

November 2016

# NEWSLETTER **TERRORISM**

*E-Journal for CBRNE & CT First Responders*



TRUMPQUAKE



ΑΡΧΗ ΑΝΔΡΑ ΔΕΙΚΝΥΣΙ  
*Sophocles*



## The Mirage: Tackling terrorism with education and security

Source: <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/mirage-tackling-terrorism-education-security/>

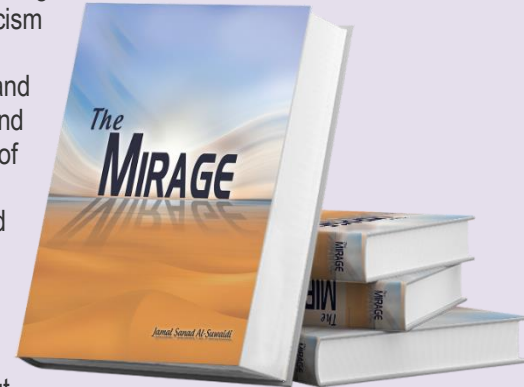
Oct 25 – With religious extremism claiming the lives of hundreds of people in Europe in the last year, after terrorist attacks have plagued major European cities, questions are being raised about how to tackle this problem without allowing populism and racism to take hold of society.

Dr. **Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi**, the award winning author of “The Mirage” and the Director General of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, sat down with Alexandros Koronakis to talk about his hopes of putting an end to terrorism by fighting it with education and security.

Part of his 800-page book, which tackles the phenomenon of terrorism and the misuse of Islam by extremist groups, comes from Al-Suwaidi’s 1989 doctoral dissertation, but the author says it is not dated. “The situation didn’t change since then. It’s the same ideas. The groups we are talking about, their ideas haven’t changed,” he said.

The book has been banned in certain countries, including Saudi Arabia, but there has been a lot of social media targeting the book. According to Al-Suwaidi, the comments do not target the content, as they cannot. For the first year after the book came out in February 2015, he was under constant security surveillance as there were direct threats against his life.

The book, explained Al-Suwaidi, was one of the five finalists for the Nobel Prize in literature, beaten by Bob Dylan who received the prize under much controversy. Al-Suwaidi did not comment about Dylan, except to say that “Bob Dylan beat us”. He did, however, describe the prizes as too “traditional”, and to say that the Nobel Prizes need to start to recognise the importance of Information Technology. “It’s not my field, but they have to recognise it,” the author said.



### Terrorism, education and the Muslim Brotherhood

Al-Suwaidi was adamant about the role of education in the eradication of terrorism. “It’s a process that will yield results after 15 or 20 years,” he said, adding that it is still necessary. In his view, teaching tolerance is the key to achieving long-term change.

In the 1980s in the UAE, the minister of education and head of the university was from the Muslim Brotherhood. By freeing education from this leadership, it allows you to “teach tolerance”.

Speaking about the terrorist attacks in Europe, Al-Suwaidi was quite critical regarding the response of the EU to the Muslim Brotherhood. “Europeans are responsible for the terrorism happening to them. They think [the Muslim Brotherhood] are moderate.”

Reflecting on how the United States and many EU countries were supportive of the Muslim Brotherhood, he said: “After coming to the EU, now I know why... they don’t understand the phenomenon.”

Quite strongly, Al-Suwaidi stressed that “Europeans shouldn’t cry, they made this

terrorism; when you buy Daesh [Islamic State] oil, you are helping”.

Al-Suwaidi has long advocated separating religion from power.

### The mosques

In a speech the previous day, Al-Suwaidi sent a strong message: The mosques need to stop being places for recruitment of extremist ideologies.

Referring to some of the terrorist attacks in Europe, and how something like this could come about, Al-Suwaidi said: “The Imam will tell them, do it and you will go to heaven”.

Asked how a country should go about tackling this problem, Al-Suwaidi responded:

“There is a model in Egypt and the UAE where they monitor mosques. We have the technology today to hear everything... We used to have many Imams coming from different walks of life. Somebody upset; he would say ‘Why don’t you kill the Christians, and Jews, and Hindus’. The message of hate should stop. Religion didn’t come from hate. Religion, whether Christianity or Judaism or Islam or



Buddhism or Hinduism came from moral values, not hate.”

While Al-Suwaidi described his approach as scholarly and academic, he primarily relies on logic: “If the Imams tell you how to kill, then we have to stop [the Imams from doing so].”

### Security vs. Freedom

Europe needs to discuss the issue of security versus freedom, Al-Suwaidi maintained. It is “a difficult discussion” that needs to be held.

Throughout the interview, Al-Suwaidi frequently repeated his mantra, saying: “Don’t tell me about [the] human rights of the criminal, you have to tell me [about the] human rights of the victim... You can’t forget about the victims.”

In his mind, there is a right balance to strike between security and freedom. Asked about the potential for abuse of power, and the banning of headscarves in some parts of Europe, Al-Suwaidi sounded clear: “You can’t target a certain race, or any group of people” but “you can search for security.”

With the influx of migrants and refugees from Syria and other countries, Europe has had to face growing social tension in local communities. “Anybody who comes from, let’s say Tunisia to Belgium, enjoying the free constitution should respect the values of the regime.” Al-Suwaidi believes that most migrants will exploit the rules and values, but if someone coming to a country doesn’t have respect for these rules and values, they should be “thrown out”.

### Security and justice

Reflecting on the Belgian attacks that left 32 dead, Al-Suwaidi expressed disbelief: “The guy

who planned the attack on the airport in Belgium is in a 5-star jail in France. That is not supposed to happen.”

The interview took place the day after 15 hostages were held (and eventually released) in a Belgian supermarket by a man wielding a knife. “That’s just wrong,” Al-Suwaidi said, shaking his head.

Al-Suwaidi also made special mention of Belgium and the large number of returned fighters from Syria. Walking the streets, he says, is dangerous. “People are there trying to kill you.”

There is a need for more security for the common good, in Al-Suwaidi’s opinion. “I’m very happy to see airport-like security in buildings, because I have no criminal intent. There is no problem if I am searched.”

But Al-Suwaidi insisted there is a middle ground. Recounting the time when he was detained at an airport in Houston for seven hours just because he has an ‘Al-’ in his name, he said that “we have to be very careful with profiling.” Increasing security, he continued, also requires greater cooperation with Middle Eastern countries to better understand the problem at hand. What is needed is “scholarly and intellectual debates,” he believes.

For countries that went through Featured-4, “they can find a middle ground,” he concluded. The interview lasted over an hour and the discussion took tangents into American politics, the refugee crisis, and history. A message from Al-Suwaidi that resonated was that there is no justification for taking the lives of innocents, and that “freedom” as Al-Suwaidi said, “should stop with mass murderers.”

## Man arrested under terrorism laws over ‘chemical incident’ at London City Airport

Source: <https://www.rt.com/uk/363908-arrest-terrorism-city-airport/>

Oct 24 – A man has been arrested under terrorism laws after trying to unleash a “noxious substance” at London City Airport on Friday.

London police said they arrested a 25-year-old man on Saturday. He was suspected of using a chemical substance to cause serious damage, an offence under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act. He was arrested at his home in east London, according to the Independent. He has since been bailed. Some 500 people were forced to leave the airport building on Friday with at least 30 flights canceled.

London Ambulance said it treated 26 people at the airport and two were taken to hospital. The site was evacuated after a fire alarm went off in the terminal building. Passengers and airport staff were left on the tarmac as three fire engines responded to the alarm.



## New Study Shows Boko Haram Recruited by People They Know

By Anthony Kimery (Editor-in-Chief)

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/new-study-shows-boko-haram-recruited-by-people-they-know/e4348191fd56a7dbb3f92b5cb6b4eaa6.html>

Oct 11 – **Members of the Al Qaeda affiliated jihadi organization Boko Haram are most often recruited by people they already know, such as friends and family** – not by people in mosques or madrasas, according to a groundbreaking new study by Dr. Anneli Botha and Mahdi Abdile.

The study also found **women have larger responsibilities in Boko Haram than previously thought**, and that recruiters are adaptive to the tightening security environment. According to the study, “Boko Haram members are most often recruited by people they already know. During the interviews, former Boko Haram fighters explained that people close to them – friends, family and relatives – introduced 60 percent of them to the organization. Contrary to common perceptions, **only 27 percent of former fighters were introduced to the group at mosques or madrasas.**”

According to study, mosques provide a gathering place, but they have not necessarily served as a recruiting space. There was very little evidence of individual “firebrand” Imams preaching on the side of Boko Haram to facilitate recruitment, the study found.

“In the pre-9/11 world, mosques and madrasas used to be the place to get new recruits. Today that has changed,” said study co-author, Mahdi Abdile, Director of Research and Countering Violent Extremism at Finn Church Aid (FCA), the largest NGO for development cooperation in Finland who serves in the same position at The Network for Traditional and Religious Peacemakers. He is also a fellow and senior researcher at the European Institute of Peace. The study was conducted by FCA, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), The Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the Citizen Research Centre. It follows similar research by the same authors who conducted the September 2014 report, [Radicalisation and Al Shabaab Recruitment in Somalia](#).

Co-author Mahdi Abdile worked as a senior researcher on terrorism at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, South Africa

and traveled throughout Africa where she conducted research on terrorism and delivered specialized training on various aspects of the threat of terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and counterterrorism to law enforcement and criminal justice officials in a number of countries on the continent. Prior to her position at ISS, she served in the South African Police Service for 10 years and was a founding member of the Religious Extremism and Terrorism Desk at Crime Intelligence Head Office and served in the Rapid Reaction Unit and the Special Task Force on Urban Terror in the West Cape. At the end of her police career she provided strategic support to the Head of South Africa's Crime Intelligence Unit.

**One Hundred Nineteen former Boko Haram members were interviewed in December 2015 in Yola and Maiduguri in Nigeria** – a sample of ex-fighters larger than in any previous research on the group.

“We always aim for primary source research. Without real first-hand information it is impossible to understand the complexity of the situation, or plan prevention or reintegration initiatives,” said Antti Pentikäinen, executive director of The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

“This research reinforces the key role of religious leaders in defusing religious tensions and preventing radicalisation. As influencers and role models they can prevent manipulation and misinterpretation of religion by violent extremists. We believe it is crucial that religious leaders are equipped with skills in interreligious dialogue and understanding,” stated Fahad Abualnasr, KAICIID Director General.

“The results of this study highlight the fact that recruiters are adaptive to the tightening security environment, and more than ever before, that women and young girls are increasingly being targeted for recruitment,” according to the study.

Women are also more active in recruiting and intelligence gathering.

“Boko Haram is internationally known especially for its strategy of kidnapping young girls,” but



according to the study, female Boko Haram members were far more likely to be introduced to the group by force than males. Furthermore, male Boko Haram members were more likely to report joining as a personal decision (11 percent) than females (2 percent).

The study, however, refuted the “common perception that women predominately serve as wives, or that only women provide domestic support services like cooking and cleaning. In Boko Haram, both men and women provide these services. Within the research sample, women even surpassed their male counterparts as recruiters (12 and seven) and as intelligence operatives (eight and six).

“This large role of women in Boko Haram was one of the most surprising results we got. For example, in Al Shabab women basically do not have an active role at all,” Abdile said.

The study identified a variety of key factors behind the reasons for joining Boko Haram. The principal reasons are: revenge, religion and personal needs.

The study found 57 percent of former Boko Haram fighters “identified the desire for revenge as having a strong influence on their decision to join, or being the only reason for it. The target of the revenge was the military, which according to Boko Haram fighters, is brutal, merciless and pitiless.”

Therefore, the study said, “military initiatives and actions should be considered carefully, and must not be counterproductive. Very clear rules of engagement are needed, especially in

cases involving non-combatants in order to prevent future radicalization.

Forty-three percent of “former fighters indicated that religion had a strong influence on their decision to join Boko Haram. However, according to the interviewees, Boko Haram was not following the true teachings of Islam. Those who joined for religious reasons were vulnerable and not familiar enough with the teachings of the Qur’an to know better.”

“First of all, we were carried away by the name of Islam, we were told to go and do Jihad (holy war). After that we came to discover that it was a deceitful way of introducing us into another part of the world,” the study quoted a former member.

**More than 23 percent of Boko Haram respondents said they joined Boko Haram to be respected and feared, while 17 percent stated a need to belong.**

Another stated: “If any Boko Haram member tells you he is feeling fine he is a bloody liar. To do so we go about roaming in the bush, we have no good food, we do not bath.”

“Fear [also] played an important role in all the phases of Boko Haram’s activity: recruitment, joining and being a member. Former fighters described a feeling of fear in Boko Haram when being a member and after leaving the group. This fear should be countered by reintegrating former Boko Haram fighters into society, and by involving local communities in helping individuals to feel like a part of a strong community.”

## Swedish city to offer returning Isis fighters housing and benefits in reintegration programme

Source: <https://www.google.co.in/amp/www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/sweden-isis-fighters-city-lund-returning-jihadis-housing-job-education-benefits-reintegration-a7371266.html%3famp>



Oct 20 – **A programme to rehabilitate former Isis fighters and other extremists with housing, employment, education and financial support is being trialled in Sweden.**

Local authorities in the city of **Lund** say the controversial measures aim to reintegrate returned jihadis into society and prevent them reverting to their former networks.

Anna Sjöstrand, the municipal coordinator against violent extremism, acknowledged the proposals were controversial but argued that the same approach should be taken to Isis defectors as to those leaving organised crime and neo-Nazi groups.

“When this subject came up we thought: ‘Oh god,

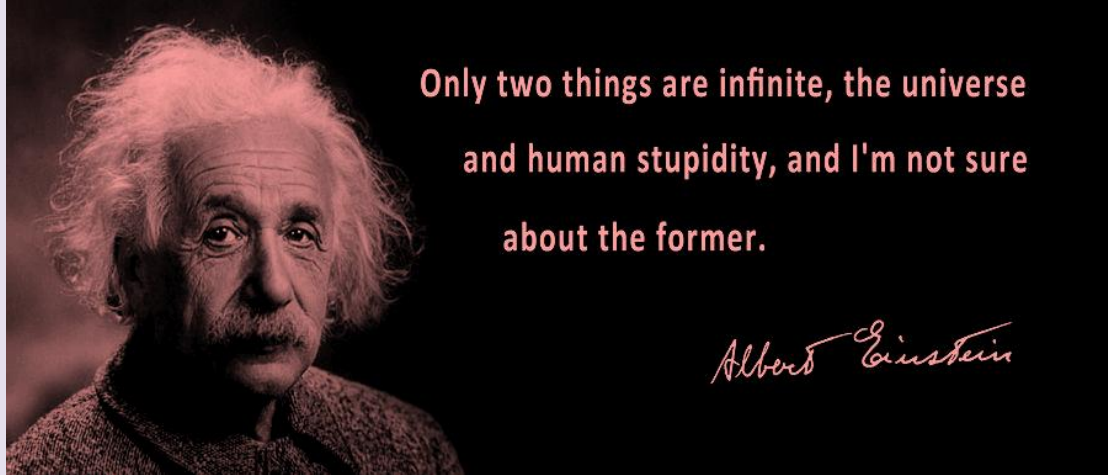


how should we handle this',” she told national broadcaster *Sveriges Radio*.

“Pretty quickly we realized that we should deal with this in the same way.

“If you have committed a criminal act should take responsibility for it, but there are many aspects - one could for example look at it in terms of cost.

**“It is much cheaper to reintegrate a person into society than to abandon them, for example.”**



Christoffer Carlsson, a criminologist, said he supported the plans after conducting a report on extremist defectors for the Swedish government. He told *Sveriges Radio* people attempting to leave a group such as Isis need a way to break out of their networks and to avoid regression, adding: “You need resources, you need to reintegrate into the job market, you need a license, you need a roof over your head.

“I fail to see why you should treat people who leave violent extremism differently (to young criminals).”

A recent report found that the [majority of European Isis fighters have a criminal background](#), with the group's propaganda deliberately attempting to attract young men searching for redemption. The approach pioneered in Lund is also reportedly being considered in the Swedish cities of Malmö, Borlänge and Örebro.

**Around 140 Swedish foreign fighters are believed to have returned from Syria and Iraq, out of at least 300 who travelled to the region to join Islamist groups.**

The country is believed to have one of the highest Isis fighters per capita in Europe, although it sits far behind France, the UK, Belgium and Germany in terms of numbers.

Methods of dealing with returning jihadis are a subject of fierce debate across Europe as the terrorist group continues to lose territory across Syria and Iraq, with fears of an influx of militants fleeing a major offensive in Iraq.

“The retaking of Isis's northern Iraqi stronghold, Mosul, may lead to the return to Europe of violent Isis fighters,” said Julian King, Commissioner for the (European) Security Union.

**Around one fifth of the group's militants – 3,700 people – are residents or nationals of Western Europe, a King's College London study estimated last year.**

**More than 800 jihadists are believed to have travelled from the UK to join other Isis and other Islamist groups in Syria and Iraq, with about half having returned.**

## Militant group attacks Pakistan police academy; scores dead

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/24/world/pakistan-police-academy-attack/>



Oct 25 – **At least 60 (update: 61) people were killed and 118 injured when militants attacked a police training academy in Quetta, Pakistan, late Monday night, government officials said.**

Major General Sher Afgan, Chief of the Paramilitary Frontier Corps, told reporters Tuesday that Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-jhangvi was behind the attack -- an al Qaeda-linked militant group that has repeatedly carried out deadly attacks on the country's Shiite Muslim minority in recent years.



One attacker was killed by security forces; two others died when they detonated bombs they were carrying, said Sarfraz Bugti, Home Minister for Balochistan province, where Quetta is located. He added the assault ended in the early hours of Tuesday. The attackers (photo below) targeted a hostel at the



academy where as many as 700 police cadets live. Two hundred cadets were rescued Monday night, Bugti said. Five or six "terrorists entered the training school and (went) straight to the hostel where they took cadets hostage," the Pakistani army said in a statement.

#### Lashkar-e-Jhangvi

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi is known for targeting Shiites in Sunni-majority Pakistan, including [a series of bombings in early 2013](#) that left more than 160 people dead in Balochistan province.

Last year, the then head of the group, Malik Ishaq, [was killed during a shootout](#) after armed men on motorcycles ambushed a police convoy that was transporting him between prisons in Punjab province. Lashkar-e Jhangvi also claimed responsibility for a January 2014 bombing of a bus carrying Shiite pilgrims that killed more than 20 people. The group was outlawed in Pakistan in 2001 and designated a terrorist organization by the US State Department in 2003.

#### Similar attacks

Quetta is the capital of Balochistan, a province long-plagued by violence. In August of this year, the city saw one of the [deadliest attacks Pakistan has ever seen](#) when prominent lawyer, and president of the Balochistan Bar Association, Bilal Kasi, was murdered by gunmen. Hours later, more than 72 people were killed in a bombing at a hospital where his body was taken.

"No one will be allowed to disturb peace in the province that has been restored due to countless sacrifices of security forces, police and the people of Balochistan," Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said at the time. The prime minister also said in a statement that he had directed authorities to "maintain utmost vigilance."

## Swede punches clown that scared his grandmother

Source: <https://www.thelocal.se/20161018/swede-punches-clown-that-scared-his-grandmother>

Oct 18 – **A hapless participant in the so-called killer clown trend made a fatal mistake on Sunday when he opted to scare an 80-year-old who was out for a walk in rural Sweden.**



What the clown failed to notice was that the woman was with her 24-year-old grandson, 1.96 metre (6'4") tall farmer Mattias Roos, who was so startled by the prankster that he reacted instinctively by punching him in the face.

**The clown fell then fled the scene, seemingly given a scare of his own by the burly Swede.**

BRavo!



"He was trying to scare me and reflexes kicked in. I didn't really understand what had happened – I've never really seen anything like that before," Roos told The Local.

"I don't really understand the point in the whole thing. I understand when someone pranks their friends, but scaring the general public is idiotic I think," he added.

Last week The Local reported that police in Sweden [have been swamped with emergency calls](#) as a result of the clown trend, with examples including a knife-wielding clown chasing people in the town of Ronneby, and a 15-year-old girl being chased by a group of clowns in Dalarna.

But it seems the clowns could also be putting themselves in danger if they cross the wrong person. "I'd never punch someone normally. But everyone reacts differently when their reflexes take hold," farmer Roos concluded.

## Remotely Piloted Innovation: Terrorism, Drones and Supportive Technology

Author: Don Rassler [October 20, 2016]

Source: <https://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/remotely-piloted-innovation-terrorism-drones-and-supportive-technology>



In early October 2016, the group that calls itself the Islamic State killed two Kurdish soldiers with an explosive device hidden inside a drone. While terrorist groups have long had a fascination with drones and experimented with their use, the incident was a first for a terror group, and it potentially represents the leading edge of a wave of similar incidents that could follow in the months, years and decades ahead.

<https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Drones-Report.pdf>


Much has been made of the threat of terror use of drones, but little empirical and historical work has been done to support our understanding of this phenomenon



and its evolution. This report seeks to address this gap by providing a review of, and framework to situate, cases in which terrorist entities have either shown a substantive interest in drones or have used them. It evaluates both individual use cases and the activity of groups that have used drones frequently enough to constitute their having a “program.” These cases are then complemented by a review of the creative ways that private citizens have used drones, in order to provide decisionmakers with a firmer baseline of both demonstrated terror capability and what lies within the immediate realm of possibility, given what has already been achieved by others. This report also includes an overview of new technologies that are likely to further complicate the scope of this developing threat.

## Terror threat at **Nice airport**: Man threatens bomb attack and to cut passengers’ throats

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/723045/terror-threat-nice-airport-ISIS-supporter-Rocco-m-threatens-bomb-attack-slit-throats-jihad>

Oct 19 – The 32-year-old also attacked two police officers  as he said he would target their families as well as women and children in the airport.

The suspected terrorist, known only as Rocco M., **suffers from schizophrenia**, a chronic and severe mental disorder, and is currently in detention awaiting trial.

The man, known only as Rocco M, turned up at the Aviapartner check-in desk at Nice airport on Sunday, and erupted into a rage when an employee told him there was no reservation under his name.



There was in fact, no reservation under the name Rocco M.

An Aviapartner spokesperson said a “delirious” Rocco M mentioned an “imaginary Facebook friend” he was due to go to Barcelona with.

But Rocco M refused to back down. He suddenly became very aggressive and launched a volley of abuse at the Aviapartner employee, who was forced to call the police for help.

When police officers rushed to the scene Rocco M said he would “slit their throats and the throats of their wives and children”, and threatened to “blow the place up”. He then started throwing punches, slightly injuring two of the policemen.

Local officials claim Rocco M is a “vulnerable adult” who cannot be left alone and who has spent much of the past five years as a patient in a psychiatric hospital.



He has been accused of a string of offences, including defending terrorism, uttering death threats, and assault and battery upon a police officer.

Nice prosecutor Jean-Michel Prêtre also confirmed Rocco M is an ISIS supporter: "His behaviour has led us to believe that he is an extremist who is attracted to ISIS's hard-core ideology. His actions are deeply troubling."

The radicalised jihadist appeared in court on Tuesday, but, in light of his mental illness, judges postponed his trial date which has been set for November 28.

## Daesh Claims Responsibility for Attack in Sweden That Went Almost Unnoticed

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/europe/201610211046583165-sweden-daesh-terrorism/>

Oct 21 – **To Swedes' astonishment, a recent arson attack in the city of Malmö that only caused minor damage, injured no one and was barely reported in the media has been claimed by Daesh.**

On October 11, a fire broke out in a **Shia prayer house** in **Malmö**, Sweden's third largest and most multicultural city. Police believed that the fire was caused by Molotov cocktails which were thrown inside



through broken windows. The event was largely overshadowed by the massive explosion that hit the Babel night club on October 10. **The latest edition of Daesh magazine al-Naba claimed that the fire was started by "a warrior from the caliphate" in "crusader country Sweden,"** the Swedish tabloid newspaper Aftonbladet reported. The article also claimed that the prayer house was used by "infidels", whereas the attack itself was carried out "on the instructions of the leader al-Adnani," a Daesh spokesman who previously called for terror attacks against the West prior to his death during an airstrike in Aleppo, Syria. **According to Swedish terrorism expert Magnus Ranstorp at the Swedish National Defense College the terrorists' claims should be**

taken with a grain of salt. **"I don't think it will be possible to establish that they are involved. They've got a habit of taking responsibility for everything. They tend to claim responsibility for terror attacks they have nothing to do with,"** Ranstorp said.

Terror expert Hans Brun of King's College London, told Svenska Dagbladet that it was remarkable that al-Naba had heard about the attack at all. "This incident hasn't received a lot of attention in either Sweden or internationally as far as I'm aware. The question is how they got access to this information. **They must either have been tipped off about the incident or have had contact with the person or people who did it.** I'm surprised that they should mention such a trifling incident in the first place. As far as I'm aware nobody was injured. It was hardly a global news event," he said. Both Ranstorp and Brun emphasized that there was a **deep sectarian conflict going on between Daesh and Shia Muslims.** However, it is the first instance of this skirmish happening on Swedish soil. **Swedish security service SÄPO would not comment on the issue despite the fact that Sweden previously emerged as one of the EU's foremost exporters of terrorism, with one of the highest rates of jihadists per capita, surpassed only by Belgium. Malmö is often hailed as Sweden's "most multicultural city," with 174 countries and over 150 languages represented. Up to half of Malmö's population of 300,000 have a foreign background. The Middle East and the Horn of Africa are the main sources of immigration.** The number of Swedish Muslims is a subject for debate, since religious profiling is considered offensive. Estimations, however vary between 100,000 and 500,000, which account for **up to 5 percent of Sweden's population. The majority of the Swedish Muslims are Sunni.**



## Swedish terror suspect 'planned airport attack'

Source: <https://www.thelocal.se/20161022/swedish-terror-suspect-planned-schiphol-airport-attack>

Oct 25 – **Swedish national Osama Krayem, linked to the deadly attacks in Paris on November 13 and in Brussels on March 22, is now suspected of having plotted to attack also the Schiphol airport in the Netherlands.**



Twenty-four-year-old Krayem, from Malmö, in southern Sweden, was charged in Brussels earlier this year over his links to the terror cell that carried out the attacks in the French and Belgian capitals in 2015 and 2016 and in which 162 people were killed. On Thursday, a Belgian court

ruled to extend Krayem's detention by another two months.

According to an anonymous judicial source cited by Swedish daily Sydsvenskan, the extended detention comes on the back of new findings suggesting the Swede, along with an accomplice, planned to attack the international Schiphol airport in the Netherlands.

The findings include two bus tickets, bought under fake names, from Brussels to Amsterdam with departure on the day of the November 13 attacks in Paris. Another key finding is a laptop found in police raids carried out after the March 22 bombings in Brussels and which contained a list of five terror targets, three of them which were hit in the Paris attacks as well as two more: the "metro" and "Schiphol".

The paper says French police now suspect the terror cell was planning to also attack the Paris metro and the Schiphol airport, but that something went wrong.

"There were two single-journey tickets [to Amsterdam]," the source told Sydsvenskan. The paper said that Krayem, a Swede of Syrian origin, has admitted during police questioning to have travelled to Amsterdam on November 13 and that he had booked a hotel room there, but for some reason he then decided to return to Brussels on the same day. They still don't know why. "That makes the trip [to Amsterdam] a mystery," the source told the newspaper.

One of the main police theories is that the manhunt and subsequent capture of Salah Abdeslam, the only surviving member of the terrorist teams who carried out the massacres in Paris, unleashed a wave of panic among fellow accomplices in Brussels, prompting them to put a halt to their imminent plans.

Krayem is believed to have left Sweden in 2014 and made his way to Syria where he joined Isis. Facebook posts from that time show him posting pictures of himself posing with Kalashnikovs, and with the black Isis flag in the background. He also posted videos of the group killing people.

**Krayem used a false passport to return to Europe on September 20 last year and after making his way to Belgium via Greece and Germany, he was picked up in Brussels by Abdeslam on October 3, 2015, some five weeks before the coordinated terror attacks in Paris.**

## We are watching you: U.K. CCTV strategy

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161026-we-are-watching-you-u-k-cctv-strategy>



Security Industry Act).

Oct 26 – Tony Porter, the U.K. Surveillance Camera Commissioner (SCC), yesterday announced the launching of consultation on a [draft national surveillance camera strategy](#) for England and Wales. This strategy aims to provide direction and leadership in the surveillance camera community to enable system operators to understand best practice and their legal obligations (such as those contained within the Data Protection Act and the Private



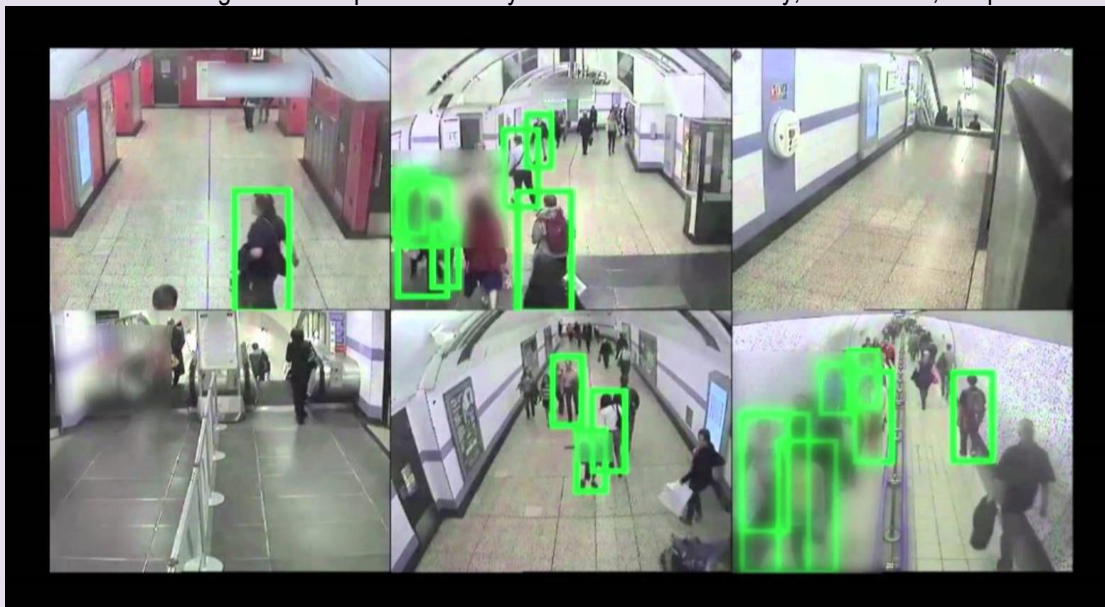
The SCC says that the new strategy also aims to enable the surveillance camera community to demonstrate compliance with the principles of the [surveillance camera code of practice](#) and other guidance formulated by government agencies.

The commissioner said his strategic vision is to assure the public that surveillance cameras in public places are there to keep and make them feel safe, and that those cameras are deployed and used responsibly, as well as transparently, in a manner which is proportionate to their legitimate purpose.

The proposed strategy has been divided into ten key work strands each led by sector expert. Objectives have been developed for each strand with a supporting delivery plan setting out specific actions and outputs, which contribute toward achieving the strategic mission. Delivery plans will be completed and published in 2017.

Porter said: “This draft strategy has been ten months in development — I’ve been working with a group of industry experts to get it into shape and now we are ready to consult on it. I welcome views from anyone whether they are an expert in the industry or a member of the public — the strategy is designed to benefit them — so their input will be invaluable to making sure it meets their needs when we begin work on delivering its objectives in 2017.”

Porter [told](#) the *Register* that a year ago, less than 2 percent of public authorities operating surveillance cameras were doing so in compliance to “any British standard.” Today, Porter said, 85 percent are



demonstrably “having regard” for the Home Office’s [Surveillance Camera Code of Practice](#).

Porter said, though, that he was still hearing “too many stories of a default response to public space surveillance when it’s inappropriate,” however, and said it was his job “to drive out that approach.”

Despite a “commendable effort by different groups to self-regulate,” Porter said the national strategy has been drafted to coordinate efforts “right from the manufacturer, through to the installer and designer to the end-user. There’s a lack of coordination at the moment and it damages standards, confuses training, and the end product is you don’t get good quality surveillance that is there to protect the public and make them feel safe.”

The *Register* notes that in 2015, turnover for the video and CCTV surveillance sector topped £2.12 billion in the United Kingdom. According to the 2013 estimates – the most recent available – there are potentially over six million CCTV cameras in the United Kingdom – not including body-cam footage, unmanned aerial vehicles, or the automatic number plate recognition system.

Porter says the number of cameras is probably much higher.

In his talk with the *Register*, Porter explained what “surveillance by consent” meant: “For me, it means that this public space surveillance — which doesn’t sit under a specific legislative framework — is trusted by the public to be there for its needs.” It means that the community knows that “surveillance is there to protect them, and not spy on them.”

Porter stressed that for the public to consent to surveillance, it needs to be satisfied that surveillance cameras are well-run and run for legitimate purposes.



He noted that financial difficulties have forced local authorities to change their “surveillance approach.” The SCC office has seen “local authorities cut their camera propositions by £250,000 in a year,” but use the code to ensure they are doing so properly. “Where there’s a problem is where the public is deceived that there is an adequate surveillance posture,” Porter added.

Such stories are “not uncommon” Porter told the *Register*, with councils switching off their CCTV cameras but not telling the community. “Councils maintain cameras that aren’t functioning and don’t tell the public, previously monitored cameras that are becoming unmonitored,” Porter added.

There is a “lack of awareness around the important of transparency, and a fear that anything to do with surveillance has be spoken about in hushed tones. My position is that anything regarding surveillance has to be shouted from the rooftops.”

## Innovation Lanes will Speed Up Airport Security Screening

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2016/10/innovation-lanes-will-speed-up-airport-security-screening/>

Oct 20 – Airline carriers and airport authorities invest more and more efforts to enhance passengers’ security while decreasing the waiting time during security check-ups.

**Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) will soon open its first two “innovation lanes” designed to speed security screening by up to 30%.**



conveyor belt is dedicated to rolling empty bins to passengers in the screening line.

The two new innovation lanes are replacing regular screening lanes used for United passengers.

The two lanes will be the first of at least nine additional innovation lanes expected to be installed at LAX by the end of next year at various terminals, according to airport officials.

TSA officials say United is working with TSA to install

United Airlines helped the Transportation Security Administration pay for the new equipment but declined to say how much it invested in the lanes.

Innovation lanes, first introduced this summer by Delta Air Lines at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, use multiple conveyor belts to allow five passengers to simultaneously unload bags, shoes and clothes into bins to be screened by the TSA.

Airline officials say the lanes speed up the TSA screening lines because the multiple conveyor belts eliminate bottlenecks caused by travelers who are slow to unload their baggage and personal items. Other passengers using the lane at the same time can simply slide their bins around the slower traveler.

In addition, the screening processes won’t be slowed by a shortage of bins because one

more of these lanes at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey this fall and Chicago O’Hare International Airport later this year.

According to *Latimes.com*, American Airlines also has plans to team up with TSA to add such lanes at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Miami International Airport, O’Hare and LAX.

United Chief Executive Oscar Munoz praised the new lanes, saying in an interview that he hopes they will help United better compete against its rivals for passengers at LAX, one of the busiest airports in the country.

He said he is urging employees at LAX to combine such improvements with a friendlier attitude among the staff to win over new fliers.



## Yemen Rebels Deny Their Missile Targeted Holy City of Mecca

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/10/27/world/middleeast/ap-ml-yemen.html>

Oct 28 – Yemen's Shiite rebels and their allies fired a ballistic missile deep into Saudi Arabia, an overnight strike that they said on Friday had targeted an international airport while the kingdom claimed that it flew toward the holy Muslim city of Mecca.

Saudi Arabia said the missile was "intercepted and destroyed" 65 kilometers (40 miles) from Mecca, which is home to the cube-shaped Kaaba that the world's Muslims pray toward five times a day.

Angry Saudis soon denounced the missile fire online with hashtags questioning the faith of Yemen's Shiite rebels known as Houthis, as other Sunni Arab leaders in the Gulf linked the attack to Shiite power Iran.

Invoking Mecca also invigorated support for Saudi Arabia as it leads the stalemated war in the Arab world's poorest country, as well as turned attention away from those starving under a kingdom-led blockade and the civilians killed in its airstrikes.

The Saudi military said the missile, fired Thursday night from Yemen's northwestern Saada province, which borders the kingdom, caused no damage. The Saudi military has a supply of U.S.-made, surface-to-air Patriot missile batteries it previously has fired at Houthi-launched missiles.

The kingdom's military said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency that it immediately targeted the area where the missile was launched in airstrikes.

Washington condemned the attack and called for a cease-fire that would enable all sides in the Yemen conflict to work toward "concluding a comprehensive political agreement that ends the war."

"These types of attacks are unacceptable," said U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner. "There is no military solution to this conflict and (we) urge all sides to exercise restraint and immediately and publicly agree to an unconditional cessation of hostilities."

The Houthis and their allies, including forces loyal to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have a stockpile of Soviet-era Scud missiles and locally designed variants. A Houthi ballistic missile fired earlier this month targeted Taif, home to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Air Base, which also is near Mecca. What the missile fired Thursday night targeted, however, quickly became a controversy.

The Houthi-controlled satellite news channel Al-Masirah said the Yemeni rebels had fired a Volcano-1 variant missile at Jiddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport, without mentioning Mecca. That airport is 75 kilometers (45 miles) northwest of Mecca.

The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency said the missile "directly hit" the airport and caused massive destruction, though there were no delays or diversions affecting the airport Friday.

The Saudi military stressed the missile was fired "toward" Mecca, without elaborating — the protection of the holy city is a key pillar of the Saudi royal family's prestige and the country's national identity.

Gulf Arab countries allied with Saudi Arabia immediately began condemning the attack, suggesting the Houthis intentionally targeted the Islamic world's holiest site. Many also immediately linked the attack to Iran, further inflaming regional sectarianism.

"The Iranian regime supports a terrorist group that launched its rockets on Mecca," Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan wrote on Twitter. "Is this regime Islamic as it claims?"

While analysts suggest Tehran doesn't have direct control over the Houthis, the U.S. Navy says it has intercepted Iranian arms heading to the rebels.

In Iran, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi dismissed the claims that the Houthis targeted Mecca as "ridiculous."

"We advise officials of the (United Arab) Emirates and Saudi Arabia not to use Islamic holy sites for their mean political intentions and not to resort to this sort of hypocritical, rift-making and dangerous hyperbole," Ghasemi was quoted on Friday as saying by Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency.

Yemen, on the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, has been in the midst of a civil war since September 2014 when the Houthis swept into the capital of Sanaa and overthrew the country's internationally recognized government. In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition of Arab countries began a military campaign against the Houthi forces, saying its mission



served in part as a counterbalance to Iran's influence following its nuclear deal with world powers.

The Saudi-led campaign initially had the logistical and intelligence support of the U.S., but mounting civilian casualties from its airstrikes led to America pulling back, especially after a Saudi strike earlier this month on a funeral in Sanaa killed some 140 people and wounded over 600.

The U.S. also fired Tomahawk missiles at mobile Houthi radar sites after reporting its warships came under fire in the Red Sea near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb strait. In recent days, two commercial ships reportedly have come under fire in the same area.

United Nations efforts to strike a peace deal to end the conflict have been slow. The most recent plan apparently sidelines President Abed-Rabbo Mansour Hadi of Yemen's internationally recognized government. Saudi Arabia launched its coalition campaign to restore Hadi's rule, so that's likely a deal breaker for the Sunni-ruled kingdom.

**In the meantime, Yemen stands on the brink of famine. More than 10,000 people have been killed or wounded and 3 million of the country's 26 million people have been driven from their homes by the fighting.**

## NOTE

(<http://www.janes.com/article/63468/yemenis-unveil-new-burkan-1-ballistic-missile>)

Yemen's SABA news agency reported on 2 September that the Burkan-1 is a modified 'Scud' that was developed by the Missile Research and Development Centre of the military's ballistic missile force, which is allied with the Ansar Allah (Houthi) group against Saudi-backed forces loyal to ousted President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.



SABA reported that the Burkan-1 has a diameter of 88 cm, a length of 12.5 m, a total weight of 8,000 kg, and a **500 kg warhead**. That would make it the same diameter as a standard Soviet R-17 (SS-1C 'Scud-B') ballistic missile, but more than 1.5 m longer than a conventionally armed R-17, and around 2,000 kg heavier even though the warhead weighs roughly half as much.

The Al-Masirah television channel that supports Ansar Allah and allied military forces released a video showing three 'Scud'-type missiles that were labelled as Burqan-1s, as well as footage purportedly showing one being launched. Neither the missile nor the launcher could be seen in the latter footage, which was filmed at night.

