

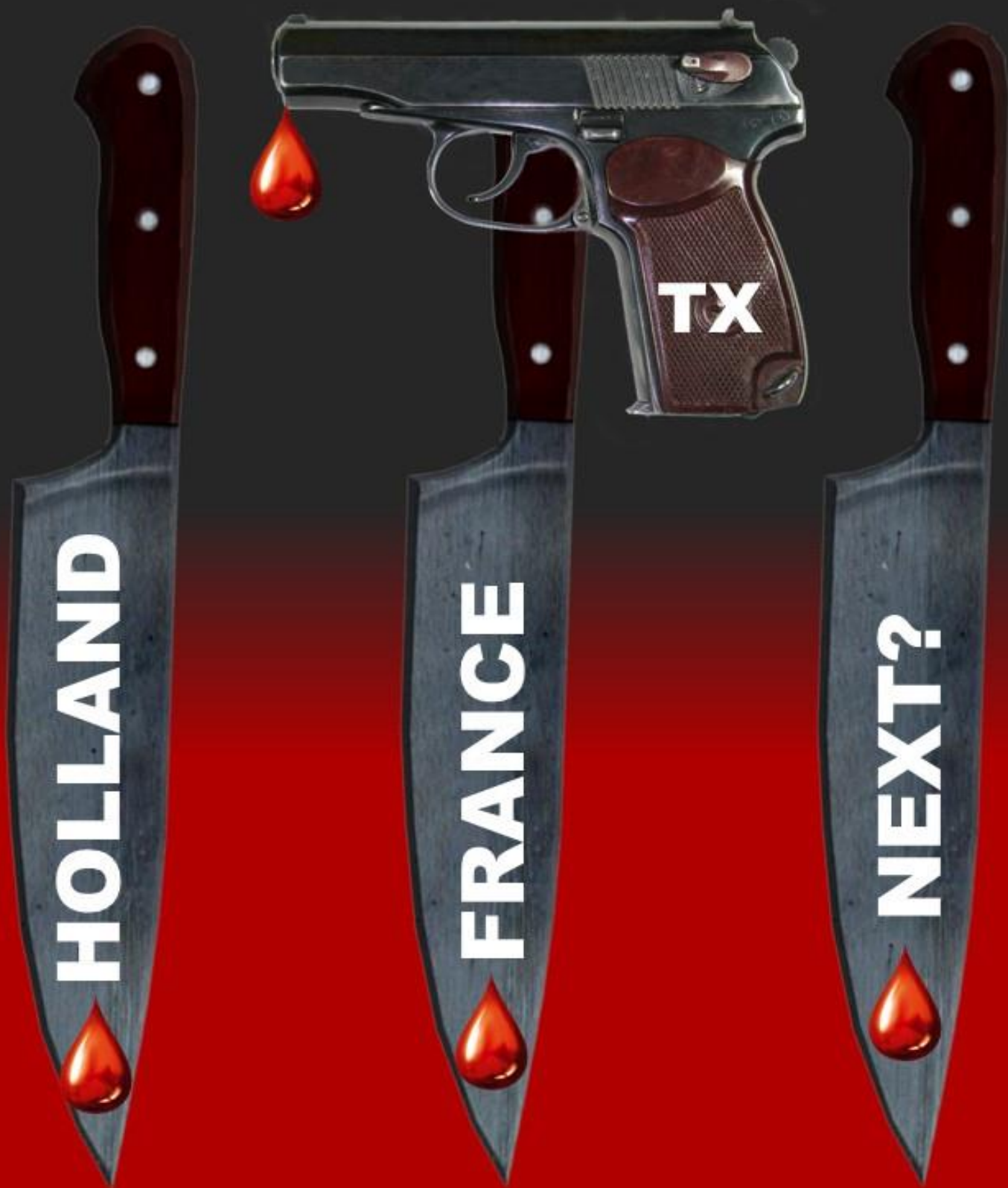
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TERROR NEWS



Weaponizing Artificial Intelligence: The Scary Prospect Of AI-Enabled Terrorism

By Bernard Marr

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2018/04/23/weaponizing-artificial-intelligence-the-scary-prospect-of-ai-enabled-terrorism/#7c68133877b6>

There has been much speculation about the power and dangers of artificial intelligence (AI), but it's been primarily focused on what AI will do to our jobs in the very near future. Now, there's discussion among tech leaders, governments and journalists about how artificial intelligence is making lethal autonomous weapons systems possible and what could transpire if this technology falls into the hands of a rogue state or terrorist organization. Debates on the moral and legal implications of autonomous weapons have begun and there are no easy answers.



Autonomous weapons already developed

The [United Nations recently discussed](#) the use of autonomous weapons and the possibility to institute an international ban on “killer robots.” This debate comes on the heels of more than [100 leaders from the artificial intelligence community](#), including Tesla’s Elon Musk and Alphabet’s Mustafa Suleyman, warning that these weapons could lead to a “third revolution in warfare.”

Although artificial intelligence has enabled improvements and efficiencies in many sectors of our economy from entertainment to transportation to healthcare, when it comes to weaponized machines being able to function without intervention from humans, a lot of questions are raised.

There are already a number of weapons systems with varying levels of human involvement that are actively being tested today.

In the UK, the [Taranis drone](#), an unmanned combat aerial vehicle, is expected to be fully operational by 2030 and capable of replacing the human-piloted Tornado GR4 fighter planes that are part of the Royal Air Force’s Future Offensive Air System.

Other countries, including the United States and Russia, are developing robotic tanks that can operate autonomously or be remote controlled. The U.S. also has an autonomous



warship that was launched in 2016. Although it's still in development, it's expected to have offensive capabilities including anti-submarine weaponry.

South Korea uses a Samsung SGR-A1 sentry gun that is supposedly capable of firing autonomously to police its border.

While these weapons were developed to minimize the threat to human life in military conflicts, you don't need to be an avid Sci-Fi fan to make the leap to imagine how terrorist organizations can use these weapons for mass destruction.

Warnings of AI and killer robots

The United States and Chinese military are testing the use of swarming drones—dozens of unmanned aircraft that can be sent in to overwhelm enemy targets and can result in mass killings.

Alvin Wilby, vice president of research at Thales, a French defense giant that supplies reconnaissance drones to the British Army, told the House of Lords Artificial Intelligence Committee that [rogue states and terrorists “will get their hands on lethal artificial intelligence in the very near future.”](#) Echoing the same sentiment is Noel Sharkey, emeritus professor of artificial intelligence and robotics at University of Sheffield who fears [“very bad copies” of such weapons](#) would get into the hands of terrorist groups.

Not all agree that AI is all bad; in fact, its potential benefit humanity is immense.

AI can help fight terrorism

On the other side of the AI spectrum, [Facebook announced](#) that it is using AI to find and remove terrorist content from its platform. Behind the scenes, Facebook uses image-matching technology to identify and prevent photos and videos from known terrorists from popping up on other accounts. The company also suggested it could use machine-learning algorithms to look for patterns in terrorist propaganda, so it could more swiftly to remove it from the newsfeeds of others. These anti-terror efforts would extend to other platforms Facebook owns including WhatsApp and Instagram. Facebook partnered with other tech companies including Twitter, Microsoft and YouTube to create an industry database that documents the digital fingerprints of terrorist organizations.

Humans pushed out of life and death decisions

The overwhelming concern from groups who wish to ban lethal autonomous weapons such as the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, is that if machines become fully autonomous, humans won't have a deciding role in missions that kill. This creates a moral dilemma. And, what if some evil regimes use lethal autonomous systems on their own people?

As Mr. Wilby said, the AI “genie is out of the bottle.” As with other innovations, now that AI technology has begun to impact our world, we need to do our best to find ways to properly control it. If terrorist organizations wish to use AI for evil purposes, perhaps our best defense is an AI offense.

Bernard Marr is a best-selling author & keynote speaker on business, technology and big data. His new book is [Data Strategy](#).

Tackling Terrorism's Taboo: Shame

By Matthew Kriner

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/691>

This exploratory article provides a conceptual framework for explaining **how shame is used by terrorist organizations in their recruitment and radicalization strategies**. Shame is a universal emotion, experienced across all cultures, and as such presents scholars with a platform for easy cross-cultural comparisons of radicalization phenomena. Terrorist use of entitative identities to divide society into adherents and apostates, particularly in the study of religious extremists like jihadist entities, provides a verdant ground of understanding how organizations move people into higher states of radicalization, and potentially enticing them to engage in terrorism. However, as an aversive emotion, shame's taboo status has, it is suggested here, led scholars to overlook its role in past studies of radicalization. This article postulates that emotions and identity are an integral



aspect of the social self, and because of shame's regulatory power over social identity and norm adherence, it should be at the core of the study of radicalization processes

►► Read the full paper at source's URL.

Matthew Kriner is a graduate student at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel pursuing an MA in Government with a focus on Counter-Terrorism. He has conducted research on radicalization, anti-democratic extremism and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He is currently a Research Intern at Valens Global.

130+ (Counter-) Terrorism Research Centres – an Inventory

By Teun van Dongen

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/696>

In the still expanding field of Terrorism Studies, it is difficult to keep track of who is doing what. Anyone looking for a research partner, a particular type of expertise or, perhaps, a research position, will have a hard time finding his or her way in the myriad of centres, institutes, think tanks, councils and foundations that seek to enlarge our understanding of terrorism. Since 'enhancing security through collaborative research' is the mission of the Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI), the editors of its journal *Perspectives on Terrorism* invited me to compile a list of terrorism research centres.

►► Read the full paper at source's URL.

Dr. Teun van Dongen is an Associate Fellow at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism and a lecturer at Leiden University.

Counterterrorism Bookshelf: 20 Books on Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism-Related Subjects

By Joshua Sinai

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/700>

This column consists of 20 capsule reviews of books from various publishers. It is arranged into (i) general accounts (including works on specific topics), (ii) books on counterterrorism (general and legal issues), (iii) anarchism, and (iv) Boko Haram.

►► Read the full paper at source's URL.

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

Upcoming and Recently Completed Ph.D. Theses

By Ryan Scrivens, Jeanine de Roy van Zuidewijn

Source: <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/704>

The Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI) seeks to stimulate and coordinate high-quality research in the field of (Counter-) Terrorism Studies. One of TRI's instruments are national and (sub-) regional networks of post-graduate students working on their doctoral theses. TRI networks, led by a local coordinator who is usually her- or himself working on a dissertation, exist in more than a dozen countries/regions. Two of the most active networks are to be found in Canada and the Netherlands (including the Flemish-speaking part of Belgium). The two lists below originate from these networks

►► Read the full paper at source's URL



Jeanine de Roy van Zijdewijn is Coordinator of the Dutch-Flemish Network of Ph.D. Theses Writers of the Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI). She is a Researcher at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs of Leiden University (Campus The Hague) and a Research Fellow of the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism. She has a background in Liberal Arts & Sciences (BA) and International Relations (MA – cum laude).

Ryan Scrivens is Associate Theses Research Editor of 'Perspectives on Terrorism' and Coordinator of the Canadian Network of Ph.D. Theses Writers of the Terrorism Research Initiative. He is also a Visiting Researcher at the VOX-Pol Network of Excellence and a Research Associate at the International CyberCrime Research Centre. He recently completed a Ph.D. in Criminology at Simon Fraser University and has since been awarded a Horizon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Concordia University, working with Project SOMEONE to develop ways to build resilience against radicalization leading to violent extremism and hatred.

Hamas drone maker killed in Malaysia

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180424-hamas-drone-maker-killed-in-malaysia>

Apr 24 – A Palestinian engineer whom Hamas claimed worked for them, was shot and killed by unknown assailants in Malaysia where he taught, the *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) Sunday.

Hamas, the terrorist organization that exercises complete political and military control over the Gaza Strip blamed Israel for killing **Fadi al-Batsh**, who was described by the terrorist group's leader, Ismail Haniyeh, as a **member of Hamas with "an honorable reputation in science."**

A spokesman for the Israeli government didn't comment on the killing, however on Sunday Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said on Israel Radio that Batsh was "no saint" and suggested that his killing was the result of "a settling of scores among terrorist organizations."

In a mourning tent that displayed a sign reading, "Qassam Brigades mourns its martyred leader. The engineer Fadi Mohammed al-Batsh."

The Izz al-din Qassem Brigades are the active terrorists in Hamas and members of the group attended the public mourning. Despite the presence of the terror group at the mourning tent, Batsh's father denied that his son was a member of Hamas.

Batsh, who was a senior lecturer at the University of Kuala Lumpur, was shot on his way to a mosque for dawn prayers by a helmeted man on a motorcycle. In 2014 he had published a paper on how to make power sources for aerial vehicles more reliable.

Malaysian authorities blamed the killing on Europeans who were tied to a foreign intelligence agency.

Hamas, according to Israeli analysts, may be turning to drones to carry out attacks, because Israel has developed countermeasures to both its rocket arsenal and its terror tunnels.

"Since Israel has successfully developed defense systems against the rockets and the missiles and...new technological regarding terror tunnels, Hamas was left almost with nothing," said Kobi Michael, a researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies. Michael said that a drone packed with explosives could fly lower than a rocket and possibly evade Israeli defenses, such as Iron Dome.

Hamas [accused](#) Israel of the 2016 killing of Mohamad Zawari, who was said to be the head of the terror group's "air force." Zawari was credited with building thirty drones ahead of Hamas's 2008 war with Israel. In February of last year, the IDF [shot down](#) a Hamas drone that approached Israeli airspace. In September 2016, the IDF [intercepted](#) a drone heading for Israeli territory, while a UAV crashed close to the Gaza border fence three months earlier. In 2016, Israeli authorities thwarted an attempt to smuggle drone models and disassembled drone parts into Gaza via the postal system. Drones were also [launched](#) from Gaza during Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014.

A number of other high-ranking Hamas officials have been killed in recent years. Mazen Faqha, who had been convicted of killing nine Israelis in a 2002 terror attack, was [killed](#) in March 2017.

While it is true that Israel has been credited with taking out many Palestinian terrorists over the years, Hamas's Gaza leader Yahye Sinwar himself was [implicated](#) in orchestrating the [execution](#) in 2016 of Mahmoud Ishtiw, a senior figure in the al-Qassam Brigades.



The Toronto “Van Incident” and Terrorism in Canada

By Alex Nowrasteh

Source: <https://www.cato.org/blog/toronto-van-incident-terrorism-canada>

Apr 24 – Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders [said](#) that there is no evidence that yesterday’s “van incident,” where Alek Minassian murdered 10 people and injured 15 others on a busy sidewalk with a van, was a terrorist attack. To count as a terrorist attack, Minassian’s motivations must have been political, religious, or social in nature beyond simply a desire to terrorize or murder others. Minassian’s motives are so far unclear with much speculation regarding his [social awkwardness](#) and [possible anti-women](#) opinions but, so far, little surrounding his political or religious opinions. This could change as police and investigators uncover new facts.

Many in media and government, prompted by Minassian’s mass murder, are commenting on terrorism in Canada but with little context. By using the methods employed in my recent terrorism [risk analysis](#) for the United States, I’ve found that terrorism is rare in Canada. Assuming that investigators will eventually find that Minassian’s mass-murder is not terrorism, as they currently claim, then the annual chance of being murdered in a terrorist attack on Canadian soil over the last 25 years was about one in 60.4 million per year. The annual chance of being injured in a terrorist attack on Canadian soil during that time was about one in 7.4 million per year.

