protect because of the coming and going of the guests, cleaning staff, and food services. Indeed hotels are busy places and many guests certainly do appreciate the extra security, but they don't want to be inconvenienced by it either. The price tag associated with extra security details are an prohibiting factor, but with international hotels being so frequently targeted, it is a necessary measure. As we've seen over the past two decades, hotels are still soft targets and remain easily exploited. Terrorists will continue to hit these targets for the foreseeable future as a result.

Muslim "No-go Zones" in Europe?

By Daniel Pipes

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5670/no-go-zones>

Dec 02 - The existence of "no-go zones" in predominantly Muslim areas in Europe has been a major topic of conversation since the latest Paris massacre on November 13, primarily due to the assailants' many connections to Molenbeek, a heavily Muslim district of Brussels. **This discussion brings to mind my visit to a drug- and crime-infested slum of 7,000 inhabitants in Marseilles,**



France, on Jan. 29, to see the situation for myself.

I entered the housing complex in an unmarked but recognizable city-owned car driven by a city

employee who had been tasked with showing me around. Unfortunately, being mostly a paper-pusher and not experienced in the field, he got spooked and abruptly turned around to leave, raising suspicions among the drug dealers around us, who proceeded to set off the alarm.

A motorcyclist and a truck then zipped ahead of us and boxed us in on a nearby highway.

Sitting in the car's front passenger seat, I was accosted and threatened by four young thugs. The city rep pleaded with them, telling them I was a visiting sociologist. They responded first with threatening comments and then by throwing a piece of concrete the size of a football through the back window. Luckily no one was injured, and they let us leave after the intimidating

incident had concluded. I provided the mayor's office with audio, video, and still photographs of the thugs and their license plates.



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I have kept quiet about this incident for ten months in the hopes that the French judicial system would function. As of today, however no one has been apprehended, no charges have been filed, and to my knowledge, no real investigation ever took place.



A street scene in one of the heavily Muslim areas of Brussels, taken as I walked solo through the neighborhood.

This incident was the great exception to my [28 other visits to predominantly Muslim areas](#) in Australia, North America, and Western Europe. In all of these places – call them ZUS (French: *Zones Urbaines Sensibles*, or Sensitive Urban Zones): I "went" without problems, traveling sometimes alone, sometimes not, in an anonymous rental car during daylight hours wearing normal Western casual male clothing – not in a police uniform, a priest's habit, skimpy clothing, or with a kippa.

In many ZUS, I got out and walked around; nearly everywhere I took pictures. In some, I stopped and made purchases, had a meal, or visited a mosque. I did nothing provocative like evangelize, march in a gay pride parade, recruit for the army, or take pictures of drug dealers. I was not a threat. I then "left," none the worse for the experience. My forays into the ZUS suggest that they are in fact go-zones for innocuous civilians. Even in Marseilles, had I shown up in a rental car, the thugs would likely have welcomed me as a potential drug customer.

In contrast, Brice De Ruyver, the former security adviser to a Belgian prime minister, has stated that "We don't officially have no-go zones in Brussels, but in reality, there are, and they are [found] in Molenbeek." Yet, I drove

and walked about Molenbeek, also in January, freely taking pictures of people on the street, stores, and whatever caught my fancy, and no one paid me attention. I felt completely safe.

Likewise, I earlier strolled through Rinkeby, a notorious district of Stockholm, on a November 2014 afternoon without encountering so much as a hostile stare; yet a local policeman has testified in reference to Rinkeby that, "If we're in pursuit of a vehicle, it can evade us by driving to certain neighborhoods where a lone patrol car simply cannot follow because we'll get pelted by rocks and even face riots. These are no-go zones. We simply can't go there."

How to reconcile these experiences? My visits establish that non-Muslim civilians can usually enter majority-Muslim areas without fear. But things look very different from the governmental point of view.

On a routine basis, firefighters, ambulance workers, and even social workers meet with hostility and violence. For example, days after I visited the Marseille slum, its residents shot at police preparing for a visit by the prime minister of France. Thus does it and its ilk represent a no-go zone for police, a place that government representatives enter only when heavily armed, in convoys, temporarily, and with a specific mission.

The term *no-go zone* is informal (apparently deriving from American military argot); dictionaries ascribe it two meanings in line with my conclusions: either (1) ordinary people staying away from an area out of fear or (2) the representatives of the state entering only under exceptional circumstances. ZUS do not fit the first description but do fit the second.

Whether or not Molenbeek, Rinkeby, and the Marseilles slum are no-go zones, then, depends on what aspect one chooses to emphasize – their accessibility to ordinary visitors at ordinary times or their inaccessibility to government officials in times of tension. There are also no-go gradations, some places where attacks are more frequent and violent, others less so. However one sums up this complex situation – maybe partial-no-go zones? – they represent a great danger.



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(1) This is my third and – I hope – final assessment of the no-go zone issue. The first was in [2006](#), when I translated the official French designation of *Zones Urbaines Sensibles* (ZUS) as no-go zones. The second was in [January 2015](#), when I revoked this term on the basis of personal experience. Now, here, I find it partially applicable and partially not, where they are no-go zones primarily for representatives of the state, regardless of religion.

(2) The 28 largely heavily Muslim areas in Western countries that I have visited:

- 6 areas outside Europe: Dearborn and Hamtramck, Michigan; Lodi, California; Queens, New York; Mississauga, Canada; and Lakemba, Australia.
- 7 in Europe outside France: Antwerp, Athens, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Malmö, and Stockholm.
- 7 in France outside Paris: the ZUS in Beziers, Lunel, Marseilles, [Montpellier](#), Nice, [Perpignan](#), and Toulon.
- 8 in the Paris region: Barbès–Rochechouart, Belleville, Clichy-sous-Bois, Clignancourt, Gennevilliers, Sarcelles, Seine-Saint-Denis, and Val d'Oise.

(3) **Some dictionary definitions of the informal terms *no-go zone* and *no-go area*:**

- American Heritage: "an area into which entry is forbidden, restricted, or reputed to be dangerous."
- Cambridge: "an area, especially in a town, where it is very dangerous to go, usually because a group of people who have weapons prevent the police, army, and other people from entering."
- Collins: "a district in a town that is barricaded off, usually by a paramilitary organization, within which the police, army, etc., can only enter by force."
- Macmillan's: "an area in a town that is not considered to be safe because there are high levels of crime and violence there."
- Merriam-Webster: "an area into which entry is forbidden or dangerous."

Daniel Pipes is president of the Middle East Forum.

Nicholas Thalassinos, 52, amongst the San Bernardino shooting victims



Source: <http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/Nicholas-Thalassinos-52-amongst-the-San-Bernardino-shooting-victims>

Dec 04 – Messianic Jew Nicholas Thalasin, 52, one of 14 fatalities, had a heated debate with co-worker Syed Rizwan Farook two weeks

Nicholas Thalasin wore tzitzit, traditional fringe tassels as well as a tie clip with the Star of David.



before the fatal San Bernardino rampage. Jennifer Thalasin said her husband Nicholas was a "very devout believer." The couple, who met online and had been together for 14 years, were Messianic Jews.

worked with shooting suspect Syed Rizwan Farook. She said that he was aware Farook was Muslim, but had never mentioned that his co-worker had any

"He became born again a couple of years ago and because of that I had a very strong faith," she said, "so I know that he's in a much better place."

He evangelized many, she said. "He wanted to serve the lord and bring more people to the lord."

Friends recalled him as man who was always willing to lend a hand.

Thalasin said her husband, a health inspector (of Greek origin),



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extreme views. "If he would have ... my husband would have had something to say."

"They got along," she said. "As far as I know, [Syed] got along with everybody. That's what's so shocking."

Thalasinios said she had heard that before the shooting, there may have been an argument at the party. She described her husband as very outspoken about Islamic terrorism, with strong conservative politics.

"I'm sure that he went down fighting and protecting people," she said.

Meanwhile, Thalasinios' friend, Kuuleme Stephens, told The Associated Press that she happened to call him while he was working with Farook, and that he brought her into their debate, loudly declaring that Farook "doesn't agree that Islam is not a peaceful religion." She heard Farook counter that Americans don't understand Islam, and Thalasinios responded by saying "I don't know how to talk with him," she said.

Stephens said she didn't sense any pending violence at the time, and it is not clear if their debates factored in the attack. Stephens said Thalasinios did not believe his co-worker would ever turn violent.

However, Stephens said his grieving wife told her later Thursday to tell the media that she now "believes her husband was martyred for his faith and beliefs." It wasn't immediately clear why Jennifer Thalasinios came to that conclusion.

Thalasinios' last public Facebook post, written just hours before the shooting, mentioned receiving a threatening message related to Israel.

Fourteen peaceful people died in the San Bernardino shooting. They lived in across Southern California, from Los Angeles and Orange counties, across the Inland Empire and in the San Bernardino Mountains that hover over the valley where the shooting occurred.

Fact or Fiction?

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atBhAv07kLc>



Two friendly Islamic State jihadists (left) wave to Turkish Border Patrol soldiers



Afghan Taliban leader injured in internal firefight

Source: <http://www.thenational.ae/world/central-asia/afghan-taliban-leader-injured-in-internal-firefight>

Dec 03 – **Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was seriously injured in a firefight following a heated argument at a meeting of militant commanders, exposing deepening divisions within the fractious militant movement.**

It was unclear if he survived the clash, which occurred just four months after Mansour was appointed Taliban supremo in a deeply acrimonious leadership succession.

Five other Taliban members were killed in the gunfight triggered by a bitter verbal duel at the meeting near the Pakistani town of Quetta, said Sultan Faizi, the spokesman for the Afghan first vice president. "Mansour was seriously injured. He was rushed to hospital and we are not sure if he survived his wounds," Mr Faizi said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied that any such firefight took place but an Afghan intelligence source confirmed Mr Faizi's account, and insurgent sources also said Mansour had been injured.

The development comes amid a renewed push in Afghanistan and Pakistan to jumpstart peace talks with the Taliban, which stalled after the militants confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Omar.

A Taliban source close to Mansour's group said a number of insurgent members were injured and killed in the firefight.



"Akhtar Mansour is among the injured but the extent of his injuries is not clear," he said, a claim that was corroborated by another insurgent source.

There was conflicting information on the location of the confrontation, with some sources claiming that it took place near Kandahar, the main city of southern Afghanistan and the birthplace of the Taliban.

But they all agreed the meeting was at the home of Abdullah Sarhadi, a commander in Mansour's group.

Sarhadi was a former Guantanamo Bay prisoner, according to Taliban sources and a Western official.

"There were differences on some points which later turned into harsh words, then Sarhadi opened fire and the others returned fire," the Taliban source said.

Mansour was appointed Taliban leader on July 31 soon after the insurgents confirmed the death of Omar, who led the extremist movement for some two decades.

But splits immediately emerged following his appointment, with some top leaders refusing to pledge allegiance to him, saying the process to select him was rushed and even biased.

Many were also unhappy that Omar's death had been kept secret for two years – during which time annual Eid statements were issued in his name.

When is a mass shooting terrorism?

By Page Pate

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/12/03/opinions/pate-when-is-a-mass-shooting-terrorism/index.html>

Dec 04 – The recent gun violence in San Bernardino and Colorado Springs has left many people wondering when a mass shooting is an act of terrorism. While there are certainly different opinions on the subject, the law provides a specific definition.

Of course, the difference between international and domestic terrorism is that domestic terrorism occurs primarily in the United States.

Under federal law, the **term "terrorism" refers to any violent or dangerous crimes that**

"appear to be intended" to either (1) intimidate or coerce a civilian population, (2) influence government policy by intimidation or coercion, or (3) affect government conduct by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping.

The first requirement is that the act constitute a violent crime under federal or state criminal law. In a situation involving a mass shooting, that requirement



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is easily met. Murder is the most serious, violent state crime on the books. Murder can also be a violation of federal law in certain circumstances. The killing of a federal officer is a federal offense, for example, as is any murder committed on a federal military base or other institution.

The second requirement is where it gets difficult. The crime must "appear to be intended" to intimidate a group of people or the government in some way. Almost any mass murder would necessarily appear as an act intended to intimidate the people present in the area or anywhere nearby, but it wouldn't

abortion rights? Whether it can be legally classified as an act of terrorism hinges on this. Notice that the definition of terrorism is not directly tied to the number of people killed, and certainly not the race, nationality or faith of the people committing the crime. Terrorism also doesn't require that we show the actual intent or motivations of the shooter. Instead, what is critically important is the appearance of what the shooter intended to do.

Given this, no matter how much we know about the background or motives of the shooters involved in San Bernardino, I don't think it's clear that the San Bernardino shooting is a case of terrorism. If we are still grappling with understanding why the tragedy occurred, then the intended effect is not apparent.

To define an act as terrorism we should be able to immediately identify and determine it as such. It's not something that we should have to ponder and investigate. Proving someone guilty of terrorism certainly takes time, but defining the crime as terrorism does not.

Some people have focused on whether one of the San Bernardino shooters was "radicalized." At first glance, this

makes perfect sense. If the person is "radicalized" to the extent he sympathizes with a group like ISIS, then that person must share the group's ideology and agenda.

But such a focus is also misleading, because a person who happens to be "radicalized" can commit a crime without the intention of influencing a certain group of people or changing government policy. That's true even if the "radicalized" person has been in contact with people known to the government to be affiliated with ISIS, as the shooter in San Bernardino appears to have been.

"Terrorism" is determined by the nature of the crime, not the nature of the criminal.

While the legal definition of terrorism is a little vague, it does not involve any consideration of a person's faith, nationality or beliefs. If we are going to be able to fight terrorism with any degree of success, we need to first agree on what it is, and what it isn't.



necessarily appear as an act intended to intimidate an entire group of people who can be identified as a "civilian population."

The law does not say it has to be the entire United States population, or that it needs to affect a certain number of people. Instead, the law simply states that the act must appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a "civilian population." There is very little guidance from the courts on this definition, but this could presumably include any defined group of people -- residents of San Bernardino, or supporters of abortion rights, for example.

But we don't stop there. Even a mass shooting that does not intimidate or coerce a specific group of people may nonetheless be "terrorism" if it appears to be intended to change government policy or obstruct governmental functions.

Did the killings in Colorado Springs appear to be intended to influence government policy as it relates to funding for Planned Parenthood or



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EU Internet Forum launched to fight radicalization, terrorist content online

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151204-eu-internet-forum-launched-to-fight-radicalization-terrorist-content-online>

Dec 04 – The EU earlier this week launched the EU Internet Forum. The aim of the forum is to bring together EU interior ministers, high-level representatives of major Internet companies, Europol, the EU counterterrorism coordinator, and the European Parliament. The EU says that the goal is to reach a joint, voluntary approach based on a public-private partnership to detect and address harmful material online.

At the EU Internet Forum, discussions will focus on how to protect the public from the spread of terrorist material and terrorist exploitation of communication channels to facilitate and direct their activities. Discussions will also focus on how to make better use of the Internet to challenge terrorist narratives and online hate speech.

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos said: “Terrorists are abusing the internet to spread their poisonous propaganda: that needs to stop. The voluntary partnership we launch today with the internet industry comes at the right time to address this problem. We want swift results. This is a new way to tackle this extremist abuse of the internet, and it will provide the platform for expert knowledge to be shared, for quick and operational conclusions to be developed, and powerful and credible voices to challenge extremist narratives.”

The Internet industry can play a key-role in the fight against radicalization online and incitement to violence. Commissioner for Justice, Consumer and Gender Equality, Věra Jourová, said: “There is growing evidence that online incitement to hatred leads to violence offline. We must step up work to limit and eradicate this phenomenon online. However, tackling online hate speech is a delicate exercise that requires to define clearly where freedom of expression stops and where hate speech starts. Freedom of speech is a human

right, but this right does not protect illegal hate speech inciting violence and hatred.”

The Commission will push for a faster detection of online terrorism incitement and hate speech, as well as for more effective procedures to take down harmful material.

The EU notes that the EU Internet Forum is one of the key commitments made in the European Agenda on Security presented by the Commission in April 2015. It aims to provide a framework for an efficient cooperation with the Internet industry in the future and to secure a commitment from the main actors to coordinate and scale up efforts in this area in the coming years. Senior representatives of Ask.fm, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and Twitter took part in the launch event of the EU Internet Forum.

The European Agenda on Security prioritizes terrorism, organized crime, and cybercrime as interlinked areas with a strong cross-border dimension, where EU action can make a real difference. One of these priorities is the development of effective de-radicalization and disengagement programs, including the influence of online radicalization.

The EU says that to enhance and support efforts to prevent radicalization leading to violent extremism the Commission has established the Center of Excellence at the Radicalization Awareness Network to reinforce its anti-radicalization work. The [RAN Centre](#) facilitates the exchange of best practices and expertise, consolidates knowledge and identifies and develops best practices, concrete guidance and tailor made support services.

The Commission hosted the first high-level conference on the criminal justice response to radicalization on 16 October. All justice ministers present insisted that one of the most worrying sources of radicalization is currently online.

They called for a revision of its



detection and prevention methods.

For more information on the EU's anti-radicalization efforts, see:

- [European Agenda on Security](#)
- [Radicalization Awareness Network \(RAN\)](#)
- [High-level conference on the criminal justice response to radicalization](#)

Effective policing depends on public trust

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151204-effective-policing-depends-on-public-trust-report>



Dec 04 – Public trust and confidence in the police have remained flat for several decades despite a declining crime rate in the United States, a problem that has become especially salient in the wake of recent police shootings of unarmed black men.

A new report brings psychological science to bear on policing, providing an in-depth analysis of the factors that drive public trust and law-related behavior. **The analysis shows that policing practices focused on respectful treatment and transparent decision making are likely to be more effective than traditional punishment-based strategies in building public trust and encouraging cooperation with the police.**

The report, authored by psychological scientists Tom Tyler (Yale Law School), Phillip Goff (University of California, Los Angeles), and Robert MacCoun (Stanford Law School), is published in *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science. The report is accompanied by a commentary authored by economist Philip Cook (Duke University).

APS notes that Tyler, Goff, and MacCoun focus their report on the concept of police legitimacy, which is shaped by the perception that police treat people with respect and

fairness. They argue that many widely used policing practices, which are often seen as unfair, have compromised people's view of the police as a legitimate legal authority, particularly following the deaths of minority men at the hands of police officers.

"In the wake of such deaths, the public has been increasingly unwilling to accept police accounts of such events, to believe that the police will investigate them in good faith, and to wait until such investigations are completed to react individually or collectively," says Tyler.

In the report, Tyler, Goff, and MacCoun review available scientific research on the relationship between legitimacy, trust, and law-related behavior. Examining analyses of data from the United States and Europe, the researchers find that when people view the police as a legitimate and appropriate legal authority, they are more likely to defer to the police in personal encounters and to cooperate with the police when asked to.

Furthermore, people who view the police as legitimate are more likely to comply with the law in their everyday lives, and they're more apt to help co-police their communities, report crime, identify criminals, and act as witnesses and jurors.



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"Trust is not simply a byproduct of providing high quality service delivery or lowering the crime rate," explains Tyler. "Research shows that the subjective experience of being policed matters."

In particular, studies show that people react to whether or not they believe the procedures used by the police are just, an idea referred to as "procedural justice."

Drawing on evidence from behavioral science, Tyler and colleagues contend that efforts to foster perceptions of procedural justice must focus on:

- Public Participation: Involving the broader community in the development of strategies for managing social order encourages public acceptance and buy-in.
- Neutrality: Engaging in transparent, rule-based decision making demonstrates that policing policy and practices are fair and unbiased.

- Respect: Treating citizens with dignity communicates to them that their rights are being respected.

- Trustworthiness: Showing sensitivity to people's needs and concerns indicates that the police are sincerely trying to do what is best for those involved.

"Psychological science can play an important role in the process of creating evidence-based policies and society can benefit from the incorporation of such evidence into policies and practices of legal authorities," says Tyler.

According to Cook, the authors "make a strong case in support of taking police legitimacy seriously, and they point out that many police officials and other public leaders have recognized its importance."

The stakes are high, Cook says, but "[r]esearch offers a way forward; it cannot determine society's goals, but it can provide the means to achieve the goals of a just society, and to do so more efficiently and effectively."

— *Read more in Tom R. Tyler et al., The Impact of Psychological Science on Policing in the United States: Procedural Justice, Legitimacy, and Effective Law Enforcement, Psychological Science in the Public Interest 16, no. 3 (December 2015): 75-109.*

The Logic of Islamic Intolerance

By Raymond Ibrahim

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5672/logic-of-islamic-intolerance>

Dec 01 – A sermon delivered by popular Saudi Sheikh Muhammad Salih al-Munajjid clearly



demonstrates why Western secular relativists and multiculturalists — who currently dominate media, academia, and politics — are incapable of understanding, much less responding to, the logic of Islamic intolerance.

During his sermon, al-Munajjid said that "some [Muslim] hypocrites" wonder why it is that "we [Muslims] don't permit them [Western people] to build churches, even though they allow mosques to be built." The Saudi sheikh

responded by saying that any Muslim who thinks this way is "ignorant" and

wants to equate between right and wrong, between Islam and kufr [non-Islam], monotheism and shirk [polytheism], and gives to each side equal weight, and wants to compare this with that, and he asks: "Why don't we build them churches like they build us mosques? So we allow them this in return for that?" Do you want another other than Allah to be worshiped? Do you equate between right and wrong? Are Zoroastrian fire temples, Jewish temples, Christian churches, monks' monasteries, and Buddhist and Hindu temples, equal to you with the houses of Allah and mosques? So you compare this with that? And you equate this with that? Oh! Unbelievable, for he who equates between Islam and kufr [non-Islam], and Allah said: "Whoever desires a religion other than Islam, never will it



be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers" (Koran 3:85). And Prophet Muhamad said: "By Him in whose hand is the life of Muhamad (By Allah) he who amongst the Jews or Christians hears about me, but does not affirm his belief in that which I have been sent, and dies in his state (of disbelief), he shall be of the residents of Hellfire."

What's interesting about the sheikh's zealous diatribe is that, although "intolerant" from a Western perspective, it is, in fact, quite logically consistent and reveals the wide gap between Islamic rationalism and Western fantasy (despite how oxymoronic this dichotomy might sound).

If, as Munajjid points out, a Muslim truly believes that Islam is the only true religion, and that Muhammad is its prophet, why would he allow that which is false (and thus corrupt, cancerous, misleading, etc.) to exist alongside it? Such gestures of "tolerance" would be tantamount to a Muslim who "wants to equate between right and wrong," as the sheikh correctly deplures.

Indeed, not only does Islam, like traditional Christianity, assert that all other religions are wrong, but under Islamic law, Hindus and Buddhists are so misguided that they must be warred against until they either accept the "truth," that is, converting to Islam, or else being executed (Koran 9:5). As for the so-called "people of the book" — Jews and Christians — they may practice their religions, but only after being subdued (Koran 9:29) and barred from building or renovating churches and synagogues and a host of other debilitations that keep their (false) religious practices and symbols (Bibles, crosses, etc.) suppressed and out of sight.

From an Islamic paradigm — where Allah is the true god and Muhammad his final messenger — "intolerance" for other religions is logical and difficult to condemn.

The "altruistic" aspect of Islamic "intolerance" is especially important. If you truly believe that there is only one religion that leads to paradise and averts damnation, is it not altruistic to share it with humanity, rather than hypocritically maintaining that all religions lead to God and truth?

After blasting the concept of interfaith dialogue as beyond futile, since "what is false is false — even if a billion individuals agree to it; and truth is truth — even if only one who has submitted [a Muslim] holds on to it," the late Osama bin Laden once wrote that "Battle, animosity, and hatred — directed from the Muslim to the infidel — is the foundation of our religion. And we consider this a justice and kindness to them" (*The Al Qaeda Reader*, pgs. 42-43).

Note the altruistic justification: It is a "justice and kindness" to wage jihad on non-Muslims in the hopes that they convert to Islam. According to this logic, jihadis will always be as the "good guys" — meaning that terrorism, extortion, sex-jihad, etc., will continue to be rationalized away as ugly but necessary means to altruistic ends: the empowerment of, and eventual world conversion to, Islam.

All of this logic is alien to postmodern Western epistemology, which takes for granted that a) there are no objective "truths," certainly not in the field of theology, and b) religion's ultimate purpose is to make this life as peaceful and pleasant as possible (hence why "interfaith dialogue" in the West is not about determining the truth — which doesn't exist anyway — but finding and highlighting otherwise superficial commonalities between different religions so they can all peacefully coexist in the now).

The net result of all this? On the one hand, Muslims, who believe in truth — that is, in the teachings of Islam — will continue attacking the "false," that is, everything and everyone un-Islamic. And no matter how violent, Islamic jihadis — terrorists and murderers — will always be seen as the "good guys" and supported by millions of Muslim who also believe that Islam must crush all falsehoods. On the other hand, Western secularists and multiculturalists, who believe in nothing and deem all cultures and religions equal, will continue to respect Islam and empower Muslims, convinced that terrorism is an un-Islamic aberration that has no support in the Muslim world and is destined to go away — that is, they will continue disbelieving their own eyes. Such is the offspring of that unholy union between Islamic logic and Western fallacy.

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Terror or not, assault weapons have no place in society

By Rekha Basu

Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/rekha-basu/2015/12/04/terror-not-assault-weapons-have-no-place-society/76781446/>



This photo provided by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department shows weapons carried by suspects at the scene of a shootout in San Bernardino, Calif. Multiple attackers opened fire on a banquet at a social services center for the disabled in San Bernardino on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, killing multiple people and sending police on a manhunt for suspects. (Photo: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department via AP)

Dec 04 – As of this writing, analysts are focusing on a single question about Wednesday's deadly mass shootings in San Bernardino: Were they part of a terrorist plot or did a U.S. couple act alone, perhaps as aspiring jihadis?

In a sense, that distinction hardly matters. Fourteen people are dead and 21 others injured. Once again, survivors are left to mourn. And once again, a nation is left to worry if one of their loved ones could end up in the wrong place where another mass killing happens.

Tashfeen Malik, the 27-year-old Pakistani wife of U.S.-born Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, had apparently expressed support for ISIS and its leader on social media, though there's no evidence either acted at the terror group's behest. Farook's family says they are shocked and mystified. The couple, killed by police after authorities say they committed the shootings, had a 6-month-old baby at home. We've learned to compartmentalize killers into categories, like terrorist, gang member or mentally ill. But in a sense, any time people

deliberately shoot and kill a group of innocents, no matter the source of hatred or rage, it is an act of terrorism. And when there's a baby at home, there has to be some element of depravity. Dylann Roof shot up a church in South Carolina because he hated black people. Chris Harper Mercer singled out Christians as targets in his shooting spree at Oregon's Umpqua Community College. Elliot Rodger extolled his hatred of "the female gender" before targeting a sorority at the University of California Santa Barbara.

So whatever the cause, and even as we try to prevent the perceptions that fuel such hatred, even as we fight ISIS abroad, the easiest thing we can do right now to stop more events like these at home is prevent access to the tools of mass destruction. Like assault weapons.

When we heard about San Bernadino, a friend and I were in the Atlanta airport, returning from a trip abroad. We had earlier abandoned our half-full tubes of sunscreen and rationed our toothpaste because



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Homeland Security measures prevent flying with liquids in containers larger than 3.5 ounces. Yet in California, these killers could legally buy the assault weapons they used in



the carnage. As President Obama told CBS News, "We have a no-fly list where people can't get on planes. But those same people who we don't allow to fly could go into a store right now in the United States and buy a firearm."

There have been 351 mass shootings this year in the U.S. **Assault weapons were banned in 1994, but the ban expired 10 years later and was never renewed.** "This firearm and others like it are weapons of war, not tools for self-defense," declared Rhode Island Congressman David Cicilline shortly before Wednesday's shootings. "They serve no purpose other than to kill." He was announcing, in the wake of the Colorado Springs abortion-clinic shooting, plans to introduce a re-authorization of the assault weapons ban.

Federal law allows instant criminal background checks over the phone by retailers to determine whether a gun buyer is legally eligible — that is, doesn't have a criminal record, history of mental illness, violent behavior, or drug abuse. Since taking effect in 1994, that law has stopped more than 2.4 million prohibited sales, according to the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence. But 40 percent of gun sales are done online or at gun shows, where such checks are not required.

Some states have passed their own gun-control laws. **Maryland** is one of those, and the former governor who signed it in 2013 is current Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley. **Among other things, the**

law bans 45 types of assault weapons and limits gun magazines to 10 bullets. In 2013, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Campaign ranked Maryland fourth among the top 10 states with the strongest gun laws.

The terrorist couple

In a phone interview Thursday, O'Malley said he faced a lot of opposition beforehand; even his pollster said it was a lost cause. NRA mailings warned residents they'd lose their hunting rights, but O'Malley responded by looking up everyone with a hunting license and assuring them they could still hunt. Under the law, anyone buying a handgun other than a rifle and shotgun needs a Maryland State Police license, which is granted only after fingerprinting, an extensive background check and completion of a gun class.

O'Malley said he was able to achieve a consensus. But even with a recalcitrant legislative body, a president or governor can do a lot through executive action, he says. He used executive orders to, among other measures, strip immunity from gun makers and dealers, limit high-capacity magazines and follow up on people who were denied guns.

O'Malley's experiences provide an interesting perspective that suggests it's unnecessary to differentiate domestic terrorism from other kinds of mass shootings. Countering terrorism and urban gang warfare are largely the same, he says: Both require smart intelligence-gathering and sharing. "When they're Caucasian and born in the U.S., we say, 'That's just the way it is. It's just our gun culture,'" he contended. "When it's jihadis, we say, 'What more can we do?' Whether jihadis pull the trigger or a white Christian pulls the trigger, it's the same unfathomable loss of life."

We can do something to prevent both circumstances: Keep weapons of mass destruction away from civilians.

Rekha Basu is a Des Moines Register opinion columnist, writing on current events, community and culture with a focus on human rights and social justice. Her columns are distributed nationally by Tribune Content Agency. She appears weekly on the "Rekha's Voice" segment of Great Day on KCWI-TV and is the author of the book, "Finding Her Voice."



US intelligence missed the first ISIS terror attack in the United States

Source: <http://debka.com/article/25063/US-intelligence-missed-the-first-ISIS-terror-attack-in-the-United-States->



Dec 04 – Step by step, US federal agencies are being forced to admit that Wednesday, Dec. 2, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik perpetrated the first Islamic State terror attack in America. They shot 14 people dead and injured 21 at the San Bernardino social center in California, before dying themselves in a shootout with the police.

Straight after the attack, on Dec. 3, when the two shooters were still unidentified and on the run, debkafile's counterterrorism sources inferred from the comment by an anonymous federal officer that "one of the shooters is an American citizen whose identity is known" that US intelligence had been onto Farook.

Another comment made at the time - "Links to international terrorism are still on the table as the assailants could have been encouraged by a foreign terror group," also betrayed official knowledge of the suspects' background and motives.

However, it was only on Friday, Dec. 4, that a number of "revelations" came spilling out. David Bowdich, Assistant Director of the FBI Los Angeles field office, confirmed for the first time that the bureau was investigating the San Bernardino attack as an "act of terrorism."

Tashfeen Malik using an alias was also found to have pledged loyalty to ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi on Facebook.

It was not disclosed how she came to be identified by the investigators. debkafile's

intelligence sources report that the use of a false name for messages on the social media may fool the regular user, but not intelligence and anti-terrorist agencies, which are able to uncover a real identity in no time.

Phone calls from a blocked number are traced with equal ease. The couple was reported to have tried to destroy the phones and hard drives of their computers, indicating they knew that they were "blown."

The "revelation" by the FBI of Malik's pledge to the ISIS leader by Facebook was in fact a bit of misdirection to conceal the fact that her husband and partner Farook had been on the radar of US anti-terror agencies before their murderous rampage at San Bernadino, and not just after the fact through his "soft connections."

Another comment by an FBI official was also indicative.

He said: "investigators are exploring Farook's communications with at least one person who was being investigated for possible terror connections... Some were by phone, some on social media."

How and when were those communications discovered? And who is this person? The only answer given to those questions from reporters was that this individual is in America.

It stands to reason that the reference is to a secret terrorist



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cell operating in America whose leader was most likely Farouk's controller. His communications would have marked him for inclusion on the list of Americans with known terrorist contacts – not just the wider circle of suspects, but the short list of activists placed under 24/7 watch as a preventive measure.

The most suggestive comment by the FBI official Friday night was this: "Farouk's last communications with the contacts was months ago."

This comment may be interpreted in three ways:

1. The intelligence watch over his movements was discontinued during the months that the

shooter was not in communication with his "terrorist contact."

2. Farouk and Malik used those months of freedom from surveillance to amass a war arsenal of guns, rifles, tens of thousands of rounds of ammo, at least 15 pipe bombs and materials for building additional devices including road bombs.

3. This was not discovered because it did not occur to the counter-terror agencies that Farouk and his presumed controller had decided to break of contact in the months leading up to the attack in order in to lower Farouk's profile and catch the surveillance off guard.

Man 'slashes victim's throat while shouting about Syria' in London train station

Source: <http://metro.co.uk/2015/12/05/man-slashes-victims-throat-while-shouting-about-syria-in-london-train-station-5546932/>



Dec 06 – A man has reportedly launched a horrific attack with a machete in a London train station. Witnesses say the man screamed 'this is for Syria' before slashing another man's throat in Leytonstone train station in east London.

A large splash of blood could be seen on the floor near the ticket barriers of the station, before police quickly descended on the scene and tasered the suspect.

Police have confirmed they are treating the incident as a 'terrorist attack'.

Graphic photos of video were uploaded to Twitter showing police trying to subdue the man as bloody footprints can be seen all around the station.

Police say one man suffered 'serious injuries' in the attack.

Witnesses said two other member of the public were also injured, however police have not confirmed this.



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As the man was forced to the floor by police onlookers could be heard shouting: 'You ain't no Muslim!'



A police spokesman said: 'Police were called at 19:06hrs on Saturday, 5 December, to reports of a stabbing at Leytonstone underground station.'