The military of South Yemen acquired an unknown number of R-17s from the Soviet Union before unification with North Yemen in 1990 and these were subsequently supplemented with North Korean versions of the missile





## UAE – Dubai and Sharjah airports closed due to drone

Source: <http://www.thenational.ae/uae/20160928/dubai-airport-airspace-closed-due-to-unauthorised-drone-activity>

Oct 29 – Dubai International and Sharjah International airports were closed for more than hour last night when a drone intruded into air space.

Airspace around Dubai was closed from 7.25pm to 8.45pm "due to unauthorised drone activity resulting in the diversion of 22 inbound flights", Dubai Airports said. "Dubai Airports is working closely with stakeholders to return operations to normal to minimise customer inconvenience.

"Safety is our top priority and Dubai Airports reminds all UAV [drone] operators that any and all activities are not permitted unless authorised by regulatory authorities, and are strictly prohibited in restricted areas including within 5 kilometres of any airport or landing area."

At least eight flights were also affected at Sharjah International because it and Dubai airports share flight paths.

The closure at Sharjah began about 8pm and flights were cleared to take off again at 9pm.

Dubai resident Orla Phillips, returning from Qatar on FlyDubai, said her plane was due to arrive at Dubai International at 8.10pm but was diverted to Dubai World Central. At 10.15pm, it was still on the tarmac, said Ms Phillips, 35.

"They told us it was due to a drone and then while we landed and were waiting, they said they were deciding whether we could get off the plane or if we'd have to fly on to Dubai," she said.

"They haven't said anything else since that, but then the cabin crew girl said we will definitely be flying on to Dubai at some stage. We need to refuel.

"They said it's for security reasons that we can't get off but they we're here almost two hours now. They should have let us off and shuttled people to the airport.

"I've heard people here say they've missed their connecting flights and stuff like that because they can't get to the airport. Other people, their cars are at the other airports and they just want to get off.

"They said maybe in 15 or 20 minutes they'll have more information and that they're not the only plane stuck here, and that everybody has to refuel before they have to take off again.

"I've been on flights before that have been diverted and I've sat for five hours on a runway in India – which is fine, there is nothing you can do about it.

"But when you're in your home country and you're stuck on a plane for over two hours because they won't let you off, it's extremely frustrating."

It is not the first time a drone has closed Dubai airport, one of the busiest in the world. Last month it was shut down for half an hour because of "unauthorised drone activity". That closure resulted in delays to 90 flights.

In June, the airport was closed to aircraft for more than an hour after a drone incursion.

Dubai International Airport is one of four drone no-fly zones set up by the General Civil Aviation Authority in April after an incident last year in which a drone caused a **55-minute shutdown estimated to have cost the emirate's economy Dh3.7 million a minute.**

The other no-fly zones are Al Maktoum Airport, Al Minhad airbase and the Palm Jumeirah around Skydive Dubai.

### Drone disruptions this year

- **September 28, 2016:** A non-military drone flying into its airspace closes **Dubai** International Airport for nearly half an hour and causes delays to 90 flights.
- **August 10, 2016:** A near-miss occurs between a drone and a passenger plane with 62 -people on board near Newquay airport in **England**.
- **August 4, 2016:** A Lufthansa Airbus plane with 108 passengers and six crew on board is in a near collision with a drone at **Munich** airport.
- **June 20, 2016:** A drone misses an Air Canada Jazz aircraft by fewer than 60 metres during its approach to land at **Calgary** International Airport.
- **June 11, 2016:** A drone incursion causes a 69-minute closure at **Dubai** International, with 14 flights diverted to other airports.



- **June 11, 2016:** A drone gets close to a commercial passenger plane, landing at **Winnipeg** James Richardson International Airport.
- **May 27, 2016:** A drone comes to within 31m of hitting a Ryanair plane landing at Prestwick Airport in **Scotland**.
- **April 17, 2016:** A drone hits British Airways plane with 132 passengers and five crew on board as it approaches Heathrow Airport in **England**.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Dh 3.7 mil /min X55 min = 916,424€/min X 55min = 50,403,320€ due to a small drone costing about 1000€ or less. The perfect ratio for a terrorist attack. And this is only for destruction. If the drone targets the engines of a commercial airplane during landing or take off then the ratio is becoming more favorable (airplane down; deaths). With that amount of money an airport can purchase a counter-drone system or support experimental solutions currently on trial. Night drone flights is an additional problem but there are also solutions available. If the "it will not happen to my airport" attitude prevails, then one day airport will suffer the consequences. Apart from suicide drones (usually hexacopters) we might experience attacks with explosive drones, drones with powerful laser beams or CR loaded drones against airport buildings or control towers. A big problem requiring imminent counter measures [including changes in existing legislation and penalties] – YESTERDAY!!!

## Terror Alerts (Oct 22-25, 2016)

### UK

Twice this week AlertsUSA subscribers were notified via SMS messages to their mobile devices regarding European terror threats.

On Saturday, AlertsUSA subscribers were notified of an announcement by the [UK Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre](#) that the [threat level for London](#) public transport has been raised to "severe," which means an attack is "highly likely". This threat level increase comes in response to the [discovery of a suspected improvised explosive device \(IED\)](#) on a London Underground train near the O2 Centre, a large indoor shopping and entertainment facility located on Finchley Road in southeast London.

The following day, a 19-year-old man was tasered during a dramatic street arrest on suspicion of the commission, preparation and instigation of a terrorist act. Witnesses described the young man being dragged to the ground by plain-clothed masked officers carrying machine guns. During a related investigation, [British police have found a second device](#) believed to be a bomb in a residence in England's southwest.

[The Times newspaper is describing](#) the discovery of the device in the London subway as the **first credible bombing attempt on the London transport network in more than 10 years**. Readers are reminded that Islamic militants carried out a [coordinated set of suicide bombings in London on July 7, 2005](#) killing 52 people and injuring hundreds of others.

[Security is being stepped up](#) at London's major train and subway stations including the deployment of heavily armed police out of concern of follow-on attempts.

### GERMANY

On Tuesday AlertsUSA subscribers were notified of a large [counterterrorism operation carried out in Germany](#) involving simultaneous raids on 13 different locations spread across 5 federal states as a result of what German authorities describe an [imminent terror threat](#). The operation is reported to be targeting "Islamist-linked terror suspects." A 28-year-old suspect, said to be a "Russian national of Chechen descent" with links to Islamic State, is wanted by police and is believed to plotting "a serious act of violence." Other suspects include 10 men and three women, all of which have Islamist backgrounds and are reported to be asylum seekers with unknown residence status. One person is reported to have been arrested in the raids. A nationwide manhunt for the remainder of the suspected is ongoing.



Readers are reminded that **this year alone** Germany has experienced a string of Islamist attacks, including an [axe attack](#) on a train, a [mass shooting](#) at a shopping center, a [hacking death of a pregnant woman](#) and a [bombing at a music festival](#).

## East Africa's Emerging IS Leader: Who Is Shaykh Abdulqadir Mumin?

<https://jamestown.org/program/east-africas-emerging-leader-shaykh-abdulqadir-mumin/>

In the mountains of northern Somalia, Shaykh Abdulqadir Mumin, a former al-Shabaab ideologue, is an up-and-coming leader of the emerging Islamic State (IS) cell in East Africa. In October 2015, the cleric and about 20 al-Shabaab fighters declared allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr



al-Baghdadi from a secret hideout in the Golis and Galgaga mountain ranges near the border between Puntland and the semi-autonomous region of Somaliland.

This announcement marks the latest evolution in the life of a militant whose journey to radicalization spreads across two continents. Before switching his allegiance to IS, Mumin had been a propagandist and an imam – an ideologue within al-Shabaab who facilitated and led recruitment efforts – and he first gained attention for these activities while living in Europe and then once again returning to Somalia.

## MI5 chief says intelligence service has disrupted 12 terror attacks in UK since June 2013

Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/mi5-chief-says-intelligence-service-9165417>

Oct 31 – The head of MI5 has revealed 12 terror attacks in the UK have been foiled since June 2013.

Andrew Parker, director general of the MI5 domestic intelligence agency said ISIS posed the biggest current threat to national security. He claimed Britain's intelligence agencies have foiled a terror plot around once every two months over the past two-and-a-half years.

He said: "Today the most visible threat is from terrorism and in particular that posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant - ISIL - or Daesh in Syria.

"Together with MI6 (the foreign intelligence service), GCHQ (the security agency), and the police, MI5 has disrupted 12 plots in the UK since June 2013."



It comes amid warnings from senior police officers that weapons, like the ones used in the Paris massacres, are being smuggled into



Britain by criminals gangs and sold on to terrorists, senior police officers warned today. National Crime Agency and Met Police bosses say they have seen a rise in deactivated guns being reactivated in Eastern Europe and coming into Britain by sea, air and even by post.

Some illegal weapons are also bought on the Dark Web or from licensed owners that have either sold or had their weapons stolen.

Met Assistant Commissioner for specialist operations including terrorism, Mark Rowley, said: "The link we see between terrorism and criminals is in the local communities which they come from, often involved in low level organised crime activity.

"We have got those who are vulnerable people who just get hooked on an ideology.

"There are those who fully subscribe and are determined to act for Daesh, others are just angry and are criminals and are given a way to express that through the streets or in prison.

"It's a complex picture, it is more at a low level, there is not incentive for the highest criminal to get involved in this.

"This rise in gun activity isn't country wide, the biggest rise is seen by our metropolitan forces. It suggests escalation of the use of weapons between gangs to compete with each other."

## What is SIMI? All you need to know

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/research/students-islamic-movement-of-india-bhopal-central-jail-madhya-pradesh-all-you-need-to-know-about-simi-3730875/>

Oct 31 – Eight members of the banned **Islamist fundamentalist group Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)** were killed in an encounter on Monday, hours after they escaped from Bhopal Central Jail. The convicts apparently escaped by scaling a wall and killing a prison guard. The jailbreak drew heavy criticism while the encounter brought praise from different quarters. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has demanded a probe into the matter. The eight fugitives were identified by the police as — Amzad, Zakir Hussain Sadiq, Mohammad Salik, Mujeeb Shaikh, Mehbood Guddu, Mohammad Kalid Ahmed, Aqeel and Majid.

SIMI has been active for nearly four decades now. The group is known to be responsible for some of the bloodiest terrorist attacks in Indian history. Here is all you need to know about SIMI:

Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) is an Islamic fundamentalist terrorist organisation which works to the agenda of liberating India by converting it into an Islamic country.

The organisation is run by fundamentalist and extremist students who aim to establish Dar-ul-

Islam (Islamic land) in India by either converting people forcefully or with violence. Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the group is proscribed as a terrorist organisation. The outfit has claimed responsibility for several terrorist attacks across the country in recent years and is spread across several states from north to south India operated by localised compact modules. The group has declared jihad on non-Islamic India as part of its doctrine.

SIMI was established April 25, 1977 in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The first founder president of the group was Professor Mohammad Ahmadullah Siddiqi who taught Journalism and Public Relations at the Western Illinois University Macomb in Illinois, US.

The outfit came to the forefront as a student wing of the pre-Partition Islamist organisation Jamaat-e-Islami (Hind). However, after ideological conflicts in 1981 over the visit of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, SIMI separated from JIH prompting the latter to form another students wing — Students Islamic Organisation (SIO).



The group wants to establish Islamic Rule in India based on Sharia law and doesn't believe in the idea of Indian nation state or a secular democratic state structure. The group has exploited vulnerable youth over decades in propagating radical Islam and promoting their idea of "Islami Inquilab" (Islamic Revolution).

**The group was outlawed by the Indian government in 2001 under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).** However, the act itself was repealed later by the UPA government. The group has a strong footprint in states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Assam and Andhra Pradesh.

Dr Shahid Badar Falah served as the group's president in 2001 and was arrested from the capital's Zakir Nagar area a day after SIMI was outlawed. Safdar Nagori, SIMI secretary general, absconded and was arrested in 2008 from Indore. Nagori is also alleged to have

links with Pakistan's external intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) which is known to aide extremists and terrorist actors in India. Nagori has been in jail since then and is serving time under charges of sedition and spreading communal disharmony.

SIMI is understood to be responsible for conducting bomb blasts inside commuter trains in Maharashtra's capital Mumbai in 2006. The blasts killed 187 people and the outfit is being probed for a number of other attacks and bombings carried out in states like Gujarat. One bombing incident in Gujarat understood to be conducted by SIMI claimed 45 lives in 2008. SIMI aims to achieve the supremacy of Islamic rule in India, lays importance on ummah (the idea of Muslim Brotherhood) and reiterates its prime objective of creating the 'Khilafat'. The group denounces concepts like nation-state, secularism, democracy and people's law.

## Paris venue of **Victoria's Secret** December show kept secret for fear of terrorism

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161027-paris-venue-of-victorias-secret-december-show-kept-secret-for-fear-of-terrorism>

Oct 27 – Victoria's Secret officials admitted they were worried about a possible terrorist attack during their 2016 Fashion Show in Paris.



The lingerie company typically announces its annual runway show in the spring of each year — but this year the company waited until Monday, 24 October, to announce this year's location.

Twitchy reports that the reason for the delay was the fear that the glitzy event would be targeted by terrorists. The Paris location was determined months in advance, but [TMZ](#) claims it was kept under wraps for security reasons.

TMZ says that VS has been coordinating closely with French security services to make sure that the 5 December event, which is attended by many celebrities, is safe. Several venues in Paris were considered, until one was selected because the French security services concluded it would be easier to secure.



The Victoria's Secret Fashion Shows normally take place in New York City – but in 2014 the runway show was held in London, and the 2000 one was held in Cannes, France.

## More Americans are scared of clowns than terrorism and dying... but the top fear is a corrupt government

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3876534/Americans-scared-clowns-Obamacare-climate-change-new-polls-show.html>

Oct 26 – **More Americans are afraid of clowns than of climate change, terrorism, and dying.**



Two polls which surveyed Americans also found that the greatest fear among Americans is corrupt government. The polls were conducted by Chapman University and Vox / Morning Consult.

**The Chapman survey found that 42 per cent of respondents said that they were scared of clowns, compared to just 32 per cent who said they were frightened by climate change.**

The poll ranked the fears which included terror attacks (41 per cent), infringement of gun rights (38 per cent), death of

a loved one (38 per cent), economic collapse (37 per cent), Obamacare (37 per cent) and biological warfare (35 per cent).

The Morning Consult poll surveyed 1,999 Americans from October 15 to October 17.

Both polls reported similar results, with corrupt government topping the list of fears.

**According to Vox, 61 per cent of Americans said that they were fearful of corrupt government.**

**Fear of clowns was second most prevalent, with 42 per cent saying that they were afraid of them.**

**Terrorism came in third place, with just 41 per cent saying that they were frightened by the prospect of an attack.**

An equal number of Americans - 38 per cent - said that gun rights infringement and the death of a member of the family scared them.

Obamacare, President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement which sought to provide government-backed health coverage to millions of uninsured Americans, also proved to be a source of fear, with 36 per cent of those surveyed saying that they were afraid of the Affordable Care Act.

Obamacare proved scarier than biological warfare (35 per cent) and climate change (32 per cent).

Slightly less than one in four Americans said they were scared of heights (24 per cent), and less than one in five (19 per cent) said they were afraid of dying.

The survey results reflect a growing panic over clowns that has gripped the country over the past few weeks.

The hysteria over clowns has even led a number of local townships and municipalities to ban clown costumes because they've been deemed 'too scary.'

The wave of coulrophobia – the medical term for an irrational fear of clowns – sweeping the United States can most likely be traced to an incident that was reported in Greenville, South Carolina, in late August.

Parents at an apartment complex there went into a panic after they heard reports of a clown trying to lure children in the woods.

Management at the Fleetwood Manor Apartments in Greenville issued a warning to parents, saying they had received numerous complaints about a 'clown or a person dressed in clown clothing taking children or trying to lure children [into] the woods'.

### Percentage of Americans report being afraid of...

- Corrupt government - 61 per cent
- Clowns - 42 per cent
- Terrorist attack - 41 per cent
- Gun rights infringement - 38 per cent
- Family members dying - 38 per cent
- Economic collapse - 37 per cent
- Obamacare - 36 per cent
- Biological warfare - 35 per cent
- Climate change - 32 per cent
- Heights - 24 per cent
- Dying - 19 per cent
- Needles - 17 per cent
- Spousal cheating - 10 per cent
- Ghosts - 9 per cent



The warning says that the Greenville County Police Department is aware of the sightings and has been patrolling the property daily to find the culprit.

Last month, officials in Tennessee have warned that 'predator' clowns may be 'luring children into the woods' after a series of bizarre sightings around the country.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol shared a creepy shot of two clowns standing between some trees in a bid to warn people about the characters who have been spotted trying to lure children into woods.

But the post was slammed as misleading, as the department revealed that the image had been taken by a performance group in New Hampshire.

It came amid a spate of reports about clowns scaring members of the public in the US - dismissed by some as a 'dangerous' pre-Halloween hoax.

## Northwestern University Historian Claims **Christianity** Poses Bigger Threat Than Islamic Terrorism

By Tom Ciccotta

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2016/10/27/northwestern-university-historian-claims-christianity-poses-bigger-threat-than-islamic-terrorism/>

Oct 27 – **A scholar from Northwestern University argued recently that Christian Fundamentalism poses a greater threat to the United States than Islamic terrorism.**

Catherine M. Wallace, who is a faculty member at Northwestern's School of Medicine and a Christian herself, argues that fundamentalist access to United States armaments is the number one threat to the nation's security.

**Wallace argues that because radical Christians are in positions of power and control the nuclear codes, they pose a greater danger to American society than do Islamic terrorists.**

"If [anything Islamic] wanted to attack an American city, they had to hijack an airliner. If they want to blow up a concert, they need to put bombs on their own children and send young men in to kill themselves... that kind of radicalism [Christian fundamentalism] in control of nuclear codes was a much, much greater threat," Wallace claimed.

According to *The Chicago Maroon*, the student newspaper of the University of Chicago, Wallace believes that a literal reading of the Bible is responsible for the threats posed by Christian fundamentalists.

In Wallace's view, this radicalism stems from a literal reading of the Bible. "Nobody in the ancient world would have read the Bible

literally," Wallace said. The idea of a literal reading is a thoroughly modern phenomenon, according to Wallace—church fathers of the past would discourage anyone from taking the Bible literally.

Therefore, according to Wallace, the fundamentalists have it all wrong. **"Christian fundamentalism is a malignant form of Christianity,"** Wallace said. In her opinion, their literalist reading creates misconceptions of what the Bible means, fostering a climate of hate and leading to increased and unnecessary conflict between Christians and the rest of the world. ...

When asked a final question on how she thought Jesus would respond to the modern political climate, Wallace answered on a positive note. "Jesus was first a Jewish prophet reciting the Jewish rant in its standard edition, which is social justice, socio-economic justice. Care for widows and orphans, which is to say the unemployable. People who can't earn their own living. And the just sharing of the world's resources."

Wallace concluded the conversation on the dangers of Christian fundamentalism by arguing that a modern Jesus Christ would be a socialist and advocate for "the just sharing of the world's resources."



*Tom Ciccotta is a libertarian who writes about Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity for Breitbart.*



## The Islamic State's coming rural revival

By William McCants and Craig Whiteside

Source: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2016/10/25/the-islamic-states-coming-rural-revival/>

Oct 25 – **In one of his last messages before he was killed by a U.S. drone strike, the Islamic State's spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani prepared the group's followers for ruin. After the group lost half its territory in Iraq and a fourth of its territory in Syria, Adnani acknowledged that the Islamic State's government could crumble. But, he proclaimed, we began "in the desert without cities and without territory" and in the desert we can revive once again.**

It is not an empty boast. The U.S. and Iraqi militaries, together with their Sunni tribal allies, decimated the Islamic State's insurgency in 2008, which forced the group to go to ground. Yet it emerged four years later as one of the most capable and effective militias fighting in Syria and Iraq. Its success was not simply the result of security vacuums or disenfranchised Arabs. It was also the result of careful preparation during four years in the wilderness. In its previous incarnation, the Islamic State's insurgency failed because it alienated its core constituency, the Sunni Arab tribes. It killed young tribesmen who worked with American troops, touching off tribal feuds. It harassed Sunni civilians, forcing women to wear the full veil and breaking the fingers of those who refused to stop smoking. And, most consequentially, it cut into the illicit profits of the tribal shaykhs. Several of these shaykhs decided to work with American troops to defeat the Islamic State.

Once defeated, the Islamic State set about remedying its mistakes by enculturating or coopting the tribes. Islamic State members proselytized among the tribes, seeking to educate Sunni youth about the duty of fighting heresy and unbelief. And it took sides in tribal disputes or bribed tribal leaders to bring them onside—a tactic the Americans had used to great effect, as Islamic State members frankly admitted. The Islamic State didn't abandon its brutal methods—it killed at least a thousand tribesmen associated with the Sunni awakenings who refused to reform or repent (the actual body count may be over two thousand). But it now had both carrots and sticks to bring the rambunctious tribes to heel.

While the Islamic State retooled its tribal policy, it also addressed its other major problem: lack of personnel. Hundreds of Islamic State fighters had been killed or captured and its leadership was decimated. By the end of 2008, the organization could only kill 500 civilians a month, from a high of 2,500 the previous year. To attract new soldiers, the Islamic State had to demonstrate that it was still in the fight. In 2010, it launched a series of attacks on churches and government buildings in Baghdad to woo foreign fighters and its own deserters back to the fight in Iraq.

The Islamic State also began a campaign of jailbreaks, freeing thousands of prisoners in more than a dozen assaults. Many more were released from U.S. detention camps, among them many of the group's senior leaders in the years to come.

There were many positions for them to fill, especially after 2010, when the U.S. military killed scores of Islamic State leaders, including its emir and its founder. The leadership was further thinned by the new emir, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who purged people he suspected of disloyalty. Baghdadi replaced them with former members of Saddam's military and security apparatus, many of whom had joined the Islamic State's previous incarnations in the early days of the Iraqi insurgency but whose rise through the ranks was previously limited by the ideologues. Old hands at running an authoritarian state, these former Baathists helped the Islamic State rationalize and centralize its bureaucracy to impose order on its far-flung operatives—a process already underway before their ascendance. This melding of ideas and praxis from the different strands of membership, from Al Qaeda veterans to intelligence officers, helped prime the organization for its future revival.

Streamlined and replenished, the Islamic State was ready to take advantage of the U.S. drawdown in Iraq and of Syria's slide toward civil war in 2011. In Iraq, it stepped up its attacks on Iraqi forces to divide their attention, and it assassinated recalcitrant



shaykhs to forestall future opposition. It dispatched operatives to Syria to set up a new branch, the Nusra Front, which catalyzed the Syrian civil war with a series of spectacular terrorist attacks. By 2012, the Islamic State was fighting out in the open again and by 2013 it was capturing cities. It was no longer in the wilderness.

Given the weakening of capitals around the modern Arab world, it is little wonder that the Islamic State believes ancient and recent history is on its side.

If the Islamic State's government collapses, it will go to ground again. Rather than rats fleeing a sinking ship to more hospitable climes, many Islamic State members will scurry to hide in the ruins of their state and wait to emerge when their enemies begin to rebuild on the rubble. They will assassinate collaborators to forestall rapprochement and to eliminate future competitors. They will launch spectacular terror attacks in Syria and Iraq to alleviate pressure on their organization and attract fresh recruits. And they will think deeply about what they did wrong and how to do better the next time—they are convinced there will be a next time since there is little hope of an equitable political solution in Syria and Iraq that mollifies the Sunni Arab population. Even if there were, there is no regional force capable of enforcing

it and no international power with the stomach to do so for the long term.

The Islamic State's understanding of the ebb and flow of revolutionary warfare, and even the terminology it uses to explain its rejuvenating withdrawal, is indebted to [Mao](#). It is not an insurgency based in cities but rather an insurgency that grows strong in the wilderness and then overwhelms cities. When it relinquishes its hold on cities in Iraq and Syria in the coming months, who will pursue the group into its desert hideouts and river valley swamps?

The Islamic State's concept of rural renewal is not only indebted to Mao. It also has deep roots in Islamic history, the annals of which are filled with coarse insurgents from the countryside who overwhelm settled cities—so much so that one of the world's first sociologists, Ibn Khaldun, formulated a theory of political change premised on recurring invasions from the periphery. When urban civilization grows soft and lax, he argued, battle-hardened marauders from the mountains and deserts inevitably sweep in and take over. Given the weakening of capitals around the modern Arab world, it is little wonder that the Islamic State believes ancient and recent history is on its side.

*William McCants is a senior fellow in the [Center for Middle East Policy](#) and director of its [Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World](#). He is also adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University and has held various government and think tank positions related to Islam, the Middle East, and terrorism. He is the author of ["The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State"](#) (St. Martin's Press, 2015). McCants is the founder of [Jihadica.com](#), an academic group blog focused on the global jihadi movement. His first book, ["Founding Gods, Inventing Nations: Conquest and Culture Myths from Antiquity to Islam"](#) (Princeton University Press, 2011), traces the history of cultural debate in the Middle East after the Greeks, Romans and Arabs conquered the region. He is also working on a book about the scriptural history of the Quran. McCants has a doctorate from Princeton University and has lived in Israel, Egypt, and Lebanon.*

*Craig Whiteside is Associate Professor at Naval War College in Monterey, California*

## Why al-Nusra's 'Break' With al-Qaeda Poses a Problem for the West

*Terrorism Monitor Volume: 14 Issue: 21*

**By James Pothecary**

Source: <https://jamestown.org/program/al-nusras-break-al-qaeda-poses-problem-west/>

Oct 28 – In July, the leader of Syrian Islamist militant group Jabhat al-Nusra, Abu Mohammed al-Julani, announced his faction had changed its name to Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (JFS) and was amicably splitting from al-Qaeda ([Hurriyet Daily News](#), July 29).



The move is genuine, insofar as al-Qaeda has ceded formal organizational control of the group. However, Jahbat Fatah al-Sham (JFS) remains ideologically aligned with al-Qaeda, and the West has taken little notice of the move. This split and rebranding has made JFS

JFS' operations are concentrated in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo and the governorate of Idlib. It has also launched kinetic operations abroad – in January 2014, it claimed responsibility for a vehicle-borne IED attack in the Lebanese capital Beirut ([The Daily](#)



more palatable to potential rebel partners in Syria, and that in turn has the potential to make the situation in Syria more difficult for the West.

### Conscious Uncoupling

Al-Nusra was founded in 2011, as the Syrian civil war began, by al-Qaeda's central command to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad's government and exploit the emerging chaos to implement its brand of sharia (Islamic law) wherever possible in Syria. Since then, it has been a major non-state armed group and a key component in the rebel movement, despite being targeted by international forces as a terrorist organization.

On July 28, in a video disseminated by the al-Jazeera news channel, al-Julani announced that the newly named JFS was no longer affiliated with any external entity. Flanked by senior deputies and wearing military fatigues, he talked about jihad and the establishment of sharia, but purely within the context of al-Sham, the Arabic term for the Levant. This formal dissociation with al-Qaeda was authorized by Ayman al-Zawahiri, the al-Qaeda leader ([Middle East Eye](#), July 28). In the long-term, however, it is likely that JFS will formally re-join the group's global network.

[Star](#), January 21, 2014). Although its precise force levels are difficult to verify, an offer by the UN special envoy for Syria to escort 900 JFS fighters out of the northern city of Aleppo suggests it possesses a large fighting force ([Middle East Eye](#), October 11). JFS's contingent likely represents approximately 10 percent of rebel forces in Aleppo, which is roughly analogous to its national strength.

### International Impact

Thus far, foreign powers have declined to use the group's new name. The U.S. State Department, as of October 11, continues to refer to JFS as al-Nusra ([Daily Press Briefing, U.S. Department of State](#), October 2). Russia also continues to publicly refer to JFS by its former name ([BBC](#), September 30). Rhetoric aside, international military action against JFS continues apace. In October, the United States killed a senior JFS commander ([al-Jazeera](#), October 4). Russia, meanwhile, has maintained its operational tempo against JFS ([AFP](#), October 10). The July 28 announcement, therefore, has not led to any marked change in JFS's perception by Russia or the United States. The perceived links



between JFS and al-Qaeda are too deeply embedded in both countries' foreign affairs and defense establishments to be undone by any single speech.

However, it is unlikely al-Julani expected anything more. Rather, the dissociation with al-Qaeda will give diplomatic cover to sympathetic actors, such as elements within the Qatari state, to continue to provide some support for JFS without the baggage of association with an al-Qaeda affiliate. The links between Qatar and JFS, although murky, are extensive. It was Qatari mediation that freed three Spanish journalists kidnapped by al-Nusra in May this year ([Alaraby](#), May 8). Qatari involvement was also crucial in organizing al-Nusra's release of 13 Christian nuns on March 10, 2014 ([al-Monitor](#), March 2014). Both show there is some degree of interaction between Doha and JFS, and the rebranding will likely allow Qatar and other sympathetic actors to escalate their support.

### Domestic Implications

Foreign capitals, however, were not al-Julani's primary audience. Instead, the announcement was aimed at the commanders of the other Syrian rebel groups. Only days after the announcement, JFS participated alongside a multiplicity of other rebel factions, in a dramatic military push that attempted to break the Syrian regime's siege of east Aleppo ([al-Monitor](#), August 2). Although the advance faltered and the Syrian army responded with a vicious counter-offensive, the message was clear – JFS had positioned itself firmly in the mainstream rebel opposition to al-Assad.

The group's new standing within the rebel community is apparent. In October 2016, the jihadist group Jund al-Aqsa, under attack by various other Islamist groups for a suspected alliance with Islamic State (IS), pledged loyalty to JFS ([al-Arabiya](#), October 9). Jund al-Aqsa calculated that the newfound "respectability" of JFS, along with its combat capability, would protect it from further attack by other Islamist groups. Whether this strategy will prove effective is less important than the fact its high command perceived the move as a legitimate course of action.

JFS's dissociation with al-Qaeda, then, is a play for an improved domestic position among the Syrian rebel community, one which

appears to be paying off. By representing itself as an organization entirely focused on Syria, rather than an affiliate of a global network, JFS can market itself more effectively to other rebel forces, cementing its position in the center of the anti-Assad movement.

JFS's symbolic break with al-Qaeda has had some minor manpower consequences. Local media sources have reported a number of defections from JFS to IS over the issue. Certainly, extreme hardline Islamist fighters might continue to withdraw support for JFS out of theological distaste for its now more moderate image.

However, such defections are likely to remain small-scale, and it will not reduce JFS's capability. Instead they demonstrate the seriousness with which the rebranding is being taken, both within JFS and the wider rebel movement ([al-Monitor](#), August 5).

The move also reflects al-Qaeda's adaptability. Al-Qaeda's ability to reorient itself based on its operational interests in advancing the cause of militant Islamism, rather than rigid hierarchical principals, is to the network's benefit. Furthermore, al-Qaeda's actions will be perceived positively within Syria as an act of generous pragmatism. Rebel forces will be more sympathetic to al-Qaeda, should, as seems likely, it formally return to Syria. There will likely be little to stop it re-assimilating JFS when the operational and strategic situation in Syria is more favorable.

### Increased Complexity of Syria Conflict

By giving itself nominal space from al-Qaeda, JFS is entrenching its domestic position, and Washington must respond more carefully to the group as a result.

Despite the dissociation, JFS has not changed its ideology and there has been no shift in the group's use of political violence – it remains a terrorist group. The rebranding has, however, had some appeal to groups such as Jund al-Aqsa. While Jund al-Aqsa is, likewise, a terrorist group, the concern is that JFS may grow in appeal to other rebels, especially as efforts in Syria focus on Aleppo.

Any attempt to scale-back anti-JFS operations would likely be met by a backlash in Congress, and lay the White House open to accusations it was being hoodwinked by jihadist propaganda. But if more palatable



rebel groups intensify military and logistical cooperation with JFS, it will become increasingly difficult to strike at the organization without alienating partners on-the-ground.

At the same time, Washington must be weary that if (or when) JFS formally returns to the al-Qaeda fold, it will be in a stronger position than ever to advance the group's violent agenda.

*James Pothecary is a Political Risk Analyst specializing in the Middle East with Allan & Associates, an international security consultancy which provides a range of protective services including political and security risk assessments, security policy design and crisis management response.*

## What Will Replace ISIS?

By Daniel Greenfield

Source: <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/264646/what-will-replace-isis-daniel-greenfield>



Oct 28 – Before long the same administration that declared the fighting in Iraq over several times will claim victory over ISIS. The timetable for its push against the Islamic State appears to have less do with the victimized Christians and Yazidis who have been prevented from coming here as refugees in favor of Syrian Muslims than with the Clinton presidential campaign. Like Obama's declarations that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were over, the announcement that ISIS has been defeated will be premature.

It is based on a profound misunderstanding and misreading of Islamic terrorism.

Long before its current string of defeats, ISIS had begun evolving into another Al Qaeda; a multinational alliance of Jihadists scattered around the world. Bombing Mosul isn't hard, but try bombing Marseille, Brussels or London. There is no doubt that the ability of ISIS to temporarily establish a caliphate allowed it to

build a network that could carry out terror attacks from New York to Miami to Nice to Munich. But it would be dangerous to assume that losing Iraq and Syria will stop ISIS.

ISIS doesn't matter. The idea of ISIS does. And the idea of ISIS is Islamic supremacism.

The organization we think of ISIS has transformed and rebranded countless times. Even now our leaders vacillate between calling it ISIS, ISIL or, more childish, Daesh, while it dubs itself the Islamic State. We have been fighting it in one form or another for over a decade. It would be unrealistically optimistic to assume that the war will end just as this old enemy has shown its ability to strike deep in our own cities.

The bigger error though is to think that we are fighting an organization. We are fighting an idea. That is not to contend, as Obama does, that we can debate it to death. It is not the



sort of idea that argues with words, but with bullets, bombs and swords. But neither does it just go away if you seize a city.

Al Qaeda in Iraq not only survived the death of Zarqawi, but it became even more dangerous under Baghdadi. It would be risky to assume that ISIS will die with him. Instead it may very well grow into a new phase of Al Qaeda, one that ties together some of the world's deadliest Islamic terror groups into a network that is decentralized enough that it will not suffer from Al Qaeda's leadership fatigue.

The rise of Islamic terrorism has been an incremental process in which new groups learn from the mistakes of the old and supersede them. If ISIS does recede into a localized oblivion, reemerging only on occasion to suicide bomb something or someone in Baghdad, then a deadlier and even more effective group is likely to take its place. Each group will move one step closer to realizing the caliphate.

To break the cycle, we must confront the idea of the caliphate at the heart of Islamic terrorism.

ISIS is not un-Islamic. It is ruthlessly and uncompromisingly Islamic in that, unlike its predecessors in the Muslim Brotherhood and Al Qaeda, it makes the fewest compromises to civilizational sensibilities. Its goals are the same as those of every Islamic political organization, including those dubbed moderate. It seeks to restore and enforce an Islamic system in every part of the Muslim world before moving on to conquer and subjugate the non-Muslim world. If this were merely some fringe belief held by a tiny minority of extremists, then it could be bombed to pieces in some Syrian or Iraqi backwater.

But it's the driving force of Islam. That's why it won't go away. No amount of appeasement will banish it.

Taking in more Muslim settlers, pressuring Israel and letting the Muslim Brotherhood colonize our foreign policy won't do it. We've tried it and it actually makes Islamic terrorism much worse.

When the announcement is made, the usual suspects will pat themselves on the back for having defeated ISIS by mobilizing a Muslim coalition. But it wasn't Obama who mobilized a Muslim coalition. The coalition, such as it was, mobilized them. Obama provided useful support to Islamic state sponsors of terror,

such as Iran and Turkey, assorted Islamic Jihadists on the ground, some blatantly associated with Sunni and Shiite terror groups in their internal Jihadist conflict with ISIS over who will fight us.

The "allies" we are aiding today will be the ones bombing us tomorrow.

And that is why claiming credit for beating ISIS accomplishes nothing. ISIS is an expression of an Islamic impulse encoded in the Koran. Islamic groups differ in the tactical expression of that impulse. ISIS was nastier and uglier than most of the Islamic terror groups we had dealt with before this. Though even it found its Boko Haram affiliate in Nigeria occasionally a little too much to stomach.

If ISIS vanishes from the world stage, Islamic terrorism will be easier to dismiss. Or so the thinking goes. The Islamic State was better at viral videos than the media that tried to whitewash Islamic terror. It was hard to ignore. But a scattering of Islamic terror groups around the world will be forgotten by the public.

History suggests that's wishful thinking.

Islamic terrorism has shown no signs of receding. Growing Muslim populations, both at home and in Muslim settlements in the West, and the increase in travel and communications, the infrastructure of globalism, spread it from the most backward to the most advanced parts of the world. Wealthy and unstable Muslim countries, rich in oil but poor in power, finance its spread through mosques and guns.

These are the ingredients that give us ISIS or any other combination of letters that stands for Islamic terror. To do anything meaningful about it, we would have to reverse the decline of the West.

Islam originally spread into a vacuum created by civilizational decline. Civilizational decline is why it is rising once again. An obscure local terror group eventually turned into ISIS by filling a power vacuum. Even as Obama performs another touchdown dance, some other group will be making that same journey. Its mission will be the familiar one of replacing our civilization with its own.

Until we come to terms with this civilizational struggle, we will go on fighting endless wars in the sand and coping with endless terror attacks in our own cities because we have failed to recognize the nature of the enemy. We are not fighting an



acronym, whether it's ISIS or ISIL; we are fighting an Islamic State.

This is a war to determine whether the future will belong to the West or to Islam.

*Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the Freedom Center, is a New York writer focusing on radical Islam.*

## Ten jihadists tied to Athens cell

Source: <http://www.ekathimerini.com/213155/article/ekathimerini/news/ten-jihadists-tied-to-athens-cell>

**An “Athens cell” of the so-called Islamic State comprised two key members and at least eight radical jihadists found to have strong links with the pair,** according to Belgian court documents seen by Kathimerini.



The documents, which relate to suspects linked to a string of bombings in Brussels in March and in Paris last November, link eight suspects to the two Athens-based radicals.

**The two Athens-based suspects – Algerian Omar Damache, 34, and French national Walid Hamam, 32 – were arrested in a raid on a Pangrati apartment in January 2015 and are believed to be the core members.**

The eight suspects with alleged links to Damache and Hamam are mentioned in the court documents.

Zaid Koulliss, 20, who is believed to be one of the jihadists that planned the suicide attacks in Paris and Brussels, had been briefly detained in Thessaloniki in October 2014 for lacking valid travel documents.

A search revealed that Koulliss had withdrawn 900 euros from his bank account a few weeks earlier and had bought bus tickets from Trikala to Munich.

Questioned by Greek police, he admitted that he had met a man, Abdelkader Benameur, an alleged propagandist for IS, in Alexandroupoli. In fall 2014, Benameur had met with Damache in Athens and was arrested a few months later. According to Belgian authorities, Wissem El Mokhtari and another four suspects made use of forged documents made for them by members of the Athens cell.

A raid by Greek police on the Pangrati safe-house in January 2015 turned up a laptop with photographs of the five men. Another two suspected jihadists were also traced to Athens: Mouhammed Diallo, 28, and Mansour Niang, 32, who were convicted by a Brussels court for membership of IS. Both are alleged to have had contact with residents of the Pangrati apartment.

## ISIS coming defeat in Mosul could drive jihadists attacks in Germany

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161031-isis-coming-defeat-in-mosul-could-drive-jihadists-attacks-in-germany>

**Oct 31 – Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of Germany’s domestic intelligence agency, said that the German authorities are preparing for possible terror attacks on German soil as pressure builds on ISIS in Iraq.**

The U.S.-led coalition’s operation to push ISIS out of Mosul could encourage ISIS supporters in Europe to carry out attacks, Maassen told German public radio Deutschlandfunk.

“That is what we want to prevent and we are preparing ourselves accordingly,” the Maassen said.

The number of German – and European — ISIS fighters who have returned home as a result of ISIS military retreat has been small so far, Maassen said.



The number of Germans who have traveled to Syria and Iraq has fallen steadily from the summer of 2014 to August of this year, but the numbers have now levelled off, Maassen said.

"My impression is that the fighting in Syria and Iraq is currently not so attractive for German jihadists," he explained, adding that it could be "too dangerous to get there."

U.S. military sources say that many of the foreign fighters among the 4,500 jihadists in Mosul will probably form the core of the holdout jihadist force, preferring to die fighting rather than surrendering.

Maassen told Deutschlandfunk that right-wing extremism is also a growing concern in Germany.

"We are concerned that there could be right-wing terrorist individuals or individual cells in Germany," he said. Specifically, Maassen named the "Old School Society" as a possible threat. He said the group, which has a nation-wide network, planned to carry out attacks on refugees and Salafists.