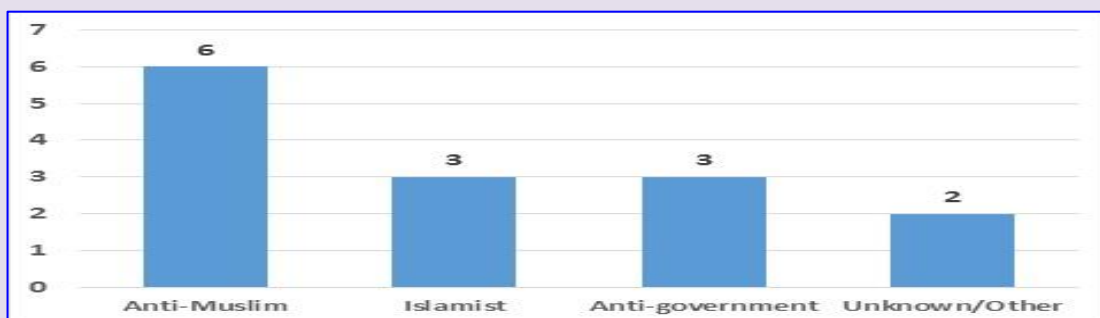
Data and Methodology

This post examines 25 years of terrorism on Canadian soil from 1993 through April 23, 2018. Fatalities and injuries in terrorist attacks are the most important measures of the cost of terrorism. The information sources are the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) at the University of Maryland, the [RAND Corporation](#), and [others](#). I excluded three fatalities counted by the GTD as they were the terrorists themselves. I further grouped the ideology of the deadly attackers into four broad ideologies: Islamists, Anti-Muslims, anti-government, and Unknown/Other. GTD descriptions of the attackers, news stories, and wikipedia were my guide in grouping the attacks by ideology. The grouping by ideology was easy as there were so few terrorist attacks in Canada from 1993 to the present. The number of Canadian residents and non-terrorist murders in each year comes from [Statistics Canada](#).

Terrorism Risk in Canada

Terrorists have murdered 14 people on Canadian soil from 1993 through April 23, 2018. Islamists murdered 3 of the victims, an [anti-government](#) terrorist murdered 3, suspected terrorists of an unknown ideology murdered 2, and 6 were murdered by an anti-Muslim terrorist named [Alexandre Bissonnette](#) in a shooting at a Quebec mosque last year (Figure 1). Of the 63 terrorist attacks in Canada during that time, according to a wide definition of the term “terrorist” in the GTD, only 7 resulted in a fatality. In other words, 89 percent of terrorist attacks in Canada during the last 25 years killed nobody.

Figure 1 – Murders in Canadian Terrorist Attacks by the Ideology of the Attacker, 1993-2018



Sources: Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland, RAND Corporation, ESRI, and author’s calculations.



Although most of the recorded terrorist attacks targetted small groups in Canada, like Muslims or the police, it is useful to get a sense of the relative danger by looking at the annual chance of being murdered by a terrorist inspired by each ideology. The annual chance of being murdered by an Islamist in a terrorist attack was the same as that of being murdered by an anti-government terrorist: about one in 281.7 million per year. The annual chance of being murdered by a terrorist with an unknown ideology was about one in 422.5 million per year. The greatest risk, but also still tiny, was being murdered by Alexandre Bissonnette in his Mosque attack last year at one in 140.8 million per year over the 25 years. There were 114 injuries in terrorist attacks on Canadian soil from 1993 through April 23, 2018 (Table 1). Terrorists with unknown or other ideologies caused almost 68 percent of those injuries. Alexandre Bissonnette, the anti-Muslim terrorist, was personally responsible for 17 percent of all injuries in terrorist attacks during this time in Canada. Islamist terrorists were responsible for about 11 percent of injuries while anti-abortion and anti-government terrorists were responsible for 4 and 2 percent of all injuries, respectively.

Table 1
Injuries in Canadian Terrorist Attacks by the Ideology of the Attacker, 1993-2018

	Injuries	Annual Chance of Being Injured	Percent of All Injuries
Unknown/Other	77	1 in 10,973,614	67.5%
Anti-Muslim	19	1 in 44,472,016	16.7%
Islamist	12	1 in 70,414,026	10.5%
Anti-abortion	4	1 in 211,242,077	3.5%
Anti-government	2	1 in 422,484,154	1.8%
Total	114	1 in 7,412,003	100%

Sources: Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland, RAND Corporation, ESRI, and author's calculations.

Comparison to Murder

Fatalities and injuries in terrorist attacks are rare so a relevant comparison to non-terrorist murder puts the terrorism danger into perspective. There were about 14,807 [murders](#) in Canada from 1993 through April 23, 2018. Because the number of murders is not reported for 2016-2018, I assumed that the number of murders for each of those years was the same as the number in 2015. The annual chance of being murdered outside of a terrorist attack was about one in 57,000 per year from 1993 through 2018 – about 1,058 times greater than the chance of being killed in a terrorist attack.

Conclusion

There is a small chance of being murdered in a terrorist attack in Canada over the last 25 years. By comparison, the annual chance of being murdered in a terrorist attack in the United States over that time was about [25 times greater than in Canada](#). Similarly, the annual chance of being murdered in a terrorist attack in [Canada also appears to be lower than in Europe](#). The chance of being murdered in a non-terrorist murder in Canada was over 1000 times greater. Alek Minassian's horrific mass murder does not appear to be a terrorist attack based on the information available at this time, but if it does turn out to be terrorism then it would be the deadliest attack on Canadian soil since December 6, 1989, when [Marc Lepine](#) murdered 14 and injured 14 others in an attack inspired by his anti-feminism. The murder or death of innocent people is tragic no matter the circumstances and the perpetrator should be punished to the fullest extent of the law. Regardless, Canadians can at least take some comfort in the fact that the chance of being murdered in a terrorist attack in Canada is small in absolute terms, relative to the residents of other developed nations, and compared to the chance of being murdered in a non-terrorist homicide.

Alex Nowrasteh is a senior immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity. His popular publications have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Washington Post, and most other major publications in the United States. His peer-reviewed academic publications have appeared in the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economic



Affairs, the Fletcher Security Review, the Journal of Bioeconomics, and Public Choice. Alex regularly appears on Fox News, MSNBC, Bloomberg, and numerous television and radio stations across the United States. He is a coauthor of the booklet [Open Immigration: Yea and Nay](#) (Encounter BroadSides, 2014). He is a native of Southern California and received a BA in economics from George Mason University and a Master of Science in economic history from the London School of Economics.

The dark possible motive of the Toronto van attacker

By Michael Arntfield

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180426-the-dark-possible-motive-of-the-toronto-van-attacker>

Apr 26 – Like other Canadians, I was horrified upon learning of a van attack along Toronto's famed Yonge Street this week. Struggling to make sense of it, my first question was: "Why?"

As it turns out, the attack was possibly a disturbing reprise of [a similar massacre](#), targeting mostly women and perceptively "sexually active" men in the California community of Isla Vista in May 2014.

Facebook has confirmed that a final pre-attack post of [the suspect in Toronto's van attack is real](#), and was a salute to Elliot Rodger. The deranged American misogynist published his manifesto bemoaning his involuntary celibacy prior to his Isla Vista shooting and driving spree that killed six.

I wrote about that case and the earlier, [lesser-known case of George Sodini](#) in Pennsylvania in 2009 in my recent book, [Murder in Plain English](#), and the signs [that were missed](#) about Rodger in particular.

Rodger has apparently now become, in a disturbing twist, [the martyr for a larger "incel" \(short for involuntary celibacy\) subculture](#). He shot and killed himself in his BMW after colliding with a parked car during his rampage.

The Toronto case, as we know, ended differently. Const. Ken Lam was captured on cellphone video arresting the van attack suspect and doing so without firing a shot.

This despite having his service weapon drawn, while the suspect pantomimed having a pistol of his own. In fact, the suspect also announced he had a gun while engaging in what appeared to be a well-rehearsed quick draw involving a mobile device made to look like a handgun, all in a bid to have the officer shoot and kill him.

It's what [is often called "suicide by cop"](#) and it's a preferred ending among some of the odious and cowardly offenders out there, including lone-wolf terrorists.

Focusing on the motive

But Lam's remarkable restraint has instead allowed the media to focus on the real subtext of this horrific rampage — the motive no one saw coming, but one with a series of disturbing antecedents that we all need to pay attention to.

While there has been a movement of late in the media to omit any reference to the name or image of mass murderers when reporting on these events, "incel" requires a conversation because it represents only the latest online movement catering to the disordered and the disaffected.

[Incel has now claimed the suspect in the Toronto van attack](#), Alek Minassian, as its own.

The devotees to this movement include those suffering from what is known as [schizoid personality disorder](#). The biographical details emerging about the Toronto van attack suspect may fit some symptoms of this disorder.

While it sounds like schizophrenia, it's not. In fact, unlike schizophrenia, schizoids know exactly what they're doing. It might be best described as the closest thing to clinical misanthropy — a visceral hatred of people — as you can get.

It's also a personality disorder, not an illness per se; in fact, it's very rare in clinical settings, or among populations suffering from mental illness.



Schizoid red flags

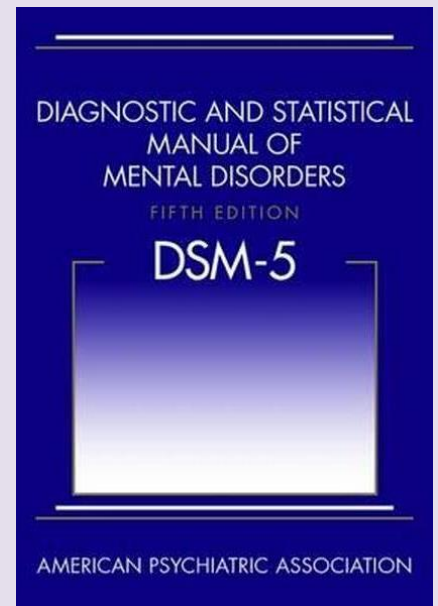
[As the latest edition of the DSM-5](#), the definitive text on personality disorders, reveals, along with a review of the literature on schizoids involved in school shootings, some of the disorder's hallmarks and red flags:

- ◆ Disinterested in group or social activities.
- ◆ Solitary by nature, in part due to an overriding arrogance, anger at the world and sense of entitlement.
- ◆ Takes pleasure in few activities, generally solemn and inactive.
- ◆ A dull, cold affect, coupled with indifference to praise or criticism.
- ◆ Late onset of of formative life experiences or rites of passage, such as education, obtaining a driver's license or job and intimacy.

But while the schizoid is generally averse to sexual activity, we see a *preoccupation* with sex in a number of noteworthy cases. The objectification of women, an inability to distinguish between sex and real intimacy and a fixation on fantasy in the absence of real-life experiences can all prove to be a dangerous cocktail that fuels new and more violent fantasies.

This is especially the case when, for reasons not fully understood, the schizoid also exhibits *psychopathic tendencies*.

Many schizoids end up relegated to their parents' basements and nurture their angry oeuvre as YouTube trolls — the same trolls who, in some unconscious manner, might have at least in part influenced Const. Lam's decision not to pull the trigger in an otherwise justifiable shooting that day. Others take their anger into the real world.



Dark corner of the internet

With Elliot Rodger's last will and testament published to YouTube before his massacre as a call to action, and his earlier manifesto, *My Twisted World*, as its script, it seems the incel is only the latest dark corner of the internet.

If ISIL has its soldiers of the caliphate, we are possibly seeing the next iteration of deadly lone-wolf emissaries in the case of incel.

Const. Lam's cool and measured apprehension of the Toronto van attack suspect may certainly mark the first occasion on record where a mass murderer purportedly armed with a deadly weapon was taken down with a night stick.

But Lam did more than simply refrain from shooting and using his expandable baton in order to bring about the arrest as he continuously assessed and reassessed the situation.

If the incel speculation about the accused Toronto attacker is true, the constable has left us with a living, breathing suspect who may help us to deepen our understanding of his heinous motives — and perhaps even prevent future such crimes.

Michael Arntfield is Associate Professor of Criminology & English Literature, Western University.

Terrorists could pose as BEGGARS to carry out Royal Wedding bloodbath

By Jonathan Corke, Exclusive

Source: <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/699218/royal-wedding-terrorists-terror-threat-beggars-isis-prince-harry-meghan-markle>

Apr 29 – THREAT: The royal wedding could be hit by terrorists pretending to be beggars. Emails obtained by the Daily Star Sunday reveal fears that extremists could use an "epidemic of rough sleeping and vagrancy" in Windsor to launch an attack. According to the messages, many beggars come from outside the town in a bid to make money from tourists.



They reveal how the leader of the local authority warned the area's police chief of a risk of "terrorism" arising from the situation.

The nuptials of [Prince Harry](#), 33 and actress [Meghan Markle](#), 36 at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on May 19, is set to bring over 100,000 people to town.

"I am incredibly concerned about people "ghosting" in and lying in the streets with bags or leaving bags or depositing bombs in piles of bags"
Simon Dudley

In January, Councillor Simon Dudley went public with a plea for police to clear the area of beggars ahead of next month's wedding.

But the emails show how Mr Dudley privately voiced fears that terrorists might "ghost" in by pretending to be homeless.

In an email to Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld, he wrote: "My primary concern is ASB (anti-social behaviour) in Windsor where the residents are very upset, and frankly terrorism.

"I am incredibly concerned about people "ghosting" in and lying in the streets with bags or leaving bags or depositing bombs in piles of bags etc. I can only see the situation getting more dangerous frankly. I want to be ultra cautious."

Mr Stansfeld, an ex-chief of staff intelligence in the Army who studied terrorism at university, is understood to have raised Mr Dudley's concerns about the homeless with Thames Valley Police.



Security expert on challenges during royal wedding

The force, which is responsible for policing the royal wedding, has cancelled all leave for the day.

The Metropolitan Police will also have officers and experts involved, along with the security services.

On the day armed officers will mingle with crowds while snipers will be deployed on rooftops.

Dogs and mounted patrols will be on duty and marine officers will be conducting searches along the nearby Thames.

CONTROVERSY: A row erupted over plans to purge Windsor's homeless ahead of the wedding

Steel barriers will also be erected to deter vehicle attacks and airportstyle scanners will be used for wedding visitors.

All those entering the inner area to see Harry and Meghan will be subject to bag searches, and checks will be carried out on vans and lorries.

Asked about Mr Dudley's fears that terrorists could pose as beggars, Crime Commissioner Mr Stansfeld said: "It's highly unlikely but when you are looking at a terrorist situation you often have to look at the highly unlikely.

"Of all the threats, I don't think that's a great priority. But nevertheless I'm sure it will be borne in mind by the people that have to police it."

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle wedding: The A-list guest list

Some of the world's biggest stars have bagged an invite to the royal wedding

Windsor and Maidenhead council leader Mr Dudley's public plea to clear the homeless ahead of the nuptials led to calls for him to step down.

The Conservative councillor said that "an epidemic of rough sleeping and vagrancy" in Windsor was causing concern and presenting "a beautiful town in a sadly unfavourable light".



Prime Minister Theresa May, who is also the MP for Maidenhead, publicly condemned the comments and homeless charities reacted with anger.

Can Agroterrorism Damage Brazil's Economy?

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201804291064018391-agroterrorism-brazil-economy/>



Apr 29 – Agroterrorism: that was the word used by a representative of the Brazilian Intelligence Agency (ABIN), Danilo Coelho, speaking to the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil. He had cautioned that Brazil should be better prepared for potential acts of sabotage in agriculture and for what he has called “agroterrorism.”

According to Danilo Coelho, Brazil doesn't have a list of chemical and biological agents (or biochemical agents as they are often referred to by some analysts) that should be under state control, as they are in other countries.