'The male suspect was reportedly threatening other people with a knife.'

'Met officers attended the scene. A man was arrested at 19:14hrs and taken to an east London police station where he remains in custody.'

'A Taser was discharged by one of the Met officers.'

'Officers from British Transport Police are now dealing with the incident at the scene.'

Head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, Commander Richard Walton, said: 'We are treating this as a terrorist incident. I would urge the public to remain calm, but alert and vigilant.'

'The threat from terrorism remains at severe, which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely.'

EDITOR'S COMMENT: A Taser??? If that happened in Israel most probably some of the commuters should have shoot the hatchet holder on the spot. Too much civilization is bad for citizens' well being! Yes, I know! You might say that the arrested perpetrator will be interrogated and alike. To reveal what? That he was one of those in the "lists"? That he was an unemployed who radicalized for a better life? Or a well bread SOB that never incorporated in his new homeland while spending British money and welfare benefits? Or to be sent in one of the re-radicalization schools that change mindsets?

Does global warming cause Islamic terrorism, or does Islamic terrorism cause global warming?

By Ed Straker

Source:http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2015/12/does_global_warming_cause_islamic_terrorism_or_does_islamic_terrorism_cause_global_warming.html



President Obama says that global warming can cause terrorism (he still can't bring himself to say the *I*-word).

But if you start seeing the oceans rise by five, six, seven feet, if you see major shifts in weather patterns so that what had been previously bread baskets to the world suddenly can no longer grow food, then you're seeing the kind of crisis that we can't deal with through the deployment of the Marines, we can't deal with it through throwing money at it.

What we know is that as human beings are placed under strain, then bad things happen. And, you know, if you look at world history,

whenever people are desperate, when people start lacking food, when people are not able to make a living or take care of their families, that's when ideologies arise that are dangerous.

I think Obama is on to something, but he's got it the other way around. It's not global warming that causes radical Islam; it's radical Islam that causes global warming. Consider the following:

1) IS fighters ride to battle individually in their cars and trucks. They don't share rides in buses. And you never see Islamists riding bicycles to the front line. Their wasteful activities burn a lot of carbon that goes into



the atmosphere and worsens climate change (I'm going to use the term climate change from here onward, because there has been no global warming in over 17 years, but I would agree that our climate is changing; why, just today, it got warmer in the afternoon and colder in the evening. Weird!)

2) Islamic State fighters eat a lot of goats. Burping goats and the manure they produce contribute to greenhouse gases. There would be much less produced if they ate purely vegan falafel.

3) Islamic State fighters burn a lot of fossil fuel praying five times a day. Since IS soldiers go to pray five times a day, and many of them have to drive to the local mosque, they use a lot of fossil fuel.

4) Women in burkas produce a lot more carbon dioxide. When women are forced to dress from head to toe in black, they heat up quickly, exhaling more and producing more carbon dioxide.

5) They produce and burn oil at full capacity rather than embrace wind, solar, and geothermal alternatives.

All these activities of Islamic radicals produce greenhouse gases. If global warming were really happening, these activities would produce more global warming.

Exit question: If we could get Obama to believe this, do you think he would finally take off the gloves and start fighting radical Islam, all in the name of fighting global warming?

This article was written by Ed Straker, senior writer of NewsMachete.com, the conservative news site.

UAE Sends over 400 Colombian Mercenaries to Fight Houthis in Yemen

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/11/28/uae-sends-400-colombian-mercenaries-fight-houthis-yemen/>

Nov 28 – The [New York Times \(NYT\)](http://www.nytimes.com) reports, “The United Arab Emirates has secretly dispatched hundreds of Colombian mercenaries to Yemen to fight in that country’s raging conflict, adding a volatile new element in a complex proxy war that has drawn in the United States and Iran.”

The Colombian troops sent to Yemen were reportedly “handpicked” from a brigade of some 1,800 former Latin American soldiers who were being trained somewhere in the Emirati desert.

They were deployed to Yemen in the middle of the night last month, notes the *Times*, adding that they “were later issued dog tags and ranks in the Emirati military. Those left behind are now being trained to use grenade launchers and armored vehicles that Emirati troops are currently using in Yemen.”

“Emirati officials have made a point of recruiting Colombian troops over other Latin American soldiers because they consider the Colombians more battle tested in guerrilla warfare, having spent decades battling gunmen of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in the jungles of Colombia,” adds the report.

The *NYT* points out that the exact mission of the Colombian troops in Yemen is unknown. The former Colombian soldiers will be joining hundreds of [Sudanese troops](#) recruited to fight as part of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia regards Shiite powerhouse Iran as a rival for leadership in the Muslim community and sees its influence behind many of the Middle East region’s conflicts. The two countries are supporting opposite sides in Yemen.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies, like the UAE, worry about Iran’s influence over the Shiite population within their borders. A Saudi-led coalition, backed by the United States, has been launching airstrikes against the Houthis and their allies in Yemen since March 26.

“It is the first combat deployment for a foreign army that the Emirates has quietly built in the desert over the past five years, according to several people currently or formerly involved with the project,” reports the *Times*, referring to the Colombian mercenaries. “The program was once managed by a private company connected to Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater Worldwide, but the people involved in the effort said that his



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role ended several years ago and that it has since been run by the Emirati military.”

“The arrival in Yemen of 450 Latin American troops — among them are also Panamanian, Salvadoran and Chilean soldiers — adds to the chaotic stew of government armies, armed tribes, terrorist networks and Yemeni militias currently at war in the country,” it adds.

Most of the Latin American troops deployed to Yemen are from Colombia.

“Mercenaries are an attractive option for rich countries who wish to wage war yet whose citizens may not want to fight,” Sean McFate, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and author of “The Modern Mercenary” told the *Times*.

“The private military industry is global now,” added McFate, noting that the U.S. has essentially “legitimized” the industry with its heavy reliance on contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan over more than a decade of war.

“Latin American mercenaries are a sign of what’s to come,” he said.

The UAE has kept the presence of Latin American troops a secret, refusing to publicly announce their deployment to Yemen.

NYT notes that the Emirati ambassador to Washington, D.C. and U.S. Central Command, the military headquarters overseeing America’s involvement in the war in Yemen, have also declined to comment.

“The Latin American force in the Emirates was originally conceived to carry out mostly domestic missions — guarding pipelines and other sensitive infrastructure and possibly putting down riots in the sprawling camps housing foreign workers in the Emirates — according to corporate documents, American officials and several people involved in the project,” reports the *Times*.

Several Americans are among the Westerners who serve as trainers for the Latin American troops at the desert camp, reportedly located within a sprawling Emirati military base called Zayed Military City.

The trainees receive “salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a month, compared with approximately \$400 a month they would make in Colombia,” notes *NYT*. “Those troops who deploy to Yemen will receive an additional \$1,000 per week, according to a person involved in the project and a former senior Colombian military officer.”

“Hundreds of Colombian troops have been trained in the Emirates since the project began in 2010 — so many that the Colombian government once tried to broker an agreement with Emirati officials to stanch the flow headed to the Persian Gulf,” adds the *Times*. “Representatives from the two governments met, but an agreement was never signed.”

Houthis

Ansar Allah (“Supporters of God”), known more popularly as the **Houthis** are a Zaidi Shia group from Sa’dah, northern Yemen, which was founded by Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi. They started a rebellion in 2004 which led to a Houthi insurgency in Yemen against Yemen’s former President, Ali Abdullah Saleh.



Houthi logo reading “God is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse on the Jews, Victory to Islam”

The group has been led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi since Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi was reportedly killed by Yemeni army forces in 2004. The Houthis participated in the 2011 Yemeni Revolution, as well as the ensuing National Dialogue Conference (NDC). However, they rejected the provisions of the November 2011 Gulf Cooperation Council deal on the ground that “it divided Yemen into poor and wealthy regions” and also in response to assassination of their representative at NDC. In 2014–2015 Houthis took over the government

in Sana’a, which led to the fall of the Saudi backed government of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. Houthis and their allies have gained control of a significant part of Yemen’s territory and are currently resisting the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen. Both the Houthis and the Saudi Arabian-led coalition are being attacked by the Islamic State terrorist group.



The Isis papers: leaked documents show how Isis is building its state

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/07/leaked-isis-document-reveals-plan-building-state-syria>

Dec 07 – A leaked internal Islamic State manual shows how the terrorist group has set about building a state in Iraq and Syria complete with government departments, a treasury and an economic programme for self-sufficiency, the Guardian can reveal.

government departments including education, natural resources, industry, foreign relations, public relations and military camps.

Dated some time between July and October 2014, it details how Isis will build separate training camps for regular troops and veteran

fighters. Veterans, it says, should go on a fortnight's refresher course each year to receive instruction in the "latest arts of using weapons, military planning and military technologies".

It says they will also be given a "detailed commentary on the technologies" of the enemy and "how the soldiers of the state



The 24-page document, obtained by the Guardian, sets out a blueprint for establishing foreign relations, a fully fledged propaganda operation, and centralised control over oil, gas and the other vital parts of the economy.

The manual, written last year and entitled Principles in the administration of the Islamic State, lays bare Isis's state-building aspirations and the ways in which it has managed to set itself apart as the richest and most destabilising jihadi group of the past 50 years.

Together with other documents obtained by the Guardian, it builds up a picture of a group that, although sworn to a founding principle of brutal violence, is equally set on more mundane matters such as health, education, commerce, communications and jobs. In short, it is building a state.

As western aircraft step up their aerial war on Isis targets in Syria, the implication is that the military task is not simply one of battlefield arithmetic. Isis is already far more than the sum of its fighters.

The document – written as a foundation text to train "cadres of administrators" in the months after Isis's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared a "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria on 28 June 2014 – sketches out how to organise

can take advantage of them".

The statecraft manual recommends a department for administering the military camps, a complex arrangement that, as described, goes well beyond the capabilities of al-Qaida in Afghanistan during the time it plotted the 9/11 attacks.

The document reveals for the first time that Isis always intended to train children in the arts of war. Isis propaganda from this year has clearly shown children being drilled, and even made to shoot captives.

But the text, authored by an Egyptian called Abu Abdullah, is explicit about the intention to do so from mid- to late 2014. Children, it says, will be receive "training on bearing light arms" and "outstanding individuals" will be "selected from them for security portfolio assignments, including checkpoints, patrols".

The text highlights the need for Isis to achieve a unified culture encompassing foreigners and natives and sets out the need for self-sufficiency by establishing its own independent "factories for local military and food production" and creating "isolated safe zones" for providing for local needs.



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The document came from a businessman working within Isis via the academic researcher Aymenn al-Tamimi, who has worked over the past year to compile the most thorough log of



Isis documents available to the public.

For safety reasons, the Guardian cannot reveal further information about the businessman but he has leaked nearly 30 documents in all, including a financial statement from one of Isis's largest provinces.

Isis has suffered military setbacks in recent weeks, and some Sunni Arabs from Raqqa have indicated that its statecraft might be better on paper than it is in practice.

But Tamimi said the playbook, along with a further 300 Isis documents he has obtained over the past year, showed that building a viable country rooted in fundamentalist theology was the central aim. "[Isis] is a project that strives to govern. It's not just a case of their sole end being endless battle."

Gen Stanley McChrystal (retired), who led the military units that helped destroy Isis's predecessor organisation (ISI) in Iraq from 2006 to 2008, said: "If it is indeed genuine, it is fascinating and should be read by everyone – particularly policymakers in the west.

"If the west sees Isis as an almost stereotypical band of psychopathic killers, we risk dramatically underestimating them.

"In the Principles in the administration of the Islamic State, you see a focus on education (really indoctrination) beginning with children but progressing through their ranks, a recognition that effective governance is essential, thoughts on their use of technology to master information (propaganda), and a willingness to learn from the mistakes of earlier movements.

"It's not a big departure from the works of Mao, the practices of the Viet Minh in Indochina, or other movements for whom high-profile actions were really just the tip of a far more nuanced iceberg of organising activity.

Charlie Winter, a senior researcher for Georgia State University who has seen the document, said it demonstrated Isis's high capacity for premeditation.

"Far from being an army of irrational, bloodthirsty fanatics, IS [Isis] is a deeply calculating political organisation with an extremely complex, well-planned infrastructure behind it."

Lt Gen Graeme Lamb, former head of UK Special Forces, said the playbook carried a warning for current military strategy.

Referring to sections of the statecraft text in which Isis repeatedly claims it is the only true representatives of Sunni Arab Muslims in the region, Lamb said it was all the more important to ensure wider Sunni leadership in the fight with Isis, or risk "fuelling this monster".

"Seeing Daesh [Isis] and the caliphate as simply a target to be systematically broken by forces other than Middle Eastern Sunnis ... is to fail to understand this fight.

"It must be led by the Sunni Arab leadership and its many tribes across the region, with us in the west and the other religious factions in the Middle East acting in support.

"It is not currently how we are shaping the present counter-Isis campaign, thereby setting ourselves up for potential failure."

ISIS' Imminent Demise

By Daniel

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/blog/2015/12/isis-imminent-demise>

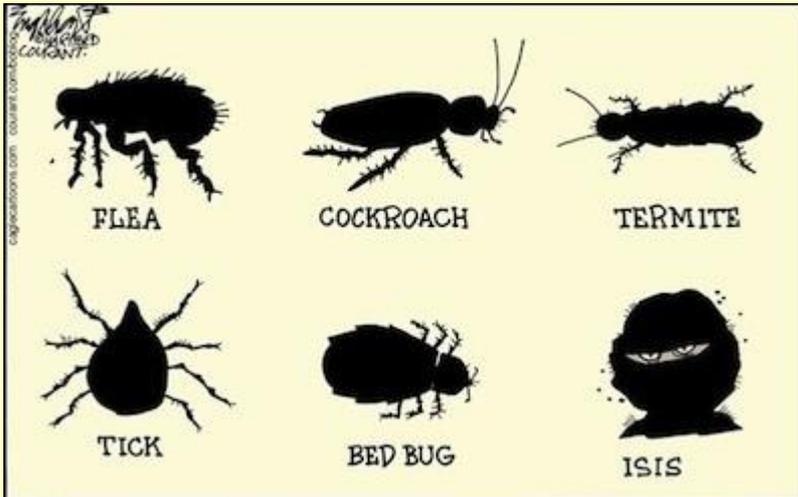
Dec 08 – [U.N. Security Council Resolution 2249](#), passed unanimously on Nov. 20, sums up the consensus that the Islamic State (aka ISIS, ISIL Daesh), poses a mortal danger to civilization by calling it an "unprecedented threat to international peace and security." There's also a widespread sense that ISIS will be around for a long time; for example,



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Barack Obama has predicted that the fight against it will be "a long-term campaign." Permit me to disagree strenuously on both counts.

On the first: ISIS is not exactly the equivalent of Nazi Germany. It's a little bug that the powers could



quash at will if they put their minds to it. It survives only because no one really takes it seriously enough to fight with ground troops, the only gauge of an intention to prevail.

On the second: Between its alienation of its subject population and its gratuitous and unrestrained violence toward foreign countries, ISIS has made enemies of nearly everyone. Recent days alone have seen attacks on three powerful states: Turkey (the bombing in Ankara), Russia (the airliner over Sinai), and France (the attacks in Paris). This is not a path for survival. Friendless and despised, its

every success shortens its life.

Contrary to other analysts, I foresee that ISIS will disappear without warning and as abruptly as it arose. This could follow on some combination of internal revolt, internecine feuds, economic collapse, and external attack.

And when that happy day comes, we can all focus on the real "unprecedented threat to international peace and security," namely nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran's apocalyptic leadership.

Daniel Pipes is president of the Middle East Forum.

Governments should turn to academics for advice on radicalization, religion and security

By Tristram Riley-Smith

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151207-governments-should-turn-to-academics-for-advice-on-radicalization-religion-and-security>

Dec 07 – In August 1939, the operational head of Britain's Government Communication and Cypher School, Alistair Denniston, wrote to the Foreign Office about the need to recruit "men of the professor type" into the wartime code-breaking hub at Bletchley Park in order to help combat the Nazi threat.

Following the horror of marauding attacks in Paris, the British prime minister has announced he will be recruiting a further 1,900 personnel to the Security and Intelligence Agencies. "Professors" may also be able to add value to these organizations and wider society. The government should not forget the wealth of talent available within our universities to offer insight and depth to the judgments of decision-makers.

In my capacity as champion to the Partnership for Conflict, Crime & Security Research, I organized a workshop recently where four leading academics discussed how best to get

research on religion and contemporary security challenges in front of politicians, policymakers and the press, to help them deliver better service to the public. The academics were historian of Muslim thought Robert Gleave; Kim Knott who researches ideologies, beliefs and decision-making; Peter Morey who explores trust between Muslims and non-Muslims, and John Wolffe who works on the interface between religion and security.

One key message from this debate was that those in positions of authority and influence must overcome the tendency to regard religious issues as marginal until they become a security risk. Religion is poorly understood, and while academic focus on definition can be dismissed as pedantry, there is a need for clarity when talking about religion and security — to avoid millions of devout people around the world



being swept into a bucket labelled “terrorist.”

Improve religious literacy

For instance, research helps us to draw a distinction between religion and faith. Religion is defined by creed, doctrine, framework and practice; whereas faith is more personal, abstract, emotional and often at some distance from the teachings of established religious institutions.

We must improve religious literacy among politicians, policymakers, the press and the general public. In a security context, this should include a more nuanced understanding of the variants of institutionalized religion, while comprehending the universe occupied by men and women of faith.

A single office of responsibility in the government could act as a conduit for informing and shaping policy and legislation relating to religion and religious issues, including those linked to security and violence. An immediate priority for the office should be to inform efforts to address radicalization, Islamophobia and other forms of prejudice. This wouldn't carry any extra cost if one of the government's chief scientific advisors was asked to undertake this work, tapping into the wealth of expertise addressing these issues inside the nation's universities.

Opinion-formers, including those in the press, must also resist the simplistic temptation to describe religion as the motive for acts of violence. In the same way, “Third World” insurgents during the cold war, such as those in North Vietnam, were too easily defined by the communist ideology they embraced.

How to dispel alienation

But closer attention needs to be paid to the relationship between faith and alienation. There is a wealth of research — including historian Kate Cooper's work into the radicalization of early Christian martyrs over 1,500 years ago — that can help us understand how alienation, especially of young people, leads to a sense of hopelessness that translates all too readily into violent resolve.

We must galvanize support for the public sector, faith groups and charities to promote engagement between polarized communities. But this is not a simple matter of issuing a commandment from on-high that: “thou shalt

engage in mutually informative dialogue and develop trustful relationships.”

Evidence and experience, for instance from Northern Ireland, shows how different the certainties of macro-political strategies can be from micro-realities, leading to communities being filled with mistrust and disillusionment. Interventions tailored to dispel alienation and build trust must reflect local circumstances, with a strong emphasis on “bottom-up” rather than “top-down” solutions.

There are some powerful examples of how the arts can operate to communicate religious difference in our complex, multicultural society, but common artistic endeavor can also help heal divisions. For example, the U.K.-based Berakah Choir works to transcend barriers of faith and culture through collaborative activities, allowing the individual voice to be heard working in harmony with others to build a common humanity. There is much that could be achieved at a low cost to harness the arts to counter alienation.

Draw on academics as an asset

Western governments are deploying a range of strategies and tactics to deal with the threat posed by the so-called Islamic State. David Cameron is recruiting more spies, and parliament is discussing profound changes to the way in which digital intelligence is collected. But we must not ignore the invaluable supply of knowledge and insight available from our men and women in academia. Research can provide evidence-based context to contemporary challenges, including an enlightened understanding of the place of religion and faith in a security context.

We can stop mistakes being made in terms of misguided policies and knee-jerk reactions. And researchers can help the design and deployment of interventions that make a real difference, focusing limited resources effectively.

It has been said that the scholars working in Bletchley Park saved countless lives and took one or more years off the duration of World War II. Let us hope that politicians, policy-makers and the press are enlightened enough to make full use of the contribution that university researchers can make to today's security challenges.



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'Terrorism' — the indefinable word

Source: <http://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/john-v-whitbeck/terrorism%E2%80%99-%E2%80%94-indefinable-word>

The Western world has reacted to the “terrorist” shooting spree in Paris with near-hysteria, immediately intensifying its own lethal violence in the Middle East.

Israel is branding as a wave of “terrorism” the continuing suicidal attacks by hope-deprived Palestinian children armed only with knives and scissors.

In the new “peace process” for Syria, Jordan has accepted the thankless task of deciding which of the many armed groups in Syria are “terrorists” and, as such, are to be excluded from the process and bombed.

And Americans have been fiercely debating whether the latest in a long line of domestic gun rampages, carried out by a Muslim married couple, deserves to be deemed an act of “terrorism”.

In this context, it may be enlightening to recall the last international effort to define this indefinable word.

At the UN's 60th anniversary summit in September 2005, the 191 member states tried but failed to agree on a convention defining the word “terrorism”. Some commentators actually sounded surprised, saying that there had been a failure to “even” agree on a definition. No one should have been surprised.

The definition being proposed by then-UN secretary general Kofi Annan would have defined “terrorism” as “any action intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population or to compel a government or an international organisation to carry out or to abstain from any act”.

A fair and reasonable definition, surely. But what are the odds that the United States would ever have permitted “terrorism” to be so defined?

For starters, if this proposed definition had been accepted and if George W. Bush and Tony Blair were correct in their repeated assertions that the motivations behind the

September 11 attacks and the 2005 London bombings were “because they hate our freedoms” or some other form of blind, mindless malevolence or sick desire to kill innocent people for the sake of it, then the term “terrorism” could not properly be applied to these events.

To make the label fit, Bush and Blair would have had to admit that the motivations were fundamentally political — to intimidate their populations or governments into carrying out major changes in their Middle East policies.

Furthermore, this proposed definition was not limited to acts by “non-state actors”. It would have applied not only to the low-technology violence of the weak but also to the high-technology violence of the strong, which has always been vastly more destructive and deadly.

If this proposed definition had been accepted, the attacks on the US Marine barracks in Beirut and Al Khobar in 1983 and 1996 and on the USS Cole in Aden harbour in 2000, as well as any and all attacks against American and Israeli military forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine or elsewhere, would clearly not constitute acts of “terrorism”.

On the other hand, the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki would clearly have constituted “terrorism” on a massive scale.

Indeed, in the 21st century, the American and Israeli governments would have been — and would still be — among the world's leading practitioners of “terrorism”.

If this proposed definition had been accepted, even the United Nations itself would have spent the 12 years between the two wars on Iraq as a “terrorist” organisation. How could it be characterised otherwise, in light of the “genocidal” sanctions regime against Iraq (so called by two successive coordinators of the UN's “humanitarian” programme in Iraq), which, by UNICEF's own calculation, had killed half a million Iraqi children under the age of five by 1996 yet which, at the



insistence of the United States and Britain, and in full knowledge of the deadly consequences in the relevant “context”, was maintained until their 2003 invasion?

The ostensible “purpose” of these deadly sanctions was clearly to “intimidate a population or compel a government ... to carry out or abstain from [an] act” — specifically, to give up the “weapons of mass destruction” that Iraq did not possess.

The word “terrorism” has always been the ultimate subjective noun, and the popularity and utility of the word for all its users and abusers around the world has been based largely on this subjectivity.

Until the world is of one mind as to what constitutes good and evil, right and wrong and justice and injustice, it is inconceivable that it could agree on a precise and legally binding definition of what actions are always, in all circumstances, under all conditions, on any grounds and regardless of who is doing it to whom, unjustifiable, impermissible and criminal.

However, “terrorism” did not escape unchastised at the 2005 UN summit.

In what the BBC then trumpeted as a major success, Blair did get the Security Council to adopt unanimously a resolution urging all states to pass laws making “incitement to terrorism” a crime.

Since every state remained free to define “terrorism” as it pleased, so as to demonise whatever behaviour or ideas its government disliked, while “incitement” is simply a pejorative synonym for “advocacy”, if this resolution proved to be of any relevance at all, it could only have been to provide a cover of

international legitimacy for the worldwide trend (even in countries like Britain and America, which once enjoyed high standards of civil liberties) towards restricting (indeed, towards criminalising) freedom of speech and towards the totalitarianisation of societies.

Actually, it cannot have been very difficult to achieve unanimous agreement on this resolution.

The word “terrorism” does not enhance understanding. It stifles rational thought and discussion and, all too often, is used and abused to excuse one’s own illegal and immoral behaviour.

People may not be able to agree on what “terrorism” is, but, whatever it may be, politicians readily recognise that it is risky to appear less than resolute in opposing this ultimate evil, and getting governments to agree that they should silence and quash their critics and opponents as they see fit is pushing against an open door.

Perhaps, rather than seeking an international convention agreeing on what the overused word “terrorism” should mean, it would have been more constructive 10 years ago — and would be more constructive today — to seek an international convention obligating governments, government officials and media to stop using the word entirely, to focus rationally on the nature and causes of violent behaviour by both the strong and the weak, and to work towards reducing all forms of violent behaviour and reversing the accelerating trend towards a more vicious, less free and increasingly fear-infested world.

How to anticipate unthinkable terrorist attacks? Hire oddballs to think of them

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/book-party/wp/2015/11/19/how-to-anticipate-unthinkable-terrorist-attacks-hire-oddballs-to-think-of-them/>

Review of “Red Team: How to Succeed by Thinking Like the Enemy” by Micah Zenko

The terrorists come to shore at the South Street Seaport and scatter throughout Manhattan on foot and in cabs. They detonate bombs and shoot civilians in Grand Central Terminal; they take hostages at Macy’s in Herald Square. Too late, authorities realize that the hostage-taking is a diversion allowing co-conspirators to massacre people in luxury

hotels dozens of blocks away. The New York Police Department, outwitted and overmatched, quickly runs out of personnel to deploy.

The events are fictional, but the failure was real enough, as **Micah Zenko** recounts in his grimly well-timed book, **“Red Team.”** It was



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a result of a simulation the NYPD carried out in 2008, a week after 10 members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group struck Mumbai in a horrific assault that hit luxury hotels, a train station, a Jewish community center, a cafe and other spots, using bombs and AK-47s to kill about 170 people. “It was considered such a potentially catastrophic scenario that additional exercises modeled on Mumbai were conducted in the following two years,” Zenko writes.

It’s not entirely fair to read a book four years in the making in light of events that happen to occur at the time of its publication. But it’s certainly tempting. The coordinated Islamic State attacks in

Paris on Nov. 13, which killed 129 people, have not just unleashed a transnational manhunt and the start of a “pitiless” war, in the words of French President François Hollande. They’ve also produced second-guessing about strategy and intelligence, as well as worries that soft targets around the world — including in Washington — could suffer similar tragedies.

So, how to anticipate the unthinkable? Well, you could hire people to think of it. Zenko, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, lays out the uneven history and potential of “red teams” — small, expert groups of outsiders enlisted to find vulnerabilities, shake up preconceived notions and imagine the unimaginable, all in an effort to improve security and thinking throughout the military, intelligence and corporate worlds.

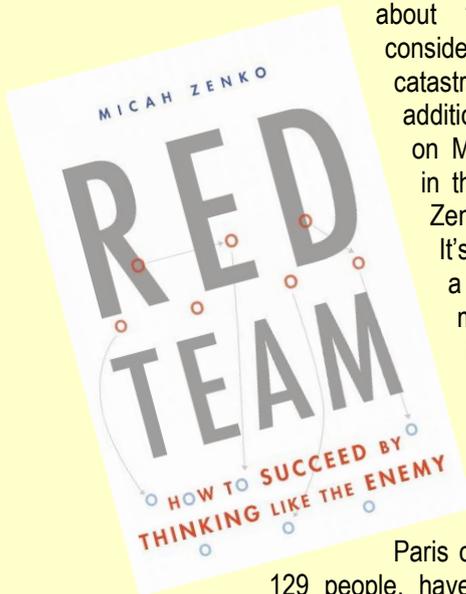
The tale begins centuries ago, when the Vatican established the “devil’s advocate” to argue against proposed canonizations; ranges to the Cold War, when the Rand Corp. and the Pentagon assigned red teams to anticipate Soviet strategies and negotiating tactics; and expands in the post 9/11-era, when the CIA created its Red Cell team to “tell me things others don’t,” in the words of then-CIA Director George Tenet.

Zenko interviews more than 200 experienced red-teamers, including white-hat hackers, senior corporate executives, former CIA directors and retired four-star generals, to

assess the prospects for this small industry. Turns out, they’re an odd bunch. “Red teamers are weird,” Zenko writes. “They tend to be loners, mavericks, and arrogant, which is exactly why they think and act differently — the most vital skill of a red teamer.” They need a deep cultural understanding of the institutions they’re assisting, yet should remain independent of them. They must be talented writers and briefers, be skeptical of authority, have held multiple jobs in their fields, and be intimately familiar with “large systemic failures, which helps them envision future failures.”

Indeed, Zenko’s most compelling stories are of failures, cases when red teams were not used or when their efforts were ignored, misused or precooked. He cites the after-action report on Operation Eagle Claw — President Jimmy Carter’s aborted rescue attempt for the American hostages in Iran — which found that Pentagon planners had “reviewed and critiqued their own product for feasibility and soundness as they went along.” (This underscores a key rationale for red-teaming: “You cannot grade your own homework,” Zenko reiterates.) After the 9/11 attacks, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission “was found to be conducting fraudulent testing of simulated terrorist attacks” against commercial nuclear plants, Zenko writes, including by giving a year’s advance notice so sites could beef up security. And in 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services hired McKinsey & Co. to “pressure-test” the Affordable Care Act’s federal marketplace, only to disregard warnings of likely glitches in the HealthCare.gov site. (Ask Kathleen Sebelius what happened next.)

Zenko also highlights a 2002 war game that formed part of the Millennium Challenge, a congressionally mandated exercise aimed at exploring the military’s operational readiness for near-term conflicts. Widely considered to resemble the operational plan to disarm and depose Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Zenko writes, the effort was also meant to showcase the high-tech military transformation that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld championed. However, the red-team leader, retired Marine Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper, a skeptic of those efforts, quickly overwhelmed the simulated U.S. fleet with a barrage of missiles and speedboat suicide attacks. “The whole thing was over in five, maybe ten minutes,” he said.



Except it wasn't. Restrictions were placed on the red team's subsequent actions — such as forcing it to position its air defenses in the open so the blue team could easily destroy them — that compromised the exercise. Van Riper sent a blistering e-mail to several military colleagues that was promptly leaked. (“Fixed war games? General says Millennium Challenge '02 was 'scripted,'” read the *Army Times* headline.) The problem, Zenko writes, is that both the red team and the military leadership had preconceived objectives going in, undercutting the exercise.

The author highlights successes as well, notably the red-teaming of the Osama bin Laden raid in 2011 — both of the underlying intelligence and the logistics of the SEAL mission itself. Various analysts placed the probability of the al-Qaeda leader hiding out in the compound in Abbotabad, Pakistan, at 75 percent, 60 percent and even 40 percent, leaving the president to conclude that he basically had a coin-toss decision. “We were at 0 percent for a decade,” counterterrorism official Andrew Liepman explains, “so going from 0 to 50 percent meant a lot to everyone.” And the red-teaming of the raid prepared the SEALs for multiple eventualities, including, as transpired, the malfunction of one of their helicopters.

Zenko outlines best practices for red teams, even though, he admits, that very notion is anathema to red teamers, who mistrust rules or guidelines. “When you hear ‘best practices,’ run for your lives,” says retired Army Col. Gregory Fontenot, director of the “Red Team University” at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where officers receive training in how to think critically, avoid groupthink and improve cultural empathy. Perhaps most essential to red-team

effectiveness is that the boss of the organization undergoing the red-team effort must buy in to the idea, otherwise the team will be marginalized and underfunded, its findings ignored.

Though sympathetic to his subject, Zenko is careful not to oversell. There can be a faux sex appeal to red teams. He notes that the CIA's Red Cell team has cultivated “an air of mystery,” in part because of the eye-catching titles of its internal memos — “The View from Usama's Cave,” for example — which it deliberately contrasts with the more staid reports of the intelligence community. Zenko says that in 2012, the team's members even met with *Foreign Policy* magazine staffers for headline tips. “They wanted to know how our stuff went viral,” recalls Blake Hounshell, then the magazine's managing editor. “The techniques that we considered to be ‘click bait’ were what they were most interested in.” Not the most encouraging use of tax dollars.

So, could red-teaming somehow have prevented the Paris attacks? Zenko explains that the NYPD's Mumbai-style simulation yielded specific improvements in preparedness, so there is hope. But anticipating all potential acts of terrorism is an impossible task, no matter how imaginative a team might be, especially when multiple institutions — spanning local and national authorities, military and intelligence agencies, and even cultural and sports organizations — must get involved. Still, Zenko offers a compelling argument for forcing ourselves to think differently, which is ultimately the main purpose of a red team. Even if we won't know exactly what to expect, we might be better equipped to respond when the unexpected strikes.