Members of the far-right, populist "Reichsbürger" movement attacked and wounded four police officers during a shootout on 19 October in Bavaria, and one of the officers later died of his injuries.

Maassen noted that anti-foreigner crimes rose by 116 percent in the last year.



## Is the Islamic State finished? **Five** possible scenarios

By James L. Gelvin

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161031-is-the-islamic-state-finished-five-possible-scenarios>

Oct 31 – **Most military analysts believe it's only a matter of time before Mosul falls.**

Mosul is Iraq's third largest city. **The Islamic State captured it in June 2014 during a campaign that left it in control of territory the size of the United Kingdom.** But on 16 October 2016, a coalition of the Iraqi army, military forces from Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region and paramilitary units, began an attack to recapture the city.

Military prowess does not explain IS's initial success in Iraq. Rather, it depended on the collapse of the Iraqi army and Sunni disaffection with the Shi'i-dominated Iraqi government.

**But, then, between 2015 and 2016, IS territory in Iraq shrank by an estimated 50 percent.** IS has lost major population centers, including the cities of Tikrit, Ramadi, Kobani, Fallujah and Palmyra.

The next target on the coalition's agenda is Raqqa, Syria, the capital of IS. It may only be a matter of time before IS's territorial "caliphate" is no more.

**What then will be the fate of IS? Can the group survive without controlling any territory? Will it rebound? Or will it disappear?**

### Five possible scenarios

#### **Scenario #1: IS goes underground, only to emerge in the future**

**This scenario is not very likely.** It ignores the unique circumstances that gave rise to IS and enabled it to win victory after victory in 2014: the political and military vacuum created by the Syrian civil war, the dysfunction of the Iraqi government of Nuri al-Maliki, the collapse of the Iraqi army and the indifference of much of the world to the group's ambitions until it was too late. A similar set of circumstances is unlikely in the future.

#### **Scenario #2: IS will simply set up shop elsewhere**

Over the years, IS has established franchises in West and North Africa, Libya, Yemen, the Sinai, and other locations. In some places, such as Libya, IS deployed fighters from Syria and Iraq to establish its franchises. In others, preexisting groups pledged allegiance to the caliphate. Boko Haram in West Africa is one such group.

IS assumed that each of its franchises would expand the territory under its control until it met up with other franchises and, eventually, with the caliphate based in Syria and Iraq. Observers call this an "ink spot" strategy because each affiliate would widen like an ink spot on blotting paper.

**This scenario, too, is unlikely.** None of IS's franchises is doing well, and those that have not already failed are on the verge of failing. Internal conflicts tore some apart, including those in Yemen and West Africa. External enemies have rolled back others, such as those in Libya and Algeria.



IS's franchises have not been able to forge alliances with similar-minded groups because IS doesn't play well with others. Rather than building partnerships, IS insists on unconditional loyalty to its caliphate project and organizational uniformity. It has thus turned potential collaborators into enemies.

**Scenario #3: IS fighters continue to wage an insurgency in Syria or Iraq, or both**

This is exactly what the Taliban did in Afghanistan after the American invasion in 2001. Indeed, after the American invasion in Iraq, al-Qaida in Iraq — a precursor of IS — and members of the disbanded Iraqi army who joined IS did the same.

**This is a more likely scenario than the first two.** However, fighting an insurgency is quite a step down from establishing, defending and expanding a territorial caliphate – what IS devotees consider an epochal event. And establishing, defending and expanding a territorial caliphate is precisely what differentiated IS from al-Qaida and similar groups. IS true believers deem a territorial caliphate cleansed of non-Islamic influences necessary for the survival of true Islam.

IS fighters might continue the struggle. Revenge is a powerful motivator. But IS would no longer be IS were its fighters to limit their vision to waging a guerilla-style campaign. It would be indistinguishable from Jabhat al-Nusra, for example, the former al-Qaida affiliate and IS spin-off fighting the Syrian government. Jabhat al-Nusra's goal of overthrowing the government of Syria – less grandiose than reestablishing a territorial caliphate that would unite all Muslims – was one of the reasons the split between the two groups occurred.

**Scenario #4: IS disappears**

What if IS fighters just give up, or move on to other criminal enterprises? For true believers, the defeat of their caliphate might persuade them that their goal is unobtainable. It might therefore be extraordinarily dispiriting. Those who signed on for the thrill might find their kicks elsewhere, or merely fade back into the woodwork.

**This too is a strong possibility, particularly if other nations besides Denmark offer their citizens who have joined IS incentives for returning home.** Similar groups, such as al-Qaida, have experienced defections in their ranks as members became disillusioned or discouraged or isolated.

**Scenario #5: Former fighters and freelancers continue their attacks globally with or without organizational backing**

**This too is a possibility, if only for a while.** After all, a number of attacks outside of IS-held territory – including the attack in San Bernardino, California – occurred without the knowledge and assistance of IS.

The destruction of IS's caliphate could reduce its capacity to produce and disseminate propaganda. This would diminish IS's ability to capture the imagination of would-be followers in the future. Nevertheless, in the short term, the world is not lacking in gullible and disturbed individuals.

**Short shelf-life**

Whatever the case, history provides lessons on how effectively to deal with movements and individuals who wage war against the international order.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, anarchists struck out at rulers and symbols of capitalism throughout the world. Anarchists assassinated the presidents of France and the United States, an empress of Austria, a king of Italy, and numerous government ministers in Russia. They also bombed symbols of oppression, from the haunts of the bourgeoisie to Wall Street itself.

**Then, suddenly, the wave of anarchist violence ceased.** By the onset of the Great

Depression, anarchist activity was limited to a few isolated pockets. Historians point to a number of reasons the anarchist moment passed. Anarchism competed for hearts and minds with other dissident groups. Nations undertook political and social reforms that addressed the grievances of potential anarchists. They adopted new methods of policing and surveillance. Police agencies cooperated across borders.

**But perhaps most important was the fact that high-risk movements that attempt to realize the unrealizable have a short shelf life. Such might be the case for IS.**

*James L. Gelvin is Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, University of California, Los Angeles.*



## Airports seen adopting discreet screening measures to allay security fears

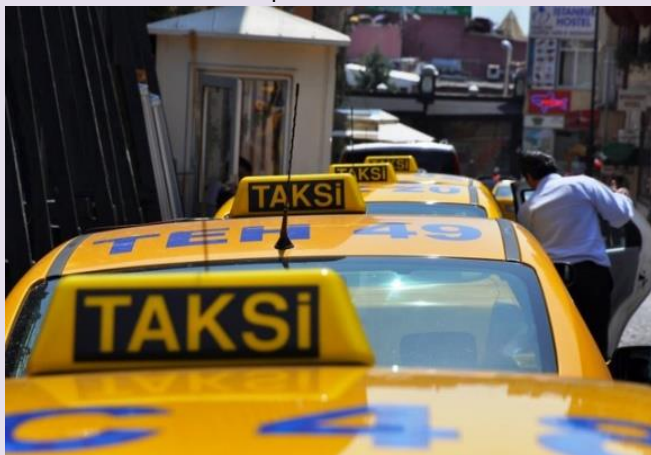
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-aviation-security-iata-idUSKCN12Q1C3>

Oct 26 – **Authorities will adopt more "invisible" screening measures to step up security in and around airports as they increasingly become targets for extremist activities, aviation industry experts said this week.**

Security in areas open to the public has been in the spotlight this year after a June suicide attack killed more than 40 people at Istanbul's main airport, and March suicide attacks by Islamist bombers killed 16 people at Brussels airport.

After the attack, Brussels set up tents outside the airport to screen passengers before entry, but industry officials say such a step only moves the target, rather than halting attacks.

Discreet screening measures that allow passengers and visitors to quickly get through security without crowding are likely to be adopted by airports and law enforcement, industry officials said at the AVSEC World conference in Kuala Lumpur.



"It can be screening and profiling that you can never see," said Ross Lockie, Asia-Pacific regional officer for aviation security and facilitation, at the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations agency.

**License plate readers, scanners and facial recognition technology that do the job in a less obvious and intrusive way will be adopted to screen passengers and others, the experts said. Besides smarter technology, more plainclothes police and greater behavioral analysis by staff or law enforcement are expected to be added.**

Last week, Brussels Airport said it would soon remove its screening tents, in favor of introducing several new and less visible safety measures, such as automatic recognition of number plates and facial recognition.

Aviation and security experts say attacks in areas open to the public are becoming increasingly attractive, because of the crowds gathered there.

"I certainly see political expectation to do more landside (security) across Europe and the world after the tragic attacks in Brussels and Istanbul," said Alexis Long, head of security policy at London's Heathrow airport.

"We will see a much more mature type of checkpoint being developed, one that may not be as visible to the general public. I think human factors are going to play an equal part."

### Training taxi drivers

**Turkey** was also trying out new technologies after the June attacks, said Yener Cetinkaya, an assistant aviation expert at the Turkish Directorate General of Civil aviation.

**It has begun to train airport employees and others, such as shuttle and taxi drivers who have regular access to the airports, to do some screening on their own, he added.**

"Because they come to the airport very often, they are part of the security culture," he said.

Security fears have pushed governments in Europe to assign more police to guard airports, and officers armed with machine guns have become a more common sight.

After attacks first in Paris and then Nice, France now requires all passengers on international flights to display passports on arrival. Earlier, visitors from the passport-free Schengen zone could land and exit without showing identification.

"Landside security must be far more sophisticated, far more selective and automatic," Henrik Hololei, director general of the



European Commission's transport department,

said at the conference.

## Suspected female suicide bomber is arrested and led away in her bathrobe as police foil ISIS plot to blow up the **Austrian Defence Ministry in Vienna**

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3880212/Police-foil-female-terrorist-s-plot-walk-Austrian-Defence-Ministry-building-blow-ISIS.html>

Oct 27 – The woman, 36, was arrested in the Lower Baden region of Austria. She is understood to be wife of man arrested last month on terror charges. Police seized Skype chats between the two discussing the terror attack. She was going to walk into the Defence Ministry and blow herself up.

## Two female 'Boko Haram' bombers riding **rickshaws** kill at least seven in suicide blast after trying to storm a Nigerian refugee camp holding 16,000 people

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3885516/Female-Boko-Haram-suicide-bombers-including-one-tried-storm-refugee-camp-holding-16-000-people-kill-nine-injure-24-twin-blasts.html>

Oct 29 – **Two female suicide bombers suspected to be with Boko Haram have killed at least seven people and injured 24 in a horrific attack in Nigeria on Saturday morning.**

Gruesome images show emergency workers carrying the remains of the victims in black



bags after the women, riding motorised rickshaws, detonated their explosives. Both attacks were carried out in the early morning in the northeastern city of Maiduguri. The first came outside the Bakassi refugee camp where the explosion killed five men. Eyewitness Inuwe Sula, who lives nearby, said he saw six bodies evacuated and several wounded survivors 'drenched with blood.'

**Within just 30 minutes a second bombing occurred outside a gas station about a kilometre away. Again the attacker was reportedly trying to enter the camp, estimated to house 16,000 displaced people.**

A bomber in a rickshaw tricycle taxi followed a fuel tanker before detonating the vehicle 'with the sole aim of gaining entry to cause maximum damage and casualty,' said military spokesman Col. Mustapha Anka in a statement.

Nine bodies were recovered from the blasts, including those of the suicide bombers

'Two suicide bombers riding in motorised rickshaws this morning detonated their explosives 10 minutes apart, with one of them targeting the Bakassi IDP camp on the outskirts of the city,' Mohammed Kanar, spokesman for Nigeria Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), said.

The key suspects, Boko Haram have stepped up their offensive after a months-long lull following an internal leadership struggle.

Maiduguri is at the heart of a seven-year-old insurgency from the Islamist militants, and the recent attack bore all the hallmarks of Boko Haram despite no claim from them of responsibility as yet.

A bomb blast on October 12 killed eight refugees in a taxi-van just outside of the city.



The terror group has devastated northeast Nigeria massacring at least 20,000 people as it tries to create an Islamist state. Some 2.6million people have also been displaced from their homes.

'Nigeria is facing the worst humanitarian crisis on the African continent,' Peter Lundberg, acting United Nations Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, warned last week.

## “Khorasan Caliphate” Will Be Established inside Afghanistan by ISIS

Source: <http://en.alalam.ir/news/1876723>

Oct 24 – **Daesh is trying to establish the Khorasan caliphate inside Afghanistan, top US commander said in an interview with NBC News on Sunday.**

According to General John Nicholson, the top US Mission Commander in Afghanistan, although the so-called Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL, IS and Daesh) is principally a non-Afghan movement that is completely rejected by the Afghan people, but they are very focused to establish their caliphate inside the country.



Nicholson said the US has seen many foreign fighters joining the Islamic State in Afghanistan, particularly Uzbeks from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Pashtuns from the Pakistani Taliban. In Afghanistan, the main-hub of Daesh militants estimated around 1,000 fighters is in eastern Nangarhar province which shares a border with Pakistan.

Insurgents moving across the Afghan border with Pakistan are primarily the Pakistani Taliban, Haqqani Network and Daesh militants.

Nicholson further said that most of the high-profile attacks in Kabul are perpetrated by the Haqqani network, which operates from across the border in Pakistan.

The Taliban and Haqqani “still enjoy sanctuary in Pakistan,” Nicholson said, adding that they are still able to conduct operations from that sanctuary.

## The 11 ‘imminent’ terror attacks Australia narrowly escaped

Source: <http://www.scoopnest.com/user/perthnow/787254275617517568>

Oct 15 – **Australia would have experienced 15 terror attacks including public beheadings on home soil over the past two years if most plots in their advanced stages hadn’t been foiled, according to police.**



**The country has survived four terror attacks — three in New South Wales and one in Victoria — and narrowly escaped 11 since September 2014.**

The terror attacks that police were unable to prevent include the [Lindt Cafe siege in Sydney](#) in which manager Tori Johnson and mother-of-three Katrina Dawson lost their lives; the [killing of police accountant Curtis Cheng](#) by 15-year-old schoolboy Farhad Khalil Mohammed Jabar in Parramatta and [the non-fatal stabbing of Wayne Greenhalgh](#) in Minto last month. In Victoria, [Numan Haider, 18, attacked two police officers](#) with a knife outside the Endeavour Hills police station before being shot dead in September 2014.

**Twenty three people have been convicted of terrorism offences in Australia in the last four years, according to Australian National Security.**

Among the alleged “imminent” terror plots foiled by police in the last two years were advanced plans to kidnap members of the public in Sydney and Brisbane then behead them on camera and release the footage; detonate bombs at a Mother’s Day running event; stab and shoot police and members of the public at Anzac Day ceremonies; and target government buildings including the Garden Island Navy base and Parramatta Court House.

The latest plot to be thwarted in NSW allegedly involved two 16-year-old boys who purchased knives and were en route to behead a stranger in Sydney’s Bankstown before they were arrested on Wednesday.

NSW Police deputy commissioner Catherine Burn claimed on Thursday it was the “11th imminent attack ... we have prevented in this country”.

“There have been four attacks, three have been in NSW,” Ms Burn said.

“While we cannot necessarily guarantee that attacks won’t occur, we know that the processes and what we are currently doing, we are doing everything we can to prevent such attacks.”

A recent US Homeland Security report revealed that Australia ranked equal third among Western nations as a target for Islamic State-inspired terror attacks.

The likelihood of Australia suffering another terror attack is “probable”, as ranked on the National Terrorism Threat Level.

“Credible intelligence, assessed by our security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia,” according to Australian National Security.

*Here are some of the most recent alleged “imminent terror attacks” Australia has narrowly escaped:*

#### **PLOT: BEHEAD A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN SYDNEY**

**October 2016**

Two schoolboys who were allegedly preparing for a terror attack in Sydney’s southwest, with police alleging they had links to the Islamic State, were arrested and refused bail on Wednesday.

The 16-year-olds were detained in a laneway behind a Bankstown mosque about midday, hours after they allegedly bought two bayonets at a local gun shop.

Police wearing protective vests headed to the prayer hall after officers received information about the alleged purchase of the knives. The pair allegedly also had pieces of paper with religious statements on them, which the *Daily Telegraph* reported they planned to read out while they carried out a beheading.

Police said the students, who were due to start their HSC exams at East Hill Boys High on Thursday, may have been influenced by “radicalised peers”. One is related to a convicted terrorist and refused to stand for the national anthem at school two years ago.

#### **PLOT: DETONATE EXPLOSIVES IN MELBOURNE**

**August 2016**

Operation Fortaleza disrupted an alleged domestic terrorist attack at an undisclosed location in Melbourne, potentially involving improvised explosive devices. The AFP has not responded to questions from news.com.au in relation to this incident.

#### **PLOT: STAB A NSW POLICE OFFICER TO DEATH**

**June 2016**

A Sydney teenager allegedly planned a “serious” terror attack — potentially involving a knife — on a police officer in NSW.



The [17-year-old was charged with a “terrorism-related offence”](#) after police were alerted to a series of social media posts where the teen had threatened to kill a police officer.

He was charged with planning a terrorist act and using a telecommunications network to commit a serious offence, police said in a statement.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione told media the teen “talked about ... killing a police officer” in the post.

“It talked about hurting a police officer, in fact killing a police ... officer,” Mr Scipione said.

Mr Scipione said the individual “indicated he proposed to act in the very, very near vicinity in terms of time”.

“He was allegedly going to conduct any act within a very short period of time,” he said.

#### **PLOT: ACQUIRE FIREARM AND SHOOT CIVILIANS IN SYDNEY**

**May 2016**

A Sydney man, 18, who had allegedly bid to join extremists in Syria, was accused of planning an imminent lone-wolf terror attack in Australia.

Attorney-General George Brandis said authorities had not acted until relatively late so more evidence could be gathered.

The man was “in the process” of acquiring a weapon, he told reporters.

“The judgment of the police was that he was intending to put it to use imminently,” Mr Brandis said.

He had allegedly been scouting out possible sites in Sydney to carry out the attack.

#### **PLOT: BEHEAD A POLICE OFFICER & SHOOT CIVILIANS ON ANZAC DAY**

**April 2016**

Sevdet Ramadan Besim, 19, pleaded guilty to a plot to run over and then behead a police officer before using his gun in a bloody rampage, after his plan was foiled.

A court heard he used an encrypted messaging app to try and obtain a gun to “terrorise” the “kafirs” on Anzac Day.

He allegedly wrote he was “ready to fight these dogs on there (sic) doorstep” in online communications with a person overseas, according to court documents.

“I’d love to take out some cops,” Besim is alleged to have written.

“I was gonna meet with them then take some headsahaha.”

Besim was in regular communication with a teenager in the United Kingdom, who encouraged him to not only carry out the Anzac Day attack, but to break into someone’s home “and get your first taste of beheading”.

Crown prosecutor Chris Choi said Besim, an electrical apprentice, tried to obtain a gun for an Anzac Day attack and, when that failed, a bomb manual.

He said he targeted April 25, “because here in Australia the kafir (non-Muslims) celebrate Anzac Day and I want to terrorise them on that day”, Ms Choi said.

He sent a text on April 16, “I want to learn how to make a bomb”.

The Islamic State flag appeared in his messaging avatar, Ms Choi said.

The Hallam teen was handed a 10-year jail sentence in the Victorian Supreme Court in September 2016 and must serve at least seven and a half before he is eligible for parole.

Police said he was motivated by an extremist ideology and had expressed support for terrorist organisations, particularly Islamic State, which adopt a radical interpretation of Islam.

#### **PLOT: TARGET PARRAMATTA WESTFIELD**

**Jan-Feb. 2016**

One of two accused terror plotters who allegedly planned to carry out a terror attack at Parramatta Westfield was found with a hunting knife and a Shahada flag in her handbag as well as instructions for making a bomb detonator. The teenager laughed and cheered as a Sydney court heard evidence of her “favourite” beheading video.

#### **PLOT: BOMB MELBOURNE’S MOTHER’S DAY CLASSIC EVENT**

**May 2015**

A teen terrorist who planned to detonate bombs at a Mother’s Day event in Melbourne described all non-Muslims as cockroaches.

Police raided the teen’s home on May 8 after he began messaging radicals overseas that he would become a martyr.



Counter-terrorism officers found IS propaganda material, pressure cookers, pipe bombs, shrapnel and homemade explosive that the teen now admits were to be used in a bombing.

"I thought that a lot of (Australian) people were not innocent because they were supporters of the killing of Muslims around the world," the teen allegedly said.

#### **PLOT: KILL POLICE AT ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES**

**April 2015**

Aspiring terrorists allegedly planned to run over a police officer, kill him with a knife and seize his gun before going on a shooting rampage during Anzac Day centenary celebrations in an attack foiled by a police operation.

The group behind the alleged plot had reportedly anticipated the attack on Melbourne streets would end in their own deaths.

Australian police arrested five teenagers in Melbourne over their alleged plans to target police uncovering knives and other weapons in their raids.

#### **ALLEGED PLOT: TO BEHEAD INNOCENT PEOPLE**

**February 2015**

Two Sydney friends were arrested just hours before they planned to carry out a terror attack.

Omar al-Kutobi, 24, and Mohammad Kiad, 25 were accused of planning to carry out an attack, amid suspicions they were plotting a public beheading.

A machete, a hunting knife and a flag associated with Islamic State were among items seized in the raids on their Fairfield home, along with a video of Al-Kutobi holding knives and vowing to stab white people in the kidneys and necks "today" with a note declaring he and Kiad "are here to cut your head".

Less than a week before they were due to face trial, the pair pleaded guilty in the NSW Supreme Court to one count each of "to act in preparation/planning for terrorist act".

#### **PLOT: TARGET GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

**December 2014-March 2016**

A Sydney teenager accused of plotting an "imminent" terrorist shooting in Sydney had allegedly scoped out the Parramatta court complex, Garden Island Navy Base and the Victoria Barracks before he was arrested as part of Operation Appleby.

The original plot involved alleged planning of an attack on a random member of the public. Police said the second plot "may have involved an attack on a government building, whether that be AFP or police".

#### **PLOT: KIDNAP INNOCENT PEOPLE IN SYDNEY & BRISBANE THEN BEHEAD THEM ON CAMERA**

**September 2014**

An accused terror plotter was within days of launching a terror attack on Australian soil, embarking on a frenzied, deadly shopping spree to load up on weapons, before he was arrested, police alleged.

Police said the man planned to launch a terror attack on home soil.

Government officials revealed that the plan was to kidnap random members of the public, behead them on camera and then release the video of the killings.

The man was charged with transporting a gun and stockpiling machetes, knives and balaclavas, military clothing and a firearm in preparation for a terrorist act.

## **Justice against sponsors of terrorism: JASTA and its international impact**

Source: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593499/EPRS\\_BRI\(2016\)593499\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593499/EPRS_BRI(2016)593499_EN.pdf)

On 27 September 2016, the United States Congress overrode the presidential veto to pass the **Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA)**, the culmination of lengthy efforts to facilitate lawsuits by victims of terrorism against foreign states and officials supporting terrorism. Until JASTA, under the 'terrorism exception' in the US Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, sovereign immunity could only be denied to foreign states officially designated by the USA as sponsors of terrorism at the time or as a result of the terrorist act. JASTA extends the scope of the terrorism exception to the jurisdictional immunity of foreign states so as to



allow US courts to exercise jurisdiction over civil claims regarding injuries, death or damages that occur inside the USA as result of a tort, including an act of terrorism committed anywhere by a foreign state or official. The bill has generated significant debate within and outside the USA. State or sovereign immunity is a recognised principle of customary international law and, for that reason, JASTA has been denounced as potentially violating international law and foreign states' sovereignty; some countries have already announced reciprocal measures against the USA. The terrorism exception to state immunity was already a controversial concept, with only the USA and Canada having introduced legislation on the matter.

## How Bombings Altered Marathon Security

Source: <http://www.athleticbusiness.com/event-security/how-bombings-altered-marathon-security.html>

Oct 2016 – **Perhaps no sporting event in the world is harder to safeguard from terrorism than a giant footrace in a big city.**

It's practically impossible. Unlike stadiums with limited access points, major marathons spread themselves out over 26.2-mile courses near skyscrapers and subways. In Chicago and New York this month and next, they also will have at least 35,000 runners watched by more than a million spectators, all subject to countless risks during events that last several hours.

"The security apparatus continues to hold its breath to get through these events," said Jim Reese, a former U.S. Army Delta Force officer and current private security consultant.

Last month, a pipe bomb exploded in a trash can along the course of a 5K charity race in New Jersey. No one was hurt.

And now comes the next test: Sunday's Bank of America Chicago Marathon, where much has changed to ease the breathing since the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013.

As with other marathons, the Chicago race's organizers have significantly beefed up their defense systems, including a stronger law enforcement presence on the course, more rigorous checkpoints in populous areas and added surveillance cameras that number more than 22,000 across the city, according to one estimate.

By those measures, marathons are safer than ever. But the threat is never zero in a free society, no matter how much of a police state these cities become on race days. It remains a guessing game of sorts, rooted in fear. Since the Boston bombings, the guessing at marathons is just better organized, more focused and more expensive, according to officials and experts contacted by USA TODAY Sports. "There's a whole grid structure that we've built so we can identify any one spot that is a concern," said Peter Ciaccia, race director of the TCS New York City Marathon on Nov. 6. "It's a big, big area. So we've broken this up into lots of little (parts). As you can imagine, it's a big jigsaw puzzle."

### Backpacks, best practices



Despite the added brains and brawn, a homegrown terrorist with no prior record might have little trouble infiltrating the event as a spectator or runner. Some might even try buying access to sensitive areas through a private security company staffer, a scenario that was demonstrated in a troubling case at a Chicago Bears game last season.

One big difference now, since the Boston bombings, is that such possibilities are discussed and defended against in a more collaborative and organized way through the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security, also known as NCS4.

Before the Boston bombings, NCS4 director Lou Marciani primarily concerned himself with the security of sports stadiums. That was the big nightmare scenario for decades -- a possible bombing in a crowded stadium, as was depicted in *Black Sunday*, a 1977 movie.

"I didn't even put two and two together back then," Marciani told USA TODAY Sports. "I was worried about the other stuff (stadiums), and none of us really paid attention to marathons until it happened from that perspective."

Since the Boston bombings, NCS4 has consulted with top marathon officials and has an annual summit with industry leaders to discuss best practices, this year scheduled for Dec.12-14 in Biloxi, Miss. It also has



developed a [162-page best practices guide](#) for the marathon and endurance events industry, a checklist to help maximize security, including the encouragement of background checks for security personnel, the use of uniform and plainclothes officers and tightened access at the start and finish line areas.

### Eyes in the sky

marathons, "you just don't ever have enough manpower" to secure them, said Reese, the security consultant at TigerSwan, based in North Carolina.

To make the most of what they have, marathon



In Chicago, one of the new initiatives since the Boston bombings is that only registered runners showing their race bibs can enter the start and finish line area in Grant Park before the start. All people entering Grant Park must go through a security screening throughout the day, and spectator access to the finish line is limited to ticketed guests.

Similar measures are in place at other marathons.

In 2013, at the Boston Marathon, the perpetrators carried bombs in backpacks, which exploded outside a secured area near the finish line, killing three and injuring more than 260.

The Boston Marathon now urges spectators to leave backpacks at home.

It has enhanced screening near the finish line and added more plainclothes officers who are trained in detecting the behavior of would-be bombers, said Lt. Mike McCarthy of the Boston Police Department. NCS4 urges marathons to consider banning backpacks, among other items.

"Certainly the implementation of best practices now associated with the start/finish line would have mitigated risk (at Boston in 2013) but could not have guaranteed that event would not have happened," Marciani said.

officials coordinate and plan security operations with local, state and federal authorities, who help with intelligence. Ciaccia said the security, medical and emergency management budget for the New York City Marathon has doubled since the Boston bombings to more than \$1 million.

"There are a lot more resources that are put into this," said Carey Pinkowski, race director of the Chicago Marathon. "For us, federal agencies play a bigger role. They were involved and partners before Boston, but obviously are front and center now."

The marathons also have access to more cameras, which helped identify the Boston bombers in 2013, as well the suspect in the recent bombings in New York and New Jersey. About 150 cameras have been added to the Boston portion of the Boston Marathon, McCarthy said. Three years ago, Chicago authorities had access to an estimated 22,000 cameras. That has increased by an unspecified number.

Authorities "have a network of surveillance cameras that they use and can see the majority of the marathon course," Pinkowski said.

The idea is not to just catch criminals after the crime, but to let



them know they're being watched and to locate problem spots or medical emergencies on race day.

"There are not many major cities where you don't have cameras all over the place," Reese said. "They help deter."

The tradeoff for this expansion of surveillance technology is a reduction in privacy.

Government is watching more and more. It's a matter of what the public finds acceptable in exchange for safety.

Surveillance cameras "are part of a larger and growing system of electronic surveillance that increasingly turns our private lives into open books," said Adam Schwartz, an attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which defends civil liberties in the digital age.

### Soft spots

In 2013, USA TODAY Sports published an investigation about the private security companies hired to screen bags and search spectators at stadium entrance points. The investigation found the private security industry was loosely regulated and that workers for such companies sometimes had criminal backgrounds and were classified as event staff instead of security guards to avoid licensing and training requirements.

In November, Chicago police arrested two private security company workers at a Bears game, accusing them of conspiring to sell access to the stadium to two undercover officers for \$80. Neither of the employees for Monterrey Security had a security guard license, and both had records for drug arrests, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

"The possibility of a massive tragedy is not lost upon the court," Judge Anthony John Calabrese said at the trial of one of the employees this year. "By giving these wristbands or selling those bands to any individual for profit, it allows any dangerous individual to gain access and puts the citizens of this community at danger, and it has to be viewed in the context of this dangerous world."

The CEO of the company, Juan Gaytan, said those employees didn't need to be licensed because they were not guards but instead were involved in guest services, the Sun-Times reported.

A stadium official said the situation was rectified to prevent this from happening again, and Gaytan said the employees were fired.

The judge still acquitted one of the workers, saying there wasn't enough evidence against him. A warrant was issued earlier this year for the other worker, the one who allegedly sold the cops access.

That same security company is involved in securing the Chicago Marathon. It issued a statement to USA TODAY Sports about the Bears game incident:

"No one got in the stadium that day who wasn't supposed to. No one," the statement said. "Our layers of security were tested that day and they were proven to work. Unfortunately, every company has employees who fail to meet expectations."

"But, like most companies, Monterrey has far more employees who exceed expectations -- including those Monterrey employees who were challenged at the gates, but who never allowed security to be breached."

Though it might have been an isolated incident with no harm done, it demonstrates the soft spots that might be out there for exploitation. NCS4 urges background screening on all staff and contractors. Its goal is to mitigate risk, even though it can't completely eliminate it.

"I can't tell you something can't happen in the New York Marathon this year," said Marciani of the NCS4. "It could be a truck coming off the Brooklyn Bridge or something and crash into 150 spectators. We have to think like that all the time, and they are."

Reese, the former Delta Force officer, said marathons and triathlons "are probably the hardest sporting event to secure in a free society."

They've come a long way in the three years since the Boston bombings. There were no arrests at the last two Boston Marathons. "Not even for public drinking," McCarthy said. Likewise, officials for the New York and Chicago marathons credited law enforcement for their enhanced safety.

"We have participants from all 50 states that are coming to Chicago and 130 countries," said Pinkowski of the Chicago Marathon. "It's a special day, but it's like every other day. So attention to detail, vigilance, focus and staying on top of it is what drives the confidence I have -- and our organization has -- that we'll have a safe and secure event."



## RONIN Threat Detection Platform Attains NCS4 Lab-Tested Designation

The latest technology to attain the National Sport Security Laboratory designation is the RONIN Threat Detection Platform. The platform was evaluated at a professional sporting event by a select group of subject matter experts (SMEs) from the sports security domain. This group consisted of professionals from public safety, facility operations and emergency management. RONIN is a smart walk through metal detector offering a threat analytics platform, software dashboard, location specific threat detection, reduced operational costs and high-volume patron throughput. Non-invasive passive scanning automatically pinpoints the location of a threat item on the patron's front side, backside, bag or cavity; even when in a group.

[Download the RONIN Technical Report](#)



## Intelligence Specialist Malcolm Nance Discusses the U.S. War on Terror

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/At-War-With-Terror.html>



Oct 27 – Malcolm Nance is an intelligence specialist who speaks five languages, including Arabic. He has been deployed on counterterrorism operations for the U.S. Government's Special Operations, Homeland Security and Intelligence agencies in the Balkans, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. He is a former master instructor and chief of training at the U.S. Navy's Survival, Evasion Resistance and Escape school. Nance is the author of several books, including: *Terrorism Recognition Handbook: A Practitioner's Manual for Predicting and Identifying Terrorist Activities*. He spoke to *Emergency Management*

the day after Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel ran a truck through a crowd on a famous waterfront in Nice, France, on July 14, killing 84 people.

**At this early stage of the investigation, what do you make of the man who drove a truck through the crowd in France? Was he what you'd call a "lone wolf?"**

First off I don't like the term "lone wolf." ISIS themselves actually use the phrase "lone jihadi." They like that. We also categorize these guys as lone wolves and known wolves. Known wolves are those that have actually come under the counterterrorism umbrella, have a record related to radicalization and things like that. People we should have had our eye on like Omar Mateen down in Orlando. People who have been interviewed by the FBI.

Then you have the unknown wolves: people who self-radicalize, operationalize whatever plan that is in their heads and then execute that plan without any communication with anybody. Or their communications are so covert and successful that they didn't become known wolves.

In taking a look at this guy in Nice, the chief prosecutor says we have no indications of his

radicalization or communications with known entities. That tells you it happened in his head or the communication structure they set up was so covert, they've yet to be detected.

That leans us away from the known-wolf picture because he had no record. The only thing he had been picked up on was weapons smuggling charges or charges relating to illicit weapons. If you're in Europe, everyone has illicit weapons. They are highly envious of the American access to weapons. For them these are status symbols — having access to weapons — and they are also very good sources of money. So that must have been attractive to him.

He was a recent Tunisian immigrant to France. Not everybody [there] can get a job — it's about the size of New York state. For these guys, they're concentrated in these places where there aren't a lot of jobs, there's a very young immigrant community there, and a lot of them don't assimilate into society



like American Muslims. And they aren't French, either in culture or mindset, so they play along the fringes to make money however they can. The difference between him and the Paris attackers and the Brussels attackers is that when those guys became radicalized they did their hijra, their migration to Iraq and Syria, and became combat commanders, they became soldiers and fighters. Then they reinfiltred France as clandestine agents, carried out an operation as a cell, and did these operations both in Paris and Brussels.

This guy is an unknown wolf. In intelligence parlance he's sort of a clean-skin operative — no contact with law enforcement other than one charge. No history of radicalization, although there were some indicators that he was along the radicalization pathway.

**Usually they find some trace of these people on social media. Is it relatively uncommon for them to be really unknown?**

It depends on the individual. Some people watch the videos and adore them and they become entranced by these operations. On the other hand, you have knuckleheads who see one and they're going to do that. The Navy Seals have a phrase: We have wanna-bes and gonna-bes. There are guys who really get radicalized [over time], and then there's those who wake up one morning and say, "I'm going to be a jihadi."

Here's my ideological path to radicalization: The first step is admiration. That's when they watch videos and such, that's internal. No. 2 is inspiration, where the images and religious rhetoric overwhelm you and make you feel like you should be a part or could be a part of that. Then comes step three, radicalization, when you affiliate with the terrorist philosophy. We call this the "fan boy stage." You're making tweets and things like that. Next is isolation. It's a cult technique. ISIS is a cult.

Isolation is where these guys perform hijra, where you go and emigrate overseas. That isolation could put you in Syria or Iraq fighting with them, and you cut yourself off from the land of the unbelievers. But they also have this thing called mental hijra, where if you can't make it to us, cut yourself off from the land of disbelievers around you, like the San Bernardino [Calif.] killers cut themselves off from their mother and child. They stopped going to mosque. Stopping mosque is a key indicator, especially if they were religious

before that. That means they want no part in people that they think are dirty.

Step five is identification, where you adopt the trappings, hold up pictures of you holding guns, etc. Step six is dedication where you swear your loyalty oath, and that's close to when you die. Seven is execution. These could be months, years or minutes apart.

**You described ISIS and the West as two heavyweight boxers exchanging blows. Every time we drop a bomb, they counter. Can you elaborate?**

We've killed more than 23,000 ISIS fighters in the last two years. We believe that their combat strength of foreign fighters is down from 35,000 to 40,000 to about 12,500, so we've degraded that organization. [We have a] kinetic ground war, where we have surrounded them with four different armies, our special forces and our day/night bombing of just about everything that looks bigger than a pile of rocks. But ISIS can inspire a mentally deranged person in the United States or a guy who's having a psycho-sexual crisis like the guy in Orlando, to act out and kill people in the United States and then equate that act of terrorism in the United States as a failure of the tens of thousands of 2,000-pound laser-guided bombs where we are literally vaporizing that group. They're terrorists. Their job is to terrorize in any capacity. And we terrorize ourselves. Emergency managers are the one class of people that have to ground themselves in hard facts about who the enemy is. They have to get rid of the political jargon of radical Islam and things like that.

There should be a recognition of threat capacity, then response based on the best capacity of your organization and its inherent skills and training. That could have been a runaway truck. A runaway truck goes over a cliff, falls into a baseball stadium and crushes everybody in the stands. You don't know. You deal with the situation at hand. All of this requires you to have good intelligence, and that means intelligence that's detached from the political noise that is out there.

**Do Americans misunderstand this fight?**

First off the terms that people are using — "radical Islam," "Sharia Law" — we are not fighting Islam. If that's the case, why did we go to Afghanistan and put in an America-friendly government and



get rid of the brutal Taliban? Why did we lose 2,600 soldiers there?

We lost 4,493 American soldiers in Iraq. If you believe that we're at war with Islam, then you believe that those wars were worthless and that we should leave there and leave the Muslim worlds to ISIS and al-Qaida.

**Let's discuss information sharing. There has been criticism of the FBI after the Boston bombings and the Orlando shootings that information wasn't shared with locals.**

I'm here in New York state and just in the last eight months I've done six conferences. I saw every joint terrorism task force in the state, including the SWAT, dog handling teams and

all the maritime teams here, and they have pushed the joint terrorism task force link down to the precinct liaison level. There is a terrorism liaison officer in every law enforcement and emergency management jurisdiction in the state.

When I did the liaison officer's program a few months ago, it was all fire and emergency managers and they got the exact same information the SWAT guys got except how to kick that door down. They got the same intelligence, and that's what we need to do nationally. Every state should be creating an intelligence liaison organization where information gets pushed down to the street level.

## Lessons from the Fifteen-Year Counterterrorism Campaign

By Andrew Liepman and Philip Mudd

CTC SENTINEL (Oct 2016)

Source: [https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CTC-SENTINEL\\_Vol9Iss1012.pdf](https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CTC-SENTINEL_Vol9Iss1012.pdf)

For the past 15 years since 9/11, fighting terrorism has been one of the United States' top priorities. The low number of casualties from terrorism in the United States indicate that intelligence and law enforcement agencies have performed well—preempting attacks, killing terrorists, working with partners overseas, and reducing the threat more comprehensively than any observer would have judged likely after 9/11. But the United States still suffers from a hysteria about terrorism, fueled partly by a distorted national dialogue on issues such as the extent of the threat; steps the country should take in areas as disparate as migration and cyberspace; and how the country should deal with youth who choose a potentially violent path.

.....

### Returning Fighters

The numbers of Western youth who have traveled to Syria to join the Islamic State dwarfs previous waves of volunteers for al-Qa`ida or al-Shabaab, but warnings about a long-term ripple effect of attacks in the United States are exaggerated. Yes, we must keep track of this group of potential terrorists, but compared to many other countries, from Jordan and Tunisia to France, Belgium, and the U.K., the United States has a manageable task. Some returnees may plot and execute attacks, but the relatively modest impact of immigrants and returning fighters in the United States today suggests that the level of violence from these groups will result in **episodic tragedies**, not national security catastrophes.

*Andrew Liepman is a senior researcher at the RAND Corporation. He retired after more than 30 years at the Central Intelligence Agency, having served in senior positions in the offices covering Iraq, the Middle East, and Weapons Intelligence. For the last six years of his career, he headed the analytic arm of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and served as the Center's deputy director until 2012.*

*Philip Mudd served as Deputy Director of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center and a senior intelligence adviser at the FBI. He now speaks, teaches, and writes about terrorism and analysis, and he appears frequently as CNN's counterterrorism analyst.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** "Episodic tragedies" – OK, then no problem if they come back! Really???



## Terrorist and Organized Criminal Search Data Base

Source: <http://www.tocsearch.com/index.php?action=about>



The TOC-search (Terrorist and Organized Criminal Search) is a dynamic data base which offers comprehensive information on global terrorist network and help researchers, analysts, students and others working to prevent terrorism. It is result of a common project realized by the [Faculty of Security Studies](#) and [Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade](#), which had started in December 2007.