In his interview with Sputnik, intelligence and security expert **Ricardo Gennari** noted that terrorism in this industry is something serious that could literally blow up the country:

"Certain ABIN's concerns expressed in the Chamber of Deputies are not new. Brazil has been already trying to protect itself from bio-piracy for a long time. In 2011 the Institutional Security Cabinet (which governs ABIN) published the National Intelligence Strategy which covered espionage and sabotage issues in the country. So, what is now called "agroterrorism" is nothing new both in Brazil and anywhere in the world, because very serious interests of businesses and countries are involved in this issue."

Gennari also analyzed the negative impact of agroterrorism on the food security of Brazil:

"We are going to analyze recent cases of foot-and-mouth disease in the country, which are suspected to be deliberately instigated. The cases were documented in 2016 and had a severe impact on all the stockbreeders: small, medium and large. They had stopped selling meat for the domestic market and suffered too much from restrictions imposed by the countries importing meat from Brazil. We know that Brazil is among the world's largest, if not the largest, meat exporters. Thus, we can calculate the damage cost and assess the impact of these actions, probably caused by sabotage, on the country's economy and domestic consumption." The government took the problem very seriously and in 2017 announced that the foot-and-mouth disease had been completely eradicated in Brazil.

At a public hearing in the Chamber of Deputies, the deputy head of the disarmament and secret technologies department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maria Cecília Vieira, noted that Brazil had signed several international conventions banning the stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons. She referred in particular to the



Biological Weapons Convention, ratified by Brazil in 1976, and the Chemical Weapons Convention, approved by the government in 1999. Maria Cecilia Vieira recalled that "Brazil strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction." According to Gennari, these are extremely serious matters and the government should ensure stricter and more effective control over prohibited agents:

"The problem in Brazil is to make these chemical and biological agents inaccessible to the public. Brazil has set up some rules for the usage of these materials. And what about their utilization? Is the use and the utilization of these agents controlled enough? Is

there necessary austerity in this control? These are questions that the government has not yet given satisfactory and encouraging answers to." Sputnik's interlocutor thinks Brazil has only one possibility to adequately care for the security and prevent terrorist acts both in rural areas and in cities:

"All government authorities should act in a comprehensive way to prevent actions which threaten the security of the country, people and the national economy in terms of protection against terrorism in the agro-industry. The impact of those actions is terrible, and it is therefore particularly important for the government to understand the need to be vigilant to prevent such actions."

ISIS not funded by oil: Study

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180501-isis-not-funded-by-oil-study>

May 01 – Oil was never as important to ISIS terrorists as many thought, despite media reports of an oil-related income of as much as \$28 million a week, according to a new study in [Energy Research & Social Science](#). This knowledge supports efforts to weaken terrorist organizations like ISIS, by first understanding how they are funded and how financially stable they are.

Led by researchers at the World Bank and Princeton University, the new study provides a realistic picture of oil production in areas controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Such information could inform security and reconstruction strategies. The method allows remote monitoring of extractive activity in conflict areas without the need for reliable data, which can also support public policy, decisions and military operations.

"Oil was believed to be a major, long-term source of income for the ISIS terrorist group; assessing this claim was a prerequisite to understanding the financial viability of the organization," said Quy-Toan Do, lead author of the research and Senior Economist at the World Bank.

Elsevier [notes](#) that oil is the world's largest traded commodity. Although its production is well monitored globally, there is an illegal market in which it is produced, refined and traded. This illegal activity provides organizations - including terrorist groups - funding outside government regulation. Understanding the extent of illegal oil production can help work out the strength and size of such groups' operations and funding. This in turn can support efforts to stop them.

In the case of ISIS, early analysis suggested that oil may have provided them a durable, long-run revenue stream. The research team wanted to find out if this was the case. They used remote sensing technology to reveal the approximate oil production at specific sites under Islamic State Group control - something that was previously thought to be unknowable. They analysed oil production across Syria and Iraq between March 2012 and November 2016.

The results revealed some production in the first few months of occupation, but production quickly fell after ISIS expanded. They found that many of the fields ISIS had occupied were inactive, some were unproductive before ISIS arrived, and some became unproductive during their occupation. The inactivity was due to ongoing conflict as well as airstrikes and an inability to maintain the infrastructure.

"Often times debates about the violent potential of non-state groups don't take into account the reality of the challenges these groups face in paying for their activities," said Jake Shapiro, co-lead author and professor at Princeton University. "Our analysis showed that as soon as ISIS took over oil fields, production started to drop, suggesting the group was not as oil-rich as it was often portrayed to be."

The remote sensing worked by detecting gas flares. When oil is extracted, gas that's dissolved in it expands and has to be disposed of. That gas is typically burned, and the



resulting flares are ideal for remote sensing. The team combined measurements of the flares with measurements of light in the area of the oil fields, so they could distinguish pixel-by-pixel whether there was unusual oil production. They used pre-war oil data to establish the link between the amount of gas flared and the oil extracted, giving them a way to calculate current oil production.

“Remote sensing offers opportunities to systematically measure economic activity in areas that were previously impossible or too expensive to reach, helping us find ways to tackle terrorism,” added Quy-Toan Do.

— Read more in Quy-Toan Do et al., “Terrorism, geopolitics, and oil security: Using remote sensing to estimate oil production of the Islamic State,” *Energy Research & Social Science* (16 April 2018).

Muslim radicalization in Britain

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180501-muslim-radicalization-in-britain>

May 01 – “It is difficult to quantify the extent of Muslim youth radicalization in Britain. Also, we have to be clear about the definition of radicalization. Are we talking about people who are joining extremist organizations or those who just have extremist views? But I agree that there is definitely a general sense that things are not going well here” says an expert on radicalization. “There is no single factor that is driving the youth toward extremism. The issues of identity, alienation, peer pressure, search for a cause, frustration with modernity and acceptance of certain mythological aspects of the Muslim history are all contributing factors.”

In an interview with DW, London-based scholar [Farid Panjwani](#), a Senior Lecturer and Director at the [Center for Research and Evaluation in Muslim Education](#) at the Institute of Education, University of London, [talks](#) about the reasons behind the growing radicalization of South Asian Muslim youths in the United Kingdom, and what needs to be done to counter extremist threat.

DW: Muslim radicalization poses a serious challenge to British society, with many Muslim youths getting attracted to extremist narratives. What's pushing Muslim youngsters of South Asian background toward Islamism?

Farid Panjwani: It is difficult to quantify the extent of Muslim youth radicalization in Britain. Also, we have to be clear about the definition of radicalization. Are we talking about people who are joining extremist organizations or those who just have extremist views? But I agree that there is definitely a general sense that things are not going well here.

There is no single factor that is driving the youth toward extremism. The issues of identity, alienation, peer pressure, search for a cause, frustration with modernity and acceptance of certain mythological aspects of the Muslim history are all contributing factors.

DW: Britain has a large immigrant community from South Asia, particularly from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. These people have been living in the country for decades, then why do some South Asians harbor resentment against Western culture?

Panjwani: Often, the resentment is not against Western culture but against specific elements within it. There is also a growing resentment against the Western establishment and its policies, particularly foreign policies.

The reasons for this anger range from a personal sense of exclusion and a failure to come out with a systematic critique of colonial and post-colonial histories. But the resentment against the West, particularly against the US, is not restricted to Muslims; it is widely shared in many parts of the world, from Latin America to Africa, and even in Europe. Charles Taylor, a Canadian philosopher, writes about the malaise of modernity — about a feeling that something is not right at the core even though we seem to be making material progress. I think this feeling becomes more intense when combined with ideologies such as political Islam.

DW: Is social exclusion a reason behind the radicalization of some South Asian youths?

Panjwani: If you look at the profiles of people who are involved in extremist activities, social exclusion doesn't come across as a ubiquitous reason behind radicalization. Some of those



who were involved in July 7, 2005 terrorist attacks in Britain, for example, were very well adjusted in the country. On the other hand, there are extremists who had a difficult childhood, who commit petty crimes and end up in jail, where they get radicalized. So there are many reasons behind people's attraction to Islamist narratives.

But social exclusion is definitely an issue that needs to be looked into. Many young Muslims are legal citizens of Britain yet they don't share a cultural bond with society. They feel the society has failed them and that they can't live up to their potential. These people are looking for some cause in life. Extremist groups and their recruiters are always looking for such people. But such feelings are widespread and can be found in white working class people also. This shows that we need to look into economic policies and political attitudes that have led to the erosion of social and welfare structures in society.

How are drones changing warfare, threatening security?

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180501-how-are-drones-changing-warfare-threatening-security>

May 01 – The Trump administration recently announced a new policy that could vastly expand the sale of armed aerial drones, a specialty of Nicholas Grossman. The professor of [political science](#) at the University of Illinois teaches international relations and is the author of the new book [Drones and Terrorism: Asymmetric Warfare and the Threat to Global Security](#). He [spoke](#) with Uol News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

Craig Chamberlain: These weapons have given the U.S. a high-tech advantage on the battlefield and in counterterrorism, where their use has also often been controversial. Should we be concerned about a policy that allows for their wider sale to other countries?

Nicholas Grossman: Expanding drone sales is not especially concerning for American security. The United States will still limit sales to allies and not allow sales of the most advanced models, some of which remain classified.

However, for those concerned about armed drones in general, it's reasonable to be wary, because this demonstrates that many countries plan to launch missiles from unmanned aircraft. Some of those countries will be less concerned with avoiding civilian casualties when firing at suspected terrorists, and some may use American-made drones for other purposes, such as domestic surveillance.

That being said, Israel, India, China, Turkey, Iran and others produce drones similar to the models American companies sell. The United States restricting drone sales will not prevent other countries from acquiring them.

Chamberlain: What developments in the use of drones do you think might surprise people?

Grossman: Most people focus on governments deploying drones, but terrorists, insurgents and other nonstate actors are using them as well.

Hezbollah acquires advanced models from Iran and is one of only 10 entities that have fired missiles from a drone at targets on the ground. The other nine are all countries.

The Islamic State group buys small drones on the commercial market and adapts them for military use. The same \$1,000 quadcopter models that businesses and hobbyists use for aerial photography can be used for battlefield surveillance. And in Iraq, Islamic State jury-rigged some of these small drones to drop bombs on U.S.-backed Iraqi and Kurdish forces, or to crash into them in a kamikaze-style attack. For the first time in history, insurgents can have an air force.

The growing commercial drone market also creates concerns that terrorists will deploy them in the United States and other developed countries. Small, reasonably priced drones couldn't take down a building, but they could carry a grenade-sized explosive, which weighs about the same as a camera. Governments are insufficiently prepared for this danger.

Chamberlain: How do you foresee the future military development and use of drones, and what's driving it? How might it change military strategy and political decision-making?

Grossman: Drones will continue advancing, taking on an increasing number of military tasks. Some will start partnering with humans, increasing what one person can do on the battlefield. Some examples in development include a fighter pilot surrounded by a few semiautonomous



support drones, a squad of soldiers with robotic pack mules to speed movement and small surveillance drones to help troops avoid ambushes. War is becoming robotized.

These developments allow advanced militaries to act faster and more precisely, and reduce the risk to personnel. That means fewer combat deaths on “our” side and fewer civilian deaths on “their” side, both of which are positive developments. As a result, technologically advanced countries such as the United States will be able to sustain counterterrorist and counterinsurgency missions – such as the war in Afghanistan – for a longer time at lower cost, increasing the chances of victory.

However, there’s a risk this undermines public influence over governments’ use of force. The more states fight with drones, the less they need people to sacrifice. That separates democratic publics from the costs of war, reducing governments’ need to get their people’s permission before using force in their name, which is potentially problematic.

Chamberlain: What are your greatest concerns related to the future development of this technology? And what policies or measures should we consider as a result?

Grossman: I have two main concerns, the first of which is the increasing autonomy of military drones. As artificial intelligence advances, drones will be able to take on more tasks without human direction. It is inevitable some will be capable of deciding to attack targets on their own. However, killing a human being is a grave decision, and it is important people remain a part of it.

My second concern is terrorists adapting commercially available drones to monitor and attack civilian targets. To protect against that, I recommend developing counterdrone measures. Some companies already make anti-drone nets, which are fired from something that looks like a hand-held bazooka on the ground or are dropped from an anti-drone drone in the sky. France and the Netherlands have begun training eagles to knock down drones in restricted areas.

However, my main recommendation would be electronic measures that send signals to nearby drones, forcing them to turn around or land. That way, instead of having to spot a potentially dangerous drone and deploy nets, eagles or something else, the defenses would protect a building, bridge, base, etc. 24/7 – without having to spot a drone first.

Islamic State assassin: How I killed more than 100 people

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-43881659>



Syria has been at war for seven long, deadly years. President Bashar al-Assad's government is fighting both rebel groups and the jihadists of Islamic State. The northern city of Raqqa has been a key battleground for many factions in the conflict. This is the story of how one peaceful protester there got sucked into the spiralling bloodshed, and became a killer.

Warning: This piece contains descriptions of torture which some readers may find upsetting. Some names have been changed or removed.

Khaled did not simply wake up in Raqqa to the smell of death and dust, and decide to become an assassin. He was sent a special invitation.

Six men were ordered to report to an airfield in Aleppo, in north-western Syria, where a French trainer would teach them to kill with pistols, silenced weapons, and sniper rifles.

They learned to murder methodically, taking prisoners as their victims.

"Our practice targets were detained soldiers from the regime," he says. "They put them in a difficult place so you need a sniper to hit them. Or they send out a group of detainees and ask you to target one without hitting the others.

"Most of the time assassinations are done from a motorbike. You need another person to ride the bike and you sit behind him. You ride next to the target's car - then you shoot him and he cannot escape."



Khaled - not his real name - learned how to follow people. How to "buy" targets he could not reach through those close to them. How to distract a convoy of cars, so a fellow assassin can pick off their mark. It was a bloody, inhuman education. But in mid-2013, soon after the Syrian army retreated from Raqqa, it suited the leaders of Ahrar al-Sham - a hardline Islamist group striving to rule the northern city and eliminate its rivals.

Image copyright AFP Image caption Rebels claimed near-total control of Raqqa in March 2013

Khaled was one of the group's commanders, in charge of Raqqa's security office.

And yet, he told the BBC, when the Syrian revolution drew its first breaths in 2011 he was a man of peace, "a bit religious, but not too strict", with a job organising pilgrimages.

"It was an amazing feeling of freedom mixed with fear of the regime," he says, recalling the first day he joined the anti-government protests.

"We felt that we were doing something to help our country, to bring freedom and to be able to choose a president other than Assad. We were a small group, no more than 25-30 people."

Khaled says no-one thought about taking weapons to the early protests - "we didn't have the courage for that", but the security forces arrested and beat people nonetheless.

One day, it was him they detained. "They took me from my house to the Criminal Security Department, then to other departments. Political Security, State Security...

and then to the Central Prison where I stayed for a month before they released me.

"By the time I entered the Central Prison I couldn't walk, and couldn't sleep because of my backache."

Image copyright AFP Image caption Syria's anti-government protests began in Deraa in early 2011, triggering a national uprising

Khaled says his most barbaric abuser was a guard at the Criminal Security Department who forced him to kneel before a picture of President Assad, saying: "Your god will die, and he will not die. God dies, and Assad endures."

"His shift was every other day, and when it came I knew I would be tortured.

"He used to hang me from my arms with chains to the ceiling. He would force me to strip, then put me on 'the flying carpet' and whip my back. He would tell me: 'I hate you, I hate you, I want to you to die. I hope you die at my hands.'

"I left his prison paralysed, and when they moved me to the Central Prison inmates were crying when they saw me. They brought me in on a stretcher.

"I decided that if God saved me I would kill him wherever he goes. Even if he went to Damascus, I would kill him."

Image caption Khaled was detained after someone recognised him in film footage from anti-government protests

When he was freed from prison, Khaled took up arms against the government. He says he "helped" 35 Syrian army soldiers to defect from the 17th Reserve Division, which was stationed in the country's north-east.