Micah Zenko is a senior fellow in the Center for Preventive Action (CPA) at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Previously, he worked for five years at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and in Washington, DC, at the Brookings Institution, Congressional Research Service, and State Department's Office of Policy Planning. Zenko has published on a range of national security issues, including articles in *Foreign Affairs*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Defense and Security Analysis*, and *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, and op-eds in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and the *New York Times*. He writes the blog *Politics, Power and Preventive Action*, which covers U.S. national security policy, international security, and conflict prevention, and also has a column on ForeignPolicy.org. He tweets at [@MicahZenko](https://twitter.com/MicahZenko) and has been named by *Foreign Policy* as one of “The FP Twitterati 100” multiple times. He is the author or coauthor of five Council Special Reports: *Limiting Armed Drone Proliferation*, *Reforming U.S. Drone Strike Policies*; *Partners in Preventive Action: The United States and*



*International Institutions; Toward Deeper Reductions in U.S. and Russian Nuclear Weapons; and Enhancing U.S. Preventive Action. His first book, *Between Threats and War: U.S. Discrete Military Operations in the Post-Cold War World*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2010 and his more recent book, *Red Team: How to Succeed By Thinking Like the Enemy*, was published by Basic Books in 2015.*

Jihad in the Balkans: The Next Generation

By Gordon N. Bardos

Source: <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/jihad-balkans-next-generation>

A specter is haunting Europe—fear of the impact hundreds of European volunteers to the Syrian jihad might have on their home countries once they return. Perhaps nowhere is the potential danger of this Syrian blowback greater than in the Balkans. According to one estimate, Bosnia has provided more volunteers per capita for the Syrian jihad than any other country in Europe, and various reports suggest there are probably more than five hundred jihadis from southeastern Europe now in Syria. While the Muslims of southeastern Europe remain the world's most moderate Islamic populations, an estimated five to ten percent has become indoctrinated in the more extreme forms of Islam typical of places such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This is not an accident—the rise and growth of militant Islamism in southeastern Europe is the result of long-term efforts by extremists to radicalize local populations. Over the past several decades, the militant Islamist movement in southeastern Europe has created a sophisticated infrastructure consisting of local safe havens in isolated villages and in mosques controlled by radical clergy, along with a wide array of electronic and print media propagating news from various jihad fronts, relaying orders from al-Qaeda leaders, and attempting to convert impressionable young people to join their cause. All of this is funded by generous Middle Eastern donors and supported by small groups of local extremists who have infiltrated influential political, religious, and social institutions.

The origins of the militant Islamist movement in southeastern Europe can most directly be tied to the life and work of Bosnia's late Islamist president, Alija Izetbegovic. In the late 1930s, Izetbegovic and a conspiratorial group of like-minded Islamist extremists formed an organization called the Mladi Muslimani



(“Young Muslims”), a Balkan version of the Muslim Brotherhood whose goal, as Izetbegovic himself frequently noted, was the creation of a “great Muslim state,” or as one author has described it, an “Islamistan,” throughout the Balkans, northern Africa, and the Middle East. Toward this goal, the Mladi Muslimani swore an oath promising perseverance on their “path of jihad” and their “uncompromising struggle against everything non-Islamic.” Tellingly, the name of their underground journal was *Mudzahid* (“Holy Warrior”).

Yugoslavia's disintegration in the 1990s opened the doors for a second generation of militant Islamists to establish itself in the region. Composed mostly of foreign transplants from Afghanistan and other jihadi fronts, it was even more extreme and dangerous than Izetbegovic's original group. Mostly concentrated in a unit Izetbegovic formed in August 1992 named the Katibat al-Mujahideen, veterans of the Bosnian jihad in the 1990s included people such as Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, mastermind of the 9/11 attacks; Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, involved in the attack on the USS Cole; Mamdouh Mahmud Salim, involved in the August 1998 US embassy bombings in East Africa; Abu Hamza al-Masri, the spiritual father of the July 2005 London Underground bombings; and Zaki ur-Rehman Lakhvi, one of the participants in the November 2008 Mumbai bombings. Ali Hamad, a Bahraini-born al-Qaeda operative, has claimed that al-Qaeda figures would visit Bosnia with “state protection,” and both the US and Saudi Arabia accused the Izetbegovic regime



of giving Bosnian passports to known terrorists. Unfortunately, these people did not simply pack up and leave when the Dayton Peace Accords brought an end to the Bosnian War in December 1995. Instead, together with local extremist allies, an entire infrastructure supporting militant Islamist causes (and not infrequently outright terrorism itself) was created during the latter part of the decade, the consequences of which are still plaguing the region today.

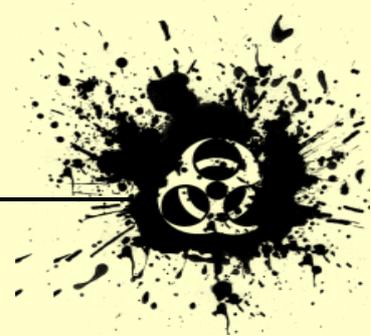
Thus, in remote, isolated villages around the Balkans, militant Islamists have developed a network of extra-territorial, sharia-run enclaves that serve as recruiting stations for local converts and safe havens for jihadis from around the world. According to writer Janez Kovac, in the central Bosnian village of Bocinja Donja, for instance, inhabited by some six hundred people, extremists live “separate lives untroubled by local police, tax-collectors, or any other authorities. Outsiders never set foot in the small community.” Another Bosnian village, Gornja Maoca, is the headquarters of Bosnia’s main Wahhabi leader, Nusret Imamovic. Gornja Maoca has frequently been used as a way station for extremists joining jihads in Chechnya, Afghanistan, and Yemen. In October 2011, Mevlid Jasarevic, a Wahhabi from the Sandzak region, left the village with two other residents on the day he attacked the US Embassy in Sarajevo.

Throughout the western and southern Balkans, extremist-led mosques also serve as bases for militant Islamists. The Saudi-funded King Fahd Mosque and Cultural Center in Sarajevo, which the researcher Juan Carlo Antunez has called “the epicenter of the spreading of radical ideas” in Bosnia, for a number of years functioned autonomously under the direct supervision of the Saudi Embassy in Bosnia. The White Mosque in Sarajevo is the headquarters of Sulejman Bugari, a Kosovo Albanian-born imam whom the global intelligence firm Stratfor has described as a go-between for Albanian and Bosnian extremists. In Kosovo, the journalist Mohammad al-Arnaout has reported that the Makowitz mosque on the outskirts of Pristina and the Mitrovica mosque are recruiting militants to fight alongside Islamist groups in Syria. In Macedonia, Wahhabi extremists have been engaged in a struggle with the country’s official Islamic community to take control of Skopje’s Yahya Pasha, Sultan Murat, Hudaverdi, and Kjosekadi mosques.

Militant Islamists support their efforts in southeastern Europe through a network of “NGOs,” “charities,” and “humanitarian aid” organizations, often funded by known al-Qaeda financial donors. The CIA has estimated that one-third of the Bosnian NGOs operating worldwide have terrorist connections or employ people with terrorist links. In the aftermath of 9/11, a raid on such a “charity” in Sarajevo, the Saudi High Commission for Aid to Bosnia, according to the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, netted “maps of Washington, material for making false State Department identity cards, and anti-American manuals designed for children.”

Militant Islamists in the Balkans have developed an extensive array and network of print periodicals, bookstores, websites, and YouTube spots spreading religious intolerance, glorifications of violence, and anti-American, anti-Semitic, anti-democratic messages. Islamic bookstores from Belgrade to Novi Pazar distribute tracts by extremists such as the contemporary Islamist ideologue Yusuf al-Qaradawi and the mid-century Marx of Islamism Sayyid Qutb. Militant Islamist websites promote jihad, suicide bombings, and the killing of non-Muslims. These websites also relay news from other jihadi fronts, sermons by extremist preachers from the Middle East, and messages from al-Qaeda leaders. For instance, the Bosnian website Put Vjernika (“Way of the Believer”) recently carried “A New Order from Zawahiri: Focus on Attacks on American Interests.”

According to Fahrudin Kladicin, the co-author of a recent study on Balkan extremists’ use of the Internet and social media, “the number of those who are ‘liking,’ making comments, and sharing the content of these pages, especially when it comes to religious leaders, extreme Islamists, and Wahhabists, is rising on a daily basis.” The Facebook page “Krenaria Islame” (Albanian for “Islamic Pride”), which posts pictures and stories of Albanians fighting in Syria, has twenty-five hundred followers. According to Arjan Dyrnishi, a security expert based in Tirana, the Albanian capital, “if all the followers of this page were identified as terrorists, they would make a small army and pose a major problem. Such a large number of followers would pose a concern, even if these people were to be identified



only as supporters of political Islam.”

The ideology spread through the militant Islamists' media routinely involves the vilest forms of hate speech and intolerance. A Wahhabi leader from Bosnia, Bilal Bosnic, recently gave a sermon in which he claimed, “We have to love the one who loves Allah, and hate the one who hates Allah. We have to hate infidels, even if they are our neighbors or live in our homes.” Grade-school textbooks for Islamic religious classes in Bosnia now include the following: “Today Islamic countries are confronted with a form of blackmail: thus, if they want to join the United Nations, they have to tacitly renounce jihad as an organized form of Muslim interest.”

Misogyny and homophobia are prominent elements of the militant Islamists' ideology. In Kosovo, the mufti of Prizren, Irfan Salihu, publicly claimed in a recent sermon, “Any woman who has intimate acts without being married according to provisions of the Islam [sic] is a slut and a bitch.” Glorifications of violence and support for suicide terrorism are frequent tropes of militant Islamists in the Balkans. For instance, Bosnic, the Bosnian Wahhabi leader, has posted a song on YouTube in which he sings:

*The beautiful jihad has risen over Bosnia
And the Bosnian started calling “Allah
Akbar” and praying
America had better know I am performing
dawah
God willing, it will be destroyed to its
foundations
If you try to harm the mujahedin once
more, oh infidels,
Our Taliban brothers will come from all
over,
And they will sentence you with their
swords.
America and all the other tyrants had
better know
That all the Muslims are now like the
Taliban,
Jihad, Jihad, oh Allah, will be the
redemption of the believers.
Allah Akbar. Allah is my Lord.
Listen, all my brothers, believers from all
the world,
With explosives on our chests we pave the
way to Paradise.*

This unending din of propaganda is having an effect on a new generation. Over the past decade, militant Islamists indigenous to the

Balkans have been involved in numerous actions and conspiracies: the October 2002 attack on the US Embassy in Vienna, the May 2007 Fort Dix bomb plot, the July 2009 Raleigh Group conspiracy, the 2009 New York City subway attack conspiracy, the October 2011 attack on the US Embassy in Sarajevo, a January 2012 plot to bomb nightclubs in Tampa, and the murder of two US servicemen at Frankfurt Airport in February 2012. Most recently, a young man from Kosovo became “the Balkans' first suicide bomber,” killing fifty people in an attack in Baghdad in March 2014.

According to Bulgaria's former chief mufti, Nedim Gendzhev, militant Islamists in southeastern Europe are trying to create a “fundamentalist triangle” formed by Bosnia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria's western Rhodope Mountains. Although their chances of succeeding are minimal, they can nevertheless still do tremendous damage to Western security interests in the region, and to the possibilities for creating stable democratic societies in southeastern Europe.

With a new generation of Balkan Muslim clerics increasingly being educated in places such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and hundreds of millions of dollars being invested by Middle Eastern donors to build Islamic schools and madrassas in the Balkans, the distinction between the more moderate form of Islam traditionally practiced in southeastern Europe and the more extreme and violent forms practiced further to the east is becoming less apparent. As Esad Hecimovic, a leading expert on the Bosnian jihadi movement, has noted, “There is now a new generation of Islamic preachers in Bosnia who were educated after the war at Islamic universities in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and other countries. . . . Thus, it is no longer possible to distinguish between ‘imported’ and ‘local’ versions of Islam in Bosnia and Herzegovina anymore.”

Unfortunately, the international response to militant Islam's rise in southeastern Europe has ranged from neglect to outright denial. For instance, after 9/11, the then high representative in Bosnia, Wolfgang Petritsch, somewhat incredibly claimed in a *New York Times* op-ed that “no evidence has been produced that [Bosnia] has served as a base for al-Qaeda,” while the current high representative in Bosnia, Valentin



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Inzko, for his part, has similarly argued that the Wahhabis in Bosnia “pose no danger to Europe.” Yet as Evan Kohlmann, a leading specialist on al-Qaeda’s campaign in Bosnia, has put it, individuals who deny that al-Qaeda is operating in the Balkans “are either lying or have no idea what they are talking about.”

Militant Balkan Islamists are not even bothering to hide their long-term intentions. As a Bosnian jihadi fighting in Syria recently noted, “I left

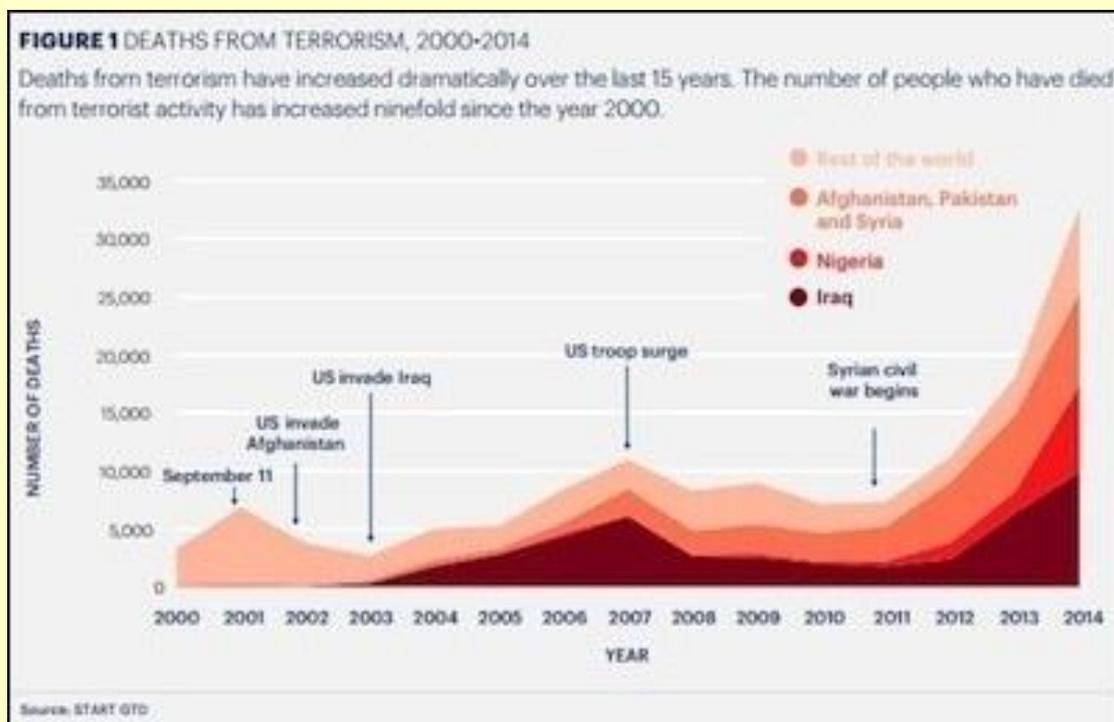
Bosnia with the intention only to return with weapons in my hand. I am a part of the revolution and this is the morning of Islam . . . [by allowing us to leave Bosnia] your intelligence agencies made a mistake thinking that they would be rid of us, however, the problem for them will be the return of individuals trained for war.”

Gordon N. Bardos is the president of SEERECOM, a political risk and strategic advisory firm specializing in southeastern Europe.

Obama's Tolerable Level of Terrorism

By David P. Goldman

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5684/tolerable-level-of-terrorism>



The number of deaths from terrorism worldwide has increased ninefold since 2000

Dec 07 --"Round up the usual suspects" was the brunt of President Obama's address to the American public after last week's San Bernardino massacre. Obama offered nothing new, only "airstrikes, Special Forces, and working with local forces who are fighting to regain control of their own country" in the Levant. Like his French counterpart Francois Hollande, Obama thinks that a certain level of terrorism is tolerable, and far preferable to the bloody and difficult work of rooting out jihadist terrorism entirely. There is something to be said for the notion of a tolerable level of

terrorism, but neither Obama nor Hollande are likely to achieve this as matters stand.

"Since the attacks in Paris," the President said, "we've surged intelligence-sharing with our European allies. We're working with Turkey to seal its border with Syria. And we are cooperating with Muslim-majority countries — and with our Muslim communities here at home — to counter the vicious ideology that ISIL promotes online." None of this is new and none of it is persuasive.



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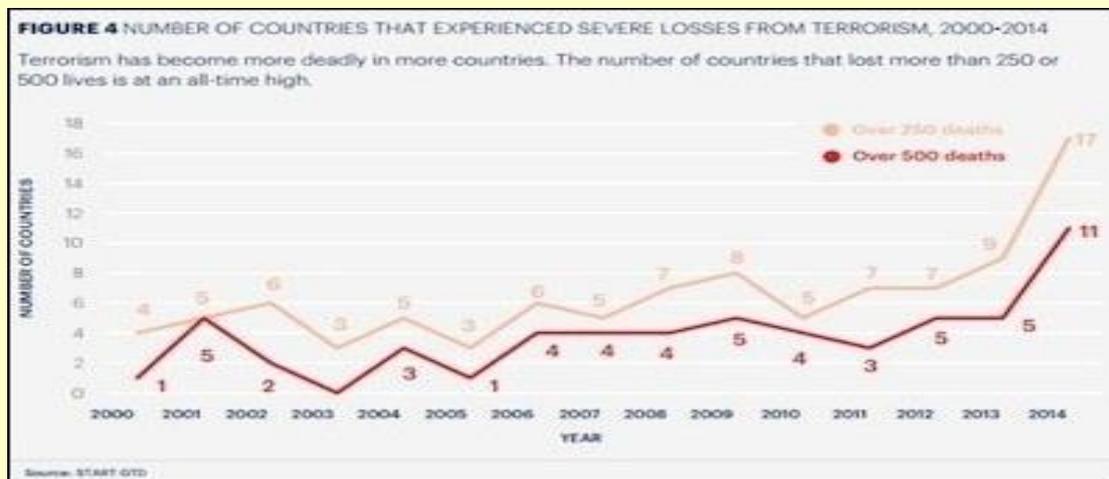
The trouble is that number of terrorist attacks is rising exponentially, along with the number of countries affected, according to the 2015

Obama thinks a certain level of terrorism is far preferable to the bloody work of rooting out jihadism entirely.

Terrorism Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace. The notion of a tolerable level of terrorism applied to a world in which Muslims killed each other far from the West. The recent attacks in Paris and California as well as Israel suggest that the old approach to containing terrorism has collapsed, along with the credibility of leaders who advanced it. More than 30,000 people died in terror attacks in 2014, compared to fewer than 8,000 in 2011.

More important, 17 countries lost more than 250 people in terror attacks in 2014 vs. only 5 countries in 2011.

The number killed and injured in suicide attacks (counted by the Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism) is trending sharply upward. The past year has brought almost as many casualties as the peak year of 2001—and is likely to get worse fast. Most of these attacks, to be sure, involve the mutual slaughter of Shia and Sunnis in the Middle East. But the Chicago statistics do not include attacks like the current wave of stabbings in Israel, in which the attackers know that they are likely to be killed, nor the San Bernardino brand of shooting attack.



17 countries lost more than 250 people in terror attacks in 2014

The 1998 and 2001 peaks in suicide terrorism capture the bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi and the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, respectively. There is today a much larger number and much greater geographic dispersion of suicide attacks. These numbers are striking, and suggest that the containment efforts of the last dozen years will continue to fail, as they failed in Paris and in California.

It is too early to make definitive assertions about the changing character of terrorism, but here is a reasonable conjecture on the strength of available facts: It arises from despair in the Muslim world at the collapse of one Arab state after another (Libya, Syria, Iraq, Yemen), and at the mass humiliation of millions of Muslims begging at Europe's door. As in 1918, the Western powers (now joined by Russia) dicker over the fate of Syria and Iraq. There are thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands or even millions of Muslims so enraged at their

humiliation that they are willing to die in attacks on civilians.

As Haviv Rettig Gur wrote Oct. 27 in The Times of Israel, "The terrorism of the past month is not a new surge in Palestinian opposition to Israel, but a howl against the pervasive Palestinian sense that resistance has failed." Survey data shows that most Palestinians feel terrified and defenseless before Israeli power, and unprotected by their own leaders and organizations, Gur observes. The Palestinian "resistance" story boils down to the hope that the rest of the world will force Israel to abandon the West Bank without exacting a final settlement (and the recognition of a Jewish State) from the Palestinians, leaving them free to harass the Jews until they leave. As he quotes the Palestinian AP correspondent Mohammed Dareghmeh:

Palestine is an international issue.
[The issue] won't be decided in a



flurry of knives or acts of martyrdom [suicide attacks], or in protests or demonstrations. It will end only when the world understands it has a duty to intervene and to draw borders and lines, as it did in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Kosovo ... One might ask: How long? And I say: The day will come. ... One might ask: Did the peaceful struggle bring about the end of the occupation? And I say: Did the military and armed struggle do so? Only the world can bring the solution. But it won't do so if we are silent, or if we commit suicide. It will [come to our rescue] if we stay on the humane path of our national struggle.... Our children grab kitchen knives in a wave of emotion. ... We must stand before them and say to them: You are destroying your lives and ours — Palestine needs you alive.

It is whimsical to believe that the international community will force the issue upon Israel, Gur observes. The same conversation transpired between San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook and his father, as Farook's father told the Italian daily *La Stampa*. Asked why the younger Farook shot up the Christmas Party, his father allowed,

He said he shared the ideology of al-Baghdadi to create an Islamic state, and he was fixed on Israel. I always told him, stay calm, be patient, in two years Israel won't exist any more. Geopolitics is changing—Russia, China, even America doesn't want anything to do with the Jews. Why fight? We tried it, and lost. You can't beat Israel with weapons, only with politics. But he didn't buy it. He was fixated.

That is remarkable: after 35 years in the United States, the elder Farook still clung to the hope that Israel would disappear soon. His son, knowing better, decided to kill his co-workers, a strange way of attacking Israel, to be sure. How many more quiet, hard-working American Muslims will act on the same despair that drove Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik to stockpile guns and bombs and slaughter a Christmas Party?

The trouble is that the recognized leadership of Muslim communities in the United States harbors identical sentiments, although the vast majority of American Muslims want no part in violence. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) drew an unusual amount of media attention when it called a press conference with members of the San Bernardino jihadists' families almost as soon as the news broke. The speed with which the

organization acted is noteworthy; clearly it was prepared for damage control. Federal prosecutors in 2007 designated CAIR as an unindicted co-conspirator in a terrorist funding case.

Like the Bush administration before it, the Obama administration hopes that it can cut a deal with tractable Islamists like the Muslim Brotherhood, which has become the most prominent Islamic organization in the United States through its affiliate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Not only Egypt, which overthrew a Muslim Brotherhood government in 2013, but also the United Arab Emirates lists CAIR as a terrorist organization. As Michelle Malkin reported in *National Review* Dec. 4, "Over the alleged objections of Dallas-area federal prosecutors, the Obama Justice Department's senior political appointees declined to press terror-financing charges against CAIR co-founder Omar Ahmad." The Obama administration, to be sure, evinces a different sort of sympathy for Muslims than its predecessor, conflating the self-styled "anti-colonialism" of radical Muslims with the American civil rights movement. Operationally, the policies of the past administrations are more similar than they are different.

Islamist organizations like CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood can provide a safety valve for Muslim rage, but they also can become an incubator for prospective terrorists. Rather than contain violent impulses that may arise from extremist opinions, e.g., the destruction of the State of Israel or the founding of an Islamic Caliphate, the Muslim Brotherhood and its satellite organizations appear to have provided a screen for Tashfeen Malik to work herself up to the commission of terrorist acts. Malik wrote jihadist Facebook rants long before the shooting, her relatives in Pakistan told the *Los Angeles Times*. Not only US intelligence services but also several private organizations regularly collect data reflecting terrorist sentiments from Facebook, so the information had to have been in the hands of the FBI. Evidently the FBI did not find it alarming, probably because there is so much jihadist chatter on social media that intelligence agencies have become complacent.

It is hard to explain to the American public why the United



States spends \$80 billion a year on intelligence—about the same as the entire national budget of Ireland or Poland—but fails to act on social media information of the sort that might have led the FBI to the Farook family arsenal. The answer is that such rants fall within the "normal" spectrum of views in the world of CAIR and its progenitor, the Muslim Brotherhood. For background, see the published work of my friends Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum, and Andrew McCarthy, the federal prosecutor in the first World Trade center bombing.

US intelligence services tread lightly around Islamist organizations in the hope that Islamism will eventually police itself.

That is true in foreign policy as well as in domestic counter-terrorism, and it is as true of the Republican foreign policy establishment as it is of the Obama administration. South Carolina senator and presidential candidate Lindsey Graham went to Egypt in 2012 and endorsed a governmental role for the Muslim Brotherhood. A former head of the Central Intelligence Agency in a Republican administration told me that in Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood is banned as a terror organization, that Washington was disappointed at the overthrow of Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi in July 2013. "We wanted to see what would happen when the Brotherhood had to take responsibility for removing garbage," he said.

Cultivating "good Islamists" (good because they refrain from violence even though they have the same sentiments and objectives as the terrorists) and "bad Islamists" (who actually kill people) was a dodgy approach to begin with. The trouble is that very large numbers of Muslims are willing to kill themselves in order to harm enemy noncombatants, and the number appears to be increasing. To my knowledge that is something new under the sun. Japanese kamikazes and Nizari assassins in the Middle Ages, like the pre-1917 Bolsheviks, were willing to die to kill public officials or soldiers. But the murder of noncombatants through suicide attacks (or attacks likely to prove suicidal) is something we have never before witnessed.

The alternative is to confront the Islamists rather than seeking to persuade some Islamists to police others. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) proposed to designate the Brotherhood a Foreign Terrorist Organization in legislation

filed Nov. 3; this measure would make CAIR's position untenable given its multiple connections to the Brotherhood and its affiliates. A substantial part of French opinion favors similar toughness, judging by the record 28% vote for her National Front in Sunday's regional elections.

There is something to be said for a kind of *modus vivendi* with Islamists. Israel continues security cooperation with the Palestine Authority, which has perhaps 160,000 men under arms in its dozen-and-a-half security services, but has kept them (and their weapons) far from the fray. The result is a tolerable level of terrorism for the Israelis. As Haviv Rettig Gur observes, "The (terrorists') message is simple: stab the Jews, watch them scream, prove to yourself in that instant that they are mortal, vulnerable. For that brief moment – so the online campaign implicitly claims – Palestinian dignity is restored. Yet the real-world attacks that flow from this promise, the moments of frantic scuffling with Israelis, the quick deaths the attackers meet time and again, even when facing unarmed Israeli civilians, only bring the collapse of Palestinian solutions and self-respect – and Israeli unflappability – into sharper relief."

A former head of Israel's military intelligence, Gen. Yaakov Amidror, warned last week that "massive retaliation" against Palestinian terrorists would make matters worse: "While there is no doubt that Israel is facing a difficult security situation, the surge in Palestinian violence does not pose any existential threat to Israel. Israel has weathered longer and harsher waves of terrorism. Israeli leaders must keep things in proportion and reject calls for 'massive retaliation' that will not truly improve security and could make things worse." Gen. Amidror served as Prime Minister Netanyahu's National Security Advisor.

This sort of *modus vivendi* has an indispensable premise: Muslim community leaders must be persuaded that their interests lie in cooperating with security services rather than in abetting terrorists. In the United States, a few dozen Federal prosecutions and a hundred or so well-publicized deportations of prominent Muslims in the CAIR orbit would turn thousands of Muslim immigrants into willing snitches for the FBI. Most American Muslims are reasonably successful economic immigrants, and to the extent they



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share the Farook family's radical sentiments, they are not willing to give up their livelihoods to put them into practice. Sen. Cruz' proposal to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization and turning the screws on its American sympathizers would preempt future attacks like the San Bernardino atrocity, and reduce the number of future attacks to a tolerable level.

David P. Goldman is a senior fellow at the London Center for Policy Research and the Wax Family Fellow at the Middle East Forum.

Daesh militants training on flight simulators in Libya

Source: <http://www.albawaba.com/news/daesh-militants-training-flight-simulators-libya-776400>

Dec 08 - Daesh members in the city of Sirte, northern Libya, are training to fly planes using



at least one flight simulator according to military sources in the North African state.

The sources added that there is a prevailing belief amongst investigators that the device was seized from the training departments of Gaddafi's looted airports. Other sources stated that "It's a modern simulator, which may have arrived from abroad", noting that it was roughly

France's prospects are dimmer. Muslims comprise a tenth of the population. Two-fifths are unemployed and the overwhelming majority hold radical views.

How Ms. Le Pen's National Front would confront a much larger, poorer and more radical Muslim population is not pleasant to contemplate.

the size of a small car. The simulator is complete with a steering wheel to practice take-off and landing, a radar screen, and a communications device to contact the control tower.

A senior Libyan military officer said in an interview during a recent visit to Cairo that a group of Daesh leaders, amongst them retired officers from Libya and a number of neighbouring countries, obtained the first simulator device that specialises in civilian planes last October.

Security services have gathered new information from Sirte during the last two weeks suggesting that another fighter jet simulator had arrived. However, its type remains unknown.

A security official working in a team that follows the activity of Daesh in North Africa said that information about Daesh militants training to fly civilian planes in Libya exists and added that the Libyan Air Force which lacks armaments attempted to hit at least one base where the training is believed to take place several times but that the operations were unsuccessful.

Jihadist Veterans Pose Generational Threat Even if ISIS Defeated

Source: <http://m.ndtv.com/world-news/jihadist-veterans-pose-generational-threat-even-if-isis-defeated-experts-1252357>

Dec 08 – Even if the ISIS is one day defeated on its territory, the world could face an even greater threat from tens of thousands of battle-hardened jihadist veterans, experts have warned.

US intelligence services estimate some 30,000 people have joined the ranks of ISIS from around 100 countries, adding to the huge number that have fought with older Islamic



extremist groups over the decades.

In Afghanistan alone between 1996 and 2001, some 10,000 to 20,000 people received jihadist training, many under the guidance of Osama Bin Laden.

After the fall of the Taliban regime, many of those fighters dispersed around the world, taking their radical ideology and knowledge with them.

Officials warn that jihadist veterans pose a major long-term threat that Western institutions are ill-equipped to handle.

"Just the current wave -- of around 250 returning fighters (coming to France) -- is a complicated problem," said a senior French counter-terrorist official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the vast majority will be tried and imprisoned, and the rest closely monitored, but the difficulty of finding evidence against returning fighters means many are jailed for only five to seven years.

"That means that in four or five years, the first will start leaving prison. The problem will return," said the official.

"That's why we have to prepare now, and see how we can return these people to society. Some will be traumatised for years. We need to think about rehabilitation. It's a huge job."

'Even Worse Than ISIS'

Regardless of current efforts to target the group with air strikes and diplomatic efforts in Syria and Iraq, ISIS has prepared the ground for years of global insurgency by gathering so many people in its self-declared "caliphate".

Fragmenting or dispersing the group can have its own terrible side-effects.

"Since only the most battle-hardened, the most radical will survive, we will find ourselves with something even worse than ISIS," said Mathieu Guidere, a radicalisation expert at the University of Toulouse.

"Don't forget: we thought we had eliminated Al-Qaeda by killing bin Laden, but the

fragmentation of Al-Qaeda led to something worse."

Faced with the slow-moving institutions of the European Union and other Western countries, "we risk always being one step behind in the war," added Guidere.

"Jihadists know perfectly how to adapt to new conditions. They will create new structures and forms of action adapted to their environment, and become increasingly difficult to combat."

In its own territory, attacks on ISIS are also likely to worsen the violence against civilians in their immediate region, at least in the short term.

"If there is a perception that the local population is assisting the recapture of territory from the group, then there is absolutely a risk that the group will become more vicious," said Matthew Henman, head of IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre in London.

"Targeting civilians is also a good way of undermining security and stability after the recapture of territory -- highlighting that the government still can't protect civilians," Henman added.

"There might also be an increasing effort to send foreign fighters back to their countries for reprisal operations."

As the Paris attacks of November 13 demonstrated, European security agencies have little hope of collating and analysing all the data pouring in about radicalised individuals and combatants returning from the Middle East.

They must also monitor older jihadists from wars in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq that could return to violence at any time.

"Long after the fall of Daesh (an alternative name for IS), the whole world will pay for the years of blindness during which it let the jihadist monster grow on Europe's doorstep," said Jean-Pierre Filiu, an expert on Islamic extremism at Sciences Po University in Paris.

"It will of course be the European countries, with at least 5,000 jihadists engaged with Daesh... that will be most affected," he warned.

US confirms death of Libyan Daesh head Abu Nabil

Source <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35034289>

Dec 08 – **A US air strike killed a senior leader of the Islamic State (IS) group in Libya, the Pentagon has confirmed.**

Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt Jeff Davis said Abu Nabil died after an F-15 jet targeted a compound in the eastern city of Derna on 13 November.



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Iraqi national Nabil was also known as Wissam Najm Abd Zayd al-Zubaydi. The Pentagon also said an air strike in Somalia on 2 December had killed a senior al-Shabab leader, Abdirahman Sandhere - also known as Ukash.

US officials said the 13 November strike against Nabil had been authorised before terrorist attacks in



Paris that evening that IS claimed responsibility for.

"Nabil's death will degrade Isil's (IS) ability to meet the group's objectives in Libya, including recruiting new Isil members, establishing bases in Libya, and planning external attacks on the United States," the Pentagon said at the time.

US officials said that Nabil may have been the IS spokesman pictured in a February 2015 video showing the

apparent murder of Coptic Christians in Libya.

Libya remains in chaos four years after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, and is being fought over by a number of groups, including IS. It has launched high-profile attacks in the mostly lawless North African country, and gained a foothold in key towns and cities, including Sirte. The strike on Nabil was the first against an IS leader in Libya, the Pentagon said.

If Terrorism Is Homegrown, a Visa Overhaul Won't Keep Americans Safe

By Brian Michael Jenkins

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/12/if-terrorism-is-homegrown-visa-overhaul.html>

Dressed in combat gear, a married couple allegedly carried out the bloodiest terrorist attack on US soil since 9/11 last Wednesday at a social services center in San Bernardino, California. While the husband was born in Chicago, his Pakistani wife had gained entrance to the United States through a "fiancee visa" — also known as a K-1 visa — to marry him.

In a televised speech on Sunday evening designed to reassure Americans, US President Barack Obama said that he ordered the Departments of State and Homeland Security to review "the visa waiver program under which the female terrorist in San Bernardino originally came to this country" and called for Congress to "put in place stronger screening for those who come to America without a visa" under the visa waiver program. (The White House clarified after the speech that the woman had not entered the US through the visa waiver program).