**The scope of the TOC-search data base is to provide in-depth research and analysis on terrorist incidents, terrorist groups, organizations, their members, leaders and also links and relations between the individuals and groups.** The idea is to integrate data from variety of sources, including foreign and domestic news, professional security journals, reports and databases, academic works.

The starting point in the TOC-search project was the data presented on the map Al-Qaeda Network: Principals, Supporters, Selected Cells and Significant Activities (1992-2004). The map was prepared by J. L. Boesen, Raytheon Genesis Facility Institute Reston (2004), using the data derived from open sources. The data presented in the map were classified and stored in order to create backbone of the base. The data in the base are classified in seven entities: individuals, groups, organizations, supporter, actions, links and GMC reports. The simple and advanced search features are implemented in the TOC-s. The simple search enables the researcher to explore the chosen entity by given keyword or part of an entity name. The advances search feature is implemented for each entity. It is performed by using different properties: alias, belongs to organization, belongs to group, leader, religion, in relation with, type or actors of the attack, etc. All search results are presented together with the basic information on the found subjects, enabling in-depth search to be performed as well. An important feature of the TOCs is the fact that links between the mentioned terrorist-related categories are stored and classified in

the data base. The results of both simple and advance search provide information whether there is a link (active or inactive) from a particular item. The in-depth search feature gives more information on the found link. This is a unique feature of the TOC-s which no other terrorist database has had up to this point.

**One of the key advantages of the TOC-s is the fact that its basic data source is verified information from the reports prepared and provided by George C Marshall European Center for Security Studies** <http://www.marshallcenter.org>. The PTSS

Reports are produced by special newsletter service supporting the counterterrorism course at The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, and it is created for educational purposes only. The newsletter is produced from the open-source media reports by GMC postgraduate students and verified by senior experts and counter terrorism officers. This is the main reason why PTSS has been chosen as the main data source for TOC-s. Besides PTSS Reports, GMC also publishes several other reports based on different open source data, such as: Department of Homeland Security Report (DHS), Terrorism Open Source Intelligence Report (TOSIR), Insurgency Literature Review (ILR) and Terrorism Literature Report (TLR).

The incoming reports are sorted and stored by date in GMC section of the TOC-s database. The George Marshall Center provided us with their GMC reports archive and they keep sending us the daily PTSS and other GMC reports. In this way, a constant refreshment of the base with up-to-date information has been provided. The TOC-s simple search feature through GMC reports is implemented, which enables the exploration of GMC section by using keywords.

**At each moment of using TOC-s, one can immediately start a new search or switch to advanced search tool.** While exploring the data base, a researcher usually performs multiple search. In order to help the user of the TOC-s, we have implemented the "select tool". This tool enables the user to put



all the important results obtained from different search. In this way, all the data that are essential in the research are available during the further TOC-s exploration. The data in the "selection" tool are easily added or removed. By using option "Feedback" the user may send a message on TOC-s administrator on different topics (site bugs, error data, comments, suggestions, etc. )

The information in the TOC-s database has been constantly updated from the GMC reports and other publicly available, open-source materials. These include electronic news archives, existing data sets, secondary source materials such as books and journals, and legal documents. TOCs team performs constant verification of the data by comparing it with other sources and by internal checking of the data and related records.

It is also important to provide the protection of data stored in the base. In this scope, two levels of data access are implemented in the TOC-s. The first level is named "blue key" and it is available for students and researchers in academic institutions and research centers. The "blue key" enables the access to all open-source data stored in the base. The second level of data access, named "red key" is reserved for legal authorities, state institutions, and state government. The "red key" opens the part of the TOC-s with confidential data. The owner of the "red key" also has access to the open source data, as the "blue key" owner. Only state institutions and agencies which have a contract with TOC-s have an access to the red key data and they are red key members.

**In the next phase of the TOC-s project, several analytical features are to be incorporated in the database.** Analytical tools will provide statistical information analysis of the global terrorist network. The researcher will be able to analyze terrorism trends over time and to compare different aspects of terrorism

between countries, regions and terrorist groups (for example: type of terrorist attacks, level of organization, tactics, communication level, size of a terrorist group, age or race of its members, and many others). The results of statistical analysis will be presented graphically in various charts, showing the dependencies and/or the comparisons of the chosen aspects. The chart type can also be chosen by the user.

An analytical-purpose system will be used to understand the structure of different terrorist organizations with respect to particular attack types or regions of their activity. By using this system, the intelligence analysts will be able to develop hypotheses and then validate them (or not) against the data in the TOC-s information space. In this way, it will be possible to provide certain predictions of international terrorism trends, seasonality, and periodicity of terrorist events.

**In the future phase of the TOC-search project, we also plan to implement the image search feature. This tool will enable to search the image data base for related photographs of individuals or terrorist attacks by using keywords (individual's name, group/organization name, or the part of the name, specific terrorist incident, date, etc.).**

Regarding the practical aspects of the TOC-s database, we emphasize the fact that the TOC-s data were primarily collected by academic groups. This means that TOC-s team was under no political or government pressure in terms of how to collect the data or how to classify them. Although the TOC-s is still in its construction phase, it has already been used in the purpose of Security of the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008, and it is currently being used in the purpose of Security of the World Championship in Football 2010 and World Expo in China 2010.

#### Who can access TOC-s database?

**There are two levels of data access are implemented in the TOC-s.** The **first level** is named "blue key" and it is available for students and researches in academic institutions and research centers. The "blue key" enables the access to all open-source data stored in the base. The **second level** of data access, named "red key" is reserved for legal authorities, state institutions and state government. The "red key" opens the part of the TOC-s with confident data. The owner of the "red key" also has access to the open source data, as the "blue key" owner. Only institutions and agencies which have a contract with TOC-search have an access to the red key data and they are red key members. If you want to become a red key member please contact us.



## Why it's not all about security as West beefs up military in Africa's Sahel

By Keith Somerville

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161102-why-it-s-not-all-about-security-as-west-beefs-up-military-in-africa-s-sahel>

Nov 02 – Over the past few weeks the United States and France have pledged considerable extra funds to strengthening their military presence in Africa's Sahel region – a narrow, arid band of land stretching across the continent from west to east just south of the Sahara desert. This has been



prompted by growing Western fears of destabilization. There has been concern that Islamist groups were [establishing](#) themselves in the vast spaces between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea.

Washington and Paris have promised to help bolster the security of allied governments from Mali in the west to Djibouti in the east. Most of these countries have [porous borders](#) and suffer internal security problems or conflicts.

[Mali](#), for example, has endured a long-running civil war fueled by the return of armed fighters from Libya after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. These fighters launched a separatist struggle that was quickly hijacked by Islamist movements like Ansar Dine and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Niger on the other hand has become embroiled, along with Cameroon and Chad, in Nigeria's [war against the Boko Haram](#) terrorist group. Other conflicts continue in the [Central African Republic](#), [South Sudan](#), and [Darfur](#) in [Sudan](#).

France has had a considerable military role in West and Central Africa, long after it's colonial role ended in the early 1960s. Its military seeks to protect friendly governments and to defend longstanding French economic interests. These interests include particularly Niger's uranium.

The United States, in a less overt manner, has a surprisingly widespread military presence in Africa. This has [increased](#) in recent years with growing instability in the Sahel region. America is now taking a more overt approach with more basing facilities as well as surveillance and training missions. This includes supporting friendly states and establishing a stronger combat-capable presence.

But Western interest in the Sahel region is not merely about security. It has also been [linked by some](#) to the West's desire to protect vital natural resources such as oil, gas, and uranium. The geographer and Africa specialist, Pdraig Carmody, has called this a [new scramble for Africa](#).

### Global chessboard of the twenty-first century

The arid, desert or semi-desert belt across the Sahel has been described as "a [key territory](#) on the global chessboard of the twenty-first century." It is not just the security that is at stake but also the natural resource value of the region to the West, China, and Japan.

Algeria has major oil and gas resources, Niger supplies uranium for France's nuclear programs and Chad is now an oil producer.

There are believed to be [untapped](#) oil and gas fields in Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

Former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria and South Africa and special envoy to Sudan, Princeton Lyman, has pointed out that the West and China are [competing fiercely](#) for access to Africa's mineral resources and for both political influence and commercial advantage.

It comes as no surprise that both China and Japan have recently



increased their naval presence in the Horn of Africa. The naval facilities being established in Djibouti are ostensibly to combat piracy along the Indian Ocean littoral. But they have clear elements of a [scramble](#) for a major presence in Africa, at a time of competition over access to Africa's mineral resources.

As the *Washington Post* has pointedly observed, U.S. growing presence and role in Niger covering what has previously been seen as mainly a French area of interest and influence is a [significant](#) strategic move.

#### Gaddafi aftershocks still being felt

The United States is also spending a [considerable sum](#) on developing a military base at Agadez in central Niger. From here drones could be launched for surveillance or combat missions across the Sahel and as far north as Libya.

The base would add to the existing U.S. presence in Niger. It already shares facilities in the capital Niamey with French forces engaged in [Operations Barkhane](#) against Islamist insurgent groups in Mali. It also provides intelligence on Boko Haram militants in northern Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and northern Cameroon to the governments of those states. Prof. Tony Chafer of Portsmouth University has [pointed out](#) that the heightened Western fear for stability and strategic resources in North and West Africa has led to unprecedented U.S.-French cooperation. The two are working together in combating perceived enemies in the region and cooperating to strengthen the military capabilities of countries like Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Mali.

The cooperation has developed gradually since the early 2000s. But the exodus of experienced and [well-armed fighters](#) from post-Gaddafi Libya into the region triggered a shock wave. French deployments have been bolstered with over 3,000 troops spread across the region.

They are engaged with Islamist groups in Mali and backing UN efforts to keep the peace between violent factions in the Central African Republic. The French government has said its presence will be [reduced to 300 troops](#) by the end of the year.

#### History of Western intervention

There is a history of Western security interventions in a region where rebel or Islamist groups are still active. The groups, such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), pose a serious security threat in a number of countries. The list of active groups also includes Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Ansar Dine, and Boko Haram. Up until now, U.S. military facilities in Africa have always fallen short of being U.S. bases. No country in Africa has been willing to host the U.S. military command for Africa, [Africom](#), and it has had to locate its HQ in Stuttgart in Germany.

But in 2015, the commander of Africom, General David Rodriguez, admitted that in addition to Djibouti, America had eleven ["cooperative security locations"](#) in sub-Saharan Africa. These had been upgraded in the years since 9/11. Yet this is not the full story. U.S. forces have access to more than sixty outposts of various sorts from secure warehouses for equipment to surveillance bases, fuel depots, training camps, and port facilities in thirty-four African states.

The pro-Western governments are willing to accept Western assistance. This is largely because of the huge territories they need to police and the small armies they are able to maintain. This is not to mention a paucity of advanced aircraft, drones, and other surveillance equipment. Mali, [for example](#), has only 7,500 military personnel, fifteen aircraft, and nine helicopters, but its land area is a massive 1,240,192 square kilometers.

*Keith Somerville is Visiting Professor, University of Kent.*

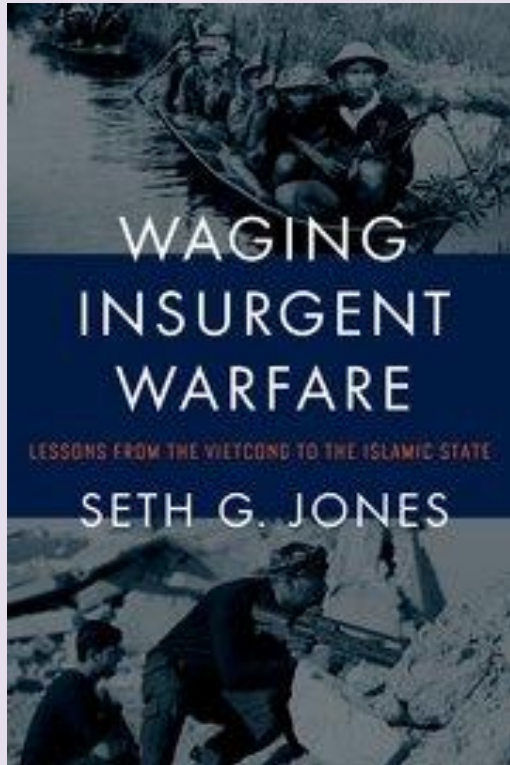
## Understanding insurgency warfare

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161102-understanding-insurgency-warfare>

Nov 02 – **A new [book](#) from terrorism expert Seth G. Jones of the RAND Corporation explores the history and details of 181 insurgencies since the end of the Second World War, providing lessons for those fighting insurgent campaigns today in such countries as Syria, Libya, and Iraq.**



RAND [says](#) that the book, [Waging Insurgent Warfare: Lessons from the Vietcong to the Islamic State](#), finds there has been a dramatic shift in the type of insurgencies over the past decade, with a significant increase in the



number of insurgencies involving extremist Islamic groups. The book also finds that insurgent groups are most likely to lose when they perpetrate large-scale brutality against civilians and fail to secure outside support from great powers.

"Based on the modern history of insurgent warfare, the Islamic State's consistent targeting of civilians is a major long-term vulnerability," Jones said. "It will lead to their demise. Virtually

no insurgent group that has used such ruthless tactics has won an insurgency, since it severely undermines local support.”

The United States should more aggressively conduct information campaigns that highlight the Islamic State's brutality and develop programs that encourage defections by disillusioned fighters, according to Jones. In addition, the history of insurgent warfare suggests that U.S. support should come from special operations and intelligence units, rather than conventional forces. These types of forces are better trained and prepared to work with local partners against the Islamic State.

The book describes how insurgencies have become alarmingly common in the twenty-first century. Over three dozen violent insurgencies are taking place today.

"Many policymakers don't realize that most insurgencies end on the battlefield, not at the negotiating table," Jones said. "Roughly three quarters of insurgencies ended with a battlefield victory by either the government or insurgents."

Jones explores data and current events, including examples in high-profile countries that are struggling with violent insurgencies, offering a comprehensive look at how insurgent groups function. It is critical that policymakers and those involved in counterinsurgency strategy deepen their understanding of the root causes and history of insurgencies successfully to combat them. Jones writes.

RAND notes that *Waging Insurgent Warfare* is one of the first books to look at insurgency rather than counterinsurgency, but the implications will be important for waging counterinsurgent warfare as well.

## Why do we keep asking victims of terrorism to reassure us?

**By Alyssa Rosenberg**

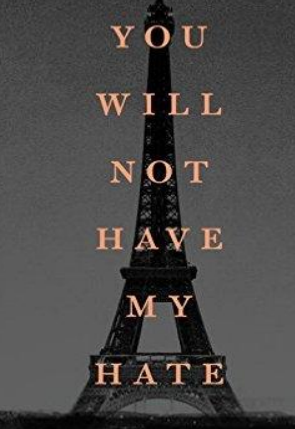
Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/act-four/wp/2016/10/31/why-do-we-keep-asking-victims-of-terrorism-to-reassure-us/?utm\\_term=.96ebd747a35e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/act-four/wp/2016/10/31/why-do-we-keep-asking-victims-of-terrorism-to-reassure-us/?utm_term=.96ebd747a35e)

Oct 31 –“**Having a culprit, someone to take the brunt of your anger, is an open door, a chance to temporarily escape your suffering,”** Antoine Leiris writes in his new **book, [“You Will Not Have My Hate.”](#)** “And the more odious the crime, the more ideal the culprit, the more legitimate your hatred. You think about him in order not to think about yourself. You hate him in order not to hate

what's left of your life. You rejoice at his death in order not to have to smile at those who remain."

Leiris has as good a reason as almost anyone to feel astonishing anger and to want someplace to aim it. His wife, Hélène Muiyal-Leiris, was murdered at the Bataclan theater in Paris last November during





YOU  
WILL  
NOT  
HAVE  
MY  
HATE

ANTOINE LEIRIS

And when he picks out clothes for her to be buried in, bitter regret mingles with a beautiful sensuality. "I wish she could stay naked. I wish I could slip into the coffin with her, both of us naked. And let them close the lid so we can finally warm each other up," Leiris writes. "On the bed, her clothes are placed as they will be when she is buried. As I spray them with perfume, I seem to see them rise up. On the lifeless fabric, little by little, her body appears. Her fragile shoulders, her legs, her hands, her buttocks, her breasts. She is there, all mine. I lie next to that invisible body. Her breath caresses my neck. She embraces me. Puts her hand on my face. Tells me that everything will be all right. This is the last

time we will be able to love each other.” Not only has Leiris refused to give Mual-Leiris's murderers the hatred and the violent overreach they hoped to provoke, but in “You Will Not Have My Hate” he also has refused to let her killers turn her into a mere corpse: She remains beautiful and desirable even in death. The idea of climbing into her grave isn't about self-abnegation; it's a shattering and sexual vision of returning her to life.

“You Will Not Have My Hate” feels vital and necessary not because it posits a right way for the victims of political crimes to respond in public, but because Leiris pushes aside what observers want from him and focuses on what he actually feels and experiences rather than packaging those emotions in a neat or effective way. Terrorists won't have his hate, but the rest of us will have to reckon with the contents of Leiris's heart.

*Alyssa Rosenberg blogs about pop culture for The Washington Post's Opinions section.*

## Hillary's ISIS Email Just Leaked & It's Worse Than Anyone Could Have Imagined

Source: <https://friendsofsyria.wordpress.com/2016/10/11/its-over-hillarys-isis-email-just-leaked-its-worse-than-anyone-could-have-imagined/>

Nov 03 – Hillary Clinton, Friend of the Syria people? Like the USA is friends of the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Yemen...?



**Today Wikileaks released what is, by far, the most devastating leak of the entire campaign. This makes Trump's dirty talk video looks like an episode of Barney and Friends.**

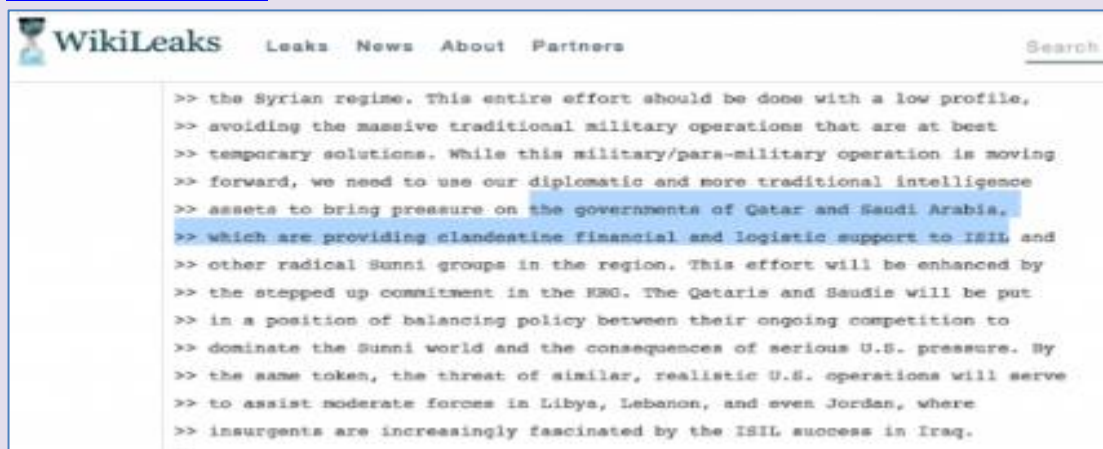
Even though when Trump called Hillary the 'founder' of ISIS he was telling the truth and 100% accurate, the media has never stopped ripping him apart over it.

Today the media is forced to eat their hats because the newest batch of leaked emails show Hillary, in her own words, admitting to doing just that, funding and running ISIS.

John Podesta, Hillary's campaign chair, who was also a counselor to President Obama at the time, was the recipient of the 2014 email which was released today.

Assange promised his latest batch of leaks would lead to the indictment of Hillary, and it looks like he was not kidding. The email proves Hillary knew and was complicit in the funding and arming of ISIS by our 'allies' Saudi Arabia and Qatar!

**“the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are providing clandestine financial and logistic support to ISIL...”** Clinton wrote



The media is yet to report on this, even though Wikileaks has a 10 year history of being 100% accurate in their leaks, never once releasing info that proved to be false. ...Can you guess why?



Maybe it has something to do with the fact that [The Saudi's brag about funding 20% of Hillary's Presidential campaign](#), and along with Qatar, are among the largest donors to the Clinton Foundation.



Is it any mystery now why ISIS has flourished under the Obama/Clinton administration? The United States has created armed and funded the terrorists overthrowing Syria via our Terrorist State allies. **When you know this it makes you look at the situation in Syria differently. Perhaps Russia and Iran are the ones fighting ISIS, it stands to reason once you know we are fighting Russia, and at the same time arming ISIS.**

Clinton's campaign and her Clinton Foundation are literally funded by the SAME PEOPLE who are funding ISIS and killing hundreds of thousands of innocents in the Middle East, and now, even here at home.

This is nothing short of treason. Hillary must be sent to trial and held accountable for crimes against humanity and treason against the United States of America.

We know the media will do all in their power to bury this story so it is up to us to use social media to make sure every voter in America knows this before they cast their vote for president on Nov 8th. You know what to do ...

## Terror threat to New Zealand revealed in security handbook

Source: [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11741460](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11741460)

Nov 04 – **New Zealand's top security systems were activated to deal with a serious domestic terrorism threat, it has emerged.**

Concrete evidence has emerged that there has been an actual attempt to carry out a terrorist attack on New Zealand soil.

The security services will release no details of how the plot was foiled or when it emerged, although the system which was activated to deal with it has only been in existence for two years.

**The existence of the threat came from the newly released [National Security System handbook](#). It stated the system - which triggers a special set of protocols - had been activated for a "threat of a domestic terrorist incident".**

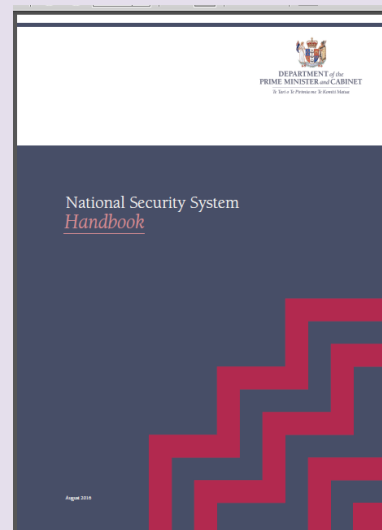
The National Security System is New Zealand's highest-level response to the most serious threats against our country. It is led by a committee chaired by the Prime Minister and brings together key officials from intelligence services, police, the military and other departments - depending on the threat - to co-ordinate a response.

It is activated in cases where there is a risk to "the security or safety of New Zealanders or people in New Zealand", our sovereignty, the economy and environment or "the effective functioning of the community".

No further information on the nature of the threat was forthcoming from Prime Minister John Key and NZ Security Intelligence Service director Rebecca Kitteridge. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, which co-ordinates responses, also would not supply details.

A spokesman for Key's office said: "As the Prime Minister has said, New Zealand is not immune from the threat of terrorism, although the threat to New Zealand remains low.

"Our intelligence agencies play an important role in identifying, monitoring and reacting to any domestic threats in order to keep New Zealanders safe, both at home and abroad.



"The Government has increased their resources to allow them to better carry out their duties as well as increased the level of transparency and oversight to ensure they are doing so appropriately."

The [newly released annual report](#) from the Inspector General of intelligence and Security, Cheryl Gwyn, said there had been one case of the NZSIS needing an urgent warrant for visual surveillance of a target or targets. She said it was the first time since a law change in late 2014 that the NZSIS had needed to urgently spy on someone without going through the usual formal process.

She said that the warrantless spying was followed up by a formal approach to get a warrant allowing the surveillance to continue.

**The urgency of the request showed the need for information trumped the legal process, meaning it could be linked to an imminent domestic terrorist attack.**

The handbook was released recently as a guide for the Prime Minister and officials who would likely be called on in the event of a significant threat to New Zealand.

It offered only one example of a reason for the activation of the National Security System, detailing how the 1080 terrorist threat was handled. The handbook says: "the threat "was considered to have the potential for significantly adverse consequences on consumer health, the economy and New Zealand's international reputation".

"The National Security System was immediately activated." The response to the threat was led by the Ministry for Primary Industries, because of its threat to the dairy industry, with police carrying out a criminal investigation. "The response included leadership by the Chief Executive DPMC and the Prime Minister."

Intelligence analyst Paul Buchanan said New Zealand's greatest vulnerability came from "self-radicalised computer jockeys" who became drawn to terrorism as a response to Isis-associated online campaigns. He said there was nothing which had been made public which would have led to a response as serious as the activation of the National Security System.

**However, he said serious threats could come from a single individual. "One person with knowledge of chemistry and bad intent can do great harm."**



## 20 Islamist infiltrators exposed in German army

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/365417-german-army-islamists-soldiers/#.WB3WpVvu97E.twitter>

Nov 05 – **The German military has uncovered dozens of soldiers with Islamist leanings that joined the army to receive rigorous training in weapons systems and tactics in hopes of using it for future terror attacks, both at home and abroad,** local media report.

Germany's Military Counterintelligence Service, MAD, has identified **20 active-duty soldiers as Islamists**, and **60 others were put on a surveillance list** for having extremist views, Die Welt reported on Saturday.

The agency said the Islamist infiltrators are particularly interested in advanced weapons and tactical training that could be useful when carrying out future attacks in Germany or abroad.

Recruitment offices across the country have reported "*individual inquiries from applicants who are eager to join the Bundeswehr [the German military] for only a few months and are explicitly interested in intensive weapons and equipment training,*" MAD noted.

During 'Grundausbildung,' Germany's army boot camp training, recruits are taught shooting



and marksmanship skills, map reading and topography, and the fundamentals of woodland and urban warfare, as well as how to give emergency aid.

While MAD did not elaborate on the situation, the figures highlight that this is now an issue, as Islamist groups are infiltrating one of Europe's most capable militaries.



Hans-Peter Bartels, a Social Democratic Party (SPD) MP responsible for oversight of the army, said in April that, while *"Islamism isn't the main problem of the Bundeswehr... it represents a real danger that we have to take seriously."*

**Plans to conduct comprehensive background checks on all applicants were announced in late August.** Currently, only service members that have already enlisted, including soldiers, officers, and non-commissioned officers, are vetted.

**The new screening process will begin from January of 2017,** the Defense Ministry said.

*"Currently, there are indications that Islamist circles are trying to insert the so-called short-time servicemen into the armed forces so that they can receive such training,"* the draft law accessed by DPA news agency says, according to Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

The proposal highlights the German government's efforts to prevent so-called *'green-on-blue attacks,'* otherwise known as insider attacks. As of now, recruits only need to present their police records and formally agree to comply with the German constitution to enlist.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This is not a problem only for *Bundeswehr*! It is an old problem for US Armed Forces and a problem that ALL armed forces might face and deal with. **Yesterday!**

## Who are Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels?

Source : <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-20971100>

Nov 05 – The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has been a thorn in Turkey's side for decades.

**The group, which has Marxist-Leninist roots, was formed in the late 1970s and launched an armed struggle against the Turkish government in 1984, calling for an independent Kurdish state within Turkey. Fighting flared up again after a two-year-old ceasefire ended in July 2015.**

Now the PKK is being targeted in a bigger Turkish security crackdown, following the botched July 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by mutinous Turkish officers.

The PKK's struggle is also part of the turmoil in Iraq and Syria, where Turkey is trying to assert its influence on a battlefield with many rival forces.

### What are the PKK's ambitions in Turkey?

In a BBC interview in April the PKK's military leader Cemil Bayik said "we don't want to separate from Turkey and set up a state".

"We want to live within the borders of Turkey on our own land freely... The struggle will continue until the Kurds' innate rights are accepted," he said.

Turkey continues to accuse the PKK of "trying to create a separate state in Turkey".

More than 40,000 people have died in the conflict. It reached a peak in the mid-1990s, when thousands of villages were destroyed in the largely Kurdish south-east and east of Turkey. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds fled to cities in other parts of the country.

In the 1990s, the PKK rolled back on its demands for an independent state, calling instead for more autonomy for the Kurds.

### Who are the Kurds?

The spotlight is now on Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition party, People's Democracy (HDP), whose joint leaders Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdag were arrested early on 4 November.

The Turkish government said they had failed to appear for questioning about alleged links to the PKK - which they deny. Turkey accuses them of spreading PKK propaganda. Ten other MPs were also arrested.

Acting with emergency powers, introduced after the coup attempt, the Turkish authorities have also detained the joint mayors of Diyarbakir, a mainly Kurdish city. The Kurds' main media outlets have also been shut down.

The HDP, the main pro-Kurdish party, is a broad coalition of groups including liberal and left-wing ethnic Turks. The party denies Turkey's claim that it is allied to the PKK.

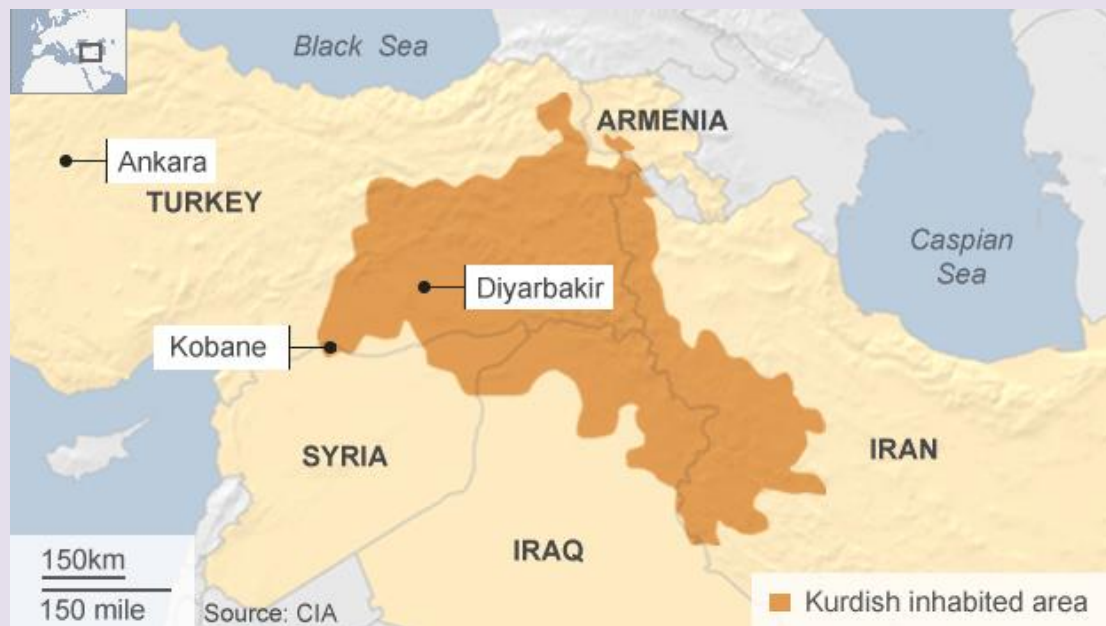


It entered parliament for the first time last year, winning 59 seats, making it the second-biggest opposition party.

### What is happening in the Turkey-PKK conflict?

Hours after the HDP politicians were arrested, a car bomb went off outside a police station in Diyarbakir. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said it had killed eight people, including two policemen - and he blamed the PKK.

The Turkish air force regularly carries out air strikes against PKK bases in mountainous northern Iraq. The Turkish government has ruled out any negotiations until the group completely disarms.



There have been many PKK attacks on Turkish security forces in the south-east.

In August 2016 a PKK car bomb in Cizre killed 11 policemen and injured 78. Hundreds of people have died in more than a year of clashes in Turkey's Kurdish-majority region.

**The PKK is listed as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the EU and US.**

Human rights groups say many civilians have died during Turkey's anti-PKK offensive in the south-east. Turkey has imposed curfews and used heavy armour in urban areas in its fight with the rebels.

### What about the fighting in Iraq and Syria?

Turkey has twin concerns about the Iraqi-Kurdish push to oust so-called Islamic State (IS) from Mosul. President Erdogan's AK Party, strongly rooted in Sunni Islam, does not want Iraqi Shia forces to spread their influence up to Turkey's borders and beyond.

Nor does Turkey want the armed Kurdish groups to join up along its borders, bolstering the PKK cause. Turkey retains an army base at Bashiqa, not far from Mosul, and has trained a local militia force - the Ninevah Guards - consisting of Sunni Arabs, Turkmens and Kurds.

In war-torn Syria, Turkey views the Popular Protection Units (YPG) - a Kurdish force fighting IS - as linked to the PKK.

**Turkey is allied to the US in Nato - but the US also supports the YPG in its anti-IS struggle.**

### Turkey v Syria's Kurds v Islamic State

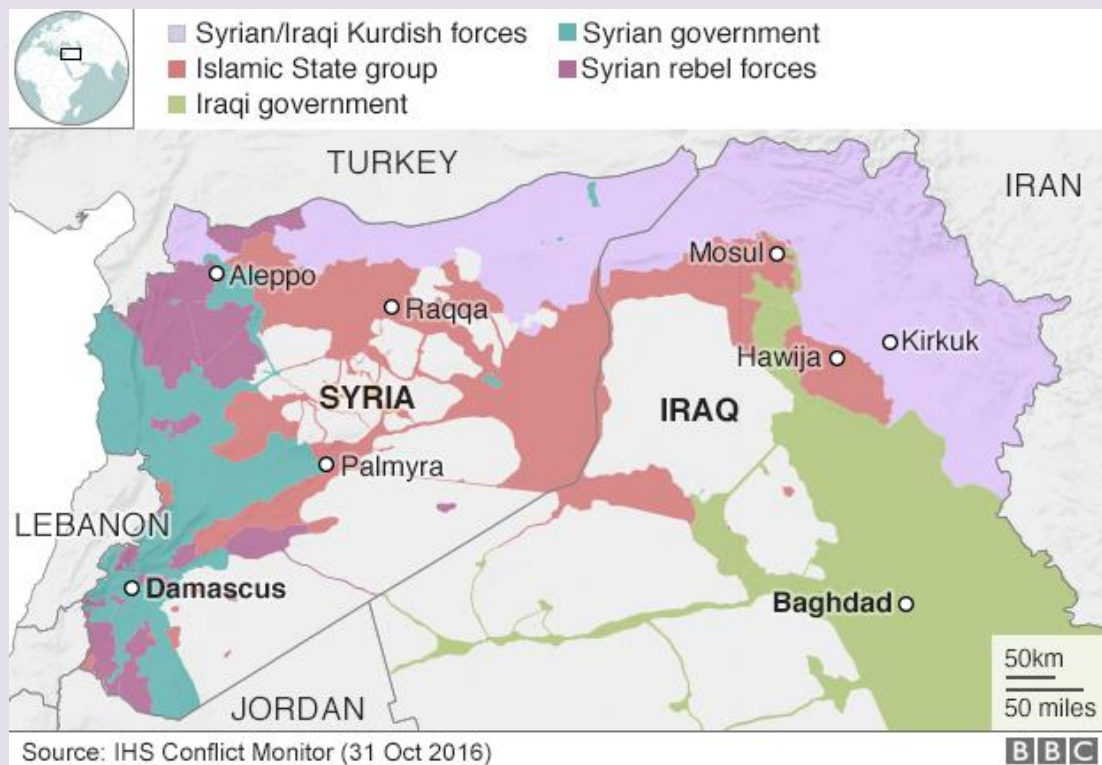
In July 2015, a suicide bombing blamed on IS killed 32 people in the mainly Kurdish town of Suruc, just inside Turkey, near war-ravaged Kobane in Syria.

Kurdish groups accused the Turkish government of not doing enough to thwart IS operations.

A Turkish military operation in August-September 2016, in support of allied Syrian rebels, ousted IS from border towns.



## CBRNE-TERRORISM NEWSLETTER – November 2016

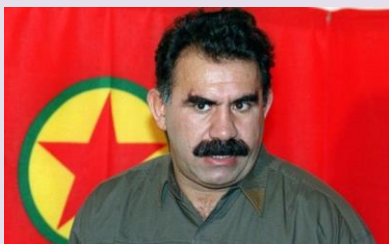
**Are there any peace initiatives?**

**The PKK suffered a major blow in 1999 when its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, was arrested and jailed for treason.** In March 2013, he called a ceasefire and urged PKK forces to withdraw from Turkey. But that ceasefire broke down in July 2015.

**PKK leader holds key to Turkish-Kurdish peace**

It was not the first time a truce had been declared.

Shortly after Ocalan's arrest, the PKK introduced a five-year unilateral ceasefire and tried to change its image and widen its appeal.



It called for a role in Turkey's politics, more cultural rights for the country's estimated 15 million Kurds and the release of imprisoned PKK members.

Turkey refused to negotiate with it and offered only a limited amnesty to its members.

Between 2009 and 2011, high-level secret talks took place between the PKK and the Turkish government in Oslo, Norway,

but they collapsed after a clash in June 2011, in which 14 Turkish soldiers were killed.

**Al Qaeda terror plot 'targets US election day'**

Source: <http://news.sky.com/story/al-qaeda-terror-plot-targets-us-election-day-10644520>

Nov 04 – Intelligence officials have warned al Qaeda could be planning terror attacks in several states around the US Presidential election.

The FBI and the New York Police Department said they are taking the threat seriously and are assessing the credibility of a possible attack on the eve of Election Day.

Officials said counter-terrorism investigators are reviewing the information that the militant group is planning to strike in New York, Texas and Virginia, although there have been no specific locations mentioned.

It is not immediately clear how the intelligence came to the attention of investigators, and in a statement, an NYPD spokesman said the information "lacks specificity".



New York officials confirmed they have been made aware of a potential threat. Steve Coleman said the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates airports, tunnels and bridges around New York City had been alerted.

"We are continuing with the high level of patrols at all of our facilities that we have had in place for some time now," he said. He declined to offer specifics of the warning.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** We have to wait until tomorrow (Monday Nov 07, 2016) to see what will happen!

**UPDATE:** Nothing happened!

## Expert: Attack on ship carrying LNG from Qatar was 'likely terrorism'

Source: <http://dohanews.co/expert-attack-on-ship-carrying-lng-from-qatar-was-likely-terrorism/>

Nov 06 – A recent attack on a ship carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar was likely an act of terrorism, not piracy, a marine security expert has told *Doha News*.

And though Qatar wasn't the target, it could lose business if such attacks continue, the analyst added.

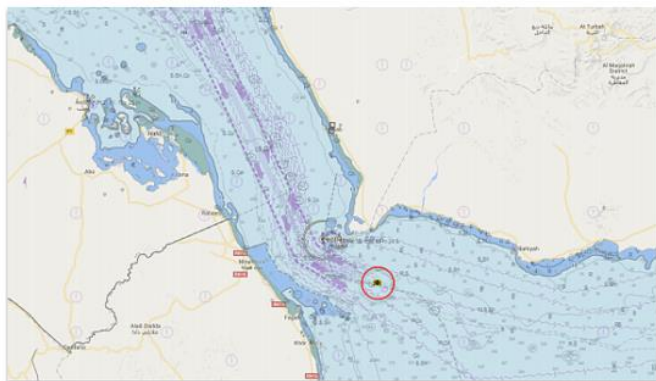
The Galicia Spirit, a Spanish-registered LNG tanker, was approached by a small boat off the coast of

### NYA Maritime Security Alert

#### Detail

Date	25OCT2016	Location	8NM off Perim Island, Yemen
Type of incidents	ATTACK	Lat. / Long.	12:32.6N – 043:32.8E

#### Map



Yemen on Oct. 25.

Following an investigation, it was **determined** this week that the small boat was carrying a "substantial amount of explosives," enough to cause significant damage to the Galicia, owner Teekay said.

*"It appears, however, that when the skiff was approximately 20 meters from the vessel, the explosives detonated, destroying the skiff and ending*

*the attack," it added.*

None of the crew onboard the Galicia were injured, and the vessel continued its journey without further incident, maritime security broker Asket **said**.

The Galicia was escorted away from the area by a navy ship from nearby Djibouti, AFP **reported**, citing a statement from **Teekay**.

Latest position (Nov 08, 2016)

### 'Not piracy'

According to Asket's managing director, the Galicia was likely not targeted because its LNG came from Qatar.



This was probably a coincidence, as the Gulf country is the world's largest LNG producer, John Harris told *Doha News*. However, he added "it is quite likely that the attack was not piracy motivated, but terrorist or paramilitary." Harris continued:

*"Prestigious targets such as an LNG Carrier are generally out of the reach of pirates due to the speed and general structure of the vessel. Also, the cargo is too complicated to store for long periods as it needs fuel to remain cool, and so ransom negotiations which can go on for many months, would be cost prohibitive for the pirates."*

**He added that a "catastrophic explosion" is unlikely due to the extensive safety features of LNG carriers. But an attack that damaged or destroyed one of these ships would be "spectacular, sending shock waves across the world."**

### Losing business

And if such attacks become frequent, LNG vessels could be rerouted to avoid the Gulf of Aden and transit around Africa instead of using the Suez Canal.