Some of them he kidnapped, selling their possessions to make money for guns.

Sometimes, he says, he joined forces with attractive women to lure "notorious individuals who hurt protesters" with offers of marriage. He spared their lives, but forced them to make defection videos so they could never again serve President Assad. For his first hostage, the ransom was set at 15 Kalashnikovs, or their value in cash.

One man received no such mercy: the guard who tormented Khaled.

"I asked people about [the guard] who worked at the Criminal Security Department until I found him. We followed him home, and took him.

"He told me something that I reminded him of later. When I was in prison, he told me: 'If you leave this prison alive and you manage to capture me, do not have mercy on me' - and that's what I did.

"I took him to a farm near the Central Prison which was a liberated area. I cut off his hand with a butcher's knife. I pulled out his tongue and cut it with scissors. And still I wasn't satisfied.

"I killed him when he begged for it. I came for revenge, so I wasn't afraid.

"Despite all the torture methods I used with him, I don't feel regret or sorrow. On the contrary; if he came back to life again right now I would do the same.



"If there had been an authority to complain to, to say he beats and humiliates prisoners, I wouldn't have done this to him. But there was no-one to complain to and no state to stop him."

Khaled had lost his faith in the revolution. His focus became the daily battle for his own survival. And he would soon find an even darker role in Syria's savage conflict - as an assassin for the jihadist group Islamic State (IS).

'I showed IS a friendly face... then killed them'

Friendship or betrayal, quarrels about tactics, and swings in the balance of power: these caused many of Syria's rebels to switch between factions, sometimes repeatedly.

Against that backdrop, Khaled left the Islamists of Ahrar al-Sham who had trained him as a killer, and joined al-Nusra Front, then the official affiliate of al-Qaeda in Syria.

By early 2014, IS - which he and other fighters once mocked as a no-account outfit with paltry numbers - had driven rebel factions out of Raqqa. The city would become the de facto capital of IS's "caliphate".

Image copyright AFP Image caption Black jihadist flags appeared all over Raqqa as IS tightened its grip. Militants terrorised the civilian population through beheadings, crucifixions and torture. "IS would take their property, kill and imprison them for the silliest reasons," says Khaled.

"If you said, 'Oh, Muhammad' they would kill you for blasphemy. Taking photos, using mobiles; these have punishments. Smoking would result in prison. They did everything - killing, stealing, rape.

"They would accuse an innocent woman of adultery then stone her to death with kids watching. I don't even kill a chicken in front of my siblings."

The jihadists bought up senior rebel leaders with cash and high-status positions. Khaled was offered a job as a "security chief", with an office and authority over IS fighters. He understood that refusing would sign his death warrant. So he reached a terrifying personal compromise.

"I agreed," he says, "but with the consent of Abu al-Abbas, a senior al-Nusra leader, I became a double agent. I showed IS a friendly face, but I would secretly kidnap and interrogate their members, then kill them. The first one I kidnapped was Syrian, the leader of an IS training camp.

"I would leak to IS whatever Abu al-Abbas wanted me to leak. Some information was true, to make IS believe me. But at the same time I took secrets from them."

Al-Nusra Front had an obvious motive for spying on IS. It had rejected a merger announced by IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2013, and aligned itself with other rebel groups.

Khaled's decision looked like a death wish, but it was others who died. He says he murdered around 16 people for IS, shooting them in their homes with a silenced pistol.

He says they had sold their religion for money, betraying Ahrar al-Sham and the Free Syrian Army - the Western-backed alliance that first wrested Raqqa from government control.

One of his victims was an Islamic scholar from al-Bab. "I knocked at the door. He opened it. I immediately went in with a gun pointed at his face. His wife started screaming. He knew that I was coming to kill him.

"Before I said anything he said to me, 'What do you want? Money? This is my money - take whatever you want.' I said no, I don't want money. And I locked his wife in the other room.

"Then he said, 'Take the money - if you want my wife you can sleep with her in front of me, but don't kill me.' What he said encouraged me to kill him."

The IS emirs in Raqqa liked novelty, and routinely killed those they had bribed to replace them with new blood. Sometimes they blamed US-led coalition warplanes for the death; sometimes they didn't bother. Just a month after taking the IS job, Khaled was sure they would come for him soon.

The assassin fled for his life, first by car to the eastern city of Deir al-Zour, and later on to Turkey.

Image caption Khaled appears in BBC documentary Syria: The World's War

Asked if he has any regrets or thinks he could one day be prosecuted, Khaled simply says:

"All I thought about was how to escape and stay alive.

"It isn't a crime, what I did. When you see someone pointing a weapon and beating your father, killing your brother or relatives, you cannot keep quiet and no force can stop you. What I did was self-defence.

"I killed over a hundred people in battles against the regime and IS, and I don't regret it...

because God knows I never killed a civilian or an innocent person.

"When I look in the mirror I see myself as a prince. And I sleep well at night, because everyone they asked me to kill, deserved to die.



"When I left Syria I became a civilian again. Now if anyone says anything rude to me, I respond - 'As you wish.'"

Khaled was interviewed last year for a documentary - Syria: The World's War - to be shown in the UK on BBC 2 at 21:00 on 3 and 4 May. It will broadcast globally on BBC World News on 26 May and 2 June.

Basque ETA separatists announce they are 'completely dissolving'

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180502-basque-eta-separatists-announce-they-are-completely-dissolving>

May 02 – The Basque militant group ETA has announced it would disband and end its “political initiative” after a 60-year campaign for independence of the Basque region from Spain and France. Spanish officials, however, said they would keep pursuing ETA “terrorists.”

In a letter published on Wednesday in news portal *El Diario Norte*, leaders of ETA said the group had “completely dissolved all its structures.”

The group’s violent campaign had claimed over 850 lives in the last sixty years.

The main points:

- ◆ ETA said it was “putting an end to its journey” in the letter published on Wednesday.
- ◆ The disbanding does not “overcome the conflict the Basque Country maintains with Spain and France,” they added.
- ◆ Spanish police will continue to pursue ETA members, who they called “terrorists,” despite the move, Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said.
- ◆ The group declared a truce in 2011, handed over weapons in 2017 and apologized to its victims last month.
- ◆ The latest ETA letter comes two days ahead of a scheduled peace conference in southwestern France.



Bloomberg [reports](#) that the group representing ETA’s victims, COVITO, slammed ETA shortly before the latest publication. COVITO head Consuelo Ordonez, whose brother was killed by ETA in 1995, said “the only decent sentence that the terrorists could have uttered starts and ends with, ‘We should never have existed.’”



Spanish Interior Minister Zoido vowed to keep investigating unresolved crimes attributed to ETA and to pursue its members. “ETA obtained nothing through its promise to stop killing, and it will obtain nothing by announcing what they call dissolution,” he told reporters.

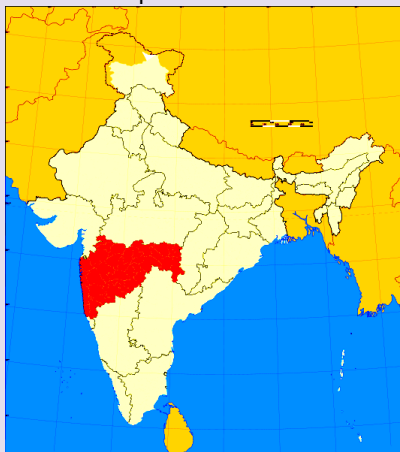
The Basque separatist movement has been ratheting down its activities for years, but the letter's publication on Wednesday marks a key step toward the group's dissolution. A 4 May conference has been scheduled for Spanish, Frech, and ETA representatives to hammer out the final details of the Basque region's post-ETA political life (the Basque Region straddles the Spain-France border, with about a third of the region under French rule).

In its letter, ETA acknowledged its responsibility in failing to resolve the conflict. At the same time, they said the Basque region was “before a new opportunity to finally close the conflict and build a collective future.”

110 youths **deradicalised** from the clutches of terrorism: Maharashtra ATS

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/110-youths-deradicalised-from-the-clutches-of-terrorism-maharashtra-ats-118050500001_1.html

May 05 – A total of 110 people have been deradicalised in the last two years, Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad revealed.



According to an official release, the deradicalised people, mostly youths, have been rehabilitated and are currently admitted under vocational training in a rural self-employment training institute run by the central government.

It further stated that they were heavily influenced and were drawn towards various terror groups such as Islamic State in [Iraq](#) and al-Sham (ISIS) via various [social media platforms](#).

The statement further read that under the initiative, the people were also given training in repairing electronic devices, in order to help them find a job.

Apart from these people, 250 others belonging to volatile areas from various parts of [Maharashtra](#) were also given vocational training.

The ATS said that they were able to identify these radicalised youths by gathering intelligence from the locals and through cyber vigil.

Case of Teen Planning to Attack Dallas Mall Is 90th Homegrown Terrorist Plot Since 9/11

By David Inserra

Source: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/05/04/case-of-teen-planning-to-attack-dallas-mall-is-90th-homegrown-terrorist-plot-since-9-11/>

May 04 – Earlier this week, 17-year-old Matin Azizi-Yarand was arrested for [plotting a terrorist attack](#) on a local mall near Dallas. This plot is the 103rd Islamist terror plot in the U.S. since 9/11.

Significantly, Azizi-Yarand was radicalized here in the U.S., making this an act of homegrown terrorism. Unfortunately, he's far from the only person to be radicalized in the United States. His planned attack is the 90th plot or attack that was significantly or entirely homegrown.

Swearing allegiance to ISIS, Azizi-Yarand carefully planned the details of an attack with other individuals. What he didn't realize was those other individuals were actually FBI undercover agents and informants.

Azizi-Yarand came into contact with an FBI source online in December and began to discuss either traveling to the Middle East or plotting an attack in the U.S. He made clear his Islamist



terrorist sympathies, praising other “lone wolves” who engaged in terrorism. Azizi-Yarand also spent significant time reading terrorist propaganda and materials on how to carry out terrorist attacks and build bombs.



Once Azizi-Yarand decided to attack here at home, he thought about attacking a school but then decided on a local mall. Conversing with other undercover FBI sources, he planned the attack. He scouted the location to figure out the movement of security guards; coordinated the gear and the number of bullets needed, even giving the undercover agents over \$1,400 to buy gear and weapons; prepared a speech he would give; and even secured training to ensure

they were ready for the attack.

However, Azizi-Yarand was arrested before his 18th birthday when he planned to buy his weapons.

Azizi-Yarand's homegrown radicalization indicates that even as ISIS crumbles as a military force on the battlefields of Syria and Iraq, its ideology and propaganda continue to resonate with others around the world. It's not enough to militarily defeat terrorist groups and safe havens. It's clear groups like ISIS must also be ideologically defeated, their arguments and values addressed directly.

Another takeaway from this case is that it is the 44th time a plot was foiled with a sting operation in which law enforcement undercover officers played along with Azizi-Yarand to discover the full extent of his terrorist plans.

While intelligence from electronic sources is a critical tool to identifying terrorists, human intelligence is a powerful tool to reveal the depth of a terrorist's activities and to use in court to convict them. Having a robust and proactive set of intelligence tools and resources is essential to stopping terrorists before they strike.

Given the homegrown nature of this and many other terrorist plots and attacks, Congress should consider greater investments in and improvements to U.S. intelligence tools to keep Americans safe.

David Inserra specializes in cyber and homeland security policy, including protection of critical infrastructure, as policy analyst in The Heritage Foundation's Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies. [Read his research.](#)

One more threat towards FIFA Cup 2018



Hard and Soft Strategies: The UAE's Approach to Counterterrorism

Terrorism Monitor Volume: 16 Issue: 9

By Sara Brzuszkiewicz

Source: <https://jamestown.org/program/hard-and-soft-strategies-the-uaes-approach-to-counterterrorism/>

May 04 – The United Arab Emirates (UAE) represents an interesting case study in counterterrorism, having suffered no jihadist attacks, despite being a stated target for Islamist extremists. The UAE considers its implementation of both so-called “hard” and “soft” strategies to tackle potential security threats as the key to its success. However, while there have been no major attacks, the overall threat-level in the UAE remains elevated and a number of small instances have occurred that hint at a larger problem.

From a counterterrorism perspective, the Emirates can be divided into two distinct groups with Dubai and Abu Dhabi—home to thousands of non-Muslim Westerners—on the one side, and the five remaining emirates of Sharja, Ajman, Ras al-Khaima, Fujehira and Umm al-Qaywayn on the other. Both groups might be chosen as targets, albeit for different reasons.

Most expatriates reside in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Along with the incessant flow of tourists, this population—with the concomitant hotels and tourist attractions—represents a potential target for jihadists. In the jihadist worldview, Dubai and Abu Dhabi are emblematic of sin and deviation on Muslim soil, in the *Dar al-Islam*. By contrast, the poorer and less populous emirates offer fewer obvious targets but have less pervasive security measures, making them potentially more vulnerable.



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and UAE military forces (Source: The National)

In December 2014, Ibolya Ryan, an American teacher living in the UAE, was stabbed to death by an Emirati woman in Abu Dhabi's Boutik Mall ([The National](#), December 1, 2014). After stabbing her, the *munaqqaba* (a woman wearing *niqab*), planted a bomb, which failed to detonate, in front of the home of an Arab–American physician. The Emirati authorities classified the murder as a lone wolf attack inspired by terrorist ideology acquired online. The woman was later executed.

Separately the following year, the authorities rounded up an Islamist cell that was planning one or more terrorist attacks on shopping malls and hotels, probably with characteristics similar to those of the 2013 attack on the Westgate Mall in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi ([The National](#), November 16, 2015).



Going in Hard

In adopting “hard” counterterrorism measures, the UAE has cracked down on al-Islah, the Emirati branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, arresting members of the group. More broadly, where possible, the last few years have seen the authorities carry out a high number of precautionary deportations. In September 2015, two men from Kerala, India who posted pro-Islamic State (IS) comments on Facebook were expelled from the UAE ([The Times of India](#), September 16, 2015).

This year, five suspected IS operatives of Indian origin, aged between 20 and 25, were deported from Abu Dhabi. Intelligence agencies had reportedly intercepted communications in which the group appeared to discuss plans to recruit followers and carry out attacks. They were said to be in touch with senior IS leaders ([The Times of India](#), March 1).

The UAE also actively participates in the international coalition against IS and cooperates with its allies to monitor and dismantle terrorist networks. Of particular importance in this regard is the UAE's efforts to tackle terrorism financing—the Gulf has historically been a hub of private fundraising for Islamist causes. The UAE is home to significant regional banking infrastructure, with the potential risk of money laundering. Disrupting the informal flows of money from the region to old and new jihadist networks is now a priority for all Gulf States, albeit one that has sometimes been tackled with mixed results.

Partnerships such as the Joint UAE-U.S. Financial Counterterrorism Task Force have enhance cooperation and information sharing to shut down terrorist financing networks and cut off the flow of funds to extremists ([The National](#), October 27, 2014). The UAE has made public few details about the taskforce, but its main focus is likely to be on blocking financial flows from individuals and commercial activities such as black-market oil sales, as well as preventing access to the international banking system.

The UAE has supported increased monitoring of charitable fundraising and further examination of money flows across the region with the Anti-Money Laundering and Suspicious Cases Unit (AMLSCU). Set up by the Central Bank, it is a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

Notoriously, formal and informal charities and *dawa* (the preaching of Islam) groups represent a danger. Television commercials produced by the Emirati government and aired during periods of religious observance warn citizens and residents to refrain from donating money through unapproved channels—including religious centers—as the funds could “unknowingly” support terrorist causes. From a Western perspective, this might appear to be odd and potentially ineffective. However, in a country with less than 10 million inhabitants—only 10 percent of which are native Emiratis—direct appeals from the government to its citizens appear to have a greater effect than in large democratic countries.