The fear that terrorist operatives might infiltrate the United States has led American authorities to look for any holes in US defenses — including, of late, the aforementioned visa waiver program, which allows citizens of 38

participating countries to enter the US without visas (though not without scrutiny) and stay for up to 90 days for tourism, business or while in transit to Canada or Mexico. The K-1 visa has a similar time constraint, requiring the couple to marry within 90 days; like all other applicants not eligible for visa waiver, such applicants must be interviewed in person.

The real threat to America, however, appears to be less one of infiltration and more one of inspiration. The Isis radio station released a statement on Saturday claiming that two of the group's followers had carried out the attack in San Bernardino — but, although the federal investigation continues, thus far there appears to be no evidence of direct involvement by the Islamic State. That Isis applauded the shooters does not mean that it directed the attacks or even actively recruited the attackers.

Despite being the focus of renewed scrutiny, only three people involved in terrorist incidents have entered the US via the visa waiver program in the past quarter-century. All three cases involving the visa waiver program could have had disastrous consequences, but intelligence



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and a bit of luck intervened. And, there have been none since cooperation among intelligence agencies around the world was increased and visa-waiver requirements were strengthened following the attacks of 9/11.

Ahmed Ajaj, a terrorist operative trained in explosives, flew into the United States in 1992 using a Swedish passport that had been crudely altered. When immigration officials searched his luggage, they found two other passports. He served six months in jail for altering his passport, but continued to keep in contact with Ramzi Yousef, who eventually served as the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Yousef had been on the same flight as Ajaj, and entered the US on an Iraqi passport before claiming asylum. Ajaj was released from jail days after the trade center bombing, but was rearrested and convicted of his involvement in the plot.

The second visa waiver terrorism case involves the so-called 20th 9/11 hijacker, Zacarias Moussaoui, a French citizen. Despite reportedly being on a French watch list for suspected involvement in terrorist activities, he was granted a visa waiver and allowed to enter the United States. While taking flying lessons, he aroused suspicion and was detained on immigration charges weeks before 11 September and was incarcerated at the time of the attacks.

Finally, a British citizen, Richard Reid — now forever known as the “shoe bomber” — was granted a visa waiver and allowed to board an airplane in Paris headed to the United States in late December 2001. His passenger profile and behavior at the airport attracted the attention of airline security officials, who prevented him from boarding. Later questioned and cleared by French authorities, Reid boarded the same flight the following day, but failed at his mission

when the explosives in his shoes failed to detonate.

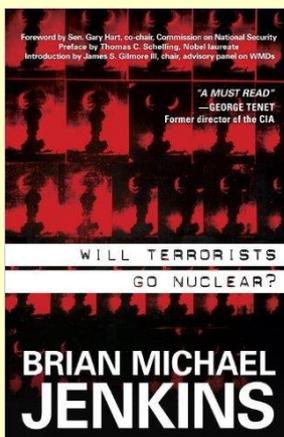
The total number of those arrested in Islamic extremist terrorist plots in the United States is relatively low. Al-Qaida's long campaign to inspire Americans to carry out attacks in the US produced meager results; the Islamic State has effectively used social media to reach a larger and younger audience, and it has lured more Americans abroad, but like al-Qaida, it has persuaded very few of its fans to carry out attacks. The rampage in San Bernardino is a deadly exception.

And, foreign participants in terrorist conspiracies commonly entered the United States by obtaining ordinary visas for tourism, business or student purposes, rather than through the visa waiver program. Since 9/11, there have been eight known entries for such purposes — approximately one every two years — making it appear that the procedures governing visa approval for non-visa waiver applicants are not necessarily any better than those in place for granting visa waivers.

Moreover, strengthening visa waiver program requirements would greatly increase the workload for processing visas, which could potentially degrade the quality of all interviews. Nearly 10m non-immigrant visas were issued in 2014, so even spending a few minutes with each applicant would require significant reinforcements to the consular corps — and there's no evidence that it would necessarily make Americans any safer.

The majority of terrorist conspirators arrested or killed in the US during the last 25 years were already here; 96 of them were US citizens, another 19 were legal permanent residents. In other words, at least 86% of them radicalized after they came to the US. They did not need to travel here and they needed no documentation; they were Americans.

In some respects, identifying terrorist operatives overseas and preventing them from coming here is the easy part. Identifying the enemies already here may be the bigger challenge.



Brian Michael Jenkins is a senior adviser to the president of the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation and author of numerous books, reports and articles on terrorism-related topics, including the report “[Will Terrorists Go Nuclear?](#)”



ISIS Female Terrorist Executes Iraqi Woman by 'Teeth'

Source: <http://en.abna24.com/service/middle-east-west-asia/archive/2015/12/07/723517/story.html>

CANNIBAL CORPSE

Dec 09 – ISIS terrorist group has once again shown its brutality nature after punishing a woman because of her neglecting to cover herself according to the Shariah Law. She was free to choose one of these sentences: cutting her body skin or biting her

hand.

'Mo'sam' who was thinking that biting her hand could be less painful in comparison with another one let them to bite her hand.

ISIS judge ordered 'Balva', an Asian female soldier of ISIS, to execute the sentence at the church of 'Hai al-Nabi Jerjes' in the center of Mosul, al-Hadath News reported.

ISIS bloodthirsty executioner, Balva, accepted this request and in public she sank her teeth into the meat of Mo'sam's wrist, cut a part of his hand and swallowed it.

According to the reports, Mo'sam lost her life inside the church as a result of bleeding.



Taliban attack on Kandahar airport leaves dozens dead

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/09/taliban-attack-kandahar-airport-afghanistan-dozens-dead>

Dec 09 – **Taliban fighters have attacked Kandahar airport, killing dozens of civilians and one soldier in the deadliest ever attack on the largest military facility in southern Afghanistan. The audacious assault began at about 6.30pm on Tuesday when suicide bombers breached the outer security perimeter. The Afghan ministry of defence told Stars and Stripes, the US military's newspaper, that 38 were killed, 37 civilians and one Afghan army soldier.**



At about midnight, Afghan officials said the fighting seemed to have been contained. However, the breached area of the airfield, crammed with old apartment blocks, shops and a school, appeared difficult to clear, and the militants continued fighting.

The battle was still under way on Wednesday, with militants taking civilian hostages. A NATO spokesman said there were no reports of foreign casualties.



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While the attackers did not get close to the main military section of the airport, including the runway and barracks housing foreign troops and advisers, they caused enough chaos to raise concern about airport security levels.

The attack in Kandahar, the traditional stronghold and spiritual heartland of the Taliban movement, follows a months-long insurgent campaign, culminating in September with the capture of Kunduz city, which gave the militants a major PR-victory and morale boost.

“Stuff like this is pretty bold, pretty ambitious,” the western official said about the Kandahar attack. “The level of ambition has been ratcheted up since Kunduz.”



It is not the first time the Taliban has wreaked havoc on a major airfield in Afghanistan. In 2012, 15 Taliban fighters disguised as American soldiers managed to sneak into Camp Bastion in Helmand where they destroyed hundreds of million of dollars-worth of helicopters.

The incursion on Kandahar airport coincides with the Heart of Asia summit in Pakistan, which many hope will provide an opportunity to talk about reviving peace talks.

It also follows a week of internal disarray in the Taliban after reports that its leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, had been injured in a gunfight in Pakistan. Amid rumours that Mansoor had died, the Taliban issued a statement on Saturday, ostensibly featuring Mansoor’s voice reassuring his comrades that he was alive and well.

Improving police responses to mass shootings

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151209-improving-police-responses-to-mass-shootings>

Dec 09 – Mass shootings carried out by terrorists and lone gunmen have a destabilizing effect because of the large number of casualties. Police forces, learning from past experiences with mass shooting, are fine-tuning their tactical responses in order to minimize the number of dead and injured by tackling the gunmen as soon as possible. The key insight law enforcement agencies derived from the Columbine High School killings in Colorado in 1999, is that first responders

should not merely surround the site where the incident is taking place and wait around for specialized assault teams to arrive. Rather, first responders and police forces first to arrive on the scene should go in right away to confront the attacker or attackers before more people can be harmed. The first responders should go in as quickly as possible even if the risk to their lives is heightened by the fact that they may not have the kind of training and gear SWAT units have.



PoliceOne.com notes that security and law enforcement experts have concluded that the increased risks these first responders assume outweighed by the knowledge that killers determined to inflict as many deaths as possible and create maximum carnage will not stop shooting and killing until they are neutralized.

Training manuals used by first responders in the United States and other countries now teach that units first to arrive on the scene should form teams of four officers each and, in a diamond formation, go into the site where the shooting is taking place with the sole objective of killing or disarming the attackers. A secondary team, which includes medical staff and more police for cover, should follow close behind to take care of the wounded even if the scene has not yet been secured.

The *Guardian* reports that the basic protocol has been fine-tuned over the past ten years to take into account multiple shooters, suicide vests, and other dangers not imagined in the past. The protocol requires first responders to be focused on the mission and avoid distractions, and not only because they will face the reality of being shot at by the attackers, but because they are likely to confront harrowing situations. To pursue and neutralize the attackers, first responders might have to step over dead bodies and ignore pleas for help from the wounded.

“You’re going to have to walk over dead people,” an LA police officer, who asked not be named because he had not been cleared to speak to the media, told the *Guardian*. “You’re going to have people clutching at you and begging for help. But you have to keep going. There’s no medicine in a gunfight.”

The new approach to dealing with mass shooting can still be improved, and kinks need

to be ironed out. **For example, the French police’s approach to the developing situation inside the Bataclan concert hall appears to have been based on the mistaken impression that what was underway was a hostage situation. This explains the two-and-half hour delay between the time the police arrived on the scene and the decision to storm the building – time which allowed the terrorists to kill many more people than otherwise would have been the case.**

John Cohen, a former top coordinator for counterterrorism at DHS who is now at Rutgers University, told *Guardian*, that, “I’m confident the French authorities will conduct an after-action review and will specifically seek to better understand whether they could have handled the situation at the theater differently — whether they should have sought to enter and confront the suspects earlier. There’s still a learning process — in this country, too. There are conversations going on at all levels in the United States, Europe and elsewhere.”

Before Columbine, law enforcement acted on the assumption that mass casualty incidents would involve a barricaded lone shooter who could be isolated, or a hostage situation in which the attackers would engage in negotiation before they killed more people. Thus, protocols established after the 1966 sniper attack at the University of Texas, called for first responders in the United States to set up a perimeter around the site of the shooting, gather as much information as possible, and then wait for specially trained assault teams, hostage negotiators, medics, and other specialists to arrive.

“The assumption,” Cohen said, “was that time was on their side.”

Police forces arriving on the scene of a shooting no longer entertain this assumption.

Paris attacks expose weaknesses in Europe’s security structure

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151209-paris-attacks-expose-weaknesses-in-europe-s-security-structure>

Dec 09 – **The 13 November attacks in Paris offered a painful demonstration of Europe’s security loopholes which the terrorists exploited to their advantage.**

In the wake of the Paris attacks European security experts say the flaws in the continent’s defenses are conspicuous, with no clear plan for fixing them. “We lack the most obvious tools to deal with this threat,” Jean-Charles Brisard, chairman of the Paris-based Center for the Analysis of Terrorism, told the *Washington Post*. **“We’re blind.”**



Maintaining tight security in Europe is not easy on a continent whose post-Second World War institutions and laws were designed to facilitate freedom of religious practices and the free movement of citizen. This freedom has allowed thousands of Europeans to be exposed to fiery radical preaching at home before traveling to Syria and Iraq, then return home after receiving training by terrorist organizations and fighting in their ranks.



Security experts say that another large-scale attack in Europe is almost inevitable. European counterterrorism agencies, working hard to prevent such attacks, appear resigned to the fact that such attacks will happen.

“We have to figure out what went wrong and fix it as soon as possible. Because one thing is for sure: Islamic State will try to hit Europe again,” said a senior European intelligence official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In the wake of the Paris attacks, President Françoise Hollande announced a state of emergency – initially for three months, but likely to be extended. France, as a member of the EU, cannot isolate itself from other EU countries and their security practices. Belgium internal security, for example, is dysfunctional because of the historical tensions between the

French-speaking Walloons and the Flemish segment of the population, and Islamist radicals and terrorists have exploited this situation to their advantage. . Even when domestic security agencies function better than they do in Belgium, coordination among European intelligence services is poor, with no comprehensive, shared list of suspected extremists or an EU-wide biometric database. The *Post* notes that the Paris terrorist attacks offered a cruel demonstration of Europe’s weak and incoherent security. The crossed unguarded EU borders freely and frequently, with at least five of them also traveling to Syria and back. Most of the nine attackers had already been flagged as potential security threats — but then, so had tens of thousands of others, including 20,000 in France alone. The Paris terrorists were careful not to stand out or give law enforcement a reason to arrest them.

“The systems of European security that at one time were useful and effective are no longer adapted for this threat,” Bernard Squarini, a former head of France’s domestic intelligence service who now leads the Paris office of the global intelligence firm Arcanum, told the *Post*. “We are dealing with people who are cunning and determined. They’ve been in combat.”

The 13 November attacks should serve as a wake-up call to Europeans that the continent’s security structure, built in another era, is no longer sufficient and needs to be adapted to new circumstances. Whether or not such adaptations can be made, and made in time before the terrorists decide to launch another attack, is an open question.

Analysing the Isis playbook: How to turn desktop warriors into jihadis

By Jasmine Opperman

Source: <http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2015-04-20-analysing-the-isis-playbook-how-to-turn-desktop-warriors-into-jihadis/#.VmkeTb8XeXd>

For all its brutality and barbarism, Isis continues to attract new recruits from all over the world – including several from South Africa. Its most potent propaganda tool is its sophisticated use of social media, and its unparalleled ability to persuade sympathisers –

particularly the young and vulnerable – to leave home for the war zones of Syria and Iraq. Of all the things the Islamic State (Isis) has been able to accomplish in a very short period of time, online recruitment is one of the most



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significant. The Islamic State was not the first terror group to recruit via social media, but, they perfected have it in a way that no one expected – not even other Jihadist groups.

It's important to note that Isis recruitment efforts target a wide range of people, from the very wealthy to the poor; from the well-educated to the illiterate; and from the very old to the very young.

This last demographic, however, is the most important. Youth (the aged 14-30 crowd) have been the driving force behind Isis, and the group is carefully targeting the Facebook and Twitter generation through the social media that define it. We must never forget that it is the youngest on

among them that are the most vulnerable; they are the low-hanging fruit.

Because they are targeting such a broad audience, and don't know exactly what will tip people over the edge, Isis' social media efforts cover a vast range of topics. They feature ice cream socials and new playgrounds; up-to-the-minute battlefield reports and profiles of the latest "martyrs" (who other might describe as suicide bombers); day-in-the-life interviews with "typical" Islamic State citizens, who describe their happy lives as they walk through bountiful markets filled with meat and pastries. Although most of it is smoke and mirrors – this is propaganda, after all – the sheer amount of material is impressive.

The second element of the campaign is to push these messages across every possible platform, to guarantee the broadest possible reach. Some of the most popular include Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, Ask.FM, SendVid, Wordpress and Scribid; there is also an expansive array of private jihadi forums. The bottom line is this: if you have access to the internet, then Isis has access to you.

The group's messaging is also gender-specific (and, naturally, it doesn't exactly challenge gender stereotypes). For boys, Isis creates online games where one can play as "a real

Islamic State cadre in mock battles based on recent real life successful battles". Isis also edits existing video game trailers – for popular games like Call of Duty of Grand Theft Auto – to make it look like Isis has produced the same games.

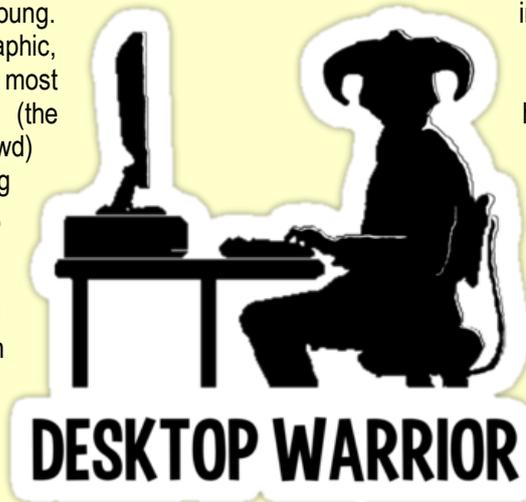
For girls, it's a very different approach. Isis promotes the idea of jihadis as love interests, playing up the possibility of an exciting, adventurous romance with a handsome young warrior who needs and wants you as much as he is dedicated to God. It entices girls with the prospect of playing an important role in the jihad.

Most significantly, perhaps, is that Isis offers instant redemption. Unlike Al Qaeda-affiliated groups, who are looking for the pure of heart, the Islamic State is the great redeemer. It doesn't

matter if you were a drug dealer, an alcoholic, a prostitute or a non-Muslim; Isis will absolve you of your sins and offer you a sense of belonging. This is an avenue of acceptance for some who struggle to find it anywhere else.

Once Isis targets express some kind of sympathy or interest in the cause, the recruitment operation starts to focus on the individual. This can take several forms, from a personal meeting with an individual or Isis cell in the target's immediate environment, to establishing a relationship on private social media accounts. This is where specific advice is dished out: how and where to travel, what clothes to take, how to avoid detection, and details of what happens on arrival. The idea is to reassure the potential recruit that all arrangements have been taken care of and that they are in good hands.

It's an effective strategy, as its results have proved. It's also very difficult to defend against. While countries need to institute better border controls, the first line of defence is families themselves. Warning signs include shutting down social circles; extreme, uncompromising views; and a sudden interest in passports. Isis' use of social media means that it is waging its war in people's homes; therefore, it is in homes that it must be defended against.



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Jasmine Opperman is the Africa Director for the Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium.

Malaysian Airline Downing – A Terrorist Operation

Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/malaysian-airline-downing-a-terrorist-operation/>

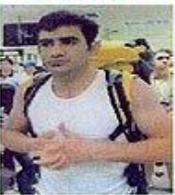
Dec 09 – **New evidence** shows that flight MH370, the Malaysian airline heading toward Beijing on



the night of March 8, 2014 and has yet to be found, lost electrical power hours before it stopped flying. This is consistent with the theory that MH370 was not due to any deliberate manipulation of the aircraft by the pilot, or even by onboard terrorists physically in control of the plane. The entire electrical system was blown out. Only an emergency beacon, which is located above the heads of the pilots in the cockpit ceiling, temporarily stopped operating and then switched to its own separately located

backup power source. This evidence results from work done in Australia by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

BANGKOK BLAST SUSPECTS

<p>SUSPECT #1</p>  <p>SAEID MORADI, 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationality: Iranian • Date of arrival: Feb 8, 2012 (Kuala Lumpur-Phuket-Bangkok) • Status: Injured in the Feb 14 bomb blast and being treated at Chulalongkorn Hospital. 	<p>SUSPECT #2</p>  <p>MOHAMMAD KHAZAEI, 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationality: Iranian • Date of arrival: Dec 15, 2011 (Teheran-Bangkok) and Feb 8, 2012 (Kuala Lumpur-Phuket-Bangkok) • Status: Arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport before boarding a flight to Kuala Lumpur. He is being detained at the Crime Suppression Division. 	<p>SUSPECT #3</p>  <p>MASOUD SEDAGHTZADEH, 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationality: Iranian • Date of arrival: Dec 17, 2011 (Teheran-Bangkok) and Feb 7, 2012 (Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok) • Date of last departure: Feb 14, 2012 (Bangkok-Kuala Lumpur) • Status: Arrested in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 15. Deportation in process. 	<p>SUSPECT #4</p>  <p>LEILA ROHANI, 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationality: Iranian • Date of arrival: April 17, July 5, and Oct 18, 2011 • Date of last departure: Feb 5, 2012 (Bangkok-Teheran) • Status: Wanted under an arrest warrant from a Bangkok court. 	<p>SUSPECT #5</p>  <p>NOROUZI SHAYAN ALI AKBAR, 57</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationality: Iranian • Date of arrival: Feb 2, 2012 (Teheran-Bangkok) • Date of last departure: Feb 14, 2012 at 8.50am (Bangkok-Teheran) • Status: Wanted under an arrest warrant from a Bangkok court.
<p>SUSPECT #6 Police are gathering information to seek an arrest warrant for the sixth suspect.</p>				

POSTgraphics

How would this happen?

The most likely theory is that there was an explosion in the plane. The explosion was either in the forward cargo hold or in a seat in the first class section, or in the hands of a passenger probably in the first class section. The explosion caused a fire, which most likely was observed from an oil rig and reported, depressurizing the cabin, and knocking the flight crew and passengers unconscious.

No cell Phone Calls

This scenario explains why there were absolutely no cell phone calls for help. The crew and passengers were all unconscious or dead.

MH370, when the explosion took place, altered course and seemed to turn back toward Malaysia. It was tracked by Malaysian primary radar. The aircraft transponder, which would



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have provided much more information, was not working so the Air Traffic Control radar tracking system (secondary radar) did not pick it up.

Who claimed Responsibility?

All of this points to the fact that MH370 was a terrorist operation. [Only one group claimed responsibility](#) – a Uighur organization, the [East Turkestan Independence Movement](#) (ETIM) also known as the Turkestan Islamic Party.

the plane was immediately depressurized and a fire started from the blast.

There has been no confirmation of this claim other than one person with the same name coming forward to say it was (obviously) not him.

There are plenty of other terrorist organizations in Malaysia including offshoots of al-Qaeda and ISIS, and many of them had been arrested.

There also are Sh'ia terrorists operating in



The Uighur heartland stretches from western China to Kyrgyzstan. Uighur rebel Abdullah Mansour told Reuters from an undisclosed location that the intent [of the MH370 operation] was to bring the Holy Fight to China. “The fight against China is our Islamic responsibility and we have to fulfill it.” More than half the passengers on MH370 were Chinese.

Uighur Man with Flight Training Claimed

At the time a Malay newspaper, Harian Metro, claimed there was one Uighur man on board Flight MH370. According to that newspaper, the man took flight training in Sweden in 2005 and his intent may have been to blast open the cockpit door and take control of the aircraft. If this is true, he did not get the chance to practice his piloting skills, because

Malaysia which may explain why Massoud Sedaghtzadeh had fled Thailand and arrived in Kuala Lumpur on February 15, 2011 where he was arrested.

Massoud was part of an Iranian team who tried to kill Israeli diplomats in Bangkok the day before. Two of the team, one whose legs were blown off in a related “work accident” were arrested. Two others, one man and one woman, escaped as did Massoud. At the time of the disappearance of MH370 Massoud was appealing his extradition to Thailand. One possible theory is that the “capture” of MH370 by a colleague of Massoud would have created a potential for a trade whereby the passengers on the plane would be released in exchange for Massoud and perhaps the two others under arrest in Bangkok.



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The fact is we don't know which terrorist did it, only that a terrorist almost certainly was involved.

So why then did the Malaysian government do just about everything it could to deflect any attention to a possible terrorist operation? We can only speculate on motives, but if the government was contacted and urged to make a deal to get their passengers back, they may have tried to do so, only to find out later that the terrorists did not have the passengers in their control and that the plane was lost. No government ever wants to admit it was duped, especially a government that was already in a lot of political trouble at home.

On March 15, 2014 [Technology and Security](#) published an essay that still explains the fate of the plane, now reinforced by the new evidence. It is reproduced below.

We can, therefore, say the following:

1. MH370 was hit by a bomb blast, either in the hands of a terrorist on board the plane or located in the forward cargo hold just under the front section of the aircraft.
2. This was a terrorist operation. Two prime candidates are (a) a Uighur organization which claimed responsibility or (b) an Iranian organization trying to spring terrorists incarcerated in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.
3. If there was a plot to hijack the aircraft it failed because the bomb to gain access to the cockpit was too big.
4. The Malaysian government may have been duped in a secret effort to get the passengers released.

This article was originally published by Technology and Security as [MH370 was a Terrorist Operation, New Evidence](#) on December 9, 2015



**TAKING
STOCK:**

THE ARMING OF ISLAMIC STATE

Iraq: Taking stock: The arming of Islamic State

By Amnesty International

Source: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde14/2812/2015/en/>

Dec 07 – The armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS) deploys a substantial arsenal of arms and ammunition, designed or manufactured in more than 25 countries. Their military campaign has relentlessly targeted civilians with small arms, artillery fire and improvised explosive devices. This report catalogues the array of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment observed in the possession of IS. Supplier states and the Iraqi authorities urgently need to implement far stricter controls on the transfer, storage and deployment of arms to avoid further proliferation to armed groups and abuses of human rights.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



► You can download the report from source's URL (define the language preferred).

U.K. arrests record number of terrorism suspects, especially women, teenagers

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151210-u-k-arrests-record-number-of-terrorism-suspects-especially-women-teenagers>

Dec 10 – **According to the U.K. Home Office quarterly bulletin, 315 terror suspects – a record – have been arrested in the United Kingdom in the past year, with a sharp increases in arrests of women and teenagers.**

In the twelve months to September, the number of women arrested for terrorism-related offenses more than doubled, from 21 to 50. The number of under-18s detained was 15 – the highest ever level.



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The *Daily Mail* reports that the 31 percent rise in the number of terrorism-related suspects arrested is a reflection of the determined effort by the police and security services to address the ISIS threat and stem the flow of Britons to, and from, Syria.

The Home Office notes that women now account for 16 percent of all terrorism-related arrests. The bulletin highlights that fact that normally women or girls make up only 8 percent of those arrested, and that one in five of all arrests of female terror suspects in Britain since the 9/11 attacks fourteen years ago have happened in the last year.

“The majority of the increase in the number of women getting arrested has been linked to international-related terrorism,” the Home Office bulletin said.

The detailed figures offered in the report show that the increased number of those arrested for terrorism-related offenses included a 41 percent increase in those who considered themselves Asian and a 25 percent increase in those who considered themselves white. The proportion of terror suspects who are British has risen to 79 percent of those arrested this year, compared with 56 percent in 2001, when the statistics were first collected.

The Home Office figures for the twelve months to September 2015 show that nearly 40 percent (124) of those arrested have been charged; 22 percent (68) were released on bail; and 37 percent (115) were released without charge.

The 37 percent of those arrested then released without charge is an increase over the previous year’s 31 percent, but below the 53 percent who were arrested then released in 2013.

The Home Office said that the 31 percent increase in the number of terrorism-related suspects arrested was driven by a large number of arrests in two quarters: October to December 2014 and April to June 2015. “The most recent quarter saw a fall in the number of arrests to around half that of the quarter before (94 down to 48),” the report said.

The bulletin noted that the wide-ranging nature of terrorism investigations which the police and the security services undertake typically leads to fluctuations in the number of arrests from one quarter to the next: “Furthermore, individual investigations involving multiple suspects are likely to cause an increase in the figures more than investigations involving small numbers of suspects,” the bulletin adds.

The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) said 289 people were detained on suspicion of terrorism-related offenses in 2014, about twenty fewer than the previous twelve months, and that 102 of them were charged.

RUSI added that the proportion of arrests leading to charges was “substantially lower” for terrorism-related offenses than for criminal offenses generally, at 35 percent compared with 58 percent.

A spokesman for the Home Office said: “The number of arrests is often quoted as an illustration of the scale of the threat. However, it more accurately demonstrates the scale of police activity in countering it. Charge or conviction data would be a better measure of the level of confirmed terrorist activity.”

The Home Office bulletin says, however, that it is difficult to compare charge rates on a like-for-like basis until legal procedures for all the cases within a given time period have been completed.

The concept of countering violent extremism

Source: <http://www.css.ethz.ch/publications/pdfs/CSSAnalyse183-EN.pdf>

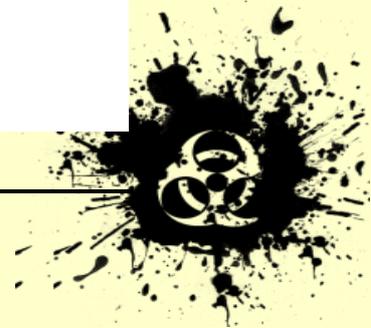
CSS Analyses in Security Policy

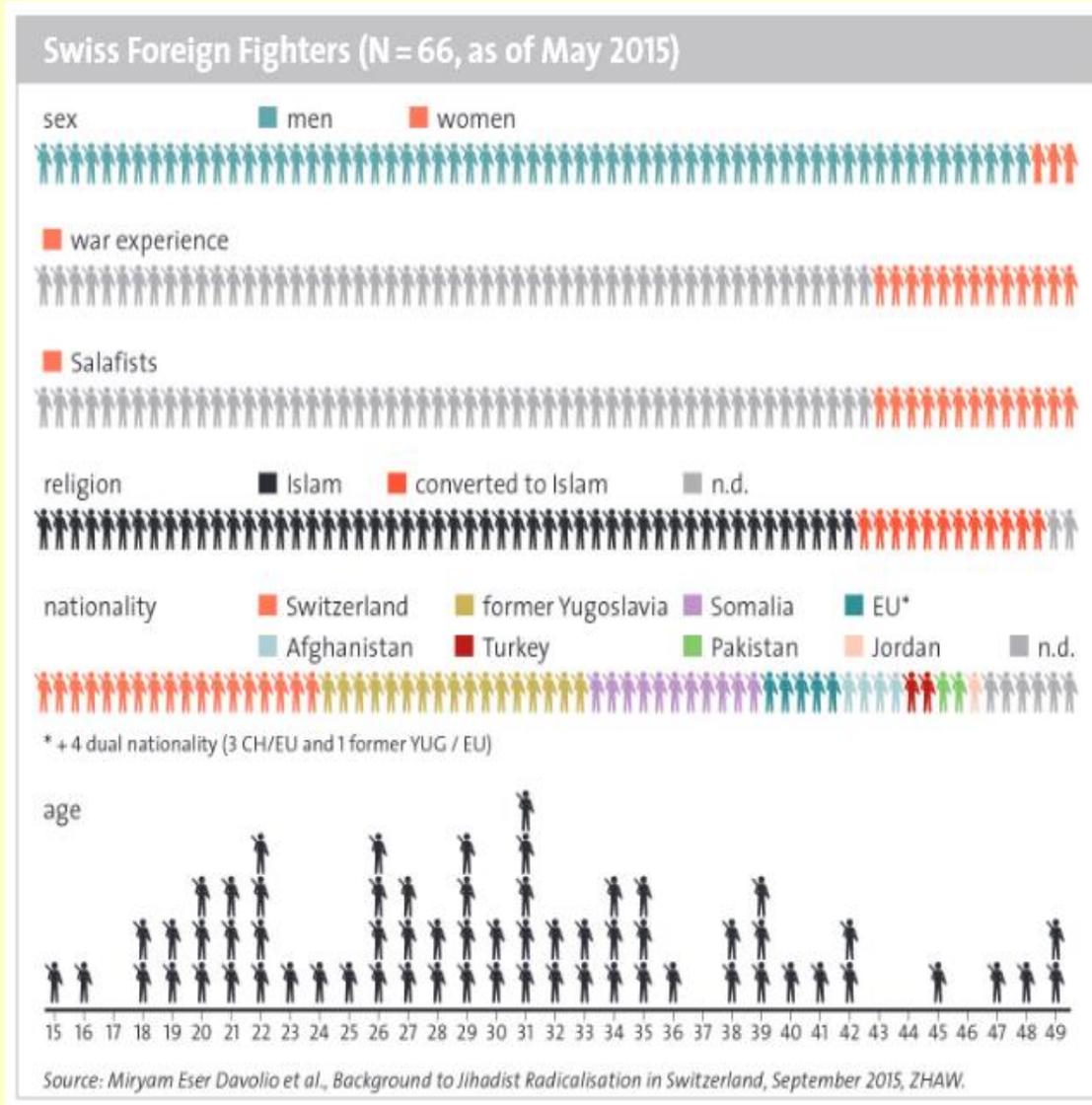
No. 183, December 2015, Editor: Christian Nünlist



The Concept of Countering Violent Extremism

After the terrorist attacks in Paris, Europe is stepping up repressive measures to combat terrorism. Yet, prevention and the “soft” aspects of counterterrorism measures must also be kept in mind. The concept of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), in conjunction with peace and development policies, has developed as part of a modern approach to counterterrorism. This creates opportunities for Swiss foreign policy.





Owen Frazer is a research assistant in the “Culture and Religion in Mediation” (CARIM) program at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich. Among other things, he is the co-author of “Approaching Religion in Conflict Transformation” (2015).

Dr. Christian Nünlist is the head of the Think Tank team on “Swiss and Euro-Atlantic Security” and the author of numerous publications, including Swiss Security Policy After 2014 (2015).



Will You Observe DHS’s New Terror Alert System?

Source: <http://inhomelandsecurity.com/will-you-observe-dhss-new-terror-alert-system/>

Dec 07 – In the wake of terror attacks in San Bernardino, CA, and against global Western targets, the Department of Homeland Security is looking to unveil a new terror alert system to enhance the preparedness and response posture of United States.

“We need a system that adequately informs the public at



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large,” said DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson during a Defense One magazine summit today as reported by ABC News. He hopes to unveil the new system in the coming days. The primary function of the new system will be to remove “some of the mystery about (the) global terrorist threat and what we are doing about it—and what we’re asking the public to do.”

Third DHS Alert System Coming Soon

This will be the third iteration of DHS’s public-facing terror alert system. Many recall the color-coded system put in place during President Bush’s administration and managed by former Secretary Tom Ridge shortly after 9/11 that was oft-criticized then modified nearly a decade later by Secretary Janet Napolitano under President Obama.

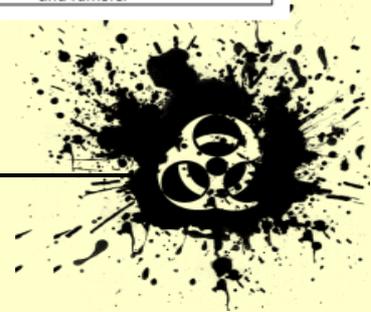
The next-generation system, **“NTASK—The National Threat Advisory System,”** according to Secretary Johnson, will replace “the color codes or color bars” associated with its predecessors. The new system is one that he pointed out was never used prior, “Because it depends on a specific credible threat.” The Secretary, whose birthday falls on Sept. 11, explained the importance of providing an intermediate level that reflects the current threat environment.