This would mean that deliveries to Europe would take longer, cost more in fuel, and require more vessels to keep up supply.

It might also mean that countries could seek out new suppliers, potentially reducing Qatar's exports, Harris added.

"Qatar and other nations will likely be looking at how to counter the threat or remove it by increasing patrols, and may be looking at vessels being protected in convoy or individually," he told *Doha News*.

## CHARLIE ONE

**The True Story of an Irishman in the British Army and His Role in Covert Counter-Terrorism Operations in Northern Ireland**

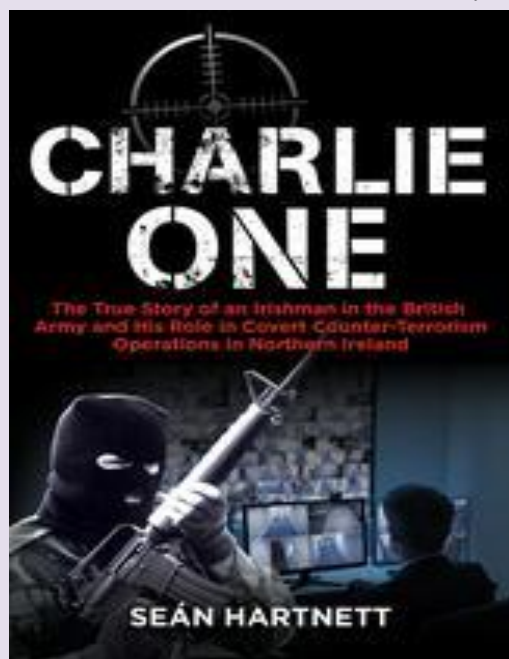
*Publication Date: 10/21/2016*

*ISBN: 9781785370854*

**By Sean Hartnett**

Source: <http://www.isbs.com/products/9781785370854>

'Charlie One,' the call sign for the most wanted targets of British Intelligence operations in Northern Ireland, documents the true story of



an Irish Republican serving in Britain's most

secretive counter-terrorism unit. Sean Hartnett grew up in Cork in the 1970s where he observed the worst of the northern Troubles with fascination. Despite his family's strong republican ties and his own attempt to join the IRA, Hartnett shocked family and friends when he changed allegiance and joined the British Armed Forces. In 2001, Hartnett returned to his native Ireland but this time as a member of the British Army's covert counter-terrorist unit, the Joint Communications Unit Northern Ireland (JCU-NI) or simply 'The Det.' For the next three years, Hartnett was directly involved in some of the highest profile events of that period: the arrest of John Hannan for the bombing of the BBC in London, the tragic murder of David Caldwell, the prevention of the murder of Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair, and some of the biggest blunders by British Intelligence in the history of the Troubles. Filled with a roller coaster of emotions and explosive revelations about British Intelligence covert capabilities and operations, *Charlie One*



provides a truly unique, detailed, and unbiased account of the secret war fought on the streets of Northern Ireland. [Subject: British Military

History, Espionage, Memoir, Irish Studies, Politics]

## New security measures at Brussels metro stations

Source: <http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/News/1.2807998>

Oct 31 – **Next year concrete posts will be installed at the entrance of all metro stations across the Brussels region. The measure is intended to stop vehicles from driving down into metro stations and ending up on the rails as happened last New Year's Eve.**



**Last year on New Year's Eve revellers pushed a car down the rails and into the Clemenceau metro station. The incident caused significant disruption.**



Guy Sablon, spokesman for the Brussels local transport company MIVB, told VRT News that all entrances that can be accessed by car will be equipped with concrete posts. The number of poles will depend on the width of the entrance: "It's a simple measure that will have immediate impact."

"Entrances with stairs and a 90° gradient will be skipped as will other small or low entrances that cannot be accessed by a motor vehicle."

**The MIVB says the measure is a general security precaution unlinked to the terrorist threat.** At present concrete posts can already be admired at the Delacroix, Central Station and Park stations.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** What a stupid MVB excuse! Perhaps they can tell us how many cars reached the rails in the last decade??? Just another organization afraid to say the word "terrorism"...

## Historic terror recruitment trial begins in Norway

Source: <http://www.thelocal.no/20161103/historic-terror-recruitment-trial-begins-in-norway>

Nov 03 – **Ubaydullah Hussain, an Islamist who has had numerous run-ins with the law, is the first person in Norwegian history to stand trial for recruiting terrorists.**

The 31-year-old denied the charges against him as his trial got underway in Oslo on Thursday.

Hussain is accused of recruiting terrorist and helping foreign fighters by providing both equipment and advice.

Also standing trial is a 19-year-old Norwegian Muslim convert who was arrested in Sweden last year after allegedly being assisted by Hussain.

With the exception of one point in the indictment regarding the possession of a stun gun, both defendants plead guilty on Thursday on all points.



Hussain turned up in Oslo District Court in light checkered shirt, closely-cropped hair and a newly-shaved face. Neither he nor the 19-year-old have agreed to allow photographers into the trial.

The trial is being held under extensive security measures.

Hussain, the founder and highly prolific spokesman for the militant Islamist group Prophet's Ummah, was first arrested along with documentary filmmaker Ulrik Imtiaz Rølfesen when they followed Hussain's now 19-year-old co-defendant to Landvetter Airport in Gothenburg last summer.

According to the Norwegian Police Security Service (Politiets Sikkerhetstjeneste - PST), Hussain was helping the man join the terror group Isis in Syria.

Hussain is believed to have made travel arrangements for his co-defendant and at least one other person who either successfully joined or attempted to join Isis in Syria.

Hussain's role allegedly entailed advice on the itinerary, the procurement of proper equipment and the full or partial purchase of travel tickets, as well as the passing on of contact information for Isis-associated individuals.

## Islamic State-Linked Magazine Urges 'Lone-Wolf' Attacks in West to Avenge Mosul

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2016/11/01/islamic-state-linked-magazine-urges-lone-wolf-attacks-west-avenge-mosul/>

An Islamic State (ISIS)-linked propaganda magazine, published in English, Arabic, and French by the Nashir Media Foundation, is urging jihadists in Europe and the United



States to carry out deadly "lone-wolf" attacks to avenge the terrorist group's losses in Mosul.

In the second issue of the magazine, titled **Nashir – Now Fight Has Come**, the writers remind Muslims across the globe of the "privilege" they have residing "among our

enemies who live peacefully in their countries," notes the Foreign Desk (FD).

"Every soldier fights on the Caliphate land [in Iraq and Syria] wishes to be in your place. We can cut the tail of the snake but it will sooner grow again. But you have its head," adds the magazine.

"Brave Mosul is bleeding. You should stop its bleeding by carrying out exhaustion operations of the Enemy's power and blood ... cut their heads by your knives, let us hear your guns blasting their heads," it also states, according to FD.

A U.S.-backed force of at least 30,000 Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Sunni tribesmen, Shiite militiamen, many backed by Iran, Kurdish Peshmerga troops, and Christian fighters is [advancing towards Mosul](#) in a push to liberate the city from ISIS.

An estimated 5,000 ISIS jihadists are believed to be defending the city, using thousands of civilians as human shields as the U.S.-backed force inches closer to Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and the terrorist group's last major stronghold in the country.

An article in the **Nashir** magazine titled **"O thee whom Al – Adnani called thee wolves"** echoes previous calls to war by former ISIS commander and chief propagandist [Abu Muhammad al-Adnani](#), stressing the importance of local jihad and urging jihadists that "if the tyrants have shut the doors of hijra [immigration to ISIS territories] in



your face, then open the gate of jihad in their faces and make them regret their action.”

“Jihadists are persuaded not to wait to see the outcome of the battle for Mosul, but rather launch attacks on coalition countries by any means possible,” reports FD.

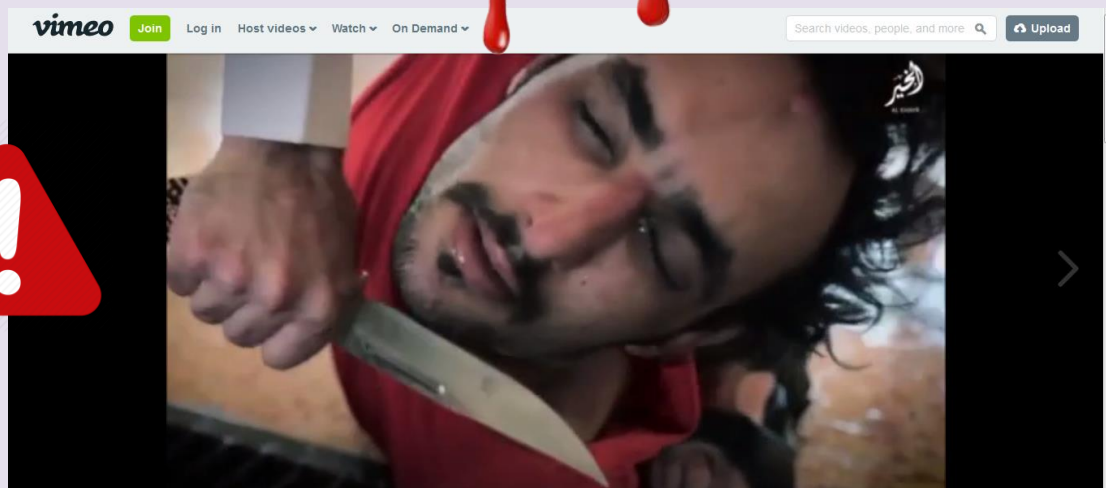
**Although Adnani was killed in a U.S.-led coalition airstrike back in August, his propaganda message has outlived him and is still used to motivate jihadists to carry out attacks in the West.**

“Several affiliations of the pro-ISIS Nashir Media Foundation such as the Nashir Political Service, have become active online in recent months, particularly on the encrypted messenger app Telegram,” notes the Foreign Desk.

“New private channels appear almost daily, quickly mushrooming to hundreds if not thousands of followers before being deleted by Telegram staff.”

## Jihadiast slaughter house

Source: <https://vimeo.com/190374279>



**EDITOR'S WARNING!** This is perhaps the cruelest video I have ever seen in my life...

## Who's Who in Mosul: A guide to the most important battle in the fight against ISIS

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161108-who-s-who-in-mosul-a-guide-to-the-most-important-battle-in-the-fight-against-isis>

Nov 08 – On 17 October, the Iraqi government officially declared its plans to liberate Mosul from the Islamic State, more than two years after the city was captured. Unfortunately, winning will require cooperation many different parties. The Shiite government of Iraq, as well as the country's Shiite militias, both want to be involved in the recapture of Mosul. So do Sunni actors, which include Iraqi tribes, Turkey, and the Kurds. And then there are the forces of the Yazidis and Christians.

The **Iraqi national army** is under great pressure to succeed in Mosul, as failing would weaken the national government and strengthen the militias. The government has gathered over [50,000 troops](#) for the battle. An effective attack in Mosul, using the minimum



number of Shiite militiamen, would mean less dependence on Iran, because the militias essentially function as Iranian proxies on the ground.

The militias are collectively called the [Popular Mobilization Forces](#) (PMFs), and comprise about [100,000 fighters](#) in total, although only [14,000](#) or so are taking part in the Mosul attack. The PMFs are largely Islamists who want to establish a Shiite theocratic regime in Iraq. They view the Iraqi forces as weak and unable to protect the country, and would like to have a similar role in a future Iraq as the Iranian Revolutionary Guards have in Iran.

The **Sunni Arab tribes** view the PMFs as a threat to their people, with an intent to further deepen sectarian divides by brutally enforcing [Shiite domination](#) of Iraq. Although the Shiites are the majority in Iraq, the [Sunnis](#) are predominant in the north and west of the country, which includes Mosul.

The Turks have also insisted on participating in the fight for Mosul — Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has sent [2,000 troops](#) into the area, and have rejected Baghdad's demand that they withdraw.

**Turkey** considers Mosul as part of its own territory, dating back to the Ottoman Empire. The Ottomans [lost Mosul](#) in 1926 with the League of Nations granting the rights to the British Mandate in exchange for economic concessions. The Turks also want to be the regional protector of Sunni interests.

The PMF have vowed to ignite a sectarian war if Turkey does not withdraw. "The invaders have not been welcomed by the Iraqi government," PMF spokesperson Yousif al-Kilabi [warned](#). "Therefore, if they insist on staying in Iraq we will treat them as enemies. We fight them the same way we fight ISIS." Furthermore, the [Badr Organization](#) — one of the more prominent PMFs — stated that they "advise Erdogan to come to his senses and withdraw his soldiers before we send them back home in boxes."

The Turks also have another concern regarding Mosul — the involvement of the Turkish Kurds.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the Kurdish armed group that Turkey and Western allies consider a terrorist organization, has more than 5,000 fighters and [clearly aims](#) to be part of the Mosul liberation process. This is demonstrated by the [Sinjar Resistance Unit](#), a PKK creation consisting mainly of Yazidi fighters. Its military commander, Haval Mazloum, has declared that "it is already decided that we would participate in liberating Mosul." It is highly unlikely that the PKK will play a significant role in the battle, but their objective is more [symbolic](#). The PKK's ultimate goal is to be recognized as a force on the ground, legitimizing its efforts and presence with the international community. This plan is working. The Iraqi government has welcomed the PKK, and even went so far as pushing for representative offices to be opened in the country.

Meanwhile, the Turks are allied with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), a semi-autonomous government in northern Iraq led by President Massoud Barzani. Barzani [supports](#) the Turkish intervention as insurance against the PMF trying to seize upon the Mosul campaign to push the KRG from the area. There are about [40,000 KRG Peshmerga fighters](#) involved in the campaign. As Barzani's son Masrour [explained](#) to Sky News, "We are not extending the territories; we're just regaining what was originally ours. All the areas the Peshmerga are controlling we believe is part of Kurdistan and there's no reason for the Peshmerga to leave those areas."

The **Kurdish Peshmerga forces** have so far liberated roughly thirty villages around Mosul. It is unlikely that Kurds will be willing to have sacrificed their Peshmerga forces without gaining anything permanent in return. Since the KRG is taking the lead in this operation, they will expect to take the lead in administering Mosul after the fall of ISIS — though splits between the KRG's political parties may create further complications.

Finally, there are the **Iraqi Christians**, who plan to play a significant role in the battle for Mosul. The Christians, along with the Yazidis, were victims of ISIS, which forced hundreds of thousands of religious minorities to flee in 2014. Now, an estimated 1,500 Christian fighters, including the [Babylon Brigade](#), are ready to take arms against ISIS.

To take back Mosul, all of these forces will have to coordinate and cooperate. Based on their diverse, and sometimes conflicting interests, this may get complicated. The stakes are high, both for the future of Iraq, and for the international community.

*[Diliman Abdulkader](#) is a Research Associate at the [Endowment for Middle East Truth](#) (EMET);*

*[Adam Turner](#) is EMET's General Counsel. For more on this subject, read [Seth J. Frantzman's recent dispatch from Mosul](#).*





## Interview with niqab-wearing, jihad-praising guest

Source: <http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2016/11/08/german-talk-show-criticized-for-interview-with-niqab-wearing-jihad-praising-guest/>

Nov 08 – German broadcaster ARD has come under intense criticism for allowing a niqab-clad woman to appear on a talk show and tout Syria as a “promised land” for disillusioned youths.

Nora Illi, a convert to Islam, is the women’s representative of a group called the Islamic Central Committee of Switzerland, Yahoo reports. She appeared on the popular Sunday night talk show Anne Will alongside **a man who lost his daughter to ISIS**, a German lawmaker, an expert on Islam, and an imam. The



panel discussed why so many young Europeans are being radicalized.

Illi has argued on Facebook that youths who flee to Syria to wage jihad should be praised for their “civil courage.”

“Muslims are faced with repressions all over the world,” she wrote, according to The Washington Post. “It is no wonder that the temptation to break out of that misery is gigantic.

“One must highly praise such a determination as civil courage, given that context.”

**On the talk show, Illi said that women “who feel that they have been shut out by society and want to break away could view Syria as the promised land, as the only way out.”**

**“That’s propaganda, that’s unacceptable on public television,”** interjected Ahmad Mansour, an expert on Islam.

Illi also faced pushback from the show’s guests when she claimed that “in Islam, women have many rights and possibilities. We don’t have to balance family and career as much as other women do. We can evolve in our role.”

Twitter users swiftly condemned ARD for broadcasting these comments to viewers, and some German media outlets classified Illi’s words as “a call for jihad.” NRD, the talk show’s producer, has stood by its decision to have Illi as a guest, saying that her “controversial attitude over the departure of young people to Syria was clearly expressed and debated.”



## 'More' jihadis recruited in Belgium than elsewhere in European

Source: <http://www.enca.com/world/belgium-in-terror-spotlight-since-paris-attacks>

Nov 09 – **Belgium has won an unwanted reputation for radicalism since it emerged that the Islamic State-linked Paris attacks a year ago were planned there.**

With Brussels itself also coming under attack in March, Belgian authorities have carried out a wave of arrests over the past 12 months.

### Here are the key facts:

- Belgium now leads Europe in its per capita number of jihadi nationals in Syria: 465, out of a population of 11 million.
- It first emerged as a base for militants in the 1990s when the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) threatened the country with reprisals after one of its cells in Brussels was dismantled.



- In 2001, Belgian authorities discovered that the two Tunisians who two days before the 9/11 attacks in the United States had assassinated anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud in Afghanistan's Takhar Province had obtained fake Belgian passports and logistical support in Belgium.
- The Tunisians had stayed in Molenbeek, a poorer area of Brussels that later emerged as the focus of investigations into the Paris attacks and of several other probes.
- Salah Abdeslam, the only surviving perpetrator of the Paris attacks, his brother Brahim, who blew himself up in Paris, and suspected ringleader Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who was killed in a police raid in Paris days after the attacks, all hailed from Molenbeek. Abdeslam was arrested there in March. The district was also home to one of the 2004 Madrid train bombers and to Mehdi Nemmouche, the main suspect in the May 2014 Jewish Museum attack in Brussels.
- The perpetrator of a foiled attack in August 2016 on an Amsterdam-Paris train stayed in Molenbeek with his sister before boarding in Brussels.
- Antwerp, the port city in Flemish-speaking northern Belgium with a large Moroccan-origin population, is another key hub of radicalism.
- It was the headquarters of the Islamist group Sharia4Belgium, which was shut down in 2012 after it called for the establishment of an Islamic state in Belgium, and which has been linked to sending fighters to Iraq and Syria.
- Most of Sharia4Belgium's former leaders are now either in prison -- like its former chief Fouad Belkacem following a major trial involving the group -- or in Syria, but its influence remains strong. In all, the narrow 50 kilometre stretch from Brussels to Antwerp is the source of eight percent of all the European fighters in Syria and Iraq.
- The first signs of what French President Francois Hollande has called a single terror cell linking the Paris and Brussels attacks emerged in the Belgian industrial town of Verviers in January 2015. Just days after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in France on 7 January 2015, two militants who were planning an attack on police in Belgium were killed in an anti-terrorist raid on a house in Verviers. The two were taking their orders from Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who was then in Athens.
- At a trial of one of the surviving Verviers plotters, the prosecution said the plot was the "rough draft of Paris."
- In total 19 people have been arrested in Brussels in connection with the Paris attacks. Four have been extradited to France, nine released under strict conditions and six remain in Belgian custody. Najim Laachraoui, who made the bombs used in the Paris attacks, was one of the suicide bombers who died in the March 2016 attack on Brussels airport.
- Mohamed Abrini, the so-called "man in the hat" seen with the airport bombers and also suspected of providing support for the Paris attacks, was arrested in Belgium in March.
- Abdeslam has been extradited to France while Abrini's extradition has been approved pending further investigation into the Brussels attacks.
- One explanation for Belgium's terror links is its location as a crossroads between London, Paris, Amsterdam and Germany, from which it is possible to deploy people rapidly to urban population centres.  
This has already made Belgium a major hub for the illegal arms trade.
- Belgium's divided political landscape -- three languages, six parliaments, parallel systems -- also makes information sharing difficult when it comes to terrorism inquiries.

## Isis 'teaching Mosul's children how to kill and make bombs in school', say Iraqi parents

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-children-extremist-propaganda-mosul-offensive-latest-a7402986.html>

Nov 08 – **Approximately one million children living under Isis in Iraq have been forced to learn from an extremist curriculum that teaches how to make bombs and cut off heads or else been kept home from school by parents afraid their children will be recruited as fighters, estimates say.**



Thousands of people are fleeing Isis-held territory in and around the city of Mosul, bringing with them stories of horrific abuses in the so-called caliphate - but even as their villages are cleared of militants as the three-week-old US-backed offensive presses on, many families are worried about the long term effects two years of Isis will have had on their children.

The number of displaced people has doubled over the weekend to 34,000 as fighting reached Mosul's built-up suburbs, the International Organisation for Migration says. Between 200,000 - 700,000 people in total are expected to flee their homes as the Iraqi coalition pushes deeper into the heart of the city, Iraq's second largest and home to two million people before Isis took over in 2014.

Parents now based at Jad'ah, a camp for displaced people south of the city, have expressed their frustration that their families' futures have been so drastically altered. Karim, a father of four, said his kids lived in fear of being recruited to fight like their classmates.

**"It's difficult for my girls, they were very scared, crying all the time, shaking... I want my children to get educated, and get a job. The most important thing for them is to read and to write."**

While the girls were no longer allowed to get an education, he was under pressure to send his sons to school, which he resisted, Karim told Save the Children.

"Some children told me that Isis used to take them to their base for 40 days to train them and to tell them that it's halal [permissible] to kill army people," he said.

**"They used to take about 50-100 children for each programme. A lot of children obeyed Isis and then they were killed in fighting."**

Children living under Isis' rule are regularly forced to watch gory propaganda videos and guides on killing and making bombs, father of five Hamid said.

"We told them... you should not believe it. This is not the right Islam. We were guiding our children to make sure they didn't believe everything they were taught."

Hamid and Karim's families are lucky - they are now back in school at Jad'ah, where temporary classrooms are easing children back into learning before they attempt to pick up the national curriculum again.

Getting children back into a positive school environment was "critical to starting the recovery process and giving them hope for their future," Save the Children's Iraq country director Maurizio Crivellaro said.

"As soon as we set the classrooms up, [children] were already gathering outside and peering in curiously. Judging by the big smiles on their faces, they knew this is how school should be and they were excited to get back to normal."

**Up to 1.5 million people are thought to still be trapped in Mosul,** where Isis has used a favourite tactic - shepherding civilians into strategic buildings and areas - for use as human shields.

The UN's humanitarian agency and several other aid organisations have called on the Iraqi army to ensure safe corridors are set up to allow residents to escape what is likely to be a long and bloody fight.

## Switzerland and Jihadist Foreign Fighters

CSS ETH Zurich

Source: <http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/CSSAnalyse199-EN.pdf>

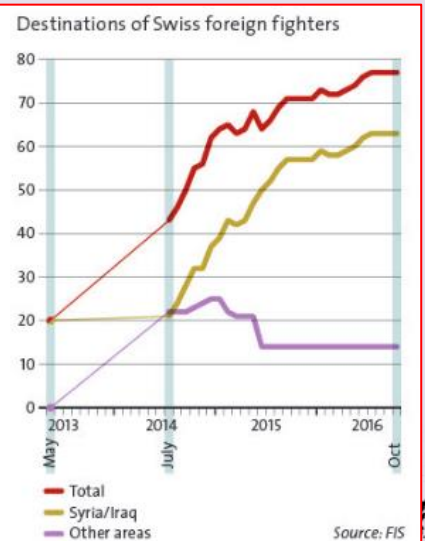
CSS Analyses in Security Policy

No. 199, November 2016, Editor: Christian Nünlist

CSS  
ETH Zurich

### Switzerland and Jihadist Foreign Fighters

Since the start of the Syrian war, the international community has been confronted with so-called jihadist foreign fighters. 5,000–7,000 of these foreign fighters come from Western countries. Even though Switzerland is less affected by this phenomenon than other European countries, the resulting risks should not be underestimated.



*Fabien Merz is a researcher in the think-tank team “Swiss and Euro-Atlantic Security” at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich. He holds a MA in terrorism studies from the University of St. Andrews. His research focuses on Swiss security policy and counterterrorism.*

## Terrorist attack against French Embassy in Athens

Source: <http://en.protothema.gr/terrorist-attack-against-french-embassy-in-athens-photos-video/>



Nov 10 – An attack with an explosive device against the French Embassy, on Vasilisis Avenue, occurred on the morning of Thursday at 5am. According



to reports, two individuals riding a motorcycle threw what police believe to be a hand grenade at the main entrance, slightly injuring the officer on guard in his foot. The attackers



managed to escape towards the area of Exachria, according to the President of the special guards' unit, Vasilis Doumas, who spoke to Skai TV. The French Embassy is located opposite the Greek parliament at Syntagma Square in one of the most highly guarded areas in Athens. The attack occurred only days before the official visit of US President Barack Obama to Athens. Following the terrorist attack, police units condoned off surrounding roads, while authorities

are collecting information from video footage recorded on security cameras and accounts on the description of the two assailants. In the past two similar attacks with hand grenades had been carried out by terrorist groups known as “Revolutionary Sect” in 2009, and “Revolutionary Struggle”.



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Authorities believe that the Omada Laikon Agoniston (Group of Popular Fighters – OAA) group is behind the grenade attack since it is the continuity of the Revolutionary Struggle Group. The latter along with Revolutionary Sect are the two groups that have used grenades in the past. OAA along with Nuclei of Fire group are the two with history of embassy attacks with weapons and IEDs. The grenade used was a Soviet F1 hand grenade, an anti-personnel fragmentation defensive grenade. It is based on the French F1 grenade and contains a 60-gram explosive charge (TNT). The total weight of the grenade with the fuze is about 600 grams. Due to its shape, it is nicknamed the *limonka* ("little lemon"). It is also nicknamed *Efka* (Russian: Эфка) for the letter F. It is similar to the American Mk2 grenade "Pineapple grenade", which was also ultimately modeled on the French F1.



**Was the attack preventable?** The French Embassy is just opposite the Greek Parliament building. Terrorists took cover in a passing by bus to hide from Parliament guards and riding a moto throw a grenade. Even if one of them was inside a passing by taxi and just open the window and throw the grenade, I am sure that even the driver might not have noticed his action. Even if they have been spotted by roof police snipers after passing by many times in front of the target, the ~2 sec to decide to shot to kill would be enough to throw the grenade and then turn left in the next traffic light and disappear. In that respect, comments made for an attack in the most guarded spot of Athens or that Athens is not a safe city are just media comments for internal (as usual) consumption. It could happen just outside the White House as well!

## Jihadi terrorist groups see opportunity with Trump election

By Carlo Muñoz and Guy Taylor

Source: <http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/nov/9/jihadi-terrorist-groups-see-opportunity-with-trump/>

Nov 09 – **Jihadi terrorist groups in the Middle East and Southwest Asia are looking to leverage the election win of Donald Trump as president of the United States as a call to arms on social media, while others are reaching out to the next administration in an attempt to end U.S. involvement in their countries.**

However, regional security analysts, as well as some on Arab streets, see Mr. Trump as a conduit for shifting the balance of power in the Middle East away from Iran's growing influence and toward Persian Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia.

"Trump reveals the true mentality of the Americans and their racism toward Muslims and Arabs. He reveals what his predecessors used to conceal," **Abu Muhammad al-Maqqdisi, a veteran al Qaeda ideologue,** posted on his Twitter account shortly after Mr. Trump secured an electoral victory over Democratic rival Hillary Clinton early Wednesday.

"Trump's term may be the beginning of America's fragmentation and the era of its breakup," Mr. al-Maqqdisi said, according to the

online news agency NOW, which tracks jihadi organizations in the region.

Amaq News Agency, the online propaganda wing of the Islamic State, said online that Mr. Trump's ascent to the White House constituted a U.S. "War on Islam," according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which analyzes jihadi social media outlets.

During the long and brutal presidential campaign, Mr. Trump infamously called for a temporary ban on all Muslim immigrants attempting to enter the United States. The president-elect also vowed to institute a process of "extreme vetting" of all individuals seeking to emigrate to the United States from countries in the Middle East.

"Trump's victory is a powerful slap to those promoting the benefits of democratic mechanisms," Hamza al-Karibi, **a media official with the Syrian jihadi group Jabhat Fatah al-Sham,** formerly known as the al Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al Nusra, tweeted Wednesday.

Mr. Trump's characterizations of Muslims, much like his loaded campaign rhetoric regarding



Hispanics and blacks, has beguiled and occasionally infuriated those on Arab streets.

“Not all of us want to move to your country,” **Mahmud Hazem**, a Vodafone call-center worker in Egypt, told The Washington Times. “But the Egyptians who did move there are not terrorists and they are not on welfare. Saying none of us can come because of religion is a kind of racism.”

The social and political schisms within the American electorate, exacerbated by the Trump campaign and aided by his successful bid for the White House, has created fertile ground for the jihadi group to cultivate recruits inside and outside the U.S.

“His victory further exposes America and its appendages” to increased activity by al Qaeda, the Islamic State and other extremist groups, said Mr. al-Maqdisi.

While some extremist jihadi groups are looking to demonize Mr. Trump’s election, others are reaching out to the incoming administration and view the next occupant of the White House as a vehicle for change from President Obama’s muddled Middle East policies.

**Taliban leaders** on Wednesday issued a statement calling for the president-elect to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan and end Washington’s involvement in the country.

“Our message to him is that the U.S. government policies should be made in a way that do not compromise with the freedom of the other nations and do not seek its interests in the killing and conviction of the others,” according to the statement, reported by Afghan news agency Khaama Press.

This undercurrent of vague optimism has begun to resonate among decision-makers in the region, who will look to a Trump White House as a means to readjust the power balance in the Middle East.

There is hope among Gulf Arab leaders that Mr. Trump may reverse what has largely been perceived as a dangerous shift by the Obama White House toward warmer relations with Iran, to the frustration of Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

“I think Trump will get the GCC countries back involved in the discussion about regional strategy. Obama did this nuclear deal with Iran without taking into account Arab and Gulf state views on it,” **Ahmed Al Hamli, founder and president of Trends Research & Advisory**, an Abu Dhabi-based think tank, told The Times on Wednesday.

“This is why Gulf states are seen not to be satisfied with the deal,” Mr. Al Hamli said. “If they had been engaged in the discussion from the beginning, I think they would have been more accepting to the deal, and I think a Trump administration will push for such engagement.” Regarding Mr. Trump’s comments about Muslim immigrants on the campaign trail, Mr. Al Hamli argued that they carried little relevance within the region.

“His statements about banning Muslims from coming to America were driven from the fear of terrorism,” Mr. Al Hamli said, adding that those comments “don’t seem to be relevant” in the ongoing dialogue in the region regarding relations with the U.S.

*Carlo Muñoz is the military correspondent for The Washington Times focusing on U.S. defense and national security policy, programs and operations. He was most recently a foreign correspondent with the Stars and Stripes Mideast bureau, based in Kabul, Afghanistan. Mr. Muñoz also reported on U.S. and foreign military operations in South America, Cuba and the Asia-Pacific region. His work has appeared in The Guardian, United Press International, Atlantic Media, Air Force Magazine, USNI News and elsewhere.*

*Guy Taylor is the National Security Team Leader at The Washington Times, overseeing the paper's State Department, Pentagon and intelligence community coverage. He's also a frequent guest on The McLaughlin Group and C-SPAN. His series on political, economic and security developments in Mexico won a 2012 Virginia Press Association award. Prior to rejoining The Times in 2011, his work was supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Fund For Investigative Journalism, and appeared in a variety publications, from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to Salon, Reason, Prospect Magazine of London, the Daily Star of Beirut, the Jerusalem Post and the St. Petersburg Times. He's also served as an editor at World Politics Review, written for America's Quarterly and produced news videos and feature stories for Agence France-Presse. Mr. Taylor is a graduate of Clark University. After a stint at States News Service, he spent five years at The Times from 2001 through 2006, first on the metro desk and later reporting from Iraq, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and Guantanamo Bay, in addition to pursuing special*



*assignments throughout the U.S. He was part of a team of Times reporters who won a Society of Professional Journalists award for their coverage of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Jennifer Collins and Austin Davis contributed to this report.*

## ISIS' Nazi-Inspired Methods

Source: <http://english.aawsat.com/2016/11/article55361643/isis-nazi-inspired-methods>

Nov 11 – **It would seem that today's hardline ISIS can draw parallels to a once Nazi Germany showcasing mythology-inspired extremism.**

For Nazi Führer Adolf Hitler's Germany the master race was the Aryan, whilst ISIS preaches self-declared righteousness and a God-given right to rule.

Political Science Professor Mohamed Shimi at the Helwan University, Egypt explains that similar to Nazis, ISIS members believe that their lifestyle or religious-interpretation is somewhat superior to any other, hence cannot be refereed by social, cultural or political systems other than its self.

The Aryan race was a racial profiling used in the period of the late 19th century to the mid-20th century to describe multiple peoples. It has been used to describe all Indo-Europeans, the hypothetical Aryan people in Persia and India and the Nordic or Germanic peoples.

Hitler identified Jews as descending from non-European races, particularly from what he classified as the Near Asian race, commonly known as the Armenoid race, and said that such origins rendered Jews fundamentally different from and incompatible with Germans and most Europeans.

Like Nazism, ISIS also drew in popular recruitment by religious profiling and slogans promoting for privileges bestowed upon believers and members of the cult.

Strategic and ideological resemblances are also spotted between the two—U.S. retired Brigadier General Anthony J. Tata says that ISIS exploits the information sector to proliferate its propaganda for international recruitment and training youth, something Nazism had done before.

The terror organization has learnt from history's 'bad guys' and now are copycatting ghastly tactics.

More so, Dan Jarvis, the Labour MP and former British Army officer, labeled ISIS as the "fascists of our time."

Russia's Vladimir Putin also embarks on forming a wide-scale coalition to combat and terminate the terror group, in a move mimicking 'The Allies of World War II' an alliance of countries that came together to take down Nazi Germany.

President Putin resurfaced the Nazi definition of the situation, especially when arguing the international need to combat terrorism's proliferation and bloodshed, the making of a total war pitting the world against terror organizations.

### ISIS' Nazi-inspired features

Other than the shared obvious textbook defined extremist ideology, ISIS -like Nazism- appeals to the public through broadcasting values and convincing recruits through impressive media.

**Many top ISIS officials have appeared in footage wearing a military costume and performing a Hitler's Nazi salute.**

The Nazi salute or Hitler salute is a gesture that was used as a greeting in Nazi Germany. The salute is performed by extending the right arm in the air with a straightened hand. Usually, the person offering the salute would say "Heil Hitler!".."Heil, mein Führer!" (Hail, my leader). It was adopted in the 1930s by the Nazi Party to signal obedience to the party's leader, Adolf Hitler, and to glorify the nation.

Egypt's national army has also reported cases of ISIS recruits planting old-fashioned land mines—what later trended as Hitler helping ISIS from beyond the grave. The terror group is dug up old Nazi land mines and bombs across Egypt as a way to beef up their weapons arsenal, according to the report.

ISIS had been scouring the deserts of northwest Egypt where more than 17 million World War II-era land mines are buried in what is likely the largest un-detonated land mine field in the world.

### Leadership, ethnic cleansing

If Nazi Germany was famous for one thing, it would be deifying the Reich leader, Adolf Hitler, as the nation's sole salvation and chance at glory—ISIS' caliphate had its similar



worship flare except with a different face, the self-declared Islamic state's caliphate Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi who receives indisputable obedience.

Another common social feature is the concept of supremacy— the Aryan race was the sole undeniable valid race for Nazism, whilst other ethnic backgrounds such as Jews and Eastern Europe's Gypsies were demonized. For ISIS, any other background other than what it deems a good Muslim is also portrayed as an abomination, such as Christians, Shi'ites, Moderate Sunnis, and Jews.

Brutal trial would face any outsider, along with certain death and torture. Nazism and terrorist ISIS both infringe on any other value system—at some instances eradicated entire human values such as empathy, you most certainly won't find mercy in neither their dictionaries.

Killing and callousness is cemented into the mindsets of followers, with a simple argument of the end justifies the means at any given cost, even if it calls for suicide attacks.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** As seen in the photos below, Daesh saluting is based on the index finger that is quite different from Nazi saluting.



## What I Learned About War by Having a Cup of Tea With a Taliban Veteran

By Nolan Peterson

Source: <http://dailysignal.com/2016/11/10/what-i-learned-about-war-by-having-a-cup-of-tea-with-a-taliban-veteran/>

Nov 10 — In July 2011, I left a decade-long career in the Air Force, which included combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as a special operations pilot.

I was 29 years old and set to begin studies at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism the following January.



Rather than idle away the intervening months, I had a plan—I would wander through India and Nepal in true Christopher McCandless style. My intent was to search for a new path in life as I wandered, pathless, through the Himalayas.

The trip lasted for several months, culminating in the ascent of a 20,300-foot-high mountain in Nepal called Island Peak.

In the early days of the journey, as I searched to find my footing in that nomadic life, I traveled through India's Kashmir region. I arrived in Srinagar, the region's capital, after a harrowing overnight jeep trek across the mountains from the city of Leh in the barren, earth-tone Himalayas of northwestern India's Ladakh region.



The author, Nolan Peterson, on a shikara on Dal Lake.

Srinagar sat on the marshy, subtropical shores of Dal Lake with forested, snow-capped mountains framing the horizon. Ornate wooden houseboats lined the quays, and the emerald green surface of the lake was cluttered with shikaras—small paddle boats somewhat equivalent in size and shape to

Venice's gondolas.

Despite its beauty, the area was on edge then, as it remains today. Tensions simmered between the Indian government and an Islamic extremist movement fueled by militants infiltrating from Pakistan, including returned Taliban fighters from Afghanistan.

There had been a terrorist bombing in Delhi while I was in Kashmir, which spurred a military crackdown. The Indian army's presence was ubiquitous.

Squads of soldiers were out on patrol; one unlucky soul was usually in front waving a metal detector to find landmines and IEDs. Armored fighting vehicles were stationed around town at nearly every street corner, it seemed.

For a U.S. military veteran looking to distance himself from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it was an unwelcomingly familiar environment in which to find myself.

### The Necklace

One day in Srinagar, with little to do, I decided to buy a necklace as a souvenir for my girlfriend at the time. I went into town in search of a jewelry store.

I found a place just off Srinagar's "Broadway" boardwalk along the lakeshore. I went inside and browsed the shelves, looking for something beautiful.

Kashmir is famous for its gemstones, and the jewelry on display was of vivid colors, aquamarine blues and greens, swirled and dotted like the colored sky in "The Starry Night."

I chose a bracelet and took it to the counter to pay. The young man working—who owned the shop, I learned later—seemed about my age. He was slim, with dark hair and complexion, and a short, scruffy beard. He was wearing blue jeans and a white button-down shirt, and he smiled broadly as I approached.

I asked the bracelet's price, and he responded in flawless, British-accented English. After I paid, the young man asked what I was doing in Kashmir.

I replied in total earnestness. I'm not sure why, since, as I have described, there was a particular anti-Western edge to that place, but I explained how I had just left a career in the military and was on a journey to chart the course of the rest of my life.

The man, quietly and with a serious, focused expression, listened to me. And then, when I had finished talking, he poured us both a cup of tea and put out a plate of cookies.

"I was a soldier too, once," he said.

He looked at me with a calm expression of confidently extended suspense. He had put out that piece of information, waiting for my inevitable follow-on question, with resolute knowledge in the heavy consequence of his reply.

"Yes?" I replied. "Was it for the Indian army?"



"No," he answered. "I fought for the Taliban. In Afghanistan."

There was a heavy silence.

Our postures hardened, more from amazement at this unlikely situation than actual animosity. We two enemies—uncertain, then, whether former or current—considered each other.

"Who is the bracelet for?" he asked after a moment.

"My girlfriend."

"Is she in America?"

"Yes, we've been together for a few years."

"Why isn't she here with you?"

"She's in medical school and couldn't leave her studies."

"Ah, so she's smart. Don't lose that one."

At this we both smiled. Something was coming down between us; a question had been answered.

"Are you married?" I asked.

"Yes, and we have a daughter."

### Young Men

Had we seen each other in the war, that man and I would have surely tried to kill each other. We were each other's enemies, and neither of us would have given it a second thought.

Yet, here we were. Two young men. Talking to each other as any two young men would.

I asked about his daughter, and what she was like. He told me how she liked to read and sing.

He said he walked her to where the school bus picked her up each morning. It was a guaranteed way to spend time with her each day, he said. He was afraid of not having enough time with her.