The UAE has also taken steps to prevent its nationals from joining extremist groups in Syria and Iraq through regional policing efforts, although these have been largely ineffective. In 2014, the UAE joined efforts to establish a regional force (known as GCC-Pol) based in Abu Dhabi, and a joint naval force based in Bahrain, to foster regional cooperation ([The National](#), December 9, 2014). Beyond some initial enthusiasm and a few official visits with bodies like Interpol, these new initiatives see little regional cooperation. Such lack of cooperation is resistance toward the inevitable pooling of sovereignty required, and the situation has worsened significant since the UAE and Saudi Arabia began their blockade of Qatar in June 2017.

Softly, Softly

In the field of “soft” counterterrorism strategies, the UAE focuses on monitoring and influencing the role of religious institutions and centers, as well as countering radical propaganda disseminated online.

Prominent Emirati officials and religious leaders continue to publicly criticize radical ideology and highlight the dangers of radicalization. To prevent violent extremists from preaching in religious centers, the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments (*Awqāf*) claims to be working closely with local religious leaders to monitor possible violations.

The UAE is also home to Hedayah, the Global Center for Excellence in Countering Violent Extremism, a state-funded think tank that was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi in 2012, with the support of members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. In May 2015, Hedayah launched its STRIVE Program (Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism), a four-year European Union-funded project intended to train “frontline officials” in counter-radicalization strategies.

Another project is *Sawab* (Arabic for “doing the right thing”), a joint initiative in support of the global anti-IS coalition started in 2015 with the United States. It combines long-term



campaigns aimed at debunking IS online narratives with immediate reactive messaging intended to amplifying moderate regional voices.

Overall, the recent deportations of suspected Islamist extremists suggests the authorities view attacks perpetrated by individuals arriving in the UAE from other countries as a greater threat than the emergence of Emirati cells. That may be an accurate assessment as the UAE's close monitoring of its society, and in particular domestic groups at risk of radicalization, has thus far been an effective barrier to the establishment of homegrown terror cells.

Terror in The Hague: Muslim shouting “Allahu Akbar” Goes On Stabbing Rampage in the Netherlands

Source: <https://gellerreport.com/2018/05/jihad-at-the-hague.html/>



May 05 – Three people have been stabbed in The Hague.

The terrorist shouted Allahu Akbar, according to unverified reports.

He has been shot in his leg by the police, and of course arrested.

The stabbing took place at the level of the Nova Café and Lounge, in the vicinity of the Haagse Hogeschool. According to the police, the perpetrator is a well-known, confused man.

He walked into the Nova Café and struck the first victim ‘about five times’. That is what a bystander tells De Telegraaf. Then the man would have walked outside where he stabbed two more people.

I saw a guest who was mad about people. Even someone on the bike was put out of nowhere. We first thought that he was beating people, but then we saw that the victims were bleeding, “says Max who lives in the apartment building at the Fijnjekade in The Hague.

Arrest

Several bystanders have seen the scene. “He went in and just stabbed someone. Then he went out and stabbed other people, “says a Hagenaar.

The perpetrator was eventually stabbed in the leg by the police. According to residents, he was then still being titrated because he refused to let go of the knife.



Several residents ran outside with towels to help the victims. “They were stabbed in their necks. They reacted but were pretty injured,” says Max. The victims were transferred to the hospital. The police investigation is still in full swing.

The police have largely disposed of the environment and are conducting research. Residents of a large complex on a quay, close to where the stabbing was, are not allowed to enter or leave their homes. The environment is covered with ribbons.

To fight terrorism know how it works

Source: https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/05/07/to-fight-terrorism-know-how-it-works_c1753553



An Al Shabaab soldier carries a rocket-propelled grenade as he patrols along the streets of Dayniile district in Southern Mogadishu, March 5, 2012. Photo/REUTERS

May 07 – Terror is driven by networks in the modern world. Understanding these networks is fundamental in fighting the threats these groups pose. With modern technology terrorists have access to most parts of the globe and an array of weapons, including everyday items that can be easily weaponised. The evolution of the Salafi movement of Islam is the ideology behind al Qaeda, the forerunner of terrorist groups. Many Muslim share the Salafi belief but fall far short of the violence propagated by these groups.

However law enforcement and non-Muslims are usually unable to distinguish between peaceful Islamic preaching—dawah—and the terror groups’ message. The ideology of violence against non-Muslims, foreign governments and civilians evolved after the Soviet invaded Afghanistan in December 1979. Al Qaeda was formed during this time and it recruited foreign volunteers to fight the Soviet army. Salafi Jihad combines enthusiasm and eagerness to die and kill for the cause or shahada (testimony of faith).

The terrorist has been stereotyped as naïve, poor, uneducated, unsophisticated and single in his/her outlook. Yet data show that terrorists are more educated than the average person. Data also show terrorists are global citizens who are well travelled and familiar with many countries, especially in the Middle East.

Kenya is doing many things right in the war on terror; dismantling terrorist hubs has weakened the networks and limited them to small-scale operations. However, because of



the small-world network concept small-scale operations are difficult to eradicate. Policy changes in immigration, education and integration of individuals into communities must be streamlined.

Lack of equal opportunities must be addressed. The random arrest of low level individuals in the terror networks is not enough as it only displaces but does not eliminate the threat. Surveillance must be increased and changes in lifestyles closely monitored. Request for new passports, loss of passports or frequent travels should sound the alarm to the intelligence community.

Friends and relatives of terror suspects should be put under surveillance as well as Salafi mosques, congregations, suspects' phone conversation, emails, and social media activities. All this should be done with utmost care so as not to infringe on human rights and civil liberties. Intelligence organisations should infiltrate jihad networks.

Deradicalisation programmes must be enhanced. Imams of fundamental mosques who reject violent jihad should be roped into the war on terror; they are an excellent source of information on their congregations. The number of special officers with knowledge on the Arabic language and Islam need to be increased. Working with media, NGOs and the criminal justice system to control and condemn violence should be enhanced. Show of tolerance by governmental agencies to certain good programmes is commendable. We need to remember that the networks are robust and self-growing; precaution must be taken to ensure the networks are disrupted and not allowed to grow back.

The rebuilding of Somalia must be done with minimal outside interference. If not then the KDF troops over there will always be considered infidels in Dar al-Islam. Citizens must be encouraged to participate in politics. Somalia is a great opportunity and danger depending on how we handle it. We must invest in understanding our neighbours and Islam, and avoid stereotyping. We must also understand the Somali religious, political, economic and social landscape.

2020 Games safety, security, and medical services

Source: <https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/plan/data/candidate-section-11-ENFR.pdf>



EDITOR'S COMMENT: Ten dedicated Olympic Hospitals? Same number as we had in Athens 2004 – but there is huge difference in population size! And as always, no reference to hospitals' CBRN preparedness. It seems that CBRN is the “young boy orange belt” in the photo of this initial report. We would expect more from the city that saw evil first hand in the past.

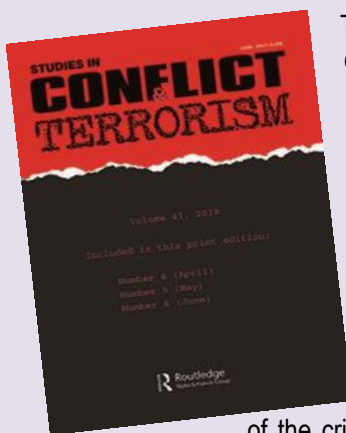
Terrorist Decision Making in the Context of Risk, Attack Planning, and Attack Commission

Studies in Conflict and Terror Journal

Published online: 27 Mar 2018 (full paper)

By Paul Gill, Zoe Marchment, Emily Corner and Noémie Bouhana

Source: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1057610X.2018.1445501?scroll=top&needAccess=true>



Terrorists from a wide array of ideological influences and organizational structures consider security and risk on a continuous and rational basis. The rationality of terrorism has been long noted of course but studies tended to focus on organizational reasoning behind the strategic turn toward violence. A more recent shift within the literature has examined rational behaviors that underpin the actual tactical commission of a terrorist offense. This article is interested in answering the following questions: What does the cost–benefit decision look like on a single operation? What does the planning process look like? How do terrorists choose between discrete targets? What emotions are felt during the planning and operational phases? What environmental cues are utilized in the decision-making process? Fortunately, much insight is available from the wider criminological literature where studies often provide offender-oriented accounts of the crime commission process. We hypothesize similar factors take place in terrorist decision making and search for evidence within a body of terrorist autobiographies.

5,342 terrorism suspects in 5 intelligence prisons

Source: <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/534480/SAUDI-ARABIA/5342-terrorism-suspects-in-5-intelligence-prisons>

May 05 – **There are 5,342 terror suspects from 41 countries currently being detained in five intelligence prisons** in Riyadh, Jeddah, Buraidah, Abha and Dammam, according to the Presidency of the State Security.

The presidency said 71 suspects belonging to 11 different nationalities were detained during the past two weeks.

The suspects are: 11 each from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Sudan, seven Egyptians, two Syrians and one each from Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Eritrea in addition to a Canadian and a Russian expatriate. According to the presidency, the detainees consisted of 4,411 Saudis, 334 Yemenis, 203 Syrians, 76 Egyptians, 34 Sudanese, 18 Turks, four Lebanese, four Eritreans, three Canadians and four Russians.

The presidency said the seven nationalities from which the majority of the suspects hail included Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan and Palestine.

It said a number of suspects have already been sentenced and are currently serving their prison terms while others were still under investigations.

Suspects from three countries appeared for the first time in the list of detainees. They were France, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

According to the presidency, the detainees included nine people of unknown nationality and 14 Bidoun (without nationality).



The other countries from which the suspects have come include, among others, Morocco, Chad, South Africa, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, India, the United States and Qatar.

Scandinavian Approach to Counterterrorism, Islamist Ideology Is Flawed

By Robin Simcox

Source: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/05/11/scandinavian-approach-to-counterterrorism-islamist-ideology-is-fatally-flawed/>



Flowers are left at the scene of the April 7, 2017, Stockholm terrorist attack to honor the victims. (Photo: Helena Larsson / Naturfotografer/ZUMA Press/Newscom)

May 11 – How Western democracies should respond to terrorist attacks is an ongoing concern. One such dilemma is whether the state should just focus on preventing attacks or whether it has an obligation to challenge the ideology that spurs those attacks in the first place.

Two countries currently grappling with that are Sweden and Finland. Individuals inspired by ISIS, the Islamic State terrorist group, attacked both countries last year.

In April 2017, Rakhmat Akilov committed a vehicular attack in the center of Stockholm, using a truck to kill five and injure 10.

Four months later, in August, Abderrahman Bouanane killed two people and injured eight in a series of stabbings in the southwestern Finnish city of Turku.

Bouanane, currently on trial in Helsinki, told the court, "I honestly felt like I was controlled remotely ... The idea was to keep attacking as long as a head falls."

Akilov and Bouanane were both asylum-seekers who either had [no right](#) to be in the country or were in the [process](#) of being deported.

Recently, I visited both Sweden and Finland, speaking to dozens of government officials, police officers, and academics to gain insights into how the countries have responded.

Threat Assessment

Sweden suffered its first Islamist terrorism attack in December 2010. Taimour Abdulwahab al-Abdaly, an Iraqi, packed explosives into a car in the heart of Stockholm and then detonated his suicide vest in a busy shopping center nearby. Abdulwahab died, but fortunately, nobody else did. The plot had [clear links](#) to a precursor group to ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).

There were only 200 Islamists on Stockholm's intelligence radar at the time of Abdulwahab's plot. Now, according to Anders Thornberg, the head of Sweden's security police, that [number](#) is 2,000.



An additional reason for concern is that Sweden has seen about [300](#) foreign fighters head to Syria and Iraq (although nongovernmental sources speculate the actual number is higher, between 400 and 500). A Swedish Defence University study [states](#) that about 150 of them have returned, 100 are still fighting overseas, and about 50 have been killed.

Thankfully, the numbers leaving Sweden have dried up—with only about 10 last year, and 2018 is presumably unlikely to see an increase.

Finland, meanwhile, has about 370 people connected to international terrorism on its intelligence radar, with about 80 going to join the conflict in Syria (about one-fifth of them women). With a population of between 75,000 and 100,000 Muslims, that's an unusually high number. About 20 foreign fighters have returned to Finland, and a similar number were killed in the fighting.

Prevention of Violent Extremism

Sweden has placed special emphasis on the “prevention of violent extremism” in its counterterrorism [strategy](#), with the intent to “counter and reduce the intent to commit or support terrorist attacks.”

Responsibility for the prevention of violent extremism lies with the Ministry of Justice. Yet responsibility for implementation often lies within Sweden's 290 municipalities, which have great autonomy over local governance.

There's concern in Stockholm that while these municipalities are familiar with warning signs for far-right movements, they are much less familiar with radical Islamists.

Finland is also focused on prevention. Integral to that are two complementary government-backed initiatives, Anchor and Radinet.

Anchor, which operates throughout Finland, deals with young offenders by allowing arms of the state that deal with troubled youth—police and social workers, for example—to share data about those individuals.

Radinet is a voluntary program, led by nongovernmental organizations, that seeks to integrate far-right and Islamist extremists into Finnish society.

While these NGOs can get financial assistance from the government, they surprisingly have no obligation to report to the state on the progress of their work with the extremists.

Finland is only interested in preventing acts of violence, not dealing with ideology. As a result,

its work on the prevention of violent extremism stresses the importance of dialogue and a willingness to discuss foreign policy, stigmatization, and marginalization—but not Islam or theology.

This focus on grievance over ideas is a mistake. Islamist groups have an endless supply of grievances to work through, and the notion that Finnish foreign policy is causing radicalization is a stretch, to put it politely.

By only focusing on grievances and downplaying the power of ideas, Finland is doomed to misunderstand the nature of the threat.

Integration of Asylum-Seekers

Finland and Sweden face a challenge of integrating the almost 200,000 asylum-seekers they took in between them in 2015 alone.

Sweden, a country of under 10 million people, took in 163,000 of them. (As a proportion of the population, that is like the U.S. taking in about 5.3 million.)

The government acknowledges that about 50,000 have no legal right to be in the country, and yet it is resigned to them staying anyway and is attempting to provide housing for these new arrivals. It has also launched job creation and youth education initiatives.

Finland took in 32,000 asylum-seekers in 2015, many of whom are Shia Muslim Iraqis. That has had an unsettling effect on some within the pre-existing Sunni Muslim population in Finland, who fear an effort to shift the ethnic composition of the Muslim community there.

That in turn has led to some levels of hostility toward new asylum-seekers among Finland's Muslims.

That is just one of the difficulties. Another example cited was that there are also those who were tortured in Iraq living in refugee centers with those who tortured them.

Full Speed Ahead

The most striking thing about the Swedish and Finnish responses to the terrorist attacks last year was how little response there was.

There appears to be few regrets within those governments at taking in so many asylum-seekers, which is seen as a global obligation. Perhaps they are right, and they can painlessly integrate so many newcomers into such small populations.



However, there is scarce precedent suggesting such a radical policy can work.

One noticeable consequence of the terrorist plotting is cities' physical transformation in an attempt to prevent future vehicular attacks.

The area of central Stockholm attacked last year is incredibly well-fortified with barriers. Meanwhile, barriers placed around a [Helsinki church](#) last summer after authorities received a

tip-off that a vehicular attack was being planned remain in place.

An attack takes place, and barriers go up. Or it's thwarted and the result is the same. Yet until the policies that led to Sweden and Finland being imperiled in the first place are addressed—excessive levels of immigration and an unwillingness to deal with Islamist ideology—they are destined to require such defenses for many years to come.