No further details were provided by Secretary Johnson during the announcement. In Homeland Security will continue to provide updates when the system officially goes live.

EDITOR’S COMMENT: Until recently, my main objection to national alert systems was the public perception of warnigns. What does “Elevated” or “High” mean for people in a given country? During my lectures around the globe I have asked many and the common response was “Something will happen”. Nothing else! No idea what a citizen should do according to warning levels announced. Then I

GENERAL PUBLIC				
HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM RECOMMENDED PROTECTIVE ACTIONS				
<i>The recommended protective actions at a threat level include those at all lower threat levels.</i>				
LOW <i>General Risk with no credible threats</i>	GUARDED <i>General Risk with no credible threats</i>	ELEVATED <i>Elevated risk of attack; no specific target identified</i>	HIGH <i>High risk of a local terrorist attack</i>	SEVERE <i>Intelligence indicates a terrorist attack is imminent</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to enjoy your freedoms. Participate freely in travel, work and recreational activities. • Be prepared for disasters and family emergencies. (See DESHS and American Red Cross brochures.) • Develop a family emergency plan. (fema.gov and American Red Cross brochures.) • Know how to turn off power, gas, water service. • Know what hazardous chemicals are stored in your home and how to properly dispose of unneeded items. • Support the efforts of your local emergency responders (fire fighters, law enforcement and emergency medical service). • Know what natural hazards are prevalent in your area and what measures you can take to protect your family. • Report suspicious activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue normal activities but be watchful for suspicious activities. Report criminal activity to local law enforcement. • Review family emergency plans. • Increase family emergency preparedness by purchasing supplies, food and storing water. • Be familiar with local natural and technological (man made) hazards in your community. • Increase individual or family emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water and emergency supplies. • Monitor local and national news for terrorist alerts. • Update immunizations. • Volunteer to assist and support the community emergency response agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue normal activities, report suspicious activities to the law enforcement. • Take a first aid or CERT class. • Become active in your local Neighborhood Crime Watch program. • Network with your family, neighbors and community for mutual support during a disaster or terrorist attack. • Learn what critical facilities are located in your community and report suspicious activities at or near these sites. • Attend your local emergency planning committee meeting to learn more about local hazards. (Call the city/county emergency manager to learn dates and locations) • Increase family emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water and emergency supplies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resume normal activities, expect some delays, baggage searches and restrictions as a result of heightened security at public buildings and facilities. • Monitor world and local events as well as local government advisories. • Report suspicious activities at critical facilities to local law enforcement. • Avoid leaving unattended packages or brief cases in public areas. • Inventory and organize emergency kits; discuss emergency plans with family; reevaluate meeting location based on threat. • Consider taking reasonable personal security precautions. Be alert to your surroundings, avoid vulnerable situations and monitor the activities of your children. • Maintain close contact with your family and neighbors to ensure their safety and emotional welfare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report suspicious activities and call 9-1-1. • Expect delays, searches of purses and bags and restricted access to public buildings. • Expect traffic delays. • Take personal security precautions. • Avoid crowded public areas and gatherings. • Do not travel into areas affected by the attack. • Keep emergency supplies accessible and automobile fuel tank full. • Be prepared to evacuate home or shelter in place. • Be suspicious and report persons taking photographs of critical facilities, asking detailed questions about physical security or dressed inappropriately. • Monitor news reports and Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio/TV stations. • Assist neighbors. • Avoid passing unsubstantiated information and rumors.

discovered the following table and I immediately conclude that the problem was in the system but in the dissemination of the system to the people. I only hope that the new



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NTASK system will have a different approach by security authorities that always “forget” that populace is the most important player in all state emergency response plans (especially when CBRNe threats are expected or anticipated).

Gun Linked to Paris Attack Came Through South Florida

Source: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Gun-Linked-to-Paris-Attack-Came-Through-Florida-Dealer-361468271.html>

Dec 10 – **One of the guns linked to Islamic militants in the Paris attacks that killed 130 people was exported to the United States in 2013, the head of a Serbian arms factory said Thursday.**

Milojko Brzakovic of the **Zastava** arms factory told The Associated Press that the **M92 semi-automatic pistol's** serial number matched one his company delivered to an American online arms dealer in May 2013. It was not clear how the gun got back to Europe.



At least seven of the weapons used or discovered after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris have been identified as being produced by the Serbian factory located in Kragujevac, in central Serbia. Most were manufactured before Yugoslavia broke up in a civil war in the 1990s and most of those are modified

versions of the Soviet AK-47, or Kalashnikov.

Brzakovic said all the guns were delivered legally but could have later found their way into illegal channels. "One was delivered to Bosnia in 1983, one to Skopje, FYROM in December 1987, one to Golubici, near Knin (Croatia) in 1988, one to Zagreb (Croatia) 1987," he said. He said the M92 pistol "is a semi-automatic weapon, a hunting and sporting weapon ... it cannot fire barrage fire, only single shots ... which are legal in America."

**Over 400 German Islamists Are Ready to Attack 'At Any Moment'**

Source: <http://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2015/12/over-400-german-islamists-are-ready-to-attack-at-any-moment-3255942.html>

Dec 11 – Around 430 violent jihadists are ready to launch attacks in Germany at any moment, according to the head of the country's internal security agency.

Germany has over 1.100 violent Islamists, of whom 430 are considered so dangerous that they could attack at any moment, the head of Germany's Federal

Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), Hans-Georg Maassen, said in an interview with MDR television.

The number appears to be an estimate of people tracked by the BfV and considered violently dangerous. The BfV head noted that the number of Salafists, a term for Islamic fundamentalists with jihadi aims, has risen rapidly in Germany amid the refugee crisis.



"There are currently around 8,350 Salafists in Germany. The number has risen rapidly in recent months. At the end of September, the number was 7,900," Maassen said.



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Maassen added that he wants refugees arriving in the country to act as informants on potential terrorists, saying that tip-offs do not mean “denunciation.” The BfV has relied on informants to go after far-right extremists and potential jihadists, according to the official.

According to Maassen, Germany has long been a focus of Daesh (also known as ISIL/ISIS) and al-Qaeda terrorist groups.

Estimates of the Number of Dagestanis Fighting in Syria Range from 600 to 5,000

By Mairbek Vatchagaev

Source: [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/nc/single/?tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=44893&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=24&cHash=6d5c396e0540c1499db6337d930a8499](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/nc/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=44893&tx_ttnews[backPid]=24&cHash=6d5c396e0540c1499db6337d930a8499)

Recent reports suggest that the number of foreign recruits to the Islamic State (IS) has increased two-fold over the past year and a half (Gazeta.ru, December 8). At the same time, based on open sources, a group of researchers have found that the flow of jihadist recruits from Russia to the IS has increased three-fold and the **number of Russians fighting in the Middle East has reached approximately 4,700** (Rbc.ru, December 8). These figures are estimates and cannot be

rise over the past two years. At the same time, the flow of Chechens from Chechnya to Syria has significantly dropped in the past 12 months. Much of the decline can be explained by divisions among the Chechen commanders in Syria, who do not coordinate their actions and are often at loggerheads. A majority of those Chechens who joined the IS have become disillusioned with the policies of the so-called caliph. Thus, the decline in the number of Chechen recruits is largely due to

what they see in Syria upon their arrival. At the same time, Ramzan Kadyrov has introduced a system of collective punishment in Chechnya, which also dampens support for the IS among Chechens. If a member of a family goes to Syria, the republican authorities will punish the entire family. According to official Dagestani statistics, only 600 Dagestanis are fighting in Syria. However, Russian journalists say that, according to information learned from the republican police, as many as 5,000 Dagestanis are actually fighting in the Middle East (Gazeta.ru, December 3).



taken for granted. However, they give some sense of the ethnicity and citizenship of the foreign fighters participating in the Middle East conflict and the relative size of these foreign contingents. In October, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that 7,000 Russian citizens were fighting in Syria (Polit.ru, October 16). In reality, no one knows for certain how many insurgents from Russia are currently in the Middle East.

Residents of Chechnya and Dagestan certainly comprise the largest portion of the Russian citizens fighting in the ranks of Islamic State. It should be noted that the number of recruits from Dagestan has shown a particularly sharp

Is this large figure real? It depends on who is considered to have left the republic and in which direction. It appears that the Dagestani police suspect that all residents of the republic who left Russia for Turkey and the Middle East went to join the insurgents. In reality, however, many of the Dagestanis are simply doing business or studying in Turkey and other countries in the Middle East. The figure of 2,000 Dagestani militants in Syria is probably closer to reality. An investigative report by Yelena Milashina for the newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* suggests though that the problem is quite large. Just from the village



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of Novosaitli, in Dagestan's Khasavyurt district, alone, 22 people went to Syria, including three women. Novosaitli's population is about 2,500 (Novayagazeta.ru, July 29).

Five of the villagers died in Syria and five returned to Dagestan. The authorities launched criminal investigations against all of the returnees, based on Part 2, Article 208 of the Russian Criminal Code covering "participation in an armed group on the territory of a foreign state against the interests of the Russian Federation." The radicalization of Novosaitli's residents can be explained by the spread of



Salafism in the village, which is known for its Salafist proclivities. However, the number of such villages in Dagestan keeps growing. Milashina concludes that the Russian FSB (Federal Security Service) knowingly allows all willing recruits to leave Russia and join the IS. It is hard to believe the Russian government would adopt such a strategy. Moscow cannot fail to understand that if those people who go to Syria and acquire military experience there before returning to Russia, they will be much more dangerous than those who listen to radical speeches at mosques or via the Internet. The FSB should realize the consequences of people who they let go to Syria and the dangers they pose should they return to Russia (Novayagazeta.ru, July 29).

Dr. Mairbek Vatchagaev is a noted Chechen historian and political analyst on the North Caucasus and a former senior ranking official in the Chechen government of Aslan Maskhadov. A native of Chechnya, Dr. Vatchagaev is currently a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at The Jamestown Foundation and a regular contributor to the Jamestown publication Eurasia Daily Monitor where he writes about developments in the North Caucasus. He has published 56 articles on the history of Chechnya and Sufism in the North-Caucasus; 285 articles related to political science on the North Caucasus and Russia; including five books on the history and religion in Chechnya and the North Caucasus. In 1997 he published a book on the first 100

Meanwhile, to stem the mass exodus of Muslims to Syria, Dagestani members of the Russian State Duma proposed legislation to strip anyone who participates in terrorist activities outside Russia of their Russian citizenship ([Kavkazsky Uzel](#), December 4). At the same time, the Spiritual Board of Muslims of Dagestan is trying to take over those mosques in the republic that have the reputation of being Salafist. The republican clerics, however, have not been entirely successful in doing so ([Kavkazsky Uzel](#), December 3). The republican authorities have

also started prosecuting imams who justify terrorism ([Kavkazsky Uzel](#), December 9). Thus, it appears that the authorities are ramping up pressure on the Salafists in the republic.

Over the past several years, the police have been detaining mosque parishioners, whom they suspect of sympathizing with the Syrian militants. The police have detained such suspects at the doorsteps of the mosques, put their names on the list of possible participants of the armed Islamist underground in the republic, and have taken their fingerprints and

DNA samples (Chernovik.net, October 2). However, it should not be concluded that these actions are part of an attempt to temporarily reduce the intensity of the struggle in Dagestan by expelling the Salafis to Syria. It would be logical to assume that Russia is interested in sending agents to Syria to collect intelligence on the rebels. But in this case we are talking about individual cases, not about hundreds of Dagestanis leaving for the Middle East.

Still, Dagestan is the main Russian region that appears to be supplying the bulk of militants to Syria and is likely to remain so for quite some time.



days in office of the first ever democratically elected President of Chechnya—Aslan Maskhadov. He is also the author of the book, "Chechnya in the 19th Century Caucasian Wars."



Daesh can make fake Syrian passports: U.S. report

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/12/daesh-can-make-fake-syrian-passports-us.html>

Dec 11 – **A U.S. government agency report has warned that Islamic State has the ability to create fake Syrian passports, a federal official confirmed on Friday.**

A spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed the contents of a story by CNN on Friday about the report, but declined to provide a copy of the report.

The report says Islamic State has access to Syrian government passport printing machines and blank passports, raising the possibility the travel documents could be faked, CNN reported, citing a law enforcement source.

The CNN source added that there was also concern that because the militant group had access to biographical and fingerprint data on Syrian citizens, there was also a possibility of identity theft.

ABC News, which first reported the story on Thursday, said the report was released to law enforcement by the Homeland Security Investigations agency last week and raised the possibility that militants could use the documents to travel to the United States.

"Since more than 17 months [have] passed since Raqqa and Deir ez-Zour fell to ISIS, it is possible that individuals from Syria with passports 'issued' in these ISIS-controlled cities or who had passport blanks, may have traveled to the U.S.," ABC News quoted the report as saying.

State Department spokesman John Kirby, asked at a briefing on Friday about the ABC report, replied: "We have been aware of reports, not just in the press, that they may have obtained this capability."

FBI Director James Comey told a Senate committee hearing on Wednesday: "The intelligence community is concerned that they [Islamic State] have the ability, the capability to manufacture fraudulent passports, which is a concern in any setting."



What's in a Name: What's Wrong With "Radical Islamic Extremism"

By Vernon Schubel

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vernon-schubel/whats-in-a-name-whats-wro_b_8782396.html

Dec 11 – It has been fascinating to watch the discussions of Islam and Muslims in the current political context. One very popular "meme" on the American political right attacks President Obama for not using some form of the phrase "Muslim extremist" or "radical Muslim extremism" to refer to groups like ISIS or al-Qaeda or the perpetrators of the recent horrific mass shooting in San Bernadino. After all, the argument goes, how can you defeat "them" if you can't even call them by their proper name? At first blush it seems a somewhat silly argument.

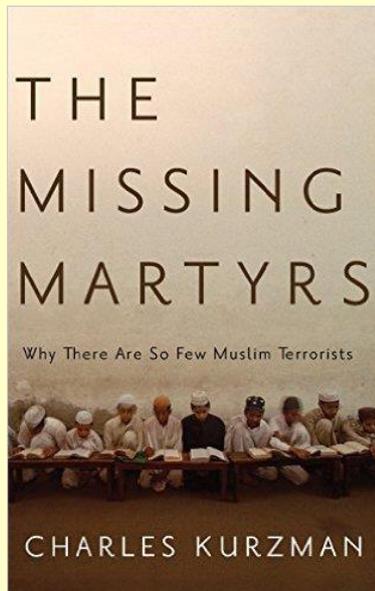
Why does calling al-Qaeda and and ISIS Islamic extremism make developing and implementing strategies against them any more

(or less) effective? But as an academic I am convinced that words do matter and I think it is crucial that we choose our words when labeling our enemies (and our friends) with great care. In my opinion, the term "Radical Islamic Extremism" is both so inaccurate and so loaded that we would be best advised to drop it from our vocabularies.

To say someone is a "Muslim extremist" implies that he or she takes the religion of Islam to its extreme. The same is true for the term "radical Islam." A radical is someone who takes his or her ideology back to its root, its essence. (Do you remember back in math class how a square root is placed under a



radical sign?) Thus to say that a Muslim extremist is someone who is misogynistic, legalistic, puritanical, intolerant and violent implies that at its core Islam is defined by these characteristics. Whatever "moderate Islam" might be Islam taken to its extreme--its ultimate end--looks like al-Qaeda or ISIS. Similarly, to hold up as examples of Muslim radicals Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik implies that at its root Islam is violent and hateful. When Robert Dear committed an act of domestic terrorism by killing people in a Planned Parenthood very few people called him a Christian extremist or a radical Christian. To have done so would be clearly unfair to the religious tradition of Christianity. If you were to ask me to name a radical Christian I would name Saint Francis of Assisi or Martin Luther King, not the Westboro Baptist Church. Similarly when I think of radical Muslims I think of Ibrahim ibn Adham the medieval king of Balkh who walked away from his palace to live a life of poverty and devotion or Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi whose poetic masterpiece *The Masnavi* describes Islam's essence in terms of radical and revolutionary love.



It seems to me that those voices that demand "we" call those Muslims who engage in horrific acts of violence "radical Muslim extremists" do so because they wish to label Islam as something at its heart violent and intolerant. They wish to somehow prove that the root cause of violence committed by people who identify as Muslims is Islam itself and paint Islam as fundamentally and irreparably flawed as a world religion. I would suggest that people who are tempted by this argument take a look at the sociologist Charles Kurzman's recent book **The Missing Martyrs** where he argues that rather than ask the question "Why are there so many Muslim terrorists?" we should ask ourselves instead "Why are there so few?" After all, in a world of 1.6 billion Muslims, the presence of perhaps 30,000 ISIS fighters represents a tiny percentage of the Muslim community. If Islam is--as its critics imply--at its very core a religion of violence, why have so few Muslims engaged in acts of politically motivated violence or even showed support for such violence? The answer is quite simple. Muslim terrorists are no more representative of "radical Islamic extremism" than Robert Dear is a representative of "radical Christian extremism." Unless we wish to associate all people of faith with these kinds of violence, we should stop using this terminology.

Vernon Schubel is a teacher and scholar of religion at Kenyon College who specializes in Islam in the contemporary world.

Can Yemenis escape?

Source: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/helen-lackner/can-yemenis-escape>

Dec 13 – **Is the coalition air and land war against Yemenis about to end?** A second round of 'peace talks' is scheduled to start in Geneva on 15 December. Getting to a date and a meeting which 'both' sides agree to attend has taken almost 6 months of efforts for Ismail Ould al Sheikh Ahmed, the new Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General. In addition to having had to cope with undermining by his predecessor and underwhelming support by the Permanent 5 of the UNSC, his nomination was accepted by the GCC largely because they considered him weak and ineffective.

He has operated in less than ideal conditions: merely achieving agreement on a meeting is a significant achievement, given the reluctance of the warring parties and the international environment. However, I have not met a single person who expects these talks to achieve very much, if anything. Hope is free and anyone with friends and family in Yemen has to continue to have some hope, what else can we do?



The coalition

Yemen has become the focus of not only a violent and murderous civil war between factions loosely aligned with the so-called 'legitimate' government on the one hand and former ruler Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Huthi allies on the other. While this unfortunate development was predicted by many in recent years, it was dramatically worsened by the open foreign intervention and emergence of a 'proxy' war between the Arab Gulf states led by a new, young and warmongering leadership in Saudi Arabia which insists that Yemen is the



site of a life or death struggle against its rival Iran for domination of the politics in the Arabian Peninsula.

Iranian involvement is blown up as a major threat regardless of reality, which includes limited material support but mostly boasts of responsibility for events Iran neither sponsored nor, in many cases, even supported; some experts describe these claims as demonstrating the immaturity of some of Iran's leadership. The coalition of Gulf States led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates includes all GCC states except Oman, and a variety of other Arab and African states whose motivation for joining is probably closely related to expectations of financial support from the GCC states.

Having upset the GCC states with its nuclear deal with Iran, the US and other western states are supinely assisting the GCC and abdicating any critical faculties, let alone respect for their own commitments through the Arms Control Treaty and other aspects of international humanitarian law. This to the extent of continuing to supply the coalition with arms and

ammunition including cluster bombs, which they know are used against civilians. Their immorality goes so far as feeble verbal protests at attacks by coalition air strikes or Huthi/Saleh shelling on humanitarian facilities, including the destruction of two hospitals run by a universally respected humanitarian organisation, Medecins sans Frontières, in addition to a total of 69 other medical facilities since March.

War-related suffering

By 2011, the country's economy had already largely collapsed, with over 54% of the population officially considered poor, water resources running out, drought destroying the limited agriculture, extremely high unemployment, continued rapid population growth and other ills. The popular uprisings of 2011 demonstrated that hope could triumph over realistic expectation, but these hopes were soon dashed when the struggle became dominated by the various elite factions supported by an international community which sought a change in leadership but not a change in social, political or economic policies, let alone a transformation of the military/security structures.

Just to bring the record up to date. In August this year, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross pointed out that, after 5 months of war, the situation in Yemen was as bad as that in Syria after 4 years of war, something which came as a real shock to those of us who follow the situation closely and thought that it would take at least two years to get that bad.

By December, according to the World Health Organisation, over 15 million Yemenis (over 58% of the population of 26 million) lack access to medical services, 20 million (77%) "lack access to safe water and sanitation, and conditions are ripe for a major disease outbreak". While the officially recorded death toll since March has reached over 5,700, this only accounts for those who died in functioning health facilities where records are kept. This toll ignores all premature deaths due to lack of access to medical treatment for chronic [diabetes, kidney failure etc...] or acute conditions. Similarly, the 27,000 recorded injuries only include those who reached medical treatment. The majority of



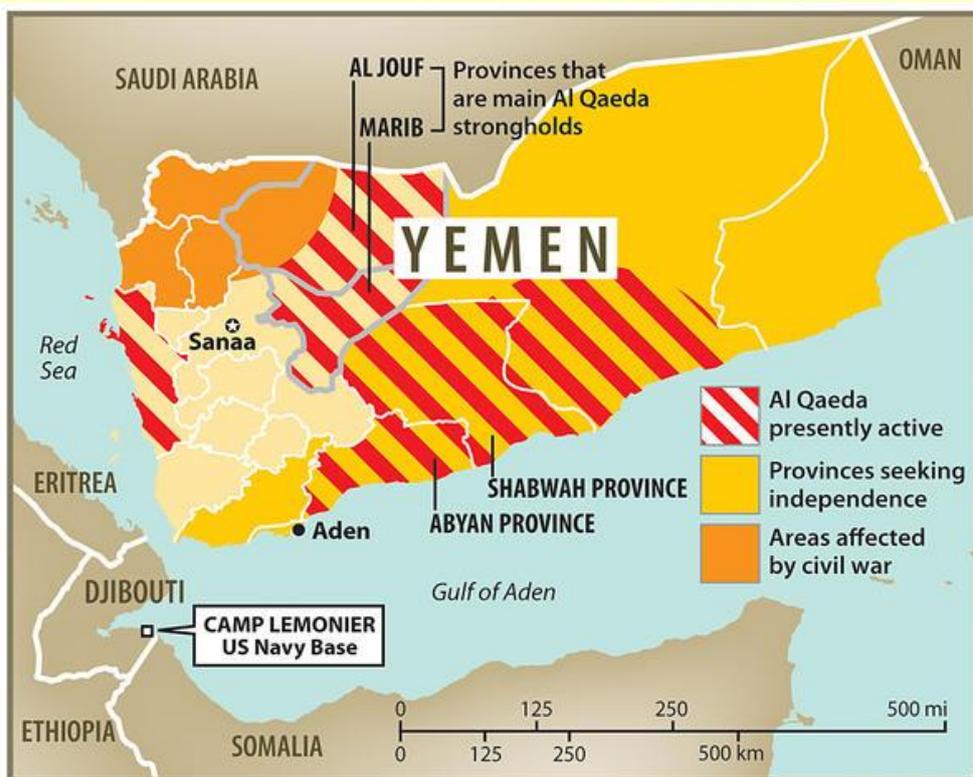
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medical facilities do not operate, lacking water, electricity, medical supplies and salaries for their staff. Taking into consideration the fact that all sides in the struggle are preventing basic food, medical and other supplies from reaching those living in areas under the control of their opponents, living conditions for the vast majority of the population have reached levels of desperation. The 'blockade' preventing the delivery of food and fuel primarily affects the ordinary citizens. The 'blockade' preventing the delivery of food and fuel primarily affects the ordinary citizens. The militias and other military factions get priority access to anything that does get through, either through 'taxation' or by simple force of arms, thus ensuring that attempts at weakening the enemy have the primary effect of worsening hunger and disease for the populations.

While the United Nations and its humanitarian

immediately pledged to finance the full USD 274 million requested by the UN for humanitarian work in April; that was the easy bit and good public relations. Then it proceeded to set up the King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aid in May to manage the disbursement of these funds. It then decided that each of the nine main UN organisations would have to sign one or more separate Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), thus ensuring further delay: the largest one was with the World Food Programme for USD 143 million agreed in September. These slow procedures have obviously delayed the delivery of assistance, regardless of the complex conditions imposed and the deep gratitude which the heads of each of these institutions expresses grandiloquently on receiving each cheque.

In the absence of any legitimate means of earning income to survive, Yemenis are more dependent than ever on their friends and relatives abroad. Such support is almost impossible to send because the international banking system is, occasionally at least, refusing to make transfers to Yemen. Meanwhile prices of all basic foods are rocketing: since March prices have risen on average by 57% for wheat, 74% for onions, 325% for cooking gas, 287% for diesel and 274% for petrol. These are average, things are far worse in the frontline areas [Taiz, al Baidha, Mareb and Jawf] and the areas which are furthest away from the ports. This is partly due to the unavailability of these basic products because of reduced imports (thanks to damage of



SOURCE: Graphic News

RICH CLABAUGH/STAFF

institutions are trying to help, it is worth noting first that they are only targeting 11.6 million people when their own data states that 21.2 million are in need. Second their appeal for USD 1.6 billion for this year had been only 49% funded by the end of November. Moreover much of this funding comes from the GCC states which actively 'politically' target their aid to prevent it from reaching the 'rebel' controlled areas. Saudi Arabia, the largest funder,

the port infrastructures and preventing many commercial ships from entering) and the cost of in-country transport due to fuel shortages. In this context the suggestion that famine is just round the corner hardly comes as a surprise. Water shortage is possibly even greater than that of food, as diesel is essential for much of the pumping necessary to extract the little available water. Costs rise



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throughout the system as checkpoints by any one of the many armed groups collect their share of goods going past them. This week, the newly appointed Governor of Aden and his escort were assassinated by a car bomb. He was widely respected by the city's population for actually trying to help.

Meanwhile the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate: this week, the newly appointed Governor of Aden and his escort were assassinated by a car bomb. He was widely respected by the city's population for actually trying to help improve security and governance in the city and was having an impact on the situation. In the past three years

of suspicion by all except his international political supporters, his close relationship with some of the previously mentioned elements has been explicitly mentioned in a recent report by the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

With all this, did Yemenis really also need the damage caused by two historically unprecedented cyclones hitting different parts in November? Just one of the many signs of the kind of events likely to become more frequent with the worsening of climate change.

Can Yemenis escape?

Escaping to neighbouring countries is barely an option. Travel to Saudi Arabia has been



many, if not all, middle ranking officials, whether military or civilian, who demonstrated commitment to their responsibilities and tried to improve the abysmal living conditions of the population, have been threatened and many have been killed. Who is behind these assassinations? Whose interests do they serve? Clearly those who want to see the country sink even further into lawlessness, havoc and turmoil. And these include not only the usually blamed and suspected Al Qaeda or Daesh but also Saleh whose policy since having to give up the presidency in 2012 has been *après moi le deluge* and has, unfortunately most successfully, done his best to demonstrate that without him in the driving seat, the country would collapse. After decades

severely restricted since 1990, with a fence/wall being built along much of the border between the two countries, and since the war started a few border posts have been opened where some Yemenis are allowed in, mostly those from the south, and under restrictions. Who is behind these assassinations? Whose interests do they serve?

New regulations have enabled many illegal Yemeni migrants in Saudi Arabia to regularise their situation, but these changes are more a security measure to control Yemenis than a humanitarian one to relieve suffering. The UN says that 30 000 Yemenis have entered Saudi Arabia between March and end of November. The border with Oman



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has been controlled by a fence constructed in the 1970s to prevent the infiltration of weapons and support to the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman who were defeated in 1975: but the fence has remained ever since. As a result only 500 Yemenis have been allowed in to Oman, by contrast with 50, 500 third party nationals! Travel by sea has been of little attraction in recent years when Somalis, Ethiopians and Eritreans were taking refuge in Yemen to get away from their own civil wars, climate induced droughts, and starvation. The crossing is exceedingly dangerous. The overwhelming majority of nearly 30, 000 who have gone to Somalia are Somalis, but over 3,000 are Yemenis who are so desperate that they have headed that way, while Djibouti has received over 16, 000 Yemenis. Overall the total number who left Yemen is close to 170, 000, but only 52, 000 of these are Yemenis. Travel to western states has been exceedingly difficult for many years even, in some cases, decades as a result of general constraints on the movement of poor people around the world, in this case worsened by the 'threat' posed by less than a handful of aggressive armed Islamists. Why or how an insignificant number of failed attempts at causing explosions on

aircraft can or should be used to demonise and punish the entire population of a country is a question rarely asked of our immigration services or political rulers. But the result is that most Yemenis don't even attempt to come to Europe or the USA and the latest suggestion by Donald Trump that 'all Muslims should be prevented from coming to the USA' is just another racist slur which unfortunately colours the debate, worsens perceptions and increases hostility.

Until recently, Yemenis could travel without visas to Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Malaysia. It can safely be assumed that few would choose to go to Syria where the war is as bad as or worse than in Yemen. Egypt, where there are already many Yemenis, does not provide a friendly and conducive atmosphere and has recently restricted visa-free entry to Yemenis over 45 or under 13 years of age. In the latest discouraging development, Jordanian authorities have cancelled their hospitable approach and demand visas; where is the Jordanian embassy in Yemen? Does it have a functioning visa service accessible to people? Only Malaysia remains, but for how much longer?

So what are Yemenis to do? Close the doors of their houses and slowly die of starvation and thirst? Try to get into boats and cross into Africa? Or face the minefields on the borders of Saudi Arabia and move *en masse*, the way Syrians are now heading for Europe? Is there any sense of humanity and solidarity left in the world?

Britain's ports will become soft target for terrorists

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3357780/Britain-s-ports-soft-target-terrorists-gun-smugglers-traffickers-intelligence-officers-relocated-away-coasts-warns-police-chief.html>

Home Secretary Theresa May has been warned that ports on the South Coast will become a soft target for terrorists because of secret plans to move intelligence teams to big cities.

After a nationwide review, Special Branch officers will next year be switched from harbours and marinas to London, Birmingham and Manchester, where the threat from extremists is feared to be higher.

But critics claim the move will leave the coast open to terrorists, gun-smugglers and people-trafficking gang.

And they say the situation has been made worse because funding for a crucial police

marine unit has been slashed, while the Border Force lacks the boats and officers needed to keep British waters safe.

Dorset crime tsar Martyn Underhill demanded assurances on safety from Mrs May and Britain's counter-terror chief Mark Rowley last week. He said: 'Paris was a game-changer – we know the terrorists crossed international borders.

'Dorset's marine section does not have a 24/7 service, which exposes the coastline as a vulnerable point for unopposed access to the county, unless we have a strong Border Force and Special Branch.'





Harbour users in Weymouth say the port is effectively 'wide open' because there is no permanent Border Force or Customs presence.

One RNLI crewman added: "Basically, this port is wide open. The last time we saw any kind of security was for the Olympics back in 2012."



Captain Paul Compton, vice-commodore of the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, said: 'There's no security to speak of. You just arrive in port, tie up, discharge passengers and off you go. 'If anyone saw suspicious activity in this port they probably wouldn't even know who to ring. You need boots on the quay.'

Crime tsars in Hampshire and Sussex have also expressed concern about coastal security. The potential for ports to be exploited was highlighted in August when 22 assault rifles and nine Skorpion machine pistols were smuggled into a marina near



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Rochester, Kent, on board a motor cruiser.
 And 13 French fishermen are now on trial for allegedly smuggling 200 mostly Albanian passengers to British shores.
 The potential threat to British shipping and ports was also brought into focus last month when Royal Marines stormed a ferry in a dramatic exercise to practise combating a terror attack at sea.
 The National Police Chiefs Council defended redeploying Special Branch officers under the Demand, Risk and Resource review, which has never been made public.

A spokesman said: 'A review of how we use counter-terrorism resources to best protect the public has been under way for two years. This will ensure that we have the right resources in the right places.'

'It helps us understand the services delivered across the network and decisions can be taken on prioritising and transferring assets around the country.'

'Proposed measures from this review will ensure that counter-terror policing has the flexibility to prioritise its resources in the places where there is the greatest threat and risk.'

What happens when Gitmo terrorists are released?

By Alexander Athos

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-happens-when-gitmo-terrorists-released-alexander-athos>

Aug 13 – What happens when Gitmo terrorists are released?

They, like all good Wahhabi Salafi fanatics are apt to do given the opportunity, commit terror in the name of Allah.

Ibrahim bin Shakran, Ahmed Mizouz and Mohammed Alami were all terrorists in Afghanistan captured by US forces in 2001. These Moroccan Wahhabi Salafi Jihadi once trained at the same Afghan camp where the Sept. 11 hijackers trained. After their capture they were sent to Guantanamo Bay detention camp.

These Moroccan religious fanatics were foolishly released from Gitmo by President George W Bush into the 'custody' of Moroccan authorities in 2004. But those authorities set them free.

Shakran and Mizouz immediately returned to jihadist activities, were arrested and convicted of supporting terrorism in 2007, and then freed from prison after serving short sentences.

Ibrahim bin Shakran aka Abu Ahmad al Maghribi aka Abu Ahmad al Muhajir, aka Brahim Binshekrun, was a committed Wahhabi Salafi extremist and part of the **Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group** (French name *Groupe Islamique Combattant Marocain* or *GIFC*) aka **Salafia Jihadia**, affiliated with Al Qaeda. GICM follows a Wahhabi Salafi ideology committed to Sharia dominance of the world by violent Jihad. Members of Salafia Jihadia have been charged with arson, petty crime, kidnapping, drug dealing, and murder, and the massive terror attacks in Casablanca in 2003 and in Madrid Spain in 2004. Salafism spread through Morocco as it did on most of the Middle East and Africa via the work of 'scholars' who 'studied' in Saudi Arabia at the hands of Takfiri preachers. Salafi thought began to make inroads among the Muslim youth. The ideology advocated by Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri and others was admired by Moroccan Salafis especially with what was going on at the time in Afghanistan. Dozens of Moroccans and their families ended up going to Afghanistan to fight there. After the US invasion of Afghanistan, a number of these people returned to Morocco and started to form cells led by fighters from the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group. [See Article](#)

Salafia Jihadia's latest spiritual leader, is **Mohamed Fizazi** (pictured left below). He radicalized countless young Muslim men at Tariq Ibn Ziyad Mosque in Beni Makada in Tangier (named after the Muslim General who crossed the Straits of Gibraltar to attack and subjugate Spain for Islam in the Eighth century). This hate preacher, was given a sentence of 30 years in prison for his part in the *Salafia Jihadia terror attacks in 2003*.