He wanted to know about Florida, where I had grown up. We didn't talk about the war, but the war wasn't an obstacle between us. It was, in fact, a unifying thing.

A shared experience, with all its inherent psychological baggage that only someone who has been in war could understand. We instantly and effortlessly understood each other.

He told me that after leaving Afghanistan he had made his way into Indian Kashmir to rejoin family living here. He left the war in search of a life in peace, tending to the beautiful things—love, family, career. I knew what it took to leave the war behind. So I already knew a lot about him.

The war was our bond, even if we had once been enemies. And truly, we still were. I had friends still fighting in Afghanistan, and the man likely had comrades among the Taliban, although I didn't ask.

He said he was now a Sufi Muslim and spoke disdainfully of Islamic extremism. He seemed to have renounced the Taliban's cause, although we didn't talk about that, either.

Enthusiastically, the young man told me about Kashmir. The various mountain hikes, how beautiful the high alpine meadows were in the summer, and how good the skiing was in the winter.

He seemed to have found a peaceful existence here, anchored in his love for his family and the beauty of the mountains.

War, as I would later discover as a conflict journalist, is never black and white. As a soldier, you try to see it that way, even if you know it's not true.

Thoughtfully considering your enemy's humanity, or the circumstances in life that led him or her to the opposing side of the battlefield, is a dangerous habit to get into. It belies your belief in absolutes—evil, the justice of your cause, your immunity from the moral consequences of killing.

To consider your enemy as a human being is to judge each act of violence in war as a singular event for which you must atone, no matter the overall justice of the conflict.

Killing in war is not typically personal, it is a blind thrust done into the ether of the conflict, propelled by reasons that have nothing to do with the character of the person you are trying to kill. The lives lost on the other side are attributable to the war, not you.

You don't think about the life stories of your enemies. On the screen inside the cockpit, glowing white blobs against a black background. Exploding, disintegrating, folding to the ground, disappearing into blinding white flashes. Dying.

But those aren't men like this one standing in front of you in the jewelry shop; they are the necessary braids woven into the tapestry of winning the war.

Now I was in the gray zone that either haunts or releases you after war—whether you leave it, or it ends. Although wars never truly end for those who fight them. Here I was,



face to face with my enemy. A man I would have killed without hesitation. And the same for him toward me.

Yet, we were both veterans now, and able to share a cup of tea. We talked about the women we loved. I asked him about fatherhood, and he asked about my family back in America. We talked like two men who were in the first tentative exchanges of becoming friends.

Perhaps, as soldiers, the farther we get from the bullets and the bombs, the more we realize that the true enemy was the war itself. It was a monster we had collectively released, and it was the monster we were fighting against, not each other.

### A Peace Deferred

It felt good, in a way, to be friendly to the young man in the jewelry shop. As if that expression of humanity was proof that such human sentiments still existed within me. Like my soul was a piece of metal that had been bent, but not too far to regain its original shape.

We acted toward each other like the war had never happened at all. But I wonder whether we could have been so easily friendly to each other if we had never been enemies.

I explained that my ultimate ambition on this trip was to disappear into the Himalayas for a while. There were things I needed to forget. He spoke in detail about the mountain trails in Kashmir, where he had gone for the same reasons.

He made me promise that I would come back one day to visit, even offering to let me stay at his home. I thanked him and promised I would return. I felt elated at our parting. But it didn't last.

About two years later, in 2013, I went back to Afghanistan as a journalist. I spent a day visiting my brother, Drew, who was deployed there as an Air Force officer at the time.

When I hugged my brother goodbye in the blacked out night due to the threat of Taliban rocket and mortar attacks, the war felt black and white again.

More than 15 years after the war began, American troops are still fighting and dying in Afghanistan. And more than five years after my journey through the Himalayas, I haven't returned to Kashmir.

Although I hope to, one day. I know what's waiting for me there.

*Nolan Peterson, a former special operations pilot and a combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, is The Daily Signal's foreign correspondent based in Ukraine.*

## An Unwinnable War: The Houthis, Saudi Arabia and the Future of Yemen

*Terrorism Monitor Volume: 14; Issue: 22*

Source: <https://jamestown.org/program/unwinnable-war-houthis-saudi-arabia-future-yemen/>

Nov 11 – Saudi Arabia and its allies are engaged in an unwinnable war in Yemen. The Saudi-led campaign called “Operation Decisive Storm” began in March 2015 with the aim of forcing Yemen’s Houthi rebels to withdraw from the Yemeni capital of Sanaa and reinstalling Yemen’s internationally recognized government from exile in Saudi Arabia. Despite 20 months of aerial bombardment and an estimated expenditure of \$5 billion by Saudi Arabia alone, the results of the war are anything but decisive (*Independent*, October 23).

The Houthis retain control of northwest Yemen, and their alliance with Yemen’s *ancien régime* led by former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh has deepened. The Houthis enjoy broader support than ever before. The war has helped the Houthis transform themselves from a parochial rebel movement to a national movement that routinely casts itself as a “defender of the nation” in the face of Saudi aggression.

With little or no progress to show for nearly two years of war, Saudi Arabia is employing increasingly brutal tactics. In addition to its continued use of internationally banned cluster munitions, Saudi Arabia’s air force is reported to be targeting Yemen’s farms and its most productive agricultural lands (*Independent*, October 23; *Haaretz*, November 6). [1] If true, this is a modern form of siege warfare. However, rather than starving a single city into submission,



an entire country is under siege. The UN warns that Yemen is on the brink of a devastating famine ([United Nations Dispatch](#), October 19). [2]

These tactics are unlikely to break the resolve of the Houthis or their allies. Nor will they have a significant impact on the Houthis' ability to continue to fight. The Houthi organization is inherently resilient, determined and increasingly able to meld its well-honed guerrilla tactics and forces with conventional ones. What the ongoing war will ensure – and likely already has – is that Yemen will endure a prolonged period of heightened instability that may significantly impact the stability of the region.

### **Masters of the Mountains**

The Houthis, or Ansar Allah, is an organization forged by years of war in some of the most rugged terrain on the planet. Since their first war with the Yemeni government in 2004, Houthi fighters have proved themselves to be the masters of the mountains and canyons in which they fight. The Houthis' mastery of irregular warfare enabled them to survive and evolve from a small parochial organization to one that was able to move out of the mountains and seize large parts of Yemen in 2014.

The genesis of the Houthi movement can be traced to a revivalist organization called the "Believing Youth," formed by members of the eponymous Houthi family. The Houthis are a prominent family of Sayyid (descendants of the Prophet) clerics who started the Believing Youth with the goal of reviving and fostering interest in the Zaidi branch of Shia Islam, which was perceived to be threatened by "foreign" ideologies such as the Salafism exported by Saudi Arabia. [3]

Zaidism is a conservative branch of Shia Islam and is closer doctrinally to Sunni Islam than to the dominant Twelver or Jafari Shia sect. The Believing Youth then evolved into a fully-fledged rebel group known as the Houthi movement. This lengthy metamorphosis was greatly accelerated by the death of Hussein al-Houthi at the hands of government troops in 2004. From 2004 until the beginning of the so-called Arab Spring, the Houthis engaged in six protracted wars with the Yemeni government.

It was during these hard-fought wars that the Houthis cohered as an organization and learned how to fight and win against conventional forces, which, until 2011, always outnumbered and outgunned them. In their sixth and final war against the Yemeni government of former president Saleh, the Houthis faced some of the Yemeni Army's best-trained troops drawn from the Republican Guard and from the American trained and equipped Special Forces and counter-terrorism units. In addition, the Houthis were also targeted by Saudi Arabia's air force, as well as by limited numbers of Saudi Special Forces who crossed into Yemen. Still, the Houthis prevailed over both the Yemeni and Saudi forces. They captured a number of Saudi Special Forces troops, who they later ransomed, while the Yemeni troops were forced to withdraw to fortified bases, which they abandoned in the wake of the 2011 uprising against the Saleh government. [4]

There are many reasons for the Houthis' success as an armed rebel movement, but first and foremost is their intimate knowledge of the rugged mountains and canyons in which they fight. The Houthis and the tribesmen who make up the bulk of their loose membership have long understood that Yemen's mountains are a remarkably effective force multiplier. Mountains favor defensive warfare. Those who have invaded Yemen in the past – the Ottoman Turks twice and, later, the Egyptians – quickly discovered that mountainous northwest Yemen, just like Afghanistan, is a graveyard for invaders. [5] Second, the Houthi leadership has worked tirelessly to build personal and organizational relationships with a range of tribes and clans, most of whose members include both Zaidi Shias and Sunnis. Third, the Houthi leadership – most particularly in the early years – rewarded initiative and functioned somewhat along the lines of a meritocracy. Those who led from the front, like some members of the Houthi family, were given more responsibility. [6] This stands in stark contrast to the Yemeni Armed Forces where nepotism and tribal identities largely determine who advances through the ranks.

It was a combination of the Houthis' fighting acumen and the organization's early reputation for being relatively meritocratic and uncorrupt that allowed it to rapidly fill the power vacuum that developed after the 2011 popular uprising against the Saleh government. The Houthis leveraged their early support for the anti-Saleh government protesters to win supporters and to build alliances with key tribal power blocs. In a further demonstration of the Houthis' political pragmatism, in 2014 the leadership formed an alliance with their former adversary, ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh. This relationship, and the fact that Saleh and his sons retained the loyalty



of large parts of the Yemeni Army, facilitated the Houthis' rapid and largely bloodless takeover of Sanaa in September 2014 ([Middle East Eye](#), September 2014).

### Saudi Arabia's Strategy

As a Zaidi Shia organization, the Houthis' rise to power set off alarm bells in Saudi Arabia, which views them as proxies for Iran. In fact, Iran has little influence over the Houthis, who have repeatedly disregarded Iran's advice, including Iran's warning against seizing the Yemeni capital.

The Houthis' disregard for Yemen's internationally recognized but unpopular government and their push south in 2015 helped trigger the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen ([Yemen Times](#), March 2015). Saudi Arabia's strategy is three pronged: first, it is engaged in what looks to be an increasingly desperate aerial campaign that it claims is targeting military sites; second, it continues to enforce a naval and aerial blockade of northwest Yemen in an attempt to stop supplies from reaching the Houthis; and lastly, Saudi Arabia and its allies are training and arming a mix of militias made up of southern separatists, soldiers loyal to the government, militant Salafists and tribesmen. The groups are being used as proxies in the land war against the Houthis.

While the aerial campaign is low risk – the Houthis and those Yemeni Army units fighting with them no longer have functioning air defense systems – it is also ineffective. The Houthis have a great deal of experience fighting whilst under the threat of aerial bombardment. Consequently, they know how to use Yemen's terrain to hide materiel and how to counter intense aerial surveillance. In many respects, the aerial campaign has benefited the Houthis. The often indiscriminate bombing – a recent example being the October 8 bombing of a funeral in Sanaa, which killed 140 people – has helped bolster support for the Houthis among many Yemenis who had regarded them as usurpers ([Guardian](#), October 15). [7]

The sanctions and naval blockade have also proved ineffective at impeding the Houthis access to materiel. The sanctions are having a severe impact, increasing malnutrition and putting further pressure on an already dilapidated healthcare system. Yemen imports 90 percent of its food and is wholly reliant on imports for medical supplies. [8]

In an attempt to increase the efficacy of the campaign against the Houthis, Saudi Arabia and its partners – primarily the UAE – are focusing more attention on using local proxies. However, this is likely to prove as ineffective as the other two parts of their strategy.

### Fickle Allies

Yemen's socio-political landscape is much like its terrain: complex, rugged and treacherous, even for those who know how to navigate it. Egypt sent soldiers to what was then North Yemen in 1962 in a bid to back Republican forces against Royalists fighting for Imam al-Badr, the ruler of North Yemen. The Egyptians eventually deployed more than 50,000 troops to Yemen. These troops enjoyed superior and dedicated air support from the Egyptian Air Force. Yet, a relatively small number of tribesmen, aided by ex-members of the British and French Special Forces, were able to keep thousands of well-armed troops pinned down. [9]

Yemen's mountains played a key role in this. Another factor, however, was that the Egyptians' allies in the war – tribes whose support they thought they had bought – were anything but loyal. The adage often repeated by Egyptian soldiers and Yemenis on both sides was, "a Republican by day and a Royalist by night," a reference to the unreliability of tribesmen whose first loyalty was to their clan and then their tribe. Other loyalties are driven by pure pragmatism – in many cases loyalty was determined by which side paid the most and which had the best rifles to give away.

Systems of loyalty and patronage in Yemen remain byzantine and fundamentally local. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have spent months training and equipping militias to fight on behalf of Yemen's unpopular president-in-exile, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi ([Emirates News Agency](#), November 2015). Much of their effort has focused on recruiting tribesmen from the perennially fractious but strategic and resource rich governorate of Marib, located in central Yemen ([The National](#), November 2015). Despite being relatively well armed and well provisioned, these "pro-Hadi" militias have made little or no progress against the Houthis and those tribes allied with them. The front-lines in the war have hardly shifted for the last nine months in spite of repeated claims by Saudi Arabia and the UAE that a major offensive to re-take Sanaa is imminent or even already underway.



The inability of pro-Hadi forces and Saudi-backed militias to launch a sustained ground offensive is no doubt due in part to their unreliability and the mixed motives of some of their leadership. It is far more profitable and reasonable for many of these pro-Hadi militias to maintain a low-level of conflict and continue to extract money and arms from two exceedingly wealthy patrons. The thriving trade in the advanced weaponry provided to and then sold by many of the pro-Hadi militias is evidence of the mixed motives of some of the militia leaders. Just as was the case during its wars against the Yemeni government, the Houthi organization is able to source most of the weapons that it requires internally ([Middle East Eye](#), April 2015). [10] Anti-tank weapons and advanced anti-tank rifles, as well as hand-launched surveillance drones, are all in high-demand and consequently command high prices. [11] Anti-tank missiles are at the heart of the Houthis' cross-border hit and run attacks on Saudi armor and guard posts in the Saudi province of Najran. [12]

### **AQAP: Feeding the Wolf at the Door**

While the Saudi and UAE backed militias may be making little progress against the Houthis and their allies, this is not the case with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). AQAP, which is benefiting from the war in Yemen more than any other organization, is successfully engaging Houthi forces in key Yemeni governorates. AQAP is well organized and determined to secure as much influence in vulnerable parts of Yemen as possible. In what are dangerous parallels with the actions of rebel groups and militant Salafi organizations in Syria, AQAP is actively enmeshing itself with genuine anti-Houthi/pro-government militias. AQAP is able to do this because it is motivated, at least partly, by ideology and, most importantly, because it is a relatively well-run organization with a diffuse but effective chain of command. This contrasts with the informal and fluid leadership of tribal militias and the quickly assembled pro-Hadi forces that are typically more motivated by personal gain than by the prospect of engaging and defeating their enemies.

Before the start of Operation Decisive Storm, AQAP was an organization that was on the ropes financially and strategically. As the sworn enemies of the Houthis and all Shia (deemed to be heretics by Salafists), AQAP was locked in a deadly battle with the Houthis and their allies. It was a battle they were losing. AQAP was being slowly pushed out of key governorates like al-Bayda by tribal militias supported by the Houthis. In many areas, as it has tended to do in the past, AQAP's leadership was too assertive and acted to suppress traditional tribal leadership and customs rather than co-opt them. Thus, they lost the critical support of the communities in which they lived and fought.

This is no longer the case. AQAP's ever-nimble leadership watched and learned from the Houthis who have long relied on engaging and co-opting tribal leaders. Now AQAP, which had to some degree de-emphasized tribal engagement, has put engagement efforts at the forefront of its offensive strategy in the governorates of al-Bayda, Shabwa, Lahej and Abyan. [13]

AQAP is now a part of what can broadly be called anti-Houthi forces ([The New Arab](#), February 23). How and to what extent it is able to capitalize on its recent gains remains to be seen, but what is certain is that AQAP is now a much stronger organization than it was even six months ago.

As AQAP deepens its involvement in the civil war between those forces allied with the Houthis and those forces that oppose them, it will become increasingly difficult for Saudi Arabia and its allies to ensure that AQAP is not a beneficiary of aid meant for their own anti-Houthi forces. As the war in Yemen continues, AQAP – just as with militant Salafi and al-Qaeda linked groups in Syria fighting the government of Bashar al-Assad – might increasingly be viewed as a useful and effective proxy against the Houthis. Given that AQAP has struck targets in Saudi Arabia in the past, indirectly enabling them is likely to prove dangerous for the House of Saud in the near future.

### **Stalemate**

Saudi Arabia and its partners are engaged in a war that has no clear strategy for achieving its objectives of forcing the Houthis to retreat and reinstalling a pro-Saudi government. Reliance on fickle allies and on dangerous militant Salafi groups to fight the Houthis will not enable Saudi Arabia to achieve its objectives. But despite numerous reports of Saudi troops massing on the Yemeni border, it is highly unlikely that the kingdom will deploy anything but a token number of troops to Yemen. The use of armed proxies will likely be the extent of its involvement on the ground. The reasons for this are complex and have more to do with



internal Saudi politics than a sound understanding of what risks these troops would face. [14] However, if Saudi Arabia and its partners were to deploy troops to northwest Yemen, they would face a battlefield scenario similar to what Israel faced when it invaded Lebanon in 2006, but without the benefit of the Israeli Defense Force's (IDF) disciplined and well-trained officers and soldiers.

In 2006, Hezbollah, an organization that has undeniably close ties to Iran, fought the IDF to a standstill by using a deadly mix of conventional and irregular tactics. [15] The Houthis who are now allied with, and to some degree have incorporated, some of the best-trained units from the Yemeni Army, would likely employ a comparable mix of irregular and conventional tactics against an invading force. [16] Furthermore, they would have the benefit of Yemen's rugged terrain. While the frequent claims about Iran supplying the Houthis with weapons are dubious – Yemen, now more than ever, is awash in weapons – it is highly probable that the Houthi leadership has received advice and guidance from Hezbollah and its Iranian advisors.

A ground assault by Saudi Arabia and UAE forces remains highly unlikely and would no doubt prove calamitous for both nations. Thus, Saudi Arabia seems set to continue its costly but futile aerial campaign, while continuing to arm a disparate mix of tribal militias that are incapable and largely unwilling to take on the Houthis and their allies.

### Looking Back to Look Forward

Saudi Arabia's three-pronged strategy will not defeat the Houthis and their allies, it will only further impoverish the millions of Yemenis who now have no jobs, no access to health care and who are increasingly food insecure.

The air strikes that have targeted infrastructure, schools, hospitals and homes have bolstered support for the Houthis and allowed them to cast themselves as defenders of a nation under attack by a foreign power. The Saudi-led campaign has also helped create a space in which militant Salafi organizations, in particular AQAP, can operate with a high degree of freedom and have access to evermore desperate recruits.

In order to examine what might stabilize Yemen, it is helpful to look back to the 1962-70 civil war between Royalist and Republican forces in what was then North Yemen. This war was only settled after the foreign powers involved in it – Egypt and Saudi Arabia – withdrew. In that war, Saudi Arabia supported the Royalists, and ironically helped arm and provision the grandfathers of many of the men who now call themselves Houthis.

Neither the Royalists nor the Republicans were able to defeat one another even with, in the case of the Republicans, the help of 50,000 Egyptian troops. The war was finally ended by Yemeni-driven negotiations that allowed both sides in the conflict to save face, reconcile their grievances and participate in governing what became the Yemen Arab Republic. Admittedly the current conflict in Yemen is more complex as it encompasses both north and south Yemen and all the tensions that accompany a country that was never properly unified.

Despite the north-south tensions, a process similar to the one that settled the 1962-70 civil war was underway before Saudi Arabia launched Operation Decisive Storm in 2015. With the help of then UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar, all sides in the current conflict were close to reaching an interim power-sharing agreement. The Houthis had a working relationship with the leadership of many of the southern separatist movements as both groups had been oppressed by the Saleh government. But thanks to the Houthis' push south, their brutal occupation of Aden and abuses by all sides, this relationship has broken down.

Just as in Yemen's last civil war, neither side in the current conflict will be able to defeat the other—even with outside support. The only solution is to restart Yemeni driven negotiations. The alternative is years of low-level conflict that will spread beyond Yemen's borders and negatively impact regional stability and security.

**The House of Saud would do well to remember the sage advice of its founder, King Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud, who said on his deathbed, "the good or evil for us will come from Yemen." [17] The leadership of Yemen's various rebel groups and its government-in-exile, meanwhile, would benefit from recalling a very Yemeni proverb: "Nothing can break a stone but its sister."**

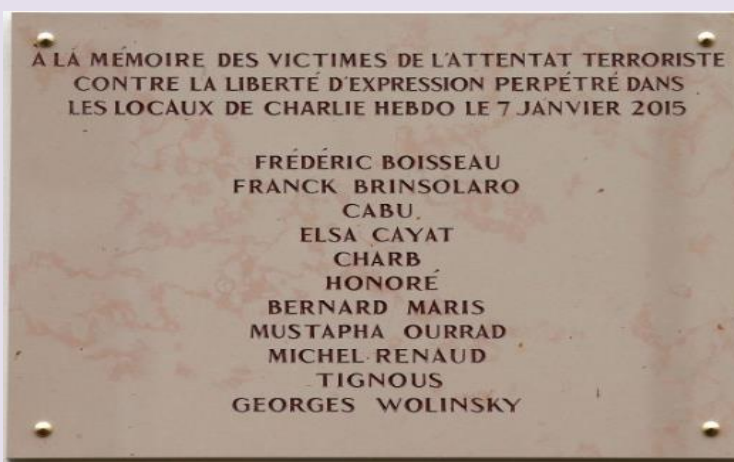


► References are available at source's URL.

*Michael Horton is a Senior Analyst for Arabian Affairs at The Jamestown Foundation where he specializes in Middle Eastern affairs with a particular focus on Yemen and Egypt. He is a frequent contributor to Jane's Intelligence Review and has written for numerous other publications including: Islamic Affairs Analyst, The Economist and the Christian Science Monitor. He has completed in-depth field based studies on topics ranging from prison radicalization to insurgent tactics, techniques and procedures.*

## French President Unveils Memorial Plaques at Sites of Paris Terror Attacks

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/europe/201611131047385991-plaque-paris-attacks-hollande/>



Nov 13 – French President Francois Hollande and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo lay a wreath of flowers as they unveil a commemorative plaque next to the A La Bonne Biere cafe and the Rue de la Fontaine au Roi street, in Paris, France, November 13, 2016, during a ceremony held for the victims of last year's Paris attacks which targeted the Bataclan concert hall as well as a series of bars and killed 130 people.



## Lessons from Quetta Carnage

By Ayaz Ahmed

Source: <https://balochistanvoices.com/2016/11/lessons-quetta-carnage/>

Nov 11 – Once again lethally-armed terrorists shed innocent blood of 62 police cadets and wounded more than 116 in Quetta. Both the Al-Alimi faction of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ)

and the militant Islamic State group are believed to be behind the deadly attack. Presumably, had the government learnt a



serious lesson from the deadly terrorist attacks on the APS, Charsadda University and lawyer community in Quetta, this attack would have been prevented.

From these devastating attacks, it is crystal clear that resurgent terrorists and militants are bent upon eliminating the educated people and intelligentsia of already backward Balochistan. Ominously, they will succeed in their nefarious designs if the crisis-ridden government continues to avoid fully reviving dormant NACTA and stringently executing NAP.

**But, it is rather worrying to note that this fatal attack has also failed to awaken the government from its deep slumber of inaction, incompetence and sluggishness in terms of countering disruptive terrorism, militancy and sectarianism in the country.**

It has become an established norm in Pakistan that some top leaders of the government visit the wounded people after each terrorist attack. Despite receiving the threat of an imminent terrorist attack from the intelligence agency, the incompetent provincial government of Balochistan displayed an outright reluctance to pre-empt the assault. At present, the provincial government does not possess counter-terrorism laws and the needed force to flush out assorted terrorists and militants based in the province.

Both the civilian government and the military leadership consider the ongoing Operation Zarb-e-Azb a phenomenal success against terrorists and militants. Though the grand operation has successfully dismantled the organizational structures and training camps of the TTP and ilk, their leadership and hardcore fighters fled to neighboring Afghanistan and are freely operating from there under the nose and all-out support of Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies.

Moreover, a large number of fighters, financiers and recruiters of these outlawed groups have clandestinely shifted their operational bases to the unruly cities of the country. Apparently, these terrorists are waiting to regroup and resurface again after the ongoing operation as they did previously in the tribal areas.

All this makes it abundantly clear that terrorism and militancy have not only struck strong roots in terror-ravaged tribal areas, but also in the disorderly and unguarded cities throughout the country. Until Pakistan ultimately resolves the lingering issue of the porous Durand Line with

war-stricken Afghanistan and beef up the security of major cities, no military operations can be termed as a prodigious success.

So, the illusion of exceptional successes against hardcore terrorists has made the civilian government satisfied, and thus disinclined to introduce comprehensive reforms in its ineffective and ill-conceived anti-terrorism laws, measures and institutions.

Like its predecessor, the incumbent government has utterly failed to grasp the modus operandi of terrorists and militants. These disruptive forces garner public support through a well-calibrated narrative. According to the Taliban ideology, Pakistan is under control of infidel forces, and it is the religious obligation of all Muslims to save it from these forces. A large number of Pakhtun population and students of seminaries staunchly adhere to this distorted notion, and are inclined to join the Taliban with the intent to embrace martyrdom.

The civilian government seems to be lacking the required resolve and guts to craft its counter-narrative and skillfully disseminate it. The government's incompetence and the dearth of seriousness are patently obvious from its reluctance in removing hate-filled and jihadi literature from school books.

The government has so far dragged its feet in seriously implementing the crucial points of NAP. A large number of unregistered seminaries are still busy with churning out bigots, terrorists and extremists with their outdated reading materials. More alarmingly, only some half-hearted measures have been by far taken to block the increasing funding to terrorist, militant, insurgent and sectarian groups.

The government has also failed to flush out sectarian groups that are involved in targeted killings in the country. With different names, the LeJ and SSP organize mass rallies in big cities and openly threaten the Shia community. Rather than cracking down on these militant outfits, the state shuts down roads and provides foolproof security to these sectarian outfits.

The PML-N is apprehensive that these groups have disruptive street power which they could use to bring the country to a complete standstill. Moreover, the ruling party has some lawmakers who heavily rely on these sectarian groups to win their



seats. But, should the government prefer party interest to the larger national interest of the country?

Terrorism and militancy are complex security problems which cannot be eliminated by just a military operation. After each military operation, the civilian government needs to come up with the effectual administrative system and police force to rehabilitate and secure the area. However, Pakistan neither possesses an efficient bureaucratic setup nor a depoliticized and potent police force to develop and protect its terror-infested tribal areas. It is sad to note that the current government is apathetic to reform these burdensome and underperforming sectors for better administration and security. Pakistan cannot defeat trans-regional terrorists and militants without the sincere support of its neighbors. Unfortunately, the country is at

cross purposes with India and Afghanistan and does not enjoy robust security ties with Iran. The sooner Pakistan cultivates friendship with these countries the better for its security.

**Diplomacy is the best means to impede India and Afghanistan from arming, training and sponsoring Pakistani-based insurgents and terrorist. For this, the country not only needs a clear-cut foreign policy, but also a full-time and experienced foreign minister to manage the foreign policy.**

What is needed is that the government should realise that there is no shortcut in carrying the day against assorted terrorists. If comprehensive security, administrative and socio-economic reforms are not introduced and stringently implemented, the country will continue to reel from ominous terrorism and militancy.

*Ayaz Ahmed is a featured columnist for Balochistan Voices.*

## The Anti-terrorism Operation at the Airports

Source: <http://www.nigeriatoday.ng/2016/11/the-anti-terrorism-operation-at-the-airports/>



Nov 11 – On Tuesday, Special Forces from the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) carried out anti-terror simulation exercise at the international wing of the MurtalaMuhammed Airport (MMIA), Lagos. The objective of the exercise was to show how prepared the forces are to prevent attacks on our airports. Terrorists see airport attacks as opportunity to carry out maximum damage. The NAF forces joined by other paramilitary personnel simulated a real life situation with gun attacks and medical personnel carrying out rescue operations with attendant petrification of passengers who were not aware of the mock

exercise, which led to some of them fainting and stretched out of the terminal to the aero medical centre.

The operation reflected the tragic situation that happens when terrorists attack public facilities like airports, schools and other places. Even as a mock exercise, the reality of gunshots in an airport sent alarming signals to airport users and even those that were aware of the simulation exercise were also afraid, as every gunshot sent waves of fear into the air.



The action may be a response to the call on government to fortify airports security and prepare for possible terror attacks. Although no Nigerian airport is a hub but about 7000 passengers are processed everyday through the Lagos airport alone to international destinations.

In June this year, the Ataturk International Airport, Istanbul was attacked by terrorists and 41 people were killed and that marked the second tragic attack at airports in 2016.

According to records, in 2007 Glasgow International Airport was attacked and in the same year there was the JFK New York attack plot, the 2013 Beijing airport bombing and the Wichita airport bomb attempt in the US.

There was also Jinna International Airport, Karachi bomb attack in Pakistan and in 2015, there was Sabiha Gokcen airport bombing and on March 22, 2016, there were three coordinated bombings in Belgium; two attacks at Brussels airport in Zaventem and one at the metro station.

Aviation security expert and the CEO of Scope Centre, Adebayo Babatunde, told THISDAY that terrorists succeed when there is security breach, which in the case of airport would enable terrorists to have access to the terminal and detonate their weapons of destruction, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDS) for maximum damage.

Babatunde said every security apparatus must



have very intelligent community, noting that when there is failure of local intelligence, terrorists may have their way. So beyond the physical security checks, there must be very strong intelligence which when effectively deployed would forestall possible terror attacks.

“What this tells us is that intelligence is the most potent weapon to tackle these problems,” he said.

Babatunde explained that to effectively check security, passengers should be screened from the point of entry to the terminal and this means that government must invest in security.

“What do you invest in? You have to invest in solutions that can detect availability of IEDs and on person’s terrorism weapons. Today’s solution is that you have to look at the entire airport security architecture. Do we have adequate remedy for the level of threat that pervades the world today? Are we able to prevent situation as it happened in Brussels and Istanbul? Are we able to do that in Nigeria? This is because you should not forget that security breaches don’t happen every day. It never happened in Brussels. It happens once and once it does it has maximum economic damage,” he added.

The simulation exercise on Tuesday was delayed, as the event, scheduled to start at 9 am did not commence until about 12.15 pm, when a group of ‘terrorists’ took over the departure hall of the international wing of the airport shooting sporadically and also holding people hostage.

That was the scenario before the Special Forces came in minutes later. The Special Forces, who were battle ready, manoeuvred their way into the terminal building with the help of NAF Helicopter with registration number 565 that dropped men from the Special Forces on the roof of the terminal.

The special forces, who came in through the roof of the terminal was able to overpower the terrorists and arrest them after a serious gun duel that lasted for some minutes.

The arrested terrorists, who wore masked were later led into a waiting military van and taken to an undisclosed location.

Speaking shortly after the simulation exercise that lasted for about 45 minutes, the Chief of Air Staff, (CAS), Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, explained that the

essence of the simulation was to evaluate the state of preparedness of the Special Forces in the event of any terrorists attack at airports.

On whether he was satisfied with the exercise, he said, he was very happy with the mock exercise,



although he had seen some gaps, adding that he and the team would go back, evaluate and bridge the gaps noticed during the exercise. Part of the gaps might be the vain search for the personnel with the medical kits at the start of the exercise.

The CAS stated that some of the men that carried out the mock operation were trained in Pakistan and while some were trained in Nigeria, adding that all the security agencies have been very cooperative to make the exercise possible.

Present at scene of the simulation exercise were the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Police, Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) Aviation Security (ASEC), Nigeria Civil Defense Corp (NCDC), Men from Police Anti –bomb squad, NAF, who was the host.

However, despite the several announcements by airport authority on the exercise and the

banners placed at conspicuous locations at the airport, notifying airport users about the simulation exercise, some passengers were still shocked and petrified when the simulation exercise started.

For instance, one of the passengers developed High Blood Pressure attack while the operation was ongoing, while another woman was rushed out of the scene to another part of the terminal by medics for treatment.

**However, the exercise showed that Nigeria has the capability to counter terror attacks at its airports.** Abubakar said the exercise had been carried out at the Abuja airport and would also be carried out at other major airports in the country. If such number of NAF personnel could quickly be deployed in a possible terror attack in minutes, it means that Nigeria is really prepared to protect its airports from terrorists.

## Colombian government, FARC agree on a new peace deal

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161114-colombian-government-farc-agree-on-a-new-peace-deal>

Nov 14 – **The government of Colombia and the leftist FARC guerrillas have agreed on a new peace deal aiming to broaden popular support after Colombian voters, in a referendum on 2 October, narrowly defeated an earlier agreement to end the 52-years conflict.**

Government and rebel negotiators announced on Saturday in Havana that they had agreed on a series of modifications to the original accord, addressing objections from a diverse coalition who, under the leadership of former president Alvaro Uribe, actively campaigned against the original deal.

“We have reached a new final accord to end the armed conflict that integrates changes, precisions and proposals suggested by the most diverse sectors of society,” the two sides said in a statement.

The government had insisted that the first agreement was the “best deal possible,” but now admitted updated agreement is much improved. “I humbly recognize that this agreement is better,” Humberto de la Calle, the government’s chief negotiator, said.

“We understood the importance of reformulating [the agreement] with a broader

consensus that incorporates many voices that were absent during the negotiating process,” said Iván Márquez, the FARC lead negotiator.

The *Chicago Tribune* reports that the text of the new agreement was not immediately published, by the president, Juan Manuel Santos, laid out the changes in a televised speech. **Some changes are not much more than clarifications of the often vague and overly legalistic language of the original text. Other changes are substantial.**

Under the new agreement, FARC commits to declare and hand over all the organization’s assets, to be used to compensate the victims of the conflict. More than 220,000 people were killed in the conflict, and nearly eight million people were forced out of their homes.

The compensation clause was not part of the original accord, but was one of the main demands of the anti-accord campaign.



Much of the opposition to the first agreement stemmed from the fact that the FARC leaders would escape punishment for the many atrocities they have committed over the years, including 26,000 kidnappings. The new agreement more clearly stipulates the kinds of alternative punishment FARC leaders and soldiers will face under a special tribunal which will prosecute war crimes.

The original agreement also guaranteed a certain number of seats for FARC leaders in both the lower and upper chambers of the Colombian parliament – until 2026, when the FARC representation in parliament will depend on its performance in the elections. Critics of the agreement, however, balked at the idea of people who committed atrocities, whether or not there were convicted in court, being able to hold public office. This particular provision remains unchanged in the new deal, and Santos strongly defended it.

“The reason for all peace processes in the world is precisely so that guerrillas leave their arms and can participate in politics legally,” he said.

Observers note that it is not yet clear whether Santos will submit the new agreement to a plebiscite for ratification, or ask congress, where his coalition holds a majority, to approve it.

U.S. secretary of state John Kerry congratulated Colombia on the new deal as an “important step forward,” adding that continued dissent was understandable.

**“After fifty-two years of war, no peace agreement can satisfy everyone in every detail,” he said in a statement.**

Former president Uribe, who led the No campaign in the referendum, did not immediately react to the new accord other than to say it should be open to review.

## More U.K. children call Childline help-line over terrorism anxiety

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161114-more-u-k-children-call-childline-helpline-over-terrorism-anxiety>

Nov 14 – Children as young as nine have contacted [Childline](#) “petrified” about the prospect of a terror attack. The [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children’s](#) (NSPCC) 24/7 service said it **had handled 660 counselling sessions since the November 2015 Paris attacks**. Counsellors at Scotland’s two Childline offices in Aberdeen and Glasgow handled 111 of the calls from across the UK. The *Independent* reports that many callers said they feared the outbreak of war or the prospect of a terror attack hurting their families.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

Excellent

Good

Okay

Bad

Horrible

Stressed

Depressed

**Across the United Kingdom, one in five of the contacts to the service – which is free and anonymous — were from young people aged 11 or younger.**

from worried youngsters.

The NSPCC said that the Paris attacks in November 2015, which were followed by attacks in Brussels, Orlando, Nice, and Munich this year, triggered a higher volume of calls to the help line, with girls twice as likely as boys to contact the service.

Matt Forde, national head of services for NSPCC Scotland, said: “The past twelve months have been stained by these bloody events and it is little wonder that young people are so frightened about terrorism.

“Sadly we now live in a world where the months are punctuated by these attacks, so it is vital that we do not brush young peoples’ fears aside.

“Instead, we must listen to their worries and reassure them that there are people doing everything they can to keep us all safe.”



The charity said youngsters between the ages of 12 to 15 were the most likely to speak to counsellors. The NSPCC's helpline offers parents advice on how to talk to children about terrorism.

## The new normal: one year since terror attacks, Paris is a city afraid and divided

By Joseph Downing

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161114-the-new-normal-one-year-since-terror-attacks-paris-is-a-city-afraid-and-divided>

Nov 14 – It has been one year since the attacks on 13 November 2015 chilled all Parisians – Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and secular alike – to the core. In coordinated attacks on a football match and a music concert, 130 innocent civilians lost their lives, and hundreds more were injured. The immediate impacts were obvious: police began a manhunt for suspects which would lead all the way to Brussels, and French President François Hollande imposed a nation-wide state of emergency which remains in place to this day.

Further atrocities have occurred across France, from Rouen in the north to Nice in the south. But Paris has been the symbolic and geographical center of such attacks – and they have transformed the city in ways which are still coming to light.

**Paris is a global hub for business, arts, diplomacy and culture, and the wider region is home to more than 12 million people.** As with other large cities that have experienced terror attacks, such as London and New York, life simply had to go on. But it is not the same as before. Parisians have had to settle into a bizarre “new normal,” where daily routines are interrupted by unfamiliar sights, sounds, and inconveniences.

Perhaps the most obvious change has been the introduction of the huge security program, [Operation Sentinelle](#), a major military deployment in civilian areas to complement France's [Plan Vigipirate](#) terror alert system. As a result of these measures, Paris has seen the largest deployment of military personnel since the second world war.

**Of the 10,000 soldiers deployed nationally, more than 6,500 are based in the Paris metropolitan area.** Parisians have had to adjust to the sight of military uniforms patrolling subway stations, museums, major streets, and religious sites. While these troops were deployed to support police and reassure

civilians, they have also served as a constant reminder that life has not fully returned to normal.

**If anything, the atmosphere of the city has grown tense, and residents have become jumpy.** Parisians have expressed shock at the growing frequency of evacuations due to suspicious packages and vehicles – these were not widespread before the recent wave of attacks. This sense of unease has manifested in unexpected ways.

### Safe schools

**One of the more disturbing new measures has been the decision to allow Parisian high school students to smoke on school premises. This behavior has been banned since the early 1990s, but schools are anxious to prevent groups of students gathered outside high school gates from becoming targets.**

Students have also been briefed on what to do in the event of a terrorist attack or incursion into school territory. During a recent research trip for [a new project in France](#), the parents of Parisian school children have told me that their children were instructed to hide under their desks and remain silent, if the alarm is raised that a heavily armed terrorist is rampaging through their high school. This has deeply shocked them.

The lycée holds a special space in French life, as a place for children to experiment with their identities, have teen romances and grow up. This securitization of school spaces curtails the sense of innocence which once accompanied education in France.

Of course, there are inequalities between the prestigious institutions on the left bank, and the crumbling, ineffective schools in the poorer Parisian suburbs where I have done much of [my research](#). And indeed, bullying is a terrible



problem [right across the spectrum](#).

But these measures mark a significant shift in the way parents, teachers and students regard the lycée: they have gone from seeing it a safe space, to a target for political violence. The students, however, are apparently not as concerned by this as their parents. Many simply haven't experienced less troubled times: for them, this is normal.

#### On the periphery

**The suburbs on the outskirts of Paris have changed just as much as the center.** While extra security has been deployed to reassure residents in Paris proper, the interventions in areas such as Saint Denis in the north, and Vitry to the south, have had a rather different effect.

The communities which live in these areas tend to be poorer, and have higher numbers of migrants, than [the rest of the city](#). In the wake of the Paris attacks, they have experienced an intensification of longstanding difficulties, where those of north and West African origin [are denied jobs](#), treated with suspicion, and subject to [outright hostility](#).

While [reports suggest that](#) these sites of poverty and high numbers of migrants are the origin of the recent wave of attacks, the overwhelming majority of residents – whether Muslim or not – have [no sympathy for terrorism](#).