Robin Simcox is the Margaret Thatcher Fellow at The Heritage Foundation.



Paris knife attack: Two dead, including attacker, as police treat stabbing as terrorism

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-13/paris-knife-attack/9755990>

May 13 – A man shouting "Allahu Akbar" killed a passer-by and injured four others in the heart of Paris before being shot dead by police, French authorities say.

Counterterrorism authorities have taken charge of the investigation into Saturday night's attack as the Islamic State group claimed the attacker as one of its "soldiers".

Paris police said the attacker was armed with a knife and targeted five people in the second district, a retail and dining precinct that is also home to the capital's opera.

A 29-year-old man was killed and two were seriously injured. The other two suffered less serious injuries.

Police union representative Rocco Contento said the assailant was shot dead by police after he rushed at them shouting "I will kill you, I will kill you!"

Media player: "Space" to play, "M" to mute, "left" and "right" to seek. Jonathan, who would not give his last name, said he was working in a restaurant and suddenly heard a woman screaming.

"She tried to seek shelter in our restaurant but unfortunately she couldn't, he came and attacked her," he said.

"That's when the panic started,

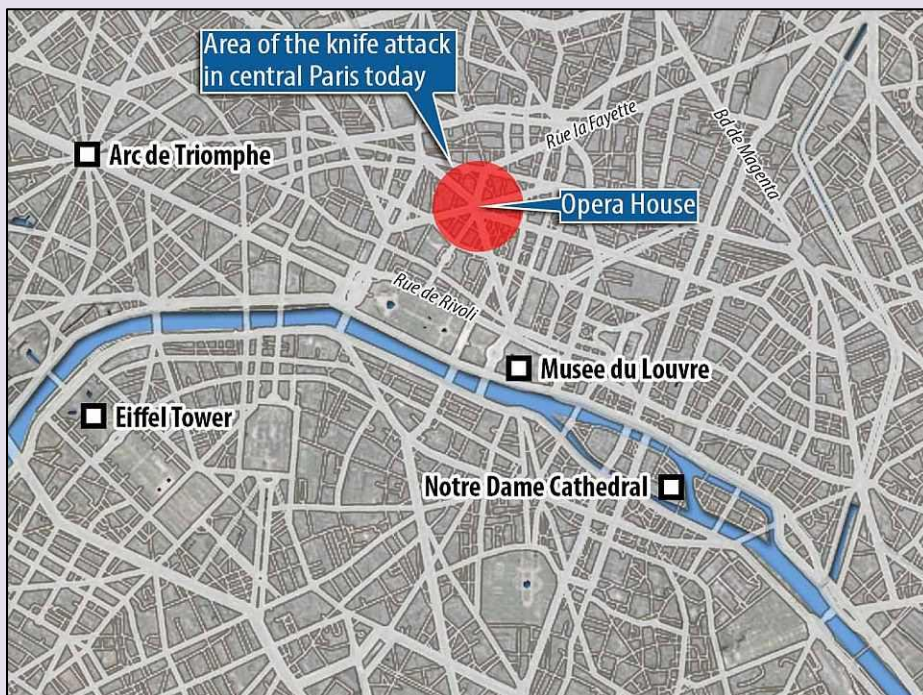
everyone started screaming and trying to reach our restaurant."

He said the woman was helped by a friend and the two managed to walk away while the attacker "just kept walking around with his knife in his bloodied hands and then he approached a shopping area".

He said police tried to taser the attacker before they shot him.

Milan Charolloys said he saw people caring for a woman who appeared to have been stabbed in the throat.

"Someone was taking her pulse and talking to her, someone came out of a hotel with loads of bandages to put on her leg," Mr Charolloys said.



"I think that people around her took action quickly, the woman was still awake, she had her eyes opened,



she said a few words which I can't remember at all, but she was speaking and in a conscious state."

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe tweeted that the assailant was "neutralised" within nine minutes of police receiving the first call about the attack.

"France is absolutely determined not to give in to the threats that the attackers want to impose on her," Mr Philippe said.



Paris police officers evacuated people from some buildings in the Right Bank neighbourhood after the attack.

Bar patrons and opera-goers described surprise and confusion in the immediate area.

Beyond the police cordon, however, crowds still filled nearby cafes and the city's night life resumed its normal pace soon after the attack.

Prosecutor Francois Molins said counterterrorism authorities were leading the investigation on potential charges of murder and attempted murder in connection with terrorist motives.

Mr Molins said the decision was made due to the style of the attack and on the accounts of witnesses who said the attacker cried 'Allahu Akbar' (God is great in Arabic) during the incident. "Given the modus operandi, we have turned this over to the counterterrorist section of the Paris prosecutor's office," Mr Molins told reporters from the scene.

The Islamic State group's Amaq news agency said in a statement on early Sunday that the assailant carried out the attack in response to the group's calls for supporters to target members of the United States-led military coalition squeezing the extremists out of Iraq and Syria.

The Amaq statement did not provide evidence for its claim or details on the assailant's identity.



France's military has been active in the coalition since 2014, and Islamic State adherents have killed more than 200 people in France in recent years, including the 130 who died in the coordinated November 2015 attacks in Paris.

President Emmanuel Macron tweeted his praise for police who "neutralised the terrorist".

"France is once again paying the price of blood but will not cede an inch to enemies of freedom," Mr Macron said.

France's BFM television interviewed an unnamed witness in a restaurant who said a young woman was at the entrance when "a man arrived and attacked her with a knife".

A friend came to her aid and the attacker left, "hitting on all the doors, all the shops," the witness told BFM.

He turned onto another street, and everyone scattered, the witness said.

France's Interior Minister Gerard Collomb denounced the "odious attack" in a tweet.

France has been on high alert as a series of attacks commissioned or inspired by Islamic State have hit the country over the past three years in which dozens of people have been killed.

Knifeman, 20, who killed one and injured four in rampage near Paris opera house a decade after arriving as a refugee from Chechnya urges his ISIS 'brothers' to 'stay strong' in martyrdom video

Source (video): <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5721939/French-police-shoot-knifeman-launched-attack-bystanders-Paris.html>

May 12 – The Islamic State has released a posthumous video featuring the knifeman who carried out a deadly terror attack in Paris on Saturday.



20-year-old Khamzat Asimov, who arrived in [France](#) as a refugee from war-torn Chechnya, launched a nine-minute lethal knife rampage through the centre of [Paris](#).

[This is the first image to be made public showing Khamzat Asimov, the Islamic State terrorist who launched a knife attack in Paris](#)

Asimov murdered one man and severely wounded four others - including a Chinese and Luxembourg citizen - in the attacks close to the historic Opera Garnier, in the city centre.

Hours afterwards, his parents were both arrested at the family home in Paris, where they have lived since fleeing Chechnya in the early 2000s.

Now though, ISIS have released a propaganda video featuring the killer in which he recorded a last message confirming his affiliation with the terror cell.

In the video, Asimov, who was on an anti-terror watchlist of suspected extremists, refers to his 'brothers' in ISIS overseas in Iraq and Syria and explicitly declares his allegiance with the group.

He goes on to address other extremists residing across Europe in Germany, France and the UK telling them to 'stay strong - victory is at hand'.

The attacker can be seen speaking to the camera in French as he sits in a rainy park with trees in the background.

He ends the video by looking into the camera and simply saying 'goodbye'.

THE DEADLY JIHADIST ATTACKS ON FRANCE THAT HAVE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF NEARLY 250

Jihadist attacks have killed more than 245 people across France since the 2015 Charlie Hebdo shootings.

Here is a recap of incidents that have taken place in the past three years:



2018 March 23: Gunman Radouane Lakdim killed four people in the southern towns of Trebes and Carcassonne, including policeman Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame who was hailed as a hero for taking the place of a hostage. Lakdim was shot dead by police after a stand-off.

2017 October 1: A 29-year-old Tunisian cries 'Allah Akbar' and kills two young women with a knife at the main train station in the southern city of Marseille Ahmed Hanachi is shot dead by soldiers on patrol. His attack is claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.

2017 April 20: A 39-year-old ex-convict shoots dead an on-duty policeman and wounds two others on Paris' Champs-Elysees avenue Gunman Karim Cheurfi is killed by police and a note praising IS is found next to his body, with the group claiming responsibility.

2016 July 26: Two teenagers slit the throat of an 85-year-old priest in front of five worshippers at his church in the western town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray Abdel Malik Petitjean and Adel Kermiche, both aged 19, are killed by police. The murder is claimed by the IS. The teenagers had sworn allegiance to the group in a video.

2016 July 14: A Tunisian ploughs a truck through a large crowd gathered for Bastille Day fireworks on



the Promenade des Anglais in the Mediterranean city of Nice. The attack kills 86 people and injures more than 400. The driver, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlef, 31, is shot dead by security forces. IS claims responsibility.

2016 June 13: Larossi Abballa, 25, uses a knife to kill a police officer and his partner at their home in Magnanville, west of Paris, in front of their young son Abballa is killed by a police SWAT team, but has already claimed the murders on social media in the name of IS.

2015 November 13: France is hit by the worst terror attacks in its history. IS jihadists armed with assault rifles and explosives strike outside a France-Germany football match at the national stadium, Paris cafes, and the Bataclan concert hall in a coordinated assault that leaves 130 people dead and more than 350 wounded.

2015 August 21: Passengers prevent a bloodbath on a high-speed Thalys train from Amsterdam to Paris, tackling a man who opened fire on travellers. He was armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, an automatic pistol and a box-cutter. The gunman is identified as 25-year-old Moroccan national Ayoub El Khazzani, known to intelligence services for links to radical Islam.

2015 June 26: Frenchman Yassin Salhi, 35, kills and beheads his boss and displays the severed head, surrounded by two Islamic flags, on the fence of a gas plant in Saint-Quentin-



Fallavier in southeastern France. He tries to blow up the factory, but is arrested. He commits suicide in his jail cell.

2015 April 19: Sid Ahmed Ghlam, an Algerian IT student, is arrested on suspicion of killing a woman who was found shot dead in her car, and of planning an attack on a church in the Paris suburb of Villejuif. Prosecutors say they found documents about Al-Qaeda and IS at his home, and that he had been in touch with a suspected jihadist in Syria about an attack on a church.

2015 February 3: A knife-wielding man attacks three soldiers guarding a Jewish community centre in Nice. The 30-year-old assailant, Moussa Coulibaly, is arrested. In custody, he expresses his hatred for France, the police, the military and Jews.

2015 January 7-9: Two men armed with Kalashnikov rifles storm the Paris offices of satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo killing 12 people. A policewoman is killed just outside Paris the following day, while a gunman takes hostages at a Jewish supermarket, four of whom are killed. The attackers are killed in separate shootouts with police, but not before claiming allegiance to Al-Qaeda and the IS.

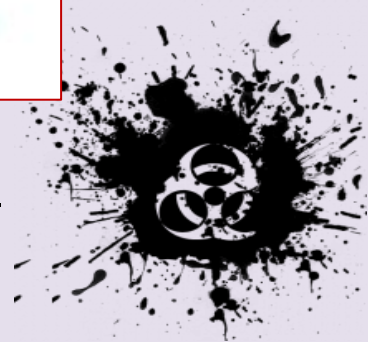
Good or Bad guys?



SouthFront
@southfronteng



Scandinavian Volunteers Participated In Battles Against ISIS On Side Of Syrian Government dvr.it/QSyPJz



The core Isis manual that twisted Islam to legitimise barbarity

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/12/isis-jihadist-manual-analysed-rebutted-by-islamic-scholar>

May 13 – The jihadist manual behind the brutality that underpinned Islamic State has been revealed for the first time in new analysis of a **579-page text, written by the Isis ideologue Abu Abdullah al-Muhajir**. The text attempts to legitimise the barbarous acts of the jihadist group, including the mutilation of corpses, the trade in human organs, beheading, the killing of children along with “scorched earth operations” and global terrorist attacks.

After two years examining and transcribing the document, experts at the counter-extremist group Quilliam



have completed a meticulous appraisal of the extremists' core textbook along with a robust theological rebuttal of its “twisted” interpretation of Islamic teachings. **Used by Isis and its supporters to validate a large range of horrific acts, the “bible for jihadists” provided the theoretical and legal framework for the violent terrorist group.**

“There is a startling lack of study and concern regarding this abhorrent and dangerous text in almost all western and Arab scholarship,” says the report. “We hope to expose and deconstruct this unprepossessing yet deeply insidious and pernicious text.”

Known as the *Fiqh al-Dima* (or *The Jurisprudence of Blood*), the book is the key Salafi-jihadist text. It attempts to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction, perpetrating genocide, the murder of non-combatants, the taking of sex slaves and hostages.

Researchers for Quilliam managed to acquire a copy of the manual online in 2015, after researchers spotted the *Fiqh al-Dima* being used to teach new recruits to Isis's [caliphate](#) in Syria. Back then, [Islamic State's self-styled caliphate](#) encompassed vast swaths of Syria and Iraq and a population of up to eight million. Since then the group has lost 98% of territory in the two countries and is now largely confined to a strip of desert straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border.

The manual offers the group guidance on “military retreat” with a chapter devoted to “surrender vs fighting to the death” that says jihadists should choose death instead of handing themselves over to the enemy. However, Sheikh Salah al-Ansari, a senior Quilliam researcher who translated the manual from Arabic and wrote the rebuttal, said no religious requirement existed to “fight to the death” and that the Islamic tradition of warfare encouraged the humane treatment of prisoners of war. “Our work comprehensively debunks and rejects Isis's proto-Islamic arguments, demonstrating their ignorance and disregard for traditional Islamic scholarship as well as for the basic humane and Islamic values of mercy and compassion,” said Ansari.

The titles of the text's 20 chapters include “Beheading, decapitation and mutilation”, “Kidnapping warring infidels” and “How to kill spies”.

Another chapter, titled “Indiscriminate killing of warring infidels”, opens with an inflammatory message that calls for force to be used against unbelievers: “Kill them, fight them by every means that may snatch away their souls, drive their spirits from their bodies, cleansing the earth of their filth and removing their scourge from mankind, whatever that means may be.” A separate chapter documents attempts to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction. “The central aim for which we strive – and we do so with all available strength – is the acquisition of weapons, weapons of mass destruction, for there is no escaping the obligation to defend against these defiant perverters of faith and end the aggression of the malodorous filth against Islam and its people,” writes Muhajir, the Isis author.

Each point he makes is theologically rebutted by Quilliam using the Qur'an, Islamic teachings and reference to acts prohibited by Islamic warfare ethics and Islamic morality. “This text offers intricate details on the use of jihad in its traditional Sunni discussion, and misuses these features to provide Islamic legal cover to terrorist operations,” said Ansari.

Among one of its central strands is the distinction between the “lands of Islam” and the “lands of unbelief (*kufr*)” and the notion that jihadists are entitled to fight the unbelievers.



“This entire binary construct is a later invention of Muslim theologians that is now obsolete, and so the justification of excommunication (*takfir*) and military attacks against civilians on this basis is completely absurd,” says the Quilliam report. Even so, Ansari said history had proved that some were swayed by the text, even chapters 11 and 12, which attempt to provide an Islamic sanction for the mutilation of bodies, the cutting of body parts and beheading.

“A susceptible and vulnerable reader who has no previous training in Islamic jurisprudence might easily become seduced by this book because it is written in a way that gives the impression that it has religious weight. While the text is somewhat based on traditional readings, it does not reflect the diverse and pluralistic complexities of Islamic rulings,” said Ansari.

The jihadis’ interpretation of jihad – the text has also been used by al-Qaida and Nigeria’s militant Islamist group, Boko Haram, to justify and commit atrocities – would have been core teachings to Isis’s 6,000 European Muslims who travelled to the caliphate, of which [about 850 were British](#).