But as USMC Gomer Pyle would say 'surprise surprise' this Wahhabi Salafi folk hero was given a royal pardon in 2011 from Wahhabist King, Mohammed VI. (The King is pictured center being supine to the cleric Fizazi and pictured right feigning respect for President Bush in 2002 when he visited Washington).





GIFC is largely a religious grouping that spawns terror cells that use certain brand names. It is a religious extremist organization using terrorism to achieve its goals. In fact, Salafia Jihadia is also the name of the larger Wahhabi jihadist doctrine exported to the rest of the Arab world by Saudi Arabian radicals following the Gulf War of 1991.

In contrast, most Moroccans follow the moderate Sunni 'Malekite' school/version of Islam. [See Article](#) The capital of Morocco is not Casablanca as many suppose but Rabat (which in Arabic means Fortified Place). It is the land of the Berbers. Morocco has been sliding into Muslim fundamentalism aka Wahhabi Salafi ideology for many years since the 1070's influx of Wahhabi teachers into the country. Wahhabi salafism has officially been allowed and encouraged so as to be manipulated by the Moroccan Makhzen since the late 1970s. Sheikh Mohammed Maghraoui was its spiritual leader (infamous for his controversial fatwa stating that marriage of 9-year old girls was allowed). The Wahhabi salafi current was officially allowed and encouraged by King Hassan II as a means to counter and weaken the increasing influence of Al-adl-wa-al-Ihsan and the left wing. [See Article](#). See [Article II](#).

GIFC has been banned worldwide by various countries as a terrorist organization including by the UN 1267 Committee. GIFC is active in Morocco, Europe (especially Spain) and Canada. It was responsible for the 2003 Casablanca (Morocco) terror attacks that murdered 45 people in a Spanish owned restaurant, a 5 star hotel, a Jewish cemetery and community centre, and the Belgian consulate. In total 33 people along with 12 suicide bombers were killed, 100 people injured (97 of whom were fellow Muslims). The GIFC was also responsible for the Madrid train bombing in Madrid Spain in 2004 that saw 191 innocents murdered.



The Al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi ordered the attacks. (Shakran died in 2014).

Mohammed Alami. (He was killed in Syria in 2013). **Ahmed Mizouz** is still breathing somewhere in Syria.

Did they go back to be fine upstanding members of their communities after their release from Gitmo?

No. They started a terrorist outfit called the Islamic Movement of the Levant or Harakat Sham al-Islam or (HSI) (listed on the US State Department list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists) under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224 "which imposes sanctions and penalties on terrorists and those providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism. As a result of the designations, all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which these individuals or groups have any interest is blocked and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with them or to their benefit." [See Article](#)

HSI committed atrocities including war crimes in the 2013 attacks on the town of Latakia in Syria along with other foreign fighters from ISIS and Al Nusra. Latakia was "the first



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significant massacre of religious minorities in August 2013 in Latakia province, which Human Rights Watch deemed a "crime against humanity." [See article](#)



This Jihadist group in April of 2014 violently attacked a Christian village of Kassab in Syria depopulating it of its 2,500 Christian inhabitants. All the Christian Churches were desecrated. All the homes and businesses in the town were given to radical Muslims. "Particularly infuriating to Kassab's displaced families was the report that Turkish soldiers, who were supposedly guarding the nearby border, did nothing to stop the invading rebels." [See Article](#) In fact there are reports that suggest that Turkey allowed the Jihadists to invade the Christian town from Turkish territory, equipped them and even fired artillery in support of their attack. HSI has carried out terrorist attacks and engaged in kidnappings against civilians with other violent extremist organizations in Syria, including al-Nusrah Front (Al Qaeda Syria)." [See Article](#)

Wahhabi Salafis are extremists bent on global Jihad to restore the so called 'glory' of Islam of the 7th and 8th Centuries based on the values, theology and practices of that era as they interpret it. Thier ideology is completely incompatible with any notions of humanity, human rights or freedoms that we in the West cherish. To them it is anathema. Once captured, these religiously motivated terrorists should never be released. Gitmo should never be closed until the terrorism stops.

August 13, 2015: [Ex-Guantanamo detainee now an al Qaeda leader in Yemen](#) Ibrahim Qosi, who is also known as Sheikh Khubayb al Sudani. Enemy of civilization 39 year old Saudi Gitmo prisoner No 42 AKA **Abdul Rahman Shalabi** was released into the 'custody' of KSA for 'rehabilitation' from extremism this week. Shalabi was Osama bi Laden's bodyguard. Apparently he was released because he promised to spending his days "in peace with his family." sure he will <https://lnkd.in/btsDDz2> <http://media.miamiherald.com/static/images/escenic-images/gitmopdfs/us9sa-000042dp.pdf>

With the transfer, there are now nine Saudi prisoners left in Gitmo. One pleaded guilty to war crimes and is awaiting sentencing. Another is an indefinite detainee. Two are awaiting death penalty trials in the Sept. 11 attacks and USS Cole bombings. Four were at one time considered for war crimes trials and have no release status.

The ninth is former British resident Shaker Aamer, who the Washington Post predicted Tuesday would get the Secretary of Defense's approval for transfer "in the coming weeks" along with a long held, long cleared Mauritanian captive. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/quantanamo/article36205485.html#storylink=cpy>. And yes it will now happen: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/quantanamo/article36538935.html> 46 years old Shaker Aamer was



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captured in Afghanistan in 2001 whilst working for a “charity” and was according to US authorities described as a “close associate of Osama Bin Laden” who fought in the battle of Tora Bora.

And it's a 'gift' that keeps on giving: [Guantanamo Bay inmate flees UK to join Isis in Syria](#)

See too: The Muslim convert began life as Ronald Fiddler before turning to Islam in the 1990s and changing his name to Jamal Udeen Al-Harith.

Al-Harith started an Internet relationship with Samantha Cook, who lived in Perth, Australia. He traveled there in early 2000 to meet her in person. She is the daughter of the Australian Senator Peter Cook.

[See Article](#)

On 2 October 2001 he travelled to the city of Quetta, in Pakistan, on what he claimed was a religious holiday. He was captured by the Americans and sent to Gitmo. After being released in 2004 he lived in the UK. Last year he abandoned his wife and children to fight with ISIS in Syria. [Article](#)

Alexander Athos is a researcher, writer and businessman. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (European History and Comparative Religion).



72 DHS Employees on a Terror Watchlist

Source: <http://www.clarionproject.org/news/72-dhs-employees-terror-watchlist>



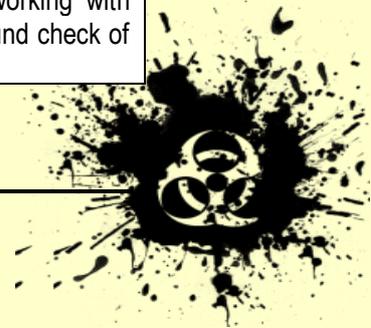
Dec 08 – **A congressional investigation found 72 employees of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) were on a [terror watchlist](#) at the same time.**

“Back in August, we did an investigation—the inspector general did—of the Department of Homeland Security,” Rep. Stephen Lynch (D- Massachusetts) told Boston public radio “and they had 72 individuals that were on the terrorist watch list that were actually working at the Department of Homeland Security.”

“The [former DHS] director had to resign because of that,” he added.

Similar failures were seen in France, where **57 workers at Charles de Gaulle international airport in Paris were found to be on a [terror watchlist](#).** A full review of all 1,000 employees was ordered as a result.

EDITOR’S COMMENT: Why is everyone in the US and France so surprised? And in UK as well – remember the case of the Pakistani (if I remember well) Met superintendent some years ago that proved to have been in training at an Asian terrorist camp? When I applied for a MI5 CBRN position I got a negative answer because I was not British (despite my 35yrs in the Greek military). Not to mention my US experience with a fraud Cuban security consultant office in Houston, TX (read the story at the “[New Issue](#)” section of the Newsletter – at the bottom left column). She was also working with Homeland Security. Even now or especially now it is time to conduct an in depth background check of all those involved in critical infrastructure security in multicultural societies (...)



Now ISIS issues fatwa to kill children with Down Syndrome

Source: <http://www.onlyloudest.com/now-isis-issues-fatwa-to-kill-children-with-downs-syndrome/>



Dec 14 – ISIS Shar'ia Board issued a savage (oral fatwa) to its members authorising them to kill newborn babies with Down Syndrome and congenital deformities and disabled children. Information indicates that most of the children born with Down Syndrome are those of foreign fighters who married Iraqi, Syrian and Asian women. The activists recorded more than 38 confirmed cases of killing babies with congenital deformities and Down Syndrome, aged between one week to three months. They were killed by either lethal injection or suffocation.

If report is true then ISIS has taken a leaf from the Nazis, who murdered disabled children it perceived to be a burden on the state.

Fighting Terrorism: French Edition

By Matt Vespa

Source: <http://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2015/12/13/fighting-terrorism-french-edition-n2093009>

Dec 13 – The French have been the subject of ridicule regarding their military capabilities. We, at some point, have poked fun of the French for their disasters abroad to the point where calling someone French insinuates the recipient of the slur is either weak, aloof, or both. Yet, to the contrary, the French military is quite capable of delivering devastating blows. Moreover, they've been at the forefront in combating terrorism long before our respective intelligence and law enforcement saw radical Islam as a threat to the United States; the 9/11 attacks electroshocked our national security apparatus into action. Then again, the lion share of techniques the French employ to combat terror

would certainly be struck down as unconstitutional over here.

In 2006, *Foreign Policy* magazine had [a great piece](#) of how the French detect, neutralize, and investigate terrorism. In 1988, the then-top antiterrorist magistrate recalls being viewed as a "Martian," when he spoke at the FBI's training academy in Quantico, Virginia about the threat of Islamic terrorism. At the time, the FBI's main concern was right-wing hate groups and environmental warriors, according to the publication.

So, how did the French become so good at fighting terrorism? Well, as *FP* noted, they were the



first western nation to experience international terrorism on their shores that date back to the Algerian War of Independence from the 1950s and the terror attacks from Palestinian-based groups in the 1970s. The French quickly figured out that their judicial system and law enforcement apparatus was inadequate to combat this threat. By 1986, the French passed a comprehensive antiterrorism law to readdress these concerns:

[The law] set up a centralized unit of investigating magistrates in Paris led by Marsaud and later by Judge Jean-Louis Bruguire with jurisdiction over all terrorism cases. Unlike normal French criminal proceedings, terrorist trials in France are judged only by panels of professional magistrates, without the participation of juries. In the French system, an investigating judge is the equivalent of an empowered U.S. prosecutor. The judge is in charge of a secret probe, through which he or she can file charges, order wiretaps, and issue warrants and subpoenas. The conclusions of the judge are then transmitted to the prosecutors' office, which decides whether to send the case to trial. The antiterrorist magistrates have even broader powers than their peers. For instance, they can request the assistance of the police and intelligence services, order the preventive detention of suspects for six days without charge, and justify keeping someone behind bars for several years pending an investigation. In addition, they have an international mandate when a French national is involved in a terrorist act, be it as a perpetrator or as a victim. As a result, France today has a pool of specialized judges and investigators adept at dismantling and prosecuting terrorist networks.

[...]
French police and intelligence services... operate in a permissive wiretapping system. In addition to judicially ordered taps, there are also administrative wiretaps decided by security agencies under the control of the government. Although the French have had their own cases of abuse evidence has exposed illegal spying by the Francois Mitterrand government in the 1980s the intrusive police powers are for the most part well known by the public and thus largely accepted, especially when it comes to national security.

On the ground, these trans-Atlantic disparities amount to a big difference. Take the case of

Ahmed Ressay, an Algerian man arrested in late 1999 at the U.S.-Canadian border with a car full of explosives. When U.S. authorities determined that he intended to bomb Los Angeles International Airport, they had no clues about his background. But Bruguire already had a comprehensive dossier on Ressay and concluded that he was connected to a network of radical Islamists based in Montreal who were possibly plotting attacks in North America.

As a result, the French are regarded as the elite in anti-terror operations in Europe, though they tend not to harp on this point, as these protocols doesn't mean that they're 100 percent safe from attacks. In [July 2014](#), the French stopped a devastating plot to fly airplanes into the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and a nuclear power plant. What happened on the horrific night of November 13 tragically proves that no one is truly safe from those who use these tactics to fulfill a political agenda. Then again, those who mess with France often regret it. Granted, it's smaller in scale and scope, but they offer up "lethal" results. In other words, "if the French are determined to hurt someone, they will" (via [Politico](#)) [emphasis mine]:

There is a French way of warfare that reflects the French military's lack of resources and its modest sense of what it can achieve. They specialize in carefully apportioned and usually small but lethal operations

[...]

Emblematic of the French approach was France's military intervention in the Central African Republic in March 2007. To stop a rapidly moving rebel advance into the country from the Sudanese border, the French attacked using a single fighter plane and two waves of paratroopers totaling no more than a "few dozen" who dropped into the combat zone in the Central African town of Birao. In military terms, what the French did was a pinprick, yet it was sufficient to break the rebel advance like placing a rock in the path of a wave. It was, moreover, a risky thing to do: Airborne assaults are intrinsically dangerous, all the more so when one has little capacity to reinforce or withdraw the lightly armed soldiers in an emergency. The first wave of "less than 10" soldiers reportedly made a high-altitude drop. The French military, moreover, did all this quietly, with the French press only learning of



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the intervention a few weeks after the fact. France's intervention in Mali in January 2013 also illustrated these attributes amply. For one thing, the French showcased high-end combined arms and "joint" fire and maneuver capabilities, meaning they deftly made use of everything they had at hand—special forces and conventional forces, tanks and infantry, artillery, helicopters and jet fighters—in an orchestrated and integrated fashion that made the most of every resource available.

[...]

What makes the French way of war distinct from, say, the U.S. way of war has to do with scarcity. The French military is highly conscious of its small size and lack of resources. This translates into several distinctive features of French military operations. One is an insistence on modest objectives, on limiting strictly the aims of a military invention in line with a modest assessment of what the military can accomplish. The French thus aim low and strive to achieve the minimal required. Whenever possible, they try to limit the use of the military to missions for which militaries really can be of use. Meaning, **militaries are good at violence; if violence is what is required, then send in the military.** Otherwise, not. **The French military abhors mission creep** and want no part in things such as "nation building."

Regarding its counterterror operations, France has a legal arsenal working in tandem with law enforcement to neutralize threats. They're very good at it. Concerning the military option, France knows the limits of their power and the resources in which to achieve the goal, a notion that seems to have been lacking among those who call themselves "neoconservatives." Democracy doesn't accelerate if American troops are there, and nation building tested the patience of the voters to the breaking point. Such long-term, and arduous, social engineering experiments will probably never been put forward as a serious policy initiative again, given that we're focused on a region of the world where the principles of democratic representation never flourished.

Yes, the Obama administration doesn't have a clear strategy to tackle ISIS. That's an enormous problem, but so are the apparent problems within the halls of the Pentagon. Given that defense is one of the biggest items in the budget after entitlements, it's no shocker that the Department of Defense is bloated, and that the department's "lack of vision" is also part of the problem. Apparently, the flaws that some see in the current decision/policy making process at the DoD are akin to the ones that the Goldwater-Nichols Act addressed back in 1986.

Matt Vespa is the Associate Editor at Townhall.com. He previously worked for CNSNews.com and was the recipient of Americans for Prosperity Foundation's 2013 Andrew Breitbart Award for Excellence in Online Activism and Investigative Reporting.



A Century of Terrorism

By - Divij Dabbas

Source: <http://www.misadventureblog.com/a-century-of-terrorism.html>

Let's start with a simple question. How many all-time terror attacks you can recall right now?

10, 20 or 30 at Max if you are super good.

Did you know that Nov 2015 alone accounted for over 40 Terror attacks and 2015 itself accounted for 320 attacks so far?

As part of this heavily researched post, covering International Terrorism activities over last 115 years with 3,111 terror attacks, the intention is to boost your Terror IQ and probably shatter some misconceptions you may have held for so long.

At the end of the post you will be asked a Golden Question which may sound offensive but will still force you to do some really deep thinking.

By the way, do us a favor and remember this seemingly random day "27th



August". We will let you know the significance shortly in the Terror Trivia section.

► Read the rest of this interesting article with a lot of infographics at source's URL.

Divij Dabbas is Product Manager at Tecnotree Corporation @ Gurgaon, Haryana, India

Two Swedes get life sentences for 'terrorist crimes' in Syria

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-sweden-warcrimes-idUSKBN0TX1JX20151214#rceSw2W15uVro7SQ.97>

Dec 14 – **Two Swedish men were sentenced to life in prison on Monday for "terrorist crimes" in Syria in 2013, a Swedish district court said in a statement. The two men, aged 32 and 30, were convicted of assisting in executions in Syria.**

During a search of one of the men's homes, police had found a USB stick containing films showing the killings, the court was told. In a video shown in court by the prosecutor, masked men stood around three men on their knees with their hands tied behind their backs. Two of the victims have their throats slit. The head of one is cut off and held up for display. Their captors - including the men identified by the prosecutor as the two Swedes - are seen cheering. The court argued that since the killings and the video intended to seriously intimidate the population of Syria, the two men's actions should be considered a terrorist crime. "They didn't hold the knife, but otherwise they were highly involved," prosecutor Agnetha Hildning Qvarnstrom said during the trial.

The court did not name the organization the men fought for but said it was proven that the men sympathized with a regime based on sharia law and the creation of a caliphate.

The two men pleaded not guilty, claiming they had not been among the masked men. Swedish news agency TT said both would appeal the court's decision, and for legal reasons most Swedish media did not reveal their identities. The identities of the executed men were not clear but the court said they were likely to have been civilians. It was the first conviction of Swedish citizens on charges of "terrorist crimes" in Syria. Mouhannad Droubi, 28, a Swedish resident, was however sentenced to five years in prison in February for a "torture-like" assault in Syria that was filmed and posted on social media.

According to security police, around 280 Swedes have joined terrorist organizations in Syria or Iraq since 2012 and around 115 have returned to Sweden.



Terror attacks in Paris and California expose modern society's lack of resilience

By Joseph Fiksel

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20151214-terror-attacks-in-paris-and-california-expose-modern-society-s-lack-of-resilience>

Dec 14 – The terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris on 13 November shattered the complacency of the French lifestyle. A few weeks later, a savage attack erupted in San Bernardino, California, further exposing the vulnerability of Western societies.

Dealing with terrorism and, in particular, with the frightening emergence of the ruthless Islamic State organization, also known as ISIS, will preoccupy the attention of world leaders for some time.

But there is a larger lesson to be gained from this and other recent crises. Put very simply: our complex global society lacks resilience.

What do I mean by that? Everything from our vulnerability to power failures to our overreaction of vilifying people who merely "look like" the perpetrators of violent acts, an overreaction demonstrated by Donald Trump's recent call to close our borders to Muslims.

The good news is that we can improve our resilience. First let's examine our society's vulnerabilities.



Economic vulnerability

Terrorism is just one of many global threats that we face.

Our economy is highly vulnerable to a range of unexpected crises such as the 2011 tsunami that destroyed Japan's Fukushima nuclear power station, causing costly delays in the electronics, motor vehicles and other industries.

Since 2001, the United States has endured a series of disruptions, including hurricanes, power blackouts, oil spills, bridge collapses, gas-line explosions and aircraft accidents.

The giant reinsurance company, Munich Re, reports a sharp increase in the number of natural disasters during the past thirty-two years — a trend that is linked to climate change.

Are we adequately prepared for the next catastrophe, even though we cannot predict what it will be?

Warning: turbulence ahead

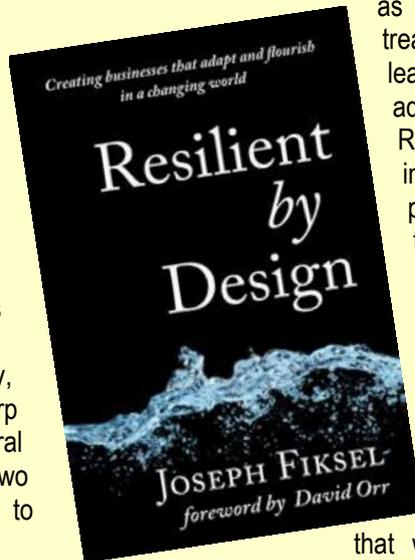
The root cause of our vulnerability is the structure of the global economy: highly interconnected, complex, and filled with turbulence.

Major disasters can occur unexpectedly, and even minor incidents can cascade into significant human and financial losses. Emerging pressures such as climate change and urbanization will only intensify the potential for extreme events and severe disruptions. When a catastrophe occurs, we rush to aid the victims, but the memory quickly fades and we return to business as usual, dealing with more immediate financial or political pressures.

Could we do a better job at anticipating and responding to unforeseen events?

Although businesses, communities and government agencies have developed elaborate "risk management" systems to detect vulnerabilities, this approach has an inherent weakness. It cannot protect against unidentified risks.

In an increasingly complex and volatile global economy, it is virtually impossible to predict and analyze all possible disruptions. Rather than resisting the inevitable waves of change, we need to embrace change and learn to ride the waves.



Learning to embrace change

In my book **Resilient by Design**, I argue that to embrace change requires going beyond the traditional approach of minimizing unwanted disruptions and recovering normal operations as quickly as possible. We must treat each surprise event as a learning experience, and adapt accordingly.

Risk management makes sense in a stable environment with predictable events, but in today's more complex risk landscape — the new normal — it is inadequate for dealing with fast-moving, unfamiliar threats that may cascade into disasters.

The most damaging disruptions are often a result of rare, "black swan" events that were never anticipated. Who would have guessed, for example, that a volcano in Iceland would ground virtually all air traffic in Western Europe?

The U.S. government and many private companies have begun to study the resilience of our economic systems, urban communities and the infrastructures that support them.

A particular concern is adaptation to the emerging effects of climate change, including extreme weather and rising sea levels. Rather than responding to crises after the fact, we are beginning to design dynamic systems that are better prepared to anticipate crises and more capable of coping in the aftermath. For example, package delivery companies such as UPS use real-time monitoring systems to quickly reroute deliveries in the event of a transportation disruption.

Resilience — the capacity to survive, adapt, and flourish in the face of disruptive change — is a basic characteristic of all living systems, from individual creatures to entire ecosystems. Most people are psychologically resilient in the face of setbacks, ranging from diseases to divorces or job layoffs.

Human communities are remarkably resilient, and many cities have been completely rebuilt after catastrophic events. In contrast, engineered systems such as machines, buildings and industrial supply chains are generally more "brittle" and prone to failure or collapse.



CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – December 2015**Designing for resilience**

Brittleness is not inevitable. It is a fundamental design flaw.

Mechanistic systems based on logical rules cannot cope with events that the designers failed to anticipate. We have much to learn from the natural world, where resilience is seen everywhere from cells to organisms to entire ecosystems.

Today, innovative companies are learning to behave more like living systems, sensing, responding and adapting to change. They view resilience as a source of competitive advantage and are supplementing traditional risk management methods with adaptive processes and technologies.

For example, IBM has worked with the city of Rotterdam to deploy advanced cyber-based methods for flood detection and control, enabling the city to cope with the increasing intensity of flooding events. And researchers at The Ohio State University have developed a supply chain resilience assessment tool that helps to spot a company's areas of vulnerability and identify corresponding capabilities that need to be strengthened.

Resilience capabilities are quite diverse, ranging from physical design of operations to information technologies to training of employees.

One basic approach to resilience is reducing the concentration and complexity of a system: for example, by building smaller-scale, distributed facilities instead of a single centralized facility. Global giants like Dow Chemical are exploring a range of supply chain resilience strategies, from increased flexibility of transportation modes to early warning systems that sense and respond quickly to surprise events.

And next-generation nuclear plants will have safety features that eliminate the chance of a meltdown. We hope.

Leveraging the human factor

The above research has shown that human intelligence and creativity are among the most powerful tools available to build resilience against unforeseen threats and enable both companies and communities to flourish.

Clearly the most challenging threat that we face today is the rise of violent extremism. Terrorist organizations, with their decentralized structure and covert operations, are inherently more resilient than the traditional armed forces deployed by nation-states.

Despite huge investments by the United States and its allies in counterintelligence, we are still ineffective in "asymmetric" warfare. Overwhelming force may achieve temporary victories, but cunning and subterfuge eventually prevail.

To defeat terrorism, we may need to leverage the human factor — and its inherent resilience — by taking advantage of citizen involvement, social media and other nontraditional tools.

For example, the surveillance work of intelligence agencies can be complemented by conscious public efforts to promote inclusiveness, avoid alienation of minorities, and reach out to potential dissidents. This type of adaptation seems more promising than trying to shut our borders to entire classes of immigrants.

In this age of turbulence, resilience has become a prerequisite for continued prosperity. Simply going back to business as usual — as we've too often done — is not the best strategy. Rather than bouncing back, we need to bounce forward.

Joseph Fiksel is Executive Director, Sustainable & Resilient Economy, Ohio State University.

**What France Has Found In Mosque Raids Deeply Disturbing**

Source: <http://usherad.com/france-found-mosque-raids-deeply-disturbing-proof-trump-100-right/#>

Once again Donald Trump has created a firestorm and media frenzy as news outlets across the country played almost nonstop, Trump's speech calling for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country, and within seconds of completing his speech a firestorm of condemnation erupted almost immediately, and from virtually all quarters.

And while Trump was being vilified and attacked as a racist and a bigot for even suggesting a ban on this peaceful religion, back in Paris the authorities were raiding Islamic mosques to see what was hidden.



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And what was hidden would make a Muslim Jihadist proud! Found was a large collection of 7.62 Kalashnikov ammo along with boxes of Islamic State (ISIS) propaganda videos, at a Langy-sur-Marne based mosque.

Police also found recordings of religious chants “glorifying the martyrs of jihad linked to the terrorist organization Jabhat al-Nusra”, the Syrian branch of al-Qaeda.



The recordings were found among a wealth of teaching material for young people in an undeclared madrassa, or religious school. Police removed a hard disk and 10 computers.

It would seem that the French have finally decided to combat the evil of radical Islam after the carnage in Paris, and have stepped up their efforts with the arrest of more than 230 Muslims and

collection of more than 324 weapons. Many others are under travel bans and house arrest, while shutting down three mosques and raiding more than 2,300 homes.

Obviously the French and one Donald Trump are taking the “war on terrorism” seriously, now if only those self-aggrandized political hacks in America and the politically correct progressive media would simply get their heads out of their collective...you can fill in the rest!

Canada's Growing Jihadi Cancer

Source: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/12/14/canada-s-growing-jihadist-cancer.html>

Ignore growing Muslim fundamentalism and extremism in Canada at your peril. That's the message an increasingly vocal number of moderate and secular Canadian Muslims and counterterrorism experts want to send to the United States and the rest of the world.

The attention focused last week on the Ontario branch of al-Huda, the same religious school the San Bernardino

killer Tashfeen Malik attended in Pakistan, is just one example of increasing fundamentalism all over Canada.

Saudi-funded Islamic

Radical mosques with reported ties to terrorist organizations have flourished in and around Toronto as well as in Montreal, while some politicians, including Canada's new prime minister, Justin Trudeau, have been reluctant to constrain or even criticize these groups, defending them in the name of diversity and multiculturalism.

For instance, the Mississauga, Ontario, branch of the al-Huda school closed for at least one day last week after CBC reported that four girls who studied there left Canada to join the so-called Islamic State. “Farhat Hashmi runs al-Huda and denies that jihad is being taught there,” Dr. Farzana Hassan of the moderate Canadian Muslim Congress told The Daily Beast. “She's not telling the truth. I've listened to her podcasts in the Urdu language. She praises jihad and says women should participate. There is a possibility of impressionable young women hearing that and being radicalized.”

Canada's new telegenic Prime Minister Trudeau, 43, the ultimate anti- Donald Trump, was pictured last week warmly greeting the first of an estimated 25,000 Syrian refugees arriving between now and March 2016. (Canada's population is about one-tenth of the United States, so that's as if 250,000 Syrian refugees were arriving in the U.S. in the space of just four months.)

But some worry that the feel-good photo op for Trudeau and his Liberal Party could portend trouble for Canada.

Toronto attorney and human rights activist David Harris said the new influx of Syrian refugees is part of a “gigantic and overly generous immigration policy,” coupled with a lax vetting process and a philosophy of encouraging newcomers to retain their cultural traditions that has negative connotations for Canada.



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"It's very interesting to see how the deteriorating situation in Canada and the implications for northern America border security has not been recognized," said Harris.

"Massive immigration here has created an immigration-industrial complex with all sorts of publicly funded language schools, settlement organizations and lobbying groups that have sprung up like the Sorcerer's Apprentice," said Harris. "Because Canada is so much smaller in population, there are areas of the country starting to resemble tribal homelands and the loyalty is not to Canada. Canada is extremely vulnerable to extremism and terrorism."

Brian Levin, a former NYPD officer turned counter-terrorism and extremism specialist at San Bernardino State, concurred.

"People talk about Mexico," said Levin. "They totally overlook Canada. Nobody has any idea what's going on up there. In my opinion it's a bigger threat than Mexico."

Given Prime Minister Trudeau's good looks, his political pedigree, a one-time TV-anchor wife who *the New York Post* called "the hottest First Lady in the world," and his headline-making cabinet featuring many women and minorities, he recently scored a spread in *Vogue*.

But he's come under fire at home for what some see as pandering to the Muslim vote and an extreme political correctness. He has said he will revamp aspects of C-51, the controversial anti-terrorism bill that the Conservative Party enacted this year.

Trudeau visited mosques all over Canada as part of his political campaigns leading up to his recent win. He visited a notorious Montreal mosque in 2011, a month before the U.S. classified it as an al Qaeda recruitment center. He addressed a mosque with ties to Hamas and, unlike his Conservative Party predecessor, former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, he defends the right for Muslim Canadian women to wear the *niqab*, a veil covering the face, when they take their citizenship oaths.

In 2011 Trudeau [objected to the word "barbaric"](#) in a Canadian citizenship guide for new immigrants that included the passage: "Canada's openness and generosity do not extend to barbaric cultural practices that tolerate spousal abuse, honor killings, female genital mutilation, forced marriage or other gender-based violence."

"There's nothing the word 'barbaric' achieves that the words 'absolutely unacceptable' would not have achieved," said Trudeau, who later retracted his statements after a Twitter firestorm.

Trudeau's key aide helping him nail the Canadian Muslim vote was Omar Alghabra, 46, a Saudi-born Syrian immigrant. Alghabra was once president of the controversial Canadian Arab Foundation which lost government funding in 2009 because of its support for groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, which are officially listed as terrorist groups in Canada. Trudeau just named Alghabra as his Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Consular).

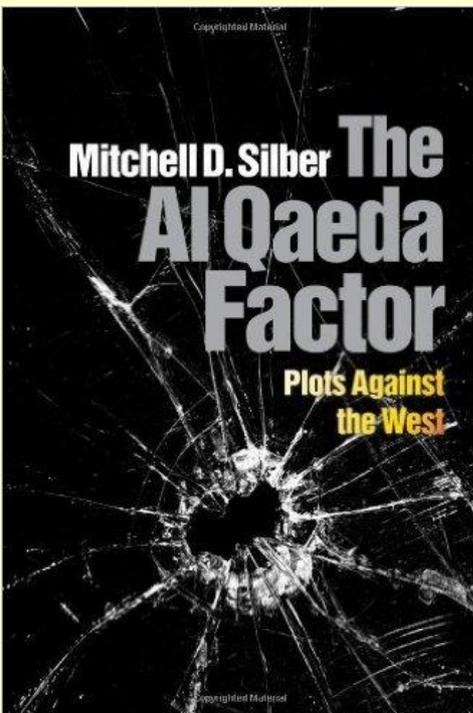
Alghabra once denounced Toronto's police chief for taking part in a charity walk for Israel and also said the chief's official visit to Israel was akin to going to meet with Saddam Hussein. When PLO leader Yasser Arafat died, Alghabra put out a press release expressing "sorrow and regret." He condemned a major Canadian newspaper for using the term "terrorist" to describe Islamist terrorist groups like al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

Canada has had its share of terrorist plots, some of them aimed at the United States.

The so-called Toronto 18 were arrested in 2006 before they could carry out planned attacks involving bombs, storming the Parliament, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and beheading the prime minister. According to former NYPD counter-terrorism analyst Mitchell Silber in his [book *The Al Qaeda Factor: Plots Against the West*](#), members of this group were also linked to an infamous British jihadist, Aabid Khan, who wanted to use Canada as a staging area for attacks on the United States. Two men in Atlanta, Georgia, were arrested after sending him video of potential targets in and

around Washington, D.C.

Algerian-born al Qaeda member Ahmed Ressay, the so-called Millennium Bomber, lived for awhile in Montreal while plotting to bomb tLos Angeles International Airport in 1999. Suspicious border agents arrested him after they found explosives in his car on a ferry



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from Vancouver to Washington State. In retrospect, the Ressay operation staged out of Canada was seen in counter-terror circles as a small-scale prelude to the horrors of the 9/11 attacks.

The mastermind of the attacks on New York and Washington had plotted to carry out a second wave using at least one naturalized Canadian citizen originally from Tunisia, Abderraouf Ben Habib Jdey, also known as Farouq al-Tunisi. The United States has a \$5 million reward on Jdey's head, noting on the State Department's official website, "Authorities remain concerned that Jdey may attempt to return to Canada or the United States to plan or participate in a terrorist attack."