Yet these same communities have overwhelmingly been targeted with extra-judicial powers: individuals have been wrongly confined to house arrest, detained in prison and had their lives and business ruined as a result. **One shop keeper was detained because someone known to associate with extremists was a regular customer at his shop.**

Sadly, there have been several moments when this hostility has tipped over into civilian life. For instance, earlier this year two Muslim women [were ejected](#) from a cafe by the owner, who was filmed telling them that “all terrorists are Muslim, and all Muslims are terrorists”. Around France, the “burkini ban” has further fueled anti-Islamic sentiment, with [some claiming](#) the garment expresses an “allegiance to terrorist movements.”

Both sides of Paris – a city of [unparalleled inequality and marginalization](#) across Western Europe – are suffering from the effects of this “new normal”. **Civilians, politicians, and scholars must know that the way to overcome these attacks is not to “protect” one side of the city from another.** The memory of the Muslim victims of terrorism in France, and those further afield in throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, remind us that we all need protection from the small number of people seeking to bring violence and bloodshed into our daily lives.

*Joseph Downing is Guest Lecturer, European Institute, [London School of Economics and Political Science](#).*

## Daesh training militants to pass as regular refugees: Report

Source: <http://presstv.ir/Detail/2016/11/13/493461/daesh-refugee-eu-belgium>

Nov 14 – **The Daesh terrorist group is giving its members specific training on how to pass as ordinary refugees while trying to gain asylum in European countries, says a report.**

The report published in Germany's *Die Welt* daily cited sources in Germany's Federal Intelligence Service (BND) as saying that the militants receive specific infiltration training focused on presenting a “classical” refugee persona to authorities and fellow refugees.

Former reports had noted that Takfiri terrorists were attempting to blend in with refugees to enter EU countries, but this is the first time reports have surfaced that they are specifically trained to do so. “Their behavior is trained to be recognized as a refugee in the case of interrogation by police officers or asylum seeker,” said the sources.

**The report notes that the militants are receiving training similar to that of special forces such as the use of credible disguises and proper behavior during interrogation and capture.**

In July, Germany's secret service warned that active terrorists or at least Daesh sympathizers may be among refugees entering the country.



The European Union has been dealing with an excessive influx of refugees in recent years, driven by war, famine, poverty and persecution. The crisis has largely divided the continent over how to deal with the situation.

### Thousands of Daesh militants to return to Europe

Meanwhile, Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon has warned that 3,000 and 5,000 surviving Europeans remain among Daesh's dwindling ranks, many of whom may flee back to their countries of origin.

**"Daesh is under pressure in Mosul and Raqqa. Belgian fighters are helping defend the strongholds, but we must be aware that there are not only 200 of our countrymen there, but between 3,000 and 5,000 Europeans,"** he said.

After months of preparation, Iraqi army soldiers, backed by pro-government fighters from Popular Mobilization Units and Kurdish Peshmerga forces, launched an operation on October 17 to retake the strategic city of Mosul from the Daesh terrorists.

On November 6, the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced that they had started operations to capture the Daesh de facto capital Raqqa with the cooperation of the US-led coalition. Jambon noted that intelligence agencies are monitoring the situation and exchanging information but must wait and see how many of the terrorists actually return.

**"117 Daesh recruits have returned to Belgium. About half are in prison, the others under surveillance."** There are also several dozen who made failed attempts to get to Syria, and we are observing them," he added.

## Syria's Interlocking Conflicts

By Jonathan Spyer

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/6367/syria-interlocking-conflicts>

Nov 11 – **The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces last Friday announced the commencement of an operation to conquer the northern Syrian city of Raqqa. The operation was designated "Euphrates Wrath."**

Raqqa is the capital of the "Caliphate" maintained by the Islamic State organization. In tandem with the effort currently under way to recapture the Iraqi city of Mosul from IS, the loss of Raqqa would represent the final eclipse of the Islamic State as a quasi-sovereign entity. At this point, it would revert back to the guerrilla/insurgent/terrorist force which it constituted prior to the outbreak of the Syrian civil war.

Conquering the city is likely to be a slow business. However, the final outcome is not in doubt. The Islamic State, whose main slogan in Arabic is "Baqiya watatamadad" (remaining and expanding) has been in reality contracting since the high point of its advance in the autumn of 2014. Its eventual demise, at least as a quasi-state entity, is assured.

But Syria is host not only to the war against IS, but to a series of other, interlocking conflicts. And one of these additional conflicts pits the

two main candidates for the leading role in the fight against IS in Raqqa against one another.

**Observe: there are in Syria today no less than five identifiable conflicts taking place.**

**These are: Turkish-backed Sunni Arab rebel and Islamist organizations against the Assad dictatorship, western backed SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces, dominated by the Kurdish YPG) against IS, Kurdish YPG against the Assad regime, the aforementioned Sunni rebels against IS and, lastly, the Sunni rebels against the SDF.**

The problem for those seeking to cobble together a force to take Raqqa city and by so doing destroy the Islamic State, is that the two eligible forces to carry out this action are the mainly Kurdish SDF and the Turkish-backed, mainly Islamist Sunni rebels – but these forces are at war with one another.

After the SDF announced the commencement of the Raqqa campaign this week, Turkish President Recep Tayepp Erdogan expressed his opposition to the decision, repeating his assertion that the Kurdish YPG are merely "another terror organization...a side branch" of the PKK.



Following the SDF's announcement, **Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford** met with Turkish Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar in Ankara. After the meeting, Dunford said that the US would work together with Turkey to develop a long term plan for "seizing, holding and governing" the city.

Dunford stated that the US considered the largely non-Arab SDF "wasn't the solution" for "holding and governing" largely Sunni Arab Raqqa.

A judicious reader will notice that Dunford's statement doesn't say that the SDF is unsuitable for the job of capturing the city, only for holding it afterwards.

**The root of the deep differences between the SDF and the Turkish supported rebels are to be found not only in the soil of northern Syria. Rather, they are inextricably linked to the long insurgency fought by Turkey's Kurds against a succession of governments in Ankara since 1984.**

The fragmenting of Syria formed a historic opportunity for the Syrian Kurds, which they have seized. The PYD, the Syrian Kurdish franchise of the PKK organization, established three self-governing cantons along the Syrian-Turkish border in 2012. In 2015, against the background of the fight against IS, they managed to unite two of these – Jazeera and Kobani. On March 17, 2016, the ruling coalition in these areas announced the formation of the "Federation of Northern Syria – Rojava."

**The US has since October 2015 found the Kurdish YPG to be a formidable and useful ground partner to coalition air power against IS. But the Kurds themselves, while welcoming the alliance with the US, have long sought another objective – namely to unite the three cantons, connecting Jazira/Kobani with Afrin in the far north west of the country.**

From a Turkish point of view, the prospect of a PKK-linked party controlling the entirety of the 800 km border between Syria and Turkey is entirely unacceptable. Since mid-2015, a Kurdish insurgency is once again under way against the Turkish government. As part of the general post-coup crackdown, Erdogan this week arrested Turkey's most prominent Kurdish politician, Salahattin Demirtas of the HDP.

Since 2012, the instruments Turkey chose to use to contain the Syrian Kurds were the mainly Islamist rebel movements of northern Syria, from the more moderate elements across to Jabhat al Nusra and possibly at one time also ISIS.

By mid-2016, supporting ISIS was no longer an option, and the rebels by themselves were too weak for purpose. So in August, Turkey boldly launched a direct intervention into northern Syria. ISIS were the ostensible target. But the clear purpose was to bisect Syria's north, rendering a sufficient area impassable that the danger of the Kurds linking up their cantons would disappear.

This process is not yet complete. The Kurds are still west of the Euphrates, in the town of Manbij. And the crucial IS-held town of Al-Bab remains unconquered. The Turks would like to help their rebel clients take the town and end any further possibility of Kurdish unification. But here, in the usual labyrinthine way, other players enter the picture. Al-Bab is close to Aleppo. It is possible that the Russians have warned Erdogan that the town remains out of bounds.

But the point to bear in mind is that the process of coalition building against IS in Syria is complicated by the fact that two potential members of the coalition – the US-backed SDF and the Turkish army with their Sunni Arab allies, are currently engaged in a direct conflict with one another.

In this regard, it is worth noting the yawning gap between the military achievements of the Syrian Kurds and their dearth of similar successes in the diplomatic and political fields. While YPG commanders call in US airstrikes against IS, no country has recognized the Federation of Northern Syria, and it has received little media coverage.

Dunford's hurried visit to Ankara reflects the diplomatic state of play. Namely, that the agenda of a Turkish government, even one that openly supports Sunni jihadis, must be indulged. That of a Kurdish ally can be dismissed. The Kurds may have little choice in the matter. But they should be careful not to find themselves quickly abandoned once Operation "Euphrates Wrath" is done.



*Jonathan Spyer, a fellow at the Middle East Forum, is director of the Rubin Center for Research in International Affairs and author of The Transforming Fire: The Rise of the Israel-Islamist Conflict (Continuum, 2011).*

## Airports warned of 'terrorist infiltration'

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/airport-infiltration-20161115-gspq1j.html>

Nov 17 – **Australian airports are "extremely vulnerable" to infiltration by terrorists who could launch catastrophic attacks from within**, one of the world's leading cybercrime and counter-terrorism experts has warned.

Dr Jim Kent, an adviser to the United Nations who pioneered digital investigation techniques as a UK police officer, said recent events have highlighted the potential for terrorists to infiltrate airports by corrupting airport officials or hacking digital systems.

Catastrophic attacks could be launched from inside of Australia's biggest airports, warned Dr Jim Kent, an adviser to the United Nations on security and terrorism.

**In May, Fairfax Media uncovered widespread and unprecedented corruption among Australian border security workers in Melbourne and Sydney who have been assisting organised crime rings and drug smugglers for years.**

Customs examination facilities have been compromised by corrupt insiders, enabling imports of drugs to go undetected, and other workers have been leaking sensitive information, taking kickbacks and facilitating imports, Fairfax's investigation found.

**Last week, the AFP revealed that air traffic control broadcasts at Melbourne had been hacked over several weeks by a hoaxer.**

Corruption revelations came three years after a network of corrupt customs officers at Sydney Airport were discovered trafficking drugs. It also comes amid warnings from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission that links between crime gangs and terrorists are growing.



Dr Kent, who spoke to Fairfax Media in Sydney ahead of briefings with the federal government, said the risk was greater when large agencies operated in silos.

"Airports are still extremely vulnerable to infiltration ... by terrorist groups because critical monitoring of unusual activity and enforcement of security measures is rarely joined up," he said.

**"Terrorist groups could still work their way into an airport like a virus, for example by covertly infiltrating baggage handlers, immigration staff, freight drivers, pilots and cabin crew."**

He said the risk of infiltration is not confined to airports and also affects Australia's nuclear reactors, utilities, transport companies and financial institutions.

As the global head of security and intelligence for data investigation company Nuix, he has briefed several Australian companies this week on using systems that pick up on seemingly innocuous pieces of information among employees and collate it to detect patterns.

He has observed terrorist cells recruit employees by "hammering" them with Facebook requests or targeting those with money troubles. He said recruitment happens over two to three years.

However Clarke Jones, a counter-terrorism adviser who worked in aviation security before the Sydney Olympics, said Australian extremists lack the capability for such attacks.

"The level of sophistication is just not there in Australia," he said.

Kit Bennetts, a former intelligence officer, policeman and airline executive, said Australia does a good job at airport security but it would be "certainly feasible" to infiltrate it.



"Terrorist organisations... watch and learn," said Mr Bennetts, a Southern Cross University lecturer in aviation management. "You only have to pick up a spy book from the '60s to learn about recruitment and gradual involvement [or] about penetration operations."

**He said investigators can follow the money trail when it comes to organised crime but ideological crime is harder to detect.**

"If you can follow the money, you may notice a sudden change in lifestyle, an employee driving a Merc or buying a flashy house. But ideological recruits are discreet."

Sydney and Melbourne Airports referred questions to the Department of Border Protection and Immigration.

A spokesman for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection said significant improvements had been made since 2012 including tough "checks and a balances", mandatory reporting of suspected misconduct and requiring staff to declare conflicts of interest or changes in personal circumstances. In a 2015 submission to a Senate inquiry on aviation security, ASIO cited overseas examples of terrorists exploiting "trusted insiders" in the aviation sector but said all Australian airport workers undergo criminal and intelligence checks in order to get a compulsory Aviation Security Identification Card.

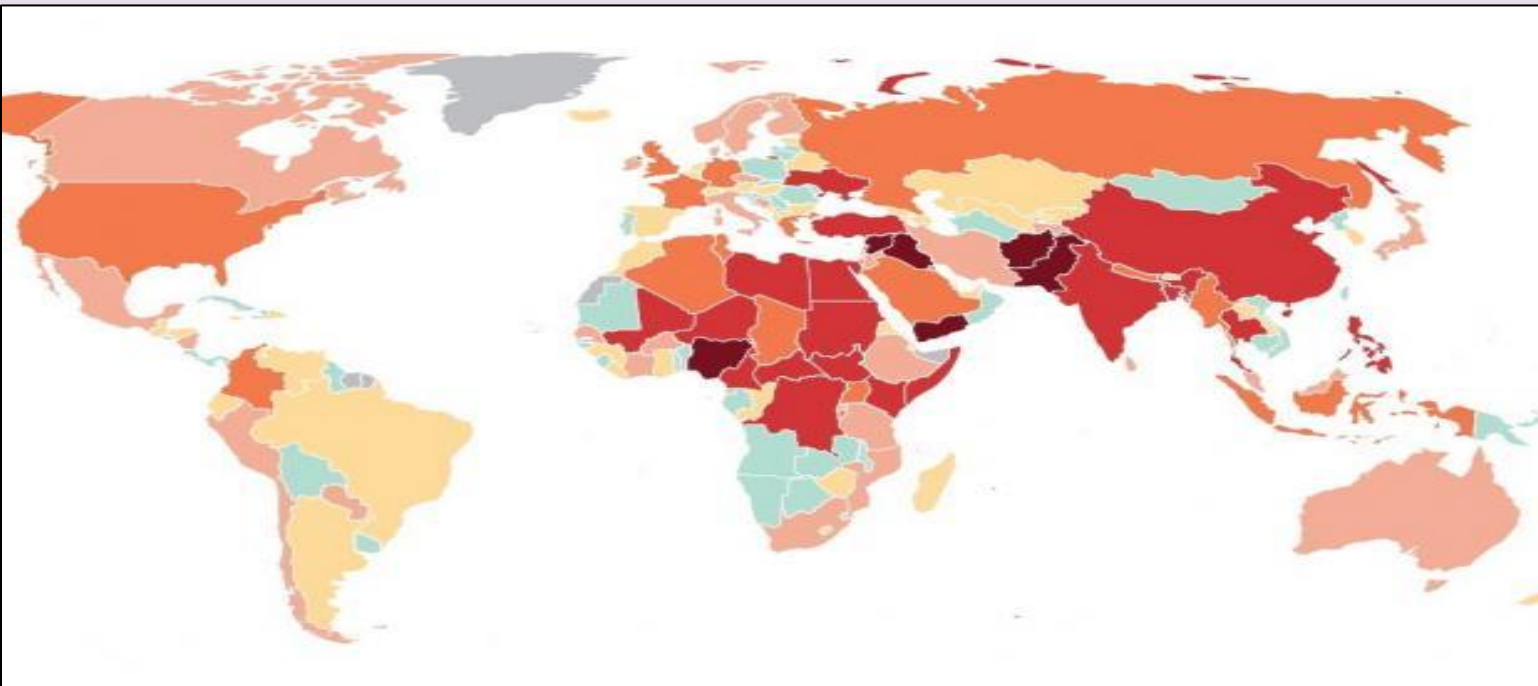
The department also set up an internal taskforce following the 2012 customs scandal and refers matters to the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.

Chief executive of Intelligent Risks Neil Fergus, who conducted a government review into layers of airport security, said Dr Kent's assertion was not "grounded in fact or in any apparent understanding of the checks, controls and systems that mitigate against such developments".

He said the 2012 and 2016 corruption scandals showed detection systems were working.

## **Global Terrorism Index 2016: Developed countries suffer dramatic rise in terrorism-related deaths**

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/global-terrorism-index-2016-developed-countries-suffer-dramatic-rise-deaths-a7419396.html>



The index measures the impact of terrorism on the world and on specific countries (darker red indicates greater impact) *Institute for Economics and peace*

Nov 17 – **As international terrorist groups are squeezed in their heartlands, the number of attacks in OECD countries has**

**risen 650%.** The world's most developed countries have suffered a dramatic increase in



deaths as a result of terrorism in the last year, according to the new Global Terrorism Index, despite a drop in the global number of terrorism-related deaths.

The index shows Isis is now officially the deadliest terrorist group in the world, overtaking Boko Haram, after claiming responsibility for 6,141 deaths through attacks in more than 250 different cities in 2015.

And the number of countries in which Isis has carried out attacks more than doubled, from 13 in 2014 to 28 in 2015.

Globally, the number of terrorism-related deaths dropped 10 per cent in 2015 from the year before, which had been a record in the 16 years covered by the index from the Institute of Economics and Peace.

The fall in deaths has been driven by military action against Isis and Boko Haram in Iraq and Nigeria respectively, but the index suggests those groups have expanded their influence in neighbouring countries and regions.

A 650 per cent increase in deaths from terrorism in OECD countries and a marked rise in transnational terrorist attacks means the world is now a yet-more dangerous place in terms of terrorism, according to the IEP.

**Though the index identifies 274 distinct terrorist groups around the world, between them Isis, Boko Haram, al-Qaeda and the Taliban were responsible for 75 per cent of all terror-related deaths.**

In terms of developed countries, 2015 was the second-deadliest year since records began. It was surpassed only by 2001, when the 9/11 attacks accounted for 2,996 deaths.

**The index suggested there were lessons to be learned, such as the fact that only 0.5 per cent of terrorist attacks occurred in**

**countries which have no involvement in foreign conflicts** and low levels of “state-sponsored terror” - extra-judicial deaths, torture and imprisonment without trial.

The report found terrorism is also more likely to occur in OECD member countries with poorer performance on socio-economic factors such as opportunities for youth, belief in the electoral system, levels of criminality and access to weapons

Despite receiving far greater international news coverage than any other terrorist incident of 2015, the Paris attacks with a combined death toll of 136 do not even feature in the top 10 most deadly events of the year.

**The most fatal attack of 2015 was in April in Qaim, Iraq, when Isis fighters rounded up and executed 300 civilians.**

Other incidents in the top 10 include the bombing of the Russian Metrojet passenger plane in October 2015, which killed all 224 people on board, and the April attack on Garissa University in Kenya when al-Shabaab militants executed at least 154 people, mainly non-Muslim students.

Steve Killelea, Executive Chairman of IEP, said, “This year’s GTI report highlights the most complex set of dynamics in global terrorism in the last 16 years.

“While on the one hand the reduction in deaths is positive, the continued intensification of terrorism in some countries and its spread to new ones is a cause for serious concern and underscores the fluid nature of modern terrorist activity.

“The attacks in the heartland of western democracies underscore the need for fast paced and tailored responses to the evolution of these organisations.”

## Cal OES Active Shooter Awareness Guidance

November 13, 2016

Concerned over the current lack of guidance for access and functional needs considerations associated with an active shooter attack, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) brought together a group of representatives from law enforcement, the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, emergency managers, the California Specialized Training Institute, and other disability stakeholders to update its Active Shooter Awareness Guidance.

[View Full Report](#)



## The Handbook for Campus Safety & Security Reporting 2016 Edition

July 13, 2016

This handbook reflects the U.S. Department of Education's 2016 interpretations and guidance of the various requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). The report was written to assist in understanding and meeting the requirements of campus safety and security measures.



[View Full Report](#)

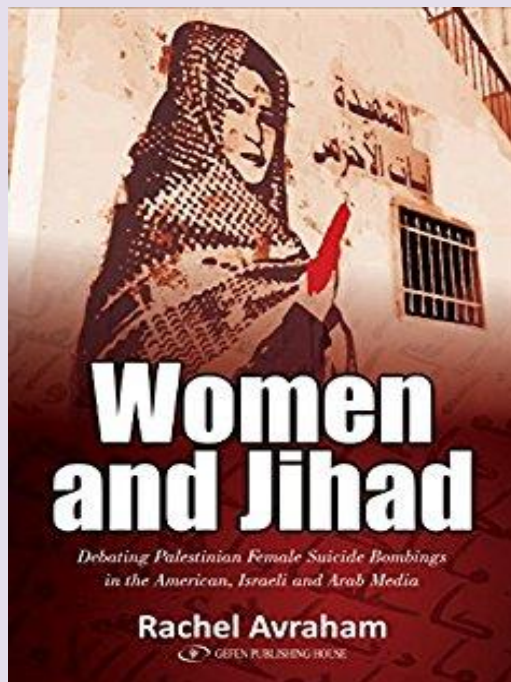
## Women and Jihad: Debating Palestinian Female Suicide Bombings in American, Israeli and Arab Media

By Rachel Avraham (Gefen Publishing – 286 pages)

**Reviewer:** Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin

Source: <http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/publications/detail/calling-a-spade-a-spade>

We have just come through months of being saturated by biased global media concerning the Clinton-Trump race for the White House. I never doubted for a moment that Trump would win, particularly because there was no balance in the media. That said it all. There was an



absence of ethical reporting. The communicative circuit bombarded us with horrific false images accompanied by language, which manipulated the truth. The majority of journalists obviously suffered from Stockholm Syndrome, their flagrant

identification with the aggressor as they could not and did not see the winner coming nor the will of the people. It became so volatile that PC behavior *almost* prevailed as many people did not feel safe to openly discuss the candidates. We have paid too high a price for years of PC behavior and its media bias, which started well before this election.

It is for this reason that this book under review here *Women and Jihad* by Rachel Avraham is extremely relevant to what we have just experienced concerning the election even though the book's topic deals with the Israeli-Palestinian arena and its female suicide bombers. *Women and Jihad* is unique in that it dissects the manipulation of the Palestinian FSBs in American, Israeli and Arab media. Its author is a young news editor and political analyst working at JerusalemOnline. She holds a masters degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Ben-Gurion University. The author uses communication theory's concept of framing, that is how events are presented and contextualized through the use of language in order to place such events in a field of meaning for her analysis. Avraham identifies and draws upon four frames in particular: women's liberality, justice and defiance, physical appearance and law and order frames. She deftly analyzes them within the media reports of the eight Palestinian FSBs. Her work is the first to do so and thereby makes a



significant contribution but more than that I am struck by her honesty in reporting and seeking a balanced presentation of the facts.

When I asked for a review copy of this new book on Palestinian female suicide bombers (fsbs), I already knew that it was a Master's degree thesis retooled for publication. Generally I have qualms about such projects because a thesis is a scholarly endeavor whose purpose is to train the student in critical thinking and original work meant for a narrow academic audience and better left as a thesis. Full disclosure: the author had even discussed with me the possibility of publishing her thesis. In addition I was interviewed twice by Avraham concerning [my own work](#) on the psychodynamics of the Islamic suicide attack and the Palestinian female which was reposted here at FSM.

I am pleased to say Avraham has proven my assumption wrong and has done a superb job in enhancing her Master's degree work. This is a book that must be added to all courses concerning terrorism, suicide bombing, gender and media studies. However, I do have two quibbles. The book could have been more carefully edited and the idea of unconscious bias could have been developed more. I agree with Eric Rozenman that it exists and it is part of a much larger undercurrent functioning behind the scenes of what we read and view in journalism which is the motor for such an identification with the aggressor as we have witnessed in this election. Having said that, it is certainly something, which can be addressed by this emerging scholar next time around.

Avraham gives an insightful review of the problem of defining terrorism and moves to presenting the eight well-known cases of Palestinian FSBs. Much has been written concerning these female murderers. What is of interest is her ability to analyze how they were journalistically "staged" by the three different medias through the use of framing. Since terrorism is theater, we should recall that it was the Spanish who during the middle ages used theater as a vehicle to educate its new citizens of its modern nation state founded by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. In a return of the repressed, the theater of global jihad aims to conquer not only Spain but the USA and Israel. The Israel-Palestinian arena is the hot zone for this global jihad and therefore this book is of the utmost relevance.

However, it is not the issue of gender per se that is of interest here nor solely the issue of framing, rather it is the author's candid discussion of the horrific prejudice she endured during her master's degree studies. No student should ever have to undergo such an experience but unfortunately it has become all too routine at universities and colleges. It is hard for many to understand the degree to which the Academy on both sides of the Atlantic has been infiltrated by hatred coming from the allegedly "tolerant" Left. This latter section of the book brought back memories of what it was like for me to write my dissertation under a Lebanese advisor who had written a five hundred page history of Muslim Spain without once citing jihad. In addition he didn't want to train me, a female let alone a Jew, but then again he had no choice since I had the credentials. The department was also Marxist and anti-Israel. In 1978 the word "PC" was unknown to this student but you knew not to open your mouth. To see the grittiness and feistiness with which Avraham confronted her academic training was a breath of fresh air and inspiring.

Her final chapter is also of extreme importance as she offers strategies to deploy in order to not only counter media bias, but to promote an ethics for journalism. This chapter needs to be read by all in order to understand the reverse world of the jihadis and how we must avoid giving these cold blooded murderers a platform for their lethal publicity "stunts." We must do so in order to disrupt the malicious sadomasochistic unconscious bonding that these perverts perpetrate. My colleague Dr. Joan Lachkar has aptly termed the Islamic terrorist's lack of morality and ethics as a reverse superego. In their world what is good is bad and what is bad is good. This calls to mind what we have known since biblical times - that there exists people who twist morality around: "Woe unto them that call good evil and evil good; that change darkness into light and light into darkness." *Isaiah 5:20*.

Finally and most significantly *Women and Jihad* is dedicated to the author's husband's two cousins - Hanit Arami z"l age 19 and Claude Knapp z"l age 29 both murdered in two different Islamic terrorism attacks in Israel in 2001.

Surely their memories will be for a



blessing. As Avraham has shown they are our real martyrs.

*Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin, Ph.D., Fellow, American Center for Democracy; Psychoanalyst, Arabist & Counter Terrorist Expert; and author of Specializing in Early Childhood Development: Mind & Body Language of the Terrorist. She is also the author of The Banality of Suicide Terrorism; Penetrating the Terrorist Psyche; The Maternal Drama of the Chechen Jihadi, soon available in Urdu; The Jihadi Dictionary: THE Essential INTEL Tool; and yet-to-be published Children Killing Children and Mailing Mogadishu.*

## October 2016 terrorism: The numbers

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161116-october-2016-terrorism-the-numbers>

Nov 16 – The House Homeland Security Committee has [released](#) its November 2016 Terror Threat Snapshot, which details terrorism events and trends in October 2016. The snapshot is a monthly committee assessment of the threat America, the West, and the world face from ISIS and other Islamist terrorists. The document is produced by the Majority Staff of the committee. It is based on information culled from open source materials, including media reports, publicly available government statements, and nongovernmental assessments.

### Key points

- ☒ ISIS' message continues to resonate with American citizens as more extremists plot attacks on American soil and attempt to travel overseas to join the terror group.
- ☒ ISIS has targeted the West at an alarming rate, marked by a recent surge in ISIS-linked plots to attack U.S. and allied interests abroad.
- ☒ ISIS and al Qaeda continue to take advantage of safe havens to consolidate their power and territory, as well as plan attacks.
- ☒ The threat of the "terrorist diaspora" to the West will continue to grow, particularly as fighters flee from recent offensives in Mosul and Raqqa.
- ☒ Iran continues to take aggressive steps to threaten U.S. interests at home and abroad, particularly in the Gulf.
- ☒ Guantanamo Bay detainees are continuing to return to the fight to replenish the ranks of jihadist organizations.

### Homegrown Islamist extremism

- FBI Director James Comey [stated](#) in September 2016 that the Bureau has about 1,000 active homegrown terror investigations. He estimated in May 2016 that around [80 percent](#) of active homegrown terror investigations are related to ISIS.
- Since September 11, 2001, there have been at least 223 homegrown jihadist plots in the United States, including attempts to join terrorist groups overseas and execute attacks at home. More than 90 percent of these cases have occurred or been uncovered since 2009 (this figure is based on open-source data compiled by the Congressional Research Service and the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee).
- Authorities have arrested 114 individuals in the U.S. and charged 4 others in absentia in ISIS-linked cases since 2014 (this figure is based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee). These individuals had, among other acts: plotted attacks; attempted to join ISIS in Iraq and Syria (or facilitated others' travel); provided money, equipment, and weapons to ISIS; and falsified statements to federal authorities. Eight ISIS-linked terrorists have been killed while carrying out five separate attacks in California, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, and Minnesota.
- Nearly 90 percent of the ISIS supporters charged in the U.S. are male and their average age is 26 (these figures are provided by the George Washington University's Program on Extremism; see [here](#)). Nearly [one-third](#) of the ISIS-linked individuals charged were involved in plotting attacks inside the United States.



*Recent Developments*

- [November 7](#): Aaron Travis Daniels, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen from Ohio, was arrested after attempting to travel to Libya to join ISIS. Daniels planned to fly from the United States to Trinidad and then on to Libya. Daniels had expressed his support for ISIS through social media and sent money to an ISIS operative overseas.
- [October 28](#): Marlonn Hicks, a 30-year-old U.S. citizen from Indiana, pleaded guilty to a charge that he distributed information on making explosives with the intent to assist in the execution of a terror attack on behalf of ISIS.
- [October 12](#): Michelle Bastian, a 49-year-old U.S. citizen from Arizona, was arrested after conspiring to bomb a prison where her husband is incarcerated for a 2007 murder conviction. Bastian provided her husband copies of jihadist magazines that contained instructions for planning terror attacks.
- [October 5](#): Jason Ludke, a 35-year-old U.S. citizen, and Yoasvany Padilla-Conde, a 30-year-old immigrant whose residency status is not clear, were arrested after attempting to join ISIS overseas. The two men—both residents of Milwaukee, Wisconsin— were on their way to Mexico to obtain documents to facilitate onward travel to Iraq or Yemen.

**ISIS terror attack plots against the West**

There have been at least 125 ISIS-linked plots to attack Western targets since 2014, a surge from 116 plots in October. This figure includes 38 ISIS-linked plots inside the United States (these figures are based on open-source data compiled and analyzed by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee).

*Recent Developments*

- [November 3](#): German authorities arrested a 27-year-old Syrian believed to be planning an attack on behalf of ISIS. The man was seeking asylum in Germany and had received guidance from an ISIS operative in Syria.
- [October 28](#): ISIS supporter Marlonn Hicks intended to facilitate an attack in the United States when he sent information on making explosives to an individual online. Hicks had previously expressed a desire to join ISIS overseas. He began taking further steps to engage in terror activity on behalf of ISIS following the June 2016 Orlando attack executed by ISIS supporter Omar Mateen.
- [October 27](#): ISIS claimed responsibility for stabbing a security guard at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.
- [October 27](#): German authorities announced that in March they arrested a 19-year-old Syrian ISIS member who had been plotting a terror attack in Berlin and had served as a local contact for potential attackers in Germany. He arrived in Germany as an asylum seeker in the summer of 2015.
- [October 13](#): Two 16-year-olds who pledged allegiance to ISIS were arrested after planning to conduct an attack in Sydney, Australia.
- [October 12](#): Michelle Bastian sent her incarcerated husband a copy of Dabiq, ISIS's magazine, as part of a plot to bomb a prison.
- [October 10](#): German authorities arrested a 22-year-old Syrian refugee they believed was planning a suicide bombing in Berlin targeting an airport.
- [October 8](#): An Egyptian ISIS supporter attacked a vehicle carrying five U.S. service members in Kuwait using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.
- [October 4](#): British authorities arrested a 33-year-old ISIS supporter who intended to assist in the execution of an attack by providing instructions on the use of encryption software.

**Foreign fighters**

- More than [42,900](#) fighters—including at least 7,900 from Western countries—have [reportedly](#) traveled to Syria and Iraq from at least 120 countries since 2011. The number of fighters flowing into Syria and Iraq every month has reportedly dropped from [2,000](#) to “[as few as 50](#).” Around [250](#) of the Western fighters traveled from the United States and [5,000](#) of them traveled from European Union countries. As many as [20,000](#) Shia fighters—including from Lebanese Hezbollah and Iranian-directed Iraq-based militias— have also traveled to Syria to fight alongside the Assad regime.

- Europol Director Rob Wainwright recently [predicted](#) that Europe will face a “generation-long struggle” with “thousands of foreign fighters” returning to the continent. [According](#) to Wainwright, “ISIS are in the business of getting their people back into Europe in increasingly sophisticated ways,” which includes obtaining high-quality false travel documents. He noted a recent “pickup in the rate of return,” noticeably to Britain, Sweden and Italy. Europol [estimates](#) that nearly 2,000 European fighters have returned home from Syria and Iraq. FBI Director Comey recently [warned](#) “[t]here will be a terrorist diaspora sometime in the next two to five years like we’ve never seen before.”
- According to EU Commissioner for the Security Union Julian King, an [influx](#) of jihadists to Europe is possible as the battle to capture Mosul from the Islamic state wages on. “The retaking of the IS’s northern Iraq territory, Mosul, may lead to the return to Europe of violent IS fighters,” [King said](#). “This is a very serious threat and we must be prepared to face it.”
- The suspected [coordinator](#) of the Paris attacks on November 13, 2015 and the Brussels terrorattacks on March 22, 2016 has been identified as Oussama Atar, who is of dual Belgian and Moroccan nationality. Also known by the name Abu Ahmad, Atar is a cousin of the El Bakraoui brothers who were responsible for the Brussels airport and metro attack in March. Atar is thought to have directed the attacks from Syria and has been known to Belgian [authorities](#) for years. He previously spent time in Abu Ghraib prison in 2005 for illegally crossing the border into Iraq.
- Jaber Albakr, a Syrian refugee that came to Germany seeking asylum, was [arrested](#) in October 2016 on suspicion of planning a bomb attack at a Berlin airport two days after escaping a raid on his apartment that contained explosives. Days later, Albakr [committed suicide](#) in his cell in Leipzig, Germany.
- A Syrian refugee living in a shelter in Germany who had reportedly been “rapidly radicalized” was [arrested](#) after plotting an attack on behalf of ISIS. A recent Syrian suicide bomber in Germany had reportedly [sought](#) asylum in Europe after illegally entering the continent in 2013. At least one of the European ISIS operatives in the March 2016 Brussels attack [reportedly](#) reentered Europe by posing as a Syrian refugee in Greece. At least two of the ISIS attackers in the November 2015 attacks [infiltrated](#) Europe by posing as [Syrian refugees](#); Hungarian officials believe a majority of the attackers in Paris [used](#) migrant routes to enter Europe.
- The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has [identified](#) “...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program.” The Obama administration has [resettled](#) nearly 13,000 refugees in the United States this past fiscal year. The vetting [process](#) for these refugees, which typically takes 18 to 24 months, is overseen by the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department, with assistance from U.S. government security agencies. American law enforcement and intelligence officials have repeatedly [indicated](#) that the U.S. lacks reliable and credible intelligence to properly vet and screen potential Syrian refugees.

#### Foreign Jihadist networks and safe havens

- At least [34](#) Islamist extremist groups have pledged their allegiance to ISIS. ISIS, its affiliates, and supporting groups have operated in approximately two dozen countries or territories, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Palestinian territories (Gaza), Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (North Caucasus region), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen (data compiled by the Majority Staff of the Homeland Security Committee using open source materials). The group has established [eight](#) official branches.
- ISIS controls more than a dozen cities and towns across Iraq and Syria, despite losing significant terrain since 2014, [including](#) half of its territory in Iraq and a quarter of its territory in Syria (these figures are derived from assessments of territorial control conducted by the Institute for the Study of War research organization).
- In October 2016, the Iraqi Government launched an operation to retake Mosul, ISIS’ last remaining stronghold in Iraq and the [largest](#) city under the group’s control. The operation is [backed](#) by U.S. airstrikes and ground support and consists of both Iraqi regular troops and special forces, Kurdish Peshmerga fighters and Shia militias. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are working to encircle the city by approaching its eastern neighborhoods while also joining Peshmerga forces to the east and south. While supporting the



offensive, an American [serviceman](#) was killed on October 20, 2016 by wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device near Bashiqa, marking the first U.S. service member to die in the fight to retake Mosul. In an effort to [escape](#) the offensive, ISIS has forced around 1,500 families to retreat with them near Mosul, some of which appear to be used as human shields.

- In early November 2016, Operation Euphrates Rage was [launched](#) by the Syrian Democratic Forces with the support of the United States and an international coalition to liberate Raqqa, Syria, the de facto capital of ISIS. The military plan will be carried out in stages with the initial goal of isolating the city to prevent fighters from escaping and blocking the group's supply routes stretching between Raqqa and Mosul. This operation was launched simultaneously with the offensive in Mosul to hinder ISIS' ability to exercise command and control and stretch the group's available resources. Liberating Raqqa would undercut the group's ability to carry out attacks and end its fictitious claim of a caliphate.
- ISIS's Libyan branch, described by CIA Director John Brennan in June 2016 as "the most developed and the [most dangerous](#)" of its affiliates, has been largely [dislodged](#) from its base in the coastal city of Sirte. While the branch's territory there has been [reduced](#) to a square kilometer, continued urban warfare has [resulted](#) in the offensive's stall and the United States has [halted](#) air strikes since October 31, although Washington is prepared to conduct strikes at the request of Libya's UN-backed government. ISIS fighters will [continue](#) to have a [presence](#) in other parts of Libya and they [may establish](#) a new base and sanctuary in southern Libya.
- ISIS's affiliate in Egypt, which blew up a commercial passenger plane in 2015, has [maintained](#) its foothold in the Sinai Peninsula. Its militants have [continued](#) targeting local security forces and soldiers, with the recent killing of an Egyptian general in North Sinai by ISIS. The Israeli Defense Force [assesses](#) that HAMAS, the Palestinian terrorist organization based in the Gaza Strip, has provided financial, training, communications, and medical support to ISIS in the Sinai.
- ISIS's affiliate in Afghanistan has been [vying for](#) control over territory in eastern Afghanistan despite joint U.S.-Afghan operations [targeting](#) it. In early October 2016, a [U.S. service member](#) was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province during a patrol with Afghan forces as part of a counterterrorism mission against ISIS in the country. While the terrorist group, largely [comprised](#) of former Pakistani Taliban fighters, traditionally operate in [southern](#) Nangarhar province along the border with Pakistan, ISIS-claimed attacks have also [occurred](#) in other parts of country.
- ISIS's supporters in East Africa have [established](#) a base in Puntland, Somalia, and are actively recruiting followers under the direction of a former al Shabaab operative. The group is gaining ground in the Puntland region with the recent [capture](#) of the fishing town of Qandala. ISIS supporters in neighboring Kenya also recently [launched](#) an attack on local police forces.
- In Yemen, ISIS has [exploited](#) the ongoing civil war to expand its footprint. It recently [claimed](#) responsibility for the killing of a local security official in Aden.
- The head of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service recently [warned](#) that ISIS-affiliated groups in Indonesia and the Philippines pose a growing threat.
- In late October 2016, the U.S. Department of State ordered the family members of U.S. Consulate General employees in Istanbul, Turkey to depart due to information regarding extremist groups' efforts to attack U.S. citizens in Istanbul. The warning did not specify which extremist groups posed the threat.

### Al Qaeda

- ☒ Syria-based Jabhat al Nusra (JN) is al Qaeda's [largest affiliate](#). It will continue to support al Qaeda's ideology and intent to attack the West despite its recent "separation" announcement and name change to Jabhat Fatah al Sham, according to National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen. Jabhat al Nusra has increasingly [integrated](#) Syrian opposition fighters to counter coordinated assaults from the forces of the Assad regime, Russia, and Iran and its proxies. It has been gaining traction within the Syrian population and could consolidate its control over a ["protected territorial base"](#) on the borders of Europe that the international community would find very hard to root out."



- ⊗ Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), supported by up to [4,000 members](#), has exploited the ongoing conflict in Yemen to “[provide a haven from which to plan future attacks](#)” against the U.S. and its allies. AQAP has [intertwined](#) itself with local militias and civilian populations as a way to increase its influence.
- ⊗ Al Qaeda and its affiliate Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent have recently had a [presence](#) inside Afghanistan. The Defense Department [assessed](#) in May 2016 that Al Qaeda has increased its cooperation with the Taliban and can act as an accelerant for the Taliban’s operations. The Taliban either [controls or is fighting for control over](#) at least 30 percent of Afghanistan’s population. The Al Qaeda-aligned Haqqani Network [constitutes](#) “the primary threat to Americans, to coalition members and to Afghans, especially in and around Kabul.”
- ⊗ Al Qaeda’s affiliate in Somalia, al Shabaab, continues to pose a threat to Western and regional interests in East Africa despite being weakened by local security forces. The group “[retains the ability to retake territory](#)” in Somalia and is utilizing the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to [occupy](#) strategic towns in the south-central part of the country. Al Shabaab forces [recently](#) attacked local government forces and U.S. military advisors in Somalia. In June 2016, U.S. Africa Command [thwarted](#) an al Shabaab attack plot against American military personnel in Somalia and the group [claimed](#) a recent suicide car bomb attack near Somalia’s parliament in Mogadishu which left two soldiers dead and five wounded. Deadly attacks by the affiliate have spread beyond Somalia, with an October 2016 [attack](#) across the border in Mandera, Kenya killing 12 people. Mandera was also the location of a previous grenade and gun [attack](#) earlier in the month killing six.
- ⊗ Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has [launched](#) several major attacks in West Africa since late 2015. AQIM has been attempting to expand its influence in Libya, [including](#) through proxies.