“They would have been introduced to this book, it is their bible, their most important text,” said Ansari.

Study: U.S. Has Spent \$2.8 Trillion on Counterterrorism Since 9/11

Source: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/study-us-has-spent-dollar28-trillion-on-counterterrorism-since-911>

May 16 – The U.S. government has reportedly poured as much as \$2.8 trillion into the fight against terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but some of that spending may have been



unnecessary, according to a new study. The Stimson Center, a Washington-based think tank, said that figure includes both military spending in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, and homeland security efforts in the U.S. and overseas. But with no transparency in the current system for counter-terrorism spending, billions may have been spent on items that didn’t warrant emergency funding, according to the study. “The Stimson study group found a variety of

weaknesses in definitions, tracking, and consistencies that limit accuracy and contribute to a lack of transparency regarding the current data,” the study said. Those “weaknesses” make it impossible to assess whether all the spending has been “effective,” the study’s authors say. Counter-terrorism spending is now 10 times higher than it was prior to 9/11, and the White House Office of Management and Budget’s annual report tracking such spending was discontinued this year.

How can Islamic terrorists justify killing innocent people during Ramadan?

By Huma Munir

Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2018/05/15/can-islamic-terrorists-justify-killing-innocent-people-ramadan>

May 16 – **ISIS carried out more than 300 attacks during Ramadan last year**, according to a SITE intelligence group report. That includes the London Bridge attack last June that killed eight people.

Ramadan, a month devoted to fasting and special worship in Islam, has become marred with violence over the last few years. As a devout Muslim, I am shocked and saddened beyond words.

Growing up, I always looked forward to Ramadan as a month of physical and spiritual rejuvenation. I looked forward to the aroma of scrumptious food being cooked for the



breaking of the fast each evening. I was born in Pakistan and spent 12 years there before moving to the U.S. It was a custom in my homeland to share food with our neighbors during Ramadan. Each day, I looked forward to our neighbors' generosity.

In the U.S., members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community invite people of all faiths during Ramadan to break the fast together. This month gives us a chance to engage in intellectual discourse in hopes of bridging the gap between Muslims and other faiths. We participate in community service programs all year, but especially during Ramadan because we believe the act has more weight in God's eyes in this blessed month. It is almost like earning bonus points to boost our grades.



In this picture taken on Sunday, July 14, 2013, security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in Basra, Iraq. Ramadan is shaping up to be the deadliest in Iraq since a bloody insurgency and rampant sectarian killings had the country teetering on the edge of civil war more than half a decade ago. (Nabil al-Jurani/AP)

The Holy Quran, the Islamic scripture, strictly forbids fighting during Ramadan and calls it an act of transgression. In Islam, war is allowed only for

the sake of self-defense. Even then, Muslims are forbidden from harming women, children, places of worship and even trees.

How can extremists and militant groups, then, justify their actions? How can they kill so mercilessly without any regard for human life? Do they follow the same Quran that equates the killing of one innocent person to the killing of entire mankind? Do they follow the same Prophet Muhammad who encouraged Muslims to spend even more money during Ramadan to help the poor and needy?

When extremists engage in the acts of murder and destruction, they are also destroying themselves. Their violence mars the name of a peaceful religion and violates the sanctity of a sacred month. Unfortunately, the news of these acts in the media mislead many people to think that Islam somehow encourages these acts of senseless violence.

As Muslims observe Ramadan this year, my hope is to become a better person. Once again, I will strive to be more patient and work on my shortcomings. I look forward to the dinners at my mosque where we will host guests, engage in profound discussions and eat delicious food together.

And once again, I hope this year we see Ramadan in its true light. I hope that the media covers the peaceful efforts of Muslims and visits our mosques to see that most of us reject violence and embrace pluralism.

I also pray from the bottom of my heart that the extremists and their plans to hurt others meet with utter failure.

Huma Munir is a writer with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Writers Association in Miami. She wrote this column for The Dallas Morning News.

Active shooters caused nearly 750 casualties in 2017

By Daniel Nass and Sean Campbell

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180516-active-shooters-caused-nearly-750-casualties-in-2017>

May 16 – **More Americans were killed or wounded by active shooters in 2017 than in any year since the Federal Bureau of Investigation began keeping track.**

All told, nearly 750 people were shot in 30 incidents, according to a [newly released FBI report](#). The shooters were of different ages, from different places, and motivated by different grievances. But all were men, and all acted alone.



Casualties jumped dramatically from 2016 to 2017, though the entirety of that increase can be attributed to the [Las Vegas strip massacre](#), which alone had more than 500 victims. Even subtracting the toll of that one event, 2017 was among the deadliest years on record.

Between 2010 and 2016, an average of 127 Americans were shot in active shootings each year, setting the United States apart from the rest of the world.

“The U.S. is off the charts,” said Frederic Lemieux, a criminologist with Georgetown University who has been researching mass shootings from a global perspective since 2012. “In sheer number, nothing reaches what the U.S. has in victims and number of incidents.”

The FBI defines active shooters as “one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.” This definition encompasses shootings that happen in schools, workplaces, and other public spaces. A shooting can be categorized as an active shooter incident even if no one is killed or wounded.

Accidental shootings, suicides, and drug- and gang-related gun violence are excluded from the FBI’s methodology, which was developed with researchers from Texas State University’s Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training ([ALERT](#)) Center. The center partnered with the FBI to produce the report, using data collected from police department reports, FBI resources, and media articles. Some active shooting incidents may have gone unrecorded in the early 2000s, researchers said, but they captured most of them.

M. Hunter Martindale, director of research at the ALERT Center, said it isn’t clear yet whether the recent surge in incidents and deaths means active shootings will continue to go up.

“If it stays this way, it goes from anomaly to more of a trend,” he said. Prior to last year, he noted, the number of yearly incidents appeared to be leveling off after increasing steadily since the start of the 2000s.

The FBI’s [first active shooter study](#) started out as Martindale’s master thesis. After the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, the FBI teamed up with Texas State University to begin tracking and analyzing active shooter events.

The relative rarity of active-shooter incidents makes analyzing trends in the data difficult, Martindale said. But certain patterns are clear: 96 percent of the shooters since 2000 were male, and nearly two-thirds of all incidents happened in businesses and schools.

Of the 27 documented school shootings that were carried out by minors (younger than age 18), more than half were halted by unarmed teachers, students, or other school staff. In several cases, school authorities ended the violence by merely ordering the shooters to put down their guns. One school shooting was prevented by an armed adult who wasn’t a police officer.

More than half of active shootings were resolved in some way before police arrived on the scene. Of these, a quarter of the shooters committed suicide. Another 12 percent fled the scene. Four percent of shooters were stopped by armed citizens, including security guards. Twelve percent were stopped by unarmed citizens.

“What a civilian does has a very large impact on how these events unfold and how they end,” said Martindale. “When the civilians get involved and fight back, they can end pretty quick.”

However, the FBI and ALERT say that [people in an active shooting situation](#) should run away if possible, find a safe place to hide and barricade themselves if escaping the scene isn’t an option, and confront the shooter as a last resort.

In nearly 15 percent of the incidents tracked by researchers, police officers were either wounded or killed. “It’s the most dangerous call a law enforcement officer can go on,” Martindale said.

10 killed in shooting at Texas’ Santa Fe High School

Source: <http://fox2now.com/2018/05/18/shooter-reported-at-texas-santa-fe-high-school/>

May 18 – A shooter has been reported at Texas’ Santa Fe High School, the school district there said. The district is on lockdown.

Update: Ten people have died and 10 wounded, as result of Friday morning’s shooting at Texas’ Santa Fe High School, CNN affiliates are reporting.



Multiple people have died as a result of a shooting Friday morning at a high school in the southeastern Texas city of Santa Fe, two law enforcement sources told CNN. This is the third school shooting in the past seven days, and the 22nd since the beginning of the year in the United States.

A suspect in the shooting at Santa Fe High School has been arrested, assistant principal Cris Richardson



told reporters near the school. A second person has been detained as well, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez [said on Twitter](#).

Witnesses described students running from the school as they heard gunshots; they also described hearing an alarm at the school, though the sequence of events wasn't immediately clear.

An armed person walked into an art class at the school and began firing

what looked like a shotgun, a witness told [KTRK](#).

The witness told KTRK she saw a girl shot in the leg.

Patients from the school are being taken to a hospital in the nearby city of Galveston, hospital spokesman Raul Reyes said. He did not say how many or give details about the injuries. At least one police officer was injured, Sheriff Gonzalez said.

Aerial video from the scene showed several police officers outside the school. Some were searching students and their backpacks.

Angelica Martinez, a 14-year-old student, told CNN she and her schoolmates were being evacuated at one point "like it's a fire drill."

"We were all standing (outside), but not even five minutes later, we started hearing gunshots," she said. "And then everybody starts running, but like the teachers are telling us to stay put, but we're all just running away."

"I didn't see anybody shooting, but like (the gunshots) were kind of spaced," Angelica said, adding she heard about four shots.

The witness who spoke to KTRK also said she heard an alarm. She didn't specify if that was before or after the gunfire she described in the art class. She said she couldn't describe the shooter. "I didn't look. I just ran," she said.

Another student, Dakota Shrader, told [CNN affiliate KPRC](#) that she heard gunshots only after hearing an alarm in the school. "I was in the history hallway, and as soon as we heard the alarms, everybody just started leaving following the same procedure as ... (a) practice fire drill," Shrader said, breaking into tears. "And next thing you know, we just hear ... three gunshots, loud explosions, and all the teachers are telling us to run."



The entire school district is on lockdown, district officials said.

Santa Fe is a city of about 13,000 people roughly 20 miles northwest of Galveston and 30 miles southeast of Houston. The high school has about 1,400 students.

The perpetrator

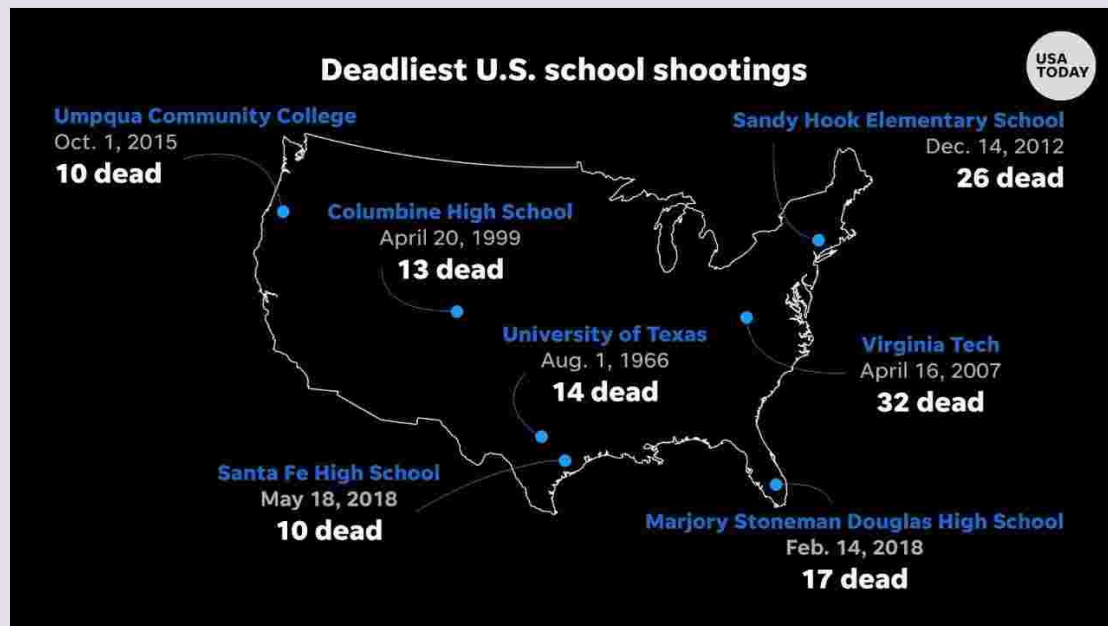
The suspect in custody was identified as 17-year-old [Dimitrios Pagourtzis](#), Galveston County Sheriff Henry Trochesset said in a statement. He was being held without bond on a charge of capital

murder. Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the suspect was believed to be a student at the school.

Investigators said Pagourtzis admitted to authorities that he went on a shooting rampage at a Southeast Texas high school that left 10 dead, most of them students.

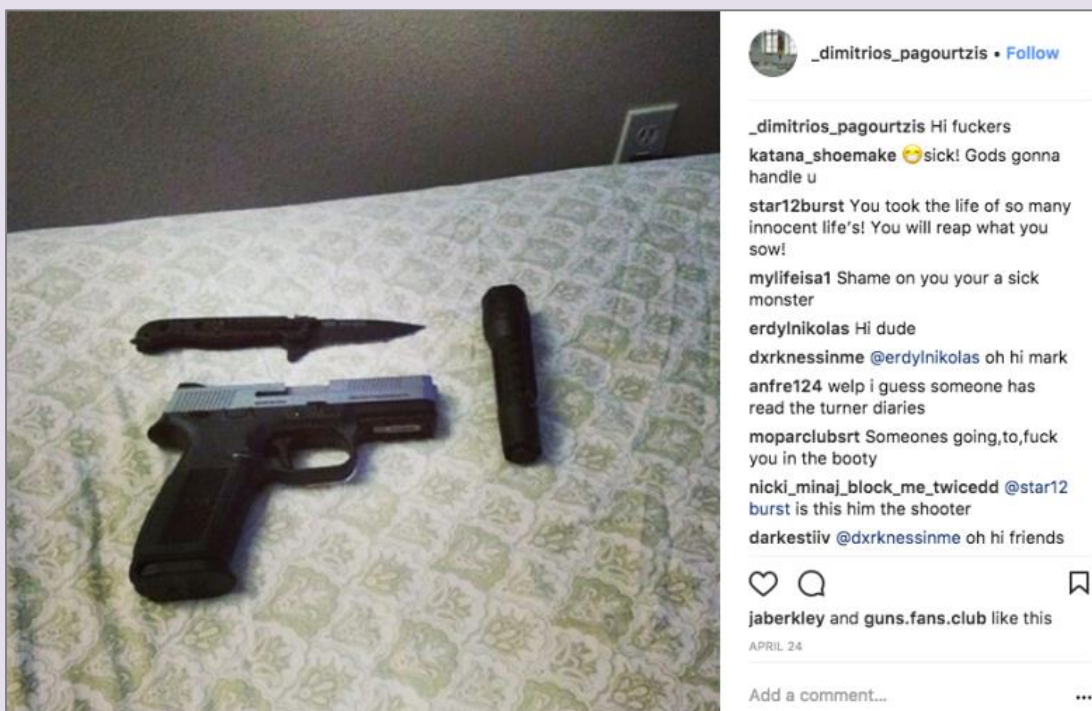
According to a probable cause affidavit, however, Dimitrios Pagourtzis told investigators that when he opened fire at Santa Fe High School on Friday morning, "he did not shoot students he did like so he could have his story told."





Pagourtzis is being held without bond at the Galveston County Jail. He is charged with capital murder of multiple persons and aggravated assault against a public servant.

Authorities said they discovered homemade explosive devices in the school and nearby, including pipe bombs, at least one Molotov cocktail and pressure-cooker bombs similar to those used in the [Boston Marathon attack](#).



Pagourtzis' social media pages showed multiple images of guns. He recently posted a photo wearing a T-shirt reading "Born to Kill" and there were also photos of a long dark jacket with Nazi symbols. The suspect had a shotgun and a .38-caliber revolver, Abbott said. The suspect's father owned the weapons legally, Abbott said, adding that he didn't know whether the father was aware his son had obtained the weapons.