Last year Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, a Canadian convert to Islam and the son of a Libyan father, fatally shot a soldier in Ottawa and stormed Parliament before being killed by police.

But, at least so far, homegrown attacks in Canada are fairly rare.

Mubin Shaikh, a former Muslim extremist turned counter-terrorism operative who went undercover for Canadian intelligence to infiltrate the Toronto 18, says the low incidence of terror attacks is precisely because of Canada's policy of multiculturalism.

"Our multiculturalism is a protective factor and one of the reasons why Canada has seen lower numbers [of terrorist incidents] is largely due to the fact that Muslims are treated very well," Shaikh told *The Daily Beast*.

"This is the whole point, that when you actively prevent isolation and marginalization, so too do you see a low level of extremism," said Shaikh. "The problem in the U.K. is that although there is multiculturalism, there is a colonial history that grievances-centered people can take advantage of."

Others disagree and say multiculturalism has spawned a more subtle type of fundamentalism taking over some communities to the point where they look like areas of the Middle East with a corresponding mind-set—and dangers.

"If you've been out of Ottawa for just two months, you'll come back and be astonished at how many more *hijabs* and *niqabs* you see on the street in just that short amount of time," said attorney Harris. "There's a significance and symbolism to that whether you believe it or not."

A public middle school not far from Toronto made news in 2012 when the principal bowed to local pressure and allowed the cafeteria to be used as a mosque for Friday prayers led by a local imam known for his fundamentalist rhetoric. The girls have to sit behind the boys and menstruating girls are forced to stand in the back.

The notorious Toronto imam Aly Hindy of the influential Salaheddin mosque is well known for calling the 9/11 attacks a CIA operation, praising the Toronto 18 terrorists, calling homosexuality "invented garbage" and mocking Canada.

When denouncing what he called "illegal sexual acts," Hindy once added, "Illegal means illegal in Islam, not illegal in the Canadian law, because everything is legal in the Canadian law, except children. Other than that, they allow everything."

A Muslim woman who took legal action so she could wear the face-covering *niqab* while taking her citizenship oath made headlines twice, once when she sued unsuccessfully in 2011 and again when the ban was overturned in her favor this year.

A 2005 proposal by a former National Democratic Party attorney general to allow Sharia in Ontario was overturned after an organized protest mainly by moderate Muslims.

"This is all a Saudi-funded cancer spreading across the world," says Tarek Fateh, the controversial founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress who calls himself a secular Muslim. "At least those of us up in Canada understand it and understood it before 9/11. Americans have no idea. It's going to hit them like a freight train."

The Pakistani-born Raheel Raza, 65, who calls herself a "liberal Canadian Muslim" and is a Muslim Canadian Congress member, said the influence of money funneled into Islamic centers and organizations in Canada from Saudi Arabia is growing and has also had an impact on Pakistani Muslims who aren't even Arab.

According to a July 2015 report in the *Globe and Mail*, the Saudi government is donating hundreds of thousands of petrodollars to finance new private Islamic schools in Canada or upgrade existing ones, often making to Canadian imams in charge of shabby mosques offers they can't refuse.

"You walk down some of the streets in Mississauga [Ontario] and you'd think you were in Saudi Arabia," Raza, the author of *Their Jihad, Not My Jihad: A Muslim Canadian Woman Speaks Out*, told *The Daily Beast*. "These are Pakistanis wearing the burqas and the Arab clothes. We're not even Arabs, but Saudi Arabia has made Muslims who aren't Arabs feel



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inferior. Kids get approached by these aggressive young Muslim youth groups. The joke in my house is that we tell our son to say he's Jewish if anyone comes up to him."

Raza left Pakistan in 1989 with her young family for Canada shortly after Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq came into power and forced a more extreme form of Islamic law in her home country. Raza told The Daily Beast this week that she's now upset and disillusioned to see a similar extremism starting to flower in Canada.

In an essay she wrote in 2013, Raza said that she was initially impressed with Canada's three-decade-long philosophy of multi-culturalism, until she began to see a pattern of increasingly troubling signs that it was not fostering loyalty and assimilation among Muslim immigrants.

"The mother of one of my children's classmates of Pakistani origin asked me why my kids sang the Canadian national anthem when it is *haram*, forbidden," Raza wrote. "Upon asking where she got that information, she confessed that the imam of the local mosque had told the congregation that it was against the faith to sing the national anthem, or, indeed, to show loyalty to Canada." Raza said she also found evidence that more mosques were giving sermons against loyalty to Canada.

Raza and her colleagues flew to Washington, D.C. after the San Bernardino shootings last week and nailed a "Declaration of Muslim Reform" on the biggest mosque in the district—saying the time has come for moderate or secular Muslims to speak up and no one in the U.S. is doing it right.

"This is the tipping point," Raza said. "Moderate Muslims have to speak up. This fundamentalism and extremism is not Islam. We have to name it and shame it. It's up to the Muslims to do it."

And in Canada, it would seem, that need is especially urgent.

Egypt: 'No evidence of terrorism' in Metrojet crash

Source: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/204880#.Vm-0Zr8XeXc>



Helicopter flies over wreckage of Metrojet Flight 9268 (Reuters)



Dec 14 – **Egypt's civil aviation ministry completed a preliminary report on doomed Metrojet Flight 9268 on Monday, insisting that the flight was not downed by terrorism. "The technical investigative committee has so far not found anything indicating any illegal intervention or terrorist action," the ministry said in a statement.**

Intelligence experts believe Metrojet Flight 9268, which crashed in the Sinai desert on October 31, was destroyed as the result of an explosion in its luggage bay shortly after the jet took off from Sharm al-Sheikh airport.

The airplane's two black box flight recorders revealed a "very sudden explosive decompression" 24 minutes into the flight. All 224 people on board died instantly.

But authorities have been slow to blame terrorism for the explosion, even after Islamic State (ISIS) declared responsibility for placing a bomb on board, and even after British



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intelligence revealed. Since the incident tourism to Egypt has dropped considerably, and Cairo has repeatedly attempted to reassure would-be travelers by playing down the terrorism theory.

TAM Airlines Madrid-Sao Paulo flight diverted on bomb threat

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-latam-spain-bomb-threat-idUSKBN0TY06H20151215>

Dec 14 – **A flight operated by Brazilian flag carrier TAM Airlines was forced to return to Madrid late Monday after a bomb threat**, the company said in a statement.



Flight No. JJ8065, a Boeing 777-32W aircraft, left Madrid's Barajas Airport around 9:21 p.m. local time (4:21 p.m. ET). The plane turned back shortly after passing Casablanca in Morocco, about an hour and a half into the flight, according to Flightradar24.com, an air traffic tracking site. TAM was informed of the alleged bomb threat by Spanish authorities, the airline said via Twitter. The flight landed safely back in Madrid shortly after midnight, and passengers disembarked safely, TAM said. The flight had been scheduled to arrive

at 5:25 a.m. local time at Sao Paulo's Guarulhos Airport.

The airline, a unit of LATAM Airlines Group SA, said it is cooperating with authorities. A TAM official in Sao Paulo said she had no additional information to provide.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Hmmm! Many have said so far that Brazil have no enemies! So why a bomb threat to a Brazilian airliner? Was a passenger who missed the flight and wanted to catch up?

Saudi Arabia Announces 34-State Islamic Military Alliance against Terrorism

Source: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/saudi-arabia-announces-34-state-islamic-military-alliance-against-terrorism-n480016>

Dec 15 – **Saudi Arabia on Tuesday announced the formation of a 34-state Islamic military coalition to combat terrorism**, according to a joint statement published on state news agency SPA.

"The countries here mentioned have decided on the formation of a military alliance led by Saudi Arabia to fight terrorism, with a joint operations center based in Riyadh to coordinate and support military operations," the statement said.

A long list of Arab countries such as Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, together with Islamic countries Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan and Gulf Arab and African states were mentioned.

The announcement cited "a duty to protect the Islamic nation from the evils of all terrorist groups and organizations whatever their sect and name which wreak death and corruption on earth and aim to terrorize the innocent."

Shi'ite Muslim Iran, Sunni Saudi Arabia's arch rival for influence in the Arab world, was absent from the states named as participants, as proxy conflicts between the two regional powers rage from Syria to Yemen.

In a rare press conference, 30-year-old crown prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman told reporters on Tuesday that the campaign would "coordinate" efforts to fight terrorism in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Afghanistan, but offered few concrete indications of how military efforts might proceed.

"There will be international coordination with major powers and international organizations ... in terms of operations in Syria and Iraq. We can't undertake these operations without coordinating with legitimacy in this place and the international community," bin Salman said without elaborating.

Asked if the new alliance would focus just on ISIS, bin Salman said it would confront not only that group but "any terrorist organization that appears in front of us."



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Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Arab neighbors have been locked in nine months of warfare with Iran-allied rebels in neighboring Yemen, launching hundreds of air strikes there.

Saudi Arabia has been carrying out assaults on the Houthis, who continue to hold the Yemeni capital of Sanaa. The conflict has created an emergency situation, with UN agencies raising alarms that millions of Yemenis are in mortal danger of starvation. Nearly 6,000 people have been killed in the Saudi-led airstrikes and fighting. **As a ceasefire is set to take hold in Yemen on Tuesday alongside United Nations-backed peace talks, Riyadh's announcement may signal a desire to shift its attention back toward the conflicts north of its borders.**

ISIS has pledged to overthrow the monarchies of the Gulf and have mounted a series of attacks on Shi'ite Muslim mosques and security forces in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Article mentioned a "long list" of 34 states. We read by name: S Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Malaysia, and Pakistan. Who are the 27 states missing?

Saudi Arabia Creates "Pro-ISIS Block" to "Fight Terrorism". The State Sponsors of Terrorism Indulge in "Counter-Terrorism"

By Stephen Lendman

Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/saudi-arabia-creates-pro-isis-block-to-fight-terrorism-the-state-sponsors-of-terrorism-indulge-in-counter-terrorism/5495945>

Dec 15 – Saudi Arabia and Turkey are key US allies, fostering endless Middle East wars. They're involved in recruiting and directly aiding ISIS and other takfiri terrorists throughout the region – mainly in Syria and Iraq, now beginning to establish a foothold in war-torn, chaotic Libya, with elements in Yemen and elsewhere.

Riyadh wants more regional power along with control over oil reserves outside its borders. Together with Washington and other partners, it's using ISIS and other terrorist groups to advance its objectives, not oppose a universal scourge.

It's so-called new 34-nation "Islamic military alliance" against terrorism is a laughable on its face, a deceptive PR hoax. It named the following nations as partners:

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Nigeria, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen along with its own regime.

A Saudi-controlled news agency said "(t)he countries here mentioned have decided on the formation of a military alliance led by Saudi Arabia to fight terrorism, with a joint operations centre based in Riyadh to coordinate and support military operations."

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Libya and Yemeni territory controlled by US-installed puppet Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi are part of the problem, not the solution. Other countries listed aren't involved in US-led regional war of terrorism, at least not enough to matter.

Riyadh claiming the so-called coalition has **"a duty to protect the Islamic nation from the evils of all terrorist groups and organizations whatever their sect and name which wreak death and corruption on earth and aim to terrorize the innocent"** is pure propaganda, ignoring its central role in creating, financing and fostering regional terrorism.

The only nations combating it are Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Russia. Washington, its imperial NATO partners, Israel, and other regional rogue states support what they claim to oppose.

America's so-called 65-nation anti-terrorism coalition is pure fiction. US air and ground forces along with Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Israel and Australia are attacking Syrian and Iraqi sites, not ISIS or other terrorists.

Turkey is striking Syrian and Iraqi Kurds on the pretext of combating ISIS, perhaps government targets in both countries along with Washington and other rogue coalition partners.



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Last week, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova minced no words, saying "(w)e can state the (US-led) coalition is simulating the fight against ISIS and real terrorism and acts on its own politicized approach to the situation, which runs counter to international law, at least in Syria."

"Now we can see that (this continues) not only (against the Assad's government). As is known, the inactivity of the actions of (Washington's phantom) coalition was distinctly confirmed by the growing ISIS problem."

During over a year of illegal US bombing of Syria, terrorist groups made substantial territorial gains. Their oil smuggling and other illicit operations flourished – protected, not attacked by America.

In early December, Russia's General Staff Lt. Gen. Sergey Rudskoy cited clear evidence, showing **US-led bombing in Syria isn't striking ISIS targets, notably permitting its oil smuggling cross-border to Turkey to operate freely.**

In contrast, Russia is waging real war on terrorism in Syria, making a strategic difference

on the ground. Key is cutting off these groups' sources of funding, especially from illicit oil sales, complicit with Turkey, permitted by Washington to continue despite claims otherwise.

Moscow so far unsuccessfully urged the formation of a global coalition against terrorism, mainly with America and other Western countries, – involved for a common purpose, defeating the scourge of terrorism, not possible with US-led Western and rogue regional support.

Riyadh's announced phony Islamic military alliance against terrorism followed its failed December 8 – 10 anti-Assad conference – attended by regional rogue states and notorious terrorist groups, including ISIS.

Along with Washington and rogue partners, Saudi rulers want Assad ousted, Hezbollah neutralized and Iran isolated. Russia's all-out efforts for regional peace have no chance to succeed as long as US-led Assad enemies want escalated aggression to oust him illegally.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

Academia on San Bernardino Attack: **No Jihad Here**

By Cinnamon Stillwell

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5712/us-professors-san-bernardino>



Dec 11 - **As Islamic terrorist attacks increase in the West, so, too, does the obfuscation of Middle East studies academia. By employing the predictable tropes of poverty, alienation, workplace violence, the need for gun control, bullying, "Islamophobia," and other alleged Western ills, academics avoid assigning responsibility to the actual perpetrators or their Islamist ideology.**

Such has been the reaction to the December 2 mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, which authorities were slow to describe as a terrorist attack, despite early evidence that married shooters Syed Rizwan Farooq and Tashfeen Malik had radical sympathies, including with ISIS. This led to speculation that, not coincidentally, omitted the actual culprit.

Omid Safi, director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center, immediately jumped on the gun control bandwagon and – echoing President Obama's recent gaffe following the latest Paris attacks – claimed that mass shootings occur only in the U.S.: "This is everyday [sic], everywhere in America – and no where [sic] else in the world." He decried America's "deadly fetish" and "gun obsession," urging readers to "Stand up to #NRA," as if the National Rifle Association's adherence to 2nd Amendment rights were the cause of Islamic terrorism.

University of Michigan history professor Juan Cole maintained that "white supremacists" are a greater threat than "al-Qaeda-style terrorism." He disregarded the significance of the terrorists' Middle Eastern

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names, alleging that they "may or may not be very pertinent to the incident," and condemned "politicians and pundits" for making "hay with the threat of 'terrorism.'" He attributed the perpetrators' motives to the likelihood of "someone going postal over his work situation" or "workplace violence linked to some sort of grievance."

When asked to reassess his initial reaction, Cole instead proffered a more ridiculous excuse:

Actually the evidence is that Farook was subjected to considerable workplace bullying. If this were something primarily beyond workplace rage, why not hit a target with security implications?

If by "workplace bullying" Cole was referring to the baby shower Farook's coworkers organized for him, or to Farook's debate with a Messianic Jewish colleague over Israel's legitimacy and whether or not Islam is a "religion of peace" – the implication being that the planned attack several weeks later was Farook's answer – then he has a point. After all, who wouldn't plan to murder all of one's coworkers during a Christmas party under such dire circumstances? As for the "security implications" of the Inland Regional Center, in an age of soft targets, civilization itself is the battlefield.

Steven Salaita, the would-be University of Illinois professor currently teaching at the American University in Beirut, denied that (American-born citizen) Farook's "foreign culture" had any bearing on his "terrible deed," instead blaming it on "political violence . . . endemic to the United States." He accused Americans of complicity in "the supposed deviance of Farooq's shooting" due to their "endless, adamant justification of U.S. bloodletting throughout the world" and, for good measure, of "hating Arabs and Muslims."

As'ad AbuKhalil, a political science professor at California State University, Stanislaus, took umbrage at reporters covering the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)'s post-attack press conference for asking about Farooq's religion: *[O]ne reporter asked one of the people on the stage: "was he religious?" Why does*

that matter? A terrorist is a terrorist regardless whether he/she is religious or atheist.

Just days after the attack, **Hatem Bazian,** fulfilling his mandate as director of the **highly politicized Islamophobia Research & Documentation Project at the University of California, Berkeley,** tweeted:

Islamophobia in America and Europe has reached a tipping point and civil society discourses are filled with racist venom toward Muslims.

Likewise, **Muqtedar Khan, director of the University of Delaware's Islamic Studies Program,** fretted about the allegedly "hostile" environment for Muslims in the U.S., blaming Republican presidential candidates for acknowledging that "this is war."

Pondering "the perverse appeal of ISIS" to "a well-established young professional in California," such as Farooq, Khan concluded that the fault lies with "unjust foreign policies . . . persistent and virulent Islamophobia, state surveillance, discrimination[,] and demonization," not to mention the failure of "modernity," "the American dream," and "the promise of Western liberalism."

Columbia University's Hamid Dabashi, purporting to speak for the "countless innocent victims" of "ISIS thugs and their sympathizers in San Bernardino," launched into a diatribe against "the fear-mongering Islamophobes and relentless warmongering"; the "lowest common denominators of fear, hatred, and suspicion"; and, in case he omitted anything, "the wanton cruelty of imperialist warfare, [and] the colonial occupation and domination of other people's homeland."

Once again, Middle East studies professors have shown their true colors. San Bernardino, the largest Islamic terrorist attack in the U.S. since September 11, 2001, has betrayed the moral relativism, obfuscation, and anti-American prejudices of academe. These are not scholars pursuing the truth, but partisans seeking to conceal the undeniable: global jihad's rising body count.

Cinnamon Stillwell is the West Coast Representative for Campus Watch, a project of the Middle East Forum.



Obama's Middle East Delusions

By Efraim Karsh

Middle East Quarterly (Winter 2016)

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5685/obama-middle-east-delusions>

As world attention focuses on the latest spate of Middle East fiascos—from the migrant hordes swamping Europe, to Russia's Syria intervention, to the latest flare-up of Palestinian terrorism—for which the U.S. administration is partly culpable, the Iran nuclear deal will undoubtedly remain Obama's foremost foreign policy folly. For the real issue is not whether the JCPOA irrevocably blocks Tehran's road to the bomb (which it does not), or whether the administration could have attained a better deal (which it could), or even whether no agreement is better than a bad agreement (as initially argued by Obama) or an assured recipe to war (as he later claimed). Rather the question is whether an agreement with a murderous, messianic, Islamist tyranny, reigning over one of the Middle East's most powerful nations and committed to the world-conquering agenda of its founding father, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini,[55] should have been sought in the first place.



In a similar way, when seventy-seven years ago British prime minister Neville Chamberlain was about to leave for the German city of Munich to negotiate the agreement that would shortly trigger the worst war in human history, the *London Times* lauded the move as "water in the wilderness" that would "bring a sense of relief and profound satisfaction to all but the very few for whom

any sort of intercourse with a dictator is incomprehensible and anathema."[56]

The problem with this analysis is, of course, that Hitler was no ordinary dictator, who could be bought at the right price, but a maniacal tyrant in control of one of the world's most powerful nations and bent on world domination. Yet while the full extent of Hitler's ambition was rarely recognized at the time, no such vagueness exists with regard to the Islamist regime in Tehran, which in its thirty-six years at the helm has consistently subverted its neighbors, triggered the longest and bloodiest war in the Middle East's modern history (with Iraq, 1980-88), transformed Iran into the world's foremost sponsor of terrorism, and poured billions of dollars into its nuclear weapons program at the expense of the economic wellbeing of ordinary Iranians and at the cost of sustained international isolation.

Hence, while Chamberlain could genuinely believe that the agreement he signed brought "peace for our time,"[57] Obama has been kicking the nuclear can down the road in the clear knowledge that the JCPOA is at best a delay mechanism in the mullahs' steady drive to the bomb. As he admitted in an uncharacteristic moment of candor, "in year 13, 14, 15, they have advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium fairly rapidly, and at that point, the breakout times [to nuclear weapons] would have shrunk almost down to zero."[58] At a time when the international community trembles at the infinitely lesser threat of the Islamic State, the implications of this inevitable scenario are too horrendous to contemplate.

► Read the full paper (with references) at source's URL.

Efraim Karsh, editor of the Middle East Quarterly, is emeritus professor of Middle East and Mediterranean studies at King's College London and professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University where he is also a senior research associate at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.



The French Will Not Surrender This Time

By Michel Gurfinkiel

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5709/france-no-surrender>



Dec 05 – France faces a future of ethnic civil war at worst, and periodic terrorist attacks and political tumult at a minimum. Yet its difficulties—both geopolitical and demographic—can be overcome with patience and determination.

The November 13 killing spree in Paris came as no surprise. The Islamic State had threatened France explicitly and repeatedly for more than a year, and French government officials high and low issued warnings as well. Most pointedly, Judge Marc Trevidic, who was in charge of antiterrorist investigations in France for ten years, disclosed in September that IS was planning "something big" against France. He spoke of an "overbid logic" among competing jihadi groups: "Each group is eager to strike further and in a heavier way than other groups. They all want to win the Pulitzer prize of terrorism—that is to say to do something as grand and as lethal as 9/11." Hence ISIS in Paris on November 13, and al-Qaeda in Bamako on November 20.

If the French were not surprised by the November 13 atrocities, they were nevertheless bewildered. We thought we understood terrorism well, and we thought, especially after the January *Charlie Hebdo* attack, that we were mobilized and able in our own defense. We had activated a low-key state of emergency, Plan Vigipirate, following the 1995 bombings by Algerian Islamists in Paris, and maintained it constantly ever since. After the *Charlie Hebdo* attack, Vigipirate was supplemented by another security program, Sentinelle.

However, November 13 was different: It was not merely terrorism, but war: not just in the sense that this enemy controls territory in the Middle East and is undertaking a state-building and governing process such as no previous terrorist enemy has ever done; but also in the sense that it trains military-style units to operate among us, using complex and sophisticated plans, and ultimately to secure enclaves or bridgeheads on our soil.

Nonetheless, people here wonder why, if French officials knew so much and talked so much about the threat, they failed to neutralize it? And even deeper questions are still in the process of being formed and answered.

First, as has been widely remarked, to some extent the failure to prevent the attack came down to the failure of the state to keep up with the threat level. Governments usually move much slower than non-state actors on the prowl. So the combination of the outflow of the Syrian civil war, the power vacuum in Libya, and the increasing pace of French engagement against terrorism (in Mali and in the Levant most prominently) combined to overwhelm the budgets of the security services. All true, but the problem goes beyond that.

The French people are slowly coming to appreciate that the state lacks the tools required for war, on either the domestic or the foreign front. The deficit starts with numbers. According to Vincent Desportes, a former Army general who now teaches at Sciences Po in Paris and author of *La Dernière Bataille de la France (France's Last Battle)*, the French security apparatus has been overstretched since before the Syrian civil war. Operational strength fell by 25 percent under the conservative Administration of Nicolas Sarkozy (2007–12), and by another 25 percent under the first three-and-a-half years of the socialist Hollande Administration. These cuts together

have shrunk the force from 200,000 combat-able personnel to just a bit more than 100,000

in a delayed French version of a



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"peace dividend"—but it has been a reduction in truth propelled more by recent anxieties about a growing national debt, a consequence of the very difficult math involved in reconciling a still-generous welfare state with a stultified economy.

On the other hand, France is still eager to be seen as a global military power, so much so that about a third of its remaining combat force—30,000 men and women—are dispatched to permanent or semi-permanent missions abroad, from the Sahel countries to the Middle East to Afghanistan.



To have nearly a third of the country's active-duty military forces overseas in the absence of a major war is unprecedented, and it is both expensive and dangerous.

Beyond the armed forces proper, the French rely on the Gendarmerie, a semi-militarized police corps originally in charge of the rural areas but now active in urban areas as well, and the regular police, each over 100,000 strong in terms of operational personnel. The operational defense and security apparatus as a whole can thus be estimated to be about 300,000 or so, which is barely enough, by any standard, for a population of 67 million (overseas territories included) in a state of multilateral war.

Security personnel, including army personnel, involved in the post-*Charlie Hebdo* Operation Sentinelle, the protection of places deemed "*sensible*" (sensitive, i.e. more likely to be attacked), have consistently complained of being overworked. What about the much broader assignments they now face now under a heightened state of emergency? True, the

Hollande Administration decided in the wake of November 13 to reverse the previous trends and expand the security forces: some 8,000 troops are to be recruited to start with. Another project is the formation of a voluntary reserve force, already dubbed the National Guard. Yet such things cannot be implemented overnight. New organizations must be adjusted to the larger defense and security structure, and of course all new personnel must be trained and equipped.

A second major difficulty arises from the ethnic and religious diversity of contemporary France, the discussion of which has taken on a different, and more frank, tone since November 13. **Whereas the November 13 terrorists in Paris were apparently Muslim French or Belgian citizens of North African descent, their victims were overwhelmingly ethnic French.** Some media attempted to conceal these facts, if only by highlighting the presence at Bataclan and other places of some people of North African or African descent. However, such intimations melted away before the fairer faces of the majority of victims and missing persons, seen across the web and on social networks. The unsettling sense that the terrorist

attacks contained an element of minority-versus-majority genocidal intent has become very widespread, not so surprising really in what is, despite centuries of attempted transcendence, a country with a bloodline-based nationalism.

Also dawning is the uneasy realization that a war on terror might escalate into a kind of civil war between the ethnic French and the French Muslims, even if the security forces are thoroughly integrated and in fact list a high proportion members of the ethnic and religious minorities, including observant Muslims. Again, the numbers seem to matter.

Due to a combination of immigration and natural increase, the French Muslim community grew from about 5 percent of the total population of 60 million in 1997 to 9 percent of 67 million in 2014. Where in 1997 there were 3 million French Muslims there are now 6.5 million. Moreover, some places—big cities as well as rural areas—now have Muslim majorities. And



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in younger cohorts, thanks to greater fertility or the inflow of immigrants, the proportion of Muslims is much higher than the national average: Fully a fifth of French citizens or residents under age 24 are Muslims.

Once one sees these demographic, geographical, and generational factors together, the likely consequences of an internecine conflict become clear. **For instance, in the *département* (county) of Seine Saint-Denis in the northern suburbs of Paris—of which Saint-Denis is the administrative center—around 30 percent of the population and about 50 percent of the youth are Muslim. Since war, including civil war, is fought by young persons (usually young men) in their late teens and early twenties, the Muslim/non-Muslim ratio there would not be 1 to 9, as the overall demographic data would suggest, but closer to 1 to 1.**

Which raises a further question: How central is radical Islam to the lives of French Muslims, and, by implication, how "French" do they feel? According to a comprehensive investigation published just one year ago by Fondapol (the French Foundation for Political Innovation), a political science think tank, French Muslims split into three groups: "observants", believers, and "French citizens of Muslim origin." The first group, which enforces strict religious practice among its members and is largely influenced by Wahhabism and other fundamentalist movements (more often than not, its mosques are funded by Saudi Arabia or Qatar), grew from 36 percent in 2001 to 42 percent in 2014. It is much more likely than the two other groups to entertain negative views of non-Muslims. The second group, whose members advocate a measure of compromise between traditional Islam and the French way of life, and entertains slightly less negative views against non-Muslims, fell from 42 percent in 2001 to 34 percent in 2014. The third group, whose members clearly identify with French culture, human rights, and French democratic patriotism, and which tends to be more positive toward non-Muslims, including Jews, fell from 25 percent in 2007 to 21 percent in 2014. All in all, religious assertiveness is clearly growing among French Muslims and, in a political age, is bound to be politicized before long and at least to some extent.

These trends are leading to the increasing *de facto* segregation of Muslims from non-

Muslims, a condition that Muslim communities increasingly seem to choose. It is now frequently the case that neighborhoods with Muslim majorities are "no-go zones" where the even the police fear to tread. Christine Angot, a liberal-minded best-selling writer, participated



this past summer in a television program at the working-class neighborhood in Chateauroux in central France, where she was brought up. She realized that the place had become such a Muslim "no-go zone." She described her experience in *Le Monde* on October 1:

When we arrived—all of us, the TV crew complete with their cameras and sound booms, and the writer who grew up there—we had to account for ourselves, to show our identity cards, to prove who we were, to state exactly where I had lived. . . . And then, the director's first name—David, his full name being David Teboul—supplied material for unsavory jokes. . . . Some of the locals tried to intimidate us, saying that television was a cartel of the Jews. . . . All this was uttered in a very menacing tone. . . . We shot a few scenes under a running fire of jibes and jeering, and as we left we were told to pay our compliments to the Talmud. . . . I swear we felt most uncomfortable.

The talk of a civil war may be somewhat paranoid, but the prediction that internal support for terrorism will grow has already been borne out by events. Most observant and traditional Muslims are peaceful citizens, and understand well that Islam benefits from French-style democracy. They perceive a vested interest in keeping it functioning, but some still cannot help but entertain sympathies for radical groups



outside of France. According to an ICM Research poll released in 2014, 19 percent of French Muslims expressed "positive" or "very positive" views of the Islamic State. Among those under the age of 24, the figure was 27 percent. Evidently, this is the milieu that provides volunteers for ISIS training camps in Syria and Iraq.

Some experts think that the Islamic State's ultimate goal in the current terror attacks actually is to arouse more suspicion and hostility among ethnic French about French Muslims, and as a consequence create a more polarized atmosphere that will drive more French Muslims to identify with ISIS—thus making the prospect of a ghastly civil war more likely. The jihadi calculation, according to this thesis, is that France will not risk such an outcome and will instead surrender, by withdrawing its forces from Africa and the Middle East.

It could be, but France's resilience may be stronger than its enemies think. The French are learning anew the importance of national sovereignty, identity, defense, and solidarity, and even the value of their Christian heritage as well. This may translate into a political upheaval: the rise of either the classic Right or the National Front, or of a new brand of liberal or leftwing patriotism. Either way, the upheaval could translate into a simultaneous cultural revolution that could include the abandonment of multiculturalism, the return of Christian pride (Catholic churches are now packed on Sundays), and the rehabilitation of family values. The very notion of surrender or appeasement of militant Islam is becoming so repugnant that the French are increasingly willing to bear very high costs to avoid it.

In recent years Jews have been a main target of jihadi violence in France, from the Jewish school massacre in Toulouse in 2012 to the HyperCasher massacre in 2015. It goes on: Four days after the November 13 attacks, a Jewish teacher was stabbed in Marseilles by three men wearing pro-ISIS t-shirts. While the government and the political class constantly expressed their concern, and the police have provided large-scale protection to synagogues and other Jewish public places under the Vigipirate and Sentinelle programs,, many Jews wondered whether parts of the public are not in fact indifferent, ready to wave away Muslim anti-Semitism and terrorism, even in France, as an outcome of an alleged Israeli

unwillingness to come to terms with the Palestinians.

The new patriotic mood that has been emerging since November 13 seems to have muted this "argument." Since everybody feels threatened now and everybody demands protection, there is much greater understanding and sympathy for the special case of the Jews. Israel is no longer described in the media as a country engaged in a colonial war of sorts against the Palestinians, but rather as a victim, along with France, of jihadi terrorism—and even sometimes as a positive example of successful antiterrorist mobilization.

For all that, the long-term consequences may not be positive for Jews, and French-Jewish emigration, either to Israel or North America, will likely not subside. One reason is that greater ethnic and religious polarization means less toleration of all third parties. Jews are seen as enemies, just as Christians are so seen, by radical Muslims—and the fact that Jews and Muslims have a lot in common religiously is irrelevant. Jules Renard, an early 20th-century writer, noted how difficult it was to teach cats to chase mice but leave canaries alone: "A subtle point, and even the smartest cats do not quite get it." Alas, radical Muslims are rarely well educated in their own traditions; they are far from being the smartest cats.

The geopolitical consequences of November 13 might be problematic as well. There is a near-consensus in France that ISIS must be punished and destroyed. There is also a temptation, due to the present eclipse of American power and influence in the Middle East, to enter into a broad anti-ISIS coalition with Russia, Iran, the Assad regime in Syria, and Hizballah in Lebanon. This would be disastrous. Russia is everything but a reliable geopolitical partner for Western countries, and seems to be more interested in asserting itself or strengthening its vassals than in fighting the Islamic State. As for Iran, the Assad regime, and Hizballah, they have been heavily involved for decades in religious and political radicalism and terrorism, not just in the Middle East, but in Western countries as well, from France to Argentina.

As for Israel and Judaism, Russia's present stand is outwardly not negative, but the three other partners in the Russian-led coalition are rabid enemies of the Jewish State and among the contemporary world's



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main purveyors of anti-Semitism. To throw France's lot in with such allies may be no improvement on surrendering to the jihadists. France's ideal allies in the fight against the Islamic State are the United States, because it is powerful and tends to see the problem in more or less the same way, and Turkey, because it is close by, locally potent, and has recently been savaged by ISIS attacks itself. **Alas, both the present American Administration and the present Turkish government have been wavering in their**

strategic priorities and neglecting their obvious national interests. Moreover, the Russian-Iranian-Alawi axis complicates and deters the formation of an effective coalition more than it helps it. The complications could be overcome were strong U.S. leadership brought to bear, but that leadership apparently will not be forthcoming until at least January 2017. The time between now and then will be difficult. France must therefore be patient as well as resolved.

Michel Gurfinkiel, a Shillman-Ginsburg Fellow at the Middle East Forum, is the founder and president of the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Institute, a conservative think tank in France.

Jihadis send **LETTERS** to EU civilians ordering them to convert or die

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/626885/Islamic-State-ISIS-letters-Sweden-convert-Islam-decapitated-murder-jihadi-Syria>



Dec 15 - Bloodthirsty Daesh Islamists posted notes through the doors of dozens of random neighbours in several cities across Sweden, including the capital Stockholm, threatening to murder "non-believers" in a terrifying campaign of violence.

Sweden is now on lockdown after the chilling letters pledged to behead innocent civilians and then "bomb your rotten corpses afterwards".