#### Guantanamo Bay detainees

- The Director of National Intelligence’s most recent [assessment](#) of recidivism among former Guantanamo Bay detainees concluded that at least 30 percent of detainees released have returned or are suspected of having returned to jihadist activity. At least [20](#) detainees released since 2009 are known or suspected to have reengaged in the fight.
- There are now 60 detainees left at Guantanamo Bay; as of late October 2016, 20 of them are [waiting](#) to be transferred overseas.
- The *Washington Post* [reported](#) in June 2016 that the Obama Administration has assessed that at least a dozen former Guantanamo detainees have conducted deadly attacks on American and allied forces in Afghanistan following their release.

#### The Iranian terror threat

- Iranian-backed forces in Yemen recently [launched](#) multiple missile attacks targeting a U.S. Navy vessel operating in the Red Sea. The Iranian regime has reportedly been [increasing](#) its provision of weapons, including missiles, to al Houthi fighters in Yemen. Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Navy has also threatened U.S. Navy vessels in the Arabian Gulf, deploying its missile ships and high-speed attack boats to conduct [aggressive](#) maneuvers, at least the [fourth](#) incident of that nature in a month.
- Iranian-directed militias deployed to Syria to assist the Assad regime have been [exacerbating](#) sectarian conflict and helping create the conditions that allow Sunni extremists to thrive. In Iraq, as many as 100,000 Iranian-backed Shia militias known as the [Popular Mobilization Units \(PMU\)](#) are gaining influence while helping the Iraqi army fight the Islamic State in Anbar Province. In Lebanon, Iran’s terrorist proxy Hezbollah has stockpiled an estimated [100,000](#) rockets and missiles, including weapons capable of hitting targets across all of Israel.
- Iran and Russia have recently enhanced their military cooperation through basing access and weapons system transfers. Iran’s hosting of Russian military assets on its soil allows it to [improve](#) its deterrence capabilities. Russia’s illicit transfer of the S-300 missile system to Iran represents a “[strategic game changer](#)” that will complicate U.S. military planning.



- The U.S. Treasury Department in July [sanctioned](#) three senior al Qaeda members operating inside Iran as part of a terror facilitation network. The broader al Qaeda network inside Iran has been operating there under a [formal agreement](#) with the Iranian regime.

## Brits could pay to enter Europe under new counter-terrorism plan

Source: <https://www.rt.com/uk/366870-brexite-vacation-europe-visa/>

Nov 15 – **British tourists may soon be forced to pay £10 (US\$12.52) to travel to mainland Europe as part of a European Commission effort to boost security. The European Commission is discussing bringing in a system of electronic travel authorization, similar to the US ESTA, for Britons traveling to Europe. Under the new plans, vacationing Brits would not have to get a full-fledged visa, but would need to pay to register their travel online before entering any of the 26 countries in the passport-free Schengen zone.**

EU chiefs have suggested the system would help identify potential criminals and terrorists who are trying to enter Europe.

European Commissioner for Security Union Sir Julian King said the plans would be presented this week. *"We think this is going to be a valuable additional piece of the jigsaw because it will allow us to know more about the people who are planning to come to the EU in advance, so that if necessary they raise questions about either security or in some*

*cases migration," he told the Press Association.*

*"We'll be able to intervene even before they arrive in some cases."*

**Because the UK is not part of the Schengen zone, the visa waiver scheme would begin to apply even before Britain leaves the European Union.**

The scheme is part of a broader range of measures to boost security amid heightened concerns over terrorism following a number of attacks throughout Europe in the past year, explained King, who took up his role in September.

*"The fact that we're having this conversation now is unfortunately timely, because Sunday is one year on from the horrible attacks in Paris which were part of a series of attacks that shocked France, shocked the whole of Europe.*

*"It's that level of present, persistent, indiscriminate threat that led to 80-plus percent of European citizens saying they want more action in this area," he added.*

## EU leaves Turkey alone in fight against terrorism

Source: <http://en.trend.az/world/turkey/2684953.html>

Nov 15 – **The European Union left Turkey alone in its fight against terrorism, Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Nov. 14, following the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers.**

Fighting terrorism is one of Ankara's priorities, and Turkey will continue to do so against all terrorist groups, according to Kurtulmus.

The deputy prime minister has earlier said that Turkey's priorities include complete termination of militants of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Islamic State (aka IS, ISIL, ISIS or Daesh) terrorist groups, as well as fight against the Fethullah Gulen movement.

The conflict between Turkey and the PKK, which demands the creation of an independent Kurdish state, has continued for more than 30 years and has claimed more than 40,000 lives.

**The UN and the European Union list the PKK as a terrorist organization.**



## Inspire magazine

Issue 16; Autumn 2016

Source: <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/inspire-magazine-16.pdf>



CONTENTS		NOV2016
4	INSPIRE GUIDE #4	10 THE SUCCESSFUL PRESSURE COOKER BOMB
12	THOSE WHO DEFY INJUSTICE Sheikh Ayman Adh-Dhawahidh	16 A THOUSAND TIMES GREATER THAN THE USS-COLE Sheikh Khubeib As-Sudani
22	ECHOES OF EVENTS Dr. Ahmad al-Husseini	28 RULINGS OF LONE JIHAD Sheikh Hamed al-Tamimi
34	THE ISSUE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS	36 A MESSAGE TO OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS IN AMERICA Abd Allah Al-Murabit
40	THE AMERICAN GLOBALIZATION IS FALLING Ibrahim bin Hassan Al-Asiri	



## Islamist 'morality police' oppressing women's freedoms in Swedish suburbs – report

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/365859-morality-police-crimes-sweden/>

Nov 09 – **Islamist 'morality police' are patrolling areas of Stockholm, committing acts of violence against women, advocates told Swedish media, expressing concern that Muslim girls are facing extreme limitations on their freedoms.**

Those who fall victim to so-called honor crimes are accused of having inflicted shame upon their families by challenging, defying, or breaking the strict rules and norms imposed on them. Honor crimes can often be fatal, with 'guilty' parties being murdered by their own family members, friends, or fellow community members.

**To keep girls and young women in check, the 'morality police' are now wandering the suburbs of the Swedish capital, in a situation which Zeliha Dagli, chairwoman of the women-only association Kibele, described as a "macho culture" aimed at controlling virtually every aspect of their lives, SVT broadcaster reported.**

"There are lots of attitudes here that did not exist in Sweden before. The clothing must be decent, makeup is not allowed. Girls are being restricted from childhood onwards," Dagli told SVT.

Azam Qarai of the women's clinic Linna, which supports young people who have fallen victim to honor-related oppression and violence, described what she says is a "common" situation

faced by females in strict Muslim families.

"A girl is not allowed to have male friends. Also, her friends must be approved by her family. She is only allowed to go to school and then straight home. So she starts a love relationship, which the family quickly finds out about. Then the father plans to marry her off to avoid any disobedience issues. This is very common," she said.

Although some victims of honor crimes do manage to escape their toxic surroundings, doing so is an extremely difficult task, according to Bernardita Nunez, director of the women's shelter Terrafem.

"It is very difficult to break with one's family. Many of our residents have been married off and have lived with their spouses for several years before they have mustered the strength and courage to escape," Nunez said.

**All three advocates agreed that Swedish police are doing too little to address the situation of morality police.**

The remarks come just months after a report from the Swedish NGO [Varken hora eller kuvad](#) (Neither Whore nor Subdued) voiced concern about oppression and so-called honor crimes among young people in suburbs of the Swedish city of Gothenburg.

**Sweden used to be one of the most popular destinations among refugees in 2014 and 2015 due to a high rate of approved asylum claims and favorable welfare benefits. Some 160,000 asylum applications were accepted over that period.**

However, at the **start of 2016**, the Swedish Migration Agency introduced new rules to deter refugees from the country, while those who were already taken in found themselves stuck in makeshift camps, unable to find a job.

**In October**, apart from that, Swedish authorities had to conceal the locations of refugee centers after more than a dozen buildings made for migrants were set alight.

With that kind of attitude, the integration process for migrants in Sweden proved to be a challenging task which they are still struggling to complete.



**VARKEN HORA  
ELLER KUVAD**



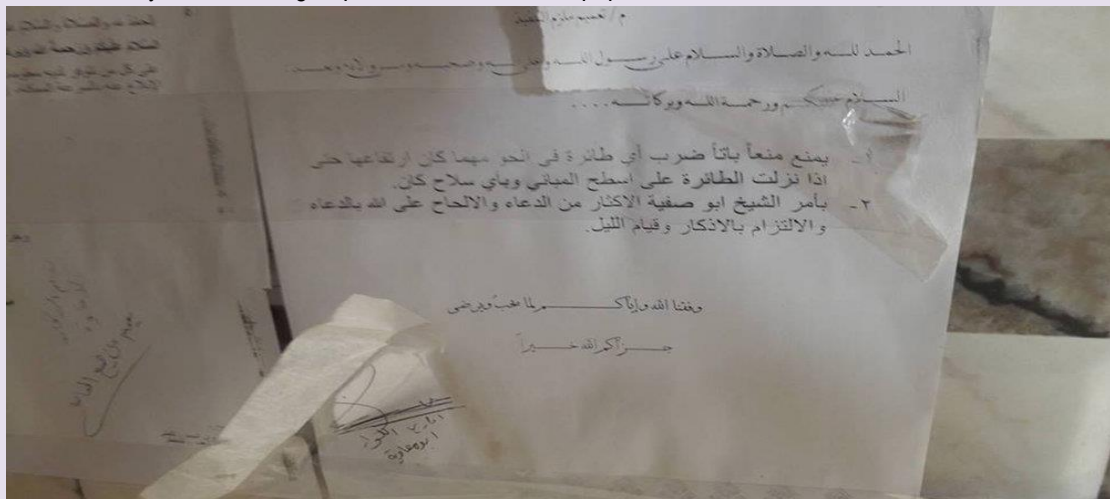
However, in September, the Swedish government proposed that Sweden gradually increases its refugee quota to 5,000 from the current quota of just below 2,000. At the same time, Sweden opposed EU member-countries that are reluctant to accept refugees.

## Secret Document Tells Daesh Not to Attack US Coalition Planes

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/military/201611161047506333-secret-daesh-document/>

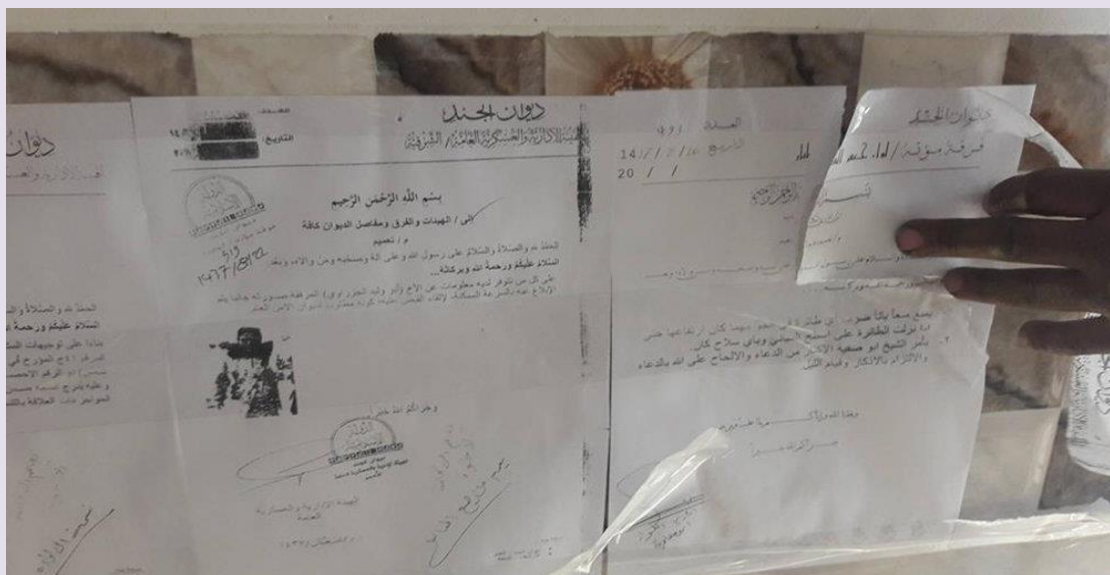
Sputnik's Arabic bureau has obtained photos of a decree by Daesh (ISIL/ISIS) leaders instructing its fighters not to attack US-led coalition aircraft operating over Mosul and the surrounding area. Smoke rises at Islamic State militants' positions in the town of Naweran, near Mosul, Iraq.

The document, discovered in the recently-liberated Iraqi city of Bakhda, about 32 km southeast of the Daesh-held stronghold of Mosul, explicitly tells jihadis not to attack any coalition aircraft over Mosul or its suburbs. According to Sputnik Arabic, the decree was discovered by Assyrian Christian militia on an information stand in central Bakhda, at a so-called Daesh 'mobilization center'. Such centers were established by the terrorist group to mobilize the local population and train new recruits.



Decree instructing Daesh fighters not to attack coalition aircraft.

**The text of the decree reads:** "It is strictly forbidden to shoot down, using any weapons whatsoever, any aircraft that is in the air, no matter what height they are flying at, even if the aircraft lands on the rooftop of houses." The document is signed by local Daesh leader Abu Muawia.



The decree was discovered by the **Nineveh Plain Protection Units**, a militia group composed mostly of **Assyrian Christians**, who are concentrated in northern Iraq. The militia was formed in late 2014 to



defend against Daesh, which has treated those who refused to convert to their faith with extreme brutality. "It should be noted," Sputnik Arabic stressed, "that the competency to conduct airstrikes against Daesh in the Nineveh region lies [strictly] with planes of the international coalition led by the United States, which has repeatedly been accused of

airstrikes on forces of the People's Militia and the Iraqi military, and of dropping humanitarian and military aid which has ended up in Daesh's hands." The US and its allies began a massive campaign of airstrikes against Daesh targets in and around the northern Iraqi city of Mosul in mid-October, after Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Abadi announced a campaign to liberate the key Daesh stronghold.

## Islam “not strongest factor” driving foreign fighters to join extremists in Syria, Iraq

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20161117-islam-not-strongest-factor-driving-foreign-fighters-to-join-extremists-in-syria-iraq>

Nov 17 – **A new study by the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point shows that the overwhelming majority of almost 1,200 ISIS militants surveyed had no formal religious education and had not adhered to Islam for their entire lives.**

Jihadist groups in fact prefer recruits who are ignorant of religion because they are “less capable of critically scrutinizing the jihadi narrative and ideology” and instead adhere unquestioningly to their group’s violent and reductive interpretation of Islam.

The *Independent* reports that analysts said many Western recruits who travel to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamist organization are driven to join the jihadist cause because of cultural and political identities rather than Islam itself, which is moved into a “secondary role.”

“The ability of jihadi groups to recruit foreign fighters is thus based on creating a narrative that is focused on the ongoing deprivation of Muslims, both in specific Western polities, as well as in the international arena,” the CTC’s report says.

The study’s conclusions are in line with revelations from a large number of ISIS entry questionnaires retrieved by U.S. forces in Iraq earlier this year, which showed that the

majority of foreigners joining ISIS listed their Sharia knowledge as “basic” (see “It turns out many ISIS recruits don’t know much about Islam,” *Washington Post*, 17 August 2016).

Two young Britons, who responded to ISIS calls for foreigners to join the group in 2014, during the high point of ISIS campaign to recruit foreign foot soldiers, ordered *The Koran for Dummies* and *Islam for Dummies* from Amazon to prepare for life in the caliphate.

The findings in the CTC study, and in other studies, also raise questions about government-led counter-radicalization policies in Europe and the United States, which have urged mosques to take a lead in combatting radicalization. The CTC’s and other studies, however, have found that religious leaders played only a “minimal role” in influencing radicalized youths. Those who joined ISIS were isolated from Muslim communities at home, and their radicalization was the result of jihadist recruiters, social media, or friends.

The CTC study examined the lives and deaths of foreign fighters who joined the ranks of Islamist groups in Syria and Iraq from 2011 to 2015. The study analyzed recruits from France, Belgium, the United



Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, and twenty-five other countries.

The report notes that “Foreign fighters are not just engaging in a significant amount of fighting, but they are also doing a large amount of dying.”

About 74 percent of those surveyed had been killed in action. For U.K. fighters, the death rate stands at 66 percent for ISIS and 77 percent for al-Qaeda’s affiliate Janhat al-Nusra (which has now renamed itself as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham).

The Pentagon estimates that U.S. air strikes have killed 45,000 ISIS fighters, both foreigners and locals.

The CTC found that foreign fighters joining Islamist groups do not fit a single profile, but most were in their 20s, were unemployed or students, and had an immigrant background.

**Previous studies have shown that many also have a criminal past.**

Western recruits are deployed as soldiers, suicide bombers, or support personnel. They are especially valuable in propaganda roles. ISIS often uses European recruits for videos in which the recruits call on their fellow countrymen to launch attacks at home.

“For some, exposure to violence may serve to harden their belief in the organization on behalf of which they are working,” the CTC’s report said.

“For others, the brutal realities of the battlefield may be the first step in their disenchantment with an organization.

“Wrestling with how to distinguish between returnees who are hardened as opposed to those who are disillusioned, as well as what to do in either case, is a challenge that will only grow larger as fighters return in greater numbers and governments struggle to respond.”

The CTC estimates that only 10 percent of Western fighters analyzed in the study had returned to their home country. The risk of them being used in future terror operations increases the longer they stay in Islamist-held territory.

**Security experts say that about 90 percent of militants were arrested after arriving back in the West, but that the rest have managed to slip through the gaps.**

“While the direct return and execution of attacks is an important concern, the data here has shown that is far from the only concern,” the CTC’s report concluded.

“Unfortunately, history would suggest that the flow of foreign fighters into Syria and Iraq is unlikely to be the last time individuals decide to travel long distances to take up arms in an ongoing conflict.”

## Lebanon Giving US Weapons To Terrorists? Hezbollah Parade Allegedly Featured American Arms

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/lebanon-giving-us-weapons-terrorists-hezbollah-parade-allegedly-featured-american-2447877>

Nov 17 – [Photos](#) published by Arab media outlets over the weekend that allegedly show American-made armored vehicles being used in a Hezbollah military parade could result in the United States providing less aid to the Lebanese Army.



Tobias Schneider  
@tobiaschneider

Follow

Hezbollah parade in Qusayr features multiple US-made M113 APCs with mounted ZPU-2 (left), most likely source: Lebanese Armed Forces (right).

9:20 PM - 13 Nov 2016

363 150

The images taken in the Syrian city of al-Qusayr were circulated by media sources in close association with the terrorist group to demonstrate their military presence in the region. They depict the armored personnel carrier known as the M113 used frequently by the U.S. military to carry troops and artillery, triggering confusion about whether the weapons had links to the U.S. government, the Washington Post [reported](#) Wednesday. The U.S. is monitoring the possibility that the images could signify the terrorist group was acquiring weapons



from the U.S. supplied Lebanese Army, RT [reported](#). State Department spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau said if inquiries found that American arms were in the hands of the terrorist group, it would be a "grave concern."

"Our embassy in Beirut is working with the Lebanese armed forces to investigate the images circulating on social media purporting to show Hezbollah displaying US military equipment in Syria," said Trudeau. The Lebanese Armed Forces denied the U.S. made weapons were taken from the military.



Hezbollah ATVs with Kornet missiles mounted on them

"The photos of vehicles circulated by media outlets were not taken from the army and do not belong to the military," the Lebanese Armed Forces said in a statement.



Charles Shoebridge, a security analyst and former counter-terrorism intelligence officer in the United Kingdom, said the Lebanese Army was the most likely source of the U.S. arms.

"Certainly the finger would seem to point... at the Lebanese Army, because many of them (M113) were supplied to them," said Shoebridge.

The Lebanon Armed Forces received 50 armored vehicles, 40 artillery pieces and 50 grenade launchers from the United States this past summer, the Jerusalem Post reported.

**The United States has a history of its arms falling into the possession of extremist groups in the Middle East** after various military operation in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. Most recently, news reported claimed the Islamic State group has acquired American

missiles originally intended for the U.S.- backed militias they were fighting.

**NOTE:** At source's URL there are two very interesting interactive graphics on "Terror attacks by country 2000-2015" and "Fatalities from terrorism in Middle East and Africa".



## Terrorism killed fewer people in 2015, but its impact is spreading

Source": <https://in.news.yahoo.com/terrorism-deaths-dropped-2015-terror-170000633.html>

Nov 17 – In 2015, worldwide deaths from terrorism fell 10% from the previous year, despite an increase in the impact of terrorism around the globe, according to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

The 29,376 terrorism-related deaths recorded in 2015 were a 10% decrease over 2014, marking the end of a four-year upward trend.

But terrorism-related violence spread, with 23 countries having their highest number of deaths from terrorism last year, over the previous high of 17 registered in 2014.

Among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, deaths from terrorism increased 650%, with 21 of 34 member-states recording at least one terrorist attack. The majority of terrorism deaths among OECD countries took place in Turkey and France.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria accounted for 72% of all terrorism deaths in 2015. The Islamic State group (ISIS), Boko Haram, the Taliban, and Al Qaeda — operating within those five countries — were responsible for 74% of all terrorism-related deaths.

The spread of terrorism's influence was driven by the expanded activities of ISIS and Boko Haram, which has pledged allegiance to ISIS. ISIS, with attacks in 252 cities resulting in 6,141 deaths, passed Boko Haram as the most lethal terrorist group last year.

ISIS increased its activity from 13 countries in 2014 to 28 last year, many of which were in Europe. Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden, and Turkey all saw the most deaths from terrorism in a year since 2000, and more than half the 577 deaths were related to ISIS, which orchestrated deadly attacks in Paris, Brussels, and Ankara.

Boko Haram, a terrorist group that originated in Nigeria, spread into Niger, Cameroon, and

Chad, driving the number of people killed in those countries up by 157%.

**Both groups seemed to welcome the recent election of Donald Trump as US president.**

Abu Omar Khorasani, a top ISIS leader in Afghanistan, called the president-elect "a complete maniac," saying Trump's "utter hate towards Muslims will make our job much easier because we can recruit thousands."

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau exhorted followers to "not be overwhelmed by people like Donald Trump and the global coalition fighting our brethren in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and everywhere."

Boko Haram's seven-year conflict against the Nigerian state has taken more than 20,000 lives.

"We remain steadfast on our faith and we will not stop," Shekau said in the hour-long message. "To us, the war has just begun."

"While on the one hand the reduction in deaths is positive, the continued intensification of terrorism in some countries and its spread to new ones is a cause for serious concern and underscores the fluid nature of modern terrorist activity," Steve Killelea, executive chairman of IEP, said in a release.

The GTI report found issues like youth unemployment, accessibility of weapons, and lack of trust in electoral processes as some of the "most statistically significant factors correlating with terrorism" in OECD countries, according to a release.

In developing countries, the history of conflict, corruption levels, and inequality correlated most significantly to terrorism.

**Overall, the cost of terrorism rose to \$89.6 billion in 2015, with Iraq suffering the highest economic impact, equal to 17% of its GDP.**



## Kosovo Arrests 19 Suspected of Terror Attacks

Source: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-arrests-19-on-suspicion-of-planning-is-attacks-11-17-2016>

Nov 17 – **Kosovo police said they arrested 19 people suspected of planning to carry out terrorist attacks in Kosovo and Albania, against Israeli footballers recently playing a World Cup qualifying match with Albania in Elbasan, central Albania,** on Saturday.

"These persons were planning terrorist acts in the Republic of Kosovo and against the Israeli football team and their fans who participated in the Albania-Israel match," police said in a statement.

The attacks were prevented by police in cooperation with the Kosovo Intelligence Agency, AKI, and the Kosovo Special Prosecution, as well as authorities in FYROM and Albania, the police said.



The arrests of 18 Kosovo Albanians and one citizen of FYROM were carried out between November 4 and 16, the police said.

**During the arrests, substantial explosives, including 281 grams of TATP, 2.5 kg of other explosive substance, as well as personal weapons and radio-communication devices were found.**

The people who were arrested were divided into several groups and were being coordinated by two

Kosovar ISIS members, Lavdim Muhaxheri and Ridvan Haqifi, the police said.

Muhaxheri and Haqifi are high-ranking members of ISIS in charge of Kosovo and Albanian fighters. Both have threatened Kosovo and Albania via video, because of their governments' adherence to the international coalition against ISIS.

**Reports say around 300 Kosovo Albanians have joined ISIS since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in 2011.**

Kosovo police said the recent arrests were carried out in the towns of Pristina, Mitrovica, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Kacanik and Vitia/Vitina.

Unconfirmed media reports have mentioned Kosovo institutions and Serbian Orthodox Church sites as possible Islamist targets.

In response, Kosovo security forces have increased their presence around the buildings of Kosovo government, international organizations as well as Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries.

Meanwhile, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's Director for International Relations, Shimon Samuels, wrote to the President of Kosovo, Hashim Thaci, on November 15, protesting against the alleged sale of "antisemitic hate literature" near what he called "the presidential palace."

## ISIS Brings Out Bosnian Version of Terror Magazine

Source: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/new-islamic-state-magazine-published-in-bosnian-11-17-2016>

Nov 18 – **A Bosnian version of the Islamic State's new magazine is aimed at attracting poor and unemployed Bosnian Muslims to the cause of the jihadists,** Goran Kovacevic, professor at the Faculty of Criminology and Security Studies at the University of Sarajevo, told BIRN. Kovacevic said it may be less effective than its creators hope, however.

**The magazine was launched in September in several languages, including Arabic, English, Turkish, German and French, by ISIS's media arm Al-Hayat. The name means "Rome" (Rumiyah) and is thought to allude to**

the fall of the Roman Empire, the ancestor of Western civilisation.

**A Bosnian-language version of all three monthly editions issued so far has been published by the ISIS-linked Bosnian language website.**

Its overall aim is to spread the usual propaganda used by Islamic terrorists, Kovacevic said, noting that it joins a few known existing IS-friendly media sources in Bosnia.





"They're trying to establish a connection between the holy book and their sword – the things they're doing in the real world," he said.

He said **Bosnia was of particular interest to ISIS as a mainly Muslim country in Europe. About half the population of Bosnia is Muslim. Kosovo and Albania have much bigger Muslim majorities, however.**

"Bosnia is important because there are a lot of people here with military training. You don't need to send them to camps to educate them," he added.

Many people who fought in the Bosnian war of 1992 to 1995 were now unemployed, he noted, adding that "money is a great motivator".

**Bosnia's economy is weak, with a registered unemployment rate of 27 per cent and a youth unemployment rate of around 60 per cent,** according to the World Bank. However, said Kovacevic, although the magazine's content may be used by a number of people to spread propaganda in Bosnia, it may not appeal to that many.

"Much more influential [for ISIS] are the video and audio messages," he said.

Since its launch, the magazine has featured gruesome images of people waiting in ditches to be shot, as well as depictions of beheadings.

**It calls on supporters to launch attacks on non-Muslims, from businessmen to flower-**

**sellers in the street. The most recent edition, published last Friday, details how to carry out a terror attack.**

The Bosnian-language edition is slightly shorter than the English-language version, missing out an article commemorating a Briton who died in battle.

Bosnia is one of the main regional exporters of Islamic jihadists to the Middle East, according to official data.

**At least 200 Bosnian citizens have travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight with IS, and at least 50 have returned home,** according to research published in March by BIRN.

Authorities have in the past year started jailing those they think are helping ISIS in Bosnia.

In October 2015, in the first ruling of its kind, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina jailed four citizens for taking in part in, or mobilizing and transporting groups to take part in, the fighting in Syria and Iraq.

Some maintain that Bosnia is no more special as a place of interest for ISIS than other countries in the region.

Terrorism expert Vlado Azinovic, assistant professor at Sarajevo University's School of Political Scientists, is quoted in the local media as saying that ISIS sees Bosnia as part of its support base for recruitment and logistical support, along with "a good part of our region".

## **Crazy for Daesh? Sweden to Employ Psychiatry Against Terrorism**

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/europe/201611171047541762-sweden-terrorism-daesh-psychiatry/>

Nov 11 – Amid the increasing ghettoization of suburban areas in the wake of the migrant crisis and the looming terrorist threat, **Sweden seems to have come up with an unorthodox solution: namely, to employ psychiatry for the prevention of violent extremism.**

**Meanwhile, the level of extremism in Sweden has been growing in lockstep with the number of the budding "exclusion areas," marked by violent crime, unemployment and overwhelming minority populations.** A recent survey,



conducted by human rights group Varken hora eller kuvad ("Neither Whore Not Subdued") revealed a staggering level of extremism in traditionally peaceful Sweden, Swedish Radio reported. According to the NGO, which is self-described as politically and religiously independent, every tenth student in northeastern Gothenburg expressed sympathies for religious extremism. According to figures from the Swedish Security Police SÄPO, Gothenburg, which is Sweden's second-largest city, produced a third of Swedish jihadists in the Middle East. Earlier in November, it was reported that only a third of Swedish municipalities had an action plan against violent extremism. For many, the planned work has not even started yet, Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported.

Since religious radicalization, which mostly occurs in blighted urban areas, may be dramatically accelerated by mental illness, psychiatry needs to be incorporated against nascent terrorism, Swedish national coordinator against violent extremism stated. Arguably, no sane person would keep terrorists' company of his or her own accord. According to Yassin Ekdahl, committee secretary under National coordinator against violent extremism, psychiatrists may step in to prevent exploitation by radicals. "The goal is to catch them early so that they do not fall into recruiters' claws. I'm not talking about hardline ideologies, but rather about mentally disturbed people," Yassin Ekdahl told Swedish Radio,

claiming the need for clearer guidelines for collaboration between medics, police and security services. "It is about identifying and targeting mentally ill people who are being drawn into these [extremist] environments," Helena Persson, a section manager at Järva Psychiatric Clinic told Swedish Radio. Persson went on to suggest that besides terrorists, both left- and right-wing extremists may take advantage of the mentally ill.

Between the Cracks Järva Psychiatric Clinic has in recent years handled a handful of cases where mentally unstable people had been drawn into violent extremism. In particular, the victims expressed sympathy for Daesh and claimed they wanted to join the terrorists' ranks. According to terror expert Hans Brun of both King's College in London and the Swedish National Defense College, the terrorist threat must be reckoned with. Brun especially warned of "lone wolf tactics." "Yes, it is a problem that we are constantly living with. <...> A fairly long series of terrorist attacks in Europe has been committed by lone wolves, and this kind of offenders is the one that is most difficult to spot," Brun told Swedish national broadcaster SVT.

His fellow terror researcher Peder Hyllengren at the Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies at the Swedish National Defense College went on to predict a rise in terrorist crimes in Sweden. Since 2010, Sweden has maintained a level three terrorist threat on a five-point-scale. In 2015, the terrorist threat was temporarily upped to level four.

## German far right extremists are teaming up with gangs across Europe and the US to create 'right-wing terror cells'

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3941576/German-far-right-extremists-seen-networking-Europe-U-S-official.html>

Nov 16 – **The head of Germany's intelligence agency has revealed that far right extremists in the country are teaming up with gangs across Europe and the US to form 'right wing terror cells'.**

Hans-Georg Maassen, who heads the Verfassungsschutz agency, says countries across the continent are keeping a 'close eye' on groups he says are increasingly ready to commit 'violent acts'.

And although he conceded that international connections seen among the far-right extremists still paled compared with global networking by Islamist groups, he added there was still a need to monitor them.

He told the Reuters news agency: 'This is not just purely a German phenomenon.

'This right-extremist scene is networking on a European level, and in some cases with connections in the United States.

'We have seen in a series of cases that there are numerous people in the far-right extremist scene who are ready to do anything and who have joined forces to create right-wing terrorist cells.'



The German intelligence agency reported in June a sharp-rise in far-right violence in 2015, a year in which Germany took in nearly a million migrants and said it was taking steps to prevent the emergence of more structured 'right-wing terrorist' groups.

And Mr Maassen added that authorities could not exclude the possibility that there were additional groups in operation like the suspected far-right militant group known as 'Oldschool Society' that was arrested in 2016.

He explained: 'We are trying to investigate these cells, if they exist, and to prevent any attacks.'

**The agency's annual report said the number of far-right violent acts jumped 42 per cent to 1,408 in 2015, and the number of arson attacks against refugee centers surged to 75 from just five a year earlier.**



**Germany was home to an estimated 11,800 violent**

**far-right extremists, the report said, roughly half of the total number of far-right individuals in the country.**

The warnings come after German Chancellor Angela Merkel has come under fire for allowing more than one million migrants and refugees into the country under her 'open door' immigration policy.

This has also thought to have provoked a surge in support in the polls for far-right party AfD (Alternative for Deutschland).

And earlier this year thousands of people turned out on to the streets of Dresden to celebrate to anti-immigration movement Pegida.

## Islamic extremist gang based in the UK 'used aid convoys taking food and medicine to Syrian children as a cover to smuggle cash for guns to terrorists'

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3934380/Islamic-extremist-gang-based-UK-used-aid-convoys-taking-food-medicine-Syrian-children-cover-smuggle-cash-guns-terrorists.html>

Nov 14 – A group of UK-based Islamic extremists used charity convoys taking food and medicine to Syria as a cover to smuggle money to terrorists, a court has heard.

The four men allegedly sent £4,500 to a fighter with Al Qaeda-linked group Jabhat al-Nusra so he could buy a sniper rifle and other military equipment.



They also plotted to set up a 'night team' of terrorist snipers in the war-torn country, it was claimed.

Syed Hoque, 37 (photo), is said to have supplied cash to the terrorist, his nephew Mohammed Choudhury, 26, and discussed the beheading of enemies.

Mashoud Miah, 27, is said to have acted as a 'fixer' while Mohammed Hussain, 30, and Pervez Rafiq, 46,

allegedly sourced equipment to be sent to Syria on charity convoys.

Prosecutor Annabel Darlow QC told the Old Bailey: 'The defendants made use, or so it would appear, of aid convoys as a means of moving money and other property out of the United Kingdom to Syria.'

'The prosecution do not suggest that the aid convoys themselves did not have an overall charitable purpose, or that those participating did not intend by the provision of food and medicine to help the civilian population suffering in Syria.'

'However the convoys would have provided a useful conduit for these defendants to abuse the spirit of the convoys to convey money and property to terrorists.'

Miss Darlow added: 'This is not about helping orphans in Syria... this is about arms.'

The plot was uncovered when Hoque and his wife Nazia



Khanom were stopped at Heathrow Airport on their return from Bangladesh on 5 August 2014.

Analysis of the contents of their phones later revealed Whatsapp chats to Hoque's nephew

'This was a list of equipment which would be of enormous use to someone based in a region such as Syria, where normal communications had broken down,' said Miss Darlow.

A search of Hussain's home uncovered a



Mohammed Choudhury, who was fighting with Jabhat al-Nusra, the terrorist wing of Al Qaeda in Syria.

Messages are said to have showed that Hoque had supplied his nephew with money and discussed buying a Dragunov sniper rifle, AK-47 and a nightscope.

Choudhury had left the UK for Cairo in September 2012 and did not return on the booked flight for July 2013, instead making his way to Syria.

Miss Darlow said: 'Syed Hoque was only too aware that his nephew was engaged in military conflict and that he sought by violent means the death and destruction of the Syrian President and his supporters.

'Hoque actively encouraged Choudhury in these goals and repeatedly both provided and offered to provide financial and other support to Choudhury.'

In one chat Hoque even tried to 'reign in some of Choudhury's worst excesses' by advising him to behead his enemies but not mutilate them, jurors heard.

**Detectives also found a list of equipment which Miah was trying to gather together, including a satellite phone, SatNav, iPad, laptop and Kestrel ballistics software to help a shooter fire more accurately.**

notebook referring to £3,000 and a to-do list mentioning a range finder and satellite phone. Hoque allegedly sent the £3,000 to Syria on a Children in Deen convoy leaving the UK on 25 July 2013 and £1,500 on an Al Fatiha convoy leaving the UK on 21 December 2013.

He also offered to help Miah raise funds for his plan for a night team of snipers, the court heard.

On October 16 2013, shortly after one charity convoy set off, Choudhury told Hoque that he was going on an IED training course and asked him to try and get hold of a night scope with the 'greatest zoom'.

But by December 21, he had changed his mind.

Hoque asked told him: 'Try and save some of the money I have to buy a car there, and also, remember the 3000 for the Dragunov [that] Abu Issah [Miah] had? He said he would buy a sniper rifle for you. Did he buy it for you? If not he can still give you the 3000.

'I told him to buy a sniper for you as you didn't have any, he said he would but I'm not sure if you reminded him.'

Choudhury said he would rather have a car: 'No, he didn't buy it n Dragunov is not good, but from the 3000 I bought a AK [assault rifle] for 1800 abwt 5 mnths ago...I



can borrow a sniper [rifle] from da kateeba [squad]. I jst need a car.'

Nevertheless, Miah was still focused on creating a team of night fighters, boasting on January 30 2014 that he had 'created a nyt [night] team' adding that it 'cost a lot of money.' 'How can I send [a little money]?' Hoque responded.

He asked Choudhury: 'Have you gone on night missions yet with your team? How many brothers?'

'Not yet cause still need to buy some stuff,' Miah replied. 'Its very expensive but it will be

very effective inshallah. There is no nyt team at all amongst da brs [brothers] so get ur hands on dis.'

Hoque, of Stockingstone Road, Luton, denies three counts of entering into an arrangement to supply money or property to terrorists.

Miah, of Aston Street, Limehouse, east London, Hussain, of Galsworthy Avenue, Limehouse, and Rafique, of Basil Street, Huddersfield, all deny one count of entering into an arrangement to supply money or property to terrorists.

The trial continues.

## Cologne Bonn airport tests faster, prettier airport security

Source: <http://www.thelocal.de/20161116/cologne-bonn-airport-tests-faster-prettier-airport-security>

Nov 16 – **As most who have rushed to catch a flight but still got stuck in security know, those long airport lines can be a traveller's worst nightmare. But Cologne-Bonn airport is hoping to make the process faster - and more attractive - with a new system.**

Cologne Bonn airport unveiled its sparkling white **"Easy Security" system** this week and is set to go into full test mode on Thursday, promising an "easier, more efficient and likewise more pleasant" security check experience.

The idea is to allow veteran flyers to navigate more quickly through the checks and go ahead of those who are slower and still must, for example, remember to take all the coins out of their pockets.

When travelers first step up to the conveyor belt for hand luggage, there will be five trays already lined up in order, allowing five people at a time to start arranging their belongings for scanning. Whoever does not need help can simply go ahead and place their items in the trays, and then proceed directly to the body scanner. There is also a "sitting island" for those who must take time to remove their shoes.

The area in general provides more space for travelers than typically narrow security sections.



"Easy Security" follows the principle that every air traveler can basically walk through the control process at their own tempo, without hindering other passengers, or being hindered themselves," the airport wrote in a statement on Tuesday.

"This makes security for all participants more clearly arranged and relaxed."



**The body scanner stage is also faster, lasting less than one second, and it allows travelers to keep their hands at their sides instead of raising them above their heads.**

The system was created by the federal Interior Ministry and the German Aviation Association (BDL) and is intended to bring more calm to the place in the airport that tends to cause the most stress, said Cologne Bonn airport boss Michael Garvens, who also called the system a "quantum leap".

"We have completely redefined the security control process," said Lufthansa security leader Karsten Benz, whose company also participated in developing the system..



And the system definitely needs a sort of revolution in light of higher demand: In the first six months of the year, the number of travellers at airports rose nationwide by 2.9 percent to 103.3 million - about 20 million more than Germany's population. But since airports have not increased in size, more speed and efficiency to get people through security was needed.

Only time will tell whether the new Easy Security system is actually an improvement on the previous method, and this will be reviewed after six months. The old process will still be in use for some passengers at Cologne Bonn airport.

If tests show that the system works, it will be implemented at other airports across the country.

"The new system provides not only security, which was already there, but also earns the approval of passengers through its optimized processing," said Federal Police division leader Karl-Heinz Weidner in a statement. "Therefore Easy Security is the trend-setter for airport security in Germany."