Rage Against The Mom: Psychoanalyzing The Link Between Upbringing And Terrorism

Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/mothers-terrorism-linksshame-honor--psychoanalyst-kobrin/29237351.html>

May 19 – When 20-year-old Khamzat Azimov went on a deadly stabbing spree in Paris this month, a May 12 attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) extremist group, details about his upbringing caught the attention of psychoanalyst and counterterrorism expert Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin.

Considering Azimov's [infancy in war-torn Chechnya](#), and the fact that he continued to live with his



Courtesy Photo

mother in a one-room Paris apartment until he was shot dead by police in the midst of his attack, Kobrin saw a pattern reflected in other Islamist terrorists she has studied and written about.

They include Chechen Islamist separatist leader Shamil Basayev, Jordanian-born Al-Qaeda militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and the Boston Marathon bombers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, also of Chechen descent.

Psychoanalyst and terrorism expert Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin

In a nutshell, Kobrin said all appear to have had relationship issues with their mothers that stemmed from being infants in what anthropologists describe as "shame-honor cultures."

"My analysis strips the aberrant violent antisocial behavior down to its naked truth -- a problem buried in their souls but arising early in childhood development run amok," Kobrin tells RFE/RL.

Reservoir Of Rage

"The problem is that these terrorists are coming from shame-honor cultures, which are dysfunctional by definition," Kobrin explains.

"Their reservoir of rage arises from problems nested in early maternal attachment in shame-honor cultures -- the early mother-infant bonding attachment, the first relationship in life," Kobrin says.

A shame-honor culture is one where the pursuit of what is considered "honor" can lead to a quest for achieving a sense of "justice" through violence and revenge, anthropologists say.

In shame-honor cultures -- as you would find in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Arab Middle East -- shame is used to discipline infants and children, Kobrin explains.

Infants in shame-honor cultures, she says, are also often treated like objects and learn to repress their feelings to the point that internal rage can boil within.

Making matters worse, Kobrin says, women in shame-honor cultures are also often devalued, objectified, or even physically abused.

"Women who are abused also become full of rage," Kobrin says, noting that subconscious reactions of young mothers to abuse seriously impact a child's early development.

The first four years of a child's life is a crucial time when most infants develop empathy for other human beings, she says, adding that the lack of empathy and concern for the pain that terrorists cause to others is "almost worse than the terrorist attacks themselves."

Kobrin says psychoanalysts should take care not to "diagnose" an entire group of people.

But she makes an exception in the case of Al-Qaeda and Islamic State extremists "because their behavior is so out of bounds" with "destruction, cruelty, sadism, and revenge leading to heinous crimes against humanity."

Kobrin also says a better understanding of maternal attachment in shame-honor cultures would help in understanding the roots of terrorist violence.

She explains that terrorists from shame-honor cultures are torn between an unconscious rage against their mothers and the cultural expectation that they are not permitted to separate from their mothers.

On one hand, the mother is idealized as a powerful object. But her power is also perceived as something toxic that must be destroyed, she says.



"Maternal attachment and shame play a significantly traumatizing role since children are shamed into behaving, which causes rage," she said. "When these children grow up, they treat others as objects" and the cycle perpetuates itself.

Room For More Research

But while much has been written about the political, economic, and religious motivations of terrorists, Kobrin says little has been done to "decode the meaning of the terrorists' aberrant behavior from the perspective of early childhood development and trauma."

Ann Masten, a child development professor at the University of Minnesota, agrees.

Masten's [research](#) focuses on the impact of risk, adversity, and trauma upon child development.

In a [report](#) for the Society for Research in Child Development, Masten said critical gaps in the understanding of child development in relation to terror include "limited evidence on neurobiological processes, cultural influences, strategic preparedness, peace-building interventions, and the roles of social media in mitigating or enhancing risk for trauma or engagement in terror activities."

"Developmental scientists, even as they carry out additional and better research, have an important body of knowledge to share with parents, educators, policymakers, first responders, and all those charged with ensuring the safety and resilience of children," Masten concluded.

James Garbarino, a child psychologist and founding director of the Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University in Chicago, says a [core principle of existing research](#) is that the impact of trauma on "the concrete basics of day-to-day life" matter most in the development of children.

Garbarino says research suggests risk factors that combine to create "a generation of maladjusted children" include "exceedingly high rates of family violence, divorce, coronary disease, incidence of depression and tension, exposure to trauma, and a high pressure socio-political climate."

"Generally, it is the accumulation of risk factors in the absence of developmental assets that does the damage to children in the long run much more so than the presence or absence of any one risk factor," Garbarino says.

Kobrin agrees there are "other intervening factors that can tip the scale" in radicalizing a person to the point that they would kill others.

But she maintains that a "key factor" behind the lack of empathy displayed by IS militants is the use of "shaming" by their parents in early child rearing practices.

"It's finally starting to come to the table," says Kobrin, whose books include *The Banality of Suicide Terrorism*, *The Maternal Drama Of The Chechen Jihadi*, and *The Jihadi Dictionary*.

"We should not be afraid, due to our notions of political correctness, to expose the unconscious behavior of terrorists who come out of shame-honor cultures," she maintains.

"To say that a kid radicalizes at age 17 out of the clear blue sky is to really do that kid and his family and the public a disservice," Kobrin concludes. "There are early indicators that a child is in trouble, and we can use these indicators to identify such cases sooner and do an earlier intervention."

Five things to know about mass shootings in America

By Frederic Lemieux

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20180521-five-things-to-know-about-mass-shootings-in-america>

May 21 – At least [10 students were killed](#) at a Santa Fe, Texas high school on May 18 after a classmate opened fire with a shotgun and a .38 revolver.

The shooting came just three months after [another teen shooter killed 17 in Parkland, Florida](#), sparking [nationwide youth-led protests](#) over gun violence – and a familiar debate over what changes could really make a difference.

As [a criminologist](#), I often hear misconceptions creeping into the debate that springs up whenever a mass shooting occurs.

Here's what the research actually shows.



#1: More guns don't make you safer

A [study I conducted on mass shootings](#) indicated that this phenomenon is not limited to the United States.

Mass shootings also took place in 25 other wealthy nations between 1983 and 2013, but the number of mass shootings in the United States far surpasses that of any other country included in the study during the same period of time.

The U.S. had 78 mass shootings during that 30-year period.

The highest number of mass shootings experienced outside the United States was in Germany – where seven shootings occurred.

In the other 24 industrialized countries taken together, 41 mass shootings took place.

In other words, the U.S. had nearly double the number of mass shootings than all other 24 countries combined in the same 30-year period.

Another significant finding is that mass shootings and gun ownership rates are highly correlated. The higher the gun ownership rate, the more a country is susceptible to experiencing mass shooting incidents. This association remains high even when the United States is withdrawn from the analysis.

Similar results have been found by the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#), which states that countries with higher levels of firearm ownership also have higher firearm homicide rates.

My study also shows a strong correlation between mass shooting casualties and overall death by firearms rates. However, in this last analysis, the relation seems to be mainly driven by the very high number of deaths by firearms in the United States. The relation disappears when the United States is withdrawn from the analysis.

#2: Mass shootings are more frequent

A recent study published by the [Harvard Injury Control Research Center](#) shows that the frequency of mass shooting is increasing over time. The researchers measured the increase by calculating the time between the occurrence of mass shootings. According to the research, the days separating mass shooting occurrence went from on average 200 days during the period of 1983 to 2011 to 64 days since 2011.

What is most alarming with mass shootings is the fact that this increasing trend is moving in the opposite direction of overall intentional homicide rates in the U.S., which decreased by

almost [50 percent since 1993](#) and in Europe where intentional homicides decreased by 40 percent between [2003 and 2013](#).

#3: Restricting sales works

Thanks to the Second Amendment, the United States has permissive gun licensing laws.

This is in contrast to most developed countries, which have restrictive laws.

According to a seminal work by criminologists [George Newton and Franklin Zimring](#), permissive gun licensing laws refer to a system in which everyone except specially prohibited groups of persons can purchase a firearm. In such a system, an individual does not have to justify purchasing a weapon; rather, the licensing authority has the burden of proof to deny gun acquisition.

By contrast, restrictive gun licensing laws refer to a system in which individuals who want to purchase firearms must demonstrate to a licensing authority that they have valid reasons to get a gun – like using it on a shooting range or going hunting – and that they demonstrate “good character.”

The differences between these type of gun laws have important impacts. Countries with more restrictive gun licensing laws show fewer deaths by firearms and a lower gun ownership rate.

#4: Background checks work

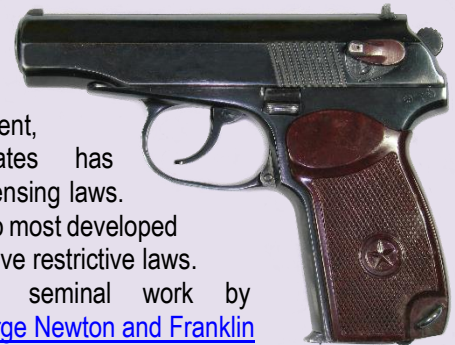
In [most of the restrictive background checks](#) performed in developed countries like Canada and Australia, citizens are required to train for gun handling, obtain a license for hunting or provide proof of membership to a shooting range.

Individuals must prove that they do not belong to any “prohibited group,” such as the mentally ill, criminals, children or those at high risk of committing violent crime, such as individuals with a police record of threatening the life of another.

Here's the bottom line. With these provisions, [most U.S. active shooters](#) would have been denied the purchase of a firearm.

#5: Most mass shootings are not terrorism

Journalists [sometimes describe](#) mass shooting as a form of



domestic terrorism. This connection may be misleading.

There is no doubt that mass shootings are “terrifying” and “terrorize” the community where they have happened. However, not all active shooters involved in mass shooting have a political message or cause.

For example, the church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 2015 was a hate crime

but was not judged [by the federal government](#) to be a terrorist act.

The majority of active shooters are linked to mental health issues, bullying and disgruntled employees. Active shooters may be motivated by a variety of personal or political motivations, usually not aimed at weakening government legitimacy. Frequent motivations are revenge or a quest for power.

Frederic Lemieux is Professor of the Practice and Faculty Director of the Master's in Applied Intelligence, Georgetown University.

A deeper look into terrorism

By Varvara Makarevich

Source: <http://depaulionline.com/35604/nation/a-deeper-look-into-terrorism/>

May 21 – Paris, 2015. Nice, 2016. Berlin, 2016. St.Petersburg, 2017. London, 2017. Brussels, 2017. Barcelona, 2017. These are the locations of a number of high-profile terror attacks committed in Europe by Islamist terror group ISIS over the past few years.

And while ISIS's goal of creating a new “caliphate” has largely gone up in smoke in Iraq, which officially declared the group's defeat in December, the terror group still has pockets of territory in Syria. Additionally, experts say there is a risk of more lone-wolf attacks now that ISIS has largely gone to ground. There is an obvious and a seemingly easy way to identify potential terrorists, whether they are directly connected to ISIS or simply radicalized and boosted by the actions of the terrorist organization and its affiliates. “We can educate social workers, teachers, parents to spot warning signs, just like we do with alcohol or drug abuse problems,” said Thomas Mockaitis, a history professor at DePaul who specializes in counter-insurgencies and terrorism. “We can do this for radicalization. Nothing is 100 percent successful, but by doing this you're reducing it to the level that unfortunately you have to live with.”

Part of the reason these sorts of attacks have taken place in Europe is due to the disenfranchisement of poor Muslim populations there: “In many European countries there's a significant Muslim population, and it is also ghettoized, discriminated against,” Mockaitis said. Dissatisfaction with such poor living conditions provides an inroad for radical Islamic groups like ISIS to recruit people, though he cautions that the number of people motivated towards extremist ideologies is, in fact, small. Meanwhile in the U.S., Muslims tend to be much more integrated into society, and Muslims on the whole don't experience the same degree of discrimination.

According to Mockaitis, European countries were well ahead of the Americans in terms of security for years, since they had to deal with Irish Republican Army and the Middle Eastern terrorism. Mockaitis says Americans started taking terrorism more seriously after 9/11, and he believes that today the countries are more on equal footing when it comes to security, in areas such as airport security.

The need for increased security, even in public places, often provokes officials to reshape city plans, the designs of public spaces, and transportation hub logistics. Some changes are so subtle that the public doesn't even consider them as safety measures. Academics and authorities are trying to figure out how to design public spaces in a safe but welcoming way.

“We don't see all the measures taken by the authorities, because there's a value to some that we don't see,” said Roberta Garner, a sociology professor at DePaul. “And we don't need to draw attention to them because terrorists would see them.”

Terrorist attacks change lives and cities. In the wake of the December 2016 Christmas market attack in Berlin, where 12 people and 56 were injured, BBC correspondent Dominic Casciani wrote that “The U.S., Israel and the U.K. were among the nations that had led the thinking on protecting public spaces with the development of measures ranging from in-your-face massive barriers to incredibly subtle changes in the street that people might barely notice.” According to Quartz, New York City planners turned to a design firm to improve security in the city. They replaced



the “menacing metal barriers” around the city’s Financial District with “custom-designed faceted bronze bollards” that “became a friendly place for Manhattan co-workers to gather outdoors.”

An example of another attractive and effective security barrier is described by Justin Schumacher, an emergency response planner, in a post on Medium.com. He writes that the huge word “Arsenal” in front of Emirates Stadium, the home stadium for the Islington, U.K.-based Arsenal F.C. soccer team, “has itself become a draw with fans often going out of their way to get their pictures taken with it.” They may not realize that it’s not just another city attraction, but instead a well-thought security element. Thus city planners and designers, while facing more challenges in their job, also have more opportunities to be creative and make not only aesthetic changes but a valuable contribution to the society.

Like British soccer fans, people around the world attend thousands of football games, concerts, and festivals every year. Garner says that innate affinity people have for being with other people should not disappear in the wake of a terrorist incident. “All people are committed to keeping societies open as much as possible. And to become terrorized and stay at home, and not connect to other people in public is kind of to succumb to the terrorists,” she says. Most people, she says, rationally see a kind of trade between being in public spaces and giving up some of their liberties, such as when people have to go through a metal detector in Wrigley Field or the airport.

“We have to tell people that if you want to live in a free, open society, you have to accept risk,” said Mockaitis.

“Security measures don’t bother me at all,” said Agathe Muller, a senior at DePaul. “If that can help in any way I’m happy to spend the extra two minutes.”

She came to the U.S. 10 years ago and was in Paris when the Bataclan Theatre tragedy happened in November 2015; it was the deadliest attack on France since World War II, leaving 130 people dead and over 400 injured. The day after the attack, Muller says she witnessed what she says is the most silence she has ever heard in the streets of Paris.

Muller stayed for another week after the attack and only felt safe when she was on the plane back to Chicago. She says she doesn’t worry much about terrorist attacks in the U.S.

“I’m even more afraid of aggravated robbery or a gunshot that is not targeted towards me,” Muller said.

Ultimately, Islamist terrorist attacks in Western nations can feed into a vicious cycle of radicalization that inspires not just similar incidents, but reprisal attacks as well. It can lead to societies being highly polarized, along with a rise in right-wing populism and anti-immigrant sentiment that has been taking shape in Europe over the last few years – examples include the rise of the AfD party in Germany, the National Front in France and the Freedom Party of Austria.

“That (right-wing populism) actually increases the attitudes of discrimination which make the radicalization more likely,” he said.

Ultimately, Mockaitis says one of the best ways to fight terrorism in any of its manifestations is to “fight Islamophobia, fight the anti-immigrant thing, fight anti-Semitism, fight racism,” Mockaitis said. “That will help you reduce that radicalization.”