Intelligence officials confirmed they are investigating the horrifying threats - which were signed by "ISIS" - as a state of fear gripped the nation.

The notes, written in Swedish, order people to convert to Islam or pay a religious tax, known as the jizya, warning that the police "will not save you from being murdered".



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They state: "In the name of Allah, the merciful, full of grace. You who are not believers will be decapitated in three days in your own house. We will bomb your rotten corpses afterwards. You must choose between these three choices: 1. Convert to Islam. 2. Pay the jizya [religious tax] for protection. 3. Or else, you will be decapitated. The police will not prevent or save you from you being murdered. (Death comes to all of you)."

An image of the chilling message was posted on Facebook by one of the recipients.

Swedish police said they were posted through residents' doors in a number of cities including Ronneby, Sigtuna, Västerås and the capital Stockholm, earlier this week.

Local news outlets reported two Muslim asylum seekers of Iraqi origin - one in Ronneby and

one in Vstros - were amongst the recipients of the cruel letter.

Sigtuna police Chief Emile Anderson said officers were unsure whether or not the threats contained in the messages were real, but said they were taking them seriously.

He added officials from the Swedish intelligence service Säpo are investigating the incident, according to RT Arabic.

Tensions have been running high in Sweden over its open door asylum policy, which has seen 200,000 Middle Eastern migrants flock to the sparsely populated Scandinavian nation this year alone.

There have been reports of clashes between refugees and locals in one Swedish village, whilst a number of asylum centres across the country have been burned down by far-right campaigners.



No way there are jhadists among innocent refugees...

Source (in Finnish): <http://mvlehti.net/2015/11/24/suomeen-muuttanut-murtadha-al-zubaidi-naistenaaurattaja-lahi-idasta/>

Suomeen muuttanut Murtadha Al Zubaidi, naistenaaurattaja Lähi-Idästä



Kaksi kuvaa kertoo enemmän kuin tuhat Sanaa (Two image says more than a thousand words)



A Scientific Means for Islamic Military Alliance to Collaborate and Deploy

By Dr. David Leffler

Source: <http://www.invinciblemilitary.org/yes-terrorism-should-be-fought-by-all-means.html>

The state-run Saudi Press Agency has announced that 34 nations are forming a new "[Islamic military alliance](#)" to fight terrorism. But will this new alliance really be able to prevent future terrorist attacks and create lasting peace? There is no statistically validated guarantee that the military strategy of fighting violence with violence will work. It

[Brazil's Elite Police force](#), and has been [field-tested by other militaries](#). It has been validated by 23 peer-reviewed studies carried out in [both developed and developing nations](#), including the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. Independent scientists and scholars endorse it, based on 25 years of ongoing research.



Military personnel in Latin America, Africa and Asia practice IDT technologies in a group to help protect their nations



certainly has not in the past. Why should it now? History shows that using violence to quell violence ultimately just ratchets up the level of violence.

There is hope, however, if the new alliance honors its stated goal that terrorism "should be fought by all means and collaboration should be made to eliminate it." Today a scientifically validated means exists to prevent terrorism and war, and all countries involved in the alliance could collaboratively deploy it. This scientific approach is known in military circles as Invincible Defense Technology (IDT). This field-tested approach to reducing stress and violence is already part of the training of

IDT Reduces Societal Stress

As a specially trained military unit, an "[IDT Prevention Wing of the Military](#)" uses IDT to neutralize the buildup of stress in the national collective consciousness that ultimately fuels terrorism, war and crime. As collective stress and frustration subside, government leaders and citizens alike are more capable of finding orderly and constructive solutions to the issues that have separated them for generations.

Experience with IDT in highly stressed areas of the globe have demonstrated increased economic incentive and growth of prosperity. Individual creativity and entrepreneurship increase as well. With greater civic calm, citizens' aspirations rise and a more productive and balanced society emerges. Such a society naturally disallows violence as a means for change, or as an expression of discontent. With this, [the ground for terrorism is eliminated](#). Moreover, this positive change in social trends takes place within a few days or weeks after IDT is introduced. The changes are measurable from such statistics as reduced terrorism, crime rates, accidents, hospital admissions, infant mortality, etc.

The IDT warrior's daily routine includes the non-religious practice of the [Transcendental Meditation](#) technique and the advanced TM-Sidhi program. Military personnel, functioning as a societal coherence-creating military unit, practice these techniques together in a group twice a day, seven days a week, preferably near the targeted population in a secure location. Their presence need not be disclosed to achieve the effect of conflict resolution and violence reduction.



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Such coherence-creating groups have achieved positive benefits to society, shown experientially, in just 48 hours. Modern statistical methods demonstrate a consistent causal influence of the IDT group on reducing conflict, precluding chance or coincidence. The IDT approach has been used during wartime, resulting in reduction of fighting, reduced war deaths and casualties, and improved progress toward resolving the conflict through peaceful means. Its coherence-creating effect has also been documented on a global scale in a study published in the [Journal of Offender Rehabilitation](#). When large assemblies of civilian IDT experts gathered during the years 1983-1985, terrorism-related casualties decreased 72%, international conflict decreased 32%, and overall violence was reduced in nations without intrusion by other governments.

A civilian IDT group in Israel decreased the intensity of war in Lebanon in 1983 in a dramatic way in 48 hours, to name only one of 50 successful demonstrations. (See a summary of the study, published in the [Journal of Conflict Resolution](#) and summaries of follow-up studies in the [Journal of Social Behavior and Personality](#) and the [Journal of Scientific Exploration](#)).

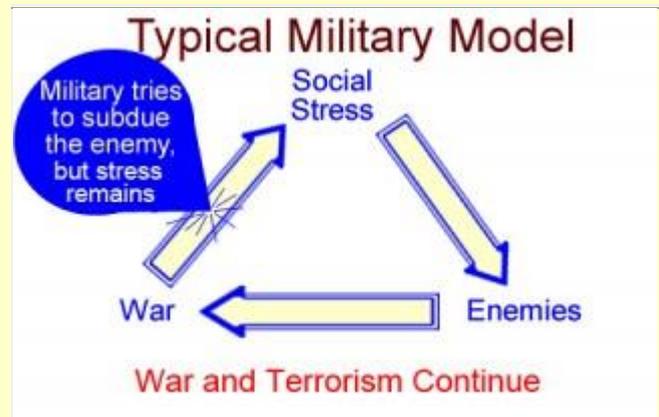
Conclusion

IDT is totally unlike any other defense technology because it does not use violence in an attempt to quell violence. It is a more civilized approach, yet the [IDT defense technology supersedes all other known defense technologies](#) (which are based on electronic, chemical, and/or nuclear forces). Therefore, militaries that deploy it gain the ultimate strategic advantage.

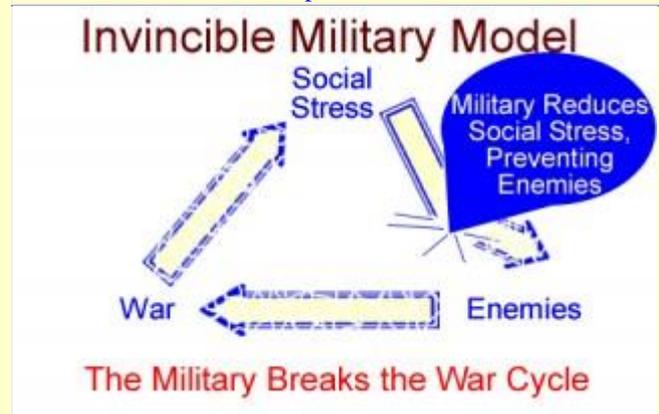
If the Islamic military alliance defense forces establish Prevention Wings of the Military, they will ease the current high tensions, reverse centuries of mistrust and hatred and permanently prevent future unrest. These IDT units will create genuine and lasting reconciliation and friendship where there was once only hatred and conflict. The powerful IDT human-resource-based defense technology disallows negative trends and prevents

enemies from arising. No enemies means no terrorism and full security, as well as a normal, happy, productive life for everyone.

By eliminating terrorism and ending decades-old cycles of violence, the Islamic military



Obsolete means of defense: the military fails to address social stress responsible for terrorism



Invincible Defense Technology addresses social stress, thereby ending terrorism, violence and war.

alliance IDT units will create lasting peace and prosperity. Their powerful demonstration of this non-violent peace technology will gain worldwide attention. They will be honored and respected as great warriors who served honorably in their militaries for the betterment of all humanity.

Extensive scientific research objectively says, "Yes, this approach works." This is a military "means" that should be championed with "all means." It is desperately needed. There is truly no other solution.

The Islamic military alliance must act now, before high social tensions inevitably explode again.

[Dr. David Leffler](#) is the author of "A New Role for the Military: Preventing Enemies from Arising - Reviving an Ancient Approach to Peace." He was a member of the US Air Force for nearly nine years. Dr. Leffler has a Ph.D. in



Consciousness-Based Military Defense and served as an Associate of the Proteus Management Group at the Center for Strategic Leadership, US Army War College. Currently, he serves as the Executive Director at the Center for Advanced Military Science (CAMS) and lectures and writes worldwide about IDT.

Scientists Propose “Peace-Promoting” Technology to Counter Terrorism: An Interview with Quantum Physicist John Hagelin

By Jeanne Ball

Source: <http://www.gusp.org/>

Response to French Terror Attacks:
An Open Letter to World Leaders

As governments falter in their struggle to find a solution to unpredictable outbreaks of terror, an international alliance of concerned scientists has offered a possible solution.

The [Global Union of Scientists for Peace](#) has recently published an [Open Letter](#) to Presidents Obama, Hollande and Putin—and to the leaders of all nations—proposing a scientific alternative to the conventional approach of creating peace through force or violence (*International New York Times*, December 3, 2015).



In the following interview, Quantum Physicist [John Hagelin](#), President of the Global Union of Scientists for Peace, answers questions about this novel approach.

Your open letter in the *Times* offers an explanation of the root cause of terrorism: deep-rooted societal stress. Could you summarize?

It is the overwhelming consensus of experts in the field of conflict resolution that the first stage in the emergence of war is mounting societal stress—acute political, ethnic and religious tensions among rival factions in critical hot-spots throughout the world. If these tensions continue to grow unchecked, they eventually reach a boiling point. Then they inevitably erupt in social violence: crime, war, and terrorism. If we can defuse these societal tensions before they erupt—even a little—they do not break out into social violence. Water does not boil at 99 degrees centigrade.

‘Collective consciousness’ is a term that means the sum total of all the individual consciousnesses that make up a society. Stressed individuals create a stressed society—a stressed collective consciousness. And everyone embedded within that stressed society feels that societal stress. It thereby feeds upon itself.

Individual practice of certain evidence-based, stress-reducing meditation techniques relieves individual stress, according to extensive published [research](#). And practice of these techniques—in particular, the [Transcendental Meditation](#) (TM) technique—by a significant sub-portion of a population (even 1%) has been similarly shown to [reduce societal stress](#), leading to substantially [reduced violent crime](#), psychiatric crisis calls and other indicators of acute societal stress.

Moreover, practice of TM and its related advanced meditation techniques *in large groups* has been found to produce an even more powerful societal effect. [Multiple studies](#) looking at war in the Middle East, as well as global terrorism, have shown that as few as the square root of 1% of the population of a given region, practicing in large groups, can very effectively defuse and prevent social conflict throughout the entire region. (Here is a [brief summary](#) of that research.)

It is totally unnecessary for the most violent members of society—criminals and terrorists—to engage in these meditation practices. They become settled as the society becomes settled, and as local community support for their fanatical behaviors dissipates. This has been confirmed again and again. And this is the novel, innovative, but extensively proven approach that we are proposing today.

Why is this solution more effective than other approaches?

Conventional approaches to conflict resolution are simply too superficial. They are “Band-Aid” approaches in that they do not address the underlying root cause of war: mounting political, religious and ethnic tensions in a society. History shows that political settlements



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and negotiated treaties are hardly worth the paper they're written on. These treaties are historically short-lived because they do not address and defuse the deep-seated tensions—or the lust for blood vengeance that seethes in the hearts of certain historical antagonists.

Has this been tried before—is it tested and proven?

There have been more than 50 demonstrations and 23 scientific studies published in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals. There have been at least [seven interventions](#) in the Middle East since the early 1980s, each time reducing war deaths and war-related injuries by an average of 80%, and bringing significant progress towards peace among the rival factions. It is a pity that government support was not made available to sustain those large, peace-promoting groups of meditating experts.

There has never been an approach to preventing war and promoting societal peace that has been as rigorously tested, or shown to be as effective, as this consciousness-based, brain-based, foundational approach to peace.

Do you feel that conventional approaches to countering terrorism are inherently bound to fail?

The historical record is clear. If you look at the Middle East, for example, there have been literally hundreds of peace treaties that have lasted, on average, only a few months. Negotiated settlements by representatives of government do not directly address the deep-seated stress in the collective consciousness of the masses.

Even military approaches, despite their enormous cost and toll in terms of human life and suffering, have rarely achieved a lasting peace. Witness, for example, the war in Iraq. Military interventions typically only further inflame tensions within these politically volatile regions.

You reference a “technology for peace” that’s more powerful than weaponry—could you explain?

When it comes to achieving lasting peace and social harmony, weapons are truly not powerful. They are a knee-jerk response in the absence of anything better. They appeal to men (mostly!) who seem to be unmindful of their historical impotence—of their poor track record. World War I was meant to be "The war to end all wars." But the resulting humiliation and destruction wrought among the vanquished inevitably led to World War II. We need something more successful, more innovative, more powerful—something that addresses and defuses the root cause of violence.

With so many warring factions and conflicting ideologies, how can any approach allow all sides to reconcile and get what they want?

What people fundamentally want cannot be won on the battlefield. They want peace. Prosperity. Security. Happiness. The devastation wrought by war is not a path to any of these. You cannot achieve peace through violence. Or happiness through killing. Instead, it simply perpetuates the endless cycle of war followed by war.

If we want peace, we should enliven peace in the collective consciousness of society. If we want happiness, then enliven happiness in the collective consciousness. There is an abundance of research that shows that TM practice enlivens both. (See, for example, www.TM.org.)

What is needed for this to be implemented quickly?

Fortunately, relatively little is needed. Any governing body can designate a group of individuals to receive training in these peace-promoting technologies and can also provide sufficient funding and resources for their security and comfort—such as troops at an army base, students at a military academy or any sizable university, a group of unemployed citizens, or even a group of refugees. Then the Global Union of Scientists for Peace (www.GUSP.org) will arrange for their proper training. The effects will be felt immediately, within months.

Dr. Hagelin received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, and conducted pioneering research at CERN (the European Center for Particle Physics) and SLAC (the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center). He is responsible for the development of a highly successful grand unified field theory based on the



superstring, and his scientific contributions include some of the most cited references in the physical sciences.

Boko Haram's suicide bomber girls often unaware they're carrying bombs: UN expert

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/12/boko-harams-suicide-bomber-girls-often.html>

Dec 16 – Many of the young girls Boko Haram sends out as suicide bombers in Nigeria and neighbouring countries are probably unaware that they will be blown up, a UN expert said Tuesday.

Boko Haram jihadists have in recent months increasingly used young women and girls as suicide bombers in northeast Nigeria, northern Cameroon, Chad and Niger, leaving death and destruction in their wake.



Leila Zerrougui, the UN secretary-general's special representative on children and armed conflict, suggested Tuesday that especially the children used in this way were in many cases not aware of what they were about to do. "Many of them don't know that they will be blown up with remote devices," she told reporters, pointing out many of the girls are as young as 11 or 12. "I personally doubt that the children know," Zerrougui said, adding that security forces had informed the UN that the bombs are often set off remotely. "That means that it is not the person herself who did it," she said.

Zerrougui lamented that the use of children as human bombs is one of the worst manifestations of an increasingly blatant

disregard for the safety and security of minors in conflict situations around the world. Elsewhere, thousands of youngsters are used as soldiers and children as young as four or five are being used as human shields on battlefields by armed groups like the Islamic State or the anti-Balaka in the Central African Republic, she said.

"This is the worst form where children are really put in danger and their bodies are really used as a weapon," she insisted.

Zerrougui said that since she was appointed to



her position in 2012, she has each year decried an increasingly dire situation for children caught up in conflicts, "and every year (it gets) even worse." And 2015 was no exception.

"I can say that 2015 was really a difficult year for children all over the world where conflicts are ongoing," she said.

The world is currently dealing with six major conflicts, including in Syria and Yemen, compared to one or two normally. And if you count protracted conflicts, a jaw-dropping 20 are currently impacting the lives of children around the world, she said.

"We have thousands of children killed, maimed, schools attacked and children by the thousands recruited in many places," she said. "Children are not only affected, they are specifically targeted."



Academia Abandons Paris Yet Again

By Cinnamon Stillwell

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5713/academia-paris-attacks>

Dec 15 – **The contemptible reaction of Middle East studies professors to the Charlie Hebdo and kosher market massacres in Paris earlier this year was repeated with the brutal ISIS attacks on Paris in November. The deaths of 130 people resulted not in unequivocal condemnation, but in apologies for Islam, dire warnings of "Islamophobia," and anti-Western equivocation.**

Omid Safi, director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center, [complained](#) about Western media coverage, given numerous ISIS attacks throughout the Middle East and North Africa, and asked inanely, "What about my pain?" While it's hardly unusual for the Western media to focus on the West, it is Safi and his academic cohorts who routinely [omit or downplay](#) ISIS's misdeeds so as to avoid addressing its theological underpinnings. Indeed, his hackneyed [comments](#) on that front were true to form:

Yes, the members of ISIS come from Muslim backgrounds. No, their actions cannot be justified on the basis of the 1400 years of Islamic tradition. Every serious scholar of Islam has confirmed this clearly, and unambiguously. ISIS is about as Muslim as the KKK is Christian.

University of Michigan history professor Juan Cole [engaged in](#) similar equivocation:

No religion, including Islam, preaches indiscriminate violence against innocents. . . . People resort to violence out of ambition or grievance, and the more powerful they are, the more violence they seem to commit.

Steven Salaita, the would-be University of Illinois professor currently teaching at the American University in Beirut, applied moral relativism, [tweeting](#) that, "When non-state actors kill people, it's irrational aggression. When states kill people, it's the aggressive restoration of rationality." Like Safi, he criticized "corporate media coverage" by [employing](#) the sarcastic hashtag, "#WesternLivesMatter."

Similarly, **Terje Ostebo, director of the University of Florida's Center for Global Islamic Studies,** [lamented](#) that, "horrendous

attacks" in North Africa "do not get as much attention as Paris does" because "the largest number of the casualties and those killed are Muslims." He then offered the qualifier, "That does not diminish the horror of Paris, of course."

Academics have responded to ISIS terror attacks with apologies for Islam and dire warnings of 'Islamophobia.'

The rabidly anti-Israel **As'ad AbuKhalil of California State University, Stanislaus** [blamed](#) "Western governments and media . . . for the selective denunciations and condemnations culture" due to supposed silence "about the daily crimes against the Palestinian civilian population by key West ally, the terrorist state of Israel."

Meanwhile, **Columbia University's Hamid Dabashi** [excoriated](#) the BBC for its "Eurocentric" coverage, concluding myopically that, "there was no way for the terror in Paris to be . . . humanly perceived and understood by non-Europeans"—a nihilistic claim that, if true, would render teaching anyone about cultures (or times) beyond their own impossible.

Predictably, **Hatem Bazian, director of the Islamophobia Research & Documentation Project at the University of California, Berkeley,** [accused](#) politicians of inserting "a heavy dose of Islamophobia and 'clash of civilizations' venom" into "public opinion" following the attacks. Moreover, he asserted, "Terrorism is a tactic that has no religious identity."

Muqtedar Khan, director of the University of Delaware's Islamic Studies Program, [claimed](#) that, in addition to "the challenges of poverty" and "inequity," the "discourse on Islamophobia has radicalized Muslims." He bemoaned the "discursive assaults that demonize Islam and blame Islam for essentially the failure of geo-politics in the Muslim world."

Others responded by distancing ISIS from its religious roots and denying its [support](#) in the Muslim



world. **Ovimir Anjum, Imam Khattab Chair of Islamic studies at the University of Toledo**—employing an infamous [Obama](#) quote—[maintained](#) that, "ISIS is not Islamic," before adding, "ISIS is isolated completely—both in the Muslim world and worldwide. Nobody is supporting ISIS."

University of Notre Dame Islamic studies professor Ebrahim Moosa, in addition to urging the West to "explore avenues to build peace," [engaged in](#) similar whitewashing:

The Quran teaches that all human life is sacred and when all human life is sacred, you cannot take any human being's life and ISIS is doing the very antithesis of that teaching.

Mark LeVine, a Middle Eastern history professor at the University of California, Irvine, [acknowledged](#) both ISIS's religiosity and the predominance of "chauvinistic attitudes towards other sects, religions, races, ethnicities and nationalities, women, sexual minorities, and others" in the Muslim world, but pivoted by affixing such characteristics to all religions. He then managed to blame the left's favorite bogeyman for the Islamic State's barbarity:

[I]t's worth noting that its strategy was inspired not by the Quran but instead by George W. Bush, whose "you're either with us or against us" threat after 9/11 it directly and approvingly quotes.

Some made clear that their "condemnation" was based on pragmatic, not moral, reasoning by reciting a laundry list of Islamist "grievances." **Yasir Qadhi, an assistant professor of Islamic studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee** [bemoaned](#) the fact that the "senseless attacks" did nothing to help "our Palestinian brothers against Israelis" or "our Afghan and Iraqi brothers and sisters against Western invasions."

Even worse, **Farid Esack, a former professor of Islamic Studies at Harvard University** now teaching at the University of Johannesburg, refused to denounce the killers and [blamed](#) France outright:

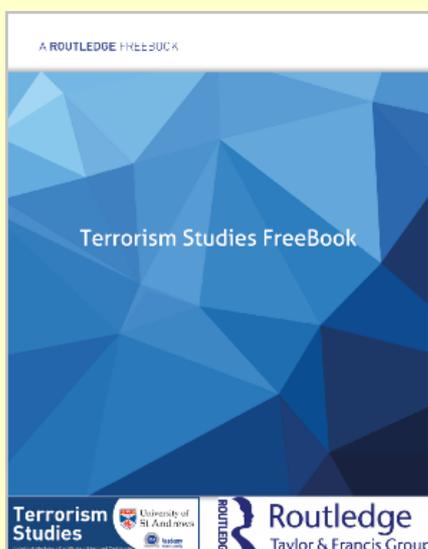
I am not praying for Paris; I am not condemning anyone. Why the hell should I? I had nothing to do with it. I am sickened by the perpetual expectations to condemn. I walk away from your sh—y racist and Islamophobic expectations that whenever your chickens come home to roost then I must feign horror.

Just when it seemed Middle East studies professors could sink no lower, the latest ISIS bloodbath in Paris has proven otherwise. Instead of proffering objective analysis, they trade in obfuscation, moral relativism, and anti-Western rhetoric. We turn to these "experts" for advice on the central struggle of this age at our peril.

Cinnamon Stillwell is the West Coast Representative for Campus Watch, a project of the Middle East Forum.

Terrorism Studies FreeBook

Source: https://www.routledge.com/posts/9058?utm_source=shared_link&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=SBU1_rk_2pr_6sl_2sec_cmg15_x_X



Terrorism Studies is a FreeBook brought to you by Routledge. It contains a collection of curated content from some of our top titles and leading experts.

It remains a sad fact that terrorism in all its forms remains one of the major threats that continue to dominate the global agenda. The threat is more varied than we have experienced before and staying one step ahead is crucial. Knowledge of the threat, the causes and solutions is an ever more important weapon in our arsenal in our fight against terrorism.

The team at the **University of St Andrews** and **IBCAcademy**, who deliver the world renowned online **Certificate in Terrorism Studies**, have brought together excerpts from some core texts in the terrorism and security studies field, all written by respected experts.



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These excerpts are available for you **free of charge** and will act as a useful primer for anyone considering undertaking the internationally acclaimed **Certificate** or **Advanced Certificate in Terrorism Studies** - but will also prove useful for anyone with a more general interest in this important subject area.



272 IS fighters are hiding in Europe. 150 more terrorists are on their way

Source: http://www.dagbladet.no/2015/12/17/nyheter/terror/utenriks/is/den_islamske_stat/42440508/

Dec 17 – Today, *Dagbladet* can reveal information about two waves of Islamic State terrorists, specially trained for attacks on European soil.

The first wave is said to already have travelled to Europe. The second wave is still with the terror group in Syria - after having received training in a militant camp between Sinjar and Mosul in Iraq. The Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) confirms to *Dagbladet* that they are familiar with the information.

Dagbladet has obtained the information from a source with deep insight into IS in Syria. The source has previously given information which proved to be correct.

PST is aware that similar information exists. I do not want to go into more detail about the information PST possesses, regarding the information that *Dagbladet* has obtained, Trond Hugubakken, head of communications at PST, says.

The latest IS related terror attack in Europe, was the tragedy in Paris on November 13. 130 people were killed, and 351 wounded, when IS related terrorists attacked on six different places in the French capital.

272 in Europe

Dagbladet is told that the first wave of IS terrorists, trained for attacks in Europe, originally consisted of 300 fighters. 28 of the 300 have lost their lives in Syria - in bombings, firefights, or from other causes. *Dagbladet* is told that the remaining 272 fighters have travelled to Europe. The fighters are said to be instructed to lay low. *Dagbladet* is aware that other sources have another estimate of the number of IS terrorists in Europe. This estimate is below 100.

The second wave of terrorists consists of 150 fighters, who are still in Syria. They are said to have had training in a militant camp between Sinjar and Mosul in Iraq. 112 of the 150 have completed their training.

Approximately two weeks ago several of the 112 travelled from the militant camp, to the IS controlled city of Deir el Zour in Syria. *Dagbladet* is told the fighters travelled to Syria using a total of 11 cars.

From Deir el Zour they travelled on to Raqqa - IS' most important city in Syria, and the «capital» of the terrorist group's so-called «caliphate», and the neighbouring city of Tabqaqah. A German IS fighter is said to be a leader in this group.

Two types of operations

According to *Dagbladet's* source, the first wave of fighters was trained in Raqqa. There they were trained to perform **two different types of terror attacks**, *Dagbladet* is told.

- One group is said to be trained to become martyrs through suicide attacks. *Dagbladet's* source describes these fighters as being «completely brainwashed».
- The second group is said to be trained to plan attacks using handguns and suicide belts. Both methods were used during the Paris attacks on November 13.

PST: Aware of the information

The Norwegian Police Security Service confirms that they were aware of the information before *Dagbladet* approached them.

Intelligence is, and will always be, uncertain. Intelligence work is for a big part about making uncertain information more certain. The stream of terror related information is vast. Some of this information is correct, lots of it is incorrect. I do not want to go into more detail about the information PST possesses, regarding the information that *Dagbladet* has obtained, Trond Hugubakken, head of communications at PST, says.

The amount of information usually increases considerably related to, and in the aftermath of, terror attacks. This was also the case



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with the terror attacks in Paris in November. PST is continuously working to verify and analyse the information we receive, in order to supply the Norwegian authorities with the best possible foundation on which to decide how to

relate to the threat situation we are facing all the time.

Dagbladet has no concrete information about possible attacks on Norwegian soil.

Two countries had **no idea** they were in Saudi Arabia's Muslim coalition to fight terrorism

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-announces-34-strong-coalition-of-muslim-nations-to-fight-terrorism-but-two-countries-a6779186.html>

Dec 19 – Earlier this week Saudi Arabia announced a new 34-country coalition of Muslim nations to fight terrorism, but two of the key countries have said they had no idea they were involved.

The countries from Asia, Africa and the Arab world were combining their efforts to combat extremism, according to the Saudis, who have faced mounting pressure to step up efforts in addressing the threat of extremism.

Delivering the announcement on Tuesday, Defence Minister Mohammed bin Salman said: "Currently, every Muslim country is fighting terrorism individually... so co-ordinating efforts is very important."

The coalition is targeting extremists in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Afghanistan.

But following the statement at least two governments have claimed they were not aware of their own involvement. **Pakistan's** Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Chaudhry, has been quoted as saying he only learnt of his country's inclusion in the alliance from news reports. He is said to have phoned the country's ambassador in Saudi capital Riyadh – where a joint operations centre is planned – for clarification. Senior officials claimed they were not consulted beforehand. Despite being a long-term ally of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan has refrained from joining its military exploits, instead reaffirming

its position of non-involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts. In November, army spokesman Lt Gen Asim Bajwa stated: "We are not looking for any involvement outside our region."

Lebanon was also equally baffled country following the announcement, according to Lebanese media outlet Naharnet. The Prime Minister Tammam Salam reportedly welcomed the news, saying: "Lebanon is at the forefront of the confrontation with terrorism." In contrast the Foreign Ministry was adamant they had no "memo or phone call mentioning this coalition." They added they had: "No knowledge whatsoever of the issue of forming an Islamic anti-terror coalition." The office also questioned whether the move encroached on their 'constitutional jurisdiction on foreign affairs'.

Indonesia was also said to be still deciding whether to join, while Malaysia ruled out any military intervention.

After the initial release the UK government was broadly positive about the news, with Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Philip Hammond, tweeting: "Announcement of Islamic anti-terror coalition is welcome. Across the world, we're fighting common enemy in extremism. We will #DefeatDaesh."

The Foreign Office did not comment on the recent revelations.



The coalition is (thought to) include Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, the Palestinians, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: It seems that Saudi Arabia's NATO is having some problems for the time being!



Conversion to Islam – a Personal Story

By Thomas L. Cranmer

Source: <http://acdemocracy.org/conversion-to-islam-a-personal-story/>

Dec 19 – A fearful twist on the boy meets girl story: Except this time it is a Muslim girl. No, she was not the one in the terrorist murders of 14 people in San Bernardino. But she was a smart, beautiful, fanatic Pakistani Muslim from a wealthy, well-educated family, whose father was an engineer with a major airline, working in Singapore.

The boy was a bright Hindu boy fluent in English from a wealthy Indian family. His mother was a doctor trained in England as a surgeon and owner of a small hospital. His father was an English-speaking engineer with a tractor company. As a condition of the boy's visa, my wife and I sponsored the boy and guaranteed to the U.S. State Department that we would be responsible for paying his expenses if his parents did not.

Both the girl and boy got student visas 25 years ago to come to the U.S. to study at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The University specialized in attracting students from abroad that could pay the high fees. They met in their first year and fell in love. But the University went bankrupt. With my help and a professor's influence, the boy was admitted to Columbia Graduate School of Business for an MBA program. The University of Houston admitted the girl.

The girl got high grades in Houston, but also became active in one of the most virulent radical Muslim student organizations in the U.S. The boy and girl stayed in close touch. When they graduated they were married in 1998. However, the girl's conditions for the marriage were the boy must agree:

1. to become a Muslim,
2. to change his name to a Muslim name,
3. to go on a jihad,
4. to cease friendship with Christians (including us) and
5. to cease contact with the boy's parents.

This was a slap in our faces. We had treated the boy as a son and made big efforts to settle him into the U.S. They both had stayed in our house and even gone with us to a company picnic. Some of the people in my company thought the boy and girl were our children, even though the girl was dressed in colorful Pakistani attire.

It was a devastating blow to the boy's parents. They had been driven out of Pakistan in 1947 when Pakistan separated from India and millions were killed. Pakistani Muslims took the parents' properties and other assets without compensation. Muslim "friends" of theirs reported where some of her family were hiding, turned them in to authorities, and they were subsequently killed. No surprise the parents hated the Muslims for their treatment.

The boy and girl had a baby, but they refused to tell the boy's parents they had a grandchild. The boy's mother delivered both of our children in New Delhi, India. We had known her and her family for four years while I was there for four years with the State Department. The mother and father had stayed at our home in Virginia after we moved back to the U.S. They now blame us for allowing their son to convert to an Islamist, and no longer speak to us.

We even gave the boy and girl a used car; then they ceased contact with us. I know how insular the Muslim culture is, but it was a surprise the normal veneer of friendship and cooperation disappeared. Most Muslims were friendly, but their life styles and true attitudes are completely different from western cultures. I studied three Islamic languages with the Imam of the largest mosque in India over three years, lived in a Muslim section of New Delhi during four years and spent decades working and travelling in almost every Muslim country of the world, including Iran, Syria and Iraq. The cultures are very conformist, due to strict, standard training of the religious leaders in the Koran and little or no liberal arts training about world philosophies. Debate and openness to new ideas are discouraged. Little South Korea has more patents than the entire Muslim Middle East.

The Koran teaches that non-Muslims are inferior, encourages hostility and supports a comprehensive political system of domination. The Koran provides "... rules not only for manners and hygiene, marriage and divorce, and the treatment of children, slaves and animals, but also for commerce and politics, interest and debts, contracts and wills, industry and finance, crime and punishment,



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war and peace.” (The Age of Faith, Will Durant, p. 179)

The Muslim calendar starts with 16 July 622 with the flight (hijra in Arabic) of Muhammed from Mecca, Saudi Arabia and the start of Muslim attempts to conquer the world. By 699 Muslims took over the eastern area up to the Indus River at the edge of India. They were defeated in 717 when they tried to take over what is now Istanbul, Turkey (the center of the eastern Christian empire). Islamists took over

North Africa and Spain, but were defeated in the 732 battle of Tours, France, but retained Spain from 710 until 1491. They still rule North Africa. Islamists finally conquered Istanbul in 1453 and took over much of Eastern Europe in the early 1500s until 1923. In 1529 the Muslim Turks besieged Vienna and again in 1683. A Turkish vizier hanged the Greek patriarch for writing a letter around 1660 predicting Christianity would defeat Islam.

This history is alive and well in the minds of Islamists. They see the efforts for long-term domination as a matter of persistence and patience. Recent surveys show 10-40% of Muslims support violent attacks against “infidels”. They are succeeding in killing and driving out Christians from the Middle East. We have no idea what has happened to the couple, but their hostility is an indication the Islamists are continuing to push forward.

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